

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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THE STORY OF WOJTEK  
THE SOLDIER BEAR  
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK  
AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

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POLISH MUSEUM HONORS THE PRZYBYLO FAMILY • A POLKAS-ONLY DOWNLOADING SITE • BLACK STORKS?  
SPORTS: POLAND'S LOSS IS GERMANY'S GAIN • A CHAMPION FOR POLAND'S FREEDOM • SUMMER FESTIVAL RECIPES

## NEWSMARK

**INVITE EXTENDED.** President Barack Obama has invited Poland's new president to visit him in Washington.

Obama telephoned his congratulations to Bronisław Komorowski after he won an election held three months after President Lech Kaczyński died in a plane crash.

According to the White House, Obama told Komorowski that the "resilience and resolve" the Polish people demonstrated after the tragedy remains an inspiration to the world. Obama also thanked Poland for its contribution to the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan and offered condolences for Poland's sacrifices on the battlefield there.

**POLAND, US SIGN MISSILE SHIELD DEAL.** Poland and the United States signed an agreement for a key missile base during a visit to Poland by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. She stressed the controversial deal "is not directed at Russia."

Clinton oversaw the signing of the missile base agreement as part of a revamped version of the controversial missile defense shield plan.

The amendment enables the establishment of a permanent U.S. missile base on Polish soil. The controversial plan has been heavily criticized by Russia, with Moscow concerned that the policy is aimed at its military arsenal.

"This is a purely defensive system," Clinton told reporters. "It is not directed at Russia. It does not threaten Russia."

Poland and the United States say the shield is designed to ward off the threat of missile attacks aimed at Poland and the rest of Europe, especially the possibility of a ballistic missile strike stemming from Iran.



**SOLIDARITY PRIEST DEAD.** Prelate Henryk Jankowski, the "Solidarity" movement priest and St. Bridget parish priest, died July 18 at age 74.

Jankowski was born in Starogard Gdański. After the events of December 1970, he became the parish priest for St. Bridget Church in Gdansk. In few years time, with a help from artists, he managed to rebuild the church, which had been totally ruined since 1945.

In 1980 Jankowski supported shipyard workers striking under Walesa's leadership in Gdańsk. Later on, he became a "Solidarity" chaplain. During the Martial Law, St. Bridget Church was a meeting place for the opposition. Jankowski was also supporting union members' families and St. Bridget's churchyard became a place of many rallies and manifestations.

"Without his attitude, our fight would not have ended in success," Walesa told Polsat News.

After 1989 Jankowski was perceived as a controversial figure. He was often making anti-Semitic and anti-European remarks in his statements.

Father Jankowski received many decorations and honors. He was a honorary citizen of Gdańsk. (news.pl).

**STALIN BUST REMOVED IN HOMETOWN, BUT STILL STANDS IN UNITED STATES.** The inclusion of a large Stalin bust in the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virg. is no longer a local matter — "it has become a national and even an international embarrassment," said Dr. Lee Edwards, chair of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

Recently, the town of Gori, Georgia, Stalin's birthplace, removed a bronze statue of the Soviet dictator from its town square.

Lee said more than 2,000 people from all 50 states and over 40 nations have signed the petition calling for the removal of the Stalin bust at the D-Day Memorial, and the number grows with each passing day.

## U.S. Polonia ever faithful to Law and Justice Komorowski is Poland's New President

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Bronisław Komorowski, the candidate of the ruling pro-business Civic Platform (Platforma Obywatelska = PO) party narrowly won Poland's presidential runoff, defeating the head of the conservative Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość = PiS) Jarosław Kaczyński. But the second round of the presidential election, held two weeks after no candidate managed to win 50 percent of the vote in the first round, turned out to be a true cliff-hanger to the very end and beyond.

But late into the night, the outcome suddenly appeared to once again hang in the balance as fresh incoming results at one stage showed Kaczyński leading by a fraction of a percentage point. Hours after Komorowski had delivered his victory speech and Kaczyński had conceded defeat, both candidates' campaign headquarters became centers of re-



Poland's new President Bronisław Komorowski, former Parliamentary Speaker.

newed expectation. Ultimately, the final count showed that Komorowski, 58, had indeed won the snap election, called after the death in an April air crash of President Lech Kaczyński, Jarosław's identical twin, 61.

"I must begin with what good manners require: I congratulate Bronisław Komorowski," Kaczyński said at this Warsaw headquarters packed with PiS activists and supporters. "To score a victory one should recall the maxim of (prewar leader) Józef Piłsudski: top win and rest on one's laurels is a defeat; to be defeated and not succumb is a victory."

Kaczyński added that Poland had changed and that huge accumulated power must be tapped if his party is to win forthcoming local elections and next years parliamentary challenge. Despite his defeat, the surprisingly close outcome marked a serious comeback

See "Komorowski," page 4

## Cantores Minores Returns to America

NEW YORK — To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the Warsaw Archdiocesan Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, better known as Cantores Minores, returns to the United States of America for the fifth time under the direction of founder and current conductor, Joseph A. Herter. Previous choir tours have taken place in 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2001. This year's tour, however, is unique in that it will be their first American concert tour taking the choir from coast to coast. The month-long tour began on the west coast in Lake Arrowhead, California on July 23 and ends on the east coast in New York City with an afternoon performance at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Aug. 23.

The boys and men of Cantores Minores have a wide repertoire of mostly sacred music. Their selections for

singing the Ordinary of the Mass include the following: Kyrie from Gregorian Mass IV Cunctipotens Genitor Deus; Gloria from Messe brève (en ut majeur) no 7 by Charles Gounod (1818-1893); Credo from Missa "Ad este fideles" by Vittorio Giannini (1903-1966); Sanctus from Messe à trois voix by César Franck (1822-1890); and Agnus Dei from Missa di Gloria (1880) by Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

Their Polish repertoire includes the entire gamut of musical styles and periods, starting with the Medieval hymn Bogurodzica, and extending onward through the Baroque with Grzegorz G. Gorczycki, the Romantic period with Frederic Chopin and his pupil Karol Mikuli as well as Stanisław Moniuszko, the Post-Romanic period with Ignacy See "Cantores," page 3

## Noted Szopka Educator Hosts Holiday Tour



MOTAK and one his creations.

