

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

ESTABLISHED 1911

APRIL 2015 • VOL. 104, NO. 4 | \$2.00

www.polamjournal.com



POLAND'S FIRST OSCAR WIN PAGE 16

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

POLISH CITIZEN WITH VALID VISA DENIED ENTRANCE TO U.S. • OSTATKI WITH A TWIST • ZAMOŚĆ EASTER OLSM JAZZ BAND TOURS POLAND • ŚWIĘCONE ESSENTIALS AND BLESSINGS • BASEBALL'S OLDEST LIVING PLAYER

## NEWSMARK

**EUROPE THREATENED, SAYS PM.** The Ukrainian crisis has triggered an unprecedented security threat to contemporary Europe said Poland's Prime Minister, Ewa Kopacz. "We have the greatest security crisis in Europe since the Cold War," she said in an interview with Poland's TVP.

"To disregard this would be irresponsible," she added. Still, she called for a "balanced position," to avoid raising the anxiety of Poles and countries along the Russian border. Kopacz said Poland's membership of NATO is the country's guarantee of security.

To date, Poland has been one of the most vigorous defenders of the new Kiev government.

"We need to protect our own interests, but at the same time to fight for something that Ukraine is fighting for today."

"For the first time, blood is actually being shed for the European Union, or for an attempt at integration into the European Union."

Kopacz made her remarks after learning Russian tanks and military equipment were crossing the Ukrainian border in violation of the ceasefire agreed in Minsk in February.

**RUSSIA IGNORES RETURN REQUEST.** (Polskie Radio) — Poland has asked Russia for a written statement explaining its failure to return the Smolensk plane wreck. The Russian authorities have promised a written response to the question, senior Polish diplomats told the Polish Radio.

Despite repeated requests from Poland, Russia is yet to hand over the remains of the plane, which crashed, killing President Lech Kaczyński and 96 others onboard.

The issue was one of the subjects of discussions with the Russian deputy minister of foreign affairs, Vladimir Titov, during his visit to Warsaw in March.

**MINISTRY TO INVEST IN POLONIAE.** The Polish Foreign Ministry will spend about \$13.5 million for cooperation with the Polish diaspora overseas in 2015.

"Benefitting our fellow countrymen abroad and their descendants, this call for proposals is an integral part of the state's Polish diaspora policy," said Deputy Minister Konrad Pawlik.

Pawlik said the aim of this scheme is to work with NGOs and Polish diaspora organizations to implement priorities that help unite the Polish diaspora and Poles from across the globe around Poland."

Support will go to Polish education in countries such as Germany, the United States, and others which have a large Polish minority.

Other beneficiaries will include media outlets in countries such as Latvia, Russia, countries of the South Caucasus, Central Asia and Western Europe, and the United States.

**BREWING SCHISM?** Poland could be the scene of the next traditionalist schism within the Roman Catholic Church, a leading intellectual on the conservative wing of the church writes.

Pope Francis is openly departing from the teaching of the "Polish pope," wrote Dominik Zdort in Poland's daily *Rzeczpospolita*.

Pope Francis may be seeking the establishment of a new religion, distinct from Catholicism since John Paul II's teaching was without a doubt within the Catholic tradition, Zdort wrote.

The traditionalist writer sees the potential for a schism, as "never before has such a large (and growing) group of hierarchs been openly against the incumbent pope's chief contribution to ideas. As examples of opposition figures, Zdort names Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke and the archbishop of Warsaw, Henryk Hoser.

In Pope Francis's overtures to divorcees or gays, the Church has "betrayed John Paul II," Zdort quotes Archbishop Hoser as saying.

"Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." — Matthew 28:7



## Chrystus Zmartwychwstał! Christ has Risen!

Polish Hymns:

### Home of Meaning and Spirit

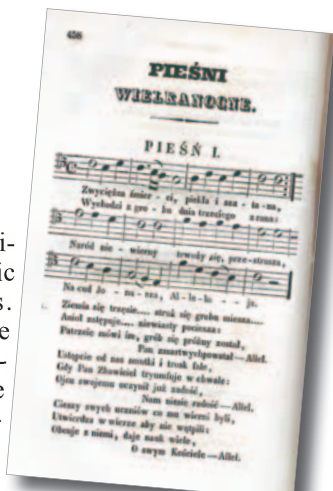
by Rev. Dr. Czesław M. Krysa  
Rector of The Church of St. Casimir and  
Diocesan Worship Director, Buffalo, N.Y.

Music and songs are not indifferent, nor is their selection arbitrary. They create personalities and inspire generations. Think of how the rock musical "Hair" led the tyranny of self-expression. Madonna's "Like a Prayer" dissolved Catholic faith symbols into erotic sexual attraction. "Losing my religion" hinted at a generation's indifference to organized religion. The list of how songs, and more recently marketing ditties and Super Bowl commercials, form social identity, bond groups, and express desirable values, is unending.

Polish hymns construct a world view of relationships with people, nature, and God. Working on English adaptations of Polish language faith hymns for 20 years, proves these hymns are strikingly different from their

North American, Catholic counterparts. Among the faith preferences, I have found the following to be the strongest: 1) solidarity with creation, 2) earth mixing with heaven, 3) religious meaning of food, 3) empathy for the downtrodden, 4) hymnic play and, 5) reverence for ancestors and history. Let's examine some examples.

**SOLIDARITY WITH CREATION.** I am still emotionally moved to the core as the Resurrection. See "Polish Hymns," page 8



## Movie about Polish Fighter Squadron in the Making

WARSAW (PAP) — A film about the iconic No. 303 Polish pilots who fought with the RAF against the Luftwaffe in World War II, is currently in pre-production.

Lukasz Palkowski, whose latest movie "Gods" has been both a hit with critics and the public, will take on directorial duties, while the script has been written by veteran film-maker Jerzy Skolimowski, Ewa Piaskowska and James Mc-Manus.



**303 SQUADRON PILOTS - 1940.** (l. to r.): F/O Ferić; F/Lt. Kent; F/O Grzeszczak; P/O Radomski; P/O Zumbach; P/O Łokuciewski; F/O Henneberg; Sgt. Rogowski; and Sgt. Szapoznikow. The 147 Polish pilots who flew with the RAF were known for their agility and bravery. They claimed 201 aircraft shot down, with the 303rd Squadron having the highest number of kills (126) of all Allied squadrons engaged in the Battle of Britain.

According to daily *Rzeczpospolita*, the film tells the story of three friends who met at aviation school in Dęblin, Poland. Together, they survived the outbreak of World War II, and fled to the UK through Romania.

Once in Great Britain, they became part of the legendary No. 303 Polish Fighter Squadron.

Producer Jacek Samojłowicz is currently trying to get funding to get the film off the ground. See "Squadron ...," page 2

## Fifth Term Will Be Mikulski's Last

BALTIMORE — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) announced she has decided not to run for re-election. Mikulski, who will complete her fifth term in office in January 2017, says she wants to focus the next two years on working for her constituents and for the nation.

"Because every day, I want to wake up thinking about you — the little guys and gals, the watermen, automobile workers, researchers, small business owners and families," Mikulski said.



Mikulski was the first Democratic woman Senator elected in her own right, and was one of only two women Senators serving when she took office in 1987. On January 5, 2011, she became the longest-serving woman in U.S. Senate history when she was sworn in to the 112th Congress, breaking the record previously held by Senator Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine.)

Mikulski has said she shares many things in common with Senator Smith, in See "Mikulski," page 7

## "Polish Concentration Camp" Lawsuit Dismissed

WARSAW — A Polish man who tried to sue German newspaper *Die Welt* for using the term "Polish concentration camp" has had his lawsuit dismissed by a Warsaw court.

Zbigniew Osewski, whose grandfather died in a World War II German concentration camp in Hawa, had wanted *Die Welt* to pay over PLN 1 million to charitable institutions and issue a full apology in outlets of the Polish media.

Osewski said he felt personally insulted by the newspaper.

However, although the court concluded that as regards World War II, the erroneous term "Polish concentration camp" should spark "opposition and outrage among all people who know history, especially Poles," the See "Lawsuit," page 7

PHOTO: BLACK AND WHITE IMAGES IN COLOR

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## April ❁ Kwiecień



"Whether it is the beautiful that brings to our hearts the love of truth and justice, or whether it is truth that teaches us how to find the beautiful in nature and how to love it, in either case

art does a noble work. It drags out the soul from its everyday shell, and brings it under the spell of its own mysterious and wonderful power, so that a memory of this experience stays with the people, sustains them in their daily labors, and refines their minds."

— International actress **Helena (Modrzejewska) Modjeska** (October 12, 1840 – April 8, 1909)

2 **HOLY THURSDAY****Wielki Czwartek**

2005. Death of **Saint John Paul II**, born Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland, 84.

3 **GOOD FRIDAY****Wielki Piątek**

*Deszcz w Wielki Piątek, zaplewnia każdy kąt*  
*Rain on Good Friday, brings a good harvest*

4 **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.

5 **EASTER SUNDAY****Wielkanoc**

**Chrystus Zmartwychwstał! Alleluja!**

6 **DYNGUS DAY****Lany Poniedziałek**

12 1943. The Nazi regime announces that the bodies of 4,150 Polish officers, bound and shot in the back of their heads, has been discovered in a mass grave in the **Katyn Forest**, near Smolensk, Russia.

13 1909. Birth of **Stanislaw Ulan**, Polish American mathematician who assisted in the development of the hydrogen bomb.

18 1025. Coronation of **Bolesław I Chrobry**

19 1943. **Warsaw Ghetto Uprising** begins.

20 1978. **Krzyszyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz**, born in Warsaw, becomes the first woman to sail around the world alone.

23 **ST. ADALBERT**

*Na święty Wojciech  
zniesie jajko  
bociek.  
On St  
Wojciech's  
a stork lays  
an egg*

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.

28 1925. Birth of panorama painter **Adam Styka**, whose works include "The Battle of Raclawice," and the largest religious painting in the United States depicting the crucifixion of Jesus. It hangs at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, Calif.

29 1863. Birth of **Maria Teresa Ledochowski**, Sisters of St. Peter Claver founder, an order dedicated to missionary work.

30 1309. Birth of **Kazimierz III**, King of Poland (1333-70).

## EASTER MESSAGE / Rev. Charles Jan DiMascola

## God Always Wins

The Polish people have a proverb for every occasion. Some of them are very intense. As I was thinking about Easter, this old proverb came to mind: "Chłop strzela, Pan Bóg kule nosi," which means "Man shoots, but God carries the bullet."

Think about that. The devil and all the enemies of Jesus do their best to destroy Him. They beat Him, crucified Him, and buried Him for dead. But in three days, He rises from the dead, glorified and powerful! Man has shot the bullet, but God carried it!

Evil thought it won. Evil tried to conquer and destroy. It used every means possible, but in the end, God had His way!

What a wonderful lesson for us. Since the time of Jesus, the Church has been under attack, and sometimes, like Good Friday, it looks like evil has won. But history points out that God is the one in charge. He is the one directing the bullet, and Jesus always wins. His Church always comes out on top! Let them take their best shot. Beat Him, crucify Him, and He always rises from the dead!

That is the real message of Easter, because it proves that Jesus is who He says He is. The very Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior! That means His promises are valid. That means that even on the blackest of nights, Jesus will be with us. His promise is good, and He will save us. Easter means that we have a future here and now, and forever. Easter means that in spite of evil men, Jesus will conquer again and again, and we will rise with Him, glorified for eternity!

You may think the devil would get the message after 2000 years! There is even old Polish proverb for this: "Co głupiemu po rozumie, kiedy go użyć nie umie?" In other words, "What use is wisdom to a fool?"

I guess there are a lot of slow learners working for the devil!



*The Rev. Charles Jan DiMascola, a frequent contributor to the Polish American Journal, is pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Turners Falls, Massachusetts.*

## BILINGUAL FOOD-BLESSING PRAYER / Robert Strybel

## Święconka – a Polish Tradition Supreme!

The blessing of Easter food on Holy Saturday and the sharing of blessed eggs after Easter morning Mass rank among the most popular Paschal traditions both in Poland and Polonia. The baskets contain a sampling of traditional Easter fare and usually include some or all of the following: hard-cooked eggs (colored or plain), sausage and other meats, bread, cheese, Easter cakes, an Easter lamb (made of butter, sugar or non-edible material), salt & pepper, horseradish, and possibly also vinegar,

When the priest arrives for the blessing, the linen or lace napkins covering the baskets should be removed. He begins with the Sign of the Cross and then proceeds with a special prayer. If your priest is unfamiliar with it, both the Polish and English version is presented below in both Polish and English:



Panie Jezu Chryste, Ty w dzień przed męką i śmiercią kazałeś uczniom przygotować paschalną wieszczerę, prosimy Cię, daj nam z wiarą przeżywać Twoją obecność między nami podczas świątecznego posiłku, abyśmy mogli się radować z udziału w Twoim życiu i Zmartwychwstaniu.

Chlebie żywy, który w Komunii dajesz życie światu, pobłogosław ten chleb i wszelkie świąteczne pieczywo na pamiątkę chleba, którym nakarmiłeś lud słuchający Ciebie na pustkowiu, a po swym Zmartwychwstaniu przygotowałeś dla swoich uczniów.

Baranku Boży, który zwyciężyłeś zło i obmyłeś świat z grzechów, pobłogosław to mięso, wędliny i wszelkie pokarmy, które spożywać będziemy na pamiątkę Baranka paschalnego i świątecznych potraw, które Ty spożyłeś z Apostołami na Ostatniej Wieczerzy. Pobłogosław także naszą sól, aby chroniła nas od zepsucia.

Chryste, życie i Zmartwychwstanie nasze, pobłogosław te jajka, znak nowego życia, abyśmy dzieląc się nimi w gronie rodziny mogli się także wzajemnie dzielić radością tego, że jesteś z nami. Daj nam wszystkim dojść do wiecznej uczty Twojej, tam, gdzie żyjesz i królujesz na wieki wieków. Amen.



Lord Jesus Christ, who the day before your passion and death told your disciples to prepare the paschal supper, we implore You to let us in faith experience your presence amongst us during the festive repast that we might rejoice at taking part in Your life and Resurrection.

Living Bread, who gives life to the world in Holy Communion, bless this bread and all holiday baked goods in memory of the bread with which You fed people listening to You in the desert and which You prepared for Your disciples after Your Resurrection. Bless also our salt that it may protect us from corruption.

Lamb of God, who has conquered evil and cleansed the world of sin, bless this meat and sausage and all the holiday fare we will consume in memory of the Paschal Lamb and the food of which you partook with your Apostles at the Last supper. Bless also our salt that it may protect us from corruption.

Lord Jesus Christ, our life and Resurrection, bless these eggs, the sign of new life, so that when we share them with our families we could also mutually share the joy that You are with us. May we all attain Your eternal feast there, where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.



The priest now blesses the food with holy water, while the faithful make the Sign of the Cross as their baskets get sprinkled.

## Polish Citizen With Valid Visa Denied Entrance to U.S.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — On January 20, 2015, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a division of U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at O'Hare International Airport, denied Tomasz Cieslakowski, a Pole from Białystok, who came to the United States to visit family after the death of his sister-in-law, entrance into the U.S. He first spent 12 hours at O'Hare CBP's detention center, then was transferred to the McHenry County Adult Correctional Facility in Woodstock, Illinois, where he spent an additional 48 hours, before being sent back to Poland.

*"... the United States calls Poland its first-class ally and friend, but treats Poles as second-class friends."*

While being detained, he was allegedly held without access to a phone and language interpreter. He underwent a strip search, was placed on suicide watch, and was administered an unidentified injection. Eventually, at the airport, the Polish-speaking CBP officer forced Cieslakowski to sign a Voluntary Visa Cancellation Form, meaning that the United States will reject any future U.S. visa applications. That officer allegedly told Cieslakowski he was signing a document stating he would never be able to enter the United States again.

Cieslakowski mentioned that, when he was interviewed at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw about the reasons for his visit and how long he would be in the U.S., the questions were all answered satisfactorily, and his visit to the U.S. was approved. However, a U.S. Customs agent revoked that approval after questioning Cieslakowski about his round-trip four-month plane ticket and the length of his stay. He was questioned by a Polish-speaking agent, but felt intimidated into signing the "Voluntary Visa Cancellation" form. Cieslakowski thinks his Polish passport was stamped "Visa Cancelled with Prejudice" is because he is an established contractor, owning his own company in Białystok. The CBP officer decided to not grant entry, because this agent made the decision that Cieslakowski was in the U.S. to work in the construction industry. This was despite the fact that he was here to visit family in Arlington Heights, all of whom are U.S. citizens.

This incident highlights an issue that Polish Americans continually discuss among themselves: the Visa Waiver Bill. Many Polish Americans are tired of hearing and reading that the United States calls Poland its first-class ally and friend, but treats Poles as second-class friends. Anyone interested in expressing their opinion on this issue should contact their representatives in Congress.

## Squadron

*continued from cover*

The squadron was famous among the Allies and the Nazi Luftwaffe for the agility and bravery of its pilots, and it ultimately shot down more enemy planes than any other formation.

One member of the 303rd, Canadian-born John A. Kent famously said: "I cannot say how proud I am to have been privileged to help form and lead No. 303 squadron and later to lead such a magnificent fighting force as the Polish Wing. There formed within me in those days an admiration, respect and genuine affection for these really remarkable men which I have never lost."

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

*Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuance of Polish American Culture • Established 1911*

USPS 437-220 / ISSN 0032-2792

The Polish American Journal is published monthly in four editions (Buffalo, Polish Beneficial Association, Association of Sons of Poland, and National editions) by:

**PANAGRAPHS, INC.**  
P.O. BOX 271  
N. BOSTON, NY 14110-0271

PHONE: (716) 312-8088  
E-MAIL: [info@polamjournal.com](mailto:info@polamjournal.com)  
[www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)

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

POSTMASTER—Send address changes to:  
**POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL**  
P.O. BOX 198  
BOWMANSVILLE, NY 14026-0198  
[www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)

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This paper mailed on or before March 30, 2015. The May edition will be mailed on or before April 30, 2015.

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## THE EXTINCTION OF THE POLISH COMMUNITY IN AMERICA

# More people than ever before in History identify as Polish in the United States, while the Polish community in America seems headed for extinction!

### Why is this happening?

#### THE PROBLEMS

- Failure to join and support Polish fraternal, social, cultural and religious organizations.
- Declining readership of Polish newspapers and magazines.
- Bridging the gaps between generations and Polish Americans and Polish immigrants.

### What you can do to help.

#### THE REMEDY

- Become a member of one or more Polish organizations, support it with volunteer efforts and financial gifts.
- Join a Polish Parish or give it financial support. It is the tie to our origins and the legacy of our ancestors.
- Purchase insurance from the many Polish fraternal insurance societies.
- Subscribe to Polish media and support them with advertising and donations.

*A new Polonia is born every generation. Recreate it for the 21st Century with your ideas, energy, love of our heritage and your financial support to help keep alive our traditions and to strengthen Polish organizations and institutions.*

*For assistance in finding any Polish organization in the United States, Polish and Polonian media sources, and other information vital to the continuation of our heritage, contact:*

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Happy Easter to my friends

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OUR FRATERNALS / Dorothy Wiczerzak

# I Already Have Insurance, So Why Do I Need the ASOP or PBA?

Most Americans are generous and support a variety of charities and organizations. When catastrophes occur — whether natural (floods or earthquakes) or man-made (oil spills or pollutants) — Americans immediately gather and raise funds to assist their fellow man. As you drive through neighborhoods, you may see bags filled with household goods and clothing labeled for veterans or organizations that raise funds for research to help cure a variety of illnesses. This has been the American way of life for generations.

Those with a Polish heritage have additional organizations that are in desperate need of support. As a fraternal benefit society, most of our organizations have a bond with the Polish ethnic community and within that community we support

some the following:

- Pope John Paul II Cultural Center
- American Center for Polish Culture
- The Kosciuszko Foundation
- Polish American Congress
- Polish American Journal

Through funds raised, some fraternal give material and financial support to many institutions in Poland that care for orphans, children with special needs, young mothers without families or the homeless. For one individual or family, the support of so many needy institutions is impossible. But as an insured member of a fraternal benefit society you will be a part of our generosity.

When you attend Mass, do you listen to the pleas of your parish to help defray the costs of maintaining

the House of God? Going one step further, you can become a benefactor for your parish by purchasing an insurance policy from a fraternal benefit society like the Polish Beneficial Association or the Association of the Sons of Poland. You may purchase a policy that remains as paid up but the beneficiary is your parish, and for that reason it is considered a donation and permits your premium payments to be tax deductions. This plan differs from other plans in that you cannot change your beneficiary. But in this way, your Parish becomes a part of your estate and your donation will help defray the expense of maintenance.

For an application or more information, visit our websites at [www.polishbeneficialassoc.com](http://www.polishbeneficialassoc.com) or [www.sonsofpoland.org](http://www.sonsofpoland.org).

☯

Tego dnia Chrystus  
zmarłwychwstał,  
Alleluja, Alleluja!

**WALTER J. BURACZYK**  
Philadelphia

☯

☯

Wesołego Alleluja!  
Happy Easter

**REGINA WNUKOWSKI**  
Philadelphia

☯

☯

Happy Easter!

**JEAN JOKA**  
Philadelphia

☯

☯

Wyśpiewujemy radosne  
"Alleluja" i wychwalamy  
Pana za wielkie dzieła,  
które dla nas zdziałał.

**HELEN NOWAKOWSKI**  
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Happy Easter

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Wesołego Alleluja, Polonia!

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Wesołego Alleluja!  
Happy Easter

**JANE SCHUBACK**  
Middletown, New York

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Wesołego Alleluja!

**GENERAL PULASKI  
ASSOCIATION**  
Buffalo, New York

☯

☯

A Blessed Easter,  
Mom and Dad!

**ANN M. MERLENBACH**  
*Love, from*  
Annie, Frank, Matthew,  
Joseph, and Sarah

☯



A Blessed and Joyous Easter to all!  
Wesołego Alleluja!

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION  
and DISTRICT IX  
of the  
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## INTERNATIONAL

# Putin's Antics Put Europe, Poland on the Alert

**RUSSIA MOVES NUCLEAR-CAPABLE MISSILES TO POLAND'S DOORSTEP.** (InsidePoland.com) The Russian military began training maneuvers the week of March 8, which included mobilization of its northern fleet, comprising some 40,000 troops, almost 60 naval vehicles, and more than 100 aircraft. Nuclear capable bombers were moved to Crimea, and the Russian navy last night carried out "search and destroy" exercises in the Black Sea.

It is the second time in just three months that the Iskander missiles, capable of delivering conventional or nuclear warheads over 500km, have been stationed in Kaliningrad. In December 2014, they were also stationed in the region for "exercises," but were later pulled back.

Norway is carrying out its own naval exercises in the same area as part of Russia's northern fleet, and the United States is holding joint exercises with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the Baltic.

A Kremlin spokesman told Russian news agency TASS that: "This is an absolutely regular process of the armed forces' operation, and of the preparation and development of Russia's armed forces."

However, Russia's deputy foreign minister Alexey Meshkov, hinted that the exercises were a reaction to Western maneuvers.

Mr Meshkov said: "Russia is deeply concerned about the growing number of NATO drills near our borders. It is especially surprising that this is happening in north-eastern Europe, which is the most stable region not only on our continent, but also maybe in the whole world."

"Such NATO actions lead to destabilization of the situation and increasing tensions in north-eastern Europe."

Ahead of the Russian military exercises, Poland's prime minister, Ewa Kopacz, warned that Europe was facing its "greatest security crisis since the Cold War."

As Russia began the military exercises, Kopacz said "Russia is making these kinds of gestures on the eve of the next EU summit, to gain a degree of influence on the decisions of the European Council regarding sanctions."

She added: "We've found heightened activity in the Baltic Sea and in Baltic airspace but there is no reason yet to sound the alarm."

Speaking at a press conference on March 18, Poland's president, Bronisław Komorowski, said there had been a "fundamental change" in Russian military doctrine.

"In my opinion, there has been a clear shift towards a confrontational attitude in relation to the Western world," he said.

Komorowski said the correct response should be to "further strengthen the unity of the Western world and its own defense capabilities."

