

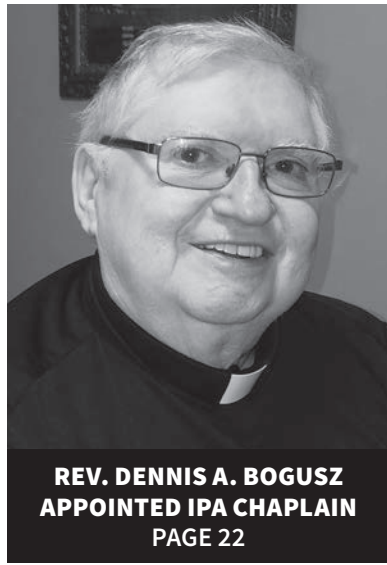
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REV. DENNIS A. BOGUSZ
APPOINTED IPA CHAPLAIN
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

PRAYERS AND COMMON SENSE IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY • A DAY OF GLORY AND JOY! • DON'T BE A "COVIDIOT"
OAK RIDGE: AN ENDANGERED PIECE OF POLONIA'S HISTORY • POLISH EASTER REMINDERS AND GREETINGS
WORLD WAR II DIASPORA MEMOIRS PROJECT • THE IMPORTANCE OF ORGANIZING AND SHARING RESEARCH

NEWSMARK

Special: Poles praised for timely anti-Coronavirus measures. PAGE 18

State Department OKs Sale of Anti-tank Missiles to Poland

The U.S. Department of State has approved the sale of 180 Javelin anti-tank missiles and 79 launch units and related equipment to Poland for an estimated cost of \$100 million USD, the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency announced.

The planned deal aims to "support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally and partner nation which is an important force for peace, political stability, and economic progress in Eastern Europe," the Agency said.

It added that "Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this system into its armed forces."

The prime contractors will be "Raytheon/Lockheed Martin Javelin Joint Venture, Orlando, Florida and Tucson, Arizona," the agency also said.

Poland's Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak tweeted that the purchase was designed to benefit his country's territorial defense force.

Under U.S. law, the deal has yet to be approved by Congress.

Massive Silver and Copper Deposits Found

A mining company has discovered deposits of silver and copper in western Poland worth billions, private broadcaster TVN24 has reported.

"The value of what lies underground is \$60 billion USD," said Stanisław Speczik, CEO of Miedz Copper Corporation, the Canadian company which discovered the lode, cited by TVN24.

The deposits, which lie over a mile underground in the western Lubuskie province, could contribute over \$1 billion PLN to Polish state coffers a year, as well as creating 8,600 jobs, Speczik added.

But the company, which plans to start building a mine in 2024-25, might face difficulties in getting the green light from the Polish authorities, as under Polish law, natural resources are the property of the state.

Sensational Discovery in Egypt

Polish archaeologists have uncovered a stone chest from 3,500 years ago during a dig in Egypt. The find indicates that a royal tomb could be located nearby.

The chest contained several packages wrapped in canvas. The Poles uncovered it in Deir el Bahari, near the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

Professor Andrzej Niwiński from the Warsaw University Institute of Archaeology, who heads the excavation team, told Polish news agency PAP that it was significant the chest was found on the site of one of the most important necropolises of ancient Egypt.

Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz Retires

The Diocese of Buffalo announced that Pope Francis has accepted the retirement of the Auxiliary Bishop of Buffalo, Bishop Edward Grosz.

Grosz, a Buffalo native, served as the Auxiliary Bishop since 1989. The Bishop asked to retire in late January, just weeks before his 75th birthday.

He reached the mandatory age for retirement on February 16 and Pope Francis accepted his retirement.

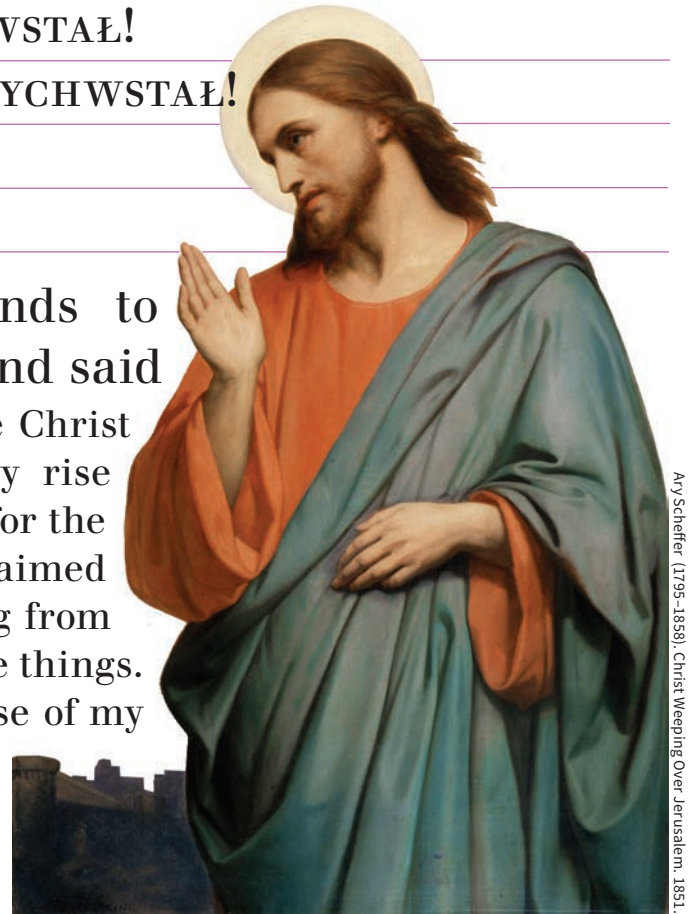
The Diocese said Grosz will continue to provide sacramental ministry throughout the Diocese during his retirement.

CHRISTUS ZMARTWYCHWSTAŁ! PRAWDZIWIE ZMARTWYCHWSTAŁ! CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

— Luke 24:45-49



Ary Scheffer (1795-1858), Christ Weeping Over Jerusalem, 1851.

A Doctor's Notebook:

"Mom, I'm Treating COVID-19 Patients"

by Mark Dillon

LONDON – Dr. Olivia Dudek joined the front line in England's battle against coronavirus as spring arrived here at Queen's Hospital, a 939-bed facility.

The 29-year-old Polish-American internist and former Minnesotan was pressed into service from the hospital's surgical teams on Saturday, March 21 to oversee care for 15 patients on ventilators as the number of COVID-19 cases in the United Kingdom surged past 5,600.

Polish-American Dr. Olivia Dudek is spending her first year out of medical school fighting the coronavirus in England.



Two hospital deaths that weekend would be Olivia's patients there and at the nearby 450-bed King George's Hospital. That weekend the National Health Service-run institutions converted most of its operating rooms into intensive care units and canceled all non-essential services to make room for a deluge of new cases.

"We had to figure out how to make more space. We stopped all surgery, even for cancer," Olivia said. Nine coronavirus patients had died at the two hospitals when the Polish American Journal spoke with her via mobile phone on Monday, March 23

After two long, grueling days, Olivia

See "Dr. Dudek," page 14

Remains of St. Jadwiga Found Inside Silver Coffin

by Stuart Dowell
The First News

TRZEBNICA, Poland — The bones of one of Poland's patron saints have been found by chance during conservation work in a church in Silesia.

The discovery of the tiny coffin was made in Trzebnica, Lower Silesia, during conservation work on Saint Jadwiga's tomb in the town's basilica.

The work on the tomb, which dates back to the 1680s, became necessary when church leaders became worried that a small crack in the elaborate stone sarcophagus could get worse.

The amazing discovery was triggered when art conservators noticed that one of the stone slabs looked differ-

ent to others.

Conservator Dorota Wandrychowska, who was working at the site said: "When we lifted the slab, we saw that charcoal mixed with plaster had been poured into a cavity, which was very strange. So, we thought we had to check it out."

When they removed the material, they discovered a silver casket, in which

See "Jadwiga," page 14

Saint Jadwiga was originally from Bavaria and the mother of Silesian Duke Henry the Pious. At the age of 12 she married one of Silesia's early Polish Piast rulers, Henry I the Bearded, Duke of Wrocław.



Queen Jadwiga c.1768 by Marcello Bacciarelli.

ALMANAC

April ❁ Kwiecień

*W kwietniu łagodne kwiatki,
w grudniu śnieżne płatki.
In April, mild flowers,
in December, snow showers.*

- 1 **1548.** Death of **King Zygmunt I the Old**, at age 81.
1938. Territorial changes of Polish Voivodeships
- 2 **2005.** Death of **Saint John Paul II**, born Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland, 84.
- 3 **1849.** Death of Polish poet and dramatist **Juliusz Słowacki**.
- 4 **1804.** Birth of **Vincent S. Dziewanowski**, Wisconsin pioneer credited with establishing the city of Pułaski.
- 5 **PALM SUNDAY**
Niedziela Palmowa.
- 6 **1953.** Birth of champion figure skater **Janet Nowicki Lynn**.
- 7 **1890.** Birth of painter **Adam Styka** (d. Sept. 23, 1959).
- 8 **1858.** Birth of panorama painter **Jan Styka** (d. April 11, 1925).
1943. Mass graves of Polish officers murdered by Soviet security forces are discovered at **Katyń**. The discovery was announced five days later.
- 9 **HOLY THURSDAY** / *Wielki Czwartek*
1941. In Częstochowa, Nazis create a ghetto for Jews. By the end of World War II some 45,000 of Częstochowa's Jews were murdered by the Germans, almost the entire Jewish community living there.
- 10 **GOOD FRIDAY** / *Wielki Piątek*
- 11 **HOLY SATURDAY**
Wielka Sobota is associated by most Poles with the traditional blessing of Easter food. After the blessing, it is customary to stop and say a prayer at the tableau of Christ's Tomb. New fire and fresh Holy Water are blessed today.
2010. A plane carrying a contingent of Polish leaders crashes out Smolensk, Russia, on route memorial services marking the 70th anniversary of the **Katyń Massacre**.
- 12 **EASTER SUNDAY** / *Wielkanoc*, the most important celebration in the Catholic calendar, commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 12 **EASTER MONDAY** / *Lany Poniedziałek (Wet Easter Monday)* is celebrated with an old folk custom called *śmigus-dyngus*, in which boys try to catch girls off guard and drench them with water. The girls respond in kind.
- 14 **966. Baptism of Poland**
King Mieszko I and much of his court convert to the Christianity.
- 16 **1935.** Birth of **Bobby Vinton**
- 18 **1518. Bona Sforza** (1494-1558) crowned Queen of Poland and Grand Duchess of Lithuania.
- 19 **1794.** Kosciuszko's forces rout last Russian troops out of Warsaw.
- 21 **1978. Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz**, born in Warsaw, becomes the first woman to sail around the world alone. The trip took two years and 24 days to complete
- 23 **ST. ADALBERT**
- 25 **1333. Casimir the Great** crowned King of Poland.
- 26 **1941.** No. **307 Polish Squadron** of the Royal Air Force arrives in Exeter, England and defends that region for almost two years.
- 28 **1947.** Operation Vistula, code name for forced resettlement of Ukrainian minority from the south-eastern provinces of post-war Poland, to the Recovered Territories in the west.
- 29 **1863.** Birth of **Maria Teresa Ledochowski**, foundress of the Sisters of St. Peter Claver
- 30 **1309.** Birth of **Kazimierz III**, King of Poland (1333-70).
1980. President Jimmy Carter appoints **Sen. Edmund Muskie** as U.S. Secretary of State.

A Day of Glory and Joy!

by Archbishop Sławoj Leszek Głódź

"The only light that knows no dusk"

The Night of the Resurrection came to an end when "Christ, having broken his bonds of death, came out of the abyss as the winner."

On Holy Saturday, during the Easter Vigil, the whole Church prepares with the Liturgy of Light for the experience of God's saving act—the Resurrection of Christ.

The Vigil starts with the procession of a powerful wax candle — the fruit of the beehive's work — a symbol of the Risen Christ. Before it is brought inside the church, the celebrant carves the sign of the cross on it. This tells us there is the Crucified Christ and the Risen Christ. Alpha and Omega. Beginning and end.

The splendor of this Paschal candle is *Lumen Christi*: The Light of Christ, "the only light that knows no dusk." As our great Saint John Paul II said, this light "illuminates the entire past (...) the power of this light is so great that it is able to transform external and internal darkness into the Day."

Today is such a day. The hours are illuminated by the splendor of the Risen Christ. And the liturgy of Easter Sunday reveals this fundamental truth of our faith: Christ is risen!

Listening to the Gospel of the Resurrection from Saint Matthew the Evangelist, we accompany Mary Magdalene and the second Mary, who at dawn on the first day of the week went to the grave in Jerusalem in which the body of Jesus was laid. We listen to the words of the Angel of the Lord addressed to anxious women: "Do not be afraid! For I know you are looking for Jesus Crucified. He is not here because He is risen, as He said."

These words reach beyond the dimension of human history. They show God's transcendent action. They opened a new era in the history of the world and humanity. Time of Redemption. Time of salvation. The reality of the New Covenant that is eternal.

"He is not here because he is risen, as he said." We embrace this

statement from the angel with our hearts, with our very being.

We are not afraid of these words, any more than we are afraid of the pushed back stone, or the cloths scattered inside, in which the body of Jesus removed from the cross was wrapped.

We know well the words of Saint Paul the Apostle: "If Christ has not risen, our teaching is in vain, our faith is also vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14). We also know the continuation of Paul's sequence: "In the meantime, however, Christ was resurrected as the first of those who died (1 Cor 15:20). This is the fundamental truth of our faith!"

I believe in the Resurrection of the body

This is real truth. Certified by the disciples who met the Risen Jesus, becoming the foundation of His Church.

Faith and certainty of the resurrection of the Lord are also carried by those who did not see but believed. They received with heart, mind, inner experience, entrusting to the Gospel and the magisterium of the Church. They testified with their lives, attitudes and trust.

How many of our brothers and sisters in faith who in the Name of the Risen Jesus suffered a martyr's death? In recent days, martyrs from the Middle East, victims of religious hatred, have joined them — terrorism and fanaticism aimed at Christian civilization. In the words of the Risen Lord addressed to all people: Peace be with you!

Let us remember in prayer the martyrs for faithfulness to the Risen One. Let us remember today when we proclaim the glory of the Risen Christ.

He lives. In His church. In the Eucharist — the sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Lord. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb 13:8).

Through his glorious Resurrection, he leads us on a path that leads to a new life. We know — this is the faith of the Church — that each of us Christians is included in the death of Christ through the sacrament of baptism. Thus, we become a participant and heir to His Resurrection. More, a participant in the miracle of the resurrection. For res-

urrection is the ultimate goal of our path. We confess this in our Catholic credo - (...) "I believe in the resurrection of the body, eternal life. Amen."

The Risen One is the undying light of hope. How strongly the course of our history is lit up by the splendor of Christ's resurrection. He showed a perspective of hope, He created a religious ground for various aspirations of Polish patriots. Among them, to actively oppose evil, the crime of partitions, the oppression of Nazism and Bolshevism. "I only know one thing, Poland will rise again," wrote Zygmunt Krasiński in the era of national slavery - the prophet of Polish hope.

Our "yes" to the Risen One

Today, the announcement of the Angel: "He is not here because he is risen" uttered at the deserted tomb of Jesus, is widely spread throughout Poland and the world.

It illuminates the hearts of a huge crowd of our countrymen: Sons and Daughters of the Church. People who are loyal to their homeland. Walking through life along the path of the gospel blessings. Loving, righteous, reliable, responsible. People of conscience, whom John Paul II called for years ago.

Many of them are in our parishes and local communities: volunteers of merciful love addressed to our marginalized relatives; defenders of conceived Polish life, threatened by moral nihilism. They have committed themselves with devotion to the parish, to the service of Polish memory, dignity, honor, identity and ethos. We pray for those in politics who understood selfless, creative service to the community and nation.

They, the witnesses and followers of the Risen Christ, carried the coffins of [noted Gdańsk Home Army soldiers] Inka and Zagończyk through the streets of Gdańsk in a great procession of memory and respect. One of those who, during difficult times, set out on the road to independence, to its lost freedom. It was they who remembered the victims of the Katyn Massacre on April days. They came for prayer to St. Mary's Basilica for those representatives of the State and Nation

who died on April 10, 2010 near Smolensk, on their way to Katyn.

Today this community of entrustment, memory and identity basks in the splendor of the Risen Lord. Like the generations of past Polish centuries who have entrusted their fate to Christ and His Mother.

Years ago, on June 10, 1979, in a farewell homily in Krakow's Błonia, St. John Paul II asked a significant question: Is Christ allowed to say "no," and has He to a nation in which we have lived for a thousand years? His answer was "no" to Soviet domination, and today the Third Polish Republic is a free, and independent democratic state.

Like Christ, we must we say "no" to that which has grown out of anti-value, atheistic liberalism, moral nihilism, and hostility to the Church. We must look to the Risen Christ for the hope He brings, for the true freedom He offers us. Say "yes" to trust, joy, and gratitude. In the name of Easter, say "yes" to the Easter table of joy and the wedding of the faithful in our community.

I wish you the blessing of the Risen One for Easter, for each day of your life. I wish you joy in meeting the Risen Christ who comes to us in the Eucharist bread. May the experience of the Resurrection of Christ open our perspective to our daily resurrection for good, for liberation from sin, for living in truth. May the mystery of the fusion of the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ bring relief and comfort to the sick, the suffering, the abandoned, the injured. Let it become an impulse to reach out for them, to offer care, spiritual help, a good word, a fraternal gesture for which they often wait long, an impulse to the gifts of a merciful heart.

Christ rose from the dead! He is truly risen! I share this diverse truth of our faith with people of various work, study and service. Cling to the Risen One. Let it become the fundamental value of your life.

❖ ❖ ❖

Bishop Sławoj Leszek Głódź is a Polish prelate of the Catholic Church who has been Archbishop of Gdańsk since 2008. He has been a bishop since 1991, and before that spent a decade working in the Roman Curia. This was translated and edited from his 2017 Easter homily.

Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych

dla moich bliskich przyjaciół i dziękuję Bogu za Polish American Journal



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The Supper at Emmaus. Matthias Stom. ca. 1633 - 1639. Oil on canvas. Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

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Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał!

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Nie lękajcie się! Do not be afraid!

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Christ is Risen, Alleluia!



*Wesołych Alleluja!
Chrystus Zmartwychwstał!*

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Pastor
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*He is Risen!
Wesołego
Alleluja!*

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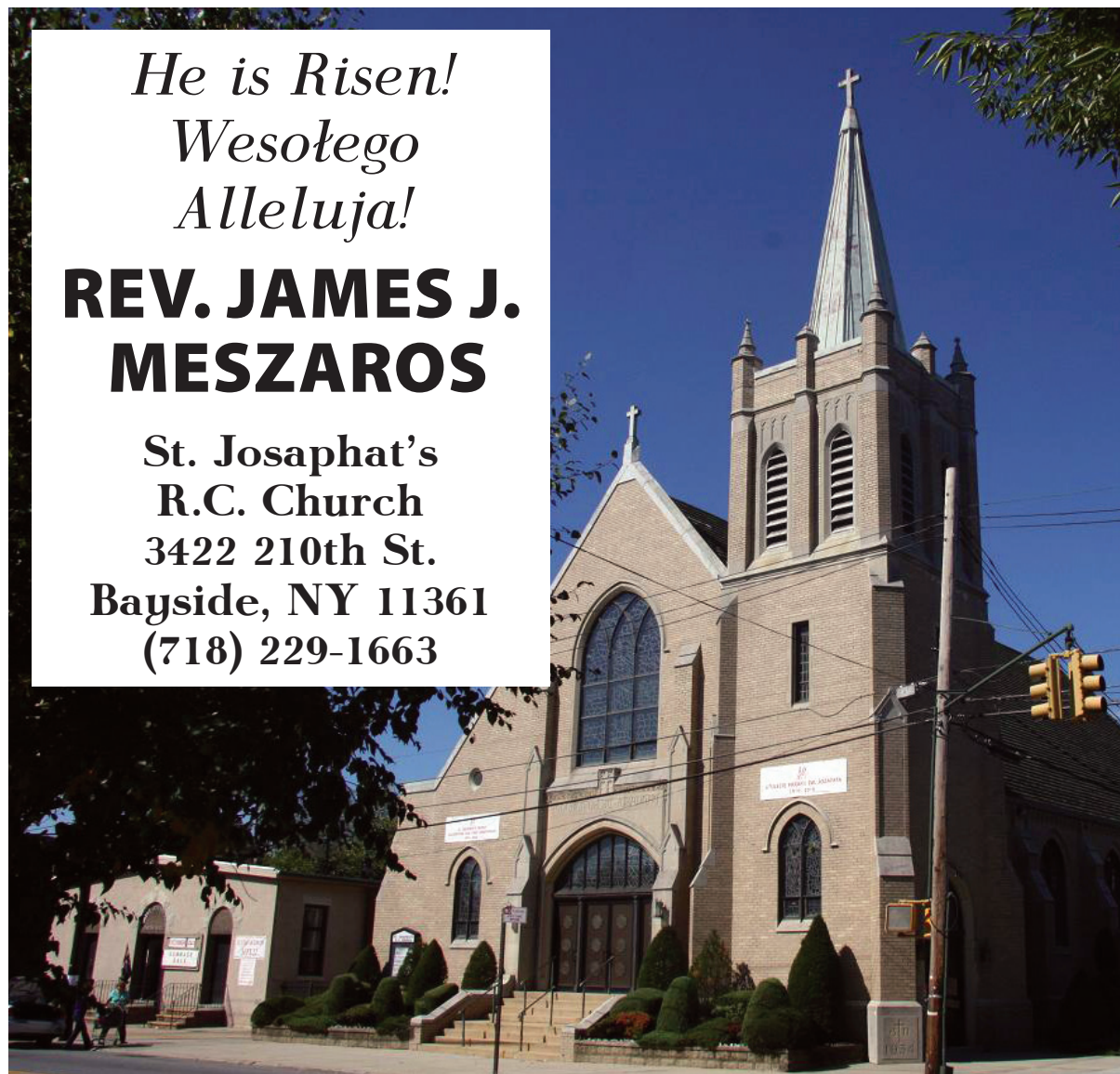
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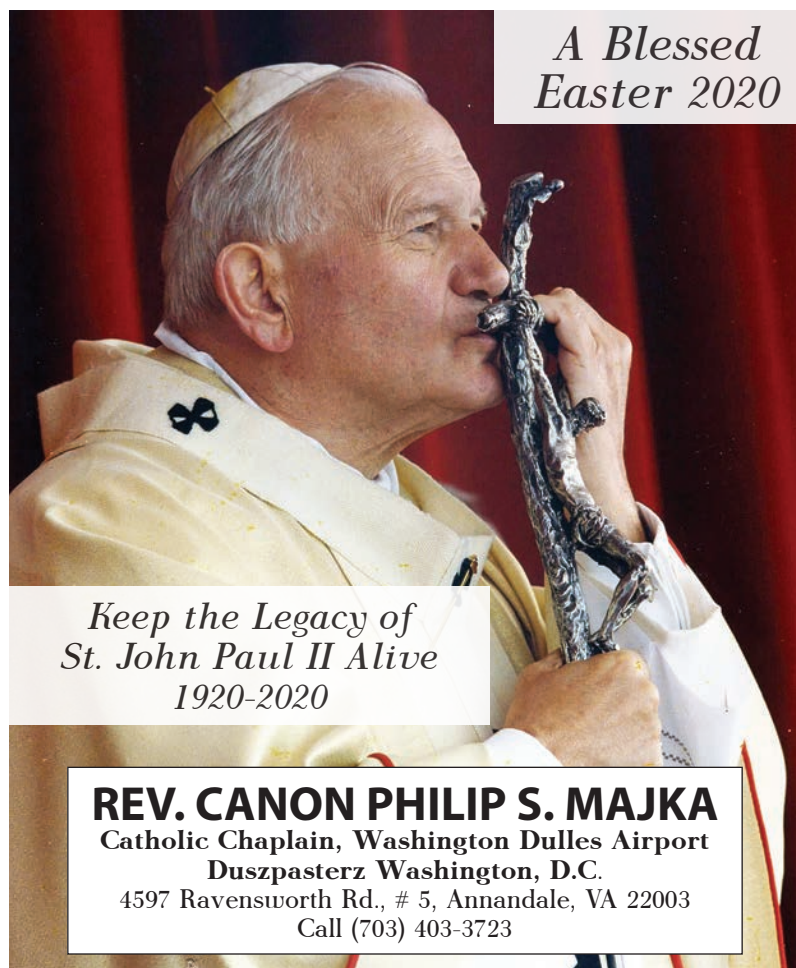
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Easter 2020*



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Niebo i ziemia się raduje, Alleluja!**

Easter Joy and Blessings of the Risen Christ to All!

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ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, UNCASVILLE, CONN.
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH, QUAKER HILL, CONN.
OUR LADY OF THE LAKES CHURCH, OAKDALE CONN.

*"All Honor to God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ; For
it is His boundless Mercy that has given us hop of Eternal
Life because Jesus Christ Rose from the Dead!"*

—1 Peter 1:3

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JOSEPH SUCHOLET**

Celebrating the Sunday of Divine Mercy, April 19, 2020
Pope Saint John Paul II The Great, Pray for Us!
Sister Saint Faustina Kowalska, Pray for Us!

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EDITOR'S DESK

Prayers and Common Sense in a Time of Uncertainty

by Mark Kohan

One my all-time favorite quotes is "Put your trust in God; but mind to keep your powder dry," advice given by Oliver Cromwell to his troops while crossing a river during his campaign in Ireland on behalf of the English Parliament (and, ironically, largely against Roman Catholics). Origins aside, it combines piety and practicality. The same advice can be found in Proverbs 21:31 which says: "The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord."

This is sound guidance for the times in which we find ourselves.

Who could have imagined we'd see a period when Masses are called off? When we are not allowed to visit loved ones in nursing homes and hospitals? When celebrations — from birthday parties to Dyngus Day — were cancelled over fear of contracting a virus?

There is much to be said for prayer. Turning to God is a good start in dealing with the uncertainty we are facing.

"Prayer reduces anxiety," says Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, and an Opinion contributor at *USA Today*.

"Some reject the instruction of scripture to pray in times of need," he wrote in the March 12, 2020 edition of the paper. "Consider the media mockery of Vice-President Mike Pence for leading the Coronavirus taskforce in prayer to ask God's help before they got to work. The *New Yorker* tweeted a cartoon of Pence calling for 'handwashing and repentance' to deal with the virus.

"This hostility — or at best indifference — toward prayer and

faith is dangerous in a moment of crisis and dismissive of an important practice for millions of Americans."

Studies show that prayer reduces anxiety and depression. A reduction in anxiety allows people to process and react to external events with a more cognitive rather than emotional manner. In a time in which there is worldwide concern over a virus without a treatment, a strategic and peaceful approach to problem solving is a good thing.

And for people of faith, we know that God answers prayers and that, as it says in James 5:16, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

But, as we are reminded by Cromwell, we need to do more than pray if we want to overcome the threat of Covid-19.

You may be tired of seeing this, but it cannot be repeated enough: the top five things you can do, as recommend by the World Health Organization, are:

- **Wash your hands frequently.** Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- **Maintain social distancing.** Maintain at least 3 feet of distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Practice respiratory hygiene.** This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

- **If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early.** Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention.

In addition to these, the best advice I heard is to stay home. Dr. Marco Vergano, an anesthesiologist at San Giovanni Bosco hospital in Turin, told HuffPost that it's "evident" to him that "acting like a community, rather than personally feeling violated in individual freedom will be more difficult for Americans than for Europeans."

I believe he is right.

"Americans, Vergano said, "should stop believing that COVID-19 is a 'bad flu'" and "stop circulating low quality information and 'fake news.'"

Cristina Higgins, who lives in Bergamo, Italy, wrote on Facebook that Americans "have a chance to make a difference."

"Stay home as much as you can," she said, and do "anything you can do to stop the spread."

National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. If you do need medical attention, calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

Follow this advice. And pray. And one last quotation will prove true: "This too shall pass."

Chrystus Zmartwychwsta!
Prawdziwie Zmartwychwsta!
Blessed Easter wishes to all.

POLISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR

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Oak Ridge: An Endangered Piece of Polonia's History



Oak Ridge Mansion

OAK RIDGE, N.J. — Oak Ridge is part of Jefferson Township, New Jersey, lying on the border of Morris and Sussex counties, about 40 miles west of New York City. You may not have heard of it as part of American Polonia's history, but it is—and it's in danger of disappearing.

The story goes back to World War II. Although Americans today often think of "Auschwitz" when you say "concentration camp," it wasn't always so. For many years after the War, Americans would have associated "concentration camp" with Dachau.

One reason is that the Americans liberated Dachau 75 years ago, on April 29. Another is that, as Americans marched through the crumbling Third Reich, Gen. Eisenhower insisted that journalists document the horrors American soldiers were finding in the concentration camps they were freeing. (Auschwitz was liberated by the Soviets).

Dachau, whose existence spanned 1933-45, was the destination for many priests, especially from Poland. A whole contingent of Polish Capuchins passed through Dachau's notorious Pfarrenblock.

After the War, some of them decided not to return to Soviet-occupied Poland. Nine of them from Dachau and one who spent time in four other camps decided to take up the invitation of the Bishop of Tulsa to staff a parish in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. They arrived in the late 1940s.

But ethnic ties are hard to lose and those Polish priests didn't find many countrymen in the Sooner State. There were many Polish parishes in the New York metropolitan area, especially in New Jersey, and so the Polish Capuchins' "Class of Dachau" slowly began making their way east.

That's where Oak Ridge comes in.

Alfred T. Ringling (of circus fame) built a winter mansion for himself in Oak Ridge in 1916. Constructed in the middle of World War I, it was designed as a bunker with 20-some inch stone walls.

Ringling died in 1919, and the family sold the property. By a series of twists and turns, a group called the "Spes Foundation" bought it from Ringling Manor, Inc., in 1955.

The "Spes Foundation" was a group of Polish priests and activists who wanted to promote anti-Communist publishing activity in Oak Ridge for Poland and Polonia. The "Spes Foundation" eventually disappeared, but it let the Capuchins to start using Oak Ridge in late 1958. They eventually bought the property in 1967.

Why were the Capuchins looking for a house? Catholic religious orders have certain "charisms," spiritual characteristics that mark

their specific identity as an order. Among the Capuchins' charisms is the expectation of "community life." But it's hard to have community life if your members are dispersed among parishes. The order's Minister General in Rome officially erected the "St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Friary" for the Polish Capuchins in the United States in 1973.

The survivors of the "Class of Dachau" all died by 2010; the Capuchins turned over the Broken Arrow parish to the Diocese of Tulsa in the 1990s.

Bro. Jerzy Krzyśków came to Oak Ridge in 1994, first to help the last of the concentration camp survivors in their old age and, eventually, to administer the property. He's still there.

Although the Warsaw Province of the Polish Capuchins is inclined to sell Oak Ridge, there are complications. As with many Polish American homes, where older people eventually no longer keep up with maintenance, Oak Ridge has fallen into disrepair. But, given its Ringling provenance, it's an historic property, with almost 32 rooms, including representational space. Some of it is original; some of it is plywood and sheetrock adaptations by the Capuchins in the 1960s and 1970s to create the kinds of rooms typical of a monastery. The Dachau Capuchins assembled a considerable amount of Polish memorabilia and books there. As a religious institution, it's tax-exempt; as a rebuilding project, it could be a lucrative developers' dream, although it would almost certainly require a considerable initial investment to make it marketable, albeit eventually at a considerable profit markup.

Bro. Krzyśków respects what Oak Ridge represents as a heritage of Polish Capuchin concentration camp survivors, and would like it to remain in Polish, or at least Catholic hands. A religious, educational, and/or charitable institution could conceivably sustain this five-acre jewel-in-the-rough's tax advantages.

LIKE MUCH OF POLONIA'S MATERIAL CULTURE, however, its life is on the block. The Warsaw Province of the Capuchins will not leave the status of St. Stanislaus in limbo indefinitely. Eventually, it cannot be ruled out that an enterprising developer will see the advantage of turning five acres of prime real estate with lake access into high end McMansions.

Seventy-five years after the camp's liberation, is that how we want this Polish "piece of Dachau" in America to end?

Those interested in contacting Bro. Krzyśków can email him at jkrzyzkow@yahoo.com or call (1-908-922-6396 or 973-697-7757).

New Board Sworn In



THE ASSOCIATED POLISH HOME OF PHILADELPHIA announced the members of its 2020 board. For over 100 years, the Home has served as base for Polish cultural groups, programs, and clubs throughout south-eastern Pennsylvania. Current member organizations are the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School, Klub Gazety Polskiej, Kościuszko Foundation Philadelphia Chapter, Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Female Chorus, PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy, Stowarzyszenie Rodzin Polonijnych, Teatr im. Adama Mularczyka, and Piwnica U Dziadka.

Pictured is the newly-elected board of directors. (seated, l. to r.): Danuta Prusik-Misthal (v.p.); and Andrzej Wiśniewski (pres.). Standing are (l. to r.): Dr. Józef Rzeźnik, Rafał Czaplą, Edward Masternak, John Wiśniewski (rec. sec.), Edward Balajewski, Michael Mele (fin. sec.), Wojciech Galadyk, Kazimierz Kozłowski, Deborah Majka (membership sec. and treasurer), Piotrek Bernasiuk, Hubert Kojer, Artur Siembab, and Michał Głogowski. Missing from photo: Paweł Kwaśniewski and Dr. Janusz Romański.

The home is located at 9150 Academy Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19114. To learn more, visit its web site at www.PolishHome.com.

QUOTES

Don't be a Covidiot

"In an emergency, it is important to behave responsibly. We cannot give in to panic, but neither can we expose our fellow citizens to any danger. I ask all my countrymen, all citizens, to remember in the face of the coronavirus threat that only by joint action can we effectively combat it. Our weapons are knowledge, reason, and hygiene."

— From a televised address by Poland's President **Andrzej Duda**, appealing for responsible responses to the COVID-19 virus.

◆ ◆ ◆
"You should assume that Covid-19 is in the community everywhere and that you've been exposed to it. Don't be a Covidiot."

— Erie County, N.Y. Executive **Mark Poloncarz**, using a slang term for those who've still gathered in groups in the midst of the pandemic.

◆ ◆ ◆
"I'm the president of Poland and I say this: they won't impose on us—in foreign languages—how to manage Polish matters. Yes, we're part of the EU, but first and foremost we're Poland."

— **Duda on Poland's dispute with the European Union, which held hearings as part of a bid by the European Commission to suspend Poland's disciplinary regime for judges, which EU regulators have said undermines democracy. The leadership in Warsaw is using the clash to reinforce support for the ruling Law & Justice party ahead of a presidential election in May. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki is ready to ignore the decision by the court in Luxembourg, according to a senior government official who asked not to be named.**

◆ ◆ ◆
"We are dismayed by news of this mission. We believe that this trip is not appropriate. Russia is a belligerent state. While this mission does not run afoul of exist-

ing U.S. sanctions, Americans and U.S. policy makers should consider strengthening existing sanctions against Russia until it ends its illegal war in Donbas and occupation of Crimea."

— Minneapolis Ukrainian community leader **Luda Anastazievsky**, on a Minnesota Trade Office mission to Russia. The event was being "organized in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and the U.S. Commercial Service," said the state's web site. Sadly, as the COVID-19 crisis grew, Minnesota's trade office cancelled initiatives with Norway and China, but the mission to Moscow and Kazan was still on the set-to-go list.

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Polish Easter Reminders

by Robert Strybel

As many of us may be confined to our homes for this year's Easter, here are some traditions to keep in mind and adapt for practice at home.

Wielki Post (the Great Fast) is the Polish word for Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday and runs up till Easter Sunday.

The ashes sprinkled on the heads of the faithful in Poland on **Popielec** (Ash Wednesday) are obtained by burning the previous year's blessed palms.