PITTSBURGH — Polish American Artist David Motak, a widely-acclaimed expert on the szopka or traditional Christmas crèche, is hosting the sixth annual Holiday Tour to Poland, Nov. 26-Dec. 7.

Motak teaches the art of szopka making at workshops around the United States and leads this annual tour to attend the yearly Szopka Competition in Krakow, one of Europe's most distinctive and beautiful Christmas customs.

See "Motak ..., " page 3

## Russians Participate in Washington Katyn Conference

Admit to  
Stonewalling by  
Higher-Ups

by Richard Poremski  
WASHINGTON, D.C. —

The 70th Anniversary Observance of the Katyn Massacre was held here at the Library of Congress on May 5, 2010. The group of 23 speakers and panelists was comprised of present/past U.S. and foreign ambassadors, members of the U.S. Congress, a Polish Sejm senator, and a grouping of international professors, historians, authors and other luminaries. In all, the assemblage of conferees covered every conceivable aspect of the Katyn Massacre. It was a landmark event — and scholarly investigation — not to be rivaled in recent Katyn history.

And in the Russell Senate Office Building Rotunda, coordinated with the conference, Poland's Council to Preserve the Memory of Combat and Martyrdom unveiled its exhibit entitled "Katyn: Massacre, Politics, Morality." It consisted of 25 large vertical panels containing newly discovered and/or just released photographs and archival material. The exhibit will also be toured to various U.S. cities.

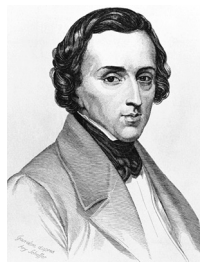
Everyone anticipated the remarks of the Russian participants, whose country (then-USSR) perpetrated the Katyn Forest Massacre of over 21,000 Polish military officers, officials and intelligentsia in 1940 during World War II.

Prof. Natalia Lebedeva, Russian Academy of Sciences - Institute of World History spoke during the morning session. She is the foremost Russian historian of Katyn, and a co-editor of "Katyn: A Crime Without Punishment" (Yale University Press, 2008). Lebedeva lectured on the contents of the book and detailed the Soviet killings, their indignant denial and elaborate cover-up, their eventual admission of the truth, and the state of Katyn-aggravated Soviet/Russian-Polish relations to the present time.

See "Katyn," page 4

## ALMANAC

## August • Sierpień



"There is something fundamentally personal and at the same time so very masterly in his playing that he may be called a really perfect virtuoso."

— German composer and pianist **Felix Mendelssohn** (1809-1847), about **Frederyk Chopin**

- 1 1930. Birth, in Chicago, of Walter "Li'l Wally" Jagiello. He revolutionized the polka music industry with the introduction of the slower "Chicago style" tempo mixed with his Polish folk melodies.
- 2 1899. Birth, in Warsaw, of **Apolonia Chalupiec**, silent screen star later known as Pola Negri. (d. 1987).
- 3 1941. Birth of **Martha (Kostyra) Stewart**.
- 5 1942. **Janusz Korczak** and the children he cared for were taken away by the Nazis from an orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto. He chose to stay with the children in his care as they went together into the gas chambers at Treblinka. In 2002 a memorial in Warsaw was dedicated to Korczak and the children.
- 6 **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION.** 1955. As a senator, **John F. Kennedy** visits Poland and makes a pilgrimage to Czestochowa.
- 8 1915. Birth of **Fr. Cornelian Dende**, famed director of the Fr. Justin Roasary.
- 11 1882. Birth of **Wladyslaw Anders**, General of the Polish Army during World War II.
- 12 1866. Birth of **Gabriel Sovulewski**, who helped develop Yosemite National Park, where he is buried.
- 13 1838. Birth of **Fr. Dominic Kolasinski**, who builder of Polish churches in Detroit.
- 14 1980. A strike begins at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, provoked by the firing of Anna Walentynowicz. Early demands are economic but also include the return of Anna Walentynowicz and Lech Walesa to work, and a memorial to the fallen striker in December 1980. Gdynia shipyard strikes on the 15th along with communication workers.
- 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**  
1882. **Samuel Goldwyn**, American movie mogul who helped start MGM (Metro Goldwyn Mayer), was born as **Schmuel Gelbfisz** in Warsaw, Poland.
- 20 1940. Polish pilots fight in the Battle of Britain.
- 22 1939. Birth of **Carl "Yaz" Yastrzemski**, Boston Red Sox hitting star.
- 24 **ST. BARTHOLOMEW**
- 25 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.**
- 28 1852. **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba** arrives at the port of New Orleans.
- 29 1655. Swedish king Karel X Gustaf occupied Warsaw.
- 31 1247. Death of **Konrad I** of Masovia

This paper mailed on or before  
July 30, 2010

The September 2010 edition will be  
mailed on or before September 1.

## VIEWPOINTS

## As Bronislaw Komorowski Begins His Presidency

The Second Polish Republic, which arose from World War I after more than a century of partition, lasted 21 years. Attacked by the Soviets, plunged into a worldwide depression, and despite its own failings, it led Poland from 123 years of occupation towards the making of a modern state.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Third Republic. It's hard to believe that just 21 years ago, Poland's Communist puppets fell and the beginnings of democracy returned to Poland. On July 4, for the sixth time, Poles elected a president, Bronislaw Komorowski.