**U.S. GIFTS ARMY SURPLUS.** The United States has gifted surplus military gear to Poland's Army. The consignment of military equipment includes forty-five armored All-Terrain Vehicles, manufactured by Oshkosh Defense about five years ago, and used during the U.S. mission in Afghanistan.

The vehicles are worth about \$7.5 million.

"In the short term, the equipment will be used in exercises, military training, and when necessary, in combat," said Gen. Lech Majewski, General Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland.

For its part, Poland has initiated unprecedented billions on military spending in order to overhaul its forces, since peace in Europe is today not a given. The escalation of tensions with Russia since its annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and ensuing role in the crisis in Eastern Ukraine has sounded the alarm in Poland and in other countries that suffered under Moscow's tyranny during the Cold War.

**CRUISE MISSILES ON SHOPPING LIST.** Poland may arm itself with cruise missiles, said Minister of Defense Tomasz Siemoniak in an interview with Polish Radio.

The long-range missiles would be part of the armory of a number of forthcoming submarines.

"We are preparing for the introduction of submarines of a new kind," Siemoniak said. "We want them to be equipped with cruise missiles."

Although the schedule foresees three submarines over a 15-year-period, the minister said "we want to start the [missile] procedure this year."

**NATO TO HOLD EXERCISES IN POLAND.** Poland's Minister of Defense Siemoniak confirmed that about 5,000 NATO soldiers are set to take part in US-led exercises in Poland in June.

"Germans, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles and Czechs will be participate [in the exercises]," he said.

The soldiers are training for NATO's high-readiness "Spearhead Force," which was presented at the NATO summit in Newport, Wales, in September 2014.

"I think this is a very clear signal that NATO is taking its decisions and commitments made at Newport seriously," Siemoniak said.

**TROOPS TO TRAIN IN UKRAINE.** Poland will send troops to Ukraine to assist in training the Army there. Ministry of Defense adviser Boguslaw Patek said Poland will send Army trainers to Ukraine to "support the training of Ukrainian non-commissioned officers," in addition to the training of Ukrainian officers, which was initiated earlier.

Polish military instructors will train their Ukrainian counterparts in military bases near the Ukrainian cities of Kiev and Lvov. The United Kingdom has said it would send seventy-five Army trainers to the embattled country as well.

## Trans-Atlantic Unity is Meeting Point



WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama and European Council President Donald Tusk held an Oval Office meeting, March 9, to discuss the situations in Ukraine, Syria, and Libya.

Tusk, a former prime minister of Poland, took over as president of the European Council in September — replacing Herman Van Rompuy and becoming the first East European to hold one of the bloc's most senior positions.

Tusk stressed that the United States and the EU must demonstrate unity, as a volatile ceasefire hangs in the balance in Ukraine. He said current sanctions against Russia must be maintained, and more may be in order.

"When we are united, we will be able to put a stop to the aggressive policy of Russia against her neighbors," said Tusk.

Obama said the United States is "committed to making sure that we uphold the basic principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity that have been threatened by Russian aggression."

The two leaders also discussed jihadist threats, and violent extremism spreading in Africa.

"Although these are three different — very different — challenges, they have a common denominator," said Tusk. "It's a need, maybe greater than ever before, a need for unity of Europe and the United States."

"We must help because we cannot have a failed state run by warlords and anarchy — sitting in anarchy just 100 miles off the southern coast of Europe," said Tusk, referring to Libya.

— Compiled from RFE, Reuters, and The New York Times

**DID YOU KNOW?** Traditional Polish Easter plants include pussy willows ("bazie" or "kotki"), boxwood ("bukszpan"), a small-leaved evergreen used for decorating Easter baskets, cranberry leaves (used for garlands rimming the "święconka" table), and such springs flowers as daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and forsythia.

## POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION



We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, the PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization. Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

As a national newspaper serving Polish American communities, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students, future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia, seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

### OUR INITIATIVE

In this, our initial year of operation, we will solicit funds for our first funding project. In June 2015, we will ask our members how the PAJF's proceeds should be used. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board will review these suggestions and cre-



ate a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

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— Saint John Paul II,  
Gniezno, Poland, June 3, 1979.

Please help us help our own community. Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us utilize over 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

We would be happy to discuss all the various options available to you so that you can make a donation in a way that corresponds exactly to your own personal situation.

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## Mikulski: Grew up in East Baltimore

*continued from cover*  
cluding a strong belief in constituent service.

On March 17, 2012, she surpassed Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers as the longest-serving woman in the U.S. Congress. In 1976, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as the Congresswoman from Maryland's third district.

Mikulski holds many other "firsts," including being the first Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a post she took on December 20, 2012.

Mikulski was born and raised in the Highlandtown neighborhood of East Baltimore, the eldest of the three daughters of Christine Eleanor and William Mikulski. Her parents were both of Polish descent; her immigrant great-grandparents had owned a bakery in Baltimore. During her high school years at the Institute of Notre Dame, she worked in her parents' grocery store, delivering groceries to elderly neighbors who were unable to leave their homes.

In making the announcement, Mikulski credited her family, faith,

and community in forming the person she became:

"Growing up in East Baltimore was growing up in an urban village where people lived, worked, shopped and worshipped. But it's not about what we did; it's about what we believed.

"It's the values I learned from my family — my mother and father, from my church — the nuns and priests, and from the people in the neighborhoods themselves. It's where I learned about patriotism, the love of this country, and that you have to fight for and protect the freedom and opportunity it gives. Where I learned about neighbor helping neighbor through the genuine gestures and actions of people who were looking out for one another every day and in every way. Where I learned that we are all in this together as we witnessed young men and women go off to protect their country and helped care for the families they hoped to come home to," she said.

She thanked the people of Maryland, who she said "honored me with your confidence and trust."

## Lawsuit: dismissed by a Warsaw court

*continued from cover*  
lawsuit had to be dismissed as the term was not directed at the complainant.

Osewski is now obliged to pay court costs, although he has said he will appeal against the ruling.

The use of the term "Polish concentration camp" by international media outlets has inspired countless complaints in recent years, prompting some news agencies to change their style guidelines.

In 2007, following a Polish request, the World Heritage Committee attempted to clarify the matter by listing the Auschwitz death camp as a "German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp."

Meanwhile, conservative opposition party Law and Justice wants a law to be passed that makes it a crime to use the term "Polish concentration camp" in the context of German Nazi World War II internment sites.

Lawyers representing the paper claimed that the term had been used to denote geographical location, and not responsibility for running the camp.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The "paschal" is the tall candle that burns at the altar during Mass from Easter until Pentecost. It is lit from the blessed flames of a sloe berry fire that burns in parishes on Holy Saturday.

## Siberian Society Commemorates 75 Years



**SURVIVORS OF SIBERIAN DEPORTATION**, along with family and friends, gathered to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the mass deportation of Poles to Siberia from 1940–1941. They met on February 22 at White Eagle Banquets, Chicago.

In early February 1940, the mass deportations of Poles to Siberia began. Historical estimates say that in the years 1940–1941 nearly two million Polish citizens were taken by the Soviets into Russia's most desolate regions. Among them were approximately 140,000 children. These exiled Poles were doomed to starvation, disease, humiliation, and slave labor. They felled forests or worked in mines. Many did not survive; more than half died of disease and starvation.

In 1942, those that survived received a glimmer of hope for freedom. From Spring 1942 to November 1943, through the efforts of Polish Army General Władysław Anders, approximately 115,000 Poles, including 18,000 children, left the Soviet Russia for Iraq, Persia (Iran), and Palestine. After World War II, these displaced Poles immigrated to the United States, New Zealand, Mexico, Canada, and Great Britain. A few chose to remain in the Soviet Union.

According to **Eugene Chmielowski**, president of the Siberian Society of the USA, the main reason for this reunion was for "speaking the truth about our tragedy among strangers and sadly, among their own." A special musical memorial tribute, organized by **Barbara Ciepiela** and **Harcerstwo** (Polish Scouting), was presented. This year's Master of Ceremonies was **Barbara Kożuchowska**.

—Geraldine Balut Coleman

### NOTED / Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Congratulations to **Sergiusz Zgrzebski**, anchor and reporter for WPVN POLVISION TV, for being appointed a Bensenville Community Public Library Trustee; to **Ewa Koch** for being elected president of the Polish Teachers Association of North America; to the **Lira Ensemble** for receiving the Challenge America Grant from the

National Endowment for the Arts; and to **Adrian Prawica** and **Rafal Muskala**, directors and producers of the award winning film "Fourth Partition - Chicago's Polish Immigrants at the Dawn of the 20th Century," on PBS WTTW-TV, Ch. 11.

Special kudos to **Leonard Kurdek**, former Music, Records, and Rare Books Archivist of The Polish

Museum of America, for receiving the 2014 Rev. Joseph V. Swastek Prize from the Polish American Historical Association. His article, "The Real-Life Story Behind 'Call Northside 777': The Crime, the Conviction, and the Search for Justice," was selected as the best article published in *Polish American Studies*, Vol.1, No.2 (Autumn 2013).

# HAPPY EASTER



*To all our members,  
their families and all  
of Polonia from the  
bottom of our hearts!  
Best wishes from PSFCU!*

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Senator Supports Abortion to the End

Longtime serving senator **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD) recently announced her intention not to seek reelection in 2016. Shortly after that announcement she joined two other senators (Patty Murray, D-WA and Barbara Boxer, D-CA) to sponsor legislation that would give free abortion inducing drugs and birth control to women on public assistance and to expand “preventative services” across the country. The proposed bill, “21st Century Women’s Health Act,” would spur the study of abortion access in the U.S. and provide training for nurses specializing in women’s health, as well as mandate that all hospitals provide free “emergency contraception” pills to rape victims. These medicines are already covered by the Affordable Care Act and so-called emergency contraception really works by aborting the fertilized egg in the mother’s womb. The study of abortion access would focus on restricted access to abortion under state laws. These programs of questionable morality stand alongside other provisions in the bill which would actually benefit both women and children. The Democratic sponsors of the bill hail it as progressive and empowering for women and abortion advocates expressed pleasure over it.

**POLISH MISSIONARY ACCEPTS BISHOP’S MITRE.** Divine Word Missionary **Fr. Jozef Roszynski** has served in Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific since 1992, three years after his ordination. The 42-year-old native of Nidzica, Poland, was appointed by Pope Francis to be Bishop of the Diocese of Wewak, the largest diocese in Papua New Guinea with 45 parishes and 37 priests. During his years of service as a priest in the diocese, he has helped it steer through a financial crisis, and dealt with issues of dysfunctional priests and parishes without priests. Helping deal with alcohol addition prevalent among some of the indigenous tribes in his diocese will be a particular challenge for him.

**CONCERT TO HONOR POPE FRANCIS AND STS. JOHN XXIII AND JOHN PAUL II.** As printed in last month’s PAJ, “A Celebration of Peace Through Music” will be a special televised concert to air in early April (check local listings) on public TV. The broadcast will feature the 2014 concert directed by Maestro Gilbert Levine and featuring the Krakow Philharmonic Choir, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and the Washington Choral Arts Society. The concert is a production of the Pax Per Musicam Foundation and Georgetown University in association with WETA Washington D.C.

**CZECH PRIEST’S DEATH COMMEMORATED.** 65 years after his execution by the then-communist government of Czechoslovakia, **Fr. Josef Toufar** was remembered in a Mass in his former parish of Cihost. Dominik Cardinal Duka, archbishop of Prague, presided at the Mass. Fr. Tomas Petracek, historian and postulator for Fr. Fiala’s cause for canonization, explained what led to Fr. Toufar’s death. In Advent of 1949, shortly after the

Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia, Fr. Toufar and some parishioners said they saw the cross on the altar of the church move from one side to another several times. The event came to be known as the Cihost miracle. The Soviet-dominated government tried to make Fr. Toufar say that he moved the cross himself. When he refused he was beaten by the police and was unable to speak, sit or walk. He died two months later. Despite government measures to suppress the account, news of the miracle spread and Fr. Toufar became an icon for the years of violent collectivization.

**BISHOP ZUBIK IN COURT AGAIN.** The federal appeals court reversed lower-court victories of **Bishop David A. Zubik’s** Pittsburgh Diocese and other plaintiffs who argued that the mandate for providing birth control and abortifacient drugs in all medical insurance plans obtained under the Affordable Care Act was an undue burden. Appellate Judge Marjorie O. Rendell rejected the claim that providing abortifacient drugs and birth control violates the diocese’s and other plaintiffs’ rights. She argued that providing the coverage is done not by them but by a contracted third party. The University of Notre Dame, on the other hand, whose case was rejected at first, was informed that the decision was overturned by the appeals judge. This diversity of decisions is expected to bring these cases before the Supreme Court for a final resolution.

**POLISH STAMP HONORS JAILED CANADIAN PRO-LIFE ACTIVIST.** **Jacek Kotula** is the designer of a 2.20 Zloty stamp issued by the Polish Postal Service (persons can have stamps issued for a fee) which depicts the face of Mary Wagner. He expects to use the stamps on letters to the prison where Mary Wagner is being held in Canada. Polish Bishops have declared their support for her and Pro-Life groups in Poland and Polish-Canadian Pro-Life groups have taken up her cause and have been behind demonstrations outside her prison, where she is held for talking to women trying to enter abortion clinics in Toronto. Mary Wagner, on a trip to Poland before her current incarceration, met with Polish bishops and with Hamilton, Ontario’s retired bishop Matthew Ustrzycki. She lamented the silence of the Canadian bishops on her cause.

**ARCHBISHOP WENSKI SPEAKS IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.** **Archbishop Thomas Wenski**, of the Miami Archdiocese, reminded Catholics to continue to be involved in issues of world hunger, human rights, peace building, and justice promotion. He went on to say, “The earth is our only highway to heaven, and we have to maintain it. As Catholics we are concerned about ecology, both natural ecology and also human ecology.” He associated his message with that of Pope Francis as he called to avoid “the globalization of indifference” and the tendency, especially in the debate on immigration reform, “to blame the victim” rather than help him.

## Polish Hymns: Home of Meaning and Spirit

*continued from cover*

rection Sunrise procession hymn declares:

“Jesus blossomed forth as a beautiful flower” (*jako śliczny kwiat zakwitał*—from—*Wesoły nam dzień dziś nastał*). Jesus’ victory is compared to a flower bursting from the darkness of death and winter. Proverbs call sweet scents, joyous. The profuse and plentiful use of flowers and vibrant greenery at the Lord’s devotional Tomb of Holy Saturday and Easter in PolAm Churches reflects this verdant, resilient, joy and hope. At this vigil of the Lord’s burial, the words persuade not only the angels, but also the sun and moon, to pour forth abundant tears rather than dew (“Weep all you angels”—*Placzcie anieli*).

Flowers, plants, trees, and lush vegetation all express a divine presence or solicitude on earth. Eucharist is likened to “the tree of life, blooming with virtue” to angel bread, and to a fountain” (*Bądźże pozdrowiona*). In a Marian hymn, “hills and valleys (meadows) sing her praises, bless the Mother of our Savior, fountains and all crystal waters.” (*Chwalcie łąki umajone, gory, doliny zielone*) reflects this identification of a sainted person with the environment. As heavenly Queen, she is also crowned with, or likened to a most beautiful flower, the rose of the spirit, and fragrant lily (“Take our hopes and tie them up as roses”—*Zawitaj Królowo/Matko Różańca Świętego*, “All Sing to the Queen of the Angels, take roses and weave her a crown”—*Królowej Anielskiej Śpiewajmy*)

The same is true of the Sacred Heart hymn, “From earth’s deep yearnings,” (*Z tej biednej ziemi*) and the beloved *kolęda* refrain, “Hay of the meadow”—the “*O siano, siano*” of *Śliczna Panienska*. God is encountered in the hay: earthly spirituality. Nature is a place to encounter the Creator and divinized persons.

**EARTH MIXING WITH HEAVEN** emerges vividly in the carol, “Earth and heaven are one in Bethlehem” (*moc truchleje, Pan niebiosów obnażony...ma granice nieskończony—Bóg się rodzi*) and the Eucharistic hymn for the procession of Corpus Christi, “God now walks among us”—*Zróbcie Mu miejsce, Pan idzie z nieba*. The linguistic dynamism of the carol is tempered by a personal closeness to the “celestial Lord” reverently adored on bended knee, with bowed head. Many find it difficult... this mutual, non-exclusive blend of glorious majesty with profound familiarity. Poles walk side-by-side with the Lord they adore kneeling with heads bowed.

**RELIGIOUS MEANING OF FOOD** is uniquely found in one of Catholicism’s few Eucharistic Christmas carols, the last verse affirming: “Lord, once again you come into our midst... Once with shepherds in a stable, now we kneel at your table breaking heaven’s bread.” (*Wśród nocnej ciszy*). Yet again, Christmas has Eucharistic overtones: “God is present in human flesh, a bountiful food for humanity. He feeds with his Body and gives to drink of his Blood; He desires to lift us up with his chosen ones”—*Ach witajże pożądana perlo*.

A modern Eucharistic hymn relates the axiom of the activist and social justice: St. Albert Chmielowski of Kraków (St. John Paul II’s favorite), “God, you’re good as bread” (*Panie, dobry jak chleb*). This same hymn considers all bread as global communion and table with those who hunger for God. Cyprian Norwid captures similar passionate reverence for all bread in verse, which has become proverbial: “I yearn for the country, where a slice of bread that falls to the earth is raised and kissed as a gift of heaven.” Hymns even forge a motherly connection to the Eucharistic bread, singing “Praised be Jesus, Son of Mary. You are truly God in this mystery” (literally: “host”)—*Bądźże pozdrowiona*.

**EMPATHY FOR THE DOWNTRODDEN** surfaces in lyrics highlighted during the Easter morning Resurrection proclamation: “He showed compassion to the lowly” (*Wesoły nam dzień dziś nastał*). The crying and tears of the Infant Jesus are celebrated and accepted in heart-rending words of many a Christmas carol: “Close your tear drenched eyelids” (*Lulajże Jezuniu* or *Jezus Malusienki*). Tears and fear troubles are not foreign to those led by faith. The most well known Marian hymn petitions Mary as caretaker of the baptized, “Save us from the fears inside us... that we may not wander (aimlessly)”—*Serdeczna Matko*.

However, throughout the Bitter Laments (*Gorzkie Żale*), nowhere as intensely as in the “Dialogue with the Sorrowful Mother” are tears stunning examples of mutuality in empathy for the suffering. The faithful ask for the privilege to share in the pain of Jesus’ wounds, and the violence of his mother’s mournful grief: “Let me cry with you.” Tears and empathetic expression are authentic, natural means by which people identify and carry other’s burdens. Christmas Eve’s Vigil Supper (*Wigilia*) and Easter’s Blessed Breakfast (*Święcone*) find origins and present day practices inclusive of the wanderer, homeless, and homebound, not to omit, a loving, active reverence



**AT THE POPE’S VATICAN RESIDENCE** in 2001, the author presents a copy of his doctoral dissertation to St. John Paul II. The work examines the cultural values and Christian beliefs of the blessed Easter Meal in Polish tradition with a concentration on blessing prayers (14th century to the present) from the former pope’s home, the Archdiocese of Kraków.

for the deceased.

**HYMNIC PLAY** is the fruit of persevering through shared compassion in suffering. Polish spiritual resilience and a “neither give up hope nor the struggle” surfaces most delightfully in the resonant “Alleluia” refrains and melodies of Easter hymns, particularly, “Praise the Lord, King of Creation” (*Wysławiajmy Chrysta Pana*). Such rhythmic play extends itself in Easter practices like tapping children with blessed palms, egg cracking games, and Dyngus Day’s water sprinkling.

Ritual play is also interpersonal worship, not foreign to Polish churches and domestic (family) liturgy. Mutual wishes of joy and loving embraces accompany food sharing rituals and toasting at Easter, Christmas, weddings, the harvest, and when welcoming special guests. Similar emotions emerge in myriad Polish carols. A classmate, who for the first time attended a blessed Easter Meal, remarked, “There were more alleluias sung at this table than at the Vatican’s Easter Vigil!” For this reason, no fully, traditional Polish celebration takes place without music, dancing, and singing. This hymnody combined with wafting incense, joyful bells, and water sprinkling from the comically named “brooms” (*kropidla*), has the potential to make the North American Mass a little less boring.

**REVERENCE FOR ANCESTORS AND HISTORY** is a value Poles share with many Latino and Asian immigrants. Songs of mourning unite the sorrow of family survivors with the Lord and his Mother. Particularly evident in the verse: “Jesus, Shepherd of the faithful, grant to them your rest eternal” and in the final verse of the Polish version of the Salve Regina, “O Jezu, Jezu, Jezu, Jezu my only (unsurpassed) love.” (*Witaj Królowo Nieba*).

Planting of flowers, lighting candles, and maintaining graves express sentiments similar to those experienced at the Holy Saturday Vigil at the Lord’s Tomb: prayer, sorrow, hope, intimacy, perseverance, and resilience. Moreover, many historical religious and community commemorations, especially those of the last violent century—wars and camps initiated by aggressive and vicious neighbors—have hymnic equivalents. Among these, from generations of Poles evacuated by force to concentration camps of Russia’s Siberia are: “God, you shielded Poland (*Boże coś Polskę*), the national anthem “Poland is not yet lost”, “O God of the heavens” (*O Panie, któryś jest na niebie*), or the Solidarity era chant, “So that Poland, may be Poland.”

Spirituality celebrated in the hymnic tradition is acted out in family practices and celebrations at home and in the wider community. Songs, for each generation, are not innocuous or indifferent. They express, form and inform a worldview and collective personality of a familiar, accepting, and understanding place called home.

The Polish hymn as the nation’s catechism or Gospel set to music presents hymnic play as an enjoyable alternative to German didactic exhortations; intimate compassion and shared suffering, verses Anglo positivistic “sway”; a divine and human, “green” interconnection, as opposed to individualistic hymns extolling “me” or “I”; spiritualized food as communion, to lifting conceptual generalizations; and heartfelt remembrance of the deceased, verses schmaltzy, fleeting, sentimental tones.

Perhaps the Polish American Liturgical Center at Orchard Lake, Mich. could more intentionally propagate English adaptations as Polonia’s gift to the U.S. Catholic Church.

*Editor’s note: Rather than slavish or literal translations, the author has chosen to quote his own English adaptations of the selected Polish hymns.*

### 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.

**A PRAYER FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY.** In gratitude for favor received. O gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on them. Be not severe in Your judgments, but let some drops of Your Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames. And, Merciful Savior, send Your angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen. E.A.M.



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**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE** (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 30th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

For information call (732) 680-0680 or write POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE, INC., 177 BROADWAY, CLARK, NJ 07066. e-mail: childshart@aol.com website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Chicago Society's Śledź Party, Community Honors Pulaski, and Chopin's Birthday



Chicago Society pageant participants.

CHICAGO — As many celebrated Shrove Tuesday, the conclusion of Carnival, here in Chicago, a "Śledź" (Herring) Party was in progress. The Chicago Society (CS) of the Polish National Alliance, with **Thaddeus Makarewicz**, CS President, acting as master of ceremonies, hosted a party filled with śledź, musical merriment, cocktails, a Polish-style dinner, a traditional Chicago Society pageant, and loads of wonderful *paczki*. On February 17, another one of those wintry Chicago evenings, 85 guests ventured out to the White Eagle Banquets in Niles, Illinois, for a very festive evening. Some who were there had never attended such a party, or even known that this tradition exists.

Śledź has come down through the centuries, as Poles have always taken their religion and the season of Lent seriously. With equal dedication, they have indulged themselves in the happy time of *Karnawał* (Carnival) commencing with the feast of St. Sylvester (December 31) and ending on Ash Wednesday. The merriment gains momentum from Shrove Thursday (*Thusty Czwartek*) until midnight of Shrove Tuesday. For the week before Ash Wednesday, meats, sweets, and drink are enjoyed, before the restrictions of Lent begin.

According to folklore, Carnival revelers dress as beggars, gypsies, and animals, while musicians play. Those in costume and the musicians join in a procession led by a *dziadek* (old man), who carried a hobo stick with a fish attached to its end. In similar times, the procession would travel from house to house, receiving gifts of food and drink along the way. In Poland, *kulig* or the carnival ride was a procession of colorfully decorated sleighs. Prior to midnight on Shrove Tuesday, a platter of śledź would remain. In certain parts of Poland, fried cakes, such as *pacuchy* (funnel cakes) or *paczki* would be served.

