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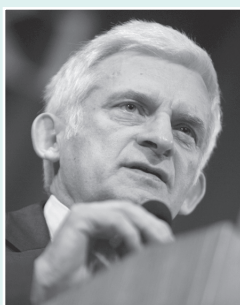


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DEPORTATIONS
REVISITED
PAGE 5

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

GOŁĄBK! GALORE! • POLES DEVELOPED EARLY TELEVISION • "FORGOTTEN BEAUTY": A POLISH COSTUME EXHIBIT
NEW ELEMENT NAMED FOR COPERNICUS • THE WAR THAT NEVER ENDS • DOES AMBER HAVE HEALING POWERS?
KMIĘĆ ELECTED TO ACTORS' EQUITY NATIONAL COUNCIL • A DATE WITH THE WORKS OF ZOFIA STRYJENSKA

NEWSMARK



BUZEK ELECTED PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

Former Polish Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek was elected President of the European Parliament, making him the first leader of the institution from a Central European EU nation.

Buzek was the European People's Party (EPP) candidate for the post. EPP, the largest political group within the European Parliament, has agreed to share the presidency with the socialist bloc, the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, the second-largest group.

The Polish politician had to fight off competition by Italian Mario Mauro, who resigned from the running.

"The fact that we have such a symbol in the form of a Pole as head of the European Parliament gives Poland a greater opportunity and a stronger position in the EU," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said.

Many likened Buzek's election to a final healing of Europe's old East-West division — as did Buzek.

"Once upon a time I hoped to be a member of the Polish parliament, in a free Poland," the center-right politician said. "Today I have become the president of the European Parliament, something I could never have dreamed of."

Buzek, 69, drew a standing ovation from an assembly he will lead for two-and-a-half years. A still unnamed socialist will succeed him for the next two-and-a-half years, under a tradeoff between the left and the right in the EU assembly.

A FINAL PILGRIMAGE? (*Gazeta Wyborcza*) — Journalists from Italian state television RAI conceived an idea to organize a symbolic final pilgrimage of **John Paul II** to his motherland. The journey would take place after Pope's beatification, which is expected next year. The authors of the idea petitioned to Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, John Paul II's long-serving private secretary, to send the late Pope's remains around Poland where they can be displayed.

Cardinal Dziwisz has not yet given an official stance on the pilgrimage of John Paul's relics to Poland, but it is highly probable that he will ask Pope Benedict XVI to give away the remains. The idea of a final pilgrimage is supported by Polish bishops. Last year, Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek assured the faithful that some of John Paul II's relics — among them, the Pope's heart — may be brought to Poland.

The pilgrimage could take place next year after John Paul's beatification. According to Italian newspaper *Il Giornale*, the beatification process is in full swing. Theologians from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints have already agreed to forward so-called *positio* (an essential document in the beatification process) to Cardinals, who are to read it and offer their opinions on the beatification of the later Pope John Paul II. Based on these opinions, Pope Benedict XVI will make a final decision on whether to pronounce John Paul II a saint.

PBS PULLS ANTI-POLISH SLUR FROM RIEU CONCERTS. As a result of Polish American complaints about Andre Rieu's Polish bashing during his American concert tour, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) advised the Anti-Bigotry Committee of the Polish American Congress the offensive material has been dropped.

Rieu is the PBS superstar whose performances are usually taped and later aired by the network as a fundraiser. His crude attempt at low class anti-Polish humor appears to have been out of step with the high class image usually projected by PBS.

"A lot of us were angry and disappointed because of Rieu's nasty antics. He took a cheap shot at us and lost a lot of friends," said Frank Milewski who heads the Anti-Bigotry Committee.

Obama Offers Missile Base to Kremlin in Trade for Cooperation on Iran

MOSCOW — President Barack Obama offered to scrap a missile defense shield in Eastern Europe if Russia helps to stop Iran building a nuclear bomb.

At the Reset Summit in Moscow to urge a new era of partnership between Russia and the United States in combating the spread of nuclear weapons to rogue states and terrorists.

"That is why we should be united in opposing North Korea's efforts to become a nuclear power and preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon," Obama said.

The U.S. plan to put a missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic strained relations with Russia under President Bush. Moscow views the shield as a threat to its security, while Washington insists that it is to defend against a surprise attack from Iran. In a speech that was notably light on criticism of Russia, See "Obama ..." page 4

Triple Treat



They're talented. They're bright. They're beautiful. They're identical triplets... and they're Polish! Alizma — an acronym representing Aleksandra, Izabela and Monika Okapiec — premiered on NBC's "America's Got Talent" and continue to wow the audience and the judges. Story on page 18.

20th Anniversary of the Third Polish Republic Two Free Polands: 1918 and 1989

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Last year, Poland celebrated the 90th anniversary of its re-emergence as an independent state following 123 years of foreign occupation. The Second Republic (II Rzeczpospolita) that arose in the wake of World War I in 1918 lasted until the joint Nazi-Soviet invasion of 1939. This year a similar anniversary is being celebrated — 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the collapse of communism and the rise of the Third Republic (III Rzeczpospolita).

But, although those periods (1918-1939 and 1989-2009) each covered two decades, comparing them is no easy matter. In 1918 Poland was faced with integrating into a single state three separate partition zones. This necessitated creating a new Polish state with a whole new infrastructure: the institutions of a parliamentary democracy, a single currency (first the Polish mark and then the See "Third Polish..." page 4

Wianki on The National Mall



MAIDENS PREPARING FOR THE WIANKI CEREMONY. Depicted above are some of the participating maidens displaying their traditional floral wreaths. Polonia and members of the large and multicultural audience enthusiastically responded to the PAAA invitation to take part in various group events during the evening.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It was a grand event within a grand setting: Celebrating Wianki (St. John's Eve) here on June 20, 2009 on the lower plaza of the Lincoln Memorial.

The Polish-American Arts Association (PAAA) of Washington, D.C. organized the cultural affair under the direction of Mary Anna Eckel. Many traditional and regional dances of Poland were expertly performed by the Polish Folk dance groups Janosik (Philadelphia) and Michas (Virginia Beach, Virg.). The Brothers-In-Law Plus Band played lively musical selections and general dance music.

The program also included audience participation folk dancing (a large, eager group performed a very credible See "Wianki on the Mall," page 3

Can This Fiat Save Chrysler?



THE POLISH-BUILT FIAT 500, a cute retro minicar, seats four and gets up to 50 m.p.g. In addition to the glass skyroof shown here, it is also available as a convertible.

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — It may sound hard to believe, but it only goes to show that in our confused, chaotic and crisis-ridden world even the highly implausible is possible. A mini-car built only in Poland is set to help save Chrysler from extinction. That is good news not only for the workers of the southern Polish industrial city of Tychy, where the model is built. That integral fragment of a broader agreement will also benefit U.S. auto-workers and the American car-buying public.

Following prolonged legal proceedings that took the case all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, the bankrupt former Chrysler Corporation, renamed Chrysler Limited Liability Company, Fiat of Italy have concluded what is officially termed a "strategic alliance," which enjoys the full backing of President Barack Obama. Suffering from a severe drop in See "Polish-Built Fiat," page 3

ALMANAC

August • Sierpień

"Ever notice how you come across somebody once in a while you shouldn't have messed with? That's me."

— **Clint Eastwood** as *Walt Kowalski* in *Gran Torino*.

- 1 1944. **Warsaw Uprising** begins—not to be confused with Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of April 1943, which was restricted to the Jewish district of the city.
- 3 1924. Death of Jozef Conrad Korzeniowski (**Joseph Conrad**), 66, British and Polish author.
- 5 1772. The **First Partition** of Poland by Prussia, Russia and Austria.
- 6 **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**
- 10 **ST. LAWRENCE**
Wawrzyniec pokazuje, jaka jeseń następuje. Lawrence shows what sort of Autumn will follow.
- 11 1882. Birth of **Wladyslaw Anders**, General of the Polish Army during World War II. He was commander of the Polish Forces in the Soviet Union and commanded the Second Corps in Italy. His greatest achievement was the successful leadership of the Polish forces that took Monte Cassino, Italy.
- 13 1916. Birth of Polish American historian **Edward Pinkowski**.
- 14 **ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**
- 15 **ASSUMPTION**
...also known as *Matki Boskiej Zielnej*, Feast of the Lady of the Herbs. This day is marked in Poland by a massive pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.
- 17 **ST. HYACINTH**
- 19 1989. Polish president **Wojciech Jaruzelski** nominates Solidarity activist **Tadeusz Mazowiecki** to post of Prime Minister, the first non-communist in Polish power in 42 years.
- 20 1907. Birth of **Henry Archacki**, founder of the Polish American Historical Association.
Co ma wisniec, nie utonie. What is to hang will not drown.
- 22 1939. Birth of **Carl "Yaz" Yastrzemski**, Boston Red Sox hitting star.
- 24 1989. Coalition government in Poland under the first non-communist prime minister **Tadeusz Mazowiecki** takes power.
- 25 1905. Birth of **Sister Faustyna Kowalski**, Saint of Divine Mercy Canonized April 30, 2000.
1919. Birth of **Matt Louis Urban** (d. 1995), in Buffalo, N.Y., the most decorated combat soldier of World War II. He was awarded a total of 29 decorations, virtually every combat medal possible, including seven Purple Hearts and the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 26 **OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA**
- 27 1764. **Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski** named King of Poland.
- 28 1596. **Christopher Paulowski** leads expedition to India.
1852. **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba** arrives at the port of New Orleans on the Sea Eagle with four other missionaries recruited by Bishop John Odin of the Galveston, Texas Diocese. Four years later in Panna Maria, Texas, Moczygemba and a community of Silesian Poles establish St. Mary's, the first Polish church in America.
- 31 1476. Poland is covered by **grasshoppers**, which ravage crops and cause widespread famine.
1980. Polish trade union **Solidarity**, led by electrician **Lech Walesa** and others, is founded in Baltic sea port of Gdansk, Poland.

This paper mailed on or before **July 31**.

The September edition will be mailed on or before **August 28**.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

PAJ to Salute Polish War Veterans

Each October, we choose a theme for our special Polish Heritage Month edition. Because this September marks the 70th anniversary of the start of World War II with Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, we felt it apropos to salute the men and women who fought not only for Poland's freedom, but for freedom around the world. We will publish firsthand accounts by these brave souls, which we hope will give you a sampling of the trials and tribulations they faced in their gallant efforts to stop the Nazi Germany's tyranny.

If you are a Polish veteran and wish to share an account of a particular battle or any other aspect of war, we urge you to submit your recollection to us for this edition. Previously published material will be accepted. Copy should not exceed 750 words. We reserve the right to edit copy. All submitted photos will be returned. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14025, attn: Heritage Month Edition; or e-mail to info@polamjournal.com, re: Heritage Month Edition. Copy deadline is September 10.

PUTIN'S VISIT. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's attendance at an observance of the start of World War II in Poland would

hold symbolism for Poles, Polish officials say.

Poles have long held that World War II started Sept. 1, 1939, with the German invasion of Gdansk, Poland. The 70th anniversary of the attack will be held in the city and is to be attended by Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. But Russian authorities have never recognized the date as the beginning of the worldwide conflict, Russia's Interfax news agency reported.

"Putin's presence on Sept. 1 would be a breakthrough in our evaluation and re-evaluation of historical events," Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said. "A meeting between the Russian prime minister and the chancellor of Germany on Sept. 1 would be a symbolic confirmation of the fact that the war started with Germany's invasion of Poland, namely Gdansk, and that it actually ended in Gdansk as well ... symbolism of this would be important for the entire European Union and all of Russia."

COP GETS OFF EASY. The 250-lb. off-duty Chicago police officer convicted of pummeling 125-pound Karolina Obrycka as she tended bar in February 2007 was sentenced Tuesday to two years probation and anger management classes for

the videotaped attack that appeared worldwide on the Internet and cable news channels.

Cook County Circuit Judge John Fleming also gave Anthony Abbate, 40, a home curfew of 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and ordered him to perform 130 hours of community service.

Prosecutors had asked for prison for Abbate (he could have been sentenced to up to five years behind bars) but the judge said he didn't see aggravating factors to justify a prison term. The judge said Abbate had a clean record before the incident, did not seriously injure the bartender, and underwent alcohol rehab "and has not had a relapse."

Earlier this month, the judge rejected Abbate's claim he acted in self-defense and convicted him of aggravated battery. A tavern security video shows a drunken Abbate punching and kicking Obrycka after she refused to serve him more drinks.

CORRECTION. The photograph of Young Artists Showcase winner Ashley Genadek (PAJ, July 2009) got mixed up with the one of Pulaski Scholarship winner Agnes Sekowski (pages 5 and 15). We apologize for the error.

VIEWPOINTS / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

65th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising

On August 1, 1944 Poland's Home Army (Armia Krajowa, AK) began what has been called the greatest and most tragic uprising in European history.

The Warsaw Uprising was a heroic 63 day struggle by Poland's resistance Home Army and civilian non-combatants to liberate Warsaw from Nazi occupation. Although the Polish attack was planned as a two-to three-day revolt until the Russians could arrive with additional support. The Russian support never materialized and the short coup turned into a brutal and bloody two-month struggle for the Home Army. The Germans used tanks, aerial bombardment and long range artillery on the insurgents. They began rounding up people from the houses in the districts which they still controlled and shot them - women, children and the elderly were not spared. They executed at least 30,000 citizens in what is now referred to as the Wola massacre. The genocide was intended to

crush the Poles spirit for the fight. It didn't work. The people of Warsaw wanted their city, their country back in their own control and endured incredible hardships and sacrifices including lack of water, power, food, ammunition, death and destruction. The battle raged on.

Unable to compete with the reinforced German troops, the insurgents were forced into hiding, often into the sewers, from where they continued to organize and co-ordinate attacks. The people of Warsaw were dying at a rate of 2,000 a day. After a valiant fight, the Home Army was forced to capitulate and negotiated a surrender on October 2nd, 63 days after the Uprising began.

The horrific statistics: Polish historians believe that 18,000 military personnel died and another 25,000 were injured. There was no taking of prisoners. Military personnel were summarily shot on the spot. Civilian losses ranged into the hundreds of thousands. At the conclusion of

the Uprising, the Germans systematically blew up the city, block by block. The inhabitants of Warsaw that survived were rounded up and placed in a temporary transit camp called Pruszków just outside of Warsaw and then sent to forced labor camps and concentration camps. The majority were sent to KL Auschwitz while thousands of Polish women were sent to the infamous KL Ravensbruck. Thousands more died.

The Warsaw Uprising never received the attention it deserved until the end of Communism in Poland. After the war was over and Poland was handed over to the Soviets, it could not be discussed. The Soviets had never come to the rescue of Poland during one of its darkest hours, even though they were stationed at the other side of the Wisla and could see the smoke and flames rising from the city.

Let us remember those who died for a free and independent Poland.

Kmieć Elected to Actors' Equity National Council



POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL CULTURE EDITOR STAŚ KMIĘĆ

has been elected to the National Council of Actors' Equity Association for a three-year term as a Chorus Councilor representing the Eastern region. Equity represents more than 49,000 professional stage actors and stage managers nationwide. The Council is Equity's ultimate decision-making and governing body regarding policy issues, finance, appeals, and major topics of concern.

Kmieć, a resident of New York City, joined Equity in 1987. He has served on its Advisory Committee on Chorus Affairs, the Dance Captain's Committee, and has helped to develop Equity Deputies Negotiation Proposals for a number of contracts. In addition to the Council meetings and committee work, he will be a Tony voter, seeing all Broadway productions and voting for the winners of the Tony Awards.

As a performer, Kmieć has appeared on Broadway, and in touring and regional productions. He has performed with the Boston Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, among others, and choreographed the Irish premiere of *Best Little Whorehouse* in Texas, as well as a dance sequence for the film, *Trust the Man*, starring Billy Crudup.

"Having been on both sides of the audition table, I am aware the most effective results come with communication, collaboration and diplomacy," said Kmieć.

Kmieć is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild, the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and the Society of Directors and Choreographers. He served on the AGMA Board of Governors.

Founded in 1913, Actors' Equity Association seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans.

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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Donations Make Gabreski Bust a Reality Dedication Set for September 30th

Dear Editor,

On Wed., Sept. 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. a Polish American war hero will be honored at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

A bronze bust of Air Force ace Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski will be dedicated and placed on permanent display at the Academy's Cadet Honor Court.

Gabreski distinguished himself as the leading air ace in the European Theater during World War II. He then went on to further distinguish himself as an ace for the second time in the Korean War, the only pilot ever to have achieved this status. The bust of Gabreski will join a place of honor shared by such notable members of aviation history as the Wright Brothers, and General Curtis LeMay, considered the father of American military aviation.

The creation of the bust has been financially supported by a number of Polish organizations and individual Poles throughout the United States as a means to honor this great Polish-American war hero. We owe them a big vote of thanks for their support.

Chester Lipinski
Via e-mail

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL MISSES POLISH NEIGHBORHOOD. I am writing to you to ask for your support and help in creating a groundswell of protest and opposition to the recent issuance by "American Girl" of a new historical doll, who — while supposedly living on East 7th Street in Manhattan in 1914 — sees no Polish Americans in her community.

In a link to the NEW YORK TIMES article about the issuance of the Rebecca Rubin doll, the company states:

"To write the books, the company found Jacqueline Dembar Greene, who had written a historical novel for young adults set in 1654 about Jewish immigrants to New Amsterdam. Ms. Greene and company researchers made a trip to Manhattan, visiting the Lower East Side Tenement Museum and a row house on East Seventh Street."

As I was interested in the subject, I proceeded to read two of the associated Rebecca Rubin books. Much to my surprise I discovered that Rebecca Rubin does not live in the precise parameters of the Lower East Side, but lives north of Houston Street, specifically on East 7th Street. Therefore, in 1914, when the story starts it is impossible for Rebecca not to have Polish neighbors. Let me explain.

The fact is that had the company researchers walked down 7th Street, which is only six blocks long, they would have walked right past the Church of St. Stanislaus, B.M. which has been located there since 1901 and is clearly identified on its cornerstone. The parish was previously located at Stanton and Forsythe Streets, in a former Methodist church and later synagogue, from which congregation it was purchased, from 1878 until 1901.

I mention these facts because Rebecca Rubin, the American Girl heroine, who lives on 7th Street and

whose father's store is located on Rivington Street (one block south of Stanton), has no Polish neighbors. Instead, in the first two books the only non-Jews who are mentioned are the Italian superintendent of the building her family lives in, and an Italian woman who comes into her father's store, and her schoolteacher.

How could it be possible for American Girl researchers to allow a book and character to exist who denies the existence of a Polish parish which in 1914 alone, had 850 Christenings, 317 marriages, and 68 funerals?

This number of events alone would have meant that there were at least three events occurring in the parish church daily, yet neither Rebecca nor her family sees anything.

However, if you add to this that there were 597 children attending the parish school of St. Stanislaus, and that the flood of these children exiting from the school on a daily basis must have been noted on the streets. Then finally, if you consider that the parish register of the early 20th century shows some 10,000 parishioners, well, it becomes improbable, that Rebecca Rubin, living no more than three blocks from St. Stanislaus could not have had Polish neighbors.

I write about this because the existence, contributions and struggles of Polonia in New York are little known, and in fact, the Lower East Tenement Museum refuses to acknowledge the existence of any Polish community in the Lower East side.

I ask you: how could these American Girl researchers not have discovered a parish with 10,000 members?

However, the denial of our existence by American Girl is almost more significant. The American Girl stores, dolls, books and concurrent materials are "educating" the 8- 12-year-olds of the entire United States in the belief that there were no Polish Americans on the very street where their parish, their bookstores and their restaurants were located. There is no secret about the history of St. Stanislaus and any good faith effort by the author and the "researchers" would have documented our existence in both the press and in research material. I ask you: how could these American Girl researchers not have discovered a parish with 10,000 members?

If we allow this denial of our existence to occur, we will be allowing our identity and our history in New York to be destroyed.

I ask your help in forwarding this letter to all Polonian organizations that you know, I ask that you speak to your friends and ask them to boycott the dolls. I ask everyone send letters and emails of protest. American Girl is owned by Mattel and the Chairman is Robert Eckert (corporate.communications@mattel.com). Tell Mattel we will not buy their products. Let us make sure that the history of Polish Americans in Manhattan is not denied and forgotten.

Krystyna Piórkowska
Via e-mail

Polish-Built Fiat

continued from cover

sales, huge debts and crippling labor, pension and healthcare costs, Chrysler filed for bankruptcy protection at the end of April. Fiat was the only serious contender to come forward and offer to assist the ailing corporation.