Religious Poles observe Lent by fasting, giving things up, and performing acts of mercy (helping the needy). They also attend Lenten services – Bitter Lamentations and Stations of the Cross as well as Lenten Retreats. Today, these may be found on the internet.

Misteria Paschalne (Passion Plays) are performed at numerous religious shrines in Poland during Lent, but the best known is that held during Holy Week at Kalwaria Zebrzydowska not far from Kraków.

Except for **Niedziela Palmowa** (Palm Sunday), in Polish all the days of Holy Week (Wielki Tydzień) are preceded by the word **Wielki** (great), including Good Friday which is "Wielki Piątek" (literally: Great Friday).

Palm Sunday Mass began with a life-size or nearly-life-size wooden figure of Jesus astride a donkey being pulled through the village. In some places a seminarian did the honors and rode a real donkey.

Although known in Polish as

"palmy" or "palemki" (palms), what Poles have blessed in church on Palm Sunday are pussywillows, interspersed with boxwood or other evergreen sprigs or rod-type dried-wildflower bouquets.

Polish Easter eggs range from the simple, one-color **kraszanki** to the elaborate batik-style **pisanki**, "written" in molten wax, and the elegant **kroszonki** of Śląsk, dark-colored egg on which designs are etched with a pin.

Święcone (literally: that which has been blessed or hallowfare) is what the foods blessed on Holy Saturday as well as the meal consumed after Easter Sunday Mass is called.

The typical **Easter basket** blessed on Holy Saturday contains a symbolic Easter lamb, hard-cooked eggs, sausage, horseradish, bread, salt and pepper, and cake. Some families include farmer cheese, confections, vinegar and wine.

Grób Pański (the Lord's Tomb) is visited for a moment of silent meditation by the faithful after their Easter baskets have been blessed on Holy Saturday.

The Polish term for Easter is **Wielkanoc** (the Great Night), also known as **Wielka Niedziela** (Great Sunday). It begins at the crack of dawn with **Rezurekcja**, Easter Sunrise Mass, preceded by a Eucharistic procession that thrice encircles the church.

After Mass the faithful wish each other "Wesołego Alleluja" and head home for the long-awaited **Święcone**, Easter breakfast. It begins with the sharing of blessed Easter-egg wedges.

Happy Easter

Have a blessed and happy
Easter to our friends, family,
and the supporters of
Crazy Horse Memorial.

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Genuine Polish Easter Greetings

Compiled by Robert Strybel

If you're a traditionalist, you can get an American-style Easter card with a pre-packaged greeting in Polish printed on the inside and mail it to your loved ones. Better yet – get a Easter-themed note card with an empty space for a personalized message in your own hand.

Or, you can email your Easter wishes. If your Polish is rusty or non-existent, feel free choose from the greetings listed below. If your computer lacks a Polish keyboard, you can still type all the Polish accented letters (ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź and ż). Just visit <https://polish.typeit.org/> and you'll be able to type them all like a pro. Type the greetings in the typeit box, copy-paste them into your email and off it goes!

Wesołego Alleluja!*
(Happy Easter; literally: Happy Alleluia!)

Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych!*
(Happy Easter Holidays!)

Najukochańszej naszej Babuni życzymy obfitych łask Bożych z okazji Święta Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego.
(We wish our dearest Granny God's abundant blessings on the Feast of our Lord's Resurrection.)

Chrystus Zmartwychwstał – Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał!
(Two-part responsorial greeting: Christ has risen – [re-

sponse] Truly He has risen!)

Wesołych Świąt, smacznego święconego i mokrego Dyngusa!*
(Happy Easter, a tasty Easter breakfast and a wet Drencher's Monday!)



Homemade Easter cards can be made with any type of craft supplies. These will be a nice surprise to relatives who are not able to leave the home.

Zdrowych i spokojnych Świąt Wielkanocnych!*
(Healthy and peaceful Easter Holidays!)

Radosnych i pogodnych Świąt Wielkanocnych!*
(Joyful and tranquil Easter Holidays!)

Dzieląc się jajkiem, myślami będziemy przy Was, życząc Wam Wesołego Alleluja i obfitych łask Bożych dla całej Rodziny!
(While sharing the egg, we will

be with you in spirit, wishing you a Happy Easter and the Lord's abundant blessings for the whole Family!)

Smacznym Świąt i wesołego jajka!*
(Tasty Holidays and a happy egg? – humors kids' version)

Najserdeczniejsze życzenia wielkanocne zasyła Wam Wszystkim ... **
(Most cordial Easter wishes from ...)

* All the greetings marked with an asterisk (*) can be followed by "życzy" (if one person or a family is doing the wishing) or "życzą" (if more than one are involved).

EXAMPLE

Wesołego Alleluja or Radosnych i pogodnych Świąt Wielkanocnych życzy Wujek Adam

or

Rodzina Kowalskich. Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych życzą Marysia i Janek

or

kochające dzieci.

** All the asterisked greetings may be prefaced with "Najserdeczniejsze życzenia" and followed by the name of the sender after: zasyła (singular) or zasyłają (plural).

EXAMPLE

Najserdeczniejsze życzenia Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych oraz obfitych łask Bożych zasyłają Babcia i Dziadziuś z Ciocią Zosią.

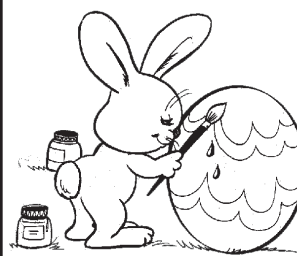
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HAPPY EASTER



Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
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BOOKS IN BRIEF

Where You Go When You Have Nowhere Left to Go

Review by Mary E. Lanham

GOD THROUGH BINOCULARS: A HITCHHIKER AT A MONASTERY
By Danusha Goska
Shanti Arts Publishing,
2018, 274 pgs.

In this winding memoir, Goska muses on nature, religion, and searching for a full-time job in her field. She expounds on hyenas, spiritualism, and the pursuit of acceptance.

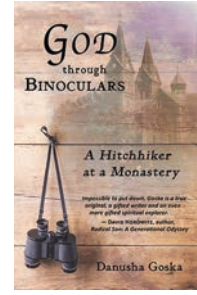
Born to immigrant parents, Goska's childhood was far from ideal. Her family life was full of strife and hardship. She was picked on and bullied by family members. Despite this, Danusha managed to find a way to earn her undergraduate degree and then later her Master's degree from Berkeley. After earning her Ph.D., Goska struggled to find a job at university. She applied to hundreds of positions and found work as an adjunct professor in New Jersey.

Demoralized by not finding a full-time position, Danusha decided to go on a monastic retreat in Virginia to seek guidance for her path

in life. Unable to afford a car, she hitchhiked and took a bus to her destination. This may seem straightforward, but this memoir does not take a wholly linear route. Her pontificating on life with her family, her time in the Peace Corps in her twenties, and social interactions of hyenas are inserted into the over-arching narrative as interesting side roads down which one may choose to meander.

Bird-watching, one of her passions, is touched on again and again. In one instance, Goska describes how she became a birdwatcher by watching a flock of turkey vultures flying over the car she was riding in. In another, she analyzes how she identifies various bird species. The excerpt below describes that instance.

"The ideal bird ID works like this: I've just lowered my binoculars, through which I calmly noted every pertinent



feature of a bird. I suspect it is a species whose salient features I have memorized in advance, not consciously, but through compulsive paging through bird books as if they were drawers full of candy. I pull out my Peterson stuffed somewhere easily reached in my daypack. I go to the page for the species I think I have just seen. I methodically run down the checklist of color, shape, behavior, size, location, season, plumage, and vocalization. When I identify a new bird, I have discovered something. I have concluded something using evidence."

Originally from New Jersey, Goska earned an MA from University of California, Berkeley and a Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington. She has worked all over the world including Asia, Europe, Africa, and America. She has been awarded the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Grant and the PAHA Halecki Award. Her other publications include *Save Send Delete*. Goska is currently an adjunct professor at William Paterson University in New Jersey.

Wesołego Alleluja! Happy Easter!



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REMINDER: MAY AND JUNE EDITIONS TO BE COMBINED. Next month, subscribers will receive a combined May and June edition of the *Polish American Journal*. This replaces the June edition. Deadline is April 10.

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Happy Easter!

JOHN STANEK
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Wesołego Alleluja!
Happy Easter!

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Michigan PAC Celebrates Diamond Jubilee



Richard Walawender, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, Michigan, presents a framed letter and bouquet of roses to Ann Bankowski, PAC-Michigan Division president, from Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland to the United States.

DETROIT — On Sat., Feb. 8, 2020, the Michigan Division of Polish American Congress marked the 75th anniversary of the Division's establishment and its many years of service to Poland and Polonia. While the actual founding took place in November 1944, the event was designated to be a joyful celebration and remembrance of that historic occasion.

The affair took place at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Mich.

Highlights of the evening's celebration included a dinner, music, dancing, carnival-themed decorations and atmosphere, an opening Polonaise, acknowledgment of dignitaries and organizations, and an address by the division president.

A special presentation of a framed congratulatory letter from the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Piotr Wilczek, was presented by Detroit's Honorary Polish Consul Richard Walawender. The letter recognized the Division's long record of service.

Also showcased was a display of photos, both historical and current, of the Division's activities, and a selection of the Division's newsletters through the years. To commemorate the jubilee, each guest received a Diamond Anniversary book.

Among the many congratulatory letters were those by Adam Cardinal Maida, our past president Paul Odrobina, and the Polish Secretary of State Adam Kwiatkowski, who wrote on behalf of Poland's President Andrzej Duda.

The event brought together representation of over twenty-five Polonian organizations, including parishes, institutions, media, PAC membership, and dignitaries.

— Ann Bankowski



*Zdrowych, pogodnych
Świąt Wielkanocnych,
pełnych wiary, nadziei i
miłości.*

*Healthy, Happy Easter
Greetings full of faith,
love, and hope.*

BOB & TESSIE GIBOWICZ
East Longmeadow, Mass.



GENEALOGY

The importance of Organizing and Sharing Your Genealogical Research

by Stephen M. Szabados

Start enjoying your Genealogy Research. Get organized!

There are many reasons why being organized is essential. My greatest joy came from finding more records and answering more questions once I became better organized. The positive feeling I had gave me positive re-enforcement and gave me more enjoyment from my hard work.

Initially, I collected personal papers, photos, and stories and then added the names and dates to the genealogy forms, such as family trees and group sheets. This basic data allowed me to find census records and other documents from online collections and archives. I was excited because I was filling out my family tree. When I tried to share this information with family members, they were usually confused and reluctant to take the time

to read the documents. They were not excited about my research like I was.

Their reluctance made me rethink my approach, and I realized that the stories were more important than the documents. I then reviewed different reports available

The format also reminded them of many stories found deep in their memories. The exchange of information was amazing, and the family history grew.

from various genealogy software but found none that was easy to use and understand by non-genealogists. They did not tell the stories.

Using Microsoft Word, I started recording my information in summaries for each direct ancestor. I listed each piece of information and story in chronological order in the summary. I also included photos, maps, and documents next to the text to help illustrate the informa-

tion. I added other materials to the document at the end of the narrative. Sometimes, I included notes to myself to do future research when I could find time or resources. I highlight these notes by using red type.

My research efforts had many starts and stops, and this format

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

Genealogy is not just the collection of names. Our ancestors were living human beings who interacted with the people around them. The documents and information we find contain stories about our ancestors. Our challenge is to review the information and see the stories hidden in the facts and then share them with our family. It is critical to organize our data in a format that can be easily read by all the members of your family, both present and future. Go beyond the names and dates and find the stories buried in the documents. Get organized. Find a way to write the stories and save them for your future generations.

enabled me to restart my research faster when I had time to return to it. It also allowed me to quickly focus on what to do next, and I could easily find the data I needed to do the next search. Because the format helped me correlate and analyze my research more efficiently, my research became more accurate.

The stories began to emerge from the gathered information, and the summaries were readable

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THE KORWIN COAT OF ARMS was shared by the nobles of several dozen Polish families including: Bieńkowski, Chrzanowski, Gałczewski, Gosiewski, Jagodziński, Joachimowicz, Karaczyński, Kossakowski, Krukowski, Lisowski, Materna, Michalski, Orzeszkowa, Piotrowski, Prendowski, Sakowicz, Sereżyński, Terajewicz, and Wendrychowski.

RELIGION

Walking Priest Accepts Bishop's Request

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Before being told to stop by the metropolitan of Lublin, Archbishop Stanisław Budzik, **Rev. Miroslaw Matuszny** took to the streets of Lublin and invited churchgoers in isolation to come to their windows to pray with him.

Carrying a relic of Saint Anthony, Lublin's patron saint, the priest walked around the outside of his parish and its neighborhood, praying out loud and encouraging churchgoers to light candles in their windows.

Matuszny said he wanted to pray in this way not only for the coronavirus to go away, but also against the danger of people losing their faith.

His actions come after Poland, one of Europe's most staunchly Catholic countries, shut cinemas, schools, theaters, and its borders, while limiting gatherings to 50 people or less, effectively curtailing many Masses, in an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Under normal circumstances, a third of the Polish population attends Mass regularly.

Even though it didn't explicitly call for an end to Masses or a closure of churches, the Polish government's restrictions have forced priests to become more creative.

Matuszny said, while many Masses can be streamed online or on TV, bringing Masses to the street would ensure Poles don't lose touch with God.

He said he had no problem with the Archbishop's request, whom many think was made out of concern for Matuszny's safety.

"I humbly accept the decision, please do not comment on the website of the parish or my personal page. I am asking for prayer. I will not provide explanations or comments."

Matuszny said many accused



Rev. Miroslaw Matuszny took to the streets of Lublin and invited churchgoers in isolation to come to their windows to pray with him.

him of promoting a medieval way of fighting the virus.

New Church Feast Day

The Church in Poland will celebrate the baptism of **King Meiszko I** in 966 as a holy day on April 14 starting this year. The Bohemian wife of Meiszko, **Dabrowa**, had a great part in his baptism. The baptism on Holy Saturday, April 14, 966 probably took place either in Poznan or Gniezno and led to the complete Christianization of Poland by the 13th century. Poland was recognized as a Christian nation by both the Vatican and the Holy Roman Empire and Poland used its status as a Christian nation to ally itself with Rome and with the Bohemians and Czechs as a counter to German influence.

Bishop Zielinski Endures Anchorage Earthquake

Bishop Chad Zielinski, RC bishop of Northern Alaska, found himself in the epicenter of a 7.0 earthquake as he waited for a plane in the Anchorage airport last November. The panic and flight of people reminded him of his deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With all flights cancelled, stranded passengers were taken in by residents of the city. Bishop Zielinski and Archbishop Etienne offered Mass the next day for those suffering from the earthquake and in thanksgiving for lives saved.

Sto lat to...

Prof. Brian Bajzek on his appointment to the faculty of Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y. The Chicago native is a professor of Systematic Theology who received degrees from Marquette University and the University of Toronto. In addition to teaching he established the International Conference for Collaborative Philosophy, Theology and ministry at the seminary.

Bishop Boris Gudziak on his appointment by Pope Francis to be Archbishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Philadelphia. As such he is the metropolitan bishop of all Ukrainian Greek Catholics living in the United States. Born in Syracuse, N.Y., he studied at Syracuse University, served as rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine. He served as bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Saint Vladimir-le-Grand de Paris, France, covering Ukrainian Greek Catholics in France, Belgium, Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Pierogi Tradition Continues

The kitchen at St. John Kanty parish in Buffalo, N.Y. is buzzing with pierogi-making activity. **Sally Siejak** and **Dolores Slazak**, both 30-year veterans of the project, join together with over 20 other volunteers from mid-January to Palm Sunday and make pierogi twice a week. **Diane Czajka** directs Team Pierogi to prepare 12,000 pierogi for sale on weekends from March 14 through April 14. They even have pierogi-making lessons for newcomers in morning and evening

sessions. **Fr. Michael Burzynski**, pastor of the parish, says, "I can guarantee that there is something special about Polish pierogi. The best ones in the area will be available at St. John Kanty during lent. Visit www.saintjohnkanty.com/ contact for dates of the pierogi-making sessions.

Happy Anniversary to...

Fr. James Meszaros celebrating 50 years as a priest. He is currently in residence at St. Josaphat Church in Bayside, N.Y. He had been pastor of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr Church in Ozone Park, N.Y., when it suffered a devastating fire in 1994. Fr. Meszaros coordinated the reconstruction with a fund-raising drive that brought in more than \$250,000. The fire, caused by wax candles overnight, led the Brooklyn Diocese to request that all of its churches switch to electric candles for safety purposes. St. Josaphat Church, where Fr. Meszaros resides now, is celebrating 110 years of service of Polish Americans in North-east Queens and Western Nassau counties in New York. Its current church has served the parish for 85 years.

Letting Babies Die after Birth in Botched Abortions

Refuting claims of the governors in New York (**Andrew Cuomo**) and Virginia (**Ralph Northam**) that new abortion legislation allowing abortion up to the moment of birth would not involve infanticide, **Jill Stanek**, while serving as a nurse at Christ Hospital in a Chicago suburb, attested that infants born during late-term abortions were left to die in a utility room. She has since left her position and has become a pro-life advocate. She declares that regardless of the claim in New York, Virginia, and other states following their lead, that late-term abortions are done only for a fatally ill baby,

"the whole system will abort for a wider range of reasons than just a fatally ill baby." She goes on to say, "A baby is just a precious and unique, made in the image of God, from the moment of conception."

Pittsburgh Diocese New Addiction Program

Fr. Michael Decewicz, a recovering alcoholic and one of the leaders behind Addiction Recovery Ministry (ARM) in the Pittsburgh diocese, acknowledges the severe opiate addiction problem in Pittsburgh. In response, the diocese launched the new addiction ministry to help rehabilitate addicts and families through a holistic approach. Noting that addiction is a disease not a moral choice, ARM began its ministry with a Mass of Healing from Addiction for some 200 persons, where addicts received the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Funding for the program comes from the Pittsburgh diocese's Our Campaign for the Church Alive.