Playful members of the Chicago Society recreated this tradition with **Robert Groszek** portraying the devil, **L. Steven Rakowski**, an angel, **Frederick Koziol** as Father Time, **Andrew Zapalski** and **Teresa Sokolowski**, as the King and Queen of the Carnival, and **Charles Komosa** as St. Joseph. **Ryszard Jadcak** accepted the honor of portraying next year's St. Joseph.

### CASIMIR PULASKI HONORED.

On the first Monday in March, the Illinois Polish American community honors Casimir Pulaski, hero of two nations, "Father of the American

festivities began with Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) and Chairman of the Board of the PMA, and Chairman of the Board of the PMA, singing the Polish and USA national anthems. The **Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, gave the invocation. **Irena Moskal Del Giudice**, president of the PAC-III, welcomed guests.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the PAC-III's annual awards named in honor of Casimir Pulaski and given to those who support, contribute, and promote Polonia causes. The masters



205th Birthday celebrants at Grant Park.



(l. to r.): Kot, Kaminski, Drobot, Kapuścińska, Drobot, and Ambassador Schnepf.

cavalry," and Revolutionary War hero. The official setting for this celebration is the Polish Museum of America (PMA). This year, the Pulaski Day celebration began with welcoming remarks by **Malgorzata Kot**, Managing Director of the PMA, and **Paulina Kapuścińska**, Consul General of the Republic of Poland. **Marlena Dziś** sang the national anthems of Poland and the USA with piano accompaniment by **Jaroslav Golembiowski**. As in the past, Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County officials, along with Polish dignitaries, officers and members of Polish American organizations, and the general public filled the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of the PMA to its capacity. **Ryszard Schnepf**, Ambassador of Poland to the US, Illinois Governor **Bruce Rauner**, Chicago's Mayor **Rahm Emanuel**, Illinois Senator **Mark Kirk**, and Illinois House of Representatives members **Michael Quigley** and **Janice Schakowsky**, along with other state and city officials, gave brief speeches. **Maria Ciesla**, past president of the PMA, gave a heartwarming tribute to the late Illinois comptroller, **Judy Baar Topinka**, a much-cherished member of the Polonia community. **Betty Uzarowicz**, PMA board member, presented a special scholarship to **Mateusz Plewa** for writing the best essay on the topic, "How is the Katyń Massacre relevant to today's day and age?"

To complete the Pulaski Day celebration, the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division (PAC-III) hosted an evening banquet at Jolly Inn Banquets in Chicago. Approximately 300 guests, representing various Polonian organizations gathered to honor Casimir Pulaski. The evening's



PAC-IL Pulaski Day awardees.

of ceremonies of this event were **Margaret Ptaszyńska**, editor of Radio 1030 AM, and **L. Steven Rakowski**, past-president of the Advocates Society, an association of Polish American attorneys.

The first award recipient was **Charlie Wojciechowski**, reporter for NBC5TV who, for many years, volunteered his time in acting as master of ceremonies for many Chicago-area Polonia events. Also receiving this award were **Joseph A. Drobot, Jr.**, president of the PRCUA, **Sister Genevieve Potaczala**, director of St. Ferdinand's Polish Language School, **Kazimiera Bober**, owner of Kasia's Deli, for her most generous donations to so many Polonia community organizations, and **Eugene Chmielowski**, president of the Siberian Society of the USA, who, as a young boy, survived the ordeal of forced Soviet exile to Siberia. The closing prayer was said by **Rev. Tadeusz Dzieszko**, pastor of St. Constance parish.

### CHOPIN'S 205TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED.

Over one hundred guests from the Polish American and international communities of Chicago met at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago on February 27 to celebrate Fryderyk Chopin's 205th birthday. The program began with remarks about Chopin's life by Consul General **Paulina Kapuścińska**. After her remarks, "The Cracow Duo" with **Jan Kalinowski** on cello and **Marek Szlezer** on piano gave a concert. They performed Chopin's *Polonaise Brillante* in C Major, Op. 3 and his *Cello Sonata* in G Minor, Op. 65. *ResMusica*, the French Classical music website, described the Duo's performance of Chopin's

Cello Sonata as "intelligent and reflective."

Then, on Sunday afternoon, March 1, well over 100 Chopin music lovers, braving the cold Lake Michigan weather and wind, met at the future site of the Chopin Garden in Grant Park to celebrate. Following the singing of birthday greetings to Chopin, those present were treated to hot non-alcoholic beverages, compliments of Stuart Sawa of Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant and a slice of a special Chopin birthday cake, created and donated especially for this occasion by **Bogna Solak** of Oak Mill Bakery. Because of the challenging weather conditions, everyone was invited to a Chopin piano concert and lecture by well-known Chicago pianist **Jaroslav Golembiowski** at the Piano Forte Chicago Studio, just a short walk away.

this year's master of ceremonies. The evening was filled with music performed by the **Anthony Kawalkowski** Orchestra and dancing of the traditional *Polonez* by 12 members of the Legion and their partners. Fourteen past debutantes, "Girls in Red," and their partners performed the lively *Biały Mazur*, and six debutantes were formally presented to the Polish American community. The 2015 debutantes were **Aneta Ciepiela**, who was selected as Queen of the Ball, **Natalia Bafia**, the Ball's 1st runner-up, **Dagmara Nowicka**, the 2nd runner-up, **Angelica Solus**, **Giavanna Wojciechowska Moran**, and **Katherine Szymiski**. The Choreography was under the direction of **Richard Owsiany**. This year, a new dimension was added: scholarships were awarded to the Queen, 1st runner-up, and 2nd runner-up.



(l. to r.): Giavanna, Dagmara, Katherine, Lori Cioromski, Bogdan Chmielowski, Mary Anselmo, VP Bozena Hasztrakiewicz, Natalia, Angelica, and Queen Aneta.

### LEGION HOLDS ITS 76TH BAL AMARANTOWY.

On March 7, over 325 guests enjoyed the Legion of Young Polish Women's 76th

These scholarships were made possible through the estate of Joan Kurek Kosinski and the Copernicus Foundation.

## Ostatki with a Twist

by Staś Kmieć

Ohio's Polish Youngstown celebrated the pre-Lenten carnival celebration – Ostatki 2015 — at the B&O Station with an event that provided an innovative approach that engaged a new audience that was not necessarily Polish. Beginning with traditional appetizers of mini-pierogi, wild mushrooms and smoked sausages courtesy of the outgoing “Pączki Queen,” Bernadette Zubel, a passport once stamped allowed guests to complimentary tastings of an array of Poland's wódka and beer.

Directly translated as “the last,” Ostatki gives guests a final chance at merriment before the solemnity of Lent. “This is a big event back in the villages where my ancestors came from in southern Poland,” said Agata Lyda Khoury, event chair. “People traditionally start their festivities a whole week before, and it doesn't stop until late on Shrove Tuesday. We wanted to recreate the spirit of that time so Mahoning Valley residents could enjoy it.”

At first the Italian food provided by Selah's Restaurant surprised me, but remembering the Italian Princess Bona, of the Sforza family, who became Queen of Poland in 1518 as the second wife of King Zygmunt I, I was put at ease. Known as the Culinary Queen, she is considered to have influenced the Polish and Lithuanian cuisines, having introduced many new dishes to the Com-



**CASEY MALONE** gets her passport stamped at the Wódka tasting table by Tim Davis.

monwealth. The pork and chicken dishes served at Ostatki were indeed fine cuisine.

The Ytown Vodka Cocktail Contest drew contestants in two categories. From the professional bartenders at the pre-event contest, Amy Komara won with the Jeżyna Bash – a vodka, blackberry brandy, pineapple juice mix. Kyle Bullen scored points for Copernicus which “like the Polish astronomer and

mathematician, who introduced the unconventional heliocentric model of the universe, the cocktail utilizes fresh ingredients to create an unexpected vodka experience.” I was engaged as a “celebrity judge” to officiate the amateur division along with television personality Casey Malone, John Slanina, Michael McGiffen, and Phil Kidd.

Lisa Lotze took home the crown in 2011, when I last attended with

her “Drowning the Winter Witch” made of Żubrówka Bison Grass vodka, cucumber liquor and ginger ale. A multiple winner, this year she brought the forbidden drink, Brother and Sister – “united only in death,” which found its inspiration from the Krosno “Romeo and Juliet” legend of half brother and sister Stanisław Oświęcim and Anna Oświęcimówna.

Tad Siembida's Zakopane Zinger infused the vodka with cinnamon, nutmeg and pear juice. Mizeria by Brianna Stankich played on the traditional cucumber salad taste with an infusion of cucumber and soda water to blueberry simple syrup and lime juice. Tim Davis won presentation points for his Warsaw Watermelon Martini with its heart-shaped watermelon garnish. Augie Heschmeyer's literally smokin' entry, the Warsaw Uprising – “from Polish Ashes comes Polish Pride” commemorated a moment in Polish history.

The drinks received scores for title, presentation, originality and taste. The winning vote went to John Messenger for Tatra Surprise, which combined black coffee with Frangelico, vodka, a pinch of cardamom, and orange rind.

To top off the vodka tour and cocktail judging, I took the three-shot taste test to determine the smoothest between Ytown, Grey Goose, and Belvedere vodkas. A trip to the dessert table saved me

from a whirlwind, head-spinning encounter, but the event chair Agata reserved a dance with me and what dance was playing? ...a Viennese Waltz. As we twirled around the dance floor, Agi told me how she no longer had anyone to dance with, as her dance partner – her father had advanced in age.

We were interrupted with the announcement of the “Pączki Parade” led by Queen Zubel, who was attired in full regalia. Everyone grabbed a pączek and a hidden surprise for one lucky winner resulted in a transfer in the monarchy.



**WARSAW WATERMELON** martini.

### SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydłowski

## Easter Traditions, Customs, and Symbols

“April's in her eyes, it is love's Spring” wrote Shakespeare (in Anthony and Cleopatra, III:2)

The custom of sending gullible people on fool's errands and of playing other practical jokes on April 1 has been around since the Middle Ages. An eighteenth century journalist related the custom to Noah's error of “sending the dove out of the ark before the water had abated” on a date that corresponded to our April 1.

**TRADITION.** Good Friday is celebrated on the Friday before Easter. Like most of the other days of the Christian Holy Week, it became a holiday — for the day Christ died — in the fourth century. As with any holiday there are superstitions even on Good Friday. The sun does not shine as brightly on Good Friday, as it does on other days, or planting anything on Good Friday

will produce a plentiful crop.

**CUSTOM.** Even before Christian times, people colored, blessed or exchanged eggs as part of the rites of spring to welcome the sun's awakening from its long winter sleep. The early Christians adopted the egg, which represented the renewal of life, as a symbol of Christ's resurrection from the grave. There are several folk tales to explain the origin of dyeing Easter Eggs. A legend from Poland recounts how the Virgin Mary herself painted boiled eggs in bright colors to please the Infant Jesus. Also people around the world celebrate Easter with eggs. Eastern Europeans may exchange eggs bearing the letters “XB” for “Christ is Risen. Also the Russians exchange a decorated egg and three kisses, while the Chinese people present a red hard boiled egg with congratulation when a child is born.

However it was the German immigrants who introduced to the United States, the tradition of the Easter bunny delivering colored eggs to children

**CURIOS.** The word Easter comes from *Eastre* or *Ostara*, a mythical Norse deity, goddess of life and spring. Every spring a festival was held in her honor, and the month it was held was known to the Anglo-Saxons as “Eastre moneth.” Easter is also known as “pasch” a Greek word, which is similar to the Hebrew word for spring holiday of the Passover of the Jewish people.

The reason why the Feast of Easter is not a set date on our Gregorian calendar is because it is determined by the ancient paschal or Jewish lunar month. The paschal moon itself is not an actual moon, but as sort of arbitrary moon governed by European longitudes. If local longitudes

were considered, Easter would appear on a different date in America. The Church decreed the present method of determining the date at the Council of Nice in 325 A.D.

**SYMBOLS.** Curious about some of the Easter symbols...The **scorpion** sting represents Judas, who betrayed Christ with a kiss, or the **pelican**, a symbol of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and in the Eucharist because it was believed to feed its babies with its own blood which the pelican caused to flow by piercing its own breast with its beak, while the **peacock** symbolized immortality and the resurrection since its flesh was once believed to be immune to decay.

**OF INTEREST.** **Kazimierz Proszynski**, born on April 4, 1875 in Warsaw, Poland, was an inventor active in the field of cinema. He patented his first film camera, called a Pleograph, before the Lumiere brothers. He later went on to improve the cinema projector for the Gaumont company, as well as invent the widely used hand-held Aeroscope camera. These Aeroscope cameras were used by the British Army combat cameramen on the battlefields of World War I and later used by newsreel cameramen until the late 1920s as well as in the beginning of World War II.

**MUSEUM CORNER.** The **Polish American Museum** was open during these wintery days. Applications are available for the Founders Scholarship upon request. The museum held a Spring Classical Concert recently with violinist **Kristina Wirkowski** and **Kinga Augustyn** accompanied by cello player Dayle Chung. Currently serving as a permanent exhibit, is the **Jan Zaborski** collection of concentration camp garments and documents. Several new exhibits are in the planning stages. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Group tours most welcome. Just call (516) 883-6542.

**NEITHER RAIN, NOR FOG ...** We dealt with the snow, sleet and rain, but that did not stop us from viewing the “Forbidden Art” Exhibit in the lobby of the United Nations, New York City. This was a powerful exhibition of photographs of camp art from the collection of the Auschwitz Memorial. We also attended the Howard Kroplik presentation and book signing at the North Shore Historical Museum in Glen Cove., and even had time to celebrate with several of my Irish friends.

It is Spring and time for baseball. Let's go Mets!

### 2015 Museum Membership Appeal

PHILADELPHIA — The **Polish American Cultural Center Museum** volunteers invite you to support its efforts to promote Polish history, culture, and pride by becoming a supportive member of the Museum Exhibit Hall.

The Center promotes public awareness of Polish history and heritage among Delaware Valley residents. It also welcomes tourists from across the United States and around the world who visit the Ex-

hibit Hall during their tour of Historic Philadelphia.

Every donor will receive a donation acknowledgement letter and be entitled to all membership privileges

For more information, write to the museum at 308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106; call (215) 922-1700, Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; or visit [www.PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://www.PolishAmericanCenter.com).

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Federal, State, and Local Leaders Rendezvous at Pulaski Landmark

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The General Pulaski Association hosted its annual wreath laying ceremony at the base of the Pulaski statue in downtown Buffalo on March 6. Local dignitaries who participated included U.S. Congressman **Brian Higgins**, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge **Carl Bucki**, N.Y. Senator **Tim Kennedy**, Erie County Executive **Mark Poloncarz**, Erie County Comptroller **Stefan Mychajliw**, Erie County Clerk **Chris Jacobs**, Erie County Sheriff **Tim Howard**, Erie County Legislator **Pat Burke**, Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka**, Cheektowaga Town Supervisor **Mary Holtz**, Polish Veterans Commander **Stanley Przystal** and Pulaski descendant **Stanley Pulaski, Sr.**

After the ceremony, the group held its installation banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. The emcee for the dinner was **Autumn Lewandowski** from WKBW-TV, while Buffalo Common Council Member **David Franczyk** and U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate **Joseph Treanor** were the guest speakers. Decorated World War II veteran **Joseph Kasprzak** received the Stanley Blake Memorial Veterans Award. Cheektowaga Town Justice **Paul Piotrowski** installed President **Brian Rusk**, First Vice-President **Sandi Schmid**, Second Vice-President **Kenneth Graber**, Treas. **Ed Reska**, Sec. **Jerry Inda**, Chaplain **Rev. Michael Burzynski**, and Sgt.-at-Arms **Stanley Pulaski, Sr.**

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** At its recent luncheon at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca, the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo installed **Felix Krempka** as its first vice-president, **Thomas Zawadzki** as treasurer, **Sharon Dombek** as membership secretary; and **Hon. Carl Bucki**, **Mary Jane Masiulionis**, **Christine Nowak**, **Gloria Ricotta** and **Tom Rojek** as members of its board of directors. The group also awarded scholarships to **Mark Pietruszka** (Niagara University) and **Patricia**

**Manos** (Courtauld Institute of Art) at the event ... On March 1, Corpus Christi Parish in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District offered homemade Polish food at its "Zupa, Kanapki i Chrusciki" fundraiser ... The Professional & Businessmen's Association held its General Membership Meeting at Desiderio's Restaurant on March 3 ... Erie County Executive **Mark Poloncarz** was named the "Large Community Elected Official of the Year" by the Western Branch of the American Public Works Association ... **Chris Musial**, the former president and general manager of WIVB-TV, was recently named the new vice-president and general manager of WBBZ-TV in Buffalo ... The Polka Variety Social Club elected the following leadership for 2015: **Bob Wojciechowski** (pres.), **Linda Gayler** (v.p.), **Fay Morith** (sec.), **Veronica Schillinger** (treas.), and **Fran Garbe** and **Pauline Janish** (Sgts.-at-Arms).

The *Am-Pol Eagle*, WNY's Polish American weekly newspaper, announced that the following have been named its Citizens-of-the-Year for 2014: **Conrad Borucki** (Art/Drama), **Polish Villa II Restaurant** (Business), **Alan Kasprzak** (Civic Leader), **Anne Conable** (Community Leader: Non-Pole), **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS** (Community Organization), **James Lawicki II** (Culture), **Christine Palczewski** (Education), **Polish Cadets of Buffalo** (Fraternal), **Michael Szukala** (Government), **Michele Macielag** (Health/Medicine), **Eleanor Szymczak** (Humanitarian), **Edward Kornowski** (Good Neighbor), **Manya Metzler** (Heritage), **Thomas Zawadzki** (Individual in Organizations), **Craig Bucki**, (Law), **Alex Storzynski** (Media), **John Maguda** (Music), **Hon. Angela Wozniak** (Politics), **Rev. Louis Klein** (Religion), **Liz Johnson** (Sports) and **Jessica Kisluk** (Youth).

Polish American Congress (WNY Division) Director **James Lawicki** will received the Knight's

Cross as part of his investiture into the *Krolewskiego Orderu Swiety Stanislaw* in Poland ... On March 7 and 8, the **Troyak Polish Canadian Coin and Stamp Club** hosted its 12th Annual Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp and Collectible Show at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... On March 17, the **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and WNY** hosted a casino trip for its membership, and U.S. Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge **Carl Bucki** addressed the **Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society** on "The Blue Army" at the Niagara Falls Library ... The WNY Chapter of the **Kosciuszko Foundation and Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** presented **Dr. Piotr Derengowski** of the University of Gdansk on "Poles in the American Civil War: 1861-1865" at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on March 18.

Buffalo's Historic **Broadway Market** presented Special Delivery and New Direction during its "Polkas at the Broadway Market" on the weekends during March ... The Castellani Museum of Art on the Niagara University Lewiston campus presented **Rev. Czeslaw Krysa's** "PolAm Palm Weaving Class" on March 15 and **Barbara Frackiewicz's** "Polish Decorative Paper Cutting Class" on March 22 ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** held a *Pisanki* Workshop at the Penfield Recreation Building on March 21 ... The **Polish Canadian Legal Association** held its Spring Dinner on March 21 at Biff's Bistro in Toronto ... Polish musical satirist **Jan Pietrzak** performed in Mississauga on the 21st and London, Ontario on the 22nd ... Canada's April 2nd "St. John Paul II Day" was marked by a performance of "Dotyk Milosci" featuring **Kinga**

**Mitrowska** at St. Eugenius Church in Brampton, Ontario ... The **Polish Union of America** marked the beginning of its 125th year with an "Easter Swieconka Meat and Food Raffle" at the Potts Banquet Hall on March 28th.

On March 30, chef **Andy Ruszczyk** of Ru's Pierogi prepared a Polish-inspired Pussy Willow Worthy dinner at the Hydraulic Hearth Restaurant in Buffalo's Larkinville neighborhood as part of the restaurant's "Brick Oven, No Pizza" series of events co-sponsored by the Buffalo Beer Goddesses ... **St. Casimir Parish** in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood held an outdoor Pussywillow Procession and its Second Annual Family Faith Food Contest on March 31 ... **St. John Gualbert Church** in Cheektowaga and **St. Casimir Church** held *Gorzkie Zale* ("Bitter Lamentations") on Sunday afternoons throughout Lent.

**UPCOMING.** Remember to have your **Easter basket blessed** at local Polish American parishes on Holy Saturday, April 4 ... **Dyngus Day** is April 6 this year. Buffalo's **Best Kielbasa Contest** will take place at the Broadway Market at noon. The 9th **Annual Dyngus Day Parade** will weave its way through Buffalo's Historic Polonia District starting at 5:00 p.m. that day ... The Chopin Singing Society announced that it will be moving its 54th Annual "Original Dyngus Day Celebration" on April 6 to the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

The **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS** will present Rhonda Koenig on "Breaking Old World: Finding Foreign Places of Birth in America Records" at its April 9 meeting in the Vila Maria College cafeteria on April 9 ... "**Ziggy and Zjutka's Big Fat Folked-Up Pol-**

**ish Canadian 1973 Retro Wedding**" featuring John Gora and the Korona Band will be presented at the Anapolis Christian Community Centre in Mississauga on April 11 ... The **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** will perform Karłowicz's *Symphonic Prologue* from "Music for the White Dove," Penderecki's *Horn Concerto* and Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor* during its "Na Zdrowie Poland!" program at Kleinhans Music Hall on April 24 and 25 ... The **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies of the University of Rochester will present **Dr. Lisa Jakelski** of the Eastman School of Music on the topic, "Building an Avante Garde: The Warsaw Autumn Festival and New Polish Music" at the Sloan Auditorium on the University of Rochester River Campus on the 28th ... The **Polish Scholarship Fund** announced that the 61st Annual Syracuse Polish Festival will be held June 19 through 21 in Clinton Square in Downtown Syracuse ... The **Polish Union of America** announced that the deadline for scholarship applications for the 2015-2016 academic year is July 10 ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team announced that its "**Polish Festival Night**" will be held on August 11th at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo. Retired NYS Appellate Division Justice and Chopin Singing Society President **Ann Mikoll** will be honored as the Bisons' Polish American of the Year. The Bisons will play the Rochester Red Wings that evening.

If you have an item for this column, send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. April 6 for the May issue) to [pietruska@verizon.net](mailto:pietruska@verizon.net).



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Wesołego Alleluja

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## POLONIA PLACES / Greg Witul

## St. Mary's in Bremond, Texas

*St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church  
715 North Main St.  
Bremond, Texas  
Status: Open*

Thousands of people will be flocking to the "capital of Texas Polonia" at the end of June to celebrate Bremond's 28th annual Polish Festival Days. The two day celebration with Polish food, music, arts, and crafts is highlighted by the Polish Pickle Run and large parade through downtown. The start of last year's parade was the religious heart of the Polish community, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

The origin of St. Mary's and the entire Polish community of Bremond can be traced to one man, Joseph Bartula. Bartula, his wife, and five children arrived in Texas from Austrian Poland in 1873. The family first settled in the east Texas town of New Waverly, before Joseph found a job on the plantation of J.C. Roberts in 1875. From the farm outside Bremond, Joseph began writing letters to his countrymen touting the area and the little railroad town. Within three years, over 50 Polish families had moved into the area and traveling priests would visit to perform Mass, but the Poles wanted a church of their own. With the help of J.C. Roberts and many of the Protestants members of the community, \$1,200 was raised to build the 35 foot by 50 foot church with a free standing bell tower. On Pentecost Sunday 1879, the first services were held in the newly constructed wooden church and St. Mary's Roman Catholic parish was born.

**THE EARLY YEARS** for St. Mary's were difficult ones. The Poles of Bremond were so poor that they couldn't afford to fully pay their first priest, Reverend Joseph Mosiewicz. To make up the difference, Father Mosiewicz grew and sold cotton on the side. But as the community prospered, so too did the parish. By 1907, the size of the parish far exceeded the capacity of the little wooden church. Beginning with Father Kripajtas, and continuing with Father Ignatius J. Szymanski



St. Mary's, as it appeared in 1927.



The church as it currently stands.

planning for a grand brick church was begun. Szymanski passed over Kripajtas's choice of architect and hired Sanguinet and Staats of Fort Worth to design the new parish. The firm came up with a 62 by 125 foot brick church done in the gothic style with a tower that soared over 75 feet in the air. As a reminder of their roots, all the stained glass windows were inscribed in Polish. The old church was converted into a school and was used as such until 1936.