Komorowski faces major challenges. Polish foreign policy has always had to navigate among more powerful neighbors and allies. Poland's traditional challenges—a resurgent Russia reasserting its "spheres of influence" and a rich Germany with occasionally ambivalent attitudes towards Poland—remain. Poland's new challenges are with the European Union and the United States. In its relations to the EU, financial independence should be critical: trading in the zloty for the euro seems ill-advised. So is foreign policy and defense inde-

pendence: while EU ambitions are great, Poland is likely to be a junior partner in any such arrangements, and the EU is just not NATO.

On Polish-U.S. relations, Warsaw needs greater dexterity. This seems especially important, given the Obama Administration's focus on a "reset" of relations with Russia. While Polish governments left (Miller) and right (Kaczyński) sought a "special relationship" with Washington, what they tangibly got seems limited. Poland and Australia both sent troops to Iraq; Australia got a new kind of investor visa, while Poland's "Roadmap" to the Visa Waiver Program seems to be on a GPS that is perpetually "recalculating."

The United States and Poland should have a special relationship, but one based on mutual advantages. The pull of Europe will be strong and, unfortunately, the phenomenon of anti-Americanism has always been part of the continent's history. Stronger people-to-people contacts between Americans and Poles and bigger U.S. investment in Poland are critical to maintaining the reservoir of good will that the United States still finds in Poland.

Those people-to-people contacts also require taking Polonia seriously. We are both Polish and Americans and we include both recent arrivals and a fifth generation. Our culture is not just Polish, but we need a Polish connection to keep it vibrant. France has an Alliance française but what is Warsaw doing to promote Polish culture here—both among Polonians and plain Americans? Given the possibilities of the Internet and an underemployed Polish academic community, possibilities to promote Polish language and culture are great.

It's time to stop pleading poverty—Poland can *not* afford an anemic presence here. In 1972, Germany invested in the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a Washington think tank that provides a venue for German and American policymakers to interact regularly to "strengthen transatlantic friendship." Where is *our* think tank?

Facing immediate problems, we hope Bronislaw Komorowski takes the time to think strategically about America and Poland ... and Polonia's role in that mix.

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## Taking Advantage of the Internet

The social networking site Facebook is a great place to find fellow Polish Americans and a multitude of Polish organizations. The Association of the Sons of Poland recently launched its page there. If anyone is interested in setting up a page for the PAJ, call the office at (800) 422-1275, or drop me a line at editor@polamjournal.com.

**COMPUTER BLUES.** We knew it was time to replace one of our aging computers used to set the paper when one morning we found what our technician called "the blue screen of death." A new computer has been purchased, but — as technology marches on — we must now invest in upgrading our software. I tak dalej ...

**GREAT DEALS AHEAD.** We are looking forward to our 100th anniversary next year, and have a variety of special features planned. We just revised our advertising rates and discounted ad prices for multi-issue insertions. Call our office to learn more.

**TIME TO SHOW OFF OUR CHURCHES.** As part of our 100th year observations, we would like to reflect on the great houses of worship built by Polish Americans since our arrival here. The only way to do this successfully is to ask our readers to provide us with a photo and a paragraph or two on the parish. While we appreciate

full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name of last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. Please note this is open to all denominations.

**OPINIONS WANTED.** Several readers have inquired about purchasing PDF copies of the paper. We would be willing to look into this if there is enough of a demand. Again, please call the office or drop me a line at the address above.

**REGARDING LETTERS.** Please note: we would love to run every letter that makes its way to our office, either by e-mail or the USPS. However, we have very limited space and therefore select only those letters we feel are most timely and relevant. We would like to thank Stasia Adamcik of Montague, N.J. for her letters and words of advice.

**IT'S UP TO YOU!** Chester Rog, a longtime friend of the PAJ from Minneapolis, wants to know

why Minnesota was left out of the last "American Polonia at a Glance." It was not intentional. This column is put together by press releases sent to the PAJ from Polish American communities across the United States. If news from your area does not appear, it is because no one sent any in. Please send by the 8th of the month preceding publication month, e.g., August 8 for the September edition.

**IN GRATITUDE.** Thanks to Edwin Dyga of Sydney, Australia, who took the time to copy and send us a DVD of the Motion of and Speech of the Premier and Leader of the Opposition, New South Wales Legislative Assembly, April 21, 2010, regarding the Smolensk and Katyn Tragedies.

**KOSCIUSZKO NEEDS US.** As previously reported in the PAJ, the Kosciuszko Monument in Milwaukee is in dire need of repairs. Erected in 1905, the bronze statue requires extensive restoration, cleaning, and structural work. Organizers need to raise approximately \$350,000 for this.

To help directly with a donation, or indirectly by bringing this matter to the attention of your club or organization, contact: Restore the Kosciuszko Monument, c/o Polanki, Inc., P.O. Box 34158, Milwaukee, WI 53234; (414) 672-2249; www.rkmmilwaukee.org.

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**Motak: First American to enter a szopka in the Krakow competition.**

*continued from cover*

The 2010 Holiday Tour to Poland offers specially designed dinners, receptions, "folklore evenings," cultural activities and city tours. For those wishing to capture fond family memories of a Polish Christmas, the tour also offers visits to some of Poland's leading Christmas markets in Warsaw, Lublin and Krakow as well as a specially prepared 12-course Polish Wigilia "Christmas Eve" banquet, complete with the moving tradition of sharing the oplatek wafer and Polish koledy Christmas carols performed by the Krakow's popular Krakowianie Folk Ensemble.

Another distinctive highlight is the annual Krakow Szopka competition on Krakow's magnificent main market square in which scores of folk artists of all ages present their meticulously hand-crafted szopka creations.

Motak will be entering one of his szopka works in this year's Szopka Competition. He will be the first

American to enter a szopka in the Krakow competition.

A frequent traveler to Poland, Motak will share many insights and behind-the-scenes additions not generally found on regular tour excursions.

The tour will visit Warsaw, Kazimierz Dolny, Lublin, Zamosc, Lancut, Krakow, Zakopane and other locations.