The deal will enable Chrysler products to be sold through Fiat's extensive international sales network, and Fiat vehicles will turn up at Chrysler dealerships in America. Among them will be the Fiat 500 minicar, now built only in Tychy, Poland, but marketed world-wide with the exception of America. A thoroughly modern vehicle inspired by the legendary 1950s Fiat 500 that helped put Italy on wheels, the cute little hatchback falls into the retro category along with the Mini, New Beetle and Chrysler's own PT Cruiser.

The 69-horsepower Fiat 500 is not the car for someone who has to drive from New York to Chicago on business every week, but as a second or third car it is ideal for big-city traffic. The 90-inch-wheelbase four-seater gets up to 50 miles per gallon, turns on dime and parks anywhere, but — when necessary — can achieve a top speed of 100 mph. It has been estimated that if only half of the cars on the road were the size of the Fiat 500, rush-hour traffic jams would disappear from America's big-city expressways.

The Fiat 500 is the perfect commuter, shopper and knock-around-the-neighborhood car. Its convertible version shows considerable recreational potential as a beach buggy or even four-passenger golf cart. Its high-performance companion model, the Abarth 500, is designed for those with a sporty flair. In Poland prices for the Fiat 500 start at under \$13,000, but exactly how much it will cost in America remains to be determined.

The "Pięćsetka", as it is called in Poland, is only one component of a broad Fiat line-up which comprises economy cars, sporty hatchbacks, sedans and SUVs, all slightly downsized compared to Chrysler's current range. It includes a light pickup truck, a mini-delivery van able to maneuver in tight spaces and heavier-duty delivery vehicles. Exactly which models will turn up in American showrooms in the near future is still unknown, but many American car buffs are a looking forward to the debut of Fiat's sporty Alfa-Romeo line. However, the Italian corporation's super-high-performance Ferraris and Maseratis will not be part of the Fiat-Chrysler deal.

Fiat had also made a bid to take over GM's European Opel division, which the U.S. automaker was unloading in an attempt to save itself

Wianki on the Mall

continued from cover

Polonaise after a crash course given by Mike Levinsky/Michas), a folk costume fashion show, the performing of traditional Polish songs, a related Polish sing-a-long, the meaningful Wianki/Wreaths Ceremony, and concluding with dancing under the stars.

Thanks to the PAAA, the magic and enjoyment of Wianki — as well as the culture of Poland — was beautifully conveyed to everyone in attendance, and was very much appreciated by them in return.

from collapse. But that tender was won by a Russian-backed Canadian-Austrian consortium. Polish workers at the Opel plant in Gliwice are still unsure of their future, as it remains unknown whether the new owners plan to continue building cars in Poland or move the facilities elsewhere, presumably to Russia.

As part of the Fiat-Chrysler alliance, the Italian corporation will reportedly also contribute technology to build downsized Chryslers and make the firm more competitive. At present, the smallest car in the Chrysler line-up is the hefty Caliber hatchback which is considerably larger and less fuel-efficient than the Chevrolet Aveo and Ford's forthcoming revamped Fiesta, not to mention economy Toyota or Honda models.

From a purely American standpoint, it would have been better if Chrysler had not gone under. But in our less than perfect world, the Fiat alliance is probably the next best

thing. As an alternative to Chrysler's complete disappearance from the world's automotive map, this arrangement is expected to save thousands of American jobs and provide the company's products with much added international exposure. The Chrysler Group, as the new corporation is known, will continue to have its headquarters in southeastern Michigan and produce Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge branded vehicles as well as Mopar spare parts.

The Fiat 500 as a highly unique addition to the country's retro parade. The car is already selling like hot cakes in many different markets with waiting lines stretching over many months. The addition of American customer demand could necessitate the expansion of Fiat's Poland operation, thereby creating new jobs in our ancestral homeland, where the unemployment rate is now uncomfortably close to 11 percent. Maybe there'll be one gracing your driveway some time soon?

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Third Polish Republic Celebrates 20th Anniversary

continued from cover
zloty), armed forces, post office educational system and other institutions and public utilities. Even rail widths had to be unified.

The country that re-emerged on the map in 1918 had been ravaged by the Great War. Many people today do not realize that there had been no fighting on German soil in World War I, but Poland territory had been the chief battleground on which Germany and Austria had clashed with Tsarist Russia. That had left Poland badly scarred with the loss of some 1.2 million lives and seriously damaged infrastructure. The communist Poland that peacefully collapsed in 1989 had antiquated infrastructure and in many ways was 50 years behind America, but it was no longer the war-ravaged country it had been in 1945.

Another difference was that only 68 percent of pre-war Poland's citizens were ethnic Poles. Ukrainians, Jews, Germans and a few smaller groups made up the balance. This caused various problems. The outlawed largely Jewish-led Communist Party of Poland was a subversive group taking orders from Stalin. Ukrainian nationalists incited disturbances in eastern Poland and the German Fifth Column provided Hitler's Third Reich with anti-Polish propaganda.

THE POLAND THAT EMERGED after World War II, a Soviet satel-

lite officially called the People's Republic of Poland, was smaller in area than the Second Republic of 1918-1939. The one-half of Poland annexed by Stalin in collusion with Hitler in 1939 was never returned. As partial compensation, the Big Three Allies gave Poland northern and western lands that had been part of Germany before World War II. Despite the 20 percent net territorial loss, a major advantage was that post-1945 Poland was ethnically homogenous. Poles accounted for some 98 percent of the population, hence the ethnic minority problems that had plagued pre-war Poland became marginal.

But the Third Republic, which arose after Poland dumped communism in 1989, inherited a country that had been subjected to six years of ruthless German occupation and 45 years of communist misrule and mismanagement. Especially in the first post-war decade (1945-1956) the Polish nation was subjected to wholesale Sovietization, and many of those who tried to oppose it were jailed, tortured or killed. Warsaw's central planners mainly developed heavy industry geared to serve Soviet military power.

Since under communism everyone was guaranteed a job, there was gross overemployment. Office workers drank tea and read newspapers, construction workers sat around because supplies had not been delivered. Work did not

get done, but everyone got paid. Cash was no problem because the government could also print more paper money to pass around. Even the apparent benefits of totalitarian communism such as free kindergarten-through-university education and medical care as well as low-cost vacations ultimately had a demoralizing effect. The cradle-to-grave communist welfare state created a lethargically society waiting for government hand-outs.

MOST POLES BELIEVED that after the Solidarity movement had dumped communist rule, they would soon enjoy freedom and prosperity. The freedom was easy enough to achieve. Laws were passed to abolish censorship and grant political liberties including the right to join or even set up a political party, establish a private business or have a passport. Under communism, passports were kept by the police, and citizens had to apply for permission to travel abroad.

But prosperity, which could not simply be legislated into existence, has been long in coming. The communists had left Poland with a cumbersome, antiquated and heavily bureaucratized economy and mountains of debt cause by the 1970s spending spree of communist leader Edward Gierek. He may have won some personal popularity by introducing Coke, Pepsi, Marlboro cigarettes and other Western consumer

goods as well as putting Poland on wheels in the Fiat 126P minicar. But it was all done on gigantic Western credit which has taken generations to repay.

Another legacy of the communist era was 600 percent inflation. The shock therapy used in the early 1990s by government economist Leszek Balcerowicz to overcome it and get the economy moving initially caused widespread poverty and frustration. Overnight people saw their purchasing power slashed in half. The resultant disenchantment with the Solidarity-rooted government brought about an astonishing political backlash: in 1993 the communists, now calling themselves Social Democrats, were voted back into power. They were back in office a second time in the past two decades in 2001-2005.

Poland started recording hefty annual economic growth after the turn of the century and became a European leader in that respect. But access to the job market of the British Isles after Poland joined the European Union in 2004 started a mass exodus of some of the country's most energetic and well-trained younger workers, leaving a domestic manpower shortage in many key areas. Everyone knows that the capitalist economy works in cycles, and every recession eventually has to end. But, economic ups and downs notwithstanding, one thing is certain. The indisputable advantage of

today's Poland over that of the between-the-wars period was its admission to NATO in 1999. Over the centuries, Poland's unfortunate location between two traditional foes – Germany and Russia – had been the source of endless conflicts, invasions and occupations. Today's Poland is internationally more secure than any time since the Middle Ages when it formed part of the sprawling land empire known as the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In fact, the country's secure position in the heart of Europe is about the only thing the perpetually squabbling Polish political scene agrees.

Obama Offers Base

continued from cover

Obama pressed Moscow to take more responsibility for stopping an Iranian bomb.

"I know Russia opposes the planned configuration for missile defense in Europe . . . I have made it clear that this system is directed at preventing a potential attack from Iran and has nothing to do with Russia," he told students in Moscow.

"I want us to work together on a missile defence architecture that makes us all safer. But if the threat from Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs is eliminated, the driving force for missile defense in Europe will be eliminated. That is in our mutual interest," he said.

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- Maki Song & Dance Group -
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- Old School -
- New Life M -
- Maleo Reggae Rockers -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- The Brothers Band -

MONDAY, SEPT. 7

(LABOR DAY)

- Ted Lange & Squeezebox -
- New Life M -
- Maleo Reggae Rockers -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- The Brothers Band -

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

- The Del Sinchak Band -
- Dennis Polisky &
the Maestro's Men -
- Magic Dance -
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WORLD WAR II / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

Invasion, Division, and Deportation

Dear Readers: This month we begin a series on the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939 and the beginning of World War II.

On August 22, 1939 Hitler met with his commanding generals and said:

"... for the time being I have sent to the East only my Death's Head Units with the order to kill without pity or mercy all men, women, and children of Polish race or language ... The invasion and the extermination of Poland begins on Saturday morning. I will have a few companies in Polish uniform attack in Upper Silesia or in the Protectorate. Whether the world believes it doesn't mean a damn thing to me."

—Document L-3, Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression

In the early hours of September 1, 1939 Hitler invaded Poland.

In an agreement known as the German-Soviet Union Non-Aggression Pact of August 1939 Poland was divided between Germany and the Soviet Union.

Germany took the whole west of Poland bordering on Germany itself. It consisted of Silesia with its wealth of mining and industrial centers, Great Poland and its cities of Poznan and Lodz (called Warthegau, or Warta by the Poles) and northern Poland (called Danzig-West Prussia). This area was called the incorporated Eastern Territories and were to become an important part of the new Nazi Reich that was to give Germany what it called *lebensraum* — living space for the German people. Hundreds of thousands of Poles were deported to work in Germany as slave laborers. Thousands and thousands more were evicted overnight from their homes and property and shipped to other parts of Poland. Thousands on thousands died.

RUSSIA TOOK THE EASTERN portion of Poland and acquired some 201,000 square kilometers of Polish territory and approximately 13.5 million Polish citizens. More than a million of them were deported into the interior of the USSR between 1939 and 1941. Men, women and children ended up in Soviet prisons, labor camps or special deportation settlements. Thousands more died.

The remainder of German occupied Poland extending to the rivers Bug and San to the borders of Russian occupied Poland) was organized into a region called the Government General. Its boundaries extended to the new boundary with the Russians. It was to become a labor reservoir, a reserve of humans to do the bidding of the German occupiers. It was ruled by a German civil administrator named Hans Frank. Krakow became the capital of the General Government.

The Polish nation with its history and culture would cease to exist. For Poland, it was the beginning of five years of German occupation and the beginning of five years of political, religious, intellectual and human genocide.

The following is an account of the experience of one Franciszek Domichowski who, along with hundreds of thousands of other Poles, was forcibly removed from his home in Poznan in Western Poland and, allowed only the barest essentials that could be carried in a small bundle, deported to the Gen-

eral Government. Mr. Domichowski wrote of his experience after the war was over. He called it "Transport." — an account of his four day journey in a freight car. This accounting is just one small example of what it was like to live in Poland during wartime. It will be offered here in a series of articles over the next few months. There are thousands of stories such as this one. The stories need to be told.

PART I "TRANSPORT"

"The early morning of March 16, 1940 was cold and miserable. Three round iron stoves were not enough to heat the vast barracks. On this day they woke us up a 6 a.m., gave us a half a liter of some bitter ersatz (made of grain) coffee per person, as well as a loaf of bread for five people. At 7 a.m. the German administrators in charge of the camp came in and started calling people's names from a list. Those called, along with their belongings, were arranged to one side. We were surrounded by soldiers and armed *volksdeutch* who were also called *Selbstschutz* (a semi military defense unit composed of Germans living in Poland) who wore a red armband with a swastika.

Arranging the men, women, children and sick people, encumbered with various bags and bundles was difficult and took some time. The calling of names, forming groups, counting — all accompanied by the hollering and swearing of the Germans, the cries of the children and the sobs of the women took two hours. By 9 a.m. we are all in place and waited. Next there was distribution of food for the trip. Every individual received a half a loaf of bread, about 100 grams (3.5 ounces) of marmalade and margarine. We have no understanding of how many days this was to last us. After distribution of the provisions we waited next to the barbed wire, freezing. The worst was that the people — cold, weakened and emotionally in turmoil — had greater physiological needs than under normal conditions. The guards, so as not to ruin the formation of the groups, refused to let people take care of these needs. The children had to do their deed out in the cold, next to the columns of standing people.

Waiting out in the cold was miserable. The sick elderly and the children suffered the most. At last the soldiers unhooked the chain and counted us out in groups of thirty to thirty five. Behind the chain was the platform to the train. There were thirty freight cars and two passenger cars for the German guards. We are ordered to get in. Amidst the swearing and shouts of the German guards we load into the freight cars. Out of fear, the people want to get into the cars quickly, pushing one another, trying to find a place to settle, stirring up clouds of dust. One old man falls to the ground, confusion follows, the SS men are screaming like

they're possessed. We pick up the old man and help him find a place. After pushing us into the cars, the Germans quickly slide the heavy door closed with a bang.

"They closed us in like in a tomb" says a voice. Inside the car is complete chaos due to the fact that thirty people are trying to settle down on the floor of the car in almost complete darkness. Clouds of dust are settling on our sweaty faces. The cause is cement dust. Cement was transported in these cars. We can taste the bitterness on our lips and develop headaches. Everyone is coughing and rubbing their eyes. It becomes more and more stifling inside with the constant stirring of people on the dirty, dusty floor causing even more dust to float in the car. The cries of the children intensify along with the helpless sobs of the mothers trying to comfort their chil-



dren. We feel our first thirst. There is a lack of water. The chilled people nervously look for a place in the car and, eventually tired out, lay down. Some fresh air reaches inside the car from the small window, covered with barbed wire.

Wanting to stop the stirring up of cement dust from to the chaotic shifting of everyone in the wagon we create a six person committee in order to help one another. From the moment the Germans locked the door of the car and isolated us from the world, inside we became as one family at the mercy of the Germans for who knows how many days or nights. The smallest assistance brought comfort during the nightmarish trip. We help the mothers and children as well as the elderly to settle down and remind them to move as little as possible. After a careful count, it turns out that there are 33 people in the car: four children, 16 women and 13 men.

They load about 1100 of us into 30 freight cars. Finally, by 11 o'clock, a locomotive is hitched up and the train carrying the evacuees begins to move. After many switches and shunting it stops at the Poznan-Franowo train station at 12:30. Again we wait monotonous hours for our much desired departure. The day was cold and in the unheated car we increasingly felt colder. Body functions asserted themselves but the doors are locked so it is impossible to exit the car. The children begin to relieve themselves in the middle of the car. The women who couldn't hold out any longer began to maneuver some kind of containers which in the confined space was a complicated and unpleasant activ-



Deportees. Gniezno, 1940.

ity. Everybody was thirsty and practically no one managed to bring water. Even those who had a kettle or bottle, strongly regretted that they had not provisioned themselves with water.

It gradually gets colder and even though each of us are covered with what we had, we still freeze. When the containers used to care for our physiological needs overfills, the people begin to use the center of the wagon where earlier we had made some space and gathered together some rubbish and cement which absorbed people's leavings. In spite of covering any holes and the one window it began to get darker and smellier. Everyone tries to arrange their things as comfortable as possible and insulate themselves from the cold wafting up from the floor of the wagon. Families huddle together, trying to warm themselves

through body heat. Long monotonous hours passed waiting for departure. The locomotive doesn't arrive. This one and then another began to partake in a small bite to eat from their provisions. The greatest racket was from the crying children who were cold and uncomfortable. You could here "Mama, I want to go home" over and over again. The mothers did what they could to help them fall asleep. In the end the entire wagon began to fall asleep with the exception of one individual who keeps vigil.

Towards morning our transport is still without a locomotive. There is no sound of voices. One can only hear the clatter of distant trains and the shunting of wagons... We wait in resignation...after 14 hours, a locomotive is coupled on and the train is finally moving the deportees towards the unknown. [From: *Wysiedlenie i Poniewierka 1939-1945. Wspomnienie Polaków wysiedlonych przez okupanta hitlerowskiego z ziem polskich "wcielonych" do Rzeszy. (Deportation and Homelessness 1939-1945. Memoirs of Poles deported by the German occupants from the Polish region "incorporated" into the Third Reich. Edited by Ryszard Dylinski).*]

Join us next month for the continuation of the story.

If you are interested in exploring the experiences of people during World War II, please log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PolandBuffaloWWII>.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Holocaust Reconsidered

Historians have recently called for a major reassessment of the Holocaust because the symbolic power of Auschwitz obscures the Nazis' mass shootings and other atrocities in the East.

Timothy Snyder of Yale says "Auschwitz yielded numerous survivors who after the war were free to recount the horrors they experienced. Not so Holocaust victims caught behind the Iron Curtain.

"An adequate vision of the Holocaust would place Operation Reinhardt, the murder of the Polish Jews in 1942, at the center of its history," he says, including the horrors of the death camps Treblinka, Sobibor and Belzec — the latter of which, "though the third most important killing site of the Holocaust, after Auschwitz and Treblinka, is hardly known." Next in importance are the mass shootings in the Soviet Union, eastern Poland and the Baltics in 1941-42, often with local assistance ("All in all, as many if not more Jews were killed by bullets as by gas ..."). This "Shoah by bullets" killed a million Jews in 1941 alone, Snyder says, "the equivalent of the total number of Jews killed at Auschwitz during the entire war." "In shorthand, then, the Holocaust was, in order: Operation Reinhardt, Shoah by bullets, Auschwitz," Snyder says, "or Poland, the Soviet Union, the rest." Yet, he adds, even this accounting "omits the state that Hitler was chiefly concerned to destroy, the other state that killed Europeans en masse in the middle of the century: the Soviet Union."

MODLITWY

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

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

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

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

Omer Bartov, in his recent book "Erased: Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present-Day Ukraine" (Princeton University Press) recounts the slaughter of the Jews in Buchach and 20 similar towns during World War II, an atrocity whose memory was suppressed by Soviet Russia and only slowly emerging today. Some 500,000 Jews were brutally killed in Western Ukraine alone.

ARMY CHAPLAIN DIES FROM IRAQ WAR INJURIES Fr. Timothy Vakoc, an Army chaplain wounded in Iraq in 2004, died recently at the age of 49 and joins his 4,000+ compatriots who gave their lives in the war. He was wounded in Mosul by a roadside bomb on the 12th anniversary of his ordination. He once told his sister, "The safest place for me to be is in the center of God's will, and if it is in the line of fire, that's where I'll be." RIP.

POLISH ENGINEER REFUSES TO CONVERT, EXECUTED. When Pakistani Taliban asked captured Polish oil exploration engineer Piotr Stanczak, 42, to choose between execution and conversion to Islam, he remained true to his faith and was beheaded by his captors. He was being held as a bargaining chip in negotiations to free a jailed terrorist. The details of Stanczak's death were revealed by his captors to another hostage, a Pakistani, who was later released unharmed.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Holy Cross Fr. Laurence Olszewski on his 70th birthday, which he celebrated at the Holy Cross Retirement Community in Cocoa Beach, Fla. He served a large parish in Cartavio, Peru, and later in Senegal, Tanzania, and Burundi as a missionary with the Catholic Relief Services. Former pastor of St. John the Evangelist RC Parish in Viera, Fla., he currently assists at Divine Mercy Parish on Merritt Island.

Msgr. Anthony E. Jaworowski, pastor emeritus of St. Adalbert RC Parish, Philadelphia, on his 65 anniversary as a priest. Among his many assignments, Msgr. Jaworowski served on the faculty at St. Pius X High School and was archdiocesan vocations director.

Fr. Ignatius J. Szal, pastor emeritus of Holy Martyrs RC Parish, Oreland, Pa., on his 65th anniversary of ordination. In addition to parish assignments, Fr. Szal served as the director of the Hispanic Apostolate and the spiritual director of the Legion of Mary.

Fr. Benjamin Fiore, S.J. on the 35th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood and 45th anniversary of religious life.