The new church would be home to three pastors, see dozens of baptisms, weddings, and funerals. It would host dignitaries including Bishop Christopher Byrne and Archbishop Joseph Gawlina before being remodeled during the 1940s and 50s. By the time Father Louis Wozniak was installed as the parish priest, the 60 year-old church was starting to show its age. Large cracks had been developing around

the building and much to the dismay of the parishioners, it was recommended that the building be brought down. In its place a modern church was built that was influenced by the Second Vatican Council. The six-sided building is angled in such a way that parishioners face both the altar and each other from flanking sides of the nave. The windows were made of large chunks of stained glass arranged to create images and symbols from the bible. Today the Polish spirit is strong at St. Mary's. Besides its part in the Polish Days celebration, St. Mary's still breaks the oplatki at Christmas, blesses the baskets at Easter and hosts the occasional Polka Mass.

## Map of Tatras Takes Top Prize

OXON, U.K. (Polska.pl) — A 3D map of the Tatra Mountains was named the best map published in 2014. The Polish work competed against 70 maps from around the world published in the *Journal of Maps*, the only scientific periodical which prints electronic versions of maps presenting research results from different fields of science.

The map — created by Dr. Jerzy Zasadni, an engineering professor from the AGH University of Science and Technology, and Dr. Piotr Kłapyta from the Jagiellonian University — depicts the Tatra Mountains, Poland's highest mountain range, during the latest glaciation period, about 20,000 years ago.

"It is more than a map. It is a 3D model of the Tatras that can be presented as a topographical map, in perspective view, and as an animation," said Zasadni. "Earlier there was no compilation presenting a spatial image of glaciers across the entire mountain range that would show the Tatras from this perspective and be accessible to a layman. I hope that tourists planning to go hiking in the Tatras will reach for this map. After all, the Tatras are our national icon."

The map shows a not-so-distant past in geological terms of the Tatras, which during glaciation looked completely different than today. They were once covered with fifty glaciers, which have imprinted their features on the range.



The interior of St Mary's as archived by the Missionaries of Faith.

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# A Zamość Easter

by Fr. Edward Walewander

Easter is preceded by Lent, a time of penance and self-denial. Catholics make various Lenten resolutions, e.g., giving up cigarette smoking or drinking alcohol. Sometimes, they even keep their resolutions long after Lent has passed. The culminating point in preparation for Easter is the Lenten retreat, in which Catholics in the Zamość region (and throughout Poland) take part en masse.

There is a custom that, during Lent, one places branches (usually willow) into a vase with water, so that buds will emerge on them. These budding pussy willows will later decorate the Easter table. There was even the custom of young girls swallowing a small bud to ensure their beauty.

Palms are blessed on Palm Sundays. Many people prepare their palms at home. They gather flow-

ers all summer long and dry them, so that their palms will look impressive. The palms announce the approach of Easter. When I was a child, people would bless palms in church and then bring them home while chanting a verse like: "Palma bija, palma trzaska, dziś za tydzień będzie pascha." ("Lent will soon be over, it will be a time of joy, people can eat heartily, especially tasty meats.") Blessed palms remain visibly displayed at home year round, usually in the main room. They are often placed behind one's most beautiful religious picture, hanging on the wall.

**FOOD IS BLESSED** on Holy Saturday. Children and young people typically perform that task, bringing bread, salt, pepper, horseradish, eggs, and meat. The visit to church is also a chance to admire (and pray at) the Lord's Tomb, which is deco-

rated differently each year, usually with some allusion to contemporary events in the Church or Poland. Today, priests also travel to the various villages of the Zamość region, where—usually in chapels—they meet with the faithful to pray and bless the Easter foods.

The Resurrection Mass (rezurekcja) usually takes place at 6:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday. The faithful gather en masse to go in procession around their church three times, singing "Wesoły nam dziś dzień



**ON PALM SUNDAY**, as has long been the tradition in Zamość, the city's Great Market Square is host to an Easter Fair, where one could buy all types of decorations, from palm trees and eggs, to napkins and cups.

"nastal." During the communist era, people often accented the third verse of that hymn: "He conquered the forces of hell, and crushed the enemy. He had mercy on the poor, Al-

leluia, Alleluia!" ("Piekielne, moce zwojował, Nieprzyjaciele podeptał, Nad nędznymi się zmiłował, Alleluja, alleluja").

After the procession and Mass, people quickly made their way home. There used to be a belief that the first one in the village to get home that day would also be the first to finish his harvest that year. I remember as a child, when people went to church by horse and wagon, how people would spur their horses on the return trip to be the first back. Then came the Easter breakfast. It included the perennial white barszcz, to which was added some of the bread that was blessed, small pieces of meat cut up, wedges of the hardboiled egg, horseradish, etc. It tasted wonderful!

It used to be the custom that people made no other hot meal on Easter besides the Easter Breakfast. People would consume the barszcz and help themselves to the plentiful meats. Various baked goods also crowned the Easter table: the Easter babka and mazurka (kinds of cheesecakes). People in many homes would also sample their home-made liqueurs. Meats were downed with strong, homemade horseradish prepared by the lady of the house, usually a mixture of horseradish and red beets.

**A WALK IN IN ORDER.** There was no custom of lying down after Easter breakfast or the later lunch. People would usually go for a walk in the fields to see how nature was also rising to new life. Whoever indulged himself with a nap, it was said, feared that the wheat he sowed would be crushed, and his hay and harvest poor. That custom had its roots in Christianity, because—after meeting the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus—the disciples went on to announce the Good News of His Resurrection.

Easter Sunday, or Great Sunday, was a day for peacefully enjoying the great joy of the Lord's Rising. That joy exploded into the open on Easter Monday, when boys would douse girls with water. Although girls would defend themselves by running away—lest they be soaked to the skin—but any young lady who wasn't splashed would also feel badly, because it meant the boys weren't interested in her. Easter Monday was also the day that people would visit each other.



The Rev. Dr. Edward Walewander is professor of pedagogy at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. He comes from the Zamość region.



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**Polish Easter Fun Facts**

by Robert Strybel  
“Palenie tarniny” (the burning of thorny sloe berry branches) is a ritual performed on church grounds on Holy Saturday, when new fire and Holy Water are blessed.

“Baba,” which can mean grandmother, old lady, hag or beggar woman, is also the name of the best known Easter cake — a tall, tapered, yeast-raised egg bread, usually studded with raisins and glazed with icing. “Babka” is the diminutive and means a smaller cake of this type.

The “Grób Pański” or “Boży Grób” is a tableau of Our Lord’s Tomb, set up at one of the church’s

side-altars for adoration by the faithful on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. An honor guard often takes turns stands watch.

The “Baranek Wielkanocny” or Easter Lamb is a “must” in the Easter baskets blessed in church on Holy Saturday. The lambs may be made of sugar (rock candy), white chocolate, butter, cake dough,

wood, plastic, plaster or plush, and always make their way to the table.

“Topienie Judasza” or the drowning of Judas was once a favorite of youngsters. A straw effigy of Judas was hurled to the ground from the church steeple, dragged through the streets, beaten with sticks and burned, or drowned in the nearest lake or river.



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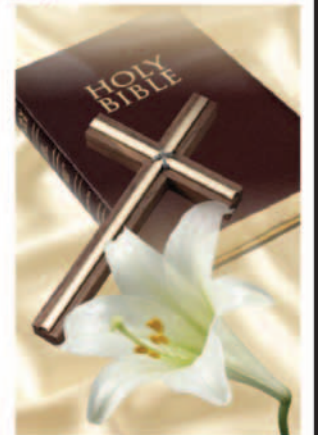
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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Some Święcone Essentials

The Polish term “Święcone” has been variously translated into English as hallowfare, blessed food, consecrated repast or holy meal. Literally meaning “that which has been blessed,” it is the name given to both the Easter foods brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday and the brunch shared with loved ones after Mass on Easter Sunday.

Here are some ideas of what might be served at such a festive family gathering, a community Dyngus Day celebration, or organized Święconka.

### SHARING BLESSED EGGS

**(dzielenie się jajkiem):** After grace, wedges of blessed hard-cooked eggs are shared by all present to signify the end of the Lenten fast with the symbol of New Life. The host may bring a plate round to each family member who impales a wedge with his fork and all consume their egg after expressing wishes of “Wesołego Alleluja” of “Wesołych Świąt” (Happy Easter).

### WHITE EASTER BARZSZCZ (biały barszcz wielkanocny):

In pot combine 3 c water in which fresh or smoked kielbasa has been cooked with 3 c cold water. Add 1 c liquid rye meal sour,\* bring to boil and simmer 5 min. Remove from heat. In small mixing bowl, fork-blend or whisk 1 heaping T flour with ¾ c sour cream (or plain unsweetened yogurt) until smooth. Add 1 c hot stock 1 T at a time to sour-cream mixture, fork-blending or whisking constantly, then stir mixture into pot. Return to heat and simmer 2-3 min just below boiling point. Serve over hard-cooked eggs and sliced cooked sausage. Cubed farmer cheese, dry rye-bread cubes and horseradish may also be added according to individual preference.

\* If liquid rye meal sour is not available, add 1 c water mixed with 2 T or more vinegar.

### EGG & MEAT SAUCES (sosy do jaj i wędlin):

An easy but delicious way to create your own sauces is to start by fork-blending ½ c mayon-

naise with ½ c sour cream (or plain unsweetened yogurt), then proceed as follows:

- **Easter sauce:** stir into basic sauce ½ c chopped chives, green onions, radishes and dill pickle, 1 chopped hard-cooked egg and 1 t prepared horseradish;
- **horseradish sauce:** to 1 c basic sauce stir in 1 heaping T prepared horseradish;
- **Tartar sauce:** stir into basic sauce 1 grated onion, 1 chopped dill pickle, 2-4 pickled mushrooms and 1 t lemon juice;
- **mustard sauce:** fork-blend 1 heaping T prepared brown Polish mustard with 1 c basic sauce.

### BEETROOT & HORSERADISH

**(ćwikła z chrzanem):** Drain 1 12 oz can pickled beets (reserving liquid). Grate or chop fine and mix with 1-2 heaping T prepared horseradish. Optional: sprinkle with a pinch or 2 ground caraway. This relish as an absolute “must” to accompany traditional Polish Easter food (eggs, ham, sausage, roasts). Note: Use the beet liquid to dye several shelled hard-cooked eggs by keeping them submerged 1 hr. Pat the red eggs dry with paper towel and intersperse them among the white shelled eggs for a colorful accent.

### EASTER SALAD (salatka wielkanocna):

Combine 2-3 c cold, cooked, diced potatoes, 1 c drained peas & carrots, 2 cans drained navy beans (or pea-beans), 4 diced dill pickles, 1 bunch chopped green onions, 1 bunch diced radishes, 2 - 3 peeled, cored, diced apples and 2 - 5 diced hard-cooked eggs. Toss ingredients gently, season with salt & pepper, garnish and lace with just enough basic mayonnaise-sour cream sauce (above) to coat ingredients. Garnish with chopped parsley. Note: Feel free to juggle quantities according to preference. Other possible ingredients include: capers, chopped celery, bell pepper, diced beets, a firm diced pear, etc.

### BAKED FRESH KIELBASA. (biała kielbasa pieczona):

Arrange fresh kielbasa in a single layer in uncov-

ered baking pan. Cover with cold water and bake in 350° oven. Turn sausage over when half the water has evaporated. Scatter wafer-thin onion slices over top and sprinkle with caraway seed. It is ready when all water evaporates and sausage begins to sizzle. Variation: At the start of cooking, replace 1 c of water with beer.

### BOILED BACON (boczek gotowany):

Place 2 ¼ lean slab bacon (smoked or uncooked) into pot, add 1 portion soup greens, 1 bay leaf, several peppercorns and 2 grains allspice and water to more than cover. Bring to boil, reduce heat, skim off scum and simmer 80-90 min or until fork tender. Remove bacon, pat dry and refrigerate overnight. Serve cold sliced thin with typical Easter go-togethers. (Note: The degreased stock makes a good soup base.)

### POLISH WHEEL CAKE (kołacz):

Prepare dough as in either of the first two babka recipes (above). When dough rises, roll out on floured board with rolling pin into two 1” thick circles. Transfer to 2 round greased and flour-dusted cake pans, cover with tea towel and let rise again in warm place. With a saucer make a depression at the center of each dough round and fill it with Polish plum butter (powidla). Other thick jams can also be used. Brush cakes with beaten egg and bake in preheated 350°F oven about 55 min or until pick comes out clean.

### POLISH KNOT CAKE (sękacz):

Beat 1 slightly heaped c unsalted butter with 1½ c sugar until fluffy (app. 5 min), Add 7 egg yolks 1 at a time, beating until fully absorbed before adding the next, and beat until fluffy and lemony. Stir in 2 t vanilla extract. Separately, combine 1½ c instant flour, ¾ c potato starch and 2 t baking powder and stir into egg mixture. Beat 7 egg whites until they peak and carefully fold into batter. Heat overhead broiler in oven. Grease a tube pan and sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Ladle some batter into the pan to cover bottom and place under broiler 2 min or until golden brown. Ladle in another portion of batter and repeat process. Keep repeating until all batter is used up. Check for doneness with wooden pick. If it does not come out clean, bake in hot oven a while longer.

### CHEESECAKE (sernik):

Sift 1½ 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 1½ lbs farmer cheese and blend together with 2 med cold, well-mashed potatoes. Cream ¾ 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 with 3 T potato starch, add 1 c plumped raisins and



PHOTO: PIXABRIA.COM

**EASTER BABKA (babka wielkanocna):** Dissolve 3 envelopes (3 T) dry yeast in ¾ c warm (110°F) water, stir in 1 T sugar and ½ c flour, cover and let stand in warm place until it foams (5-10 min). Heat 1¼ c milk and 1¼ c unsalted butter until it melts and set aside to cool to lukewarm. Separately, beat 6 whole eggs and 2 extra yolks with 1 c sugar until creamy. Add the warm milk & butter, yeast mixture, 1 t vanilla and 1 t salt and beat until smooth. Beat in 4½ c flour a little at a time until it is absorbed, adding another ¾ c or less (enough to get a soft, manageable dough). Knead on floured board until smooth and pliable. Transfer dough to 2 greased babka pans, cover with cloth and let rise in warm place until doubled (app. 2 hrs). Bake in preheated 350°F oven about 55 min or until a wooden pick comes out clean. Remove from pans and cool on racks. Dust with powdered sugar or drizzle with plain white icing.

### EASIER EASTER BABKA (babka wielkanocna łatwiejsza):

Mash 1 cake yeast with 1 c sugar. Add 3 whole eggs, beaten, ¾ c butter dissolved in 1 c very warm milk, 3 c flour, 1 t vanilla extract and ½ c raisins. Mix well to blend ingredients, but do not knead. Fill well-greased babka pan with dough, but it should be only ½ full. Cover with cloth and let stand in warm place until doubled in bulk (about 2 hrs). Bake about 1 hr in preheated 350° oven. It is fully baked when a wooden pick comes out clean. Dust with confectioner’s sugar or glaze with icing (mix together ¾ c confectioner’s sugar, 1 t rum or vanilla extract and 2-3 T boiling water).

2 T finely chopped candied orange rind. Mix ingredients and fold in 3 stiffly beaten egg whites. Roll out ¾ of the dough ¼” 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.

### CRUMBLE-TOP FRUIT MAZURKA (mazurek owocowy z kruszonką):

Cut ½ lb butter into 3 c flour, add 4 egg yolks and 1 scant c confectioner’s sugar. Quickly work ingredients into a smooth dough, wrap in foil and refrigerate several hrs. Divide dough into 2 parts. Roll out one half and fit it into square or rectangular baking pan. Spread with powidla or other thick jam. Coarsely grate the remaining dough, evenly covering the entire surface. Bake in preheated 390°-400° oven about 20 min or until nice and golden. When cool, cut into squares.

### HAZELNUT MAZURKA (mazurek orzechowy):

Mix 1½ c uncooked rolled oats with ½ c ground peeled hazelnuts (filberts) and brown in hot, dry frying-pan, stirring constantly. When cool, stir in 4 T sour cream. Separately, beat 3 raw egg yolks with 1 c confectioner’s sugar until white and combine with oat-nut mixture. Add 1 level t baking powder, several drops almond extract and a pinch of salt. Mix well. Beat 3 egg whites to a stiff froth and gently fold into mixture. Transfer mixture to greased baking pan and

shape into ¾” tall square or rectangle. Smooth top and even out sides. Bake in preheated 375° oven about 20 min or until golden. After cake has cooled, glaze with icing, made by combining ¾ c confectioner’s sugar, 2 T cocoa, juice of 1 lemon and 1 T boiling water. Decorate top with hazelnut halves

### EASTER CHEESE DESSERT (pascha):

Soak 1 heaping T raisins in a jigger of cognac or brandy. Grind 1¼ lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese twice or whirl it to a powder in food-processor. In saucepan beat 5 raw egg yolks with 1½ c confectioner’s sugar until white and fluffy, gradually adding ½ c coffee cream. Place saucepan on low flame and heat mixture, mixing constantly, but do not boil. Set aside to cool. Combine cheese with yolk mixture, add the drained raisins and about ½ c chopped blanched almonds and/or walnuts, 1-2 T finely chopped candied orange rind and 1 t vanilla extract. Mix ingredients well and place in sieve lined with 2 layers of cheese-cloth. Cover with plate and weight down with 1 qt jar filled with water. Refrigerate overnight. Next day, turn out onto serving plate. Decorate top with whole almonds, walnut meats, raisins and strips of candied orange rind. *Optional:* Top may first be decorated with grated chocolate.



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on page 19  
of this month’s paper.

## Poland's First Oscar Win

*Pawlikowski's Ida  
Receives Award*

by Staś Kmieć

Poland ended its losing streak at Hollywood's 87th Academy Awards when *Ida*, director Pawel Pawlikowski's black-and white drama set in the Poland of 1961 took the prize for "Best Foreign Language Film." Polish films have been nominated nine times including works by filmmakers Roman Polanski and Andrzej Wajda, but this is the first win for the country noted for its legacy of exceptional cinematic work.

Just before taking her vows, Anna, an orphan brought up in a convent in Poland, visits her only living relative and discovers a family secret, and her true name — *Ida*. Pawlikowski was committed to character over allegory and the narrative unfolds with simplicity. The actors — newcomer Agata Trzebuchowska and experienced veteran Agata Kulesza gave nuanced performances which convey subdued emotion, mystery, and authenticity.

Vividly shot in a boxy aspect ratio in austere, complex black-and-white, the film's visual style is part of a recognizably Polish variant of a contemplative filmmaking tradition. The striking cinematography and composition by Lukasz Zal and Ryszard Lenczewski has characters framed in corners, or in the lower third of the shot, and his wonderfully textured use of light and shadow evokes a feeling of the period.

Deservedly, the film received a nomination in the cinematography category against American contenders. Two other Polish films were nominated for Oscars this year, as well — "Our Curse" by Tomasz Sliwinski, and "Joanna" by Aneta Kopacz — both for "Best Short Documentary."

Polish-born, British-trained filmmaker Pawlikowski created this provocative film from a screenplay co-written with British playwright Rebecca Lenkiewicz and marked his first feature film in Polish. Having left Communist Poland at the age of 14 to live in Germany and other European countries before settling in England, Pawlikowski returned to his native land for this intimate and affecting study of some of Poland's more turbulent and antagonistic subjects and issues, most notably the controversial relationship between Polish Catholics and Polish Jews, the question of the significance of faith and the ultimate restrictions of religion.

Born in Warsaw to a family of Polish intelligentsia, Pawlikowski in his late teens, learned that his paternal grandmother was Jewish and had died in Auschwitz. At the age

of 14, he left Communist Poland with his mother for London. What he thought was a vacation, turned out to be a permanent exile. A year later he moved to Germany, before resettling in Britain.

Pawlikowski grew up a Catholic and considers himself one up to this day. In addition to his native Polish, he speaks English, French, German, Italian and Russian. He has a son and a daughter and after his children left for university, Pawlikowski moved to Paris, and later relocated to Warsaw, where he lives close to his childhood home

*Ida* has been honored with numerous awards and nominations. Grossing more than \$3.6 million at the North American box office, the film has been described as a "crossover hit," especially for a foreign language film. That success extends to the international market. Nearly 500,000 people watched the film in France, making it one of the most successful Polish-language films

### Despite a Win, *Ida* strikes Controversy

The film *Ida* has been criticized by some for its perspective on Christian-Jewish relations in Poland. Some have argued that the Christian Poles in the film are portrayed negatively as being anti-Semitic and sharing responsibility with the German occupiers for the Holocaust.

Others have argued that the alcoholic character of Wanda Gruz, who participated in the persecution of those who threatened the Soviet-sponsored postwar regime, perpetuates a stereotype about Polish Jews as collaborators with the Communist regime.

No film that touches on the Holocaust coming from a country that is especially sensitive about how its role in World War II is portrayed will likely avoid controversy. Poles feel that the presence of German death camps in Poland, and some instances of the persecution of Jews by Poles, have led to the mistaken impression that their country was responsible for the Holocaust rather than a victim of it.

Maciej Swirski, chairman of the Polish



Trzebuchowska, Pawlikowski, and Kulesza.

ever screened there. The film earned nearly as much in France, \$3.2 million, as it did in the U.S. The film earned \$300,000 in Poland, and less than \$100,000 in Germany

The Oscar ceremony featured two historic moments: one being Poland's first Oscar; and the second came when the dapper director, took the stage to accept the award. Pawlikowski's speech commented on the irony of his film — "*Ida*" — winning the award. "We made a film about the need for silence, withdrawal from the world and contemplation, and here we are at this happy center of noise and attention."

Pawlikowski launched into a seemingly never-ending stream of thank-you's, prompting the inevitable swell of play-off music. The director sped up his speech but kept on going, and then the music stopped. The audience erupted in cheers. Eventually, the microphone had to be lowered back into the stage to get the excited Oscar winner to leave the stage.

Anti-Defamation League, has called the film "anti-Polish" and collected more than 50,000 signatures for a petition demanding that a lengthy disclaimer be added to the film making it clear that Germany, and not Poland, was responsible for the Holocaust.

The film's supporters feel there is no need to explain that Germans were responsible for the Holocaust because the fact is so well known. One of the producers responded "Are they really suggesting that all films loosely based on historical events should come with contextual captions? Tell that to Mr. Stone and Mr. Spielberg," which refers to the directors of *JFK* and *Lincoln*.

Director Pawlikowski has called the controversy "too silly to comment on." After returning home to Warsaw with his Oscar, he was asked by reporters about the debate. He didn't comment directly, but said that in the United States, "everybody was surprised that in Poland people are complaining so much about the film, saying that it is anti-Polish, anti-Semitic."

For the most part, the controversy was pushed aside in a huge national wave of congratulation.

## Juskiewicz Enters Hall of Fame

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The owner and CEO of the Gibson Guitar Company, **Henry Juskiewicz**, will be inducted into the Rochester Music Hall of Fame at the Eastman Theatre, April 26.



Juskiewicz, 62, was born in San Nicolas, Argentina to emigrants from Poland. His father was an officer in the Polish Army and later worked as a photographer in Argentina.

He moved to Rochester, New York with his family at the age of five. Juskiewicz went to St. Andrew's Grammar School and Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester. Later he attended General Motors Institute, graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree. In 1979, he graduated with an MBA from Harvard.

Juskiewicz acquired Gibson in 1986 with two former Harvard classmates, Gary A. Zebrowski and David H. Berryman. Currently, Juskiewicz is CEO and Berryman is president.

Juskiewicz's aggressive management style effected an immediate turnaround and Gibson became profitable within a month's time.