The program, located at John Paul I Center in Sharpsburg, offers three meetings a week of either Narcotics Anonymous or NARANON, a support group for friends and family members of those addicted to narcotics. Decewicz hopes to eventually include Alcoholics Anonymous and ALANON to the schedule of meetings.

He stated, "God calls us in our brokenness. We need to spread the message that God touches us in our brokenness and in our frailty, to bring a message of compassion and empathy ... to affirm the dignity of every human being regardless of what they are suffering."

MODLITWY

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

FOR THE INTERCESSION OF SAINT FAUSTINA. Saint Faustina, you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us (*Diary*, 281, 1582). Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will" (31). Relying on this, I ask your intercession for the graces I need. Help me, above all, to trust Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of my life. W.C.

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER TO MARY DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

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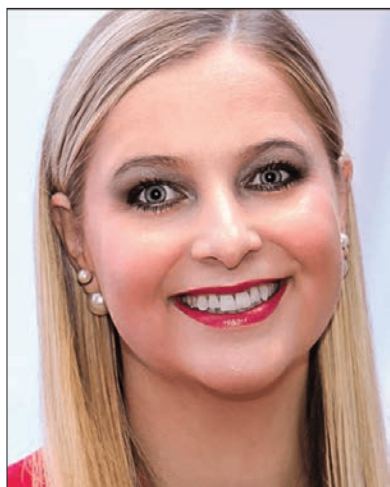
Slavic Experience May Replace Twin Cities Polish Festival

by Mark Dillon

A Polish American lawyer in Burnsville, Minn. has created a new regional festival on the weekend of August 8-9 called the Slavic Experience that aims to expand and improve on the cancelled 2020 Twin Cities Polish Festival (TCPF).

With a logo that is a quilted folk dress of 12 Central European and Balkan flags that come together with a Polish flag, Aneta Toporowska Lennartson has launched an effort to “create a welcoming space for people of Slavic heritage to commemorate, celebrate, and share the richness and diversity of Slavic traditions and customs.”

A founder of the first TCPF more than a decade ago, Toporowska Lennartson sees an opportunity to create a more robust event and address what some see as TCPF shortcomings in recent years such as overemphasis on alcohol, rising pass-through expenses and arbitrary rules.



Attorney Aneta Toporowska Lennartson, creator of Minnesota's new Slavic Experience

Toporowska Lennartson's Top Law practice focuses on family law, immigration and estate planning, and she also has a Top Pierogi business. She says she has been preparing to create the Slavic Experience for several years, and she plans to offer her own potato/cheese, meat, sauerkraut/mushroom and bacon/potato varieties at the festival.

“It is important to see, share

non-commercial groups to the event by making the Slavic Experience more affordable.

“We hope to get enough sponsors (by May 30) so that the event can be free for non-profits and religious groups,” she says. At the TCPF, table contract terms generally treated non-profits as businesses and called for groups to shell out hundreds of dollars for a table, plus deposits, plus evidence of insurance and fees for lighting and electrical hookups.

On its website, the TCPC attributes its 2020 cancellation, announced in February, to a planned reconstruction of a Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis near the festival grounds and claims “we are committed to finding the needed organizational volunteers and resources to hold a festival in 2021.”

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

is spending \$120 million to reinforce the 102-year-old concrete 3rd Avenue Bridge, which is a bit north of the Interstate 35W Mississippi River bridge, an eight-lane, steel truss arch bridge in Minneapolis that gained national notoriety when it collapsed in August 2007 and was rebuilt a year later.

Available federal tax filings for TCPF show the event's profitability weakened over time. TCPF profits peaked at \$14,305 in 2014. In 2017, the latest available data show the 501(c)3 group reported a \$6,217 loss. Revenues, meanwhile, dropped from \$119,620 in 2011 to \$72,058 by 2017. Three years ago heavy rain dampened attendance the last day of the three-day festival, prompting some vendors to close early.

At its height, the TCPF gained a reputation as one of the larger and more innovative U.S. Polish festivals, with folk dance and performing arts groups from Poland and unique features that included posters from Poland's Institute of National Remembrance and the

first public performance in 2017 of the *Hejnał mariacki* (the call of the trumpeter of Krakow) by a woman in the United States.

Toporowska Lennartson is hoping to build on the positive aspects of TCPF in a pan-Slavic and modern way. She said the singing group Donatan & Cleo have agreed to come to the Twin Cities to perform their hit single “My Słowianie”, which was Poland's entry in the Eurovision Song Contest 2014. The duo also do a Ukrainian version of the song (Enej-Brac). “We would like to make that our song,” Toporowska



The logo of the Slavic Experience

Lennartson says.

In more traditional folk dance, Slavic Experience is hoping that the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee will be among the festival's acts. The Twin Cities Bulgarian community is seeking to bring the dance group Nomadi Folk. Another performer likely to be part of the event is Slovenian accordion player Hank Thunander,

Smaller scale efforts to bridge Slavic and other Central European cultures through events in the Twin Cities have met with mixed results. For several years until 2018, a Carpathian Festival operated in St. Paul. Last year it morphed into a Balkan Festival, with Polish and Hungarian groups creating a separate Friendship Day event on March

22 as part of the Landmark Center's Urban Expedition cultural programming series.

Design flaws may have been a factor in TCPF's fading fortunes. TCPF had required attending non-profits to staff tables for the entire three days of the urban festival to as late as 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday night, or face the loss of a security deposit, a challenge for some groups with primarily older volunteers.

“We won't be imposing such requirements,” Toporowska Lennartson said.

Toporowska Lennartson's Top Law practice focuses on family law, immigration and estate planning, and she also has a Top Pierogi business. She says she has been preparing to create the Slavic Experience for several years, and she plans to offer her own potato/cheese, meat, sauerkraut/mushroom and bacon/potato varieties at the festival.

To the chagrin of some TCPF organizers, her 501(c)3 has secured a permit to use a large neighboring park for Slavic Experience. She also gathered consents from folk dancers at prior TCPFs to use their images on a new slavicexperience.com website and Facebook pages.

The Slavic Experience will be just few hundred feet south down river from the TCPF site at the Father Hennepin Bluff Park, a 5.5-acre park that rests on a wooded bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and the St. Anthony Falls waterfall.

The TCPF has had plenty of time to find a new home. State planning for the bridge project began in 2014 and the construction contract was initially awarded in 2018, Minnesota Department of Transportation web postings show. Repair work on the Third Avenue bridge is not expected to be completed until 2023.



This map shows the location of the 3rd Avenue Bridge across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. On the east bank along Main Street to the north of the bridge was the site of the Twin Cities Polish Festival, cancelled for 2020. The east side park peninsula to the south of the bridge will be the site of the new Slavic Experience.

“It is our goal to accomplish this in a number of educationally and significant ways, and to provide a fun, free and family-friendly experience,” says Toporowska Lennartson, a first generation Minnesotan originally from Krasnik near Lublin.

Her pan-Slavic approach seeks to bring together the Central Eu-

and learn how many similarities we have in culture, food and art,” Toporowska Lennartson says. She adds that her outreach plan will also include non-Slavic Central European groups that have a large presence in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, such as the Romanian and Hungarian communities.

Another goal will be to welcome

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

CCSP59 Has Polish Dual Language Program

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

ELK GROVE VILLAGE — Community Consolidated School District 59 (CCSD59), located in the Chicago's Northwest suburbs, is made up of one pre-school, 11 elementary schools, and three junior high schools. Among these schools, Clearmont Elementary in Elk Grove Village has the only Polish dual language program in the State of Illinois.

Griselda Pirtle, director of CCSD59 Multilingual Programs, stated that the school district values bilingualism and biliteracy and that these skills help preserve the students' identities and maintain family and cultural connections.

The bilingual programs in District 59 are based on a dual language model that emphasizes the development of biliteracy, with a goal of language proficiency and academic achievement in English and another language. Students in this program are taught by a teacher who provides instruction in both the foreign language as well as in English. Parents who speak Spanish or Polish may choose to place their child in an English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) classroom instead of a bilingual program.

However, the District's ESL programs support students in a variety of ways, but these students speak languages other than Spanish and Polish. All ESL students are taught only in English.

Clearmont Polish dual language teacher, **Joanna Pawlina**, hopes that this dual language program will inspire other school districts to consider establishing dual language programs. As she stated, "We would like to educate the parents that the dual language program is strong and it enhances their child's learning while not inhibiting English acquisition."

It should be noted that PS 34, Oliver H. Perry Elementary School in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York, also has a Polish dual language program.

PACC 82ND ART EXHIBIT REMINDER. Art enthusiasts need to mark their calendar to attend the 82nd Art Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture hosted by the **Polish Arts Club of Chicago**. Under the chairmanship of **Kasia Szczesniowski**,

the exhibition will be held Sun., May 17, 2020, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at The Polish Museum of America. (Editor's note: In light of recent developments, please check with Museum before planning to attend). The afternoon will include an opportunity for attendees to view the artworks and speak with artists, followed by a juried ceremony in which First, Second, and Third place winners will be announced along with a "People's Choice" Award.

A POSSIBLE NEW SITE FOR PASO. With Chicago's 39th Ward Alderman Samatha Nugent's approval, there is support to convert the approximately 65-year-old First Congregational Church into the **Paderewski Symphony Orchestra (PASO)** music school. The not-for-profit music school would be resettled in Chicago's Forest Glen area on the Northwest Side. The Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals is expected to hold a public hearing on this proposal, but, as of March 1, no date has been set.

As part of the plan, the Paderewski Academy of Music will renovate and modernize the church building. With limited performance sites for the music school in the past, this building can provide a permanent home. Even though the Forest Glen Community Club (FGCC) held a meeting in September 2019 indicating that it had some reservations about possible traffic and parking concerns, it followed up the meeting with an official letter to Alderman Nugent stating that it has no objections to the PASO proposal. The Academy agreed to work with the surrounding community to find "creative solutions" regarding the parking concerns when PASO holds its occasional events. There should be no parking issues when the Academy holds its lessons and classes. If all goes as planned, the PASO Academy would still allow the FGCC to hold its meetings at the site, and Sunday services would still be held there.

CHICAGO SOCIETY INAUGURAL DINNER & ŚLEDŹ PARTY. The Chicago Society of the PNA has been busy lately, starting with its annual inaugural event, the *2020 Evening of Elegance*, on January 25, 2020, at the Fountain Blue, in



Śledź participants.

Des Plaines, Illinois. The evening's program included the singing of the national anthems of Poland and the United States accompanied by the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra, welcoming remarks, and an invocation. The dinner program included **Tony Kawalkowski** strolling throughout the ballroom playing violin requests much to the delight of the guests. After dinner, Peter A. Dykas, president of the Chicago Society, presented the Society's Honoree Award to **Thaddeus "Ted" Makarewicz**, chair of the Chicago Society Foundation, for its 20 years of providing grants, scholarships, and donations within the Polonia community. This was followed by the **Honorable John A. Wasilewski**, retired Cook County judge, inducting the 2020 Chicago Society officers. Those inducted were President **Peter A. Dykas**, First Vice-President **Adam Konopka**, Second Vice-President **Romuald Matuszszak**, Secretary **Jan Plachta**, Financial Secretary **Richard Ciesla**, Treasurer **Richard Wiermanski**, Advocate **Walter Pieciewicz**, and Directors **Mario Mikoda**, **Anthony P. Kawalkowski**, **Charles Cwiakala**, and **Zenon Kurdziel**. The evening continued with cocktails and dancing.

For its next event, the Chicago Society held its annual **Śledź Party** on February 22 at the Lone Tree Manor in Niles, Illinois. Members and their guests enjoyed an evening of dining, dancing, and tom-foolery. There was plenty of delicious śledź or herring, as a prelude to dinner. **Tony Kawalkowski** chaired and organized this event, from the meal

carried the śledź on his lap while lying atop a casket. The pageant ended with the introduction of the 2020 King and Queen, **Richard and Cynthia Wiermanski**. This was followed by the announcement that the 2020 St. Joseph Society's chaplain, would be **Andy Hasztrakiewicz**, replacing **Chris Grzadziel**.

The party continued with more jazz, some polka music, and fun-loving camaraderie.

MIŁOZ SCHOOL PREMIERED POLISH ANDERSON FAIRY TALE.

In celebration of the 15th anniversary of the **Czesław Miłosz Polish Language School** of Schaumburg, Illinois, the school presented a Polish musical version of Hans Chris-



Children actors.

to the selection of an excellent New Orleans style jazz band, **Jazz Nouveau**. After dinner, Tony introduced the tradition of the Śledź Pageant and how it stemmed from the Middle Ages. The tradition includes pre-Lenten consumption of food and drink as well as performances, pageants, plays, and pantomimes.

The Chicago Society Śledź Pageant started with the arrival of the Angel, who symbolized goodness and wholesomeness. He was portrayed by the Honorable **Michael Chmiel**. The Devil then arrived to tempt many to break their Lenten fast. **Peter A. Dykas** acted as the Devil. Father Time, the reaper of us all, portrayed by **Thaddeus Makarewicz**, then reminded us that we are here only for a short time. The evening's pallbearers who carried the Śledź were **James Kolak**, **Ronald "Topper" Topczewski**, **Jan Plachta**, and **Dante Kolak**, who

tian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea," "*Księżniczka na ziarnku grochu*" on February 8. The script was based on the Polish version of the tale created by well-known Polish poet and author of children's literature, **Jan Brzechwa**.

Staged in the Mitchell Kobeliński Theater of the Copernicus Center, this musical version was performed to a packed house. Not only were Miłosz students in attendance, but so were their teachers, parents, and friends. The audience also included students from 13 other Polish language schools along with their teachers, families, and Chicago area dignitaries.

The production's musical director was Miłosz teacher, **Marta Sawicka**, with set decorations by **Adriana Mzyk**. All in all, 44 Miłosz students, teachers, and parents involved in the play received a standing ovation from the audience.

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Part II



Gloria Swanson

Although **Gloria Swanson** was born to Adelaide Klanowski Swanson, she seldom identified with her Polish background. However, one of her husbands the Marquis Henri de la Falaise dela Coudrage as reported by the *New York Times*, claimed his title was conferred on him by Queen Maria Casimira of Poland in 1707. He said he could trace his ancestors back to 1271 and that King Louis XV of France confirmed his title in Versailles, November 22, 1766. Gloria, for reasons not expressed, did not want this publicized.

There was also Gloria Crest built in 1926 by Count Stefan Poniatowski who claimed to be the heir to the Polish throne. It was a 24,000 foot square mansion built in New Jersey occupied by Gloria Swanson while owned by Lincoln Savings Bank. Its president was ambassador Joseph Kennedy, father of the future U.S. president who supposedly gave it to Swanson during their rather public affair.

MARIANNA MICHALSKA was eight years old when she left Poland and came to Milwaukee in 1908. As a teen she sang and danced in the bars on Cudahy's endless saloon row in suburban Milwaukee. She left for New York, changed her name to **Gilda Gray**, and, after an assist from Sophie Tucker, became a leading dancer with the Ziegfeld Follies. She is usually credited with introducing her "shimmy" dance—Al Jolson dubbed her "The Queen of the Shimmy Shakers"—and was soon earning \$47,000 a week and over \$4,000,000 during the 1920s.

Anthony Slide writes that, "Gilda Gray had only one claim to fame. She shook her chemise, or, as she first explained it in a Polish accent, her 'shimee.' As a result she became the most famous exponent and originator of the shimmy, a dance that symbolized the jazz age as much as the Charleston, the flapper, Clara Bow ... 'A ripple here, a quiver there, a shudder or two—and then I shake all the way up from my feet with everything,' said Gray. While most men watched and lusted, Carl Van Vechten described her as 'the girl with the most beautiful soul,' and Heywood Broun called her 'a sophisticated hoyden.'"

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Gilda Gray

Having been a feature in the Ziegfeld Follies, Gilda was generally cast as a dancer in her films. She attracted national attention as the grass-skirted heroine in *Aloma of the South Seas* (1926) that grossed \$3 million in the U.S. alone and became the most successful movie of the year. In *The Devil Dancer* (1927) she is Takla, possibly a variant of Tekla, which is a Polish name. The locale is Lamasery, a remote Far Eastern country, where Takla, is being held captive and Stephen vows to rescue her from "barbaric" surroundings. In 1952 she appeared on *This is Your Life* (television series) explaining her activities in bringing six youngsters from Poland to the United States and providing for their education. She sued Columbia Pictures for one million dollars after it released a film, "Gilda" that she claimed was based on her life. The suit was settled out of court with Gray receiving a settlement with which she purchased a ranch in Colorado. Her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame was unveiled on February 8, 1960.

BORN IN WARSAW, May 20, 1906, **Lyda Roberti** performed in a cir-



Lyda Roberti

cus when she was a child. After Lyda's mother, who was Polish, left her husband, she and Lyda went to China. Lyda began earning money singing. She made her debut on Broadway in 1931 featured in *You Said It*. In spite of unfavorable reviews, thanks to Roberti, the show ran for 192 performances. Jack Yellen, lyricist for the show, "years later called [the show] 'probably the worst show to run on Broadway.'" He believed he "deserved some credit for that." However, he also took credit for "the discovery of someone who became known during the run of the show as 'Broadway's Preferred Blonde,' Lyda Roberti." Yellen had seen her... in Hollywood. She captivated him "with a natural comic flair, a good voice, and a striking physical presence. Roberti exuded an unconscious sensuality with her platinum blonde hair... a round Slavic face, lush lips, and a voluptuous figure... Much of her appeal to audiences of the time was attributed to a charming Polish accent... For some reason this stirred audiences to gales of laughter." Roberti's Polish accent was often quoted as heard in newspapers and magazines.

Lyda was featured in the very successful (295 shows) Broadway production, *Roberta*, named after a fashion shop in Paris. It provided proper attire for clients such as Polish Countess Scharwenka: "She's got the finest figure in Europe and has to have it dressed, at least partly," commented Roberta. It was later produced as a film, a radio production, and television movie.