PAPAL STATUE AT ROME HOSPITAL. . . A 10-foot tall statue of Pope John Paul II was recently unveiled in the patio in front of Rome's Gemelli Hospital, where the pope was cared for on nine occasions, the first being on May 13, 1981, after the assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square and the last in March 2005, shortly before his death. The pope jokingly referred to the hospital as Vatican III, the third papal residence after those at the Vatican and Castel Gandolfo. Cardinal Dziwisz, the pope's long-time secretary, remarked, "From the tenth-floor window, he blessed the suffering crowds, and now from the center of the square — where his sculpture was raised with exquisite sensitivity — he will continue to watch over this site and to bless those who come, and those who here serve the sorrow of mankind."

STO LAT TO ... Michael J. Kolakowski, of St. Albert the Great RC Parish in Huntingdon Valley, Pa., on his ordination to the permanent diaconate. He is a retired Philadelphia elementary school principal.

Fr. Joseph Lewandowski on his installation as pastor of Transfiguration of Our Lord PNCC Parish in



Pictured above are David Harris (left), executive director of the American Jewish Committee and Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk (right), Consul General of the Republic of Poland presenting a lifetime achievement award to Chicago Zoning Attorney John J. Pikarski, Jr. for his decades of effort on behalf of the National Polish-American Jewish-American Council. Pikarski received the award at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York City.

Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

Fr. Jack Podsiadlo, S.J., on assuming the duties of president of the New York Nativity Centers, inner city middle schools to prepare and motivate young people to succeed in high school and college. The schools operate in Crown Heights, Brooklyn; Hunt's Point, Bronx; and Manhattan's lower East side.

Sr. Emmanuela Le, CSFN, and Sr. Nahida Al Sawa, CSFN on pronouncing their vows in the Rite of Profession as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Also Sr. Rosalynn Nguyen, CSFN on being accepted as a novice at the congregation's novitiate in Grand Prairie, Texas.

POPE JOHN PAUL II AT EASE. A newly-published book, "Beauty and Spirituality of Married Love," includes photographs of the late pope while he was still a parish priest. He is shown relaxing on a camping trip with his students, a college study group called The Little Family. The pope's nickname at that time was wujek (uncle).

U.S. WOMEN RELIGIOUS UNDER SCRUTINY. Sr. J. Lora Dambroski of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God president of the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and the organization's other leaders met with

Vatican officials from the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith who are conducting a "doctrinal Assessment" of the group's activities. According to Vatican spokesman Fr. Federico Lombardi, S.J., the Vatican visitation team will "undertake in the coming months a study regarding doctrinal problems that have presented themselves in the area of female religious life in the United States." This is a follow-up to a 2001 report on "the initiatives taken or planned" to promote acceptance of Vatican teachings on the problem of homosexuality, the ordination of women to the priesthood and the 2000 declaration "Dominus Jesus," which concerns interfaith relations.

CAMBRIA CITY REVISITED. The new parish, created by Altoona-Johnstown Bishop Joseph V. Adamiec, who closed and merged four Cambria City, Pa., churches will be called Resurrection Roman Catholic Church. A transition council is handling the particular details of the merger in an attempt to save treasured traditions and activities in the merged parishes. Two members of each parish comprise the council. In the meantime, parishioners of Ss. Casimir & Emerich Church, which will be closed, put on display a photographic retrospective of life in the Polish and Hungarian Church communities.



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KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Travelogue — A Date with the Works of Zofia Stryjeńska

The National Museum in Kraków (al. 3 Maja 1) is housed in a rather formidable looking building that looks like the kind of place where state secrets might be kept. At the main reception I was greeted by the charming Dorota Dziunikowska from the Promotions Department, who had arranged my press tour of the facility. We sat down near the café section, where I was briefed about the history of the Museum and the groundbreaking retrospective of **Zofia Stryjeńska**.

Kraków has an embarrassment of riches on the museum front. It was the former Royal Capital; however when museums first came into vogue in Europe, Poland only really existed as an idea. The country had been wiped off the map in 1795 by Russia, Prussia and Austria, and thereafter, presenting patriotic material was difficult and complicated. Poland's oldest museum, the Czartoryski, now a branch of the National, had to flee to France with its owners, the Czartoryski Princes, in 1831.

In 1873, the Austrians gave the Poles a free rein — much to the annoyance of Russia and Prussia. From that point, the Habsburg Kingdom of Galicia became the most flexible place in the former Polish lands to launch a patriotic enterprise. Kraków immediately took the lead.

The nobility wanted to turn Kraków into a giant open-air and indoor museum of Poland's history. The jewel in the crown was to be the former Royal Castle, which was officially returned to the nation in 1905 after a stint as an Austrian army barracks.

Four museums were launched or re-established: **Princes Czartoryski** (ul. Sw. Jana 19), **Emeryk Hutten-Czapski** (ul. Piłsudski 10-12), **Matejko House** (ul. Floriańska 41) and the **Gallery of Polish Art** (Sukiennice, Main Square), all of which are now under the auspices of the National.

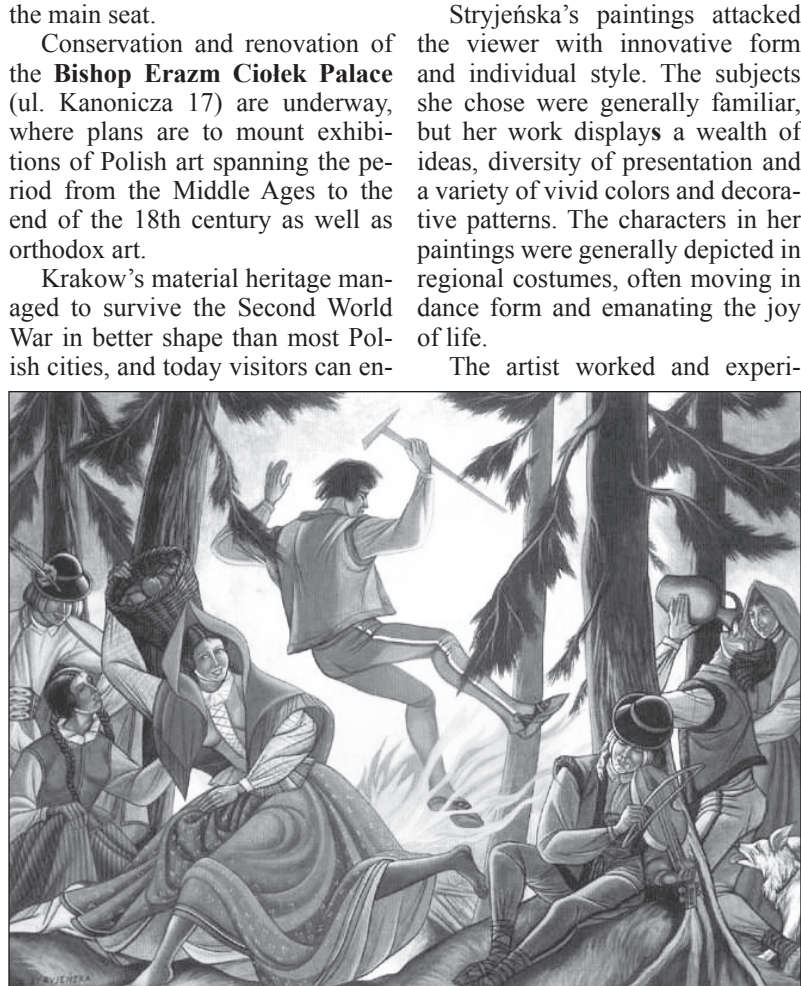
More branches were added after Poland regained her independence in 1918, these include **Józef Mehoffer House** (ul. Krupnicza 26), **Stanisław Wyspiański Museum** (ul. Szczyptańska 11), **Karol Szymanowski Museum** in Zakopane (ul. Kasprucie 19), **Princes Czarto-**

ryski Library (ul. św. Marka 17), and a massive modern building as the main seat.

Conservation and renovation of the **Bishop Erazm Ciolek Palace** (ul. Kanonicza 17) are underway, where plans are to mount exhibitions of Polish art spanning the period from the Middle Ages to the end of the 18th century as well as orthodox art.

Kraków's material heritage managed to survive the Second World War in better shape than most Polish cities, and today visitors can en-

joy the accumulation of centuries of heritage.



Przy wotrze góralskiej (At the Highlander's Fire)

joy the accumulation of centuries of heritage.

Receiving a commemorative satchel, full of museum guides, books, folders and promotional material, I was escorted to the entrance of the exhibit I was eager to view.

ZOFIA STRYJEŃSKA (1891-1976) ranked among the most popular Polish artists of the interwar period. She won fame at the 1925 Paris International exhibition, where she received a string of Grand Prix awards. Although derided by some Polish critics as a second-rate graphic artist, her distinctive style as a multi-faceted artist was hugely influential, with its exuberant blend of art deco and folk motifs.

After the war, Stryjeńska was alienated from the mainstream as she refused to join the Communist government's *Union of Polish Artists*. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, there has been renewed interest

in her work, and this is the first major exhibition dedicated to her art. Stryjeńska's paintings attacked the viewer with innovative form and individual style. The subjects she chose were generally familiar, but her work displays a wealth of ideas, diversity of presentation and a variety of vivid colors and decorative patterns. The characters in her paintings were generally depicted in regional costumes, often moving in dance form and emanating the joy of life.

The artist worked and experimented in many forms, styles and mediums. She pursued painting on easel and large canvas, as well as mural painting, drawings in pencil, charcoal and crayon, and graphic arts — mostly lithography. Stryjeńska designed theatrical sets and costumes, posters, illustrations and covers of books for adults and children, kilims, textiles, toys and other functional forms.

She was a child of Kraków, born on the 13th of May in 1891 into the prosperous Lubański family. Zofia studied at various art schools in Poland and finally at the famous Munich School of Art, where with her brother's passport, she disguised herself as a man, calling herself Tadeusz Grzymała, in order to gain admittance. In Munich she became infatuated with Aleksander Sucharow, a renowned Russian ballet dancer, who may have influenced her ability to capture the motion and vitality of dance.

It was at the *Warsztaty Krakowskie* cooperative that Zofia met Karol Stryjeński, an architect, sculptor, educator, and designer. According to her diary it was love at first sight. They were married in a private ceremony on November 4, 1916, but many years later divorced. The couple had three children: Magda and twins, Jan and Jacek.

From 1912 she took part in numerous exhibitions at home and abroad, including the Venice Biennale of 1920. At the International Exhibition of Decorative Arts in Paris in 1925 Stryjeńska received four Grand Prix for mural painting, poster, fabric, and book illustration. France stressed that the painter's work is thoroughly modern, yet at the same time, based on the traditions of Poland, which intrigued the West.

In 1928, together with Władysław Ostrowski, she painted the ornamental mural decoration of apartment houses in the Old Town in Warsaw to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Poland's independence. Unfortunately the Old Town was completely destroyed by the Nazis after the Warsaw Uprising. A copy of Stryjeńska's fresco of two village

maidens was reconstructed in 1953.

Her work decorated the passenger liners *Batory* (1934) and *Piłsudski* (1935) and the *Fukier* wine tavern and *Wedel* patisserie in Warsaw (1935), and she designed decorative patterns for the China Factory in Cmielów.

In 1930 the Polish government gave Stryjeńska its highest award, *Polonia Restituta*, and six years later the Polish Academy of Literature awarded her the *Gold Academic Wreath*.

For her friend, composer Karol Szymanowski's Podhale-inspired ballet, *Harnasie*, she created three sets of costumes. The first set was not used, but the second was used for the premier in Warsaw's Great Theatre and the third for the *Polski Balet Reprezentacyjny* performances in 1939, in Paris, Brussels, and New York City.

On display in the Polish Pavilion at the 1939-40 New York World's Fair were examples of Stryjeńska's work. After the outbreak of World War II, 11,000 objects from the Polish Pavilion were stranded in New York and a number of them found their way to the *Polish Museum of America* in Chicago.

During these years Stryjeńska created one album of enormous value — *Polish Peasants' Costumes*. Figures were depicted from both front and back, with the costumes being authentic reproductions of regional garments. The album was printed with an introduction and notes by Tadeusz Seweryn, curator of the Ethnographic Museum in Kraków.

Subsequent Art Deco style representation albums followed. I was fortunate to have acquired many of these original gouache hand colored lithographs from the *Polish Art Center* in Hamtramck, Mich., over 10 years ago. Each drawing in the limited edition of 400 volumes is signed by artist.

Art was Stryjeńska's escape from the nightmare of war. She spent the war years in Kraków. In 1943 she discovered she had syphilis, which affected her eyes and at times she could not paint.

AFTER THE WAR, not wanting to live in a Communist country, she joined her children in Switzerland, and then lived briefly in Geneva, Paris, and Brussels. Having applied to the *Kosciuszko Foundation* for assistance, Stryjeńska attempted to immigrate to the United States. Unfortunately, the Supervisory Board of the Foundation refused her appeal.

Without her permission, the Communist government appropriated her paintings and illustrations of Polish subjects and folklore for mass-produced postcards, calendars, plate decorations, and other objects, and used her graphic designs for various commercial purposes. Her name even was signed to works created by others. She was never paid royalties, nor did she claim any; she merely lamented about the poor quality of the reproductions.

Two years before her death, the *Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation* of New York City presented Stryjeńska an award inscribed "For extraordinary artistic achievement in visual arts. Her original works, subtly inspired by Polish folk art, left an indelible mark on the Polish imagination and gained a deserved international recognition."

Her health deteriorated and she was losing her sight. Stryjeńska



The subjects Stryjeńska chose were generally familiar, but her work displays a wealth of ideas, diversity of presentation and a variety of vivid colors and decorative patterns.

died in 1976 in Geneva, where she was buried.

She lived a life of splendor and misery. The heroine of scandals, in private life Stryjeńska remained a timid person, full of complexes. Her life was full of dramatic phrases and a constant struggle for survival.

The museum journey through the splendor of Stryjeńska's work conveyed her vision — full of sensuality, mysticism, humor and vibrant color. Superficial content did not interest her; she introduced freshness to Polish art. Her paintings breathe a great spontaneity and joy of existence.

The collection includes her most important projects, such as large murals from the 1920s: the decorative panels *Pory Roku* (The Four Seasons) with allegories of the months; *Ogień i Woda* (Fire and Water); the *Pasha* (Resurrection) cycle, the complete portfolios of *Bożki Słowiańskie* (Slavic Gods), including the monumental designs on this theme for the Senator Tower at Wawel Castle.

Yet it was the work on Polish folk themes that I was mesmerized by. This choice of subject was influenced by her own early love of Polish folklore. Kraków was surrounded by villages in which folk-life was alive. She was able to witness peasant wedding pageants, folk religious processions, markets, trade fairs, and festivals of all sorts.

IN HER MEMOIR, she described her early morning walks with her father to the Rynek (Market Square) where she saw:

"... a mass of peasants ... from different villages in the environs of Kraków ... who in their fantastic, colorful folk costumes created the impression of some magical meadow replete with flowers of the most beautiful colors ... We walked among this mass of village people of incomparable beauty and grace, whose gestures and style are not to be encountered in any other place, there in the Kraków Rynek the initial images of Slavic Gods germinated in my mind, and a distant premonition of a grand Slavic resurrection led by Poland ... Later, all my life, I painted these village people, this vision of my first youth, in the midst of which I grew up ... it is only to be pitied that my brushes failed to render faithfully their real enchantment, which will always remains in my memory ..."

The Zofia Stryjeńska exhibit has done a great service to an incomparable talent. The retrospective has since traveled to Poznań and Warsaw.

I ventured through the rest of the museum of Poland's late nineteenth century and twentieth century masters in a daze, and left to continue my day in Kraków on an artistic high.

to be continued

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

"Forgotten Beauty": A Polish Costume Exhibit

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America (PMA) is receiving the positive notoriety it well deserves. On Saturday, June 27, the Museum opened its doors to another successful exhibit: "Forgotten Beauty", a Polish Folk Costumes Exhibition. It was a wonderful celebration of Polish culture. Twenty-four young Polish Americans danced and sang to the sounds of Poland's mountain music. This lively, sometimes eerie and high pitched highlander music echoed throughout the Great Hall of the PMA, giving witness to the preservation of Polish customs. Approximately 400 attendees filled the Museum's exhibit hall to re-acquaint themselves with a world filled with vibrant and intricately-made traditional folk costumes from the various regions of Poland. Many of the costumes are on loan from Chicago area Polish folk-dancing troupes. Adding to the importance of this display were works of the multi-faceted Polish artist, Zofia Lubanska Stryjenska (1891-1974), who was dubbed the



Costume of the Lowicz region.

"Princess of Polish Painting." Each painting depicts scenes with Poles dressed in regional costumes. This addition of the exhibit was generously loaned to the Museum by the Polish Women's Alliance of America. The opening reception included a performance by Siumni, a group of Polish folk dancers and musi-

cians from The Polish Highlanders Association of Chicago. Special thanks to Paulina Jakubiec of the Museum's staff, who curated this exhibit. Naturally, such an evening would not have been complete without Polish cuisine, spirits and wines. "Forgotten Beauty" will be on display until August 15.

A SUMMER BALL REVISITED.

As it has for over 30 years, The Polish Museum of America held its major fund-raising event, the Summer Ball on June 26 at the Café La Cave in Des Plaines, Illinois. From finding that "special something" among the numerous items from the Ball's Silent Auction to experiencing fine dining, to having lively conversations with guests, as well as dancing to the music of the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra made for a special evening. But it was also an evening of presenting the Museum's prestigious Polish Spirit Award, honoring that individual or those individuals who made positive contributions to the Polish community and beyond. This year's recipient was Teresa N. Abick, vice-president of the Polish National Alliance. Mrs. Abick was awarded the Polish



Wallace Ozog, Teresa N. Abick, Maria Ciesla, and Jan Lorys.

Spirit Award for decades of service to the Polish American community, especially for her contributions in

sustaining Polish traditions through Polonia's youth.

REGIS BARWIG'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

Father Regis Norbert Barwig, Prior of the Community of Our Lady, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Sunday, May 31. This Holy Mass of Thanksgiving was held at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago. Assisting Father Barwig was His Eminence Jozef Cardinal Glemp, Primate of Poland. A black tie/white tie reception and dinner honoring Father Barwig was held later that evening in Chicago's world-famous Gold Coast Room of the Drake Hotel. This by-invitation-only event was attended by Father Barwig's family as well as a multitude of friends. Clergy representing the Archdiocese of Chicago, Poland, and his Benedictine order, members from the Community of Our Lady, were in attendance. Regis Barwig's ancestral background dates back to his paternal great-grandparents' arrival in Chicago via Galveston, Texas in 1862. His maternal great-grandparents date back, according to St. Stanislaus records, to 1870. Father Barwig graduated from St. Stanislaus Grammar School and Weber High School. After graduating from Illinois Benedictine University, he became a monk at St. Benedict's Abbey, based in Lisle, Illinois. He continued his graduate



His Eminence Jozef Cardinal Glemp, Primate of Poland, and Father Regis Norbert Barwig.

studies in political science while attending Georgetown University, and then pursued sacred theology studies at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, Italy. Ordained on May 30, 1959, Father Regis celebrated his first solemn Mass on June 14, at his boyhood parish of St. Stanislaus. After his ordination, he spent approximately seven years at the POLISH DAILY NEWS (*Dziennik Chicagowski*) as an administrative assistant and translator. In 1964, his Benedictine superiors requested that Father Regis organize the founding of Our Lady of Claremont Priory in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. In 1968, un-

der the guidance of Cardinal Amleto Giovanni Cocognani, the Vatican's Secretary of State and with the blessing of Pope Paul VI, Father Barwig along with Fathers Eugene Kalinski and Augustine Sarafini, who, incidentally, assisted Father Barwig as he celebrated his first solemn Mass, established the Community of Our Lady, a monastic foundation in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Father Regis Norbert Barwig is Canon of the Royal Chapter of Wilanow-Warsaw, Honorary Principal Chaplain of the Polish Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

SCIENCE

New Element to be Named for Copernicus

(BBC) — Discovered 13 years ago, and officially added to the periodic table last month, element 112 finally has a name.

It will be called "copernicium," with the symbol Cp, in honour of the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus.

Copernicus (Mikolaj Kopernik) deduced that the planets revolved around the Sun, and finally refuted the belief that the Earth was the centre of the Universe.



The team of scientists who discovered the element chose the name to honour the man who "changed our world view."

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) will officially endorse the new element's name in six months' time in order to give the scientific community "time to discuss the suggestion."

Scientists from the Centre for Heavy Ion Research in Germany, led by Professor Sigurd Hofmann, discovered copernicium in fusion experiments in 1996.

"After IUPAC officially recognized our discovery, we agreed on proposing the name (because) we would like to honor an outstanding scientist," said Professor Hofmann.

Copernicus was born 1473 in Torun, Poland. His finding that the planets circle the sun underpins much of modern science. It was pivotal for the discovery of gravity, and led to the conclusion that the stars are incredibly far away and that the Universe is inconceivably large.