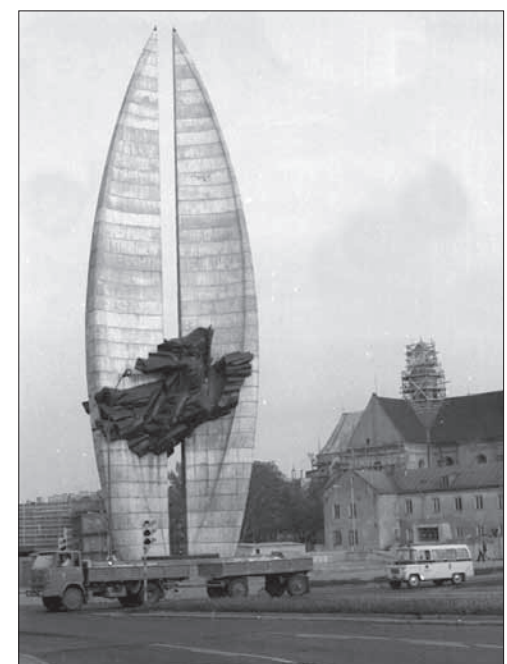
Using creative and innovative marketing tactics, he concentrated on the consumer rather than the retailer — a reflection of his personal experience as a guitar player. Refocusing the company on achieving the highest possible standards of quality and customer service, he drove Gibson from the brink of closing to a company that has regained worldwide respect with annual average growth of 20 percent over the last decade.

Juskiewicz has been a stalwart supporter of numerous charitable organizations and has a strong commitment to the environment, health and welfare, music and the arts and educational causes. Under the banner of the Gibson Foundation, the philanthropic division of Gibson Guitar Corp, he supports numerous organizations including the Rainforest Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, WaterAid, Free The Children, Polaris Project, Feeding America, the World Food Programme, UNICEF and many others.

He currently sits on the boards of the We Are Family Foundation, Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum. As co-founder of the highly lauded Music Rising program, he has helped rebuild hundreds of music programs in the Gulf Coast region post-Katrina.

Joining Juskiewicz in this year's induction are jazz bassist Ron Carter, jazz keyboardist Gap Mangione, bass-baritone William Warfield, and regional R&B band Wilmer & the Dukes,

### THE OLD COUNTRY



**THE CONTROVERSIAL** "Monument of Revolutionary Struggle" Rzeszow, Poland. May 19, 1976. Photo by Richard Poremski.

### CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

## Paintings in the Warsaw Metro

The second line of the Warsaw metro opened on Sunday, March 8, being a perfect gift for Women's Day. After several months of delay and over four and a half years of construction, Varsovians greeted it with frank curiosity and joy.

The line, connecting the western and eastern sides of the city will also go under the Vistula river. However, one of the metro's

most significant features is a vanguard artistic design, signed by Wojciech Fangor. Fangor is one of the most acclaimed Polish painters and the only Polish artist with an individual exhibition at the Guggenheim museum in New York in his resume. Currently in his 90s, Fangor is a legend of the Polish avant-garde, and one of the few acclaimed Polish artists to have engaged in op-art aesthetics.

In the '60s, Fangor left Poland and lived in Western Europe for a couple years before settling in the United States, where his art was recognized as one of the forerunners of the Optical Art movement. Now his vibrant, colorful paintings embellish the Warsaw Metro.

**POLISH THEATRE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.** Polish theatres are finally open for an international audience. Warsaw's Powszechny Theater is offering an opportunity for non-Polish speakers to see a film adaptation of *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy with English subtitles.

The new version has been written by Pawel Sztarbowsky and directed by Marcin Liber.

The theatre promises more English subtitled performances in the future.

**BODY/CIAŁO.** The world premiere of *Body/Cialo*, the latest film by director Małgorzata Szumowska, took place on February 9 at the 65th Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale).

The film was co-financed by the Polish Film Institute; Szumowska won for Best Director in Berlinale's Main Competition.

*Body/Cialo* tells a story of three individuals: a prosecutor (Janusz Gajos), his teenage daughter (Justyna Suwała) suffering from anorexia, and their therapist (Maja Ostaszewska), a woman with paranormal abilities.

**Happy Easter! Wesolych Świąt!**

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## New Chapter Unfolds in the Story of the Ohio Theatre

From time to time I've used this column to update readers about the Ohio Theatre, which sits in the middle of the LaGrange Street neighborhood in North Toledo. Once a landmark symbol for the Polish population who walked or drove mere blocks to attend functions, today the theatre is again coming to life, as Phase Two of a three phase, multi-million dollar renovation is underway.

The Theatre, which opened in 1921, was once known as the largest continually operating neighborhood theatre in Ohio. As time and the ravages of the economic downturn of the late 2000s took their toll, the theatre was closed in 2009. Previous owners include the Catholic Diocese of Toledo, which turned the building over to the Ohio Theatre Board. Working largely through a small group of volunteers, the Ohio Theatre Board sold the building to United North Corporation, a non-profit organization dedicated to revitalizing the North End.

Phase One of the three phase plan took place from 2012-2014. During this phase, multiple renovations occurred, including a new roof, new energy efficient heating system, new air conditioning units, improvements to the sound and lighting systems, renovations in the lobby and concession area, renovation and expansion of the restrooms and renovated green rooms. Phase One concluded with the reopening of the Ohio Theatre in May 2013.

In early March, I had the opportunity to speak with Tom Jesionowski, vice-chairman of the Ohio Theatre Board and Jan Czernik, theatre manager, about the progress and the work that is yet to be done.

Czernik was born in Poland and raised in Little Rock Arkansas. He moved to Toledo a little over two years ago to be nearer to family members. He was hired in December 2013, and is the only paid staff person presently employed.

His dedication to the theatre was obvious as I spoke to him.

"My father came here to see a performance a couple of years ago. I started out volunteering after my father signed a form for volunteers. At the time, I was working in a restaurant and Dad thought this would be a good fit for me. I signed up to do multiple volunteer tasks at the theatre. The previous theatre manager had decided to quit. I applied, was interviewed, and got the job."

Czernik's college background in media production was a strength as he began to learn about the equipment and technology needs of the theatre.

"Through the State of Ohio, another grant for \$200,000 was awarded to the Theatre for equipment upgrades. There are twice as many house lights for the stage, and new house lights for the seats. In addition, there are LED lights in the ramps, as well as banquet tables and chairs which can be set up for special events. A new, motorized movie screen and curtain have been installed. An especially striking improvement is the LED strip cosmetic cove lighting in the auditorium. This type of lighting is expensive on the front end, but will pay off long term."

More grant money has been given to the theatre: the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo helped the Ohio Theatre group obtain a grant from the Ohio Arts Council. A con-

dition of that grant was a focus on culturally diverse performances. A sampling of events over the last several months is evidence.

The Clarence Smith Gospel Jazz Brunch, a showing of cult favorite *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and the 24 Hour Plays with the Glaciy Theatre Collective all took place in the fall of 2014. Since the new year, a very successful International Film Festival took place on Saturdays in January and February.

**CZERNIK TOLD ME** that the success of this film festival has given the Ohio Theatre the potential to become an ongoing venue for independent and foreign films.

Other events included the Echoes of Poland in performance March 8, and a new event, Spoken Toledo March 12th, in which four selected guest storytellers spun tales, in addition to tales from audience members who signed up at the door. For individuals perhaps too timid to take the stage, there was even a section called "Storytellers Anonymous" where stories were submitted in advance.

Various arts groups and organizations in Toledo are beginning to use the theatre as a rehearsal and performance space as well. For example, the renowned Toledo School for the Arts holds larger concerts here, and the Toledo Symphony and Toledo Opera's "Opera on Wheels" utilize the theatre space. The Toledo Ballet has showcased highlights from their productions, which are usually held in much larger venues, on the Ohio's stage.

An attraction to the theatre for some performances will be the acquisition of a liquor license, which



Jan Czernik, Ohio Theatre manager.

is in process. Added to the renovated concession area, which Tom Jesionowski and retired University of Toledo professor Jim Hill built partially by hand, the ability to serve alcohol may attract audiences for concerts, films, and the like who may not have attended an event here before.

**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?** Czernik provided a few comments.

"United North owns the building currently. Their goal is to make the theatre financially autonomous. Bidding on Phase 2 has begun for equipment upgrades. When lightning struck the marquee several years ago, the building's characteristic facade all but disappeared. Repairing the facade will cost between \$800,000 and one million dollars."

A daunting task, no doubt, but as the word spreads, the idea that this landmark from another era will

again be completely remodeled and busy most nights of the week is not unthinkable.

Tentative events that Czernik and Jesionowski talked about include a movement class called Eurhythmics for young kids via the Toledo Symphony School, more movies being shown (currently the theatre is in the midst of a six-series schedule including critically acclaimed *St. Vincent* and *Fruitvale Station*), and the possibility of an indoor musical presentation during the annual LaGrange Street Polish Festival in July.

Czernik talked about spreading the word about the Ohio Theatre using the Internet and social media in multiple ways. With little marketing money at the present time, the key is innovation and variety.

"We are working towards getting on Cinema Source Express, a marketing company that populates online and local movie listings. We are building a presence on Facebook, and of course, have our own website."

According to Czernik and Jesionowski, getting the word out about events and activities being held in the theatre is critical to its long-term success.

"People don't realize that just showing up for an event is one of the best ways to spread the word," said Czernik.

"The Ohio Theatre could be described as Toledo's best-kept secret" Jesionowski added.

For more information about the Ohio Theatre, including a season schedule, rental options, membership benefits, opportunities for active involvement, and more, please visit [www.ohiotheatretoledo.org](http://www.ohiotheatretoledo.org).

## "Sienkiewicz in America and Poland" Presented

PHILADELPHIA — The light snow of the previous night and the freezing temperatures on February 15 were not sufficient to keep Sienkiewicz lovers at home. That afternoon Peter Obst, lecturer at LaSalle University and researcher for the Poles in America Foundation, gave a presentation entitled "Sienkiewicz in America and Poland," supplemented with PowerPoint slides. The lecture was fifth in a cycle of monthly lectures, given in the Polish language, organized by the Polish Peoples University (Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy) of Philadelphia, headed by Dr. Eng. Janusz Romanski.



Obst spoke about how Sienkiewicz's friendship with actress Helena Modrzejewska caused him to spend two years in the United States, and how this built his career through the *Letters from America* his editor published in newspapers back home. Sienkiewicz's travels fueled his writing. People and situations he encountered found their way into his books. This is why readers, both in Poland and abroad, found the *Trilogy* and *Quo Vadis* so absorbing.

Also mentioned were the various problems that gifts from grateful readers caused the author. Not least among these was Oblęgorok, a manor on an estate near Kielce,



**LECTURER PETER J. OBST;** Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland Deborah Majka; Dr. Eng. Janusz Romanski, President of the Polish Peoples University.

(now a museum) which Sienkiewicz was forced to renovate with his own funds and used as a summer home. The audience also heard a portion of Sienkiewicz's Nobel Prize acceptance speech. In one of his finest moments, Sienkiewicz was able to proclaim to the world that Poland, then a partitioned country, was far from gone and forgotten as a nation.

Unfortunately, he never saw Poland reconstituted, dying in Vevey, Switzerland in 1916 at age 70.

After a question and answer session, during which some of the listeners shared their views on Sienkiewicz's life and work, the group enjoyed an informal meeting and conversation over pastries and coffee.

The final PUL lecture of the 2014-15 cycle will be on dental care by Dr. Ewa Matczak. It is scheduled take place on April 19, 3:00 p.m., at the recently renovated Belvedere Ballroom of the Associated Polish, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Polish Peoples University, founded in 1918, is one of the oldest Polish-language lecture clubs in the United States.

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## OLSM Jazz Band Tours Poland

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — Following its last performance at the LOTOS Jazz Festival, members of the Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory Jazz Band were treated to a concert by world-renowned musicians and composers Wayne Shorter and Clark Rundell.

Fourteen students from the Jazz Band, their band director, and several parent chaperones traveled to Poland in February. The band performed at the LOTOS Jazz Festival, one of Europe's premier festivals, and participated in the first cultural/music exchange program at the renowned Stanislaw Moniuszki National Music Academy in Bielsko-Biala in partnership with The Polish Mission.

"Our hope is that music will be the thread that unifies two cultures through this rare performance on the international stage," said Josh James, music teacher and Jazz Band director, Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory.

What started out as humble beginnings for an after school ensemble has grown exponentially over several years into a comprehensive music program rich in performance opportunities at neighboring school events, major fundraisers and a television news affiliate. The students' hard work and dedication have turned dreams into realities when they learned they were invited to perform in the professional world of the prestigious LOTOS event alongside international jazz talent, like Wayne Shorter and Grammy winner Esperanza Spalding.

With the assistance of Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki, the St. Mary's Preparatory Jazz Band was able to secure a \$25,000 grant from the Edward and Josephine Wikiera Foundation to help offset the group's travel and performance expenses.

Wayne Shorter, 81, is a legend in the jazz community, having picked up a clarinet at age 15, and working his way into Miles Davis' band in the 60s. His solo compositions and performances have gone on to earn him ten Grammy awards.

Clark Rundell is director of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's award winning new music group, Ensemble 10/10. Under Rundell's leadership, Ensemble 10/10 recently won two RPS awards for "most outstanding ensemble" and "most outstanding concert series."

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## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Baseball's Oldest Living Player

**Mike Sandlock**, age 99, has been recognized as baseball's oldest living major leaguer. The switch-hitting catcher played parts of five big league seasons with the Braves, Dodgers and Pirates.

Sandlock was born in 1915 in Old Greenwich, Conn. He never attended high school, but worked as an electrician during the Depression, earning \$200 a month. His parents, Polish immigrants, thought he was crazy when he quit to play baseball for \$75 a month.

He was 26 when he came up to the majors with the Boston Braves in 1942 with roommate Warren Spahn. Mike had a single in his only at-bat in the majors that year, as his season was cut short because of World War II. Sandlock's best year was 1945 with Brooklyn, when he hit .282 with two home runs and 17 runs batted in 80 games. He finished his major league career with the Pirates. Sandlock, who also played shortstop, second base and third base, was a career .240 hitter. According to the New York Times, he has a hand-written sign in his house that reads: "Didn't make the Hall of Fame but enjoyed every minute."

Karl Ciccitto recently interviewed Sandlock, and the article is posted at [sabr.org](http://sabr.org). One of the questions to him was: "You're Polish; who was the greatest Polish ballplayer of all time?" Mike's answer was: "Stan Musial, of course! He was a helluva great player and a good Catholic Polish lad. I never spoke with him. He was in St. Louis and I was in Pittsburgh. I would say he was the greatest. And I had dinner with Yaz (Carl Yastrzemski). Yaz was a happy-go-lucky fella but he didn't speak good Polish. The difference between Stan and Yaz was that Stan was nice to everybody."

The *Times* story pointed out that Sandlock was with the Dodgers in spring training in 1947 when a short-lived petition circulated in opposition to Jackie Robinson's presence on the team. Sandlock, like many other Dodgers, refused to sign. Sandlock told Ciccitto: "I grew up with black guys and they were good guys and good ballplayers, too. I never had a problem. I also played golf with Jackie Robinson and he was a good golfer."

In AAA Montreal, Sandlock was



**MIKE SANDLOCK.** His parents, Polish immigrants, thought he was crazy when he quit to play baseball for \$75 a month.

a teammate of Roy Campanella. Campy, like Robinson, had come out of the Negro leagues; like Sandlock, he was a catcher. According to a 1950 article in *Ebony Magazine* Campanella gave much credit for his defensive success to "a lesson he learned in 1947 from a white teammate, catcher Mike Sandlock." Campanella said in the article that Sandlock "had spotted my windmill throwing motion and went to work on me."

Later in his career Mike played for the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League, where he said he "made twice as much money with the Stars as I ever made in the big leagues." He retired with a bad knee at age 37, then worked as a carpenter in his hometown of Greenwich.

So how did he live so long? "Age is something I never got caught up into," said Sandlock. "I'm still that 20-year-old kid in my mind and maybe that's one reason why I've lived this long."

**GOLA STATUE UNVEILED.** La Salle unveiled a sculpture of Polish American basketball great **Tom Gola** at a reception that was attended by a large group of family, friends, La Salle basketball alumni and the current men's and women's basketball teams. The sculpture is in the Hayman Center Hall of Athletics Area.

Gola, a four-time All-American, 1955 National Player of the Year



**FRANCIS STANLEY KAMINSKY III** was the only major conference player to lead his team in points, rebounds, assists, blocks and steals.

Arc elementary school and Benet Academy in Lisle, Ill., told the *Chicago Tribune* that Kaminsky has improved every year. "Even now, every summer he gets better at something else," said Sobolewski, now a Northwestern guard. Last year Frank exploded on the national scene, earning MVP honors at an NCAA regional after leading the Badgers into the Final Four. Now, Kaminsky has gotten to be so good that he's considered the leading contender for this year's Wooden Award and the College Player of the Year Award.

**BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW ... Alex Wojciechowicz**, the NFL Hall of Famer and one of Fordham's famed "Seven Blocks of Granite," was the inspiration for a character on the Barney Miller sitcom. Producer Danny Arnold, a New Yorker and fan of Fordham University athletics, named one of the detectives **Stan Wojciechowicz** in honor of "Alex the Great."

**Lindsay Czarniak** became the first female broadcaster to host coverage of the Indianapolis 500 in 2013. A native of Harrisburg PA, she joined ESPN as a sports anchor in 2011.

**Emil Sitko** was a starter on the Notre Dame football team three years at right halfback and one year at fullback from 1946-1949. In those four years the team's record was 36-0-2. He was known as "Red" because of his hair, and as "Six-Yard Sitko" because his career rushing average was 6.1 yards.

**Johnny Reder**, who was born in Lublin, Poland, became one of just a handful of native Poles to play in the major leagues when he joined the Boston Red Sox in 1932. Before that he was an American soccer star, winning three American Soccer League titles and two National Challenge Cup titles as a goalkeeper. He was also one of the rare big leaguers whose last name is a palindrome — it reads the same backward or forward.



and a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, led La Salle to the 1952 NIT and 1954 NCAA Championships. He is the NCAA's all-time leading rebounder, pulling down 2,201 in his four-year career. Gola was the first player in NCAA history to score 2,000 points and grab 2,000 rebounds and is one of only two players to ever achieve the feat. La Salle compiled a 102-19 record during Gola's playing career. He also coached the Explorers for two seasons with a 37-13 record.

He played 11 seasons in the NBA with Philadelphia Warriors, San Francisco Warriors and New York Knicks, winning the 1956 NBA Championship as a rookie with the Warriors. Gola was a five-time NBA all-star and is one of two players to win a NIT, NCAA and NBA title.

**KAMINSKY STILL GETTING BETTER.** He's one of the top players in college basketball, but he's still getting better. This year, **Francis Stanley Kaminsky III** was the only major conference player to lead his team in points, rebounds, assists, blocks and steals.

A fluid and fundamentally sound 7-foot center for Wisconsin, Frank is the son of Frank Kaminsky Jr. Frank Jr., who is 6-10, starred at Chicago's St. Rita High School and Lewis University, where he graduated as the NAIA school's sixth-all-time leading scorer. Frank III's mother, Mary, played volleyball at Northwestern, and much of his family was athletic as well.

"It's kind of like his destiny," said Frank Jr., who also served as women's coach at St. Francis in Joliet. "I don't want to say he was born to do this, but it's what he always wanted to do. He knew what he wanted and went and got it."

Working hard on his shooting and ball-handling skills as a youth, Frank got bigger and better. Childhood friend Dave Sobolewski, who played with Frank at St. Joan of

**Irena Kirszenstein-Szewińska** (not a palindrome) is considered by many the greatest female sprinter of all time. Between 1964 and 1976, she earned seven Olympic medals for Poland, three of them gold. She also broke six world records and is the only athlete, male or female, to achieve world records in the 100 m, 200 m and the 400 m events.

**CJ Nitkowski**, a former big league pitcher, was one of the first major leaguers to maintain his own web site as far back as 1997. He's worked in the sports media since retiring, and also played the role of Dutch Leonard for a scene in "42," the 2013 biographical movie about Jackie Robinson.

**Przemek Karnowski**, the 7-1 Gonzaga center, had parents with a nice combination of skills. His dad, 6-foot-3 Bonifacy, is a PhyEd teacher and basketball coach back in Torun. His mom, 6-0 Wiesława, is a physical therapist. "He was my first coach," Karnowski said. "When I got injured she was always helping me."

**Kaleb Tarczewski**, the 7-foot Arizona center, didn't start playing basketball until middle school; by his senior year in high school he was rated the nation's fourth-best recruit in the 2012 class by ESPN.

**Larry Krystkowiak**, the basketball coach for the University of Utah, was selected by the Chicago Bulls in the 2nd round of the 1986 NBA Draft, and played in the league for nine seasons.

## THEY SAID IT

"My parents didn't really understand too much about sports. At that time, we were in a Polish community in the inner city of Chicago, and I was the youngest of a bunch of cousins ... Playing sports was somewhat frivolous, but I liked it. I rebelled a little bit, and wouldn't go to music lessons and things like that, but I would go and play ball. My parents learned to love it because they saw how much I got out of it."

— **Mike Krzyzewski**, on his early love of sports.



"Praca trenera jest jak molo — kiedyś się kończy." (Coaching is like a pier — eventually it comes to an end.)

— **Czesław Michniewicz**, who managed a number of Polish soccer clubs, including Lech Poznan and Polonia Warsaw.



"People ask me how old I am, and I say, 'I am not old! I am only 67 years young!'"

Polish kayaker **Aleksander Doba** (now 68), who completed a 7,716-mile transatlantic journey last year, the longest open-water kayaking expedition across the Atlantic in history.

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Wesołego Alleluja!

**POLISH PEDDLER**

**CHET and VIRGINIA LUTY**  
Medina, Ohio

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



THE PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

# Office of the Mayor

Popular themes of the Pondering Pole over the years have been about service and leadership. Politics is a natural combination of these two traits and we have pondered, in one way or another, the involvement of Polonia in this unique American governing activity.

An article about the first Polish American mayor in New England that came my way made me think about our participation in this most personal layer of the electoral relationship. I wish there was a Polish Daley or Guiliani or Cisneros and strangely there has not been one even in heavily Polish or Eastern European cities. We have dipped our toe in the water in Congress (Dingell, Mikulski, and Durenberger – mother is Cebula), as governors (Pawlenty and Kulongoski), and even with a run at the White House (Muskie).

Here are a few stories and perspectives about the Poles and mayor's office:

**Ben Adamowski, Chicago.** This would have been huge. Ben, the Republican, lost the 1963 election to Richard J. Daley by 11 points. According to the *Illinois Police & Sheriff's News* website (<http://www.ipnsn.org/characters/adam.html> 1997), Ben Adamowski is shown as a very accomplished, respected, and successful man.

Ben Adamowski was the son of Max Adamowski, a realtor in the Logan Square neighborhood and a leader in the Polish American community for many years before his son eclipsed his accomplishments. Ben began his political odyssey as a Democrat, elected to the first of



**ADAMOWSKI** lost the 1963 Chicago mayoral election to Richard J. Daley by 11 points.

five consecutive terms in the Illinois General Assembly in 1930. At the time, the 25th senatorial district was the largest in the State.

Adamowski came up through the ranks with the late Mayor Richard J. Daley and Federal Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz. Three close friends from the rough and tumble ethnic melting pot neighborhoods of Chicago: a Pole, an Irishman, and a Jew, who became three of the most important and respected men in the State.

**Francis Slay, St. Louis.** We are lucky in St. Louis to have a mayor with a Polish connection. Francis Slay is the current and longest serving mayor in St. Louis history, and his mother is Anna Sobocinski. Over the years Francis has spoken fondly about his Polish background and has helped our community whenever possible. Suffice it to say, Francis has a warm spot in his heart for the Polish people.

The St. Louis Polish community

is relatively small and the fact that Francis Slay is half Polish is just an afterthought. The real kicker for the Slay political machine in this town is his other half, the Lebanese ancestry of his father. The Lebanese in this city are engaged, involved, and very visible. There are 28 aldermen in the city and at one time four of them were of Lebanese descent. During this time Francis was president of the Board of Aldermen.

**Anthony J. Stonina, Chicopee, Massachusetts.** I direct you to the article in the *Masslive* website by Stephen Jendrysik that piqued my curiosity and is about the first mayor of Polish extraction elected in New England, Anthony J. Stonina: On Jan. 4, 1932, the city of Chicopee (Massachusetts) inaugurated the city's 22nd mayor. Local officials were unprepared for the huge turnout for the Monday-morning exercises in the City Hall auditorium. In December, alderman and automobile dealer Anthony J. Stonina had defeated the incumbent mayor, Henry J. Cloutier, in a five corner contest. In spite of the closeness of the election, the region's Polish community was positively euphoric. The victory was a first for the entire six-state region.