Although winning many accolades on Broadway, Roberti was soon filming in Hollywood. She was Fanny Zabolowski in her first full-length film, *Dancers in the Dark*. Mordaunt Hall of *The New York*

Times mentioned, March 19, 1932, "Lyda Roberti, the Polish performer renders quite an effective song." In Roberti's next film, *Million Dollar Legs* (1932), she was cast as a vamp to entice Klopstokian athletes from winning the Olympics. The film was panned by most critics. However, L.N.'s headline in *The New York Times* (July 9, 1932) proclaimed, "Bevy of Clownish Comedians and Lyda Roberti Save The Klopstokian Treasury." Roberti continued to draw favorable reaction from fans. Her next film, *The Kid from Spain* (1932) had a viewer write: "This film made me fall in love with Lyda Roberti... the highlight for me was this leading lady, Lyda Roberti... I was knocked out by her delightful comic performance. Here was a pretty woman, svelte and attractive, who was a topnotch comic." *Variety* was impressed with

Roberti's performance in *College Rhythm* (1934): "Lanny Ross and Lyda Roberti do the bulk of the singing... Miss Roberti the hot stuff. The blond dialectician turns in a neat performance. She also doubles as the s[ong] and d[ance] leader in the chorus routines." Lavish costumes, extravagant sets and dancing sequences are featured in *George White's 1935 Scandals* (1935). Roberti becomes Manya, the name of her real-life sister. Six months later Roberti was a countess in *The Big Broadcast of 1936* (1935). Critics did not appreciate either effort. But a fan reminded, "Lyda Roberti, one of Hollywood's best and funniest comediennes... shines above the poor material and [with] her zany style..." Lyda Roberti was featured in a comedy short, *At Sea Ashore* (1936), in which she is an immigrant arriving in the United States.

Lyda Robert's health was always a concern. As a child she performed extensively throughout Europe and Asia on the trapeze. It was reported her father was abusive. She was suffering from a congenital heart condition and had several heart attacks. Although she was reducing

her workload significantly in the mid-1930s she passed away, only 31 years old, on March 12, 1938 of a fatal heart attack.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION, the introduction of "talkies," and The Motion Picture Production Code (1930) significantly altered the performances of the screen stars of the silent film generation. That "Femme Fatale" legendary vamp Pola Negri would now have to conform to a code that would alter her interpretations of scenes that involve adultery, passion ("to not stimulate the lower or baser element"), seduction ("never be more than suggested"). Gilda Gray's dances ("which emphasize indecent movements are to be regarded as obscene," dancing costumes ("which permit undue exposure or indecent movements in the dance are forbidden"). Produc-



Gilda Gray, who is credited with naming the dance the "shimmy," in London in 1928. The Motion Picture Production Code of 1930 put a stop to dances "which emphasize indecent movements" and "are to be regarded as obscene."

ers became extremely reluctant to challenge the code as was evident in the number of films released featuring the provocative film damsels before and after 1930: Pola Negri appeared in 58 films before 1930, 11 films after 1930; Clara Bow, the "It Girl," was in 51 films before 1930 and in four films after 1930, and Gloria Swanson was in 66 films before 1930 and 11 films after 1930. Gilda's Gray's "shimmy," the dancing movement that was a screen and dancehall favorite, gave way to slower less seductive gyrations. And Lyda Roberti's Polish accent, which audiences, initially, found charming and entertaining, proved to be a self-inflicted stumbling block, said Roberti, "Many times they tell me to learn English. But I don't want to. I don't want to. I think better it eez to stay as I am."

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*Happy Easter to All Our Family,
Friends, and PAJ Subscribers*
RALPH & WANDA KLIMS

Dr. Dudek: "We will get through this."

continued from cover

went back to her apartment after picking up groceries to rest and video phone her mom, Edyta Dudek, Treasurer of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM), at its library in Minneapolis.

"It's very stressful," Olivia said. "Two of my colleagues have gotten sick."

Olivia's expectation was that her employer, which operates hospitals that first served soldiers wounded in battle during World War I, would soon begin housing doctors in hotels near the hospital as COVID-19 patient volume continues to grow.

Grappling with a global pandemic was not the career path that Olivia had in mind when she graduated medical school at Jagiellonian University in Krakow last May. The Dudeks are originally from Harrisburg, Pa., and moved to Minnesota when Olivia was three and her father, an oncologist, had earned a medical fellowship at the University of Minnesota.

Edyta and her husband, Dr. Arez Z. Dudek, an accomplished researcher in lung cancer, melanoma and kidney cancer at The Health Partners Institute in Minnesota, are proud of her daughter. Mom, a computer science teacher at University of Minnesota, knows the odds that the disease will result in severe illness for a healthy young adult are relatively low.

Still she asks her daughter: "Did you get the gloves I sent you?"

While mindful of the substantial risks, Olivia is thankful to now be in a position where she is making a difference at an important time.

"I am really grateful that I can help," she said. "Here I can actually practice the skills I have learned and use my knowledge for good. I am happy to get to be a part of history."

While not hit as hard as Italy or Spain, the United Kingdom's COVID-19 recovery rate as of mid-March had been low compared to elsewhere in Europe. Olivia's peers in Poland tell her that people there have been more cooperative in obeying government advisories on social distance and public gatherings, and this helped manage a smaller caseload.



MY DAUGHTER, THE DOCTOR: Edyta Dudek in Minneapolis talks with Olivia Dudek in London.

"In talking with my Polish doctor friends, it seems that Poland is in a better circumstances," she explained.

In the U.K., the disease has bought out the best and worst in people. Most neighbors and acquaintances are quite supportive and appreciate Olivia's courage. Then again, it is just as hard to find toilet paper in stores as it is in the United States, she says, while it has been reported in the U.K. that urban muggers are targeting health care workers just to get their IDs.

Some of the challenges that U.K. doctors are still trying to understand is why some coronavirus patients also have diarrhea, and why patients' lymphocyte count (a subtype of white blood cell that the body normally produces as an immune response) is low. In most viral infections, lymphocyte count is high as the body fights off the invader.

"We are all baffled," Olivia says. The coronavirus hits older people and those with preexisting conditions hardest, although exceptions have been reported.

Olivia adds "Most people will develop mild symptoms (of COVID-19) and be totally fine."

If you do get a mild form of the disease, she says:

- Drink plenty of fluids, especially water
- Make sure you eat well and rest – lots of rest is really important
- Avoid going to the emergency room unless you are very seriously ill

A visit to a hospital, especially one where capacity might be stressed or sitting in an overcrowded waiting area, may increase one's exposure to the coronavirus while taxing the resources of health care professionals who may have to triage the situation among patients.

"I know that may seem like such a contrary thing to say, but it will be better for most to rest at home" Olivia says.

The medical community in the U.K. is currently expecting the coronavirus crisis will peak in three to four months but Olivia adds "it's really very difficult to tell because we've never dealt with anything like this."

"We will get through this" she adds.

Documentary on Poles in India Presented

NEW YORK — On Feb. 27, The Indian Consulate General in New York presented the screening of a documentary about a Polish woman who made a home for World War II Polish refugees in India. The audience included diplomats and representatives from Pilsudski Institute of America, and members of the Indian American and Polish American communities.

"My Home India," directed by Anjali Bhushan connects Poland to India during World War II, and how a population from Poland managed to find its way to India and made India its new home.

Jadwiga: "... a sign ... that she can be a patron for our modern times."

continued from cover

the relics of St. Jadwiga of Silesia were placed 250 years ago.

The casket was accompanied by a lead tablet with an inscription confirming that the relics are those of the 13th-century saint.

The find came as a shock because there were previously no historical records of exactly where her bones were located, although it was assumed they were somewhere in the church, where she was laid to rest in 1243.

Father Piotr Filas from the abbey in Trzebnica said: "We knew that the saint's bones were somewhere in the vicinity as they were laid there in 1679 when her tomb was built."

However, he added that the inscription panel that was laid on top of the casket bore the date 1764.

"Based on this, we believe that nobody has taken a look at the bones since that date," he said.

SAINT JADWIGA was originally from Bavaria. She was born in 1178 and at the age of 12 married one of Silesia's early Polish Piast rulers, Henry I the Bearded, Duke of Wrocław, and the mother of another important Silesian duke Henry the Pious.

After the death of Henry in 1238, she settled permanently in the monastery in Trzebnica, where her daughter Gertruda was a princess.

She threw herself into the development of religious life in Silesia, bringing clergy from Germany.



Conservators discovered a silver casket, in which the relics of St. Jadwiga of Silesia were placed 250 years ago.

Jadwiga was an extremely pious person during her life. She loved the sick and looked after them. She became famous for founding churches and monasteries. She dedicated her life to helping those in need.

According to legend, Jadwiga, in order not to stand out from the rest of her people and as a sign of humility and modesty, went barefoot.

This irritated her husband intensely. He therefore persuaded her confessor to order her to wear shoes.

Jadwiga agreed to wear the shoes out of obedience to her confessor. However, she wore them on a string around her neck.

According to Father Piotr, the discovery of the relics during the global pandemic is auspicious.

"I think it is a sign for us that she can be a patron for our modern times," the cleric said.

Jadwiga became a saint on March 26, 1267 when Pope Clement VI performed her canonization. From that time, she has been one of Poland's patron saints.

There are several ideas as to their fate of the casket and its contents. After being examined, the coffin will either be placed in the same place in sarcophagus, or the bones themselves will be put on display in the church, so the faithful can pray at her remains.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Polish Heritage Center USA at Panna Maria, which honors the first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in America and all the nearby communities and parishes it spawned, seeks an Executive Director. The Director reports to a 12-member Board of Directors.

Requirements: A creative and dynamic team player with an inclusive leadership style who holds a degree in History, Museum Science, Business Administration, non-profit or Public Administration or other relevant discipline; progressively responsible senior leadership experience in financial and human resources management responsibilities in a museum, educational institution, for-profit corporation, or non-profit entity. A proven track record managing strategic and operational planning, budget creation and management, community relations, and a successful record of raising funds from diverse sources. Exceptional verbal and written communication skills, and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office Suite products in a Windows environment. The ideal candidate will be of full or partial Polish heritage and have a passion for Polish heritage and history, and possess a track record that demonstrates success in increasing revenue, membership or other key metrics for an established business or museum. Polish language skills would be beneficial.

Interested applicants should contact Mr. Aloys Notzon, Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, at 210-846-1717 or alnotzon@grandecom.net for more information, or view website at <https://polishheritagecentertx.org>.

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Hamtramck Polonia Landmark May Close



A Hamtramck landmark, Polonia Restaurant may close if a new owner is not found. Current proprietor Janusz Zurowski has decided to retire.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Historically, Hamtramck — a small independent city within the city limits of Detroit — was filled with many Polish restaurants and bakeries. Slowly they have been disappearing and now, the Polonia Restaurant on Yemens Street is up for sale because its owner, Janusz Zurowski, has decided to retire.

The building first opened as a restaurant in 1934 under the name, Co-Op Restaurant. The name changed to Polonia Restaurant in 1972. But in 1986, Zurowski, a Polish immigrant, bought and remodeled it, and it became one of Michigan's premier Polish restaurants. Zurowski doesn't want the restaurant to close, and he is even willing

to stay on for a year or so to help the new owner transition into operating a true Polish restaurant. He has said that he will even share his recipes for traditional Polish dishes and would love to have the restaurant be part of Hamtramck's culinary and cultural heritage.

Back in 2009, the Polonia Restaurant was featured on the late chef Anthony Bourdain's *No Reservations* food and travel show and was in a segment of the "Rust Belt" episode.

Zurowski hopes that the purchaser will continue to operate the restaurant and to use its original Polish recipes. He has even offered to include all the restaurant equipment, the liquor license, and the restaurant's van. The restaurant is being listed at \$450,000.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Polonian Institute Offering \$5K Scholarship

TORRANCE, Calif. — The Polonia Institute, Inc. announced its 2020 Historical Essay Scholarship Competition, "Denial of Justice to the Victims of Katyn and Their Descendants: Causes, Consequences, Remedies."

To this day, the Katyn Massacre remains the greatest unpunished crime of World War II. On the 80th anniversary of the mass extermination of Polish nationals by the Soviet Union in Katyn and other locations throughout the Soviet controlled territories, and mass deportations of their families, Polonia Institute encourages the study of events leading up to the denial of justice to the victims of Katyn, the causes and consequences of such denial, and possible remedies.

Applicants for the scholarship must address the significance and consequences of the denial of justice to the victims of Katyn, their descendants, and the international community, and include (among

other requirements): the April 1943 discovery of mass graves in Katyn and investigation by International Red Cross; 1943 investigation by NKVD; and the British and American cover-up.

The essay shall reflect contestant's own research and original thinking.

The 2020 Historical Essay Scholarship competition is open to adults who are 18 years of age as of August 1, 2020. Proof of age is required. A copy of a valid document showing a date of birth is acceptable.

Deadline is Aug. 1, 2020 (post-mark date). First prize is \$5,000. Additional monetary awards will be offered. Additional essays may be considered for recognition and publication.

The application form and additional information can be found at: www.polonaiainstitute.net; email: info@polonaiainstitute.net; telephone (310) 536-9591.

Rochester's St. Stanislaus Kostka

by Gregory L. Witul

*St. Stanislaus Kostka
Roman Catholic Church
1124 Hudson Avenue
Rochester, New York
Status: Open*

Rochester, New York truly is a culinary wonderland. The Flower City is both the birthplace of the Garbage Plate, a mix of fries, macaroni salad, cheeseburgers, and white hot dogs, topped off with mustard and meat sauce, as well as the home of the Genesee Brewing Company, a nearly century-and-a-half old business, whose lineup includes a Cream Ale, a Spring Bock, and their famous 12 Horse Ale. If you are in the hunt for some Polish delicacies in Ra-cha-cha, the best place to find them is during the Polish Fest held every summer at St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church.

As was the case elsewhere, Poles began moving into Rochester *en masse* at the end of the 1870s and the start of the

1880s. This predominantly Roman Catholic group settled in the northeastern section of the city where they attended the German St. Michael's parish. As their numbers grew, the Poles organized their own group at St. Michael's named the Society of St. Casimir. With the help of the parish priest, the Society petitioned Bishop McQuaid to allow Polish priests from Buffalo to hold Masses at St. Michael's in their native tongue. Soon priests from St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church in Buffalo, were assisting the burgeoning flock at St. Michael's.

With their first mission complete, the society took on a new role, raising money for a church. In April of 1888, the organization had enough funds in the treasury to purchase a lot at the corner of Joseph and Weaver Streets. On the last day of the month a meeting was held to settle on a name for their soon to be church. After vigorous debate they agreed on St. Stanislaus Kostka and the parish was incorporated that day.

By the end of the year t h e Weaver Street lo-

ration was deemed unsuitable, so the parish land was swapped for the current home of St. Stanislaus Church, the southeast corner of Hudson Avenue and Norton Street.

On August 3, 1890, the cornerstone of St. Stanislaus Kostka church was put into place, from which a small wooden church would rise. A few days later, seminarian Teofil Szadzinski arrived in Rochester to meet with his future flock. Ordained that autumn, Szadzinski was front and center at the dedication of the church on November 16, 1890.

Seven years after the completion of the church, a parish school, operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph, was opened on the property.

As the little wooden church approached its twentieth birthday, it became more and more apparent to both clergy and parishioners that a larger parish structure was needed. The architectural firm of Gordon and Madden was hired and soon construction was underway for a red brick, Romanesque revival church with a dominating center steeple. When the church was completed the windows were filled with stained glass and in 1924 artist Joseph Mazur was hired to decorate the interior.

Today St. Stanislaus Kostka is still going strong with the annual Polish Fest, a Sunday morning Polish Mass, and beautiful shrine dedicated of Our Lady and Pope John Paul II.



LONG ISLAND

Scholarships for Nassau and Suffolk County Students

by Barbara Szydowski

Applications for the **Polish American Museum Founders Scholarship** are now available upon request for the year 2020. The \$500 scholarship is offered to a graduating high school senior of Polish heritage attending public, private, or religious schools. The student must be a U.S. citizen, residing in Nassau or Suffolk County, entering college in the fall 2020.

This scholarship was established on the 30th anniversary of the museum in memory of its three founders. Additional information is available by calling (516) 883-6542.

Because of risks associated with the coronavirus outbreak, the **Polish American Mu-**

seum at 16 Bellevue Avenue, Port Washington cancelled the opening of its new exhibit scheduled for March 22. The "World War I Polish Army featuring General Josef Haller" will be held on a date to be determined. For additional information call (516) 883-6542. If you plan to visit the museum, please call to see if we are open. Please visit the museum's website at polishamericanmuseum.com for additional information.

Recently the **Polish American Cultural Association of Port Washington** held its annual election of officers and trustees for the year 2020. The newly-elected president is Tom Krupka and vice president is Lou Lindhart. Also elected were treasurer Ted Fabiszewski, recording secretary Anna Lindhart,

corresponding secretary Carol Martin, and sargent-at-arms Joe Nakelski, Jr. The trustees are now Chester Dlugoleki, Carol Fagan, and Kelsey Giambruno.

Also, the Association is offering a \$1000 Scholarship to a high school senior of Polish descent. Applications are available on line or by calling (516) 883-5553.

The 17th annual **Kosciuszko Conference** and Kosciuszko Day Commemorations of the American Association of the Friends of Kosciuszko at West Point will be held on April 24. For additional information, visit www.kosciuszkoatwestpoint.org.

The **Pulaski Association of Business and Professional Men** of Brooklyn cancelled their "Man of the Year Dinner Dance," which

this year was to honor Richard Brzozowski. A date will be announced for the rescheduling.

EASTER FACTS. The festival of Easter derives its name from the pre-Christian goddess symbols of rebirth, fertility, and Spring: the Saxon *Eastre* ... The ancient symbols of hare and egg — both known as signs of the return of life after Winter's sleep — today carry the Christian association of the resurrection of Christ. When we exchange Easter eggs as gifts, we are passing along something which appears to be still and dead but, in fact, contains new life.

SPORTS

Pierzynski, Celski, Nagurski, Krukow To Enter Hall



Pierzynski

by Tom Tarapacki

World Series Champion catcher A.J. Pierzynski, three-time Olympic medalist speed skater J.R. Celski, NFL Hall of Famer Bronko Nagurski, and all-star pitcher Mike Krukow have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame for 2020.