MATYJASZEWSKI CITED BY EPA.

For the 14th year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized chemical technologies developed by leading researchers and industrial innovators who are making significant contributions to pollution prevention in the United States. The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards are given in five categories: Academic, Small Business, Greener Synthetic Pathways, Greener Reaction Conditions and Designing Greener Chemicals. Among the 2009 Award winners was Professor Krzysztof Matyjaszewski of Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. The Matyjaszewski Group, which Professor Matyjaszewski heads, currently consists of 13 graduate students, six postdoctoral fellows, and two undergraduate students. It has led to the publication of 10 books, 66 book chapters, over 600 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and 36 U.S. and 108 international patents. Due to the creative work of his group, Professor Matyjaszewski, a native of Poland, ranked second among all fields of chemistry in a list of the 100 most cited scientists compiled in 2008, fourth in 2007, and sixth in 2004-2006 by Essential Science Indicators.

The Green Chemistry Challenge promotes research and development of less-hazardous alternatives to existing technologies that reduce or eliminate waste, particularly hazardous waste, in industrial production.



The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Conference

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast Inc. is celebrating the twenty fifth anniversary of its founding this year. The society was founded on April 25, 1984 by students enrolled in an Adult Education course on Polish genealogy in New Britain, Connecticut, taught by Jonathan Shea.

The 25th anniversary conference will be held at CCSU, August 7-8, and will feature speakers from Poland and Canada, as well as feature lectures on genealogical resources in neighboring nations whose histories are intertwined with that of Poland.

Among those speaking are individuals well known in Polish genealogy circles, namely Matthew Bielawa, Prof. Jonathan Shea, William

Hoffman, Brian Lenius of Canada, and Aleksandra Kacprzak of Grudziadz, Poland. Also speaking will be Thomas Sadauskas on Lithuanian records, Lisa Alzo on Slovak genealogy and Kallile Mehr on the latest developments in acquiring records from various Eastern European archives, among others. Noted scholar Professor Mieczyslaw Biskupski of the host institution will deliver a lecture on the history of Polonia. Representatives from the National Archives, the Connecticut State Library and the Jewish Genealogical society of Connecticut will also be present to assist researchers.

For information about the twenty fifth anniversary conference or the Society, visit or write www.pgsetne.org; PGSETNE, 8 Lyle Road, New Britain, Connecticut 06053-2104.

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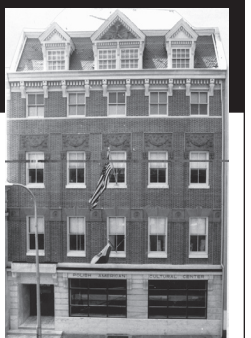
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New Officers



THE POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI inducted new officials for the year, and dedicated its new meeting facility, the Polish Heritage Center, located in Sharonville, Ohio.

The new facility was dedicated to Dr. Herb and Betty Holinko in memory of their many years of service to the community. The PAGSC (www.Polish-American-Cincinnati.org) has been active since 1962.

Pictured are officers and several members (l. to r.): General Joe Lojek, Mike Griscik, Ann Griscik, Michelle Day, Ann Janusik, Emerson Day, Don Szarmach, Jean Ann Obrebski, Marlene Hardman, Ted Hardman, and Ted Day.

Elected were: Andrew Biernat (pres.); Chris Mystkowski (v.p.); John Preklas (treas.); Jean Ann Obrebski (corr. Sec.); Don Szarmach. Named to the board were: Peter Kasprzycki, Helen Preklas, Pawel Kobek, Ann Janusik, Michelle Day, and Ted Day. Ted (Dzieniszewicz) Day was named director of the Polish Heritage Center.

PIASA's 67th Annual Meeting a Great Success

NEW YORK —The 67th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) was held on June 13-14, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency, Jersey City/ On the Hudson. According to the chair of the Annual meeting, Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, over 200 persons attended the two-day, multi-disciplinary conference on Polish and Polish American studies. Most were scholars and scientists from 20 states and five foreign countries which included Poland, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, and Israel.

Representatives of the following organizations participated in the conference: Polish Cultural Foundation of Clark, N.J., Polish American Historical Association, Polonia Technica, Pilsudski Institute of America, The Kosciuszko Foundation, Orchard Lake Schools of Michigan, American Council of Polish Culture and the Polish University Club of N.J.

The conference opened with plenary session on "1989 Annus Mirabilis: Poland's Road to Independence" moderated by Dr. Gromada, President of PIASA, New Jersey City University. Panelists included Dr. Jan Kubik, Rutgers University, Dr. Z. Anthony Kruszewski, University of Texas at El Paso, Dr. Jakub Grygiel, Johns Hopkins University, DR. Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Dr. Susanne S. Lotarski, U.S. Department of Commerce. Seventeen other sessions and panels were presented on various topics and in various disciplines which included, "Poland After 20 years of Transition," "Cold War and Its Aftermath in Poland and Eastern Europe," "Polish Children in Exile," "Prominent Poles in the History of Science," "Polish Music and Cinema," "Kazimierz Wierzyński: On the 40th Anniversary of his Death," "World War II" Its Impact on Poland," etc. The conference concluded with

the presentation of the monodrama "Helena, the Queen of Emigrants" a production of the Polish Theatre Institute of U.S. featuring Nina Polan as Helena Modjeska.

The entire listing of the program can be found on PIASA's website: www.piasa.org

The main banquet address was delivered by John R. Davis, U.S. Ambassador to Poland in the crucial years of the 1980s. He spoke on "1989, the Year that Poland Changed the World" based on his personal experiences in which he was not only an eyewitness but an active participant in making history. He was preceded by Hon. Krzysztof Kasprzyk, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, in New York City, whose remarks were based on his role during the dramatic events of 1989.

The results of the 2009 election by mail ballot were announced during the banquet that took place the evening of June 13. The following were elected to the PIASA Board: Leonard Baldyga, Career Minister, U.S. Foreign Service (ret.), Anna M. Cienciala, Professor of History, University of Kansas; Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz, Director of Brander Cancer Research Institute New York Medical College; Eve Krzyzanowski, media professional, presently Executive Producer of "Moment of Luxury" a series for PBS stations; Rafal Olbinski, graphic artist, illustrator and designer; and John Wasacz, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Manhattan College.

The chair of the meeting was Dr. Gromada, while his Deputy Executive Director Janina Kedron, was the coordinator. The Annual Meeting committee members included staff members Mariusz Bargielski and Patrycja Roman and volunteers Theresa M. Gromada and Henry P. Kedron. Plans for the next Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wis. are being prepared.

POLONIA EAGLE OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Buffalo Mural Arts Program

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Mural Arts Program hosted its first mural creation event in the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood in front of the historic Broadway Market on July 25. The theme was "Faces of Broadway - Fillmore." Community members were invited paint their faces and leave their "mark" inside of the market.

The Buffalo Murals Arts Program is associated with the B.E.S.T. Community Association, a non-profit organization whose mission includes the preservation, revitalization and beautification of the East Side of Buffalo. Through the Mural Arts Program, the groups hope to revitalize the Broadway Fillmore area, provide future generations with a sense of the neighborhood's past, and instill a sense of civic pride in the neighborhood's residents.

Project co-ordinator Aniela Baj sums up the project thusly: "As in the words of our own Goo Goo Dolls, "Broadway is dark tonight", but with a little less conversation and a little more action ... we can have a bright future that symbolizes where we've been." For additional information on the project, please contact Ms. Baj at (716) 479-2342.

CORPUS CHRISTI "DOZYNKI"

The 30th Annual "Dozynki" Polish Harvest Festival will take place on August 22 and 23 at Corpus Christi Church on Buffalo's East Side. This celebration, which dates to the Middle Ages, is the Polish equivalent of America's Thanksgiving holiday.

This year's festival will offer homemade Polish food and drink, as well as polka, classical and pop music, and an opportunity to tour the historic church. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered on Sunday, August 23 at 11:30 a.m.

The sounds of Al Kania's "Polka Smile, Eastern Style" will fill the air on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday afternoon, the big tent features music by Joe Macielag's "Pic-A-Polka" Band. Dyngus Day favorites "Those Idiots" will entertain the crowd on Sunday evening.

This year, Corpus Christi Church is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the current church building. The entire Corpus Christi Parish campus has been designated a New York State Landmark and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For additional information about the festival and Corpus Christi Church, please visit www.corpus-christibuffalo.org.

POLONIA TIDBITS. On June 20, the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress organized a pro-



MARY BETH WROBEL. Hometown favorite dropped by WIVB.

test against the Kaleidoscope Theatre Company's production of David Ives' play "Polish Joke." WNY PAC Division President Richard Solecki and PAC National Director Joseph Macielag, armed with copies of the play's script, confronted Keith Wharton, the production manager and co-owner of Kaleidoscope. Over 30 Polish Americans participated in the picketing at the Marie Maday Theatre on the Canisius College campus ... **Holy Trinity Church**, the recently closed Mother Church of Niagara Falls' Polonia, was sold by the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo to the Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service organization ... **The Podhale Parents and Youth Association** held its annual picnic in Franklinville during the Independence Day weekend ... The Catholic League Appeal for Religious Assistance to the Church in Poland announced that the Diocese of Buffalo collected over \$57,000 during its 2008 appeal .. **Mary Beth Wrobel**, a Black Rock native and an accomplished soprano singer, was let go from her position as weekend meteorologist by WIVB-TV Channel 4 in Buffalo.

Fredonia native **Jenn Stuczynski** won her fourth national pole vault title at the U.S. Track and Field Championships, clearing 15 feet 3 inches ..**The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** hosted its Annual Accordion Jam, featuring John Firth, Dan Mocniak and Ted Kania, at St.

Western New Yorker **Pauline Bernat** celebrated her 105th birthday on June 22, 2009. Born Pauline Bogusz, she married Anthony Bernat in September 1927. The couple had three children: Rita (Sikorski), Henry and Edward. Mrs. Bernat now has seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Her greatest happiness has always been in her role as wife and mother. She also enjoys crochet work and playing cards.

Mrs. Bernat is a life-long member of Corpus Christi Parish on Buffalo's East Side. She graduated from Corpus Christi elementary school and was married from the landmark church. For many years, Mrs. Bernat attended daily Mass. She was a member of the Senior Citizens and Mothers' Club at Corpus Christi.

Mrs. Bernat continued to faithfully participate in weekly Mass until a fall and subsequent hip surgery several years ago has kept her more homebound. She lives at home with her son in Cheektowaga, where she continues in her role as loving matriarch of the extended Bernat family.



John Fisher College on the 19th ... **Council 72** of the Polish National Alliance in Erie, Pa. installed the following officers for 2009-2010: Josephine Wawrzyniak (president), Thomas Habursky, Jr. (male vice-president), Karen Sandell (female vice-president), Holly Nowak (treasurer) and Cindy Plizga (recording secretary) ... **The Professional and Businessmen's Association** has chosen Marcin Ostrowski, the owner of Pol-Tec Industries, as its 2009 Man of the Year. The group has also awarded scholarships to Adam Augustyn, Stephen Bykowiec, Jordan Kurtzman, Jacob Pilarski and Christina Stock ... Former New Orleans Saints offensive lineman and Williamsville South High School graduate **Jim Dombrowski** was selected to enter the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame this year ... Pianists **Janina Fialkowska** and **Ama-deusz Kazubowski-Houston**, and cellist **Luke Pomorski** participated in the 2009 Music Niagara series at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario at the end of July and beginning of August ... Buffalo native **Tod Kniazuk**, the executive director of the "Music is Art" organization established by **Robbie Takac** of the Goo Goo Dolls, announced that this year's "Music is Art" Festival will be held on September 12 on the grounds

of the Albright Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo ... The Buffalo Bisons baseball team will honor **Renee Harzewski** and **Roger Puchalski** at its Annual Polish Festival Night at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 11. Group tickets are available from Mark Gordon at (716) 846-2018 ... The concert by the choir from **Rzeszow** previously scheduled for November 16 at Buffalo State College's Rockwell Hall has been postponed until the Spring of 2010 ... Preliminary discussions are underway between WNY's **Polish Cultural Foundation** and the Miami-based **Chopin Foundation** of the United States regarding the possibility of bringing the winner of the 8th National Chopin Piano Competition to Buffalo as part of a national tour next year."

If you have any item for this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is pietruszka@verizon.net.

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

We invite you to join the American Council for Polish Culture and help preserve an environment that contributes to the development of our Polish culture.



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Gala Celebration In Washington

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Poland's May 3rd Constitution, 90 Years of Poland-United States Diplomatic Relations, a decade of Poland's membership in NATO, and the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism were observed May 6 at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Ambassador Robert Kupiecki and Commanding Military Attaché Brigadier General Leszek Soczewica, received and greeted the line of guests as they arrived for the evening's festivities.

The United States was represented by members of Congress, Department of State officials, various government and agency administrators, White House staffers, and officers the armed forces. Ambassadors, their staffs and military attaches, turned out from the diplomatic community. Guests from NATO and the many international institutions were also in attendance. And the Polonia present was comprised of a large, varied group.

Soprano Laura Kafka, Ph.D., sang the national anthem of Poland and the United States.

Ambassador Kupiecki delivered the opening remarks. He emphasized the importance of Poland's revolutionary and democratic Constitution of May 3rd, 1791 and its profound effect on Poland and Europe ever since. The Constitution has



PHOTO: RICHARD P. POREMSKI

THE EMBASSY OF POLAND observed the 218th Anniversary of Poland's historical May 3rd Constitution at The Corcoran Gallery of Art. Pictured above is guest of honor **Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski** addressing the many attendees. **Ambassador Robert Kupiecki** listens intently after having delivered the opening remarks concerning the evening's varied commemorations dear to Poland.

been fully realized today, he said, with the fall of communism and the end of the Cold War — largely brought about by Poland's triumphant Solidarity movement during the 1980s. Great emphasis was placed on the close and critical U.S./Poland diplomatic relations over the years, which has shaped the history of both nations. Kupiecki also spoke of Poland's heroic resistance — and abject suffering — on this 70th Anniversary of the out-

break of World War II. The huge importance of Poland's admittance into NATO and the 5th Anniversary of Polish membership in the European Union were also mentioned.

Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski, the special guest of honor, was impressed by the invitation's "numerical complexity," saying that all of the anniversaries mentioned are a source of great pride for the people of Poland. The fraternal diplomatic relations between Poland and the United States were recounted — especially harkening back to 1918 when the United States successfully insisted on a resurrected Poland at the end of World War I. But be that as it may, a major catastrophe occurred in 1945 with the end of World War II, when the United States abandoned Poland to the Soviet Union and allowed it to be locked away behind the communist Iron Curtain.

Brzezinski also noted that the historical destinies of both countries have been coupled, beginning with the crucial participation of Polish generals Pulaski and Kosciuszko in the American Revolutionary War. The professor also demonstrated the historical parallels between the May 3rd and Solidarity movements: Therein exists a fundamental and altruistic bond to each other in their pursuits of the ideals of freedom and independence.

PA ON PARADE

SCHNECKSVILLE — Sun., Aug. 9. Polish National Alliance Council 171 **Polish Festival, Dozynki**. Schnecksville Fire Co. Pavilion, Rt. 309, Gates open 11:00 a.m. Polish Mass Noon. Music by Eddie Derwin & The Polka Naturals Band. Refreshments available. Info call Michael Pierzga (610) 759-2775.

PHILADELPHIA — Friday, Aug. 14. The Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation Fifth Annual **Summer Concert**, Ethical Society Building, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, 8:00 p.m. Info/reservations call Alfred Wolanin (267) 987-5347.

DOYLESTOWN — Sept. 5-7, (Labor Day Weekend), and second weekend Sept. 12-13. **Polish American Festival** at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Live music, dance groups, food and refreshments each day. Noon to 8:00 p.m. Info call: (215) 345-0600, or visit their Internet site: www.Polish-Shrine.com.

ANDALUSIA — Sun., September 13. St. Valentine **Parish Family Picnic**, Pulaski Park, 875 Mill Road. 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Music. Info call (215) 632-1816.

NEWSWIRE

THE WAR THAT NEVER ENDS.

Wartime animosity between Poland and Germany could resurface after a new election manifesto published by the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) pledged to promote the cause of those expelled.



MERKEL: Says deportation of Germans unlawful.

The party of the German Chancellor Angela Merkel has declared that its countrymen expelled by Poland after the Second World War have a "right to a homeland" and said the deportations "should be condemned under international law."

In 1945 millions of ethnic Germans were forced from their homes after a redrawing of the border resulted in their lands becoming part of Poland.

The CDU has yet to say what compensation it wants for the expelled and the demand could simply be symbolic.

But any step taken in Germany to highlight suffering endured by German expellees and to right any

apparent wrongs committed against them is bitterly opposed by Poland, which as a nation had to endure over five years of Nazi occupation.

It regards such moves as both an attempt to assuage Germany's wartime guilt by casting Germans as victims and Poles as villains, and an insult to Poland's suffering.

Jaroslav Kaczynski, the leader of Poland's main opposition party and a former prime minister, has condemned the CDU, claiming that the German party was trying to revive territorial disputes and questioning the Polish-German border.

WIELKI BRAT CIĘ OBSERWUJE.

Fines for speeding on roads in Poland will increase, and more cameras will be installed by the government. The cameras will be connected to one main server which can quickly identify the owner of the speeding car and print out a speeding ticket. Government officials maintain that the more efficient system will make roads safer.

BOOKS PRESENTED TO CARDINAL.

Cardinal Stanislaw Rylo, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, was given a copy of three books: "The Domestic Church:

Room by Room" (Circle Press), "Grace Café: Serving Up Recipes for Faithful Mothering" (Circle Press), and "Catholic Saints Prayer Book" (Our Sunday Visitor), at the International Women's Congress to mark the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Mulieris Dignitatem*. The books are all by Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle.

JEWISH HERITAGE TOURS. Jewish Americans wishing to explore their roots in Poland can now experience the country thanks to **Poland Jewish Heritage Tours** (www.polandjewishheritagetours.com). The trips are sponsored by the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture in San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 777-0411.

ETERNAL GRATITUDE. As a child in Poland during World War II, **Lucy Smith** was a "hidden child"; a Jew who was taken in by a Polish family and hidden from the Germans.

She addressed the Polish Cultural Institute of Minnesota about her experiences as part of its 2009 lecture series. Smith was also interviewed by Dan Olson of Minnesota Public Radio for its "Voices of Minnesota" series.

TRIP PLANNED. The **Polish Museum of America** is sponsoring a military-themed trip, Sept. 20-21, to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the invasion of Poland in 1939. For more information, contact Jan Lorys at (773) 384-3352 or jan.lorys@polishmuseumofamerica.com.

U.S. CATHOLIC SEMINARIES HEALTHY.

After a lengthy investigation by an apostolic visitation team, **Zenon Cardinal Grocholewski** signed the report declaring the seminaries generally healthy but recommending a stronger focus on moral theology, increased oversight of seminarians and greater involve-

ment of diocesan bishops in the formation process.

BLAME IT ON THE SUN. Writing in the journal *Medical Hypotheses*, Australian psychologist **Darren Lipnicki** says he found a correlation between the bizarreness of his dreams and the level of local geomagnetic activity influenced by the solar wind. The journal *NEW SCIENTIST* agrees with Lipnicki, finding that studies have linked low geomagnetic activity to an increase in the production of melatonin, a hormone that helps set the body's circadian clock. In short, Lipnicki found the greater the geomagnetic activity, the stranger his dreams.

PAPER PRINTS POLISH JOKE.

PATRIOT AND FREE PRESS (published by the Patriot Newspapers, 34 Water Street Cuba, NY 14727-1490, (585) 968-2580) thinks everyone is too quick to "scream 'racism' these days!" And — for reasons known only to the editor — tried to prove its point in its June 17-23, 2009 edition by printing a Polish joke on the cover the paper. No other explanation was offered for the joke.

Thanks to PAJ reader Rich Kowalski for bringing this to our attention.

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

PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

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

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

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How Will You Be Remembered?

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

specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. **The National Polish Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that needs your help and legacy.**

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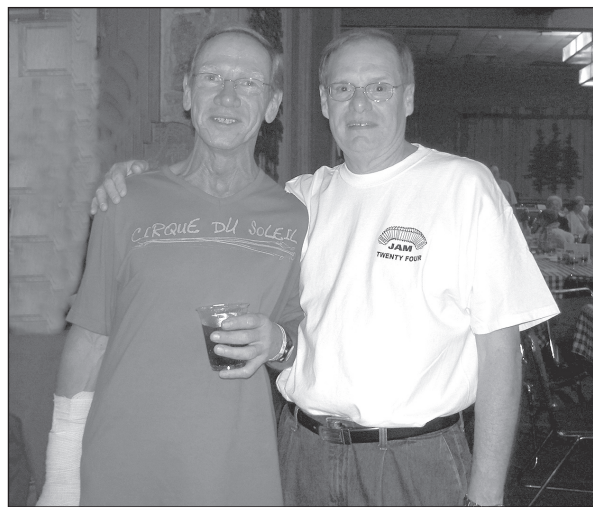
Fireworks Photorama



The Boys were back at the Polka Fireworks. **Ted Borzymowski** and **Mike Matousek** on stage.