**Mruk, Pankow, Kowal, and Makowski, Buffalo, New York.** Jackpot! Buffalo is a very Polish town so of course it makes sense that at least one Polonian become mayor, Mruk being the first in 1950. On the other hand, cities with large African American or Hispanic populations have, until recently, struggled to score once if ever. Based on

my astute knowledge of politics, this is very impressive and a credit to the men who won and served and the coalition that supported them.

**IF I HAVE MISSED** a notable Polish American mayor of a medium or large sized city, let me know. The truth is, being mayor is a tough job. Ask the mayor of Ferguson, Missouri. Sure there is prestige and notoriety but there is also a commitment to leadership and service. Hopefully there is service and in most cases it is a thankless job in which whatever you do, at least one person will complain.

As always, my interest is primarily in the fact that we have, at least in the cases just mentioned, been part of the game. Whether we have lost but fought the good fight (Chicago), had a Polish mother to support us (St. Louis), made history with our courage and daring (Chicopee), or have practically run the board with a string of wins (Buffalo). I wish we had had more players and success in the cities with predominant Polish populations but no need to look back. Some of our young Polish men and women have the smarts and nerve to lead and serve the people, all of the people, for the cause of humanity, and whether they realize it or not, for Polonia.

**POLISH OR NOT?** My pick for the 2014 Picture of the Year is *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. As I sat there watching the movie, I kept hearing the name of the country where the hotel was located and thought that it sure sounded familiar. "Zubrowka" is the name of the country and as we all know this is also the name of our

beloved Polish bison grass vodka. That is keen and if someone knows why it was chosen to be in the story or just in the movie, let me know.

"My Polish Chef" ([www.mypolishchef.blogspot.com/](http://www.mypolishchef.blogspot.com/)) is the website of **David Lee Szalanski**. He is a certified chef in St. Louis, teaches Polish cooking classes, and has some juicy ideas for Polish cookbooks he is working on. Dave has taught over 500 students (including the Pondering Pole and his wife Sue - pierogis) in his classes. They are fun and informative and his enthusiasm rubs off on you like powdered sugar on a paczki.

The David Lee Polish cooking school is upstairs from "Siostra, Polish Pottery and Gifts" ([www.potterystcharlesmo.com/](http://www.potterystcharlesmo.com/)), a store on main street St. Charles, Missouri that sells the Boleslawiec pottery. David and Katherine, the owner of "Siostra," are the melding of two great minds. A virtual tour is available on the website.

Dziękuję bardzo to **Don Binkowski** for the emails on a whole host of Polish topics. I enjoy reading them, Don. Please keep them coming.



If you have a thought about this month's topic, an answer to the question, a question of your own, 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).

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

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**COOKBOOKS**

**THE ART OF POLISH COOKING**  
By Alina Zeranska  
Pub. at \$22.95  
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$17.95  
*Ethnic / Polish*  
384 pp. 8 1/4 x 5 1/2

12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg.  
Reissued by Pelican Publ., *The Art of Polish Cooking*, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

**POLISH HERITAGE COOKERY**  
by Robert Strybel  
\$49.95  
h.c. 900 pp.  
7.25 x 9.50 in.  
Expanded Edition, ill. and full color photographs



"Polish Heritage Cookery is the best Polish cookbook printed in English on the market." — *Polish Cultural News*  
A perennial bestseller, *Polish Heritage Cookery* is the most extensive and varied Polish cookbook ever published. More than 2,200 recipes use

easily available American ingredients and measurements. Modern Polish cuisine is a blend of hearty peasant dishes and more elegant gourmet fare, incorporating a broad cross-section of cultural influences. The book includes numerous cultural notes, historical accounts of Polish culinary traditions, and descriptive line drawings. Its expanded edition includes information on Polish products available in the United States, such as plum butter, honey mushrooms, and kielbasa, and their culinary uses.

**POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY**  
\$24.95  
by Robert Strybel  
248 pp., hc., Hippocrene Bks.

*Polish Holiday Cookery* acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

*Polish Holiday Cookery* covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

**POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES**  
\$16.95  
by Laura and Peter Zeranski  
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth  
Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes*

has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

**POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS**  
\$16.95  
By Laura and Peter Zeranski 2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100 color photos

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

**POLISH PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood**  
\$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

**THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK: Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond** — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

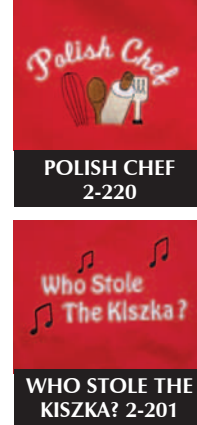
96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

**POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK**  
\$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 44 pp., sc.

Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

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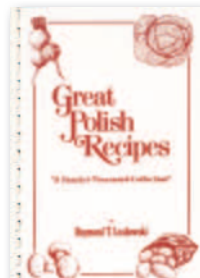
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I LOVE PIEROGI 2-210  
I LOVE POLISH MUSIC 2-227

**GREAT POLISH RECIPES**  
by Raymond T. Laskowski  
\$10.00  
Spiral bound, s.c.  
62 pp., index  
8.5 x 5.5 in.  
Published in 1980 and rediscovered this year, this is a collection of four generations of recipes from kitchens in Poland and the United States. Includes appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, breads, noodles, sauces, stuffing, kielbasa, entrees, and desserts. Straight-forward, easy-to-follow recipes for beginners and experienced cooks alike.



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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

## The Winding Road to Adulthood — Through Camden

### MY WAGGING TAIL

by Stan Bednarczyk  
Dog Ear Publishing

2014, 471 pp.

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Indianapolis, IN 46268

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With a friendly conversational tone, Stan Bednarczyk takes us on a ride through 22 years of his life in *My Wagging Tail*. Born in the early 1930s, Bednarczyk is a member of the so-called Silent Generation; despite this he has something worthwhile to say in his memoirs.

Growing up in Camden, New Jersey, this son of Polish immigrants and the youngest of five children was a shy kid and always eager to please and impress others. His young life revolved around the love of family, church and his Polish heritage. This is typified in one of the early chapters when he illustrates the holiday traditions he celebrated with his family. Every Christmas Eve his family held a Wigilia with the breaking of the opłatki and every Easter saw them at St. Joe's for the blessing of the baskets.

Although shy, Stan was never a loner. Bednarczyk and his motley crew of friends, with distinctive nicknames such as, Moose, Winky, and Moses, played street ball, went to the movies, and hung out by the corner candy store. Seventy years later Bednarczyk describes the candy store of his youth in vivid detail. "Cigarettes, cigars, and pipe tobacco were big sellers but so was ice cream, a water ice called Yum-Yum ... and an assortment of sundries that were efficiently crammed into a small area." As they grew older, Stan and his friends found a new hangout spot at the Polish Ameri-



cans' Citizens Club. This was definitely a step up from candy and ice cream, as the club offered dancing, drinking, socializing, and girls.

As Stan teeters on the brink of adulthood, he is plagued with questions of what to do with his life. Should he get a factory job or join the military? Perhaps even college could be an option. Uncle Sam makes the decision for him when he is drafted into the Army and ships off to Korea. There, away from the security of Camden, he learns to be independent and decisive.

*My Wagging Tail* is thoughtfully written and structured in a sophisticated way. It is not strictly linear; from time to time, Stan reflects on earlier parts of his life within the overarching narrative. This makes for a very intriguing and enjoyable read. Ride along with Stan as he takes the long and winding road on the journey to adulthood transforming from a shy kid to a confident adult.

*My Wagging Tail* by Stan Bed-

narczyk is available from the Polish American Journal Bookstore, Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

*About the author:* A veteran of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Postal Service, Stan Bednarczyk was prompted to write his memoirs after a diagnosis with a serious illness. He and his wife of 56 years have two daughters and three grandchildren.

**BLOCK BUSTER.** Marcin Kowalczyk set the new world record for solving a Rubik's cube while blindfolded, during a competition in Szczecin in western Poland. Blindfolded, he solved the puzzle in a record 21.17 seconds.

Prior to this competition, Kowalczyk was already a world record holder with a time of 23.19 seconds, set in 2013. Poles have held World Cube Association world records in eleven events to date.

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## Gates Honored by The Association of the Sons of Poland

GARFIELD, N.J. — On March 18, 2015, the Benevolent Foundation of the Association of the Sons of Poland honored **Frances X. Gates** with a Meritorious Service Award at a reception at the Royal Manor in Garfield. Chairing the evening's event as the master of ceremonies was the Association of the Sons of Poland's Vice President, Louis J. Gill with presentation of the award to be made by the president of the Association, Frank Knurowski.

The goal for the evening was to raise funds for scholarships and achievement awards distributed each year by the Association of the Sons of Poland. Last year's successful fundraiser enabled the Association to distribute more scholarships and awards in larger amounts than in previous years.

The Benevolent Foundation under the auspices of the Association of the Sons of Poland hosts such an award reception each year as a way of expressing gratitude to an individual or organization whose efforts reflect the Association's com-

mitment to the education of our children for the benefit of society and the future. The first recipient was Seton Hall University Professor, Dr. Richard J. Hunter; then the Kosciuszko Foundation was acknowledged; followed by Christine Kuskowski of the Teaching English Program; the Polish University Club of New Jersey; The Marie Sklodowska Professional Women's Association; Celeste Oranchak; and in 2014, Gregory Komeshek.

Gates has exemplified action and deeds which confirm the unique value of every individual, the majesty and unending possibilities of the human mind and the enormous potential which exists in every person, said Knurowski. "She has devoted her life's mission to the promotion of Polish heritage and the value of organizations within our ethnic community, many of which have existed for over a century, like the Association of the Sons of Poland, of which Gates is an insured member.

## POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

### In the Path of the War

The advancing German army captured more and more Polish lands, causing a flood of refugees to flee ahead of it, generally eastward toward Russia because the Germans had the upper hand and sent the Russian army reeling in that direction. The civilian Polish population would naturally escape ahead of the oncoming Germans, sometimes under the protection of the retreating Russians. It was not unusual for both soldier and civilian to share the same wretched roads escaping before the advancing war machine.

The roads themselves were often pockmarked with craters from artillery shells and otherwise torn up. The people took to walking on the fields on either side of the roads where it was smoother going. It was not uncommon to see dead horses lying along the by-ways, having been killed in battle and their carcasses left to rot.

With the Russians in retreat from Poland, the the Germans or Austrians — as circumstances allowed — took or destroyed anything of value to them. Farms and whole villages might be forcibly evacuated, the crops burned and homes and barns destroyed.

The Russians oftentimes forcibly

evacuated Poles to the east if they were suspected of collaborating with the enemy, or likely to. Older boys and younger men were particularly subject to such treatment because they could be drafted into the Russian army or at the very least be prevented from joining the other side. About a million Poles, including Polish Jews, were forced into the Russian interior against their will. Many of them wound up as forced laborers on farms.

Well-to-do Poles caught in the path of the war had one advantage over the peasants — their wealth. The owners of country estates could often pay off soldiers to leave them alone. On the other hand, if their property was in the way of a fierce bombardment, it suffered the same fate of a peasant village — total destruction.

The presence of an army in an area did not always mean devastation. In between battles the Germans, Austrians and Russians were busy maneuvering into better positions, getting ready for the next encounter. When a military unit settled into a location for a few days or weeks the officers usually sought out a place in which they could live and strategize their next movements.

**RESIDENTS WERE COMPELLED** to allow the soldiers into their homes and to let them live among the family members, who were often pushed into a back room for as long as necessary. Naturally, the officers preferred the best dwelling in the area, which could be a manor house, an inn, or often the local priest's house. They would pay the owner for his accommodations, the amount set at the officers' discretion, but short-changing and swindling of the Poles was commonplace by both sides.

Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary all carried out a scorched-earth policy in the Polish countryside. It was a time-honored war tactic for a retreating army: take with you anything that the enemy might find useful — food, livestock, clothing, any scrap of metal, men of fighting age. What you cannot carry or what time will not allow you to take away, destroy. Burn the houses and the barns and the crops, kill the animals, tear up the roads and railroads.

At first the Poles of Russian Poland mostly supported the Russian government in the war because they wanted their homes and way of life protected from the invading Germans and Austrians. But since



With the Russians in retreat from Poland, the the Germans or Austrians — as circumstances allowed — took or destroyed anything of value to them. Above: German Cavalry entering Warsaw on August 5, 1915.

the czar's army was in constant retreat, it devastated the country as it put into practice its scorched-earth policy. This caused the Poles to turn against Russia. However, the Germans and Austrians, during their retreats, also followed their own scorched-earth policy. So the Polish people did not know whom to support. It seems that all they could do was throw their hands up, say a prayer and hope for the best.

A special word about the Polish Jews: Jews served in all the armies, but sometimes were not drafted because they were not trusted. Jewish civilians often were mistreated by

the German and Austrian armies, but mostly by the Russians, especially their Cossack units, who were completely ruthless. Jewish shops, homes and synagogues were targeted by them for looting and destruction, their inhabitants pulled into the streets and beaten or murdered. The shtetls, or Jewish villages, in the rural areas were subject to complete destruction, often burned to the ground with no mercy. Jews were quite often accused of collaborating with the enemy or spying for the other side. In the midst of a land of misery, the Jews' lot could be extraordinarily miserable.

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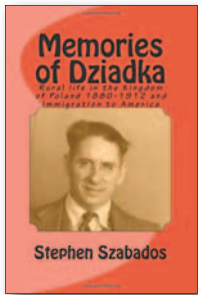
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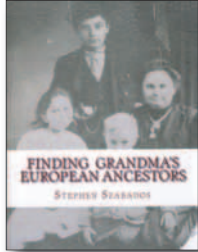
**MEMORIES OF DZIADKA**  
Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America



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This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.

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by Stephen Szabados  
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This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The author uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample documents, current websites and books that will be useful for your genealogical search. Even if you are not a beginner, this book will give you helpful tips that may be the one you need to locate that missing relative.

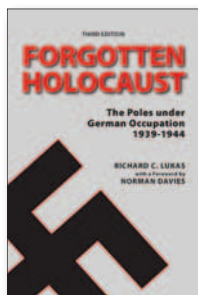
**POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success**  
by Stephen Szabados  
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**FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45.**



Third edition  
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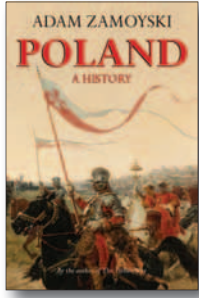


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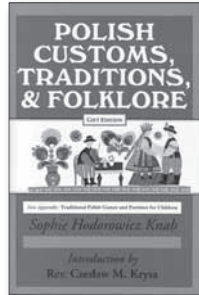
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pb. 426 pp. 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

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*The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative" ... "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable"



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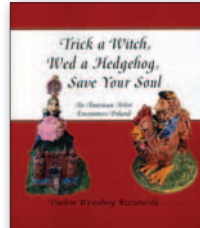
**BE NOT AFRAID**  
by Heather Kirk  
\$19.95

Borealis Press, 276 pp., pb.

Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-

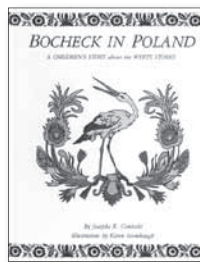


to-read, well-written book? *Be Not Afraid* is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It killed no one.



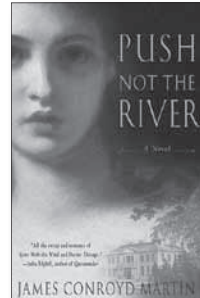
**TRICK A WITCH, WED A HEDGEHOG, SAVE YOUR SOUL: An American Artist Encounters Poland**  
by Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski.  
Wecker Press, 2012. 88 pp., pb. \$19.95

After the fall of Communism, Rzezotarski's husband had an amazing first meeting with Polish cousins, introducing the couple to the rich world of Polish and familial history, so intertwined as to become a microcosm. Rzezotarski brings an outsider's appreciation and an artist's intuition through tales of family, of national identity, and of the enchanted world of fairy tale and myth. Profusely illustrated in color.



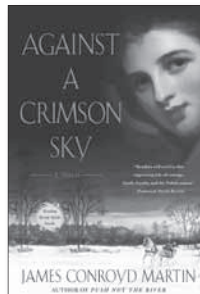
**BOCHECK IN POLAND**  
\$11.95  
54 pp., Polonie Publishing

A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.



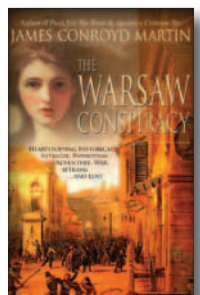
**PUSH NOT THE RIVER**  
\$15.95  
St. Martin's Press. 496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's *Gone with the Wind*."



**AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY**  
\$15.95  
St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

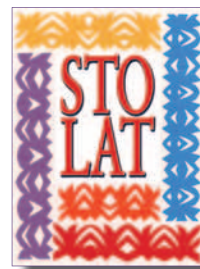
"You don't have to read *Push Not the River* to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where *Push Not the River* leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.



**THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY**  
Hussar Quill Press, 508 pp., pb. \$17.99

Portraying two brothers in love and war, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## Polka's Glory Days Revisited

by Larry Trojak

For one wonderful, exhilarating weekend in late February, polkas were alive and well and living in western Massachusetts. At a combination dance/tribute which has become an annual event at the Polish American Citizens Club (PACC) in Ludlow, Mass., it was the 1970s again and all seemed right in the polka world. The occasion was the yearly International Polka Association (IPA) fundraiser dance which, for years now, has also served as an opportunity to honor a particular polka icon (past honorees have included greats such as Eddie Blazonczyk, Happy Louie, Marion Lush, Gene Wisniewski and others). The focus of this year's tribute was Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak, and polka fans, musicians and notables alike came



Working alongside MC Mark Trzepacz, Gomulka & The Push (above) presented a program which led guests through Scrubby's career.

out in droves to honor the iconic, long-time leader of the Dynatonies.

The PACC is a wonderful venue which, perhaps due to its quaint wood paneling, smoking-friendly barroom, and excellent wooden dance floor, really harkens one back to the glory days of polkas when 400+ people at a dance was commonplace and fans genuinely seemed to care about the music, its place in their lives and its overall state of being. Expectations that the IPA weekend at the Ludlow PACC would be special were high and, as in years past, it did not disappoint. Both days of the two-day gathering were essentially sellouts, attended by equal parts local/regional fans and those who came from all parts of the country to support the IPA and pay tribute to Scrubby.

**AS ONE WHO SPENDS** the majority of the time on the outside of polkas looking in, it's easy to get caught up in the moment. Seeing so many people in attendance leads one to believe that things are not as bad for the music as previously thought. Unfortunately, speaking with musicians, promoters and many fans, tells a different story. For this week-

end, however, current status of polka be damned. It was, to paraphrase Prince, "time to party like it's 1969." And while the Tribute was the focal point of the weekend, there's no denying that entertainment carried it. An impressive lineup of bands and guests (most of whom, in support of the IPA, were doing so for only minor compensation) kept the throngs dancing and singing well past the advertised cutoff. The Boys (with guest vocalist, the Dynatonies' Mark

that Massachusetts was the ideal site for this tribute, as those in attendance responded to and sang along with every Scrubby hit put forth. It's important to note that being the "host" band for a tribute show is not as simple as one might think. Fans come to events like this to relive the glory days of the person being feted and want the music to reflect that time and sound as closely as possible. Not surprisingly, The Push did an outstanding job, picking up on small musical nuances which, while individually insignificant, all contribute to what has become the Dynatonies' trademark sound. Those extra efforts, combined with Trzepacz's hosting abilities, made for a fun, memorable — and well-deserved — tribute to this legendary polka figure.

### WHAT MADE THE WEEKEND

Trzepacz), Eddie Forman Orchestra, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, each rocked the joint in their own way. The Boys with their hybrid mix of power/country/traditional tunes; Maestro's Men though their incredibly deep library; EFO through showmanship and rapport; and Gomulka by ... well, by being Gomulka, that is, being congenial, entertaining and engaging, backing it with a powerhouse band and proving yet again why he's been at the top of his musical game for so long.

As mentioned, great music notwithstanding, the weekend's activities all seemed to be leading up to the Scrubby Tribute, a chance to honor a man who, through a combination of talent and charisma has become iconic — almost mythic. Working alongside Master of Ceremonies Mark Trzepacz, Gomulka and The Push presented a program which led guests (and Polka Jammer listeners alike) through Scrubby's career, from his start as an accordionist in a Buffalo-based trio to the days as influential leader of The Dynatonies, to his induction into the IPA and points beyond. Long a stronghold for Dynatone popularity, it was obvious

really echo the past, however, was more than just the music or the Tribute. It was the people who attended, their enthusiasm, their interaction: older generations mingling with younger; musicians chatting it up with fans; polka celebrities working the crowd, etc. It was that intangible called "atmosphere" that was once commonplace at polka venues throughout the country, but is so often lacking today. The sense that, no matter where you wandered in the PACC hall those two days, you would be asked to sit down, offered a shot of Jeżynówka, and made to feel like you truly belonged. It didn't matter if you were an IPA dignitary, a Polka Hall of Famer, a DJ or IJ, a musician, an ex-musician, a fan or a casual listener of polkas — you were family that weekend. It's a feeling that, unfortunately for us as an ethnic music in a state of decline, happens all too infrequently. So kudos to Eddie Szela, Freddie "K" Kendzierski, the IPA, the musicians, the folks at the PACC, the fans and the scores of others who helped make it all possible. Because, for 48 hours in western Massachusetts, the glory days were back, everyone sensed it, and life was good.

### MPA to hold Anniversary Dance

STILLWATER, Minn. — Two bands — Craig Ebel's DyVersaco and Barefoot Becky — will play for the Midwest Polka Association 13th Anniversary Dance. Everyone is invited to the celebration on Sunday afternoon, April 19, at the historic Withrow Ballroom near Stillwater, from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

There will be door prizes, cake and coffee. Admission only \$10 per person.

For more information, email Danny Fabeck at dan.fabeck@gmail.com or call (763) 244-0152. For location directions, call the Withrow Ballroom at (651) 439-5123.

### Jolly Joe Sells WGPA

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — As reported by Anthony Salamone in *The Morning Call*, Allentown, Jolly Joe

Timmer has sold his WGPA-AM Bethlehem radio station to CC Broadcasting LLC of Kutztown. Timmer, a polka legend in that region, is now confined to a nursing home. His guardians are working to sell Timmer's other assets, including his picnic grove in Moore Township.

In past years Jolly Joe had shows on radio and television, headed a band and also operated a music store.

The *Jolly Joe Timmer Show* is still running with repeats of past musical performances. One of his last public appearances took place at last summer's Musikfest.

### Tioga Downs to Host Polkapalooza II

NICHOLS, N.Y. — Tioga Downs Casino is featuring its second Polkapalooza, April 11 from noon to 8:00 p.m. Joe Stanky & the Cadets, Fritz's Polka Band, Jude's Polka Jets II, and John Stevens' Doubleshot will be on stage from noon to 8 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information visit [www.tiogadowns.com](http://www.tiogadowns.com).

## Gomulka's State Polka Featured on ABC Boston's "Chronicle"

BOSTON — It was 17 years ago when Governor Paul Cellucci signed into law a bill making "Say Hello to Someone in Massachusetts" by Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push the Official State Polka.

"It was a day that I will never forget and something I am so very proud of," says Gomulka.

Over 50 fans and polka pushers lobbied their way right into the State House. Dressed in traditional costumes, Gomulka's wife Estelle and niece Lanelle Raccis danced to the tune. The House had an overwhelming response; all were clapping and cheering. It was definitely a light-hearted and fun day on Beacon Hill.

"I had filed this legislation to recognize the musical accomplishments of one of my constituents, Lenny Gomulka, who has numerous Grammy nominations," said

Then-State Representative Paul Caron. "I believe that designating this wonderful song as the Official State Polka is not only a fitting tribute to Lenny and his band the Chicago Push, but also serves as a way we can recognize the tremendous contributions that the Polish community has made to the Commonwealth. While this legislation was intended to give recognition to a very talented musician who happened to live in my legislative district at the time, it was evident that

the interest and appeal of his music and this bill extends well beyond Springfield's boundaries as eleven of my colleagues have joined me in co-sponsoring the legislation. It has a contagious sound and as Dick



LENNY GOMULKA. State polka, written by band leader, was subject of television special.