A.J. Pierzynski launched a 19-year major league in 1998 with Minnesota. The catcher was part of the Twins' "Pole Patrol" along with Doug Mientkiewicz, Corey Koskie and coach Rick Stelmazek. The colorful competitor went on to play for the Giants, Rangers, Red Sox, Cardinals, White Sox and Braves. A two-time All-Star (2002, 2006), he was an integral part of the Chicago White Sox World Series championship in 2005, their first championship in 88 years. The durable catcher holds the American League record for consecutive errorless chances with 962. In 2012 he was awarded the Silver Slugger Award, given to the best offensive player at each position. One of only ten catchers in Major League history to reach 2,000 hits, Pierzynski batted .280 for his career, with 2,043 hits, 188 home runs and 909 RBI.

Like Red Sox great Carl Yastrzemski, AJ was born in Bridgehampton, N.Y. Pierzynski's grandfather played with Yaz's father on the Bridgehampton White Eagles, a team that used Yaz as a bat boy.

J.R. Celski was one of the top U.S. short track speed skaters of the last decade. He is a three-time Olympian (Vancouver, Sochi and PyeongChang) and three-time medalist in the Winter Olympics. In 2010 Celski took a spill on the track and a skate blade completely severed one of his quad muscles. Celski could see bone through the gash, and thought for a time he might die. It took 60 stitches to close the wound, but five months later "The Comeback Kid" competed in the Olympics. He won two Olympic medals in Vancouver, bronze in the 1500m and the 5000m relay. In 2014, he won Olympic silver in the 5000m relay. J.R. has also won 11



Celski

World Championship medals (including three golds), 26 World Cup medals, and set two world records including the 500 meters, in which he was the first person to break the 40-second barrier.

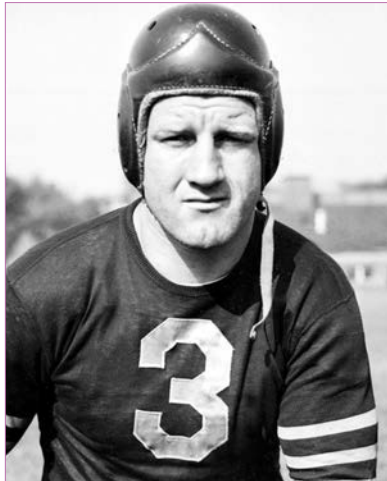
His dad, Robert, is of Polish descent and his mother, Sue, is of Filipino descent; JR has a tattoo on his chest depicting a Polish eagle inside of a five-pointed golden yellow star found on a Filipino flag.

Being inducted posthumously is Bronislaw "Bronko" Nagurski, widely considered the greatest football player of his era. He was born in Rainy River, Ontario, Canada to Polish and Ukrainian immigrants in 1908. His family moved to International Falls, Minnesota, when he was five years old.

He grew into a powerful young man standing 6' 2" and 226 pounds. The legend goes that he was discovered and signed by University of Minnesota head coach Clarence Spears, who drove to International Falls to meet another player. Driving by he saw Nagurski out plowing a field by himself — without a horse. When the coach pulled over and asked where he could find the other player, Bronko picked up the plow and used it to point out the direction.

Nagurski played defensive tackle for Minnesota in 1927 but the following season Spears, desperate for running backs, also played him at fullback. Bronko turned out to be an almost unstoppable runner, and became the only person ever to be named All-American at two positions in the same season. After his legendary career at Minnesota, he signed with the Chicago Bears, playing nine seasons at running back and linebacker (1930-1937, and 1943). Nagurski led the Bears to three NFL championships (1932, 1933 and 1943), and was named all-NFL five times. After retiring from football in 1943 he continued to wrestle professionally, a sport he started doing during the off season ten years earlier. Nagurski wrestled until 1960, when he was 51.

Nagurski was named to numerous Halls of fame, including the



Nagurski

inaugural class of the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951, and the inaugural class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1963. He was given a ring sized 19 1/2, the largest the ring manufacturer had ever made. He died on January 7, 1990 of cardiac arrest at the age of 81.

Mike Krukow enjoyed a 14-year major league pitching career after being selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 8th round of the 1973 MLB Draft. He pitched from 1976 to 1989 with the Cubs, Phillies and Giants. The "Polish Prince" finished his career with a 124-117 record, with 1,478 strikeouts, and an ERA of 3.90. His best season was 1986, when he posted a record of 20-9, with a 3.05 ERA. He finished third in the Cy Young voting that year, and was selected to the National League All-Star team. In 1987, Krukow helped lead the Giants to their first division championship in 16 years. He was also a good hitting pitcher, with five home runs to his credit.

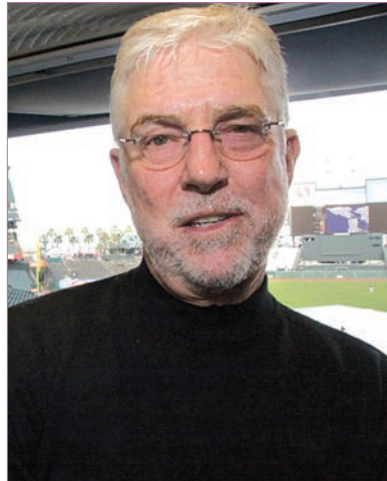
After his playing career, Krukow turned to broadcasting and in 1994 became the full-time broadcaster for the Giants. With his deep knowledge of the game and keen sense of humor, the 68-year-old is a big favorite with fans and also earned seven Emmy Awards.

"We're excited about having another large crowd at the banquet, but also about the fact that our many Polish cousins around the world will be able to live stream the event over the internet," said David Jansen, chairman of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. "We have a great class, and we're particularly happy that we're able to carry out the long-overdue induction of Bronko Nagurski." Over the years, there has been uncertainty regarding the football legend's ethnicity, but the family's genealogical research has confirmed his Polish roots. Jansen said that Bronko will be represented at the banquet by sons Tony and Kevin.

The 48th Annual Induction Banquet is scheduled for Thurs., June 18, 2020, at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 5:30 p.m., are \$140 and can be ordered by calling (313) 407-3300. Information on the Hall is available at www.polishsportshof.com.

FIRST DEFEAT FOR KOWNACKI.

Adam Kownacki's journey toward the heavyweight title hit a detour when he suffered a surprising loss to Robert Helenius. The 30-year-old Kownacki (20-1, 15 KOs) hopes Helenius (30-3, 19 KOs) gives him an immediate rematch, but the 36-year-old Finnish fighter isn't contractually obligated to do



Krukow

so.

Helenius knocked down the heavily favored Kownacki with a right-left combination 30 seconds into the fourth round of the bout at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, which was also carried live on FOX TV. The Polish-born Kownacki got back to his feet by the time referee's count reached four, but Helenius unloaded more than 30 punches on a mostly defenseless Kownacki, who was stopped while still standing at 1:08 of the fourth round.

"I want to be the best," Kownacki told reporters after his loss. "That's my goal, to prove I'm the best fighter. But we have great fighters, like Lennox Lewis, who came back. A lot of great fighters lost and came back, so I'm about to do the same."

JOANNA LOOKS TO COME BACK.

Joanna Jedrzejczyk narrowly lost to UFC strawweight champion Zhang Weili at UFC 248 in a split-decision, but she plans a comeback after undergoing surgery in her native Poland.

Joanna suffered a massive hematoma on her head, leaving her with some serious swelling on her face. She said that much of the swelling subsided and that she "scheduled surgery in Poland with the best plastic surgeon, so it's all good." The former strawweight champion wants another shot at recapturing her title. "Let's rock and roll again. Let's dance again, fight for the belt."

LEWANDOWSKI SUFFERS INJURY.

Polish international star Robert Lewandowski broke the tibia in his left knee joint during a 3-0 win over Chelsea by his Bundesliga team, Bayern Munich. The striker, who scored 39 goals in 33 games in all competitions, was the leading scorer in the league at the time with 25 goals.

Lewandowski was expected to fully recover and return to Bayern this season. The injury is also not expected to affect his ability to play for Poland in the 2020 UEFA European Football Championship, commonly referred to as Euro 2020. The tournament is scheduled to begin on June 12, but it could be postponed due to concerns about coronavirus. Poland's first match is to be on June 15 against a to-be-determined opponent in Dublin.

REMEMBER THE NAME.

Last July Vito Mielnicki, a rangy, 5-foot-11 welterweight, became the youngest fighter ever to be a licensed pro in the state of New Jersey. In his pro debut at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, the 17-year-old knocked out Tamarus Smith in just 76 seconds. The Polish-Italian-American has since gone on to win

his next three fights.

Mielnicki, who will turn 18 on May 10, is a high school senior at West Essex High, in North Jersey. He was too young to qualify for the 2020 U.S. Olympic team, and he decided that waiting for the 2024 Games was too risky. Instead, he opted to launch a pro career.

Vito Jr. compiled a 147-22 amateur record and was a four-time Junior National Golden Gloves champion. His father, Vito Mielnicki, Sr., himself an outstanding football player and wrestler in high school, promotes his son as CEO of GH3 Promotions.



Gortat

GORTAT RETIRES. Polish-born big man Marcin Gortat officially retired from the NBA following a very productive 12-year career. He was drafted in the second round by the Phoenix Suns in 2005, and played for Orlando, Phoenix, Washington, and the Los Angeles Clippers, averaging 9.9 points and 7.9 rebounds.

A very active 6-11 center, he was known for something that didn't show up on the stat sheet: "The Gortat." That was when Marcin moved his body into a defender as if he were positioning for a rebound, but was really allowing a driving teammate to have a clear path to the basket.

"The Polish Hammer" probably had his best years with Washington, and the *Washington Post* once said that "Gortat has established himself as a Wizards fan favorite, a productive NBA center with a gregarious personality and a \$60 million contract."

The son of a two-time Olympic boxing medalist who went on to become a captain in the Polish army, Marcin started "Respect for Polish Soldiers," an initiative to support military families and help change public perception of soldiers in Poland. He also runs the MG13 Foundation in Poland that employs nearly a dozen people and supports four schools that develop young athletes.

He has constantly promoted Polish culture in every NBA city in which he has played. Marcin ran a spectacular annual "Polish Heritage Night" at various NBA arenas, but also sponsored various other activities promoting Polish culture. "It's a huge responsibility," he said. "I'm like an ambassador of my country showing the culture and the history of my country to the American people."

With his last NBA team, the LA Clippers, Gortat impressed everyone with his hands-on approach to Polish Heritage Night. "Everybody has pride in their country," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "I'm not sure if anyone has more pride than [Marcin], and I'm very serious."

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Poles Praised for Timely anti-Coronavirus Measures

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW— Poland's first Coronavirus case was officially confirmed on March 4th, but within 10 days that figure had grown to over 100 including three related fatalities. Within a few days, the infection level had exceeded 150 and appeared likely to continue growing. But that data was still relatively modest compared to other European countries.

When Poland had just topped the 100-case mark, Europe's coronavirus front-runner Italy had chalked up nearly 24,000 cases and second-ranked Spain was treating over 7,700 patients. Their governments had been slow to introduce emergency measures and their easy-going people initially adhered to them with reluctance. Schools kept operating in Britain, and spectator-attended soccer games took place in Germany long after Poland had restricted such activities.

In an attempt to minimize the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, the Polish government in due time had banned public events and ordered the closure of schools, museums, cinemas, clubs, libraries, bars and restaurants. The latter were only allowed to provide take-aways and home delivery.

Shopping centers were also closed, and only food stores, pharmacies, laundries and banks were permitted to operate. Following an emergency meeting of European Union government chiefs, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki indicated that Poland's swift reaction to the crisis had evoked the interest and respect of other countries.

As the pandemic spread, Poland declared an epidemic emergency and closed its borders to non-citizens. LOT Airline provided special, cut-rate charter flights to bring home Poles stranded abroad. When they arrived, they were immediately placed under two-week quarantine. Tiny Denmark also ordered a border lockdown at the same time but waited until over 800 cases had accumulated, Poland already acted when it still had only 86 infected patients.

In view of the huge financial setback caused by the shutdown, President Andrzej Duda announced special government subsidies for businessmen to help defray their losses. Debtors were given the opportunity to defer credit repayment.

Nobody knows when the pandemic will peak, begin leveling off and eventually go into decline, but one thing is certain. The 2020 coronavirus crisis is expected to have dire, far-reaching consequences for the economy, political scene and many other areas of human endeavor worldwide. As this issue of our paper was going to the printers, Poland had registered 1,031 cases of coronavirus infection including 14 related deaths.

Poland to get \$51 billion stimulus package to cushion coronavirus impact

After initially stalling, the European Union has announced a stimulus package for Poland in excess of \$51 billion to cushion the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The decision was announced by Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki who said the package was intended to protect the labor market and assist the business community by providing wages to employees unable to work due to the national lockdown. It would also provide loan guarantees, debt-repayment holidays and deferment of social-security contributions. Also Included are funds to bolster the country's healthcare system which is now under great strain. The Polish Banking Association said its member banks would defer debt-repayment for three months, and President Andrzej Duda hopes they will extend it to half a year. Amid the growing pandemic, Italy had turned to the EU for aid but was initially told that healthcare was the responsibility of member nations, not the EU. That triggered a wave of harsh attacks against Brussels, forcing the EU to come up with its stimulus package.

Individualistic Poles highly disciplined amid pandemic

The current coronations pandemic has reaffirmed the widespread belief that normally individualistic Poles, known to have a mind of their own, can come together and become highly disciplined when confronted with a major threat. Unlike Italy, where over 25,000 were fined for leaving their quarantined homes, an overwhelming majority of Poles are closely adhering to the restrictions ordered by their government to curb the spread of the deadly disease. Poland's militant leftist-liberal opposition continues to criticize the government over specific issues, but it is not the all-out mud-slinging that has been par for the course since the conservative government came to power in 2015. Although a few abstained, not a single opposition lawmaker voted against the government's stiff anti-virus program, and all opposition parties attended and contributed to a coronavirus summit called by President Andrzej Duda.

Polish Health Minister fears major upturn in Poland's coronavirus cases

Poland's Health Minister Łukasz Szumowski fears a major increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) infections shortly, saying that that is how the disease has developed in other countries. Speaking on national television when the country's infection rate had exceeded 150, he said he expected a four-digit figure very soon.

"The increase may come in larger or smaller waves. I hope the measures we have taken will at least partially curb the dynamics of the contagion and we will not replicate the Italian model," Szumowski said. His major advice to the Polish people was: "Stay at home!"

Scientists believe coronavirus cure may be in sight

Professor Maciej Drąg, who heads a research team at Poland's Wrocław Technological University, believes that the retrovirus code has been cracked and a cure may be in sight. Working with colleagues from Germany's Lubeck University, the researchers say they have found an enzyme inhibitor which could destroy the virus. "The enzyme itself was previously known, but there were millions of combinations of 'keys,'" Drąg, a chemistry professor, said. Metaphorically calling the enzyme a "lock," he explained: "We have found the one 'key' that matches this enzyme."

The results are still under review, but the researchers have not patented their discovery to make it available free of charge to scientists worldwide.

No plans to postpone May 10 presidential election - Prime Minister

"Currently there are no plans to postpone the presidential election set for May 10th because of the coronavirus epidemic," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told a mid-March press conference.

He noted that local elections went ahead in France when the country had 5,400 infected patients. But Poland's opposition was quick to point out that the conclusive second round of France's council elections did get postponed due to the virus scare that caused a low turnout in the first round.

In a poll conducted the last full week of March, over 75% of Poles said they wanted the election postponed.

Prosecutor goes after scammers preying on fears

As has often been the case, wars, plagues and other crises have given rise to unscrupulous individuals preying on people's fears. Such swindlers have also crawled out of the woodwork during Poland's current COVID-19 challenge. In big-city apartment buildings they go from flat to flat offering herbs, teas and preparations that allegedly prevent or cure the disease. Others advertise online. Also offered are disinfection liquid, protective mats, amulets and other gadgets with purportedly "medicinal" if not "miraculous" properties. Poland's tough Prosecutor-General Zbigniew Ziobro, popularly called "the sheriff," has set up a special task force to crack down on the scammers.

"Visible Hand" groups help needy during crisis

Crises not only activate those who preying on human fears for personal gain but also inspire others to help those in need. During the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, a group of Polish volunteers calling themselves "The Visible Hand" has emerged to help those unable to cope on their own. They do the shopping, volunteers go shopping, help around the house and walk dogs for the house-bound elderly and people afflicted with various health issues. Polish Television has publicized such grass-roots humanitarians, urging viewers to check on someone living alone or an elderly couple next door and see if they need anything. Medical students who volunteer are given a crash course and provide backup to over-taxed doctors and other healthcare workers. "Hospitals are very appreciative, because these are tough times for them," said Jakub Pawlik, a student coordinator at the medical university of Szczecin.

Polish government minister succumbs to coronavirus

Poland's Environment Minister Michał Woś has revealed that he had come down with the coronavirus. He said that following contacts with a state forest official who had tested positive, he quarantined himself and got tested.

"The test came out positive," Woś said in a Twitter post. "He added that he was "feeling well, expressed solidarity with all the sick people and thanked Poland's healthcare professionals for their dedication during the crisis."

Poland sidesteps virus restrictions online

When Italy, which leads Europe in coronavirus cases and deaths, let out school classes, students felt they were on vacation, started partying and meeting up at cafés and other youth hangouts. Profiting from that negative example, before all Polish schools were shut down, teachers gave their pupils assignments to work on at home and conducted lessons online. Wherever possible, the employees of many corporations and other businesses are also working from home. Though theaters, museums and art galleries were closed as part of a national clampdown on the pandemic, some are now providing virtual visits and tours.

Lawfirm Welcomes Karolina A. Dehnhard



WESTFIELD, N.J. — The law firm of Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C., announced that **Karolina A. Dehnhard** has joined the firm as a partner in its Divorce & Family Law practice and has been named the managing director of the International Law Group.