Andrea, Erika and **Kristine** of the Polka Towners wowed the crowd at the fest.



Two old Buffalo polka guy **Whitey Ryniec** and PAJ Polka Magazine Editor, **Steve Litwin**.



Jan Cyman and **Tony Blazonczyk** on stage with the New Phaze band.



Bobby Zima and **Wally Maduzia** — polka all stars.



Butch Jasiewicz of the Versa Js on drums in the Alpine Lounge.

The Polka Insider / Steve Litwin

The Queen of the Polka Festivals

The Polka Fireworks Festival has become an institution of polka music. It is where some friends only meet, once a year. It is where you meet at least a couple of new friends every year. It is where things may change but yet people can celebrate and participate, day and night, indoors or out. The 2009 version of the Polka Fireworks at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort continued this tradition and when the bellhop recognizes you as you open your car door, you know you are back "home" again.

There were some changes at the resort and the fountain and grassy area is now a huge pool. On the good side, there is still an outdoor bar. On the bad side, it rained, off and on, for a few days so the pool and the bar didn't get used. The rooms have all been renovated, as has the main lobby. The people are still the same and you couldn't walk 20 feet with-

out seeing some member of the staff you knew.

Easily the most memorable non-polka moment of the week had to be the full two-hour power outage at the resort. Accolades to the staff for the constant and prompt attention. (have you ever been in a rest room when everything goes black?)

Eighteen bands were on the schedule but if you add in jam bands the number was well over that. Music in the halls, in the rooms, near the rooms, in the lounges seemed endless. Sorry, we didn't make the all-night "after jams" but from the eyes of those who did, they had a good time.

Naming bands is not something worth doing because everyone knows bands play "up" at the Polka Fireworks. When you are on stage and see people filling the entire area, stage-front, it makes you want to play.

What has always been unique at the Polka Fireworks is how the resort becomes a polka city for a week. Walk from your room to a restaurant and you'll meet at least a dozen people you know, from musicians to DJs to fans. A ten minute walk usually takes you 30-40 minutes because of the number of times you'll stop to talk.

On a personal note, the 26th annual concertina jam filled the Matterhorn Lounge with over 30 concertina players and other musicians, plus about couple of hundred watchers and listeners, and one "dancing dog. (you had to be there). To all, we send our sincere thanks for allowing Adele and me to mark our 26th year for this event.

To the Blazonczyk family — it is a pleasure to work with you and your hard work makes Polka Fireworks the Queen of polka fests.

Despite Electrical Outage, Polka Power Strong in Pennsylvania

Neither wind, horizontal rain, a total power outage, rumors that spread like room temperature butter, nor water from ceilings could stop determined polka people from enjoying the 2009 Polka Fireworks at the Seven Springs Resort in Western Pennsylvania.

This queen of polka festivals marked its 35th year at the Seven Springs Mountain resort in Champion, Pa. over the July 4th holiday. Featuring four days of live polka music, polka bands, polka workshops, polka jams and band reunions, the event had the dance floors filled and the music constant at the massive Seven Springs Mountain Resort with thousands of people ready for a good time.

The Blazonczyk family and their staff keep everything running smoothly and on schedule. Both back-to-back dance halls provided the perfect venue for the 18 polka bands that played a variety of styles and entertainment throughout the week.

The Polka Fireworks at Seven Springs has become the place musicians and their families can enjoy

their off stage time, taking in all the amenities of the resort, including the new massive swimming pool, the multiple activities for children, the many restaurants and food concessions. The atmosphere is as relaxed as you want it, or as busy as you make it.

The music workshops, where polka musicians offered their expertise and talents to any eager to learn or polish their techniques, were a great success.

This year's Polka Fireworks could only be labeled a complete success and preparations are already being made for the 2010 edition of the Polka Fireworks. Start making plans today.

Bel-Aire Enterprises and Eddie Blazonczyk invite you to attend their 34th Annual Fall Polka Festival at Seven Springs, November 6-7-8, 2009.

For more information, tickets or room reservations contact: Tish Blazonczyk, BelAire Enterprises, 7208 S. Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview, IL 60455. Phone (708) 594-5182, Mon.-Sat. 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; E-mail: belaire7208@aol.com.



Rich Kurdziel and new jammer **Valerie Martin** at the 26th annual Concertina Jam at the Polka Fireworks.



Kathy Blazonczyk has things under control at the well-stocked recording concession.



David "Nigel" Kurdziel on bass with Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones.



"Na zdrowie" from the **Dopkowski** clan of Syracuse.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Polka Saturday Night Redux

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Fans and friends of the former television show "Polka Saturday Night," hosted by the late Big Steve Krzeminski, will have a chance to relive their memories as members of the former Bellaires television band reunite for a benefit.

The dance and tribute to the late Buffalo band leader will be held at the Polish Falcons Club, 445 Columbia Ave., in Depew, Sat. Nov. 28 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

It is being presented by members of the group that played on the television series, namely Dale Wojdyla, Jim Cwick, Ed Pilarz, Dave Maguda, Sonny Wanderlich and Robin Pegg.

Admission is \$10 and money will benefit Roswell-Park Cancer Institute.

To familiarize our readers with band and the late Big Steve, we are interviewing some of its members. Here's what they had to say about Krzeminski and the show.



SONNY WANDERLICH. Trumpet

How long did you play with Big Steve and what year did you start?

I played with Big Steve from 1978 until Jan. 1985 — about seven years.

Have you played in other bands before and after the Bellaires—which ones?

Before Steve, I played with the

Varitones and filled in with other bands. After, I played with the Krew Bros., Dynatones, and Stas Golonka. Most recently, I played with the Concertina All Stars for two and half years until the beginning of this year when I left due to my work schedule.

Are you currently in a band?

No, due to the hours my job requires.

What is your best memory of the Polka Saturday Night Show?

That is easy to answer. We were recording a show right after Christmas in December of 1984 at the Polish Falcons in Depew. This girl came to the taping just to see me. When

I saw her, I dropped my trumpet—it was love at first sight! Six months later, in July of

1985, we were married and that lasted 23 years!

Did you have a favorite episode or favorite place to play?

I enjoyed playing and while I was with the band, we were taping at the Polish Falcons in

Depew. At first, I was a little nervous when the show started but it got better and the tension eased. All of the shows were my favorites because something different and something good happened at each one. I liked that there was always a packed house and the people in attendance were very supportive and enthusiastic! Everyone was friendly and sad to say, many of them have since passed.

Do you have a favorite memory of Steve?

Yes, at every band practice, party or dance, Steve would come up with a joke that would keep us laughing all day. Steve would laugh, too! It was always a fun time and Steve was extremely happy which made it so enjoyable to be in his band. One of my best memories was the trip the band took to play in Hawaii in 1979. The charter plane was full and we had a great time.

Are you on any of Steve's recordings and which ones?

No, I was only on the tapings of the Polka Saturday Night TV show at those episodes taped at the Polish Falcons.

I want to add that Big Steve was a wonderful guy and friend—he would do anything for you. He would always be there for you if you needed him. Everything Steve did came from the heart.



DALE WOJDYLA — Trumpet

How long did you play with Big Steve and what year did you start?

I played with Steve for 20 years. I believe I started in 1973 and ended playing with him in 1993. After leaving the band, our friendship never ended, with my family and his. I played my first job, which was Ray Barsukiewicz's last job, with him New Year's Eve at Plewacki Post on Paderewski and Memorial Drives.

Had you played in other bands before and after the Bellaires — which ones?

The only real steady band that I played in was with the Bell-Tones, when I first started. When that broke up and we all went on, for me it was college, I started to job around while in school. After I graduated that's when I wanted to be in a band, and that's when I hooked up with Steve and became one of the Bellaires!

Are you currently in a band?

Currently I'm playing with the

Buffalo Concertina All-Stars. That was after a long break between Steve and the All-Stars.

What is your best memory of the Polka Saturday Night show?

I can't remember my best, because by the end of the taping I was usually tired. We did three shows at each taping. I liked all the fun we had playing music and having a good time with all the people that attended the tapings.

Do you have a favorite memory of Steve?

Here are some of my favorite places we played at, and I have great memories of each one: Hawaii in 1979; the bus trip to Pheasant Run Resort in Chicago; the band's cruises in 1987, '89 and '91; all of the Polka Saturday Night tapings; Sunday polka parties at the Point Breeze Hotel; recording the album; and all the band parties!

Steve was a very helpful guy and good friend not only with the band but in his personal life, too. I have pleasant memories of getting together with everyone socially, which always included the families. We had many great parties.

Are you on any of Steve's recordings and which ones?

I only did one album with Steve. I was on the "Polka Lovers of America" one with Eddie Pilarz, Jimmy Cwick, and Eddie Skoczylas.



ROBIN PEGG — Trumpet

I would like to ask you what prompted the idea to get the band members together and have a reunion of the Polka Saturday Night band members? It is a great idea and I think it will be a packed house!

This November marks the 10th anniversary of Steve's passing. I figured, it would be a nice way to remember Steve by putting his TV Show band back together again for a one-time-only appearance to show him we have not forgotten about him after just ten years.

How long did you play with Big Steve's band and what year did you start?

I started playing with Steve's band in 1984. I worked with the Bellaires for 11 years.

Had you played in other bands before and after the Bellaires? Which ones?

Yes, as most of your readers know, I am originally from Pennsylvania. I have worked with such great bands as the Polka Jets, Trel-

Tones, Sounds, Dyna-Tones, Wanda & Stephanie, and PhoCus, just to name a few.

Are you currently in a band?

Yes, actually I'm working with two right now; Stephanie & her Honky Band and the Concertina All Stars.

What is your best memory of the Polka Saturday Night show?

Watching the show come together, from just a dream that Steve had. The people, the songs — mostly done "on the fly" as Steve would put it. We never pre-arranged a TV show. It was always "off the cuff." I think that's what made it most exciting for me.

Did you have a favorite episode or favorite place to play?

All of the shows were great! But, I have memories of playing outside at Point Breeze Hotel in Angola and Lacki Plaza in Niagara Falls.

Do you have a favorite memory of Steve?

His professionalism combined with his humor. I think that's what I miss the most about Steve, his humor. He could take any bad situation and make it funny so you would kind of forget what you were worried about. It made me see things from a different prospective.

Are you on any of Steve's recordings? Which ones?

Yes, I am on the "Big Steve's Back" CD (released on 1994) and funny you should ask Barb, I am also on an upcoming special recording that will be released that evening, Saturday Nov. 28, 2009. It features the guys from the "Big Steve's Back" CD.

Thanks for your continued support Barb! Without folks like you, people wouldn't have nice things to read about in our Polish papers every week/month.

I'll have more interviews next month!

GET WELL SOON. Big Al Bakowski had major surgery on June 26. After some complications, he was doing as well as could be expected. Please keep him in your prayers ... And get-well wishes are going out to **Norb Pacer**, who recently underwent knee replacement surgery on June 6. Norb said he wore out his knees dancing all those polkas!

OUR SYMPATHY to her family and friends of on the passing of **Alice Nowak** on June 19. Alice ran the Nowak's catering business for many years and her delicious food has been enjoyed at many of our doings.

MISCELLANY. Family and friends of **Ann Kierejewski** celebrated her 90th birthday in style, with a surprise party on July 18 ... If you're attending the Erie County Fair this month, keep an eye out for **Justin Kohan**, who is playing trumpet in the Pepsi-Cola All Stars Marching Band. You won't miss the group: they are wearing tie-dyed shirts and blue shorts.

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Evanina Releases Merrymakers Anthology



John Evanina and the Pennsylvania Merrymakers.

PECKVILLE, Pa. — John Evanina is proud to announce the release of a double CD package called "John Evanina and the Anthology of the Pennsylvania Merrymakers."

This new package contains 42 songs from seven LPs recorded by the Merrymakers in the 1970s and 1980s. All songs have been digitally remastered and are now available on two CDs.

Included are seven cuts off the first recording on Stella Records dating back to 1972. The history of the band continues with songs off five recordings on Lemans Records, and ends with eight songs off the Merrymakers last recording on Starr Records.

This double CD package also features an eight-page jacket. The jacket includes pictures of the band, discography, credits and a list of all the musicians that recorded with the Pennsylvania Merrymakers.

Also included is a complete history of the Pennsylvania Merrymakers

dating back to 1957 when the band was originally called the "JustUs 4," later called the "Evaninas," "The Merrymakers," and finally the "Pennsylvania Merrymakers." The history details John Evanina's 52 years of entertaining polka fans.

The double CD anthology contains a mixture of polkas, obereks, waltzes, a zardas and seven bonus tracks featuring Polish and Ukrainian figure dances. Included are instrumentals and great English and Polish vocals.

Some of the musicians include John Evanina, Tom Butash, Frank Kozak, Alan Piatkowski, Charley "The Fiddler" Lawrisky, Ed Goldberg, and Joe Stanky.

The Pennsylvania Merrymakers Anthology can be purchased for \$20.00. The purchase price includes shipping and handling. Please make your \$20 check or money order out to "Polka CD" and mail to Polka CD, P.O. Box 234, Peckville, PA 18542. (See advertisement below).

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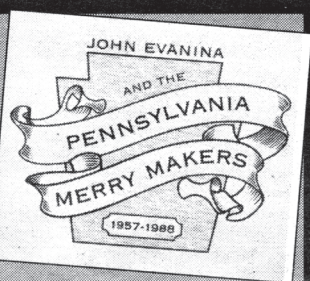
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Polka Jammer Network Releases New CD

"Jammin' Summer" a new live CD produced by the Polka Jammer Network has been released. The CD features 25 tracks from many of your favorite polka artists recorded live. Artists include: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Polka Family, Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men, Connecticut Twins, The Tones, The Downtown Sound, Gennie O & The Windy Brass, Happy Louie, Marion Lush, Gene Wisniewski, Steve Adamczyk, The Dynatones, Billy Belina's Honky Band, and many more.

It is available for a donation of \$35.00 to the Polka Jammer Network. All proceeds go strictly toward operating costs.

Please help keep the Polka Jammer Network on the air by picking up a copy. Visit: www.polkajammernetwork.org.

Toledo Area Polka Society

TOLEDO — The Toledo Area Polka Society (TAPS) is a non-profit organization that started in 1982 when a group of polka enthusiasts met in an East Toledo garage. From its early days at LaPark Nite Club, their purpose in starting the group was simply to promote live Polish music. What started out with 25 members grew to a one-time peak of approximately 750 members before an aging core caused the group to plateau at its current level of 400 enthusiasts. Its first officers, Tom Ross, president; Dick Reed, vice president; Ruth Silka, treasurer; DeLores Ziemankowski, secretary; and Walter Ziemankowski, sergeant of arms, set its direction in the early days. It now hosts monthly dances from September through May at its home base, Conn-Weissenberger Hall, 2020 W. Alexis Road in North Toledo. It also sponsors Bus trips to major Polka events in Champion, Pa. and Frankenmuth, Mich.

Upcoming dances at Conn-Weissenberger Hall, 2020 W. Alexis (\$10 cover for members; \$13 for guests) include: Ray Jay, Sat., Oct. 17, 7:00-11:00 p.m.; and Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz, Sun., Nov. 22.

Oktoberfest in the Hudson Valley

FLORIDA, N.Y. — The Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, N.Y., will be the location for an Oktoberfest featuring Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra, Ray Jay & the Carousels, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Duane Malinowski, The Maestro's Men, Patti & the Guys and The Polka Naturals September 25-27. For details contact: United Polka Artists at (800) 724-0727.

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POLKA PLATTER

AOL Adds Polka to its Internet Radio

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (PMN)—"AOL Polka" launched on July 2, 2009. The discs have been flying fast and furious from the Minnesota-based Internet radio network location to the AOL master library, so that they can be included in the very first polka station that AOL has ever host.

Denny Anderson of The International Main Street Polka Band says, "The Polka community has been outstanding rallying to the support of this new Internet radio stream. It will be unlike the very fine Internet Polka streams in existence already, because it will mix all the styles together all the time."

Anderson added, "The up-side is if you really want to hear one style of polka it just may turn up next! You can put any station that is playing on 'pause' plus you can skip songs that come on. So if you don't like the song that's on you don't have to sit through it."

A polka fan does not have to be a subscriber to AOL to listen and there is no charge involved. There is also a great tuner application for iPhones.

To tune in from your computer point your Internet browser to <http://www.aolradio.com> and click on the button on the page that says "Listen Now." A player pops up and there is a big column on the left hand side that says "Stations By Category." Polka will be in the cat-

egory "World/International" at the bottom of the alphabetical category listing. For a short time it will also be listed in "What's New" at the top of the column.

Listeners will ultimately be responsible for how the station develops. When a song plays the title and artist is displayed and there is the option to rate the song. Give it one to five stars. Anderson says he will pay close attention to that and over time, if there is a song that consistently gets bad ratings, it will be pulled. A person's vote counts only once, so a single person cannot push a particular song to the top.

Anderson may be contacted at [http://imspolkaband@comcast.net](mailto:imspolkaband@comcast.net).

BIG JOE, who is featured twice weekly on RFD-TV, will be videotaping in Buffalo, N.Y. October 1-4, 2009. His show is now available in over 43 million homes. He is based in Omaha, Nebraska.

MIKE STAPINSKI is working hard to inform polka fans about the new open blog at www.polkasunited.com. It is something new that is designed to help polka music, making the genre move forward and grow. Although a newcomer, it is already drawing attention and fans are contributing their thoughts, praises and criticisms.

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www.247polkaheaven.com

Watch for more information on

www.charmcitysound.com

and www.rbpolka.com

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"FAVORITE FOOTBALL TEAM NIGHT" wear your favorite

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Doors Open 5pm | Bands 6pm - 12am

Kitchen - Full Menu 5pm - 10pm | Lite Fare 10pm - Close

• Full Circle (featuring 4 IPA Polka Hall of Fame Musicians!)

• Rick Anton and the Polka Stars

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Doors Open 5pm | Bands 6pm - 12am

Kitchen - Full Menu 5pm - 10pm | Lite Fare 10pm - Close

• The Alliance (Buffalo's Newest Polka Band!)

• Eddie Forman Orchestra

• Boys From Baltimore

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Doors Open 4pm | Bands 5pm - 12am

Kitchen - Full Menu 4pm - 10pm | Lite Fare 10pm - Close

• Full Circle

• The Knewz

• The Maestro's Men

• The Polka Family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Doors Open 10:30am | Band 12:30pm - 4:30pm

Kitchen - Full Menu 12:30pm - 4:30pm

• Polka Mass at 11:00am

• Tommy Thomas Trio

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Robert Funk 302-645-5388

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PIAST Institute to Cooperate with Young Polonia Foundation

Hopes to Foster Understanding of Heritage Among Young Polish Americans

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piast Institute, a National Institute for Polish and Polish American Affairs, located in Hamtramck, has developed an agreement to cooperate with the Young Polonia Foundation (Fundacja Młodej Polonii) to help it carry out its mission and increase their presence in the United States. Many in the Polish and Polish American communities in the United States complain that not enough work is done with young members of our community to preserve their Polish heritage. There are organizations, however, dedicated solely to fostering understanding of Polish culture among young people with Polish roots living around the world. The Young Polonia Foundation is the prime example. It has been working towards bringing young Poles living outside of Poland together for almost 20 years by organizing events that promote Polish cultural competency, language proficiency, and historical aptitude.

The Young Polonia Foundation, despite a multitude of successful projects completed worldwide over the last two decades, remains a largely unknown organization for a great majority of Polonia in the United States. "The United States is a huge country, and despite our good relations with the Polish embassy and multiple consulates, we are unable to reach all Polish-American communities throughout America," says Jozef Kaczmarek, the president and founder of Young

Polonia Foundation, which is based in Warsaw, Poland. "And even with those obstacles, we notice a growing number of American participants in our art and poetry contests. Therefore, we are pleased to partner with the Piast Institute to increase our presence in the United States and help spread the knowledge of Polish heritage among millions of young Americans with Polish roots."

The Piast Institute, with its knowledge of the Polish-American landscape of the United States, is the perfect fit to promote Young Polonia's efforts in the country that is home to 2,340,309 people with Polish roots under 18 years of age (according to the 2005-2007 American Community Survey Estimates). "The possibilities are great," says Dr. Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, the president and founder of the Piast Institute. "The mission of Young Polonia complements our mission of building a new Polonia for the 21st Century. Many programs developed by Young Polonia encourage young people to learn the language, explore the culture, and ultimately maintain our rich Polish heritage in America. That is priceless for the future of our community."