Clark might say, it's got a good beat and you can certainly dance to it."

Out of a total of twelve Grammy nominations, Gomulka's CD "Home Is Where the Heart Is" was his eighth, and was named one of the 10 Best Records of 1998 by *Billboard Magazine* critic Jim Bessman. Gomulka penned the song "Say Hello to Someone in Massachusetts" as tribute to the state, its beauty, and what it has to offer.

The segment on the State Polka, "Keep it Symbol," aired March 11 on the WCVB TV-5 magazine "Chronicle." The program highlighted the official symbols of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

For more information, visit [www.chicagopush.com](http://www.chicagopush.com).

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DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

# Spring is in the Air

**BUFFALO** — It is hard to believe that spring is finally at our heels, with most of us having experienced a long, cold, and snowy winter season. The slumber of the cold weather helps us appreciate the arrival of the beautiful Easter season even more. As the snow melts, I am looking forward to the thought of green grass and flowers blooming. Polka music has kept me busy during the Lenten season but I am highly anticipating the arrival of Dyngus Day. I am excited to see many of you out celebrating as well after fasting in preparation of celebrating Easter.



Mark Janik and son Johnny.

**THE NEXT GENERATION.** Potts Banquet Hall was the place to be for a cheap night out with friends and family on the first weekend of February. The **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** continued the long-running event called the Hard Times Dance. This yearly event offers \$5.00 admission with a coupon as well as \$1.00 baloney and onion sandwiches and glasses of beer. The event, which began many years ago at Corpus Christi parish, always draws a large crowd. A multitude of fans danced off their indulgence of baloney and onions to the steady beat of the All Stars. A long time polka fan, **Mark Janik** and his young son **Johnny** were in attendance enjoying of one their favorite bands. Johnny, who steals your heart as soon as you meet him, already shows an immense amount of love for polka music. I admire his dad for exposing his young son to the music. Passing this music on to the future generations is imperative for polkas to continue. Thanks Mark for keeping the music alive and passing that pride onto your adorable son, you are an inspiration.

**A SIGN OF SPRING.** Although I enjoy all of the polka events, there are a few events which I really look forward to every year. One of those is **Polish Heritage Dancer's Pączki Day** celebration. This year's dance was held at Grapevine Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga which offers a beautiful backdrop for this successful event. This celebration serves as a major fundraiser for the Polish Heritage Dancers and their continuation of folk dancing in Western New York. The dancers not only perform but interact with the crowd selling beads, 50/50 tickets, and pączki. **Special Delivery** pro-

vided the polkas with both Polish and English vocals for those who wanted to dance and those who want to sit and socialize. It was wonderful to see many friends from Canada, Buffalo Polka Boosters, and members of the Arts Club in attendance. This perfect family friendly affair — which featured Polish food — also showcased a few Polish vendors including those selling Polish Amber, Salt Lamps etc., as well as a huge Chinese auction. It was a great way to begin the preparation of Lent and highlight the workmanship of this dance group.

**PRE-LENTEN BINGE.** **Polish Happy Hour** made its home at Potts Banquet Hall for its annual Pączki event this year. **John Gora** captivated the enormous crowd with his high energy and irresistible personality. More than 500 people got in their last bit of gorging before their fasting began on Ash Wednesday. The hall, which was decorated in red and white, was over capacity as friends and families crowded the dance floor and bar. **Danny Potts** who donated the food for the event kept the line moving briskly to get everyone fed, with Polish sausage, salads, lazy pierogi, and pączki. Polish beer, Chopin vodka, and krupnik, were in high demand as the bartenders hustled to keep patrons' thirst quenched. Polish pride was evident in the huge and diverse crowd — everyone from grandparents down to young children.

**TO WARM YOUR COCKLES.** The 2nd annual **Krupnik Fest** was held at Polish Villa 2 in early February. A \$25.00 donation included a sample bottle of **Fr. Czeslaw Krysa's** delicious homemade honey-based krupnik, a shot of krupnik, an enormous Polish buffet, as well as the music of **New Direction**. Upon entering Polish Villa, you were greeted by proud parishioners who helped to organize this original event. The scrumptious buffet included krupnik soup (a barley based soup), homemade bigos by a St. Casimir parishioner and a smorgasbord of Polish sausage, salads, pickled plums, and delicacies galore. **New Direction** provided a steady beat to the overfilled restaurant, and attendants joined in, dancing between the crowded tables and dance floor.

As an added bonus, **Fr. Krysa** took the stage along with the band for his rendition on a few polkas. If you haven't gotten the opportunity to hear **Fr. Krysa** sing, you are really missing out. His beautiful voice, coupled with his charming personality, really stopped people in their tracks. The donations and money raised during this event went directly to the upkeep and improvement of the iconic Kaisertown-based St. Casimir's Church. The church is a treasure of Buffalo and relies on the help and support of the community to ensure that it remains a viable part of Western New York.

**BRINGING THEM OUT.** Buffalo Polka Booster members and dedi-



Sue Skurzewski and Fr. Krysa at the 2nd Annual Krupnik Festival.

cated polka supporters **Carol and Dave Lenczyk** hosted their 2nd annual dance at the AMVETS Medallion Post 25 in Buffalo. The evening which featured the **Knewz and D.J. Robb** attracted a huge audience providing polka music as well as the diverse music of the sound system, respectively. The Knewz, who draw a devoted crowd across the United States when they play, brought out polka fans I'd not seen in quite some time. I am hopeful that some of these long-time fans will rejoin us for events more often. The retro hall served as the perfect location, with a large dance floor, plentiful seating and a rounded bar in the attached room. The admission ticket not only gave you an evening of fine entertainment but also dinner including a barbequed hamburger, hotdog, and salads. One listen to the Knewz and it's easy see why they are so popular at festivals throughout the United States.

I enjoyed the convenience of the attached bar room which allowed you to listen to the music while still maintaining a conversation with friends. Although I don't speak Polish, I am an advocate for Polish lyrics in polka music and **The Knewz** provides some of the best. I urge anyone who did not attend, to watch for this dance next year and make it a point to do so. You have my word: you will not be disappointed.

**UPCOMING**

- **April 14.** New Direction, Broadway Market, 999 Broadway, 12:00-3:00 p.m. Free.
- **For a listing of Easter Sunday and Monday (Dyngus Day) events, see page 24.**
- **April 11.** Dinner Dance, Buffalo Touch, St. Gregory the Great Church, 100 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville, NY. 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. \$25/including dinner, beer, wine, and soda.
- **April 16.** Buffalo Polka Boosters Club Meeting, Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. Swieconka featuring John Gora & Gorale. 8:00-10:30 p.m. \$7.00/members; \$10.00/non-members.
- **April 18.** The Boys and New Direction, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler St., Buffalo. 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. \$15.00.
- **April 22.** Polka Variety Club Meeting, Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Phocus (Swienconka). 7:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. \$8.00 members/\$10.00 non-members
- **April 26.** Special Delivery, Diane-agains, 2460 Clinton St., Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30. Free.

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# The Polish American Journal's Ultimate Dyngus Day Event Calendar

## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015

TIME	VENUE	ADDRESS	COST	ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS
6p	PVT. Leonard Post VFW	2450 Walden Ave. Cheektowaga	\$10	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The Buffalo Touch, Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Polish Kitchen.
6p	Salvatore's Italian Gardens	5461 Transit Road, Depew	\$10	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The Polka Country Musicians, Polka Family
6p	Millennium Hotel	2040 Walden Ave, Cheektowaga	\$10	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Special Delivery, Special guest performances by Larry Trojak & Johnny Karas.

## DYNGUS DAY, APRIL 6, 2015

TIME	VENUE	ADDRESS	COST	ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS
8a	Anchor Inn	2437 William Street, Cheektowaga	FREE	Authentic Polish food/ Polka Sound System
9a	Polish Villa 2	1085 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga	10/\$2 with pass	Annual Dyngus Day Bloody Mary Breakfast Party
10a	The Market Bar	232 Gibson Street; Historic Polonia District	FREE	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Al Krew
10a	Polish Villa 2	1085 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The New Direction Band (10a-2p)
11a	Magruder's	4995 Broadway, Depew	FREE	Authentic Polish food/ Polka Sound System
11:30a	St. Gabriel's Church	5271 Clinton Street, Elma	FREE	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Dyngus Day Catholic Polka Mass featuring Rare Vintage
11:30a	Corpus Christi Church	199 Clark Street, Historic Polonia District	FREE	Dyngus Day Catholic Mass
11:30a	Millennium Hotel	2040 Walden Ave, Cheektowaga	\$10	Dyngus Day Brunch, Traditional choral music performed by Chopin's Singing Society, ethnic dancing demonstration.
NOON	St. Casimir's Social Hall	1388 Clinton Street; Kaisertown	\$5	Children's Dyngus Day Celebration & Kid's Parade.
NOON	R Bar & Grill	2139 Broadway, Sloan	FREE	Authentic Polish food/ Polka Sound System
NOON	R&L Lounge	23 Mills Street; Historic Polonia District	FREE	Authentic Polish food/ Polka Sound System
NOON	The Broadway Market	999 Broadway, Historic Polonia District	FREE	Buffalo's Best Kielbasa Contest & Tasting
NOON	Top Hill Grill	104 Fillmore Ave; Larkin District	FREE	Polish food & drinks
NOON	Porky's Lounge	2028 Clinton Street; Kaisertown	FREE	Authentic Polish food/ Polka Sound System
NOON	Arty's Grill	508 Peckham St, Historic Polonia District	FREE	Authentic Polish food/ Polka Sound System
NOON	G&T Inn	58 Memorial Drive, Historic Polonia District	FREE	Polka Singing Bartender & polka sound system
NOON	Dick's Eastside Inn	221 Lombard St, Historic Polonia District	FREE	Polka Sound System; Polish Beer; Grilled Polish sausage sandwiches.
1p	The Cove	4701 Transit Road, Depew	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Fritz's Polka Band (2pm - 10:45pm)
1p	The Firehouse Sports Bar & Grill	2141 Clinton Street, Kaisertown	FREE	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Phocus (1-4p)
1p	St. Gabriel's Church	5271 Clinton Street, Elma	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Rare Vintage (1-3pm)
1p	Corpus Christi Church	199 Clark Street, Historic Polonia District	FREE	Guided church tours (1-4p)
1p	Corpus Christi Social & Athletic Club	169 Sears Street, Historic Polonia District	FREE	Pre-Parade Party, Polka music with DJ Red from Polish Happy Hour
2p	Polish Cadets	927 Grant Street, Black Rock	\$10/\$2 with pass	Polish Kitchen & Bar Open
2p	Polish Falcons	445 Columbia Ave. Depew	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Special Delivery (2-6p)
2p	Polish Villa 2	1085 Harlem Road Cheektowaga	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The Buffalo Touch (2-6p)
2p	The Broadway Market	999 Broadway, Historic Polonia District	FREE	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The Docenko Brothers (2-5p)

3p	Pussy Willow Park Party Tent	Memorial Drive, Historic Polonia District	\$10/\$2 with pass	Food trucks, live music, Belvedere Vodka VIP tent, Dyngus Day merchandise.
3p	Potts Banquets	41 South Rossler Ave, Kaisertown	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> John Stevens Doubleshot Polka Band; Polish buffet
3p	Ray's Lounge	2070 Clinton Street, Kaisertown	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> Piano bar with Mike Christian; Polish Kitchen & Bar
3p	St. Gabriel's Church	5271 Clinton Street, Elma	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Tony's Polka Band, New Direction Band; Polish food & drinks.
3p	Adam Mickiewicz Library	612 Fillmore Ave, Historic Polonia District	\$10	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Hocus Polkas (6-9p); Buffalo's largest selection of Polish beers and liquor.
3p	Grapevine Banquets	333 Dick Road, Depew	\$10	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Special Delivery, Rare Vintage, Forgotten Buffalo Orchestra (3p-1a)
3p	Millennium Hotel	2040 Walden Ave, Cheektowaga	\$10	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> Queen City Swing & New York Rockin' Revue with Tommy Brunett (3-6p)
4p	Ukrainian-American Civic Center	205 Military Road, Black Rock	FREE	Ukrainian kitchen and Slavic beers
4p	Polish Falcons Nest 6 (Broadway)	3171 Broadway, Cheektowaga	\$5	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The Twy-Lytes; Polish kitchen. Home of Klub Krupnik.
4p	Dnipro Ukrainian Cultural Center	562 Genesee Street, Buffalo	FREE	Ethnic food served by Euro Deli; music by DJ Konrad
4p	St. Stanislaus B&M Church	Fillmore @ Peckham Sts, Historic Polonia, Buffalo	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Buffalo Concertina All-Stars alternating with Stephanie & her Honky Band. Polish kitchen.
4p	Polish Cadets	927 Grant Street, Black Rock	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Tom Mroczka & the Music Box. Polish kitchen and beers.
4:30p	PVT. Leonard Post VFW	2450 Walden Ave. Cheektowaga	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The Knewz, Box On (5-Midnight); Polish Kitchen
5p	9th Annual Dyngus Day Buffalo Parade	Historic Polonia District	FREE	Over 120 floats and participants. Begins at Corpus Christi Church, Route along Broadway, Fillmore, Peckham & Memorial Drive
5p	St. Gabriel's Parish	5271 Clinton Street, Elma	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The New Direction Band alternating with Tony's Polka Band
5p	IV Stallions	2912 William Street, Cheektowaga	\$10	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> John Gora (5-11p)
5p	Stockman's Tavern	9870 Transit Road, Amherst	FREE	Polish buffet, Polish beer
6p	Corpus Christi Social & Athletic Club	169 Sears Street, Historic Polonia District	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Al Kania's Eastern Style Polka Band.
6p	Ray's Lounge	2070 Clinton Street, Kaisertown	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Mon Valley Push 6-10p
6p	Salvatore's Italian Gardens	5461 Transit Road, Depew	\$10	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Polka Family Band, International Polka Association Tribute Band
6p	Polish Falcon (Depew)	4456 Columbia Ave., Depew	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Phocus
6p	Millennium Hotel	2040 Walden Ave, Cheektowaga	\$10	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, The Buffalo touch, Special guest performances by Larry Trojak & "Scubby" from the Dynatones and Johnny Karas from the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra.
7p	Pussy Willow Park Party Tent	Memorial Drive; Historic Polonia District	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Those Idiots Polka Rock Show
7p	Salvatore's Italian Gardens	5461 Transit Road, Depew	\$10	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> West of the Mark (Country)
7:30p	Polish Villa 2	1085 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> The Piatkowski Brothers
8p	Overtime Sports Bar & Grill	2055 Broadway, Buffalo	\$3	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> Ozone Rangers. Free Polish Buffet (6p)
8:30p	Pussy Willow Park Party Tent	Memorial Drive, Historic Polonia District	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Those Idiots Polka Rock Show
9p	Potts Banquets	41 South Rossler Ave, Kaisertown	\$10/\$2 with pass	<b>LIVE POLKA MUSIC:</b> Figiel Brothers (9p-1a)


For information on post-Dyngus Day events in the Buffalo and the Western New York area, read Jennifer Pijanowski's "Dance Time" column in the PAJ.

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POLISH CAN BE FUN! / Robert Strybel

## Wielkanoc = Easter

In Polish (Wielkanoc) and other Slavic tongues Easter is referred to as the Great Night (Czech: Velikonoce) or the Great day (Ukrainian: Вялікдень – Polish transliteration Wialikdzeń).

### CONCEPTS, CUSTOMS, ARTIFACTS

Ostatki .....	Mardi Gras
Popielec .....	Ash Wednesday
Gorzkie Żale .....	Bitter Lamentations
Droga Krzyżowa .....	Stations Of The Cross
Niedziela Palmowa .....	Palm Sunday
Wielki Tydzień .....	Holy Week
Wielki Piątek .....	Good Friday
Pisanki .....	Colored Easter Eggs
Baranek .....	Easter Lamb
Święcenie Pokarmów .....	Food Blessing
Święconka .....	Easter Food Basket
Grób Pański .....	Lord's Tomb (Tableau)
Wielkanoc .....	Easter
Rezurekcja .....	Easter Morning Sunrise Mass
Lany Poniedziałek .....	Wet Easter Monday

### THE FOOD OF LENT AND EASTER

Śledzie .....	Herring
Żur .....	Tart Ryemeal Soup
Biała Kielbasa .....	White (Fresh Unsmoked) Sausage
Biały Barszcz .....	White Borscht
Szynka .....	Ham
Chrzan .....	Horseradish
Ćwikła .....	Beetroot & Horseradish
Jajka .....	(Hard-Cooked) Eggs
Babka .....	Yeast-Raised Egg Bread Or Cake
Mazurek .....	Flat Easter Sheet Cake

### EASTER GREETINGS

- Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych *or just* Wesołych Świąt — **Happy Easter** *Note: In December Wesołych Świąt means Merry Christmas.*
- Wesołego Alleluja — **Happy Easter** (*Traditional*)

### Religious-Flavored Greeting)

- Życzymy Wam Błogosławionych Świąt Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego oraz Obfitych Łask Bożych — **We Wish You Blessed Easter Holidays and Our Lord's Abundant Blessings**
- Wesołego Alleluja, Smacznego Jajka i Morkego Dyngusa — **Happy Easter, a Tasty Egg and a Wet Dyngus Day.**

### SAMPLE SENTENCES

- Wielkanoc To Święto Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego. **Easter is the feast of our Lord's Resurrection.**
- Następuje po Wielkim poście i przypada na wiosnę. Kiedy cała przyroda odradza się do życia. **It follows Lent and takes place in spring when all nature comes alive once again.**
- Babcia nam pokazała, jak się pisanki maluje. **Granny showed us how to color Easter eggs.**
- Dzieci idą do kościoła ze święconkami. **Children are going to church with their Easter food baskets.**
- W święconkach mają pisanki, curkowego baranka, kawałek kielbasy, chleb, sól, babkę i ocet. **In their baskets they have Easter eggs, a sugar lamb, piece of sausage, bread, salt, babka and vinegar.**
- W Wielką Niedzielę procesja Rezurekcyjna trzykrotnie okrąży kościół. **On Easter Sunday the Resurrection procession circles the church three times.**
- Przed zasiądciem do Święconego Dzielimy się poświęconym jajkiem. **Before sitting down to Easter breakfast we share (wedges of) blessed Easter eggs.**
- W Lany Poniedziałek chłopcy polewają dziewczęta, a dziewczęta chłopców. **On Wet Easter Monday the boys drench the girls, and the girls – the boys.**

### WORDS OF WISDOM

W Wielką Niedzielę pogoda, duża w polu uroda.

many others.

Bakeman established the Help Desk at the Minnesota Historical Society, staffed it with volunteers, and designed both the selection process and training process. Since 2009, she has volunteered at the MnHS State Archives in the cataloging unit. Bakeman is also a former board member and publications chair for the Minnesota Genealogical Society.

### PGSNYS Announces Meeting Schedule

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State (PGSNYS) is dedicated to the dissemination and sharing of information and assisting members in researching Polish ancestors. The Society also promotes research and publication of the history of Poles in New York State. Through public speaking engagements and civic functions, PGSNYS members educate others on Polish history, culture, and genealogical research. The Society was founded in September, 1988, by the late Michael Drabik.

- Upcoming meetings include:
- April 9. Rhonda Konig. "Breaking Old World: Finding Foreign Places of Birth in American Records"
  - May 14. Research Night.
  - June 11. Molly Poremski. "UB Lockwood Library's Polish history, purposes Genealogy resources."
  - July 11. PGSNYS picnic for members and guests.
  - August 13. Jim Lawson. "Kindred Quest: Overcoming Obstacles in Your Genealogy."
  - Sept. 10. Research Night.
  - Oct. 8. Mary Jane Masiulionis. "Polonia's Migrant Voices."
  - Nov. 12. Elections / Research Night.
  - Dec. 10. Christmas dinner for members and guests.
- Annual membership in PGS-

NYS entitles each member access to the PGSNYS Yahoo group and to receive the Society's newsletter, *Searchers*, three times per year. New members also receive an information package to help get them started with their genealogy research.

Annual dues are as follows (all funds in U.S. dollars): U.S. members \$20.00; Canadian members \$25.00; International members 30.00. Applications are available at the PGSNYS monthly meeting or can be downloaded from the PGSNYS Web site.

The PGSNYS meetings are open to the public and held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the cafeteria of Villa Maria College, 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y.

For more information, visit [www.pgsnys.org](http://www.pgsnys.org), or write to P.O. Box 984, Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

### April Polish Genealogy Presentations

**NEWTOWN, Conn.** April 8. "Introduction to Polish Genealogical Research." Newtown Public Library 7:00 p.m. by: Professor Jonathan D. Shea, A.G.

**NANTICOKE, Pa.** April 11. "Day of Family History" sponsored by the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society & the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Luzerne County Community College. 7:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Two lectures by Professor Jonathan D. Shea, A.G.: "Introduction to Polish-American Genealogical Research," and "Translating and Understanding Polish, Russian and Latin language documents of Genealogical Importance."

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** April 18. The New England Regional Genealogy Conference. [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org). "Finding the Missing Pieces of Your Polish American Family History," by: Professor Jonathan D. Shea, A.G. and Matthew Bielawa

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

## Asking the Right Questions

Searching on the internet, in books, or reviewing documents will provide you a wealth of family history, but at some point you will need to ask someone for help.

Asking questions the right way is key to getting the answers you need. Focus your question on getting one specific result. Think about your objectives: what do you know; what do you want to learn; about which people and events is the person you are asking likely to be the most knowledgeable? Do not ask a question seeking everything someone knows about a subject; they may ignore your question because they do not know where to start. Also do not ask a question that can easily be found; do not waste an expert's time by asking them to do something you should be able to easily find yourself.

Examples of reasonable questions:

- My grandfather was born in 1850 in Czyzew, Poland. How can I find a copy of the record? (comment: the answer will be very specific)
  - My grandfather was born in 1850 in the Russian Partition of Poland. How can I find out the name and location of the village where he was born? (comment: the answer may be complicated but there is a specific process to follow).
- Examples of bad questions:
- My grandfather was born in 1850 in the Russian Partition of Poland. Any help would be appreciated. (comment: you are asking for too much information; you need to be more specific in your request)
  - What is the best site to find Polish records of my Polish family? (comment: too broad; at least narrow it an area in Poland)

An important resource for questions about our Polish ancestors is the Polish Genealogy Societies that are located in a number of areas. However, you should contact the group where your ancestor lived and not where you live. If you live in Minnesota but your Polish ancestors lived in Chicago, you should contact PGSA which is located in Chicago because they have access to information that will include your ancestors. There are also active Polish groups in Detroit, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Minnesota, Texas, New York and California. Each has a website that will give you their contact information. Some also have

Facebook accounts that will allow you to ask questions. You should also consider joining the appropriate group because membership may give you access to more information and the group's newsletter may have future articles that can help you. If you live in the area, contacts at meetings and other events will help encourage the exchange of information that can help you.

The same advice holds true when seeking information from family members. If you ask Uncle Fred to tell you everything he knows, he may side-step you by responding that he can't remember anything. Ask specific questions that jog the memory. Whenever possible, show old photographs of people and places.

If you write others seeking information, remember your manners. You are asking them for help and it should be easy for them to reply. Ask questions precisely. Include as much information as necessary to identify the individual you are interested in, but don't include information that will not help or is confusing.

## What Does Your Last Name Mean?

by Robert Strybel

Q: Someone tell me my name is Polish. Old Europe papers showed that my great-great-grandparents came to here from Kanczuga, Austria. Who is right?

— LUIZ HAVRO, Um brasileiro de ascendência polonesa, São Paulo, Brasil

A: One surname and lots of loose ends to tie up! First of all, Havro or Havrylo are Ukrainian for Gabriel, but there are hundreds of people named Hawro in today's Poland. Kańczuga is in SE Poland's Podkarpackie (Subcarpathian) region which from the late 1700s until 1918 – when your ancestors left for Brazil – was under Austrian occupation. But it was definitely primarily Polish ethnic territory.

❖ ❖ ❖

If interested in finding out what your Polish surname means, how it originated, how many people use it, where your namesakes live and whether a coat of arms ever accompanied the name, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank check or money order to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw / Poland.