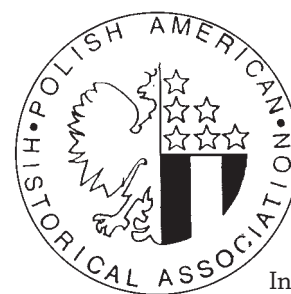
Dehnhard, a native of Poland, is bilingual and the founder and current president of the Polish-American Chamber of Commerce North-East, an organization that focuses on collaboration between Polish and American business networks with an eye toward international development.

Dehnhard's global focus is consistent with Lindabury's long history of providing counsel to American businesses expanding into new markets abroad. She has been included in *New Jersey Law Journal's* 2018 list of "Top Women in Law" and was named one of the "Top 25 Leading Intrapreneurs in New Jersey" in 2016 by *Leading Women Entrepreneurs*. She has been recognized by the Trade and Investment Section of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland for her influence and leadership in integrating women-owned businesses in both Poland and the United States.

Dehnhard is a published author, radio show host and commentator on various legal issues on both U.S. and Polish television. Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C., is a general practice law firm, located in Central New Jersey.

REMINDER

May and June Editions to be Combined. Next month, subscribers will receive a combined May and June edition of the *Polish American Journal*. This replaces the June edition. Copy deadline is April 10.



Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

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

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

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POLISH CHEF

Lenten and Easter Fare

by Robert Strybel

Because of Covid-19 and supply delivery problems, this year's Easter Świąconka and dinner may be a little different from the standard one enjoyed by generations of Polish Americans.

As such, here are a few Polish Lenten favorites that can be enjoyed before and on Easter if traditional foods are not available.

POTATO PANCAKES (placki kartoflane): Grate 2-1/4 lbs peeled potatoes (by hand or in food processor), transfer to sieve and let drip into bowl. Allow drippings to settle, pour off liquid from top and add the white sediment (starch) to the grated potatoes. Add 1-2 grated onion, about 2 T flour, 2 eggs and salt & pepper. Mix well and spoon batter into hot fat. With spatula flatten pancakes slightly, since thin ones cook better. Fry to a nice crispy, golden brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve immediately sweet or savory (just salted a little).

CRÊPES (naleśniki): In bowl combine 1 scant c milk with 2 beaten eggs and 1/8 t salt and whisk until smooth. Gradually add 1/4 c flour, sifted, whisking constantly until lump-free and air blisters appear on surface. Whisk in about 1 c water – or just enough to get a thin, pourable batter. Lightly grease frying pan with crumpled-up paper towel dipped in oil. (Note: Special non-stick crêpe pans are available!) Pour in a little batter, tilt frying pan to coat entire surface and fry on fair-

ly high heat. Flip crêpe over and cook briefly on other side. Stack fried naleśniki on inverted dinner plate. Re-grease pan before adding more batter. Fillings include savory cheese (farmer cheese mashed with sour cream), sweet cheese (farmer cheese mixed with sugar and raw egg yolk), jam or preserves of choice (imported Polish powidła [plum butter] is excellent). Provide sour cream.

RAISED PANCAKES (racuchy): Beat 2 c sour milk or buttermilk with 2 eggs. Beat in 2 c + 2 T flour until smooth. Stir in 1 t baking powder and 1 t baking soda. (Optional: Add 1/2 t liquid vanilla extract to batter if desired.) Spoon batter into 1/4" deep hot oil, fry roughly 3" pancakes to a nice golden-brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve hot, dusted with confectioner's sugar or topped with preserves, jam, plum butter, syrup or canned pie filling of choice.

PIEROGI DOUGH (ciasto na pierogi): Combine 2 c flour, 1 c dairy sour cream, 1 small egg and 1/2 t salt. Work ingredients together to form a smooth dough and knead briefly. Roll out 1/3 of the dough lightly floured board, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of filling (see below) just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. Cook in boiling lightly salted water. When they float up, cook a while longer. Test one for doneness.

CHEESE & POTATO PIEROGI FILLING (ruskie pierogi [z serem i kartoflami]): Cook 1 lb peeled potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain, mash and set aside to cool. To potatoes add 1/2 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, mashed with potato-masher or processed to a ground-like consistency in processor, 2 finely chopped onions sautéed in 2 T oil or butter until tender and lightly browned. Mix ingredients well and season with salt & pepper. As toppings, provide sour cream (or plain low-fat yogurt for dieters) or chopped onions fried in oil.

CHEESE PIEROGI FILLING (pierogi z serem): Combine 3/4 lb farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, pulverized to a powder in food-processor, 1/4 t salt, 1 t sugar, 2 t lemon juice and 1 raw egg yolk into a smooth filling. The cooked pierogi may be served with melted butter, confectioner's sugar or, sour cream.

POTATO & ONION PIEROGI FILLING (pierogi z kartoflami): Cook 6-7 med potatoes until tender, drain well, steaming off moisture, and mash thoroughly are put through ricer. Simmer 2-3 fine chopped onions in oil until nicely browned and tender-combine with cooked potatoes. Salt & pepper to taste and allow to cool before stuffing pierogi.

HARD-COOKED EGGS (jaja na twardo): Place as many room-temp eggs as needed (allowing 1-2 per person) in pot and fill with cold water to cover by at least 1". Add a T or so salt. Remove and discard any egg

Świąconka Foods

Churches may not be blessing Easter baskets this year, but that is no reason to not practice this ancient tradition at home. If you have access to these foods, either by delivery or on-line ordering, here is a list of the blessed foods and their symbolic meanings.



- **Egg (pisanka).** Symbol of life and rebirth.
- **Sausage (kielbasa),** ham and/or smoked bacon. All types of pork were forbidden under the dietary code of the Old Testament (Leviticus 11.7). The coming of Christ was seen as exceeding the old law and the dietary items now became acceptable (Mark 7.19).
- **Paschal lamb.** It can be made of butter, cake or even plaster. It is the centerpiece of the meal. Christ is seen as the "Lamb of God."
- **Horseradish/pepper.** Symbolize the bitter herbs of the Passover and the Exodus.
- **Salt.** Joins bread in Polish tradition as a sign of hospitality.
- **Bread.** Christ has been called "the Bread of Life."
- **Vinegar.** Symbolizes the gall given to Christ at the crucifixion.
- **Wine.** Symbolizes the blood of sacrifice split by Christ at the crucifixion.

Traditions vary from family to family and have changed with each passing generation. Some allow children to place chocolate into the basket. A colorful ribbon and sometimes sprigs of greenery are attached, the linen cover is drawn over the top and it is ready to be taken to church or for the priests visit. The priest may also bless these items found in the Easter basket:

- **Cheese.** Shaped into a ball, it is a symbol of moderation Christians should have at all times.
- **Holy Water.** Holy water was used to bless the home, animals, fields and used in religious rituals throughout the year.
- **Candle.** This is changed yearly in the home on "the night before Easter" to signify the power of light over darkness.

which does not touch the bottom of water-filled pot. It is floats up, it is not very fresh. Bring water to boil and immediately reduce heat to a gentle simmer. Cook 10-12 min (depending on size of eggs). Cool im-

mediately in cold water. When cold, shell and serve whole or halved, drenched with sauce or plain with sauces, horseradish and ćwikła provided on the side.

THE PONDERING POLE

"Dzia" and other Beautiful Things

by Edward Poniewaz

When your two-year old grandson reaches out his hand and says, "come here *dziadzia*," even in a garbled baby way, well, that makes it all worth it. Sometimes he just says, "dzia" and that works too. For two-year old Frankie and all of my grandkids, I will always be *dziadzia* to them and I hope they always call me *dziadzia*. My hope is that you Polish guys out there too become a *dziadzia* someday. Or even just *dzia*. It truly is a beautiful thing.

Speaking of beautiful things, I was surprised to find an article in Wikipedia on the "Polish Cathedral Architectural Style" in the United States, something I would not consider as a subject unto itself or even as a category of study, type, or, as in this case, style. There are a lot of beautiful and large immigrant churches in the United States and many can be thought of as cathedral-like but I am thrilled by the concept and uniqueness of this one about us.

Wiki defines the Polish Cathedral style as a "North American genre of Catholic church architecture found throughout the Great Lakes and Middle Atlantic regions as well as in parts of New England." Though not technically cathedrals with seats for the bishop in the diocese, for most Poles, the idea is that they functioned as their own "seat" or at the least a center of national and spiritual prominence in the city, the town, or the neighborhood in

which they lived.

The main characteristics of the Polish Cathedral are a grand stature and that they have "large amounts of ornamentation in the exterior and interior." The structural form has been described as Eclecticism which incorporates a number of different forms such as Renaissance, Romanesque revival, Baroque, and neo-classical. Those I have seen have exteriors which tend to have a Greco-Roman façade, in the shape of a Greek cross with Roman arched windows and one or more large towers on each side. There are one or more domes inside, a cruciform layout (in the shape of a cross), and stained-glass windows throughout.

The Wiki article lists many of these Polish Cathedrals throughout the United States and I would encourage you to see the list and even visit as many as possible. If visiting Saint Louis, Missouri, be sure to see Saint Stanislaus Kostka, which I would say is a perfectly designed church in the cathedral style. Also, even in smaller communities and pockets of Polish inhabitation, there is a good chance that a Polish Cathedral will be there.

That is the case in Pulaski, Wisconsin, where there is Assumption BVM Church, a beautiful and very large church for a community of around 3,000 inhabitants. In DuBois, Illinois, seventy miles east of Saint Louis, there is Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, patterned after Saint Stanislaus in Saint Louis, and while not as big,

it is still very large "cathedral" for a town of around 250 people. Saint Charles can be seen from miles away.

A criticism of the ostentatious nature of the churches is that they were an overblown attempt of the poor immigrant Poles to project a false sense of higher social and cultural status. I would counter that assertion by saying these churches accurately represents the historical and ancestral self-respect and self-confidence of the Poles in a way that is no different for instance, than the immense German Gothic churches that dot the skyline in many of the large urban centers in the United States.

I never thought of the Polish Cathedrals as a singular idea but they are another example of the legacy of the Polish immigrant experience in this country and we should cherish them and do everything we can to save every one of them.

POLISH OR NOT? The television sitcom *The Office* should be renamed *The Polish-American Office*. Steve Carrell who plays Michael on the show is Polish on his mom's side. John Krasinski who played Jim, is Polish on his father's side. Now we find that **Amy Ryan**, who played Holly Flax in *The Office* and according to ethnicelebs.com was born Amy Beth Dziejwontkowski. Her grandfather was named Teofil "Theodore" Dziejwontowski.

The name **Danielle Demski** appeared on the Yahoo ticker recently.

Her Wikipedia line is that she is a "television presenter and beauty queen from Chandler, Arizona, who has competed in the Miss Teen USA and Miss USA pageants." In fact, she is one of only seventeen contestants to have placed in both events.

Danielle is not just a pretty face though. Her attributes include a "witty personality," writing and producing, and "comfort in front of the camera." The daughter of a professional athlete and a former Arizona Cardinals cheerleader, she has found much of her employment in the sports world but she has also done commercials for Toyota, co-hosted with Nick Cannon and Wayne Grady, was a correspondent on "AXS Live," and hosted a preview of James Cameron's "Last Mysteries of the Titanic" on the Discovery Channel. One of her specialties is her inside knowledge about how Las Vegas lives and breathes.

Danielle is widely known as a Vegas expert. This led her to host the long running, syndicated "Vegas Minute," where she covered the most exclusive Sin City locations and entertainment news. In addition, she's appeared as a Vegas expert on the Travel Channel.

This is a woman who is fully engaged, check out her website (www.danielledemski.com), and let me know, Danielle Demski, Polish or not?

Robert Kadlec has been tapped by Health and Human Services

Secretary Alex Azar to coordinate the "department's coronavirus response." He is a physician, a career officer in the United States Air Force, and was nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2017 to become assistant secretary of Health and Human Services in the Preparedness and Response division.

Kadlec said in March 2018 that his office is taking on several efforts to protect the U.S. from "21st century health security threats." These threats could include the deployment of bio-weapons (such as infectious diseases, bacteria, viruses, or toxins) or the release of chemical weapons (such as chlorine gas or mustard gas).

Kadlec is a Polish name but is Dr. Robert "I'm glad he is in charge" Kadlec, Polish, or not?

Wesolego Alleluja and God bless you this Easter. If the pandemic circumstances change, try to visit a Polish cathedral in your city for the sunrise Resurrection Mass.

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

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

IN MEMORIAM

Bozenna (Urbanowicz) Gilbride, Polish Holocaust Survivor, Author, and Lecturer



Bozenna (Urbanowicz) Gilbride, a Holocaust survivor and author who was a driving force in telling the world of the suffering experienced by Polish Catholics during the Holocaust, died March 7, 2020. She was 85.

Born in Wolyn, Poland in 1934, her family was deported to Germany in 1943 to be used as slave laborers. Her mother, Janina (Los) Urbanowicz, was arrested, and sent to Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp, and later to the Buchenwald and Flossenburg concentration camps. She arrived at Flossenburg during the forced evacuation of prisoners by the SS as U.S. forces approached. Of the 9,300 prisoners in the camp, it 7,000 died *en route* toward the Dachau concentration camp, either from exhaustion or starvation, or because SS guards shot them when they could no longer keep up the pace. Janina Urbanowicz survived, and her story became a main component of Bozenna's lectures and writings.

After the war, her family wanted to leave Poland, which was under the control of Moscow following the Yalta Conference. Her mother stayed behind to care for her relatives. Bozenna, her father Wiktor, and her siblings Czeslaw, Irene, and Krystyna moved to the United

States in 1947.

Bozenna attended St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish School in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, where she soon joined the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality. She graduated from Straubemuller Textile H.S. in New York City, where she majored in fashion design/draping and sewing. She worked several different jobs to help her father support the family.

In 1957 she married Richard V. Gilbride. Several months later, her mother was granted a Visa by the Polish Communist government to immigrate to the United States.

Bozenna Gilbride realized throughout the United States, people associated the Holocaust with the suffering enacted upon the Jews. Crimes against Poles were relatively known. In 1989, she began a personal campaign to educate people about Poles in the Holocaust. She traveled to schools, universities, and organizations — in United States and abroad — telling her own family history and that of the Polish survivors and victims.

In 1993, Gilbride spearheaded a drive to raise funds to place a monument to ZEGOTA (the Polish Underground organization that helped Polish Jews during World War II) at the old Warsaw ghetto site. The monument was erected in 1995. For her efforts, the Polish chapter of the Righteous Gentiles presented her with the Honorary Righteous Gentile medal. She received three medals from the Polish government for her dedication to the Polish people, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an award from Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, and numerous citations and certificates.

She was recognized by the New York State Board of Education Regents Dept. as an outstanding teacher on the Holocaust.

Gilbride donated oral history videos of Polish Catholic Holocaust survivors and many artifacts of

Catholic concentration camp victims to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She gave generously to Polish people in need, always anonymously. She served on the Board of Catholic League, Long Island Chapter, and was a member of the Polish American Museum in Port Washington, N.Y.; the Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish American Congress/Holocaust Documentation Committee, and was a former member of the National Polish American-Jewish American Council, American Polish Council, Polish Institute of Arts and Science, and Pilsudski Institute, where she donated copies of Holocaust testimonies by Polish Catholic Holocaust survivors.

Gilbride was the associate producer of the educational documentary film; "ZEGOTA, Council for Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland, 1942-1945." She was the co-author with Inge Auerbacher, of a book "Children of Terror" describing her ordeal as a Polish Catholic Holocaust survivor. In 2011 a Polish version as "Przerwane Dzieciństwo" ("Interrupted Childhood") was published in Poland. The book was also translated into German as "Verlorene Kindheit" ("Lost Childhood") published in early 2012. A documentary film was made by Rider University about her collaboration on the book. In 2017 she authored a second book "Waiting for Mama," about her mother who survived concentration camps in Germany and later imprisonment in communist-occupied Poland.

Gilbride and her family lived in Garden City, L.I. for thirty years and later in 1997 retired to Southampton, Long Island. She leaves behind husband Richard Gilbride, her four children, and grandchildren.

Services were held at Our Lady of Poland Church in Southampton, N.Y. She was interred at Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury, N.Y.

Mary Szymanski, Leader in Norfolk-Area Polonia

by Susan Smigielski Acker

Mary (Niczyszewski) Szymanski, 96, passed away in Norfolk, Virg., after a short illness.

Szymanski was a pivotal force in Norfolk-area Polonia. She was charter member of the Polish-American Society of Tidewater that started in the late 1970s. She never missed a club dance staying mostly on the dance floor.

Szymanski was also charter member of Michas Polish Folk Dancers, performing with the group all over Tidewater, Virg., for many years.

Along with the late Dorothy Luckezwicz and the late Felicia Jaje Smigielski, Szymanski created the Polish Apostolate. They petitioned the Richmond, Virg., diocese bishop to have a mass celebrated in Polish in 1982 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chesapeake, Va. The church was originally founded by Polish immigrants, in the early 1900s.

The mass is still celebrated 10 times a year at St. Pius Catholic Church in Norfolk, where Szymanski was a staple. So much so that in her honor, the Apostolate women, donned in black dresses with red beads, sang Polish hymns at the fu-

neral and hosted the reception.

Those who attended the funeral remembered her laugh and her willingness to help others.

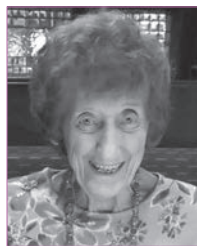
Polish Commander Tomasz Kepka, who is serving with the NATO Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, spoke at Szymanski's funeral, saying "we remember her cordial, open and ready for sacrifice behavior."

In addition, she volunteered with American Red Cross as a Polish speaking translator.

Along with her late husband Chester J. Szymanski, they sponsored a couple who left Poland after World War II.

Originally, from North Tonawanda, N.Y., she moved to Norfolk as a World War II-era Navy wife. Following her husband's military retirement, they remained in the area with their four children. Her son preceded her in death.

Szymanski is survived by her three daughters, sons-in-law and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Edward J. Nowak, U.S. Army Veteran, Musician

Edward J. Nowak, age 98, of Chicago, was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, who served in Africa and Italy.