Departure is from Pittsburgh and other major cities. For further information, visit the Holiday Tour to Poland web site at [www.cracowcrafts.com](http://www.cracowcrafts.com) or call (412) 835-0539. The web site features a downloadable color tour flyer and an interactive tour map with tour itinerary and site photos. You may also contact Mary Gorecki at PAT tours: 1-800-388-0988.

The annual Holiday Tour to Poland is one of the activities of the Cracow Creche Workshop, an educational endeavor created by Motak in 2003 to promote the appreciation of the szopka art form.

**Cantores Minores Returns to America**

*continued from cover*

Jan Paderewski and his student Zygmunt Stojowski, and ending with the Contemporary minimalist Henryk Mikołaj Górecki.

A special attraction of the concert program is Stojowski's Romanze, op 20 for Violin and Piano, performed by Michał Osmycki, violin, and Michael Oczko, piano. Joining forces with the choir in Detroit is tenor David Troiano who will sing Stojowski's Euphonies as part of the concert given in Bolton Landing, New York. The song cycle performance, which was dedicated to the famous coloratura soprano Marcella Sembrich, takes place in a concert sponsored by the Marcella Sembrich Memorial Association, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the great diva's death.

The choir's performances are free of charge and a complete listing of the concert venues are given below.

- **SANTA FE, N.M.** Aug. 1. Santa Fe United Church. 11:00 a.m. Service.
- **DENVER, Colo.** Aug. 3. Immaculate

Conception Catholic Cathedral. 7:00 p.m. Concert

- **LITTLETON, Colo.** Aug. 4. St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. 7:00 p.m. Concert
- **KANSAS CITY, Mo.** Aug. 6. Central Methodist Church. 7:30 p.m. Concert
- **ST. LOUIS, Mo.** Aug. 7. St. Anselm Benedictine Abbey Church. 7:30 p.m. Concert
- **Aug. 8.** St. Anselm Benedictine Abbey Church. 9:00 a.m. Mass.
- **PALATINE, Ill.** Aug. 10. St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Church. 7:30 p.m. Concert.
- **NORTHFIELD, Ill.** Aug. 11. Northfield Community Church. 7:00 p.m. Concert.
- **DEARBORN, Mich.** Aug. 14. St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. 6:30 p.m. Concert
- **DETROIT, Mich.** Aug. 15. Old St. Mary's Catholic Church. (Greektown). 12:00 p.m. Latin Mass (Novus ordo).
- **HAMTRAMCK, Mich.** Aug. 15. St. Florian Catholic Church. 6:30 Polish Mass and Concert.
- **ERIE, Pa.** Aug. 16. St. Peter's Catholic Cathedral. 7:30 p.m. Concert.

- **LACKAWANNA, N.Y.** Aug. 17. Our Lady of Victory Catholic Basilica. 7:00 p.m. Concert.
- **LANCASTER, N.Y.** Aug. 18. Our Lady of Pompeii Catholic Church. 7:00 p.m. Mass and Concert.
- **BOLTON LANDING, N.Y.** Aug. 20. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. 7:30 p.m. Concert.
- **NEW YORK CITY.** Aug. 22. Middle Collegiate Church (East Village). 11:00 a.m. Musical Prelude before the 11:30 Service.
- **Aug. 22.** St. Stanislaus Catholic Church (East Village). 2:00 p.m. Polish Mass and Concert.
- **BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, N.Y.** Aug. 22. St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. 7:00 p.m. Mass.
- **NEW YORK CITY.** Aug. 23. St. Patrick's Catholic Cathedral. 1:30 p.m. Concert.

**LAPSUS CALAMI.** Fr. George Rutkowski's parish that closed was Detroit's Our Lady Help of Christians (Polish), not Our Lady Queen of Heaven. Our Lady Queen of Heaven is still open.

**Catholic League / Liga Katolicka Continues to Aid Church in Poland**

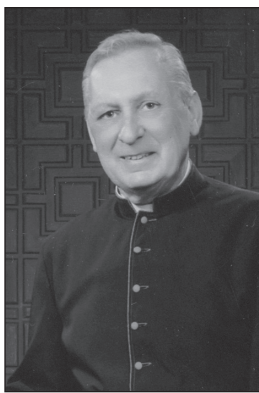
by Msgr. Matthew Kopacz, P.A.

The Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland ("Liga Katolicka") was organized at a formative assembly on May 18 and 19, 1943 in the diocese of Buffalo. Many prominent bishops, priests and laity from various archdioceses and dioceses in the United States gathered in deep concern to assist a war-torn Poland following World War II.

Throughout its sixty-seven years of existence, the Catholic League has faithfully supported the church in Poland. After World War II, churches and other church properties had to be re-built. Basic liturgical supplies such as chalices, ciboria, monstrances, Mass vestments, Sacramentaries, liturgical books, breviaries, altar/Mass linens were collected and sent to Poland by the Catholic League. Even bolts of material were needed for Religious garb. Some priests and nuns needed special medical care and re-hab after liberation from concentration camps. Following the War, the Church suffered under the domination of Communism. Deprived of full religious freedom the Church needed the support of the

Catholic League in other ways.

Thanks be to God, the Church today in Poland is free. It has resurrected to a new and more vibrant life. The Bishops of Poland want to provide for good, strong leadership in the present and the future. With vision and foresight, they encourage their young, talented priests to pursue higher studies at one of the three seminaries outside of Poland: the Polish Pontifical Institute and the Polish College, both in Rome and the Polish Seminary in France. It broadens their education as they meet and study with priests from other countries. In order for these seminaries



**MSGR. MATTHEW KOPACZ, P.A.** Buffalo Diocese Coordinator, Catholic League.

to continue, financial assistance is needed. The Bishops request that the Catholic League support this cause at present. Without our financial aid to help subsidize these seminaries one would have to close.

The rectors of the three seminaries — Msgr. Boguslaw Kosmider, Fr. Jozef Grzywaczewski and Fr. Tadeusz Karkosz — express their gratitude: "Bog zaplac, God bless you! We continue to exist, thanks to the financial support from the Catholic League in the United States."