To learn more about the Young Polonia Foundation, their programs, different way to support them, or the partnership between Young Polonia Foundation and the Piast Institute, visit youngpolonia.piastinstitute.org.

For more information on Young Polonia Foundation and its partnership with the Piast Institute, contact Dominik Stecula at (313) 733-4535 or email him at stecula@piastinstitute.org.

BOOK REVIEWS / John Grondelski

Friends of Liberty

Gary B. Nash and Graham Russell Gao Hodges
FRIENDS OF LIBERTY: THOMAS JEFFERSON, TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO AND AGRIPPA HULL
New York: Basic Books, 2008
Hardcover, pp. 328, \$26.00
To Order: (800) 343-4499 or Perseus Books Group Orders, 1094 Flex Dr., Jackson, TN 38301 (Organizational bulk purchases: 1-800-255-1514 or special.markets@perseusbooks.com).

If one were to describe books published about Tadeusz Kosciuszko in terms of "feast or famine," we're currently on the feast side. Alex Storzynski, the President and Executive Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation, has given us a well-written global biography of that hero of two countries in his *The Peasant Prince: Tadeusz Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution* (New York: Dunne/MacMillan, 2009). Nash and Hodges take a different tack: they examine how the lives of three figures from the American Revolution—Jefferson, Kosciuszko, and Hull—intersected on the issue of slavery.

Jefferson needs no introduction. Kosciuszko might ring a bell as one of the foreign military leaders who contributed to the American Revolution, though most Americans would be hard pressed to identify what he did (and probably none would know anything of his subsequent revolutionary exploits in Poland). Agrippa Hull would most likely elicit the question: "Agrippa who?"

Hull (1759-1848) was a free black born in Massachusetts who served from 1777-83 as a soldier during the Revolutionary War, for much of it as Tadeusz Kosciuszko's aide-de-camp. Surviving almost sixty years after the Revolution ended, Hull became a local legend in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where—save for the war years—he spent almost his entire life.

Kosciuszko's American experience reinforced views he brought from Poland about the need to elevate the civil status of the disenfranchised. Rubbing shoulders day-to-day with black Americans amidst the tribulations of the New York and Southern campaigns and the building of West Point, the Polish hero experienced the paradox fighting for a country that proclaimed "all men are created equal" while denying its own credo with respect to blacks. A close friend of Jefferson, Kosciuszko challenged him and the United States by putting his money where his mouth was: Kosciuszko willed the wages he received from his service during the American Revolution to be used to emancipate and educate slaves.

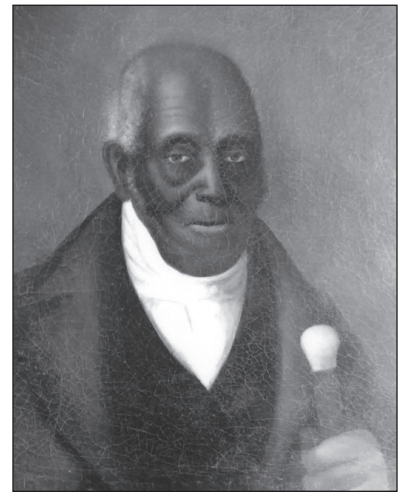
Jefferson comes out least attractively in this book. Although he penned the Declaration of Independence's stirring claims of human equality, Jefferson equivocated throughout his life about their implications for African Americans. While he made some early attempts to challenge slavery, the backlash he received from his fellow Virginia planters made him perennially skittish about doing anything practical to end that "peculiar institution." Not only did Jefferson avoid making waves, he also held views of inherent black inferiority that rendered him incapable of believing that blacks could be the "yeomen farmers" that Jefferson envisioned as the backbone of America.

His views, of course, put him at odds with many of the circles in which Jefferson moved. As ambassador to the French court and later as Secretary of State during the French Revolution, Jefferson was regularly in contact with forces working for the abolition of slavery. While trying to stay in their good graces, he always remained loyal to his own caste: Virginia's slaveholder establishment.

Agrippa Hull was, of course, the living proof of just how wrong Jefferson was. Born free, he enlisted as soon as the Massachusetts' Legislature removed barriers to service by blacks, and stayed until the war ended. As Kosciuszko's right hand, he was involved in the construction of West Point and in various battles. Upon his return to Massachusetts, he worked for local families while saving his money, eventually purchasing enough tracts of land to make him the wealthiest black landowner in the Berkshire town. Self-assured and claiming to be the son of an African prince, Hull became a local icon: respected, revered, even loved in his little Housatonic Valley town.

After the abortive Kosciuszko Insurrection in Poland, the hero of Raclawice returned once more to the United States where, in 1798, he wrote a last will and testament dedicating his American funds (then more than \$18,000) to be used to free and educate slaves. Jefferson was to be executor.

The twists and turns of this will show how essentially two-faced Jefferson was. When Jefferson returned with his edited version of Kosciusz-



AGRIPPA HULL, Kosciuszko's aide-de-camp.

ko's first draft, the monies dedicated to the manumission of slaves were committed to purchase Jefferson's slaves. Up until the time of Kosciuszko's death in 1817, Jefferson showed himself a faithless fiduciary by borrowing from Kosciuszko's money to help maintain his lifestyle — built on money he did not have and on slave labor — to which the "sage of Monticello" had grown accustomed. When Kosciuszko finally passed away, Jefferson dallied in probating the will, and then swore off his executor's duties (pleading the frailty of old age, even while he was concurrently actively designing the University of Virginia). After his own death in 1826, Jefferson's slaves were auctioned off to pay his debts although, as Nash and Hodges observe, "the total proceeds from the 130 slaves . . . could have been entirely covered by Kosciuszko's estate, which by August 1828 reached \$25,516" (p. 245).

If slavery was America's "original sin," Kosciuszko offered a means of redemption. If Jefferson had chosen to spend some of his political capital (since, by virtue of the way he rewrote Kosciuszko's will, it would cost him none of his financial capital) America's history might have taken a radically different turn. Although he had ample opportunities, he did not.

While this book has much to recommend it, it also has flaws. In reviewing the list of scholars and consultants with whom the authors worked, the scarcity of Polish and Polonian names and institutions leaps out. James Pula, author of *Thaddeus Kosciuszko: The Purest Son of Liberty* (Hippocrene, 1999), deserves more than just a few footnotes. The authors' opinion that Kosciuszko was "not a deeply read political theorist" (p. 4) ignores the breadth of his exposure to the leading luminaries of his times (see Storzynski, pp 2-4, 12-13). Their remark that he "lost many, if not most, of his letters as he moved from country to country" ignores the reality of the spies that Poland's partitioners set on his heels after his failed Uprising (Storzynski, pp. 217).

At this historic juncture, with the first African American sitting in the White House, it is right to recall the role that a Polish patriot played in addressing the fundamental flaw of American race relations. It is a role of which Polish Americans can be justifiably proud, and one that should figure in dialogue between the Polish and African American communities, especially in those central city areas which were once Polish and are now black. A provocative book, *Friends of Liberty* deserves readership and dissemination.

Dr. John M. Grondelski writes from Bern, Switzerland.

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To the Holy Lands

TO THE HOLY LANDS
Pilgrimage Centres from Mecca To Medina to Jerusalem
by **Alfried Wiczorek, Michael Telienbach and Claude W. Sul**
Prestel Publishing, 2009
175 pp., \$60.00

This oversized book of photographs and text takes us on a journey to sacred sites of Jewish, Islamic and Christian faiths. It is an exhibit of works of the pioneering figures of photography in the Arab world, and presents fantastic photographic images of the holy cities. Special printing techniques were used to copy the 1880-1890 full color and sepia photographs and woodcuts depicting people in costume, scenery, buildings, and homes.

Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem are the most important holy places of Islam. Pilgrims travel to these cities today, just as in the past. 1904 maps and travel itineraries for eight days visiting Jerusalem, Bethlehem and the Dead Sea, Seven days in Beirut or four days in Faifa. Information on accommodations and practical considerations regarding an interpreter and guide is also included.

Hundreds of photographs, postcards, and sections of photograph albums make up this wonderful book. Detailed biographies of pioneer photographers and explorers are included. One of my favorite photograph is a photochrome of stonemasons and laborers in Jerusalem.

The Dubai Culture and Arts Authority has supported this exhibition in 2008 to create an awareness of the region's cultural heritage and encourage interaction between cultures.

THE PEASANT PRINCE
Thaddeusz Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution
by **Alex Storzynski, Thomas Dunne**, 2009, 370 pp., \$29.95

Kosciuszko was a man ahead of the times—a freedom fighter for Poland and America.

As the son of a minor landowner, he was chosen to attend the Royal Knight's School, a military academy that provided him with a first-class education and later art and engineering in Paris. The men in his family fought for freedom, Thaddeusz among them. He came to America to aid the country in its fight for freedom, engineering the fortifications of West Point and played a key roll in the battle of Saratoga. Returning to Poland, he joined in the national struggle against Russia, and created the first volunteer Polish army of landowners, serfs and peasants.

Released from the czarist imprisonment, his last years were spent in Swiss exile. In his will he provided some of his fortune to buy the freedom of American slaves, but this was squashed by Thomas Jefferson, who feared it would start a trend.

Kosciuszko is fondly remembered by Polish Americans as an

outstanding example of dedication to the cause of freedom, for Poland as well as America.

The book has rated an extensive review, titled "A Two-Country Freedom Fighter" by Aram Bakshian, Jr., recently published in the WALL STREET JOURNAL (6/20/09).

MATCH DAY
One Day and One Dramatic Year in the Lives of Three New Doctors
by **Brian Eule**
St. Martin's, 288 pp., \$24.95.

This is reviewed here because one of the doctors in the book is Rakhi Barkowski, who turns out to be a young Indian woman married to a Polish American. However, "Match Day" is so unique, it deserves a review here. If you have ever complained about a seven-minute doctor's visit in his office, consider the route that brought him into your life.

The National Resident Matching Program, a not-for-profit corporation, provides a computerized method of matching would-be doctors with hospitals for their internship and residency. The decisions in Match dictate the future of their lives for the next three to seven years. This, after many years in college and medical schools.

The author has followed three couples, of which he is part of one, as they anxiously wait to learn where they will spend their internship, with low pay and an 80-hour week. It may or may not be their first choice of hospital or in their specialization. The year of insecurity, hasty decisions, supporting mentors, sleepless nights are shared in this narrative non-fiction, with the author taking an active part of the scene.

The grueling year usually turns the student/doctor into confident doctors, endured 36-hour duty with little or no sleep, deciding when and whether to marry and have children, and wondering when they will have time for anything beside medicine. Hospitals had frowned on anything that would distract the intern from their work. It is interesting that the former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop had his 1942 application to Vanderbilt rejected because he was married.

Women now make up a greater percentage of students and the problem of marriage and children interfere with the demanding hours of a medical profession. Only the single life, or with an understanding spouse is their lifestyle able to survive. Rakhi and Scott Barkowski did marry and have a child shortly after finishing her first year of internship.

The long hours of duty are continually being debated as to the efficiency and effectiveness of the doctor.

An excellent book for anyone considering the medical profession and what they will have to endure before they can make your office visit a short one.

Bielowieza Forest

Early in its history, Poland's plain was almost entirely covered in forest. Consequently, the thickly forested area served as a barrier for the migrations of other peoples. Today, the Bielowieza Forest still remains from centuries ago.

The auroch, better known as the European bison, lives in this wooden place. Faced with extinction, the Polish government has declared Bielowieza Forest, a national

park. Thankfully, the aurochs were saved. Then along came World War II, which almost eliminated the auroch. However, an intensive effort has swelled the auroch population from fifteen aurochs to well over three hundred.

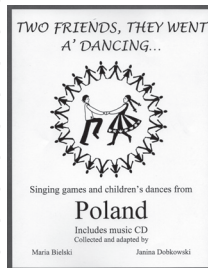
Roaming through the forest, you likely might encounter the tarpan, perhaps a wild horse, boars, deer and badgers. For bird enthusiasts, there are over two hundred varieties

within the park. Also, various reptiles and fish abound.

In parts of the forest, no trees have been cut down, for centuries. These trees are awesomely large and only fall through the efforts of Nature.

Bielowieza Forest is nature at its finest. Come and explore this magnificent woodland. Then step back in time to the forested Poland of many, many years ago.

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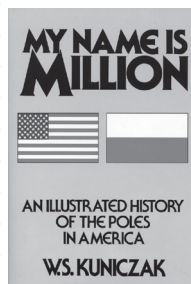
Spiral bound, softcover

The book contains lyrics (in both English and Polish) of ten popular singing games, and a vocal music score with chords. Clear step-by-step movement and dance instructions are outlined precisely with the text. In addition, a CD of the recorded songs with accompaniment is included, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, and children can immediately enjoy the songs and games. Each page has an original "wycinanki" (Polish cut-out style) illustration, designed by the artist, Joanna Bielska, which can be reproduced for coloring or craft projects. Both authors are teachers by profession and have an extensive background in Polish folk art, music and dance. They have danced with the Polish American Folk Dance Company and organized countless folk dance workshops all over the New York Metropolitan area.



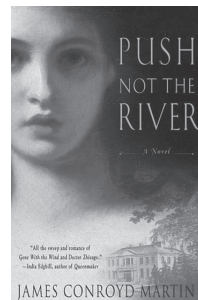
THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY
by **Delores Gapanowicz**
\$13.95
Nightengale Press, 2005
For Ages 9-12
132 pp.pb.
Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.

Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true? No one dared to investigate until Paul and Tom decided to find out once and for all. The boys and their sisters dared to go up the hill toward the old, old house and their adventure began — scary from the start.



MY NAME IS MILLION: An Illustrated History of Poles in America
\$14.95
hc. Original Price: \$24.95
From the 17th century to the present, people

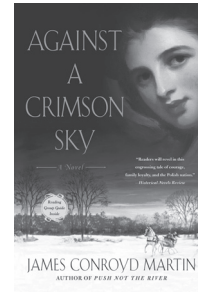
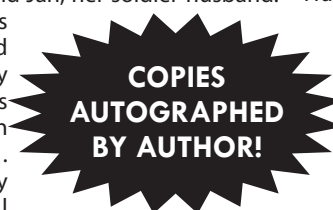
of Polish descent have made important contributions in every area of American life. Most of their names will not be found in American history books. But many of their names and stories are included in this richly illustrated history. My Name is Million is also the story of those millions of Polish Americans whose role in American life have, until now, gone unrecognized.



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

AUTOGRAPHED! This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel paints the emotional and memorable portrait of the metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna, a proud and resilient young woman, and Jan, her soldier-husband.

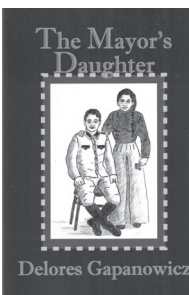
Critics have called the story Poland's Gone with the Wind. "The story is well paced and compelling, the historical detail plentiful yet not overwhelming, and the characters engaging and true to the period." ~The Historical Novels Review. The author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
by **James C. Martin**
\$14.95
St. Martin's
369 pp.pb.
Map & wycinanki illust.
Reading Group Guide

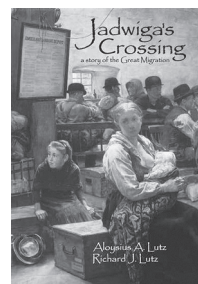
AUTOGRAPHED! "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoléonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish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

Having narrowly escaped death amidst the chaos caused by the violent dissolution of their homeland, Anna and Jan struggle to raise a family in uncertain times. When Napoléon Bonaparte comes calling, hinting at independence one day for the country, Polish legions form up—Anna's friends and family members among them—and accompany Napoléon as he battles his way across Europe in an effort that culminates in the doomed 1812 winter march to Moscow. "A sprawling epic . . . entertaining." ~ Publishers Weekly.



THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER
by **Delores Gapanowicz**
\$12.95
Edition illustrated
Nightengale Press, 2007
176 pp., pb.

Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. Gapanowicz wrote "The Mayor's Daughter" about her parents because she wanted the grandchildren in her family to have some idea of the life in Eastern Europe before her family emigrated. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms in Europe didn't spend their time only milking cows and picking potatoes. They played tricks on friends, went to wedding celebrations and dances, and flirted with other people their age. They also experienced tragedy and loss. Their lives were a mixture of the sweet and bitter, not unlike the lives of people everywhere.



JADWIGA'S CROSSING: a story of the Great Migration
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experience of late 19th Century immigration, as seen through the eyes of Paul and Jadwiga Adamik and what they went through to make America their new home. Appropriate for all ages 12 and up.



A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND
by **John Radzilowski**
\$14.95
312 pgs. ill. maps. pb.
A comprehensive historical survey guides

travellers through a general history of the people and places of Poland from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer, historical maps.

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Karłowicz Remembered

WARSAW — Poland's musical world honored composer Mieczyslaw Karłowicz, who perished at age 33 in a snow avalanche in the Tatra mountains one hundred years ago. Concerts of the composer's music are being held in many Polish cities and towns, including Zakopane and Warsaw. Wreaths and flowers adorned the base of Mount Koscielce where the composer's body was found.

Karłowicz is a prominent figure in Polish 20th century music. He began violin lessons at age seven, studied music composition in Warsaw and Berlin, composed a cycle of songs between sixteen and twenty-two years of age and conducted his own symphony at the Berlin Philharmonic at twenty-six.

He composed a violin concerto and six symphonic poems, was an avid mountain climber and photographer and helped found the Mountain Rescue Society of the Tatra mountains.

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Gołąbki Galore!

Gołąbki (pronounced: go-WUMP-kee) are variously known in English as stuffed cabbage, cabbage rolls or even “pigs in a blanket” and are nearly everyone’s favorite. But there are many more varieties of this tasty dish than simply the common meat & rice type in tomato sauce. There are meatless and riceless gołąbki, served with different kinds of sauces, and even entirely sauceless ones. But they all start with the same basic preparation method:

PREPARING GOŁĄBKİ (przygotowywanie gołąbków): Regardless of what filling is used, the basic preparation is usually the same. Core 3 lb cabbage, place cored-side-down in pot of hot water to cover and simmer to wilt leaves. Remove outer leaves as they wilt to colander or paper towel. When cool enough to handle, cut away the thick base of the cabbage leaves and shave down the thick central vein. Place an oblong scoop of filling at the base end of each leaf. Fold sides of leaf over filling and roll up tightly. Line the bottom of a roasting pan with half the left-over undersized, damaged or otherwise unused cabbage leaves. Place the cabbage rolls snugly in roaster in no more than 2 layers. Drench with app. 3-4 c sauce of choice (see varieties below) or stock and cover with remaining leftover cabbage leaves to prevent scorching. Bake covered in preheated 350° oven 1 hr. Reduce heat to 325° and cook another 90 min to 2 hrs. Switch off heat and leave in oven another 20 min or so for flavors to blend

MEAT & RICE GOŁĄBKİ (gołąbki z mięsem i ryżem): Combine 1 lb raw ground meat (pork, pork & beef, pork-veal-beef combination or ground turkey) with 4-6 c undercooked rice, 1-3 chopped butter-fried onions and 1 egg. Mix ingredients by hand and salt & pepper to taste. Other seasonings can include: 1 bud crushed garlic or several dashes of garlic powder, 3-4 dashes of Tabasco or a sprinkling of chopped fresh parsley or dill. Use meat-rice mixture to fill pre-wilted cabbage leaves. Drench gołąbki in roaster with 3-4 c sauce (see below) or stock and bake as above. Serve with rye bread or as a complete meal with mashed potatoes and mizeria (sliced cucumbers with sour cream).

MEAT & GROAT GOŁĄBKİ (gołąbki z mięsem i kaszą): Proceed as above, but substitute cooked barley, buckwheat groats, Kraków groats (fine buckwheat) or millet for the rice.

RICELESS MEAT GOŁĄBKİ (gołąbki z mięsem bez ryżu): These are essentially meatballs wrapped in cabbage leaves! Break up 2 stale bread rolls into bowl and drench with milk to cover. When soggy, grind and combine with 1 lb raw ground meat (as in meat & rice gołąbki above). Add 2 butter-fried diced onions, 1 bud crushed garlic (optional), 1 egg and any leftover milk from the rolls. Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. If mixture is too soft, mix in a little bread crumbs. Fill cabbage leaves and proceed as above.

ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

Does Amber Have Healing Powers?

Dear Andzia:

Many times I have heard that Baltic amber has special healing powers. Is this true?

Baltic amber is unique among all others ambers — such as Dominican amber, African and Mexican amber — because it contains 3 to 8 % succinic acid, a naturally occurring substance that can also be found in rhubarb, broccoli and myriad other plants.