The youngest son of the late Vincent and late Veronica Nowak, Edward was the devoted husband of 73 years to Alice (Krason). The couple had four children, six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Nowak retired after 43 years from Western Electric plant located in Cicero, Ill. He was one of Chicago's most respected polka musicians, and was known for his proficiency on the Chemnitz concertina. Nowak was extremely proud of his Polish heritage and his love of the United States, something he shared with his family and friends.

Reverend Carl A. Urban

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. — Rev. Carl A. Urban was called to eternal life on March 14, 2020, at the Teresian House, with his family by his side. Due to the safety and concern for those who wish to pay their last respects to Fr. Urban, the family will hold services at a later date with the obituary to follow. Condolences at deleggefunealhome.com.

Polish American Historical Association Initiates World War II Diaspora Memoirs Project

Send Family Memoirs and Letters to Polish Heritage Collection in Connecticut

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — With the outbreak of World War II on September 1, 1939, the Polish nation faced an overwhelming experience of displacement and dislocation. As a consequence, close to six million Poles found themselves outside Poland's new borders; at the end of the war, nearly 500,000 Poles remained in exile, scattered over many countries on all continents. About 140,000 Polish immigrants — political exiles, civilian refugees, displaced persons, former soldiers, slave laborers, and prisoners of concentration camps — settled permanently in the United States.

With this war generation passing, it becomes ever more urgent to tell their story, to preserve the record of their experience and make it available to the next generations. The Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) is a professional organization international in scope and in existence since 1943, whose goal is scholarly research and promotion of the study of the history and culture of the Polish American diaspora.

PAHA is alarmed by the disappearance of documentation on the history of the World War II and immediate postwar wave of Polish migration to the United States. Recognizing the contributions of Polish migrants to Polish American as well as American history, PAHA appeals to the members of the exile generation, their families, and their organizations to deposit their existing records in archival and research institutions.

To facilitate the preservation effort, the Polish American Historical Association is inaugurating a new

project titled "Polish Migrant Memoirs and Letters: Documenting the World War II Diaspora." In collaboration with the Central Connecticut State University's Library (Polish Heritage Collection) and Stanislaus A. Blejwas Chair in Polish and Polish American History, and the Polish American Librarians' Association, PAHA is announcing search in the United States for the following documents among members of the World War II Diaspora in North America: memoirs (published and unpublished); diaries; letters; interviews and photos. While the war and immediate post-war period is the main focus of the search, we are interested in the entire life of these migrants, not just the war years.

The documents, along with the deed of gift, should be sent to:

Central Connecticut State University
Elihu Burritt Library
Attention: Ewa Wolynska,
Head, Special Collections
PAHA Memoirs Project
1615 Stanley St.
New Britain, CT 06050

If you are interested in donating to this project and are seeking more information please contact: Dr. Ewa Barczyk; ewa@uwm.edu; (414) 412-6456.

You can find the Deed on Gift on the PAHA website:

<https://polishamericanstudies.org/text/180/memoirs-.html>



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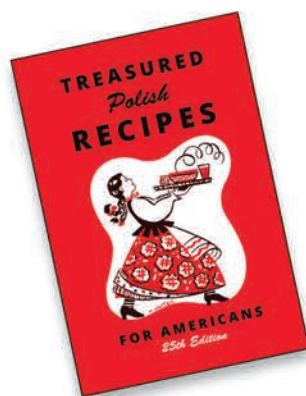


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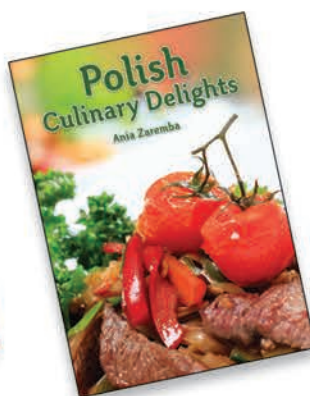


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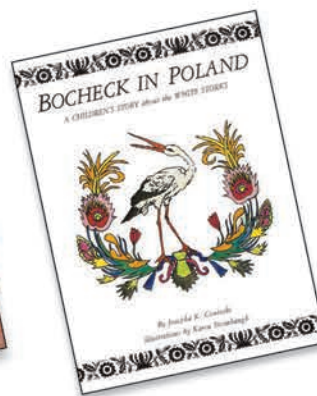
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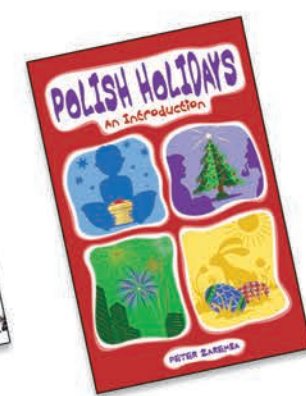
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DANCE TIME

Updates on Events Held Before Quarantine Orders

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo Concertina All Stars sponsored the 11th Annual Hard Times polka dance with rollback pricing focusing on admission, food, and drinks. Polka fans who brought in any coupon got reduced half priced admission of just \$5.00 for an evening of wonderfully entertaining polka music. This dance has become a local favorite as our diehard polka fans come and take full advantage of \$1.00 baloney & onion sandwiches as well as \$1.00 draft beers. We had

weekly television program are still going strong in Western New York. Hundreds of polka dancing enthusiasts arrive at Potts Banquet Hall ready to polka the evening away for each and every taping. Many of these fans have been on hand for every single show taping and already make plans for the next one before leaving the current episode recording by reserving their group table. Most recently **John Gora** and **Phocus** were the featured bands for Polka Buzz episodes packing Potts Banquet Hall with dancers galore. Typically, there is one tap-



Buffalo Polka Boosters Members who had perfect attendance for two consecutive years with Chris Tanski, president.



Carol Michalski, Geri Rwachalski, Judy Chrzanowski — Potts Polka Buzz



Buffalo Touch at this year's Variety Club Telethon. The event benefits Children's Hospital and others.

several friends join us from Rochester for the fun-filled evening with Concertina All Stars. Greg Chwojda made the trip from Cleveland to perform even though he had recently been under the weather. Once Greg made this known, Robin Pegg, who is always quick witted and ready to entertain, made a trip to his car. Upon Robin's return, he uncovered a collection of masks that several attendees donned to go in front of the band to keep them "germ free of Greg." Thankfully Greg took the joke in stride even inviting Robin on stage to play a few songs on the drums. Thanks to all of the guys in Concertina All Stars for keeping this annual event alive and giving polka fans a memorable evening of music and fun.

WBBZ'S POLKA BUZZ tapings and

ing a month but during the month of April WBBZ has two program recordings scheduled.

At press time, the April tapings with **Rare Vintage** (April 2) and **Buffalo Touch** (April 16) have been cancelled because of quarantine orders.

WBBZ TOOK ON ANOTHER prominent event in Buffalo this year by joining forces with Variety Kid's Telethon and becoming its host television station. Event organizers and station management did not forget the success of Polka Buzz when scheduling the telethon and invited **Buffalo Touch** to join as entertainment for this celebrated local event. Although the telethon taping is not open to the public, several diehard Polka Buzz fans showed up to show their support so telethon organizers

allowed them to come in and cheer on the Buffalo Touch. Production manager John Di Sciuolo, who is very familiar with our polka fans, even invited these faithful polka followers to dance in front of the band as they played live on the telethon. The Variety Club raised over one million dollars during this year's telethon which supports the John R. Oishei Children's Hospital and other children's charities. The Variety Telethon chairperson informed the band that the phones rang the most for donations during the hour when polka music was highlighted. The Variety board said they look forward to spotlighting polka music once again next year during this event.

BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS held its first meeting celebrating 50 years promoting polka music, espe-

cially our local Buffalo polka bands. The evening's music was provided by **Phocus** and members enjoyed some sweet treats celebrating Valentine's Day. During the year's first meeting, awards were given out to members who attained perfect attendance for the 2019 calendar year. There were 17 members who received this recognition with nine of them being recipients for the second consecutive year. These outstanding members were given a plaque honoring their commitment to the club as well as paid dues for the 2020 calendar year. Buffalo Polka Boosters meets once a month on the third Wednesday at Polish Falcons 445 Columbia Ave in Depew. Meetings, which feature a light snack, are held from 7:30-10:00 p.m. with a different local polka band performing each month.

LOCAL LONGTIME POLKA FAN

JOHN DRABEK has been hosting a **Spring Fling Polka Dance** to benefit The Homeless Veterans of WNY for the past six years. This year's event was held at Potts Banquet Hall with **The Knewz** providing the evening's entertainment. Attendees were asked to bring cleaning supplies as a donation to be entered into the grand raffle of the night. A huge Chinese auction with fantastic prizes helped raise money for this worthwhile organization. Polka fans showed their generosity as I watched the supply of cleaning products grow for the

organization as each person paid their event admission. The Knewz gave fans plenty of incredible music to keep the dance floor packed and as always took the time to chat and joke with those in attendance. The band looked a little different on the stage with Richie Kois and Rich Zebrowski filling in. Even with the fill-in musicians, The Knewz played their popular polkas with the high energy that folks expect from this group.

This year's Dance was held in memory of volunteer Christina Chludzinski, who recently passed away. Tom Picciano took the time to offer a moment of silence in honor of Christina. The success of this event takes a lot of hard work and commitment to pull it all off and the Homeless Veterans Association of WNY truly appreciates the charitable nature of our polka fans.



Robin on drums at the Hard Times Dance.

BE SAFE. Before traveling to either local or national events, please confirm the event is still on schedule. At press time, all Dyngus Day events has been postponed. The **Polka Jammer Network** (polkajammer.org) is maintaining a list of cancellations as promoters send the information to the network.

Rev. Dennis A. Bogusz Appointed IPA Chaplain

PITTSBURGH — Polka music was always enjoyed by the Rev. Dennis A. Bogusz and his family. Polish music could be heard throughout the day in the Bogusz household, and "there was nothing like a good oberek," said the retired priest who was recently appointed as chaplain of the International Polka Association.

While a student at Holy Name High School in Cleveland, Fr. Dennis considered being a DJ after graduation. Instead, he decided to study for the priesthood. He was able to enjoy both passions when he sat behind the microphone at St. Mary's in-house radio station at the seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich.

Fr. Bogusz was born in Cleveland, on March 11, 1950 to the late Frank and Florence Lewandowski Bogusz. He received a BA in Theology from St. Mary's, and a Master of Divinity from St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. He was ordained May 5, 1979 for the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa.

After numerous parish assignments, Fr. Bogusz received his pastorate at St. Hyacinth Catholic Church in Monessen, Pa. The parish was having a polka dance, and Fr. Bogusz wanted to promote the dance on radio station WEDO 810 AM in McKeesport, Pa. John James, the station manager, told him the procedure to have the dance promoted, and then asked "how else



can I help you?" That triggered a light, and Fr. Bogusz said he would like to have a radio program playing

Polish music and promoting Polish culture and the Catholic faith. The rest is history.

Fr. Bogusz began his "Echoes of Poland" program 30 years ago on June 1, 1990. His dedication was recognized by the Central Council of Polish Organizations of Pittsburgh, which honored him in 2008 with its "Polonian of the Year" award.

Fr. Bogusz retired in July 2019. Today, he helps parishes and continues his radio ministry with "Echoes of Poland" heard on radio station WEDO 810 AM, 93.3 FM now located in North Versailles, Pa. "Echoes of Poland" is also broadcast Sundays 3:00-5:00 p.m., and Saturday 4:00-5:00 p.m. The pro-

gram is heard in Greater Pittsburgh and parts of the tristate area.

Fr. Bogusz resides in Mount Pleasant, Pa. He said he is honored to be the IPA Chaplain, and looks forward to the convention Labor Day weekend, and to be of assistance to the organization in any way he can. He is grateful to Lenny Gomulka, Kevin Adams, and Chris Bogdan for their encouragement in accepting the IPA chaplaincy. He said he is also grateful to his late mother, who taught him to love his Catholic faith and Polish music and culture.

May the Lord bless you with His joy, love and peace.

— Edited from the
IPA Newsletter

APRIL POLKA BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays courtesy Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and on the web at www.987jack.fm. Live streaming at www.PA_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

3	Chester Kowalczyk	1929	8-14-2012	Musician / Vocalist (Naturals)	Chicago
3	Rich Tomkowicz	1951		Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
4	Paul Leonard	1942	2-14-2019	Musician (Trumpet) Corsairs	Pennsylvania
4	Bob Kopanic	1943	11-17-16	Musician / Vocalist (Trumpet)	Pennsylvania
4	Mary Lou Czerniak	1951		Musician / Vocalist	Minnesota
4	Jackie (Kowalewski) Nalevanko	1963	10-12-96	Polka D.J. (Li'l John & Jackie)	Pennsylvania
	Nalevanko	1963	10-12-96	Polka D.J. (Li'l John & Jackie)	Pennsylvania
5	Charlie Hyatt			Musician / Vocalist	Connecticut
8	Al Dreas	1932		Bandleader / Vocalist	Connecticut
11	Johnny Dyno Dynowski	1932	2007	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Connecticut
13	D.J. Wolfie	1945		Polka D.J.	New Jersey
13	Chester Jonczak	1956		Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
14	Jack Zolnierowski	1958		Musician (Drummer)	Florida
14	Larry Trojak	1952		Musician / Vocalist (Original Dynatones)	Minnesota
16	Bobby Vinton	1935		The Polish Prince (Cannonsburg, Pa.)	Florida
17	Steve Meisner			Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Wisconsin
18	Jackie Libera	1955		Musician / Vocalist / I.J./ Maestro's Men	Massachusetts
20	Johnny Libera	1919	8-27-2008	Vocalist / Composer / D.J. / Promoter	Massachusetts
20	Walter Ostanek	1935		Bandleader / Musician / D.J.	Canada
20	Bill Czupta	1939	10-18-91	Musician / Vocalist / Composer / D.J.	Massachusetts
20	Darius Figiel	1967		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	New York
20	Cherie Trepacz			Polka I.J. Polka Jammer	New York
22	Billy Belina	1947		Musician / Vocalist / I.J. D.J.	Massachusetts
24	Johnny Simms Seremet	1918	6-5-82	Musician / Vocalist / D.J. / Promoter	Pennsylvania
25	Johnny Hyzny	1930	2008	Musician / Vocalist / D.J. / Promoter	Chicago
25	Milton Brzozowski			Polka D.J.	Maryland
26	Walter Dana	1902	2-4-2000	Founder of Dana Records	New York
26	Syl Rutkowski	1934		Bandleader / Musician	Pennsylvania
27	George Almasi	1934	4-10-17	Former Polka DJ	Pennsylvania
29	Jan Cyman	1951	1-29-12	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Florida
30	Chris Gawlak	1960		Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
30	Maryann Raczkowski	1973		I. J. Polka Jammer	Wisconsin

Reminder: May and June Editions to be Combined

Next month, subscribers will receive a combined May and June edition of the *Polish American Journal*. This replaces the June edition. Copy deadline is April 10.

PLEASE HELP US HELP OUR OWN COMMUNITY. JOIN THE... Polish American Journal Foundation

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



Your support of the Polish American Journal Foundation underlines our efforts to share over a century of knowledge with the next generation. All donations to the PAJF are tax-deductible.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member. Membership levels start at "Friend of the PAJF" (Any amount up to \$49.99); "Individual" (\$50.00); "Family" (\$100.00); "Sustaining" (\$250.00); "Patron" (\$500.00);

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10th Anniversary of the PSFCU in Chicagoland

NEW YORK — Ten years after opening its first two branches in Chicago, the Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union (PSFCU) celebrated the milestone with a gala fete at the Copernicus Center on Feb. 1. More than 2,000 friends, members, employees, and invited guests and dignitaries paid tribute to the credit union's decade in the Windy City with an evening full of awards, commendations, entertainment, announcements, and libations and cuisine.

Much of the evening was dedicated to the heartfelt tributes delivered by distinguished Polish officials and credit union executives. Serving as the master of ceremonies for the evening's festivities was Tomasz Kammel, a renowned Polish television personality.

News of the credit union celebrating its decade in Chicago was of particular interest in Warsaw, where Polish President Andrzej Duda sent a congratulatory letter that was read by Minister Pawel Mucha, deputy head of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland. The letter praised the credit union's efforts, stating, "On the one hand, this is a success in business terms because the union is reaching the level of \$2 billion in assets and over 100,000 members. On the other hand, we are dealing with a beautiful, integrating aspect of the union's activities for the benefit of the member environment by supporting many Polish community, social, cultural and school projects."

The list of political luminaries paying tribute to the credit union continued, as the Ambassador of Poland to the United States, Professor Piotr Wilczek, addressed the crowd by lauding the PSFCU's suc-



A congratulatory letter from President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda was read by Minister Pawel Mucha, deputy head of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland.

cess in the Second City.

The country's largest ethnic credit union opened its doors in the Midwest on Jan. 30, 2010 with its first two Chicagoland branches: one in Norridge and another in Mt. Prospect. Ten years later, PSFCU has added four more branches and attracted more than 25,000 members, representing one-quarter of all credit union members. Illinois represents PSFCU's fastest-growing market.

Throughout the evening, PSFCU officials thanked all who made the past 10 years so successful. As a show of gratitude, the credit union presented awards to 10 Polish American organizations that have contributed to PSFCU's presence in Chicagoland, and also handed out 10 attractive prizes to the groups.

"Our success and our achievements are truly unique, and this translates not only into the account balance, as these are only numbers, but translates into help for countless Polish American organizations,

Polish American schools, churches, and children," said PSFCU Chairman Krzysztof Matyszczuk. "We all know our scholarship program, from which over half a million dollars is distributed annually to Polish American students. This is the best example of how we care for the Polish community."

PSFCU president and CEO Bogdan Chmielewski reminded those in attendance that Chicago members have deposited nearly a quarter-billion dollars into credit union accounts. Furthermore, the six area branches have loaned more than \$320 million to members within the community to help fund their dreams, build their businesses and live better lives.

Founded in 1976 by a group of Polish immigrants to help other ethnic Poles obtain mortgages, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union now has 20 branches in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, and an operations center in Fairfield, N.J.

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