During my visit to the Polish Pontifical Institute in Rome, Archbishop Jozef Michalik, Archbishop of Przemyśl, and the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Poland was present. He said, "I recall when I was an altar server and assisted the priest in vesting for Mass. How moved I was when I saw on those beautiful vestments a label, "Gift of the Catholic League in the U.S.A"... On another occasion he wrote "You have taught us how to be grateful to our benefactors and gave us the example that we too should help others who have less than ourselves. And this we strive to fulfill." That is so true. We help Poland but Poland helps the Church in the United States and other countries by sending its surplus priests.

Also many are unaware that in 1910 it was Pope Saint Pius X (Giussepe Sarto) who established the Polish Pontifical Institute. In 1582 Saint Philip Neri established the Polish College and Poland's August Cardinal Hlond along with the Archbishop of Paris Cardinal Emmanuel Suhard established the Polish Seminary in France in 1945. It is difficult not to support and continue seminaries founded by such saintly and eminent priests.

The Diocese of Buffalo will conduct the 2010 Catholic League Appeal throughout the month of August. The Most Reverend Edward U. Kmiec, Bishop of Buffalo, strongly endorses the Appeal, requesting pastors and parish administrators to have a special collection. To give their parishioners and summer visitors the opportunity to place their annual gift for the Church in Poland/the Catholic League. He writes, "I continue to be deeply edified by our peoples' warmth and faith ... their faithfulness and dedication to God and to our Church." The pastors may choose any weekend in August for the Appeal.

All contributions, large and small are deeply appreciated. One contributor writes, "I have the money from pop cans and my check from the government. Hope that will help?" How's that for generosity and self-sacrifice?

Yes, it did help. These are difficult economic times. Many are struggling. But doing small things eventually add up to success.

Be assured that the student-priests in Rome and Paris and I remember all Catholic League benefactors in prayer. May Almighty God bless you for your generosity. May our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Czestochowa, whose feast we celebrate August, 26 keep us all in her loving maternal care. May she intercede before her Son for all our earthly needs. May the 2010 Catholic League Appeal be successful in every Archdiocese and diocese in the United States for the further strengthening of the Church.



THE POLISH PONTIFICAL COLLEGE in Rome, Italy.



THE NEW SEMINARY in Paris, France.



A PRIEST-STUDENT, hard at work at the Polish Pontifical Institute in Rome.



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

## Katyn: murders were orchestrated and approved of by the top leadership of the USSR

*continued from cover*

Dr. Aleksander Gurjanow, representing "Memorial" - Research, Information and Public Enlightenment Center in Moscow followed, speaking Russian interpreted into English. He said the majority of Russians are confused about the Katyn crime because years of Soviet propaganda, which blamed the Nazi Germans for the crime. Gurjanow said Soviet guilt was admitted by Russian President Gorbachev in 1990, with Polish prisoners-of-war execution lists transferred to Poland. In 1992 Russian President Yeltsin gave Poland copies of official documents and orders proving that the Katyn murders were orchestrated and approved of by the top leadership of the USSR.

Gurjanow continued that regardless of the Gorbachev and Yeltsin Katyn revelations, and Memorial ongoing legal filings, the Russian Main Military Procuracy (MMP) unilaterally refuses to release much still-secret Katyn documentation it controls - in direct violation of established Russian law - and maintains that Katyn was a criminal act whose prosecutorial statute of limitations has long expired. Memorial insists that Katyn was a War Crime and a Crime Against Humanity, with no statute of limitations, as established at the international Nuremberg trials that successfully prosecuted the culpable leadership of Nazi Germany after World War II.



PHOTOS: RICHARD POREMSKI

**RUSSIANS DELIVER KATYN REMARKS.** During the recent conference held at the Library of Congress, three prominent speakers from Russia participated in the 70th Anniversary Observance of the Katyn Massacre. Show above, left, is Dr. Alexander Gurjanow of the Memorial Center, and at right, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States, Sergey Kislyak. Not shown is Prof. Natalia Lebedeva, Russian Academy of Sciences - Institute of World History.

Gurjanow said Memorial's Polish Committee is insisting the Russian MMP establish a full legal register of the personnel who were shot; establish a full legal register of those who were guilty of inspiring the crime and carrying it out; and establish a full legal characterization of the crime in accordance with the norms of Russian and international law. With its judicial recourse inside Russia road-blocked and nearly exhausted, Memorial has filed a formal complaint with the European Court on Human Rights located in

Strasbourg, France.

Sergey Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States addressed the afternoon session. In flawless English he spoke of reconciliation and cooperation with Poland. He said that Katyn is a heavy burden in Russian-Polish relations, and that Katyn is a pain that needs to be remembered and never repeated.

Kislyak said Russia is working to earn Poland's trust and improved relations, especially in the political and military environments, in

order to bridge past divisions and be a trustworthy partner. A positive sign pointed to is that trade relations have grown much in recent years between the two countries.

"I hope today's discussion of difficult history will help to build better understanding of the past in order to build for the future in the 21st Century," he said.

The forum was sponsored by The Kosciusko Foundation, U.S. Helsinki Commission, and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. Co-sponsors were the Council to Preserve the Memory of Combat and Martyrdom, Foundation for Polish Science, The Cold War Studies Program at Harvard University and the Memorial Center.

The conference's speakers and panelist can be seen and heard on the Kosciusko Foundation's web site [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org).

### JAIL TIME FOR POLAND'S MONET PAINTING THIEF.

Fingerprints led investigators to Monet's *Plage de Pourville*, stolen in 2000 from Poznan's National Museum. The painting, valued at \$7 million, was discovered in a wardrobe at the thief's parents' home in the southern city of Olkusz. The 41-year-old man pleaded guilty to all charges, expressing regret for the theft. He was ordered to pay \$9,900 in damages to the museum.