Early European peoples understood the anti-bacterial properties of amber and used it, and still continue to use it, for amber baby teething necklaces, pipe mouthpieces, cigarette holders and spoons. In the 17th century, the wealthy Aristocrats brewed their tea in special amber containers.

Even before mankind knew that there were things such as antibiotics, they recognized that amber had magical curative powers. They discovered early on that amber burnt away when set on fire and left behind a piney aromatic smoke that was both soothing and irritating. When the plagues devastated Europe in the Middle Ages, fumigation was accomplished by burning heaps of amber. The Prussian priest Matthaues Praetorius recorded in the year 1680 that “During the plague not a single amber man from Gdansk, Klaipeda, Konigsburg or Leipaja died of the disease.” Amber smoke is still used in aromatherapy.

An extremely powerful anti-oxidant that helps fight free radicals and disruptions of the cardiac rhythm, succinic acid has been shown to bolster the immune system, promote healing and reduce stress. Succinic acid is commercially produced today from a wide variety of plant and artificial sources and is recognized by the United States Food and Drug Administration. It is used in many pharmaceutical drugs manufactured in the United States and overseas as a preservation agent among other uses.

The unusual properties of amber have fascinated mankind since ancient times, but always in spiritual, medicinal and uplifting ways — amber has never inspired dread or fear as has been the case with some precious gems.

Amber has inspired doctors, scientists, artists and magicians. These types of people can see that amber is still alive and always changing.

Not much has actually changed since the olden times — amber is still trying to communicate with us, but we still have not unlocked all of its secrets.

We do not even know for sure which tree produced this fantastic material over forty million years ago.

We do know that current research has confirmed what people have believed and felt for centuries — that there is a magical power in Baltic amber that is a good power and worth getting familiar with.

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



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POLONIAN PROFILES

Pierogi at the Fair: Millie's Delivers!

by Staś Kmieć

It was a balmy August Saturday last year when I had the urge to visit the *Dutchess County Fair* in upstate New York. I had been there a few years prior and had the delight to see **Millie's Pierogi** prominently displayed among the many food vendors and country fair offerings. I coaxed my friend Lee to venture out with me and along the way we were stuck for a lengthy time in the fair traffic. Was the fuss to get there worth it? Would Millie be there again or would it be a day of fried dough and farm animal prize winners?

Just beyond the entrance gates and around the corner I saw the rotating signature red-and-white sign with Poland's crowned eagle. Millie was there! With an appetite, I went over to the counter manned by red and white capped and shirted attendants, and made my order of three samplings: farmer's cheese, *kapusta/cabbage* and prune. Each one with a different dough consistency due to the filling: each one delicious!

My Uncle John in Sparta, N.J. initially told me about Millie's Pierogi, which he ordered so he could keep a proper supply in the freezer at all times.

I had experienced many a *pieróg* at fairs, but never had they tasted like Millie's. This was the real thing — delicate dough with delightful, tasty fillings! Part of the secret of Millie's pierogi is that they are entirely hand-pinched; this enables thinner dough, unlike machine-made products. Upon my return past the booth, I ordered another round, but this time a double order and an addition of potato and cheese with *kielbasa* bits to the mix.

I asked if “Millie” was there and I was introduced to a cheerful woman. I would later find out that this

was the matriarch Anna (Tauscher) Lopuk. Everyone seems to claim to “Millie” at the booth, even the men.

There was a Millie originally, but she owned a different establishment. She sold it when her son died, and there were a couple of owners before the Lopuks bought it in 1976. Daughter Ann was in college and when her parents told her of their purchase she couldn't understand the logic, since the joint was known more for pizza than *pierogi*. Her father, Walter Lopuk said, “because it can't go anywhere but up!”

The first year was a real struggle for the couple. Anna said that “it was lots of long days and nights and hard work,” but that determination and willingness to commit the time and energy paid off. Today, Millie's more than quadrupled the number of stores that they deliver to — the size of the physical plant, and has initiated a successful mail order and concession aspect to the business. Their visits to festivals and fairs allow them to meet the public and put a personal face to the brand name.

So where did this family recipe derive from? Walter Lopuk was no stranger to homemade pierogi. His mother came from Poland, and his father from Russia. Living in the predominantly Polish area of Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, even the German-born Anna knew all about pierogi, or so she thought.

Trying to impress her new Polish mother-in-law, she attempted to make pierogi for her husband, and ended up in tears, with a mess all over the kitchen. “I'm never going to try to make another pieróg,” she told him. Little did she know?

Anna fully understands the frustration of mail order customers who try to replicate their cherished family recipe. She considers it an honor to have their brand be considered close enough to a relative's to stand in its place.

As a married couple, the Lopuks had a background in the food industry, having run two 24-hour diners for 25 years. After Urban Renewal swept through downtown Chicopee Falls they turned toward a pierogi business.

At the beginning, Millie's consisted of a small restaurant, and a delivery truck held together with baling wire and prayers. They delivered to about 50 local supermarkets, employing a few pinchers, a couple of waitresses, and a driver. It was



Little did Ann Lopuk know that trying to impress her new Polish mother-in-law would years later develop into a full-time business.

a family affair with Dad doing the cooking in the diner, Mom — the bookwork, brother Gary handling the deliveries and the preparation of the cabbage filling, and daughter Ann — waitressing, delivering, and pinching pierogi.

With patience and perseverance, growth came steadily as they expanded into the farther reaches of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and then parts of Rhode Island, swelling the number of stores serviced to over 200. They purchased a concession trailer and made the rounds to the local fairs. They have now crossed the ethnic barrier, as people of all nationalities have been introduced to and enjoy pierogi.

Family members have departed and there have been new additions such as Ann's “Polish working” Irish husband.

What are Millie's (I mean Anna's) favorite pierogi? Farmer's cheese with a little sugar sprinkled on top.

Their busy schedule in August consists of the *Seafood Festival*, Aug 7-9 (Charlestown, RI); *Wilbraham Peach Festival*, Aug 21-23 (Wilbraham, MA); *The Dutchess County Fair*, Aug. 25-30, (Rhinebeck, NY); and *The Big E*, Sept 18 - Oct. 4 (West Springfield, MA).

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For orders and additional information: www.milliespierogi.com.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Polonia Wins — And Loses



Caroline Wozniacki

Sabine Lisicki clinched her first WTA title in the Family Circle Cup. However, it came by upsetting another Polonian, 5th seeded **Caroline Wozniacki**. In a match between two teenagers, 16th-seeded Lisicki overwhelmed her opponent with a booming serves and powerful groundstrokes.

Lisicki, who eliminated second seed Venus Williams in the third round, said that "beating Venus really gave me some confidence."

Lisicki was born in Germany to Polish immigrant parents. For the past several years, she has trained regularly in Bradenton, Fla., with her father and coach, Richard Lisicki. Wozniacki was born in Denmark to Polish parents and her father has also coached her. Caroline's father, Piotr and mother, Anna, were standout soccer and volleyball players, respectively, back in Poland.

Caroline and Sabine are just two of the top female tennis players with Polish roots. Check out this column in next month's PAJ for more.

READY FOR THE BIG TIME. Not only is he young, but he looks even younger. **Brad Keselowski** is described by Ted Beech in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED as looking like "a gangly kid, his angular features marked by a goofy smile and a goatee that is a futile attempt at manly scruff." Despite his youthful appearance, the 25-year driver is poised to compete against the big boys.

Two years ago Dale Earnhardt Jr. signed the virtually unknown Keselowski to drive for the JR Motorsports team. In the 65 races since, Keselowski has three victories and 33 other top 10 finishes, and won a wild race at Talladega in just his fifth Sprint Cup start.

Despite his youth, Brad has been involved in racing for a long time. "Born into a family that has been racing at one level or another for more than 50 years, he was turning wrenches on his father Bob's cars long before he ever began turning laps in them," wrote Beech. When K-Automotive Motorsports in the Detroit suburb of Rochester Hills finally collapsed four years ago, Brad had no team and no prospects. He searched out driving opportunities, mostly in second-rate machines.

He got his big break when he replaced a suspended driver in a truck race at Memphis in June 2007. Keselowski put the Team ASE Toyota on the pole and led 62 of the 200 laps. Although he ended up finishing 16th, but won the admiration of many observers, including Earnhardt — who'd first met Keselowski while playing video racing games over the Internet.

Keselowski raced so well that JR Motorsports ran him in two Cup races last fall. It was believed that Keselowski would take over for 50-



Sabine Lisicki

year-old Mark Martin in the number 5 Chevy at Hendrick Motorsports, but Hendrick announced that Martin would run a full schedule next season. No one knows what Brad will do next, but his mom says: "I can guarantee that whatever decision he makes will be the right one. Brad won't make a bad decision. He never has."

MODEL PERFORMER. She's not a professional athlete, but **Jolanna Krupa's** appearance on the "Superstars" television show was a highlight. The Polish-born supermodel best known as "The Sexiest Woman in the World" partnered with flamboyant Buffalo Bill Terrell Owens. They were eliminated on the first episode when Owens faltered going through the obstacle course. Krupa drew plenty of attention when she berated him for not being a real athlete and not being worth his millions. However, because of another team's injury, she and her partner were asked to step in and continue competing.

JERSEY BOY. **Tomasz Adamek** successfully defended his IBF cruiserweight belt in Newark against challenger Bobby Gunn in front of 7,000 mostly partisan fans. With Polish-American fans chanting "Polska, Polska, Polska" the fight was stopped by the referee after the 4th round.

Adamek was born in Poland, but today he is the pride of New Jersey. Adamek, 32, and the holder of the IBF and IBO cruiserweight world titles, is viewed as a rising star in boxing. Tomasz started boxing in Warsaw, but he won his first world title in his first fight in the US in 2005. Adamek took the vacant WBC light heavyweight belt (175 pounds), joining former cruiserweight champion **Krzysztof Wlodarczyk** and 1990s light heavyweight champ **Dariusz Michalczewski** as the other Poles to do so. He defended the title twice before losing to Chad Dawson in 2007. As his body matured he needed to move up in weight, so he became a cruiserweight (200 pounds).

For years, Main Events wanted



Krupa: Tells T.O. where to go.

to bring boxing to Newark, creating something like the excitement that happened when Arturo Gatti, another adopted son of Jersey City, fought there. They viewed Adamek, with his toughness, exciting style and Polish following, was a great fit. Adamek has certainly brought great boxing to the Prudential Center in Newark.

Adamek grew up in the mountain village of Gliwice, near the Slovakian border. For years, he traveled between the US and Poland. It was hard on his family, his wife, Dorota, and their two daughters, 9-year-old Roksana and 6-year-old Weronika. Now he drives 15 minutes to train. He works with Andrew Gmitruk, his trainer of 10 years. He trains in a Jersey City gym owned by Ziggy Rozalski, with ring posts painted in red and white candy stripes. "I must be here," Adamek said. "In Poland, I can't have a big fight. Only here, I can get them."

Things look bright for Adamek. If things work out, he could unify the cruiserweight title. There's also talk of him moving up heavyweight, and maybe even face 41-year-old Andrew Golota in their native Poland.

THEY SAID IT

"I wondered if there was going to be an open competition, but from the start it was refreshing to see there was a purity about the competition. One day Hank called us in and said he wanted the best guys on the field, and I was going to be middle linebacker and Jim (Lynch) was going to play outside."

— **Wille Lanier**, telling SPORTS ILLUSTRATED about how Kansas City Chiefs coach Hank (Wilczek) Stram made Lanier pro football's first black starting middle linebacker in 1967.

❖ ❖ ❖
"I knew I was in Newark but with all the red and white flags waving around me, it felt like I was in a soccer world cup match in Warsaw."

— **Boxing writer Dennis Carreon**, commenting on the strong support for Tomasz Adamek in Newark's Prudential Center.



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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

Long Summer Vacations

Are children's vacations too long? I talk to many parents and we share the same opinion: yes, they are too long!

Here in Idaho kids start vacation season at the end of May. The school does not start back until the end of August. So there are three full months of vacations for kids. But it is hard to spend this time together as a family since adult vacations in the United States are one of the shortest of all developed nations.

So, in spite of kids having three months of free time, adults have usually less than one month. It is quite rare that a person is off work for more than two weeks in a time.

There is a clear incompatibility in this picture!

LET'S COMPARE IT to other countries. In Poland the school year is finished in the second half of June, kids go back to school at the end of August, so the vacations last usually about 2 months. In Japan kids have only one month of summer vacations. The adults in Poland and in the rest of Europe have more time off from their work than in the United States. So, they usually spend one month together with their kids. Teachers in the United States talk about "summer learning loss." The last weeks before school start are really difficult; kids are usually bored since they have not been challenged for quite a long time.

Do children have long vacations because we care for them, or because we do not? I think that the second is true. In America, education is not a priority like in other developed countries. There is usually not enough money left for education from the budget after the military, medicare and social security are paid.

Who is guilty of the low priority of education in the United States? All of us.

On the federal level — the United States as a superpower spends much more money to upkeep its military might. This is what bankrupted the Soviet system. The university education is not free like in other developed countries. I think, if more young people would go to vote, their voice would be heard

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. A young man in the Navy is a a. *zalaga* b. *pasazer* c. *zeglaz*
2. Woody Allen performed in a sold-out show in Knongresown Hall in a. Sopot b. Torun c. Warsaw
3. "Wachie Jackie Z" is a native of a. Buffalo b. Rochester c. Cleveland
4. Known as the "Silver Fox of Polkas" is a. Steve Litwin b. Stas Bulanda c. Bob Pietrucha
5. Father Stanislaw Papczynski founded the Marian Order of Priests, after earlier joining the a. Piarist b. Dominicans c. Francis-

better. There are even some politicians, mainly libertarians, who are for eliminating public education at all. This would bring us on the level of Sudan or Somalia.

On the local/state levels: Here in Idaho there are school districts where school is limited to only four days per week, something unheard in Europe. The school day does not last as long as in other states. Usually kids start school at 8:00 a.m. and are done by 1:00-2:30 p.m.. The after-school programs are very limited, there is no after-school care, which I had in Poland. In Poland I could stay at school in "after school care" until my parents picked me up coming back from work. Here I have to pay a day-care to pick up my daughter from school, so that she would be able to spend the rest of the day in the daycare.

Historically, education was never a priority in the United States. Teachers are paid very little, compared to Western European countries. They do not have respect like in Poland. The United States is a consumption-driven society. People are encouraged "to have" rather than "to be." Here is an example: the new town, Ammon, is growing next to Idaho Falls where I live. Property taxes in Ammon are even lower, so people build big houses there. But since the taxes are low, there is not enough money to build the roads and to have a good education. Schools are bad and the roads to the huge houses-castles are also in a very poor shape.

We have a phrase in Poland "Children are the future of the nation." That means that if we would care for them, the future of the nation would be better. If education does not become a priority in the United States, American workers will not be competitive in the global economy. The discrepancy between poor and rich, who can afford better schools and more activities for kids during summer will grow. I hope the current administration will prevent it and the education in the United States will become better, more similar to elsewhere in the developed world.

Visit my website at www.polishsite.us.

6. *Grzanka* is usually served at a. breakfast b. lunch c. dinner
7. *Jajecznicza* are eggs that are a. scrambled b. soft-boiled c. fried with ham
8. Kazubians are known for a. wood carvings b. salt lamps c. fine embroidery
9. Blessed Faustina Kowalska died in a. 1910 b. 1929 c. 1938
10. Stefan Jarose explored a. deepest Africa b. Figi Islands c. Alaska

ANSWERS 1.c zeglaz 2.c Warsaw 3.b Rochester 4.c Bob Pietrucha 5.a Piarist 6.a breakfast 7.a scrambled 8.c fine embroidery 9.c 1938 10.c Alaska

Polish Art in Venice

VENICE, Italy — An exhibit of works by Polish artists opened at the Palazzo Dona at San Polo Square.

Sponsored by the Signum Foundation based in Poznan, the exhibit continues through November 28.

The presentation is titled: "Awake and Dream" and represents works created between 1910 and 2009.

ARTSCENE / Staś Kmieć

Polish Triplets Score on TV's *America's Got Talent*



Alizma! They're talented. They're bright. They're beautiful. They're identical triplets... and they're Polish! An acronym representing **Aleksandra, Izabela and Monika Okapiec**, *Alizma* premiered on NBC's *America's Got Talent* and continue to wow the audience and the judges.

On their first appearance, they played Charlie Daniels' "The Devil went Down to Georgia" and their talents scored them to the next round of judging.

The 23-year-old triplets were born in Poland but are polishing their remarkable skills in America. More than just three pretty faces, all recently earned Masters Degrees in *Violin Performance*, but also specialize in other string instruments. The judges want the blonde sisters to speak one at a time. Not one of them ever finishes a complete sentence.

The sisters were introduced to the world of music by their mother Halina, a kindergarten teacher who taught the

girls songs before they could walk, leading to their first public performance at age three. By the time they were 6, the young prodigies were playing violin, and ten years later, at age 16, they were performing on Polish national television.

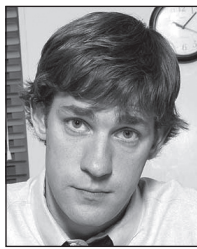
The trio (who has made Las Vegas their home for the last 10 years), sing and play classical violin in many styles, including classical, pop, rock, and traditional Polish folk music.

KASPRZAK COMPETES ON "SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE?" From the moment we were introduced to **Evan and Ryan Kasprzak** on Fox-TV's "So You Think You Can Dance," one assumed we would be watching the brothers for weeks to come, as they squashed every other dancer in their path. In one of the most heart wrenching eliminations of the season, Ryan and Evan were positioned against one another for the last spot in the Top 20.

"One Kasprzak is better than no Kasprzaks," said Ryan.

Evan, who specializes in Broadway dance, definitely has a fighting chance of staying on the top of the competition. The 21-year-old West Bloomfield, MI native started dancing when he was six years old, having since performed in a tribute to Gregory Hines, with Hines' family in the audience. He currently studies at the Illinois Wesleyan University.

KRASINSKI - BARANSKI - KRAKOWSKI. The Entertainment World is heating up with the work of three Polish-American actors.



He claims Los Angeles as his current home, but travels to New York City and his hometown of Newton, Massachusetts

John Krasinski is probably best known for his role as sardonic nice guy Jim Halpert on NBC's popular TV series *The Office*. Born, in Newton, Massachusetts, to a family of Polish-American heritage, the 6' 3" actor is the youngest of three brothers.

Krasinski was featured in *People Magazine's* Sexiest Men Alive issue of 2006.

frequently.

For the recently released film *Away We Go* Krasinski has a beard, as well as a completely different persona, showing an entirely new side of the actor that will undoubtedly push his career even further.



Christine Baranski returns to network TV in the CBS drama *The Good Wife*. Born in Buffalo, New York, the daughter of Virginia (Mazerowski) and Lucien Baranski, her grandparents were actors in the Polish theater.

She has won both the Tony and Drama Desk Awards twice and won an Emmy Award as best supporting actress in a comedy series for the sitcom *Cybill*.

Jane Krakowski has received an Emmy Award nomination as "Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy" for her portrayal of Jenna Maroney in NBC's *30 Rock*. An accomplished Broadway singer and dancer, originally from Parsippany, New Jersey, she won the Tony Award for "Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical," 2003 for *Nine* and the Laurence Olivier Award for "Best Actress in a Musical," 2006 for *Guys and Dolls*.

Born Jane Krajkowski, she dropped the "j" from the family last name when she began working as an actress as people kept trying to pronounce the letter. Krakowski's father's family is entirely Polish and hail from Kraków, and although she knows some words and phrases in Polish, her father and grandparents are fluent.

Krakowski lends her personality and humor to promote *Breyers Smooth & Dreamy* ice cream at www.smoothanddreamy.com. The webisodes feature a modern take on two of Hollywood's most iconic romance films — *Gone with the Wind* and *King Kong*.



CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Poles Developed Early Television

It has recently become fashionable to credit the invention of television to the American Philo T. Farnsworth. But the truth is, modern television was not so much a single invention by a single person, but a long process of interdependent discoveries. Many scientists from dif-

ferent countries and backgrounds contributed to its development. Among them were Poles.

Paul Gottlieb Nipkow (1860-1940) is usually called a German inventor. But more detailed sources identify him as a Kaszubian Pole. He was born in Lębork in the Kaszub

region of Poland west of Gdańsk, and schooled in nearby Wejherowo. These were lands taken by Germany (Prussia) in the 17th and 18th centuries. Since they were part of Germany, Nipkow was legally a German citizen, and pursued his career in Berlin.

In 1884, Nipkow designed and patented a device to transmit moving images by wire using two perforated spinning disks, selenium, and a photoelectric cell. There is no evidence that Pole ever actually built such a system. But this technology was used in the first public demonstration of television in 1926 by the Scotsman John L. Baird. Nipkow was able to see his invention in action in 1928 at a show in Berlin. Until 1938, he was recognized as the inventor of television.