## GENEALOGY NOTEBOOK

### Wedding Database Published on Website

NEW BRITAIN — The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast has posted a **Polish American Marriage Database** on its website, [www.pgsctne.org](http://www.pgsctne.org).

This database contains the names of couples of Polish origin who were married in select locations in the northeast United States. The information was taken from marriage records, newspaper marriage announcements, town reports, parish histories or information submitted by Society members.

The time period generally covered by these lists is 1892-1940. It includes the States of Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Connecticut and Jersey City, N.J. will be added at a later date.

### Bakeman to Discuss Poorfarms

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota will hold its monthly meeting on April 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the MGS Building, 4th Floor Conference Room. 1185 Concord St., in South St. Paul. **Mary Bakeman** will discuss the development of the Poorfarm facilities in Minnesota, how they functioned, where they were located and the records that were created.

Bakeman is the retired owner of Park Genealogical Books. She served as editor of the *Minnesota Genealogical Journal* and managing editor of *Minnesota's Heritage: Back to the Sources*. The author/compiler of 100+ resources worked with volunteers to publish internet records for Meeker County, J.R. Brown (Henderson), Oakland, Calvary and Ramsey County Poor Farm cemeteries, as well as Minnesota pensioner records from the Dakota War and Inkpaduta raids, among



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## TRAVELOGUE – 5 Days in Poland / Staś Kmiec

## More Than Dumplings

Part XIII

*continued from last month*

Contrary to popular fantasies Polish cuisine is not only dumplings and pork *schab*. Joanna then told me of the array of meats they offer only on request: *gesine-półgęsek* (cured and smoked goose breast described in the Adam Mickiewicz novel "Pan Tadeusz," goose lard, *okrasa* lamb/mutton, alder smoked *Kurpiowska*; *konina* of 100% horsemeat, *kabanosy* from horsemeat — Gorzów sausage, smoked *połędwica* from the Kurpie White Forest, *kielbasa Lisiecka* (original from a district near Kraków), "Mądrego" ham, jarred *golonka*, and salted pork fat venison, among others. The fish products focus on the country's passion with freshwater carp, a very large group of fish native to Europe and Asia; it is sold smoked and as a rolled fillet ham.

*Kajmak* is a creamy butterscotch dairy product similar to clotted cheese. The traditional method is to boil milk slowly, then simmer it for two hours over a very low heat. After the heat source is shut off, the cream is skimmed and left to chill and mildly ferment for several hours or days. It has a high percentage of milk fat, about 60% and has a thick, creamy consistency and rich taste. The word "kajmak" has Central Asian origins, possibly formed from the verb which means melt and molding of metal in Mongolian.

Natural goat's milk yogurt - *Ślupski Chłopczyk* (a traditional cheese type camembert), fried cheese (delicacy of Silesia and Wielkopolska) - Old Szeneker Cheese with 12-36 months maturation and Podhalańskie-Tatra smoked cheese fill the dairy cooler.

This was a unique opportunity to discover some forgotten Polish tastes, but I had to be careful with which food products would be allowed through the U.S. customs department. I purchased the *konfitura z płatków róży* (jam with rose petals) for my mother to use when

making pre-Lenten *paczki* doughnuts, and the Śląsk hard candies. The *ser jabłeczny* — a unique faux cheese made from apples and flavored with honey, orange peel, all spice was a must to try. With centuries of tradition, this product was once commonly seen, especially in the borderlands, but is now almost completely forgotten.

A mixture to add to spirits to make *Dereniówka* intrigued me. Joanna told me that in the times when every noble mansion grew dogwood trees, the fruits were highly valued. The taste is very sour and acidic. Adding honey makes it sweet, but the sweetness is pierced by a very interesting hint of sour. Cherry also blends well with the dogwood. In olden days at each tasting, revelers with a tear in their eye would mention its wonderful taste.

If you are a fan of traditional Polish food and looking for products prepared according to old, original recipes, without artificial additives, that are beautiful looking and delicious this place is definitely for you! These are the food which one might have heard about from parents or grandparents, or from the literature. For some it may be a return to the culinary memories from childhood. There are many interesting items for seekers of new taste sensations, but also unusual gifts for those who have all the stereotypical Polish souvenirs. The products have won numerous awards in competitions and exhibitions. They are also included in the list of most traditional products of the Ministry of Agriculture, and belong to our culinary heritage.

❖ ❖ ❖

*Postscript: Klasyka Smaku's mission to offer Polish products rooted in native culinary traditions They now continue operations in an historic part of Warsaw at BioBazar ul. Żelazna 51/53.*

*BioBazar is an initiative that brings together manufacturers and distributors of unique foods and Organic products.*

## "Pampered Poland" and Christmas Market Tours

PITTSBURGH — Gypsy violins along the Danube; luxuriating in award-winning spas and health resorts. Experiencing time-honored Polish Christmas traditions. These are a sampling of the many travel experiences being offered by Polish American artist David Motak, as part of his 2015 cultural tour series to Poland and Central Europe:

## THE PAMPERED POLAND TOUR

— September 19 to October 3 — is designed as a leisurely paced tour of sightseeing, fine Polish food and relaxing stays at some of Poland's best deluxe hotels and spa resorts, including the historic Polanica Spa Resort in the picturesque Sudety Mountains and the award-winning Krasicki Castle Hotel and Spa in Lidzbark Warminski. Showcasing



Moszna Castle



Dave Motak with his "Hong Kong Szopka."

the beauty of autumn in Poland, the tour also features a private lunch in stunning Moszna Castle, a specialty wine tasting and vineyard visit in Lower Silesia, tours of Tyskie Brewery and the famous Polish Pottery Factory in Bolesławiec. The tour includes deluxe hotels and city tours in historic Krakow, Wrocław, Torun, Gdansk, Warsaw, special events and much more.

ty of time to celebrate Christmas with family and friends. Also included will be a visit to lovely Salzburg, Austria, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the filming of the "Sound of Music" and a Kulig Polish Sleigh Ride in Zakopane.

A leading expert on the Krakow szopka, Motak will also conduct a special behind-the-scenes visit to the spectacular Szopka Christmas Creche Exhibition in Krakow.

The tour also includes a vintage Trolley Tour of historic Prague, a Danube River Cruise, Folklore Evenings and an optional Viennese Musical Concert. This unique excursion will conclude in Krakow with a special Polish "Wigilia" Christmas Banquet with traditional foods, live folk entertainment, Polish kolędy Christmas Carols and the sharing of the traditional oplatek wafer.

The Wigilia event has proven to be one of the most popular and moving events among past tour participants.

Motak began planning specialty tours to Poland in 2004 at the request of friends and students of his popular Krakow Szopka art workshops. In creating these travel offerings, he has relied on over 20 years experience in high-profile special events management, VIP travel and public relations for major universities, non-profits and cultural organizations. Motak has been active in Polish affairs for many years and has shown his artwork around the world including Poland, Hong Kong, China, and at many major galleries and private collections in the United States. Educated in Poland and conversant in Polish and Central European history, folk art and traditions, Motak brings a wealth of insight into each group travel experience, carefully researching and designing every excursion.

Included in the tour price are all taxes, roundtrip airfare, admissions, top-rated hotels, deluxe tour bus, English speaking guides, entertainment and two meals daily. Flights are available from Chicago and other U.S. gateway cities.

Complete tour itineraries, interactive tour maps and other details can be found at [www.janddtours.net](http://www.janddtours.net) or call Wanda at Chopin Tours (800) 533-0369.

Join Polish-American Szopka Artist Dave Motak for another series of his popular cultural excursions:

## PAMPERED POLAND TOUR

Sept. 19 - Oct 3, 2015

Roundtrip from Chicago\* • Deluxe Hotels in Kraków, Warsaw, Wrocław, Toruń, Gdańsk and the award-winning Krasicki Hotel & Spa in Lidzbark Warminski • Luxury Spa Experience in Sudety Mountains • Fine Polish Cuisine and Cooking Demonstrations • Two Meals Daily, Luxury Motor Coach with English Speaking Tour Guides • Leisurely Paced Sightseeing including Bolesławiec Polish Pottery Tour, Malbork Castle, Special Events, and many extras.



## CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Nov. 27 - Dec. 10, 2015

Roundtrip from Chicago\* • Two Meals Daily City Tours and Colorful Christmas Markets in Prague, Vienna, Salzburg, Budapest, Bratislava, Zakopane and Kraków. Deluxe Hotels, Luxury Motor Coach with English Speaking Tour Guides • Folk dinners. Danube River Dinner Cruise Kraków "Szopka" Christmas Creche Exhibition. Traditional Polish Wigilia Christmas Banquet with Kolędy, Oplatek Sharing & Folk Ensemble. "Kulig" Sleigh Ride and Highlander Hospitality in Zakopane and much more!



\* Other US departure cities available - contact us for details.

SPACES ARE LIMITED - REGISTER NOW!

Complete details at [www.janddtours.net](http://www.janddtours.net) or contact: Dave Motak - 412-835-0539 - [contact@janddtours.net](mailto:contact@janddtours.net) or Wanda Grzesik, Chopin Tours - 1-800-533-0369

THE CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF CENTRAL EUROPE TOUR — November 27 to December 10 — features the charm of an Old World Holiday with city tours and colorful Christmas Markets in Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Krakow.

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## OBITUARIES

## Historian Edward J. Dybicz, PAJ Contributing Editor

Edward (Ed) Joseph Dybicz, age 91, of Swedesburg, Pa., passed away Feb. 17, 2015, at Mercy Suburban Hospital.

A newspaper reporter, historical writer, office worker, civic servant, and volunteer fireman, Dybicz was born July 14, 1923 in Swedesburg. He was a graduate of Upper Merion High School, Class of 1941, where he was class orator and editor of the school newspaper. In his senior year, he won first prize in the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers High School Reporters Contest at Penn State College. He completed extensive courses of study in Foreign Area and Language at the University of Iowa at Iowa City, where he was a member of the Newman Club.

Dybicz served with the 114th Regiment, 44th Infantry Division, U.S. Seventh Army, European Theatre of Operations during World War II. He was a non-commissioned offi-

cer and holds the Purple Heart Medal, two Bronze Campaign Stars for the Northern France and Rhineland Campaigns, Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle East Medal, and American Service Medal. He was a staff member of the Conshohocken Recorder in 1941 and was a correspondent for the Norristown Times Herald for 30 years. He covered the papal visit to the United States of Pope John Paul II in 1979, and met the pontiff at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Lower Merion Township. He was also a retired office employee of the Alan Wood Company of Plymouth Township.

He was one of the original and the last surviving organizer of The Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company in February of 1942 and served as its recording secretary for 27 years; also as a director and member of the fire police. He is a life member of the company. He received the

Eternal Flame Award and the Fire Police Award from the firehouse.

Dybicz served as vice-chairman of the Upper Merion Municipal Authority from 1953 to 1956. He was also retired from the Upper Merion Township Auxiliary Police and was chairman of The Upper Merion Township 1960 Clean-Up, Fix-Up, Paint-Up Campaign in which the township won an outstanding achievement award from the National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

He was a historian and wrote *The History of Swedesburg* in 1962 when the community marked its 250th anniversary. His historical articles appeared in many newspapers and magazines. Due to his research, the name of Gen. Casimir Pulaski, commander of the American Cavalry during the American Revolutionary War, was added to the list of officers on the National Memorial Arch at Valley Forge National His-

torical Park in 1950. He answered historical inquiries for the Upper Merion Township Board of Supervisors in the late 1940s. For his historical writings he received awards from the Upper Merion Park and Historical Foundation, the Legion of Honor of The Chapel of the Four Chaplains and from the Montgomery County Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Association. He was named "Mr. Upper Merion History" by the Upper Merion Board of Supervisors in September of 2005 and honored by the township senior organization.

Dybicz was co-author of the Upper Merion Township chapter of the *Second Hundred Years History of Montgomery County*. He focused many of his historical articles on the ethnic contributions to the history of the United States. In September 2007, he was honored as the "Upper Merion Township Library Friend of the Year" award in recognition and appreciation of his service to the li-

brary.

Dybicz was a member of Sacred Heart Church, Swedesburg, and a life member of its Holy Name Society. He was also an usher and collector. He was the Holy Name Society "Man of The Year," and served on the 100th anniversary committee for the church. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7878 of Upper Merion and V.F.W. Post 840, the 44th Infantry Division Association, D.A.V. Post 25 of Norristown, Mlotkowski Memorial Brigade Society of Fort Delaware, Montgomery County Historical Society, Valley Forge Historical Society, Montgomery County Fire Police, Upper Merion Township Auxilliary Police, Swedish Heritage Society of Swedesburg, Iowa, an emeritus member of the King of Prussia Historical Society and was a promoter of the Miraculous Medal Association of Germantown.

## Jeanette Kosakowska-Rogers, Past PACS President

Jeanette Kosakowska-Rogers of St. Louis, Mo., was past president of the Polish American Cultural Society from 1993 to 1998 and Chair of the Polonez Ball for many years.

The eldest child of Bronislaw and Stella Kosakowska, immigrants from Lomza, Poland, Rogers was born and raised in St. Louis.

In 1993 she was elected president of the Polish American Cultural Society of Metropolitan St. Louis

and held the office until 1998. She has chaired the Polonez Ball every year since 1985, and established and funded the Stan Musial Scholarship for local students of Polish heritage.

Rogers was a board member of the St. Louis-Szczecin Sister Cities, The Catholic Student Center of Washington University and The Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (an order established by Polish nuns at St. Stanislaus

Kostka Parish in St. Louis).

She was also a member of the Polish Falcons of America, The Polish National Alliance and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America.

Rogers' generosity of her time and leadership within St. Louis and Polonia garnered her immense respect, accolades and countless friends, from the many organizations she worked with.

## Krystyna Pienkowski, Survived Siberian Imprisonment

Krystyna C. (nee Romaniak) Pienkowski, a survivor of a Russian P.O.W. camp in Siberia, died February 25, 2015.

Pienkowski was 12 years old when her brothers and her father were taken by the Germans — she never saw her father again. She and her mother were loaded into a cattle car and taken to Siberia. For three weeks they were packed in with 80 other people and given almost no food. She said the destination was worse: a cold, lifeless Siberian camp. She does not know how they survived there for two, long, harsh winters.

She said many did not. Pienkowski remembers one baby in

the barracks with them. The baby's mother had no food for her — not even breast milk. Pienkowski held her while she was secretly Christened. The infant died moments later.

But Pienkowski and her mother escaped their cold, barren prison. They became soldiers for Poland. They traveled the world fighting for Poland and eventually made their way to the United States, to the comfort of good jobs and nice homes.



"What happened to us, what that war did to us, to our families, that, you can not forget," she said.

Pienkowski was wife of the late Cmdr. Jerzy Cicero-Pienkowski; loving mother of Lidia Priestley-Couzo, and Ramona (Edward) Hurley; grandmother of Eric Hurley, Veronica (Nicholas Kamenjarrin) Couzo and Jason Hurley; predeceased by three brothers; also survived by nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to St. Stanislaus Church, 123 Townsend St, Buffalo, NY 14212, or the American Lung Association of WNY.

Share online condolences at [www.TheDietrichFuneralHome.com](http://www.TheDietrichFuneralHome.com).

## Michael Mokrzycki, Set Polling Standards

NEW YORK — Michael Mokrzycki, 52, was a longtime journalist, survey researcher, and founding director of the Associated Press Polling unit. He worked for the AP for 24 years, beginning as reporter in Augusta, Maine, right out of college in 1985 and later transferring to AP's national news desk in New York City.

Mokrzycki was part of a group of reporters who won an Associated Press Managing Editors Award for Spot News for the news cooperative's coverage of the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993. He began coordinating exit poll coverage in 1994, and worked to train AP's reporters and editors how to analyze poll data. As founding director of the AP's polling unit, he helped create a set of standards for reporting on polls and surveys written into the *AP Stylebook*.

He left AP in 2009, and founded his own company, where his clients included the most respected survey organizations in the business.

## Veteran Broadcaster Ray Marks Markiewicz

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A well-respected radio veteran passed away after his battle with leukemia. Ray Marks (Markiewicz) was diagnosed with leukemia in the summer of 2012, and underwent years of chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant surgery. He died at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Throughout Marks' life, he had a passion for broadcasting, as well as guiding and mentoring others. The former news director for WGR, WBEN, and WJTN in Jamestown spent 40 years in the business loved. When he wasn't in the studio, he was an adjunct professor at St. Bonaventure University, Buffalo State College, and Medaille College.

In addition to having a love for radio and sharing it with others, he also loved the outdoors. Marks mentored and taught veterans having trouble adjusting to civilian



life how to fly fish. Reflecting on his life, he said that he appreciated everything he has experienced, and that he wanted to make the world a better place.

He is survived by his wife, two children, and grandchildren.

—Steve Cichon  
*BuffaloStories.com*

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## Rev. Francis A. Gwiazda, Saved St. Laurentius School

Reverend Francis A. Gwiazda, Pastor Emeritus, Saint Laurentius Parish, Philadelphia, died at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, Darby, March 2, 2015.

Gwiazda was born on February 26, 1943, in Philadelphia. He is the son of the late Stanley Gwiazda and the late Helena Jedrzejczyk. Gwiazda attended Saint Josephat Parochial School, Philadelphia, and Roman Catholic High School, Philadelphia, before entering Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

He was ordained on May 17, 1969, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, by His Eminence John Cardinal Krol. He served as Parochial Vicar at Saint Hedwig Parish, Chester; Saint Laurentius Parish, Philadelphia; Saint John Cantius Parish, Philadelphia; and Saint Adalbert Parish, Philadelphia.

Gwiazda was named pastor of Laurentius Roman Catholic Church in Fishtown, the oldest Polish Roman Catholic Church in the Archdiocese, in 1986.

The Philadelphia Archdiocese claimed the 1882 building's infra-

structure was crumbling, and closed it in March of last year. It was deconsecrated in October 2014.

Although he couldn't save the church, Gwiazda was instrumental in keeping the parish school going. To his credit, enrollment grew since Holy Name, St. Anne's, and other parochial schools closed in the late '90s and early 2000s, and students were welcomed at St. Laurentius.

Gwiazda, who spent his final months enduring severe diabetes and other ailments, moved into Villa St. Joseph in Flourtown, where he died.

Donations in his memory may be made to St. Laurentius School, 701 E. Gaul St., Philadelphia, PA 19125.

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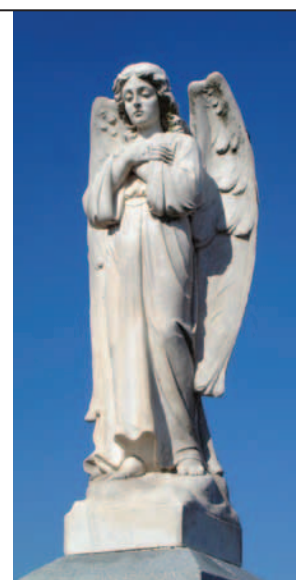
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## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — This year, on May 2, Chicago's **124th Polish Constitution Day Parade** will be held on Dearborn Street, not on Columbus Drive, as in previous years. The reason for this change is that from April 30-May 2, the National Football League (NFL) which will hold its annual NFL draft in Chicago, has been given priority. It has requested parking, street closings, and hotel concessions. Chicago has honored the NFL's requests, which will require an alternative parade route.

John Kopec, president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs of America and chair of the parade committee, maintains that the 2016 Parade will return to Columbus Drive. He

stressed that the city authorities have given much past support to the organizers of the parade and that Dearborn Street will be a beautiful and impressive location for the parade.

The parade will be held on Saturday, May 2, commencing at 11:30 a.m. with participants marching down Dearborn Street from Lake Street and ending at Van Buren Street. More detailed information can be found at: [www.may3parade.com](http://www.may3parade.com).

CHICAGO (GBC) — According to John Arena, alderman of the 45th Ward, three new pedestrian refuge islands will be built in the Portage Park and Jefferson Park areas with money from two Tax Increment Fi-

nancing Districts (TIF). City traffic engineers approved Arena's request to spend about \$140,000 from the Portage Park TIF to build two refuge islands, one at 3832 N. Cicero Avenue in front of the **Polish American Association** and the other at 3900 N. Cicero Avenue near the Six Corners Shopping District.

The refuge islands will assist pedestrians who cross Cicero to visit the Polish American Association. Additionally, many pedestrians dart across Cicero Avenue in the shopping district, where the blocks are elongated by the diagonal intersections of Cicero and Milwaukee Avenues and Irving Park Road.

The third pedestrian refuge island will be built at 5200 W. Lawrence

Avenue, in front of the **Copernicus Center**. The Center is a popular destination that hosts a wide variety of Polish-oriented concerts, conventions, and community events, as well as other ethnic events. The Jefferson Park TIF will fund this particular project at a cost of \$70,000.

## MICHIGAN

HAMTRAMCK — Roughly \$60,000 in improvements are coming to **Pope Park**, home to one of the most striking monuments in Hamtramck. Installed in 1982, the 6,000-pound-statue honors Pope John Paul II, the first pope of Polish descent. He actually visited Hamtramck five years after the statue went up, reportedly giving it a thumbs-up as he cruised by in the Popemobile. The park looking a bit shabby 33 years later, but expect that to change over the summer.

First off, the space's old brick pavers are starting to crack and sink. They'll be replaced with a new, brick-patterned surface, which will also include landscaping. New trees will be planted and additional benches installed, giving the space more functionality. Added lighting will ensure the space glows at night.

The iron fencing surrounding Pope Park will be and reused at Veteran's Memorial Park. It was actually salvaged from the now-demolished Dodge Main Factory, once the heart of HamTown's economy. Finally, the mural will be touched up. Fun Fact: The mural celebrates Polish culture, and its characters were modeled after actual Hamtramck residents at the time of painting.

## MINNESOTA

WINONA — A **Priest's Art Show** is being sponsored by The Polish Museum in Winona, April 17-19 at the Morrison Annex 363 E. 2nd Street. Times are: Friday—2:00-8:00 p.m.; Saturday—10:00-4:00 p.m.; and Sunday—noon-4:00 p.m. The show is free and open to the public.

## NEW YORK

CHEEKTOWAGA — The **Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission** is looking for individuals, businesses, groups, organizations or anyone interested in marching in the 39th Annual Town of Cheektowaga 4th of July parade. The pa-

rade will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2015, and will begin at 11:00 a.m. Assembly will be at the Thruway Mall and proceed to march north down Harlem Road to Cheektowaga Town Park. Anyone interested in marching or wanting more information, please contact Chris Tanski, Chairwoman at (716) 771-1076 or email [parade@patrioticcommission.com](mailto:parade@patrioticcommission.com).

## PENNSYLVANIA

BRYN MAWR — April 7. Polish Film "**Man of Iron**," directed by Andrzej Wajda. Bryn Mawr Film Institute, 824 W. Lancaster Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info call (610) 527-9898 or (610) 527-4008.

READING — April 12. Berks County **Polish American Board of Education Scholarship Banquet**. Reading Country Club, Exeter Township. Cocktails 4:00 p.m.; dinner 5:00 p.m. Music. Info / reservations call Helen Nowotarski (610) 777-4598.

LANSDALE — April 18. **Annual International Spring Festival**. North Penn High School, Valley Forge Road & Sumneytown Pike. 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Food vendors, international displays, live entertainment, activities for children and much more. Call Lansdale Public Library at (215) 855-3228 for information. Free admission. Open to the public.

PHILADELPHIA — April 19. Lecture in the Polish language at the **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy**, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd. 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Ewa Matczak, dentist. Topic: "What to do for your smile to be beautiful and without an inferiority complex." Info call (215) 624-9954. All are invited to attend. Free.

CORNWALL — April 19. **Country Western / Polka Dance**. Sacred Heart Parish Center, Cornwall Road & 419. Music by Joe Stanky & Cadets Band. 2:00-6:00 p.m. Info/tickets call Joe (717) 566-5704.

PHILADELPHIA — May 9. **Polish Police Association** of Philadelphia Annual Founder's Day Banquet. King's Caterers II, 4010 New Falls Road, Bristol, Pa. 6:00 p.m.-midnight. Music, cocktail hour, surf and turf sit down dinner, and a six-hour open bar. Info, call Edward McCloskey at (215) 425-4783.



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[www.katynbaltimore.com](http://www.katynbaltimore.com)

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

**11:45 am** Coffee/Pastry Reception  
Holy Rosary Church Undercroft

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