### Perseverance Beats Pain

**LAS VEGAS** — Four years ago, Tom Urbanski was shot four times while working as a bouncer outside Minxx strip club in the early hours of Feb. 19. The former pro wrestler and lifelong guitarist was paralyzed from the waist down.

"The night I got shot I knew I was paralyzed ... My first thought was, 'I'm not gonna walk again.' My second thought was, 'I'm not gonna be able to play guitar or hug my wife again, either.'"

But Urbanski regained the use of his arms. And last month he played guitar on a downtown Las Vegas stage with his classic rock cover band, Four Bullets Later.

The performance at Hogs & Heifers Saloon was the realization of a dream he'd had since the shooting.

The crowd of longtime friends and bar patrons rocked with the band. There was an air of encouragement and excitement as they watched Urbanski back on stage and loving it.

— Las Vegas Sun

### BLESSING AND PILGRIMAGE OF DRIVERS.

On July 25 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pa. — the Feast of St. Christopher, patron of drivers — there was a blessing of vehicles and the culmination of the pilgrimage for Drivers.

## Komorowski: Win Welcomed by Western Banks and Investors

*continued from cover*

for a politician that earlier this year had been largely written off as a political has-been. The trauma of the Smolensk air disaster unleashed a wave of sympathy for the president and the once viciously anti-Kaczyński media began showing him in more favorable light, even publishing long shelved photos of a warm, kind and intelligent head of state.

In the wake of the national mourning, presidential contender Jaroslaw toned down his prickly personality and radical anti-corruption rhetoric, winning over many undecided middle-of-the-road voters. His rival Komorowski unwittingly helped Kaczyński with a series of Bush-style gaffes, including a statement that Poland planned to leave NATO, when he meant it should pull its troops out of Afghanistan.

Ultimately the outcome may not be what it might appear. Komorowski's win means that his Civic Platform party now controls Poland's entire political scene: the presidency, premiership, Sejm (lower house of parliament), Senate and numerous key state posts, as well as enjoying the support of influential media. Up until recently the government had complained that it couldn't carry out necessary financial reforms because they would be vetoed by President Lech Kaczyński. Now the government and the parliament it controls are free to force through any legislation they want, knowing that a compliant Komorowski will sign them into law.

It goes without saying that Komorowski's win was welcomed by Western banks, investors and currency-exchange speculators which regularly siphon profits out of Po-

land. Goldman Sachs, the powerful global stock-trading and banking concern, which several years ago that had been caught at speculation scam affecting Poland's zlotys, in a note to clients called Komorowski's victory "market-positive." But it added that swift financial reforms looked increasingly unlikely with the approach of local and parliamentary elections.

The reforms Tusk's government wants to carry out involve more privatization, or selling off Poland's few remaining industrial assets to foreign interests (of for a song!) and cutting back on spending. Until recently, another goal had been to scrap the zloty and adopt the euro (€) - the European Union's common currency - as soon as possible. As it turned out, sticking with the zloty was largely responsible for Poland being the only European country to avoid the current recession.

**DURING THE CAMPAIGN** Komorowski had asked for "500 days of peace" for the PO-dominated government, parliament and presidency to modernize the country. He promised 620 miles of superhighways, new anti-flood infrastructure and various social and wage promises to different groups. If it wants to win, the PO cannot promise spending cuts in a country plagued by post-flood trauma, high unemployment and many unmet social medical and educational needs during its forthcoming election campaign.

For Kaczyński, his narrow defeat may be a blessing in disguise. If he became president, he would have had to give up the leadership of PiS, a leader-type party, with no competent successor in the wings. As it is, he can remain at the helm and use his influence and charisma to

bolster the party's ranks. Since the ruling PO will probably fall short of making good on all the promises Komorowski made during the recent campaign, that should attract new voters to Kaczyński's more common-people-friendly Law and Justice camp.

Komorowski's campaign slogan had been "Agreement builds," although he was the less agreeable and more aggressive side in the rivalry with the re-styled, more mild-manner Kaczyński whose motto had been "Poland is the most important."

### WHAT DID ORDINARY POLES

have to say about how they voted? "I cast my ballot voted for Kaczyński, a true Polish patriot, because he empathizes with less affluent Poles like myself," 60-year-old Polish literature teacher Katarzyna Chabrowska told this reporter on a Warsaw street. "Komorowski is part of the gang that made a shady (1989 roundtable-RS) deal with the commies and has murky ties with the WSI (post-communist military intelligence-RS). His party is in the service of foreign interests."

But Kaczyński also commanded a significant negative electorate, voting for his opponent to prevent him from getting elected. "I voted for Komorowski not because I like him, but because I would vote for anyone other than Kaczyński," said Łukasz Woźniak, 37, an engineer. A more typical Komorowski backer was Agnieszka Kranz, a 20-year-old beginning secretary who said: "I like Komorowski's pro-market program, because it will help modernize and develop the country and will be better for younger people."

One thing is certain, if the American Polonia had its way, the

new president of Poland would be Jaroslaw Kaczyński. More than 37,000 Polonians holding Polish passports took part in the election at polling stations across the U.S. and overwhelmingly cast their ballot for Kaczyński. He fared best in

the Chicago district, which includes this reporter's hometown of Hamtramck, Michigan and neighboring states, where the PiS candidate received 15,042 candidates against Komorowski's 3,292.

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Zamość under German Occupation 1939-1945 / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

## Central Office for Migration

In 1939 after the Germans occupied Poland and had annexed the whole of western Poland into the Third Reich, an office was established by the Germans called Umwandererzentralstelle (Central Office for Migration). The main office was located in Poznan with many branches subsequently opening up throughout Poland. The main role of this office was to organize and control the deportation of Poles out of the annexed territories into the General Government.

In spring 1940, a German by the name of Hermann Krumej was appointed head of a branch office in Łódź of Umwandererzentralstelle (Central Office for Migration). Krumej was enlisted by Odilo Globocnik to bring his considerable expertise on expulsions and deportations to Zamość which was soon to begin mass expulsions of the Polish people to make way for the new German colony. He became head of the Zamość branch of the Central Migration Office.