In 1935 in Berlin, the first public television channel in the world was named the Paul Nipkow station.

Before Nipkow, the Polish psychologist and philosopher **Julian Ochorowicz** (1850-1917) wrote an article in 1878 that correctly forecast the future process of transmitting live moving images.

Jan Szczepanik (inset) was a Polish inventor whose achievements have never been widely appreciated. He was born in Rudniki (now in Ukraine) near Przemyśl in Austrian occupied southern Poland in 1872. He attended school in Krosno and Jasło, then went to a teacher's seminary in Kraków, after which he taught elementary school in Potok, Lubatówka and Korczyn.

But his brilliant mind was too

restless for the confines of the classroom. At age twenty-four he left teaching and began working on his ideas for new inventions, soon attracting a financial backer. Since he lived in the Austrian Empire, his greatest opportunities lay in its capital, Vienna. He moved there in 1898.

In February of that year, Szczepanik was granted a patent for "method and apparatus for reproducing pictures and the like by means of electricity." He called the invention the electroscope, and it was an early television system. It converted images into electrical current using mirrors, prisms and electromagnets by breaking up lines of light into dots, then reconstituting them at a distant receiver at the other end of a wire.



He demonstrated a working teleoscope in Vienna before witnesses in the spring of 1898, and created a sensation around the world. This system allowed pictures to be transmitted in color, with sound. This was most likely the first transmission of television pictures in history, and newspaper and magazine articles in Europe and America described inventor and invention.

An American named Cleveland Moffett in 1899 reported in some detail a transmission by Szczepanik in 1896 in Vienna, but the Pole was not known to be in the city then. Perhaps Moffett got the year wrong.

Mark Twain, who was living in Vienna at the time and befriended Szczepanik, was fascinated by the teleoscope and even wrote a short

piece of fiction featuring it and the inventor, "From the LONDON TIMES of 1904," which some say shows the teleoscope used as a forerunner of the internet.

Szczepanik sold the rights to his teleoscope to the Paris Exposition of 1900 for a small fortune, but it was never demonstrated there and was soon forgotten, probably because no one could conceive of a practical use for it. Szczepanik's other great invention from his Vienna years was a device for improving the weaving process using photography. This device is sometimes called a forerunner of the computer. It used a series of perforated cards. (Remember IBM punch cards?)

In 1902 Szczepanik married a native of Tarnów, Poland, and he moved there and started a family. He continued working on inventions and eventually amassed ninety-two patents, including fifteen in America. Among his other achievements were the invention of color photography for both still cameras and motion pictures, an electric rifle and an early bulletproof fabric. He also worked on a moving wing airplane, helicopter, dirigible and submarine, and plans for a calculator and a brick making machine.

In 1925 Szczepanik died of cancer at the too young age of fifty-eight. He was buried in Tarnów and in 2002 a monument to him was unveiled in the city. He is still underappreciated in the world today, though he is often referred to as the "Polish Edison." He started with no resources other than his brain and faith in himself.

The contributions of Poles to world culture are usually overlooked. But whether they realize it or not, a great Polish achievement stares back at billions of people every time they hit the ON button of the TV remote control.

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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



Impeding the Flow of Progress. Lancut, Poland. May 20, 1976.

OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

RAYMOND J. BABIEC, 92, received the Polish National Alliance "Man of the Year Award" and the "Unsung Hero Award" in 1982. Babiec was a New Procurement Inspector at CBC Davisville for over 25 years, and then worked in maintenance for the Rhode Island National Guard for six years. He received the Polish American Heritage Award at the Rhode Island State House and was a delegate to the Polish-American Congress for 63 years. He was involved in numerous other Polish and community organizations. He was also a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army serving in the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

REV. ERNEST CIEMIEGA, 79, grew up on Chicago's South Side and graduated from the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminar. Fr. Ciemiega was ordained on May 3, 1957. He served as assistant pastor of St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish in Posen; assistant pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Calumet City; associate pastor at St. Bruno Parish on the Southwest Side; and administrator, pastor and then pastor emeritus at St. Isidore.

DIANA KOLAKOWSKI, 65, was a former research chemist for the Michigan Cancer Foundation who went on to become a political trailblazer in Macomb County politics. Kolakowski was the first female to chair the Macomb County Commission and most recently the economic development director for the city of Warren. She served on numerous panels, and was named chairwoman of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments in the late 1990s. The Michigan Association of Counties also named her the state's top county commissioner.

GLADYS DEMSKI KURAS, 81, began to fully embrace her Polish roots in the late 1960s, which led her to learn the language and publish a newsletter, "Passport to Polishness," as well as a book celebrating her ancestral land's traditions. Kuras was prompted to do these things after beginning her own search for her cultural customs, and being unable to find many books on the subject in English. In 1979, she published "Polish Yuletide Customs of Yesteryear". In the 1980s, she opened Quasar Travel, which specialized in educational trips to Poland.

PAUL PANCUK, 59, worked at Rich East High School, starting as an English teacher and most recently as the school's dean of students. Pancuk earned his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and later earned a master's degree in education at Chicago State University. He also

coached varsity baseball and football as well as sophomore football during his tenure at Rich East.

ZDZISLAW K. SZCZEPANSKI, June 30, 2009. He was born in Poland in 1917. Szczepanski was a well known architect, planner and artist and was an important part of Washington, D.C.'s Polonia Circle. Educated in Poland, France and Catholic University of America in Washington, he was project director of the Washington Skyline Study and a major designer of the National Zoo and Park. When the National Polish Center, (The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc.), opened in Washington, Szczepanski volunteered his time and talents to draw sketches of the Center building and several interior rooms. He was an accomplished artist, winning many prizes. He was a member of the Polish Home Army in World War II and participated in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. He resided in Falls Church Virginia with wife Anne and is also survived by daughters, Wanda Suder, Joanna Berrony and two grandchildren. A mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, July 8 at Our Lady Queen of Poland Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Maryland.

MARY TORBIK, 84, was a lifelong volunteer, sharing her time with the American Red Cross, CARE, the White House, and feeding the homeless for over 50 years. Torbik volunteered her time with numerous other causes, and also spent five summers in Poland teaching English and volunteerism. Torbik celebrated her 70th birthday helping Red Cross disaster relief in the Virgin Islands, which she later confided was her happiest celebration to date. She also worked for the Internal Revenue Service in South Dakota, and worked for the Civil Service Commission

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PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Nie Jestem Bogaty

The www.dictionary.com translator defines billionaire as "a very rich person who has more than a billion dollars, pounds etc. Example: He's not just a millionaire — he's a billionaire!" The Polish translation for "billionaire" is listed as *bogacz* (a rich man).

Money may be the root of all evil, but as George Bailey said to his guardian angel friend Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life*, "comes in pretty handy down here bub." The business of America is business, a former president once said, and money and business are things Americans think about a lot. I have the highest admiration for those who start or own private sector businesses, are part of the entrepreneurial spirit of the country, and as it follows, are those who give jobs and livelihoods to the citizens of a free society. Greed is *not* good, Gordon Gecko, but opportunity, the free market, and capitalism are.

The shift from a controlled economy to a somewhat capitalistic one was a reasonable transition for the Poles when John Paul II and Ronald Reagan freed them in the 80s. Poland has traditionally been closely tied to agriculture and markets, and based on her history, the people implicitly understand and love freedom. Freedom and trade generally produce very rich people.

An article published in FORBES MAGAZINE in 2004 appeared in my Yahoo home page under one of the feature tabs. It is about "The Deprived Dozen" by Tim Ferguson (http://www.forbes.com/2004/03/01/cz_tf_0301deprivedbill04.html) and is a listing of the world's largest countries by population without one billionaire. The largest country without a billionaire is Pakistan with 151 million. Poland, at 39 million people, was number 11 on the list. This is from the lead paragraph in the article:

We cheekily call them "deprived," and in a sense they are: Any modern economy that does not produce at least one huge fortune is, almost by definition, not creating the kind of wealth that is the earmark of a prosperous society.

While money certainly doesn't

solve all of life's problems, again, "it comes in pretty handy down here" and for a wide range of noble purposes and motivations. If Poland or Polonia had more rich people, perhaps it could defend its reputation and actions more effectively. If Poland or Polonia had more rich people, perhaps more positive projects would be funded to improve the perception of Polish culture and history now but also for the sake of posterity. My list is almost endless for the number of beneficial ramifications and outcomes of privately held "stimulus" funds.

Question for August, is it true then, that there are no billionaires in Poland, and if so, why do you think that is true? If true, how close is Zbigniew or Janina to making a billion zlots!!

BUCKET LIST. I took on one project this year and it is more than enough for my schedule and ability and energy. Here are a few others. They might have already been attempted but if they are not available I and am very happy to share them with you in case you need something to occupy your time. If you have worthwhile projects that you want to add, send them to me.

1. A coffee table book on the 10 or 20 greatest Polish churches in America. Every month we read about another church that is closing or will be torn down. Many of these churches are beautiful or unique and have a soft spot in our historical heart as Catholics and Poles in this country. It can be a nice memento of our heritage. Beyond that, an enterprising person could have an Irish edition, an Italian edition, or a Greek edition, etc. Might be profitable endeavor.

2. Easy listening Polish. There is the 100 Strings Orchestra, the Lira Singers, there is folk music, and there are hundreds of polka CDs available, all excellent examples for the Polish music aficionado. I was in an Olive Garden the other day and heard Italian style muzak piping through the entrance way. Nice. I would like something similar with a Polish essence to it.

3. I still think the definitive book on anti-Polishism should be written

for no other reason than to document the bigotry (for those deniers out there, Polish and non-Polish).

READERS WRITE. I have to apologize for missing a very nice e-Mail from a reader about various plants of Polish origin. Probably too late to acquire and plant this year but keep this information for next season's yard:

Dear Mr. Poniewaz,

A few years back I made the following purchases. Maybe your readers would find these companies helpful.

selectpluslilacs@yahoo.ca carries lilacs from Poland and he is trying to get enough of the St. Jerzy Popieluszko for sale. That one is not from Poland. He is a family owned business in Canada. Really nice!

Pickering Nurseries, also in Canada, Toll Free 1 (866) 269-9282, carries a rambler-Polstjarnan from Wasastjerna.

www.joycreek.com - all clematis - Jan Pawell 2, Warszawska Nike, General Sikorski, Chopin, Danuta, Solidarnosc, Kardynal Wyszynski, to name a few.

Polana Everbearing raspberry developed in Poland from J.W. Jung Seed Co. (I have 100 of these bushes.)

www.filareefarm.com carries Polish Hardneck, a porcelain garlic, Carpathian from the Carpathian Mountains of SW Poland is an aromatic garlic, and also the Polish White-artichoke garlic.

www.seedsavers.org carries Aunt Molly's ground cherry, Nimba Squash, Cyklon (hot) perrerr, and Buran (sweet) pepper all from Poland.

www.seedschange.com has the Polish snap pole bean and Jack and the Beanstalk.

www.nicholsgardennursery.com offers organic Polish Amaranth.

www.tomatofest.com - Soldacki, Opalka, Malinowski, Poland 2, Polish giant, Zogola, Polish Linguisa, and Polish Pastel tomato seeds.

—Paula Barczewski-Jarnot

Dziękuję bardzo, Paula, for the web sites and addresses regarding the Polish plants.

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

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

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BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

Geography, Part I

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

północ..... (PUHW-nohts) f	urwisko..... (uhr-VEES-koh) n
north	cliff
południe..... (poh-WUD-nyeh) n	strumień..... (STRUH-myahn) m
south	creek
wschód..... (FSH-huht) m	wydma..... (VIHD-mah) f
east	dune
zachód..... (ZAH-huht) m	las..... (lahs) m
west	puszcza..... (PUHSH-chah) f
zatoka..... (zah-TOH-kah) f	forest
bałaj..... (PLAH-zah) f	wąwóz..... (VOHN-vuhs) m
beach	gorge
przylądek..... (pshih-LOHWN-dehk) m	wzgórze..... (VZGUH-zeh) n
cape	hill
jaskinia..... (zahs-KEE-nyah) f	wyspa..... (VIHS-pah) f
cave	island

— Continued Next Month —

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON — From Mon., Sept. 14 to Sat., Sept. 19, St. Hedwig Parish will hold its annual **Polish American Festival** along the Riverfront in Wilmington. 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Live music, entertainment, carnival rides, games, food and refreshments. Info call (302) 594-1400 or visit www.polishfestival.net.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — To culminate this year's summer, the first annual **Twin Cities Polish Festival** scheduled for Aug. 15-16 will immerse Twin Citians in all things Polish with a kaleidoscope of cultural and educational displays, food and top-notch entertainment.

The Twin Cities Polish Festival will take place on Main Street across from River Place and St. Anthony Main in Minneapolis and promises to be a fun-filled celebration. The admission is free and festival hours are 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sat. and 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sun. For more information on performers, vendors, the "Na Zdrowie" (to your health) 5k Run scheduled for Aug. 15, or sponsorship and advertising opportunities, visit www.tepolishfestival.org

The Festival is a new collaborative effort undertaken by Polish organizations in Minnesota headed by a non-profit, Twin Cities Polish Festival, which aims to promote

traditional and contemporary Polish culture in Minnesota.

Organizers say that the Twin Cities Polish Festival will show why Poland has earned the reputation as one of the world's most hospitable cultures. The Festival will give an opportunity to Polish-Americans in Minnesota to celebrate their heritage and to engage our greater community in the celebration of Polish traditional and contemporary cultures.

The Festival will feature live music, folk dancing, artist booths, polka bands, Traditional Polish Food Market with Polish cookbook heirlooms, such as pierogi and kielbasa, Polish Beer Garden with three kinds of Polish beer, an exhibition of rare Polish sheepdogs, Contemporary Architecture in Warsaw Exhibit, and much more.

This festival has something for everyone. You can take a free polka lesson and listen to traditional folk music, or if you prefer classical piano, you can visit the Exhibition Hall at RiverPlace, where accomplished artists will be performing Chopin's music throughout the festival. For those who love the outdoors, the park lawn along Old Main Street and the river is a perfect place to spread a blanket and sit with friends and take in the atmosphere of Polish culture and entertainment.

Twin Cities Polish Festival is a non-profit organization created to bring a world-class celebration of Polish culture to the Twin Cities. It

also helps promote various community-service and Polish-American organizations.

NEW JERSEY

NATIONAL PARK — Sat., Aug. 15. Polish American Citizens Club 95th Anniversary **Family Picnic**. Soupy Island, Red Bank Avenue at The River. 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Music by Polka Family Band. No tickets will be sold at the gate. Info call Dan Steiner (856) 468-1215, or Bob Wisniewski (856) 779-7484.

WILDWOOD — Sat., Aug. 15. Second Street Polish Society **Summer Polish Party**, Echo's, Walnut & Old New Jersey Aves. 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Info call (215) 462-2243.

CHERRY HILL. Sun., Sept. 13. Little Servant Sisters **Polish Festival & Country Fair**. 1000 Cropwell Road. 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Live music, dance group, food and refreshments. Info call (856) 424-1962.

NEW YORK

BROOKLYN, NY—May 31, 2009, **Atlas Savings** in cooperation with the **South Brooklyn Pulaski Parade Committee** sponsored the 49th annual **Miss Polonia Pageant** held at Sirico's restaurant of Brooklyn New York. This year's Miss Polonia winner will represent the borough riding atop the South Brooklyn float, donated by Atlas Savings at the General Casmir Pulaski Memorial Parade along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, Sunday Oc-

Greater Hartford Scholars



HARTFORD, Conn. — Since 1987, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford has promoted the encouragement of higher education among Polish American youth by offering scholarships to college bound students. These scholarships are made possible by the funds raised at the Annual Szopka Festival held each year in November at the Polish National home. The recipients of the scholarship awards this year are three young women who have demonstrated excellence in academic scholarship, school and community involvement, and respect for their Polish heritage

The recipients are **Marta Chlus** of Wethersfield, Conn., an honors graduate from Mercy High School in Middletown. She is attending the University of Connecticut, and will be majoring in the Pre-Pharmacy program.

The second recipient is **Michalina Dzierlatka** of East Berlin, Conn., who is currently enrolled at the Barney School of Business at the University of Hartford where she has received numerous honors. She is majoring in Accounting.

The third recipient is **Carol Oleasz**, of Simsbury, Conn., an honors graduate of Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford. Carol will be attending Providence College where she plans to major in marine biology and English.

An awards ceremony and a reception were held at the Polish National Home in Hartford in June.

OCTOBER IS POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Observing the
70th Anniversary
of the Start
of World War II

October is Polish American Heritage Month, and the Polish American Journal turns to Polish American leaders and PAJ readers to join the observance.

This October, we revisit Nazi Germany's September 1939 invasion of Poland and the start of World War II. With the passing of each year, the number of Polish veterans grows smaller. We must not forget these brave men and women who witnessed firsthand the horrors of war in their homeland. These souls are reflections of all Poles, who throughout the ages have been subjected to oppression by those envious of the Polish spirit.

Poland's story is an important one. It shows how conviction and dedication can overcome tyranny and hatred. Following World War II and Poland's betrayal by her allies, the country was enslaved by Soviet Russia, which tried to bend the Polish spirit to its ways. But that spirit, tempered from within by a love of nation, family, and church, proved too much for Poland's foes, and broke the yoke communism generations later under the Solidarity banner.

You can help us in our mission to keep alive that spirit by sending greetings to American Polonia in the form of patron advertising in the October edition. This special edition will contain greetings from friends, businesses and organizations that recognize the importance of keeping that spirit alive here in the United States.

Through your patronage, we are able to bring American Polonia a paper it can be proud of, as it is our mission to heed John Paul II's words and keep alive the traditions which define us. Every month we publish the good news about Americans of Polish descent who make a difference in the world today.

To guarantee placement of your ad in the Polish Heritage Month edition, please return the form below with your check by September 11th. You can also place your donation with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or Amex.

We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to producing this special edition which will enlighten all on the contributions and sacrifices of those who fought for their freedom and ours.



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Atlas Savings was established in 1900 by a group of Polish immigrants as a state chartered full service community bank. In January 2009, Atlas Savings has introduced a new web-site and on-line banking solution to help customers keep track of their accounts. Atlas Savings is a member of the FDIC and is an Equal Housing Lender. Questions about products and services can be answered by calling (718) 768-4800 or visiting www.atlasbank.com.

The Pulaski Day parade is a yearly event that honors General Casmir Pulaski who was instrumental in securing American freedom during the Revolutionary War. Questions about the 49th annual Pulaski Day parade can be answered by visiting www.pulaskiparade.org.

BUFFALO — A conference, "Poland to Buffalo through World War II: Untold Stories Come Alive," will be held here, October 3-4.

The focus of the conference is to remember, honor and preserve the stories of Polish citizens who settled in the western portion of New York State after having survived World War II.

Keynote speaker will be Irene Tomaszewski, Soviet camp survivor, author and screenwriter of "Zegota: The Council for Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland, 1942-45" and author of "Inside a Gestapo Prison: the Letters of Krystyna Wituska, 1942-1944."

The October 3 conference will feature panel discussions with Polish World War II survivors telling their stories, film clips with other Polish survivors, a panel on how to get the story of Poland's experience during the war out to the public. On Sunday, October 4, a Mass in the old Polish neighborhood will be celebrated to honor the survivors, followed by a reunion of the post-World War II community.

The conference is open to all current and former residents of Western New York, as well as all other per-

sons interested in "The Polish Story" of World War II. Please join us.

For details, contact Andrew Golebiowski at (716) 892-5975 or 510-7562; e-mail at andywbuffalo@yahoo.com.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, is proud to announce that **Stephen Skorzynski** will be the Grand Marshal of the 2009 Pulaski Day Parade that will take place on Sun., Oct. 4, in Center City Philadelphia.

The PAC selected Skorzynski in recognition of his more than 30 years of participation with the Polish American Congress and its member organizations. Throughout his life, Skorzynski has been very active in Philadelphia's Polish community. Having many talents, he is a teacher of Polish history at the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School, where he attended as a child; dancer with the Polish Intercollegiate Club for over 20 years; actor in the Adam Mularczyk Theatre Company; and currently president of the Associated Polish Home.

Skorzynski is a long-time member of the PAC's Eastern PA District, its Youth Committee, Pulaski Day Observance Committee, Polish American Heritage Month Committee and a participant in various events sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in historic Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Aug. 8 through Sun., Aug. 9. **Walking Pilgrimage**, starting from St. Adalbert Church, Port Richmond section, Philadelphia, to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa. Info call Fr. Thaddeus Gorka (215) 739-3500.

DOYLESTOWN. — Sun., Aug. 16. **Polish Soldiers' Day**, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road. Mass 12:30 p.m.; activities throughout the day. All are welcome. Info call (215) 345-0600.