In November 21, 1942 in preparation for the mass expulsion which the Germans were going to perpetrate on the Polish people, the Zamość branch of the Central Migration office published guidelines for the police and military personnel who would be involved in the expulsions:

*Confidential! For official use only! Instructions pertaining to the expulsions of Polish farm owners*

1. Each expulsion takes place on the orders of the Central Migration Office-Zamość branch. Its execution belongs within the domain of designated security police (schutzpolizei), military police and assistive personnel.
2. The evacuation basically affects all the inhabitants of the village; they are to be assembled at some designated spot. Of those who are to be exempt from the evacuation and remain in the village is decided by the representative of the Central Migration Office.

From the assembly point, Poles, with the exception of those who are



German soldiers expel Polish inhabitants from the Zamość area. Poland, 1942-1943.

remaining in the village, will be transported by the shortest route to the collection point in Zamość, Lublin Street, number 47. For the purposes of transporting, horses and wagons should punctually arrive on time.

3. Exceptions: Ukrainians who have appropriate personal documentation from the Main Ukrainian Committee or from one of the Ukrainian assistance committees or are determined to be Ukrainian by one of the representatives of the Main Ukrainian Committee require special handling and it is not permissible to treat them like Poles.

4. The time for evacuating the Poles should not exceed one hour.

5. After throwing out the evacuees, the farm should be guarded by the special assistants (Sonderdeist-paramilitary group consisting of ethnic Germans called volksdeutsch) up to the time of arrival of the new owners.

6. The police and assistants are responsible in the event of setting fire, explosions or other destruction of the farms initiated by the expelled or other individuals, must be immediately averted. Because of the above possibilities, it is imperative that the division responsible for the evacuation must not be weaker than 1:1. In the face of opposition, it is necessary to use firearms. For escaping individuals, one can fire on the command of the police.

7. Security Police should make sure that every person evacuated takes, as far as possible:

a) provisions for 8 days

b) as much warm clothing as is possible

c) every person for themselves a wool blanket, coverlet and feather ticks for the small children up to 6 years of age and for the sick, elderly

individuals

d) utensils for eating, drinking, documents and certificates of all the members of the family. The baggage of adults cannot exceed 30 kg. Each bag must be clearly marked with the name of the owner.

e) taking of live inventory is unconditionally forbidden

(Translated from the Polish from: Klukowski, Z. "Zbrodnie niemieckie na Zamojszczyźnie." Biuletyn Główniej Komisji i Badan Zbrodnie Niemieckich w Polsce Volume 2, 1947.)

At the time this memo began circulating among the Germans, the expulsions were only a few days away.

A year had passed since the last villages had been expelled. There were rumors circulating among the people about further expulsions but no one really had any hard facts. Impossible to believe that they would be removed from their homes and from the land that had been in their possession for generations. Impossible that some stranger with German blood from some strange place would be given their ancestral home. Besides, it was late in November, freezing winter temperatures were already gripping the land. Kick people out of their homes at such a time? Where would they go? How would they live? Many believed that the expulsions were only that — a rumor. It seemed unbelievable.

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

## Surrender Was Not an Option

"The brigade will not surrender under any conditions."

That order was given by Colonel Stanislaw Kopanski, commander of the fledgling Polish Carpathian Rifle Brigade on 19 June, 1940

in French held territory on the border between Syria and Lebanon.

Kopanski had just learned of the capitulation of France and was ordered by General Eugene Mitterhauser, commander of the Armée de Levant in Syria, to disarm the Carpathian Brigade and support the new Vichy government of France. When Kopanski refused and issued his order, he was taken hostage by General Mitterhauser.

The Polish Carpathian Brigade was originally organized under orders from Polish Commander-in-Chief, Wladyslaw Sikorski in April, 1940 to support the French Army of the Levant (Armée de Levant) in Syria. The brigade was to be modeled after the standard French mountain brigades for eventual landings in the Balkans. The early recruits were Polish soldiers who had survived the September '39 campaign and made their way out of Poland overland by way of Romania, Hungary, Greece and Yugoslavia. During May and early June of 1940 the brigade's numbers grew as Polish and Greek ships brought additional Polish recruits from other locations around the Middle East. By 19 June the brigade was comprised of more than 3,500 soldiers and 300 officers. Morale was high and they were ready to fight. Then the French capitulated and Colonel Kopanski was taken hostage.

It didn't last long. The decision to capitulate and support the puppet Vichy government was not universally popular among French commanders in Syria. In fact, several officers on Mitterhauser's own staff openly criticized his decision and lobbied to support the Poles in their

determination to continue the fight. One day after taking him hostage, Mitterhauser released Colonel Kopanski and the Carpathian Brigade defected to Palestine where it joined up with British forces.

Based in Latrun, the brigade was equipped with British weapons, trained and reinforced up to 5,000 soldiers. The brigade then moved to Egypt to fortify the port of Alexandria. By January of 1941 the brigade had developed into a fully functional motorized infantry unit, was re-named the Polish Independent Brigade Group, and moved to the port of Hafnia.

During the offensive of Rommel's Afrika Korps, the Polish Independent Brigade Group was moved to the front near Mersa Matruh and then to Sidi Baggush. In August, 1941 the brigade took over the western perimeter of Allied forces during the Siege of Tobruk. In December, after more than a month of intense fighting, the brigade seized the strategically important Maduar Hill and broke through to join up with the British 8th Army, finally ending the siege. As a result of their courage and tenacity in battle, the brigade was awarded the prestigious title of Tobruk Rats by their British and Australian comrades-in-arms.

Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, NIGHT OF FLAMES: A Novel of World War Two. Mr. Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and has written a second historical novel set in Poland in World War Two which will be released in May, 2011.

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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

## Do Democrats Still have a Stronghold on Polonia?

Dear Editor,

Having read Mr. Kurzanski's letter to the editor labeled "The Latest Betrayal" (PAJ, July 2010), I completely agree with his assessment of President Roosevelt and President Obama's betrayal of the Polish people. Apparently the Democrat party feels it has the Polish vote in its pocket and that it can do whatever it wants without any consequences from the Polish. Kurzanski hopes that the Am-Pols will take a good look at President Obama's rapid drive to socialize the United States and during the next election vote to halt him and those like him who are selling both the land of our forebears, and the future of our own native land "down the river."

However, I have some doubts about this. Several years ago, I asked a fellow Am-Pol whom he was voting for. He replied "I have been a Democrat all my life. I will vote for the Democrat candidate and for all Democrats in the future." I hope this attitude is not prevalent among all Am-Pols.

Frank J. Wodzinski  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

It is a fact that Roosevelt betrayed the Polish people. He believed Stalin's assurances that there would free and fair elections in the Soviet-occupied Eastern European countries. Because of this, my parents and the six children in the family turned Republican.

The other assertions by Kurzanski really do not stand scrutiny. Every one is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts.

The missile defense system, which was supposed to be put in Poland, was a mistake by George W. Bush. President Bush offered this system to Poland as a defense against a missile attack by Iran. The Obama administration found that in the face of terrible deficits, the cost was too high and unnecessary.

He was persuaded by his military that our fleet in the Gulf had more efficient anti-missile systems already in place. Deficit conscious people would applaud that move. Think about it: Iran attacking Poland? Why? Where is the betrayal? Why is there a need for an outcry? Poland ends up with a more efficient system protecting them from sneak attacks from the Ayatollahs and it saves the United States money and our children additional debt.

Kurzanski's assertions regarding "Obama deficits," are factually challenged to say the least. It seems those opposed to our president think the public at large is suffering from amnesia. The Republicans were in charge in Congress from 1994 to 2006 and had Bush in the White House from 2000 to 2008. And remember VP Cheney asserting that "deficits don't matter." The Republicans' supply side economics and fantasies of "dynamic scoring," "wealth effect," and the "Laffer curve" took a Clinton projected surplus of \$5 trillion to George W. Bush, who handed Obama an \$8 trillion deficit. Bush and his Republican majority did an eye-popping job. It only took them a mere eight years to run through \$ 13 trillion, and indebted us to China.

I left the Republican party in 1980 when Reagan introduced "supply side," "trickle down," or "voodoo" economics. But supply side economics is no more than a return to the feudal system. "Give money to the rich and they will create jobs. They are the ones who invest."

In "Poland" by James Michner, he wrote that during feudal times, serfs would have meat once a year — leftover from the lord's Christmas dinner. This is an example of "trickle down economics" at work. Well, I lived and worked at various times in Panama, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and other Third World countries. What one did not see was a middle class. The upper class had all the money. Most of the people were poor,

very poor. That is what the supply side gets you. The rich are supposed to create jobs in the United States. But in September 2008 when the financial system was under stress, CNBC reported that 80% of American investment was made abroad, primarily in Asia. So now Kurzanski wants you to vote for Obama's opponents, the Republicans. These Republicans are the people who got us, our children, and grandchildren in financial quicksand. Are we going to give the keys back to a group which has done nothing but wreak havoc on the country? Their policies have not changed. Tax cuts for the rich. This is a continuation of George W. Bush's economic policies.

The definition of idiocy is doing the same thing again, (voting for the Republicans) and expecting a different result.

Walter Bajak  
Hollywood, Florida

**WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE ...** In your July editorial, "He Who Laughs Last ...," you note with a good degree of satisfaction that Sen. Arlen Specter was recently defeated in the Pennsylvania Democratic Senate Primary. Specter had told a number of "dumb Polak" jokes at a 2008 luncheon.

Yet, successful Duke University men's basketball coach, Mike Krzyzewski, who has made telling "dumb Polak" jokes a part of his daily routine, is feted in the pages of the PAJ.

I don't understand your reasoning. Can you please explain?

Tom Kiseleski  
Pittsford, New York

*Editor's response: Krzyzewski's telling of jokes has been limited to — to the best of our knowledge — the locker room, and at his own expense. Specter, on the other hand, told his jokes in public. This is not to say Krzyzewski is sacrosanct, but comparing the two is a stretch.*

## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

**WILMINGTON, Del.** — St. Hedwig Parish **Polish American Festival**. Along the Riverfront. Mon., Sept. 13 to Sat., Sept. 18. Mon.-Thurs. 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.; Fri. 5:00-11:00 p.m.; and Sat. 4:00-11:00 p.m. Live music, entertainment, carnival rides, games, food and refreshments. Info call rectory (302) 594-1400 or visit [www.PolishFestival.net](http://www.PolishFestival.net).

**CHICAGO, Ill.** — The **Polish Genealogical Society of America** will hold its **32nd Annual Convention**, Oct. 1-2, 2010, at the Oak Lawn Hilton. Check-in begins at 2:00 p.m. October 1st and single sessions will begin at 3:00 p.m.. There will be an opportunity for one-on-one translation help, and a two-hour dinner break (on your own) midway between sessions. Saturday sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. Conference includes syllabus, hot plated luncheon (unless option declined), entertainment, and presentation of "Gwiazda" and "Wigilia" awards. A Vendor/Media Room will open on Friday at 3:00 p.m. and Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Vendors will be exhibiting charts, maps, books, embroidered apparel, items from Poland and genealogical fun stuff in Media/Vendor room. Our photo expert, Eric Basir will be on the premises to do photo restoration on-site so originals can go home with you.

The Oak Lawn Hilton has reserved a block of rooms for Conference attendees at a special rate of \$99.00 a night plus tax. To reserve, call (708) 425-7800 by Tues., Sept. 14, 2010 and indicate you're a PGSA participant.

A number of experienced presenters with in-depth knowledge of specific aspects of Polish genealogy have agreed to share their insights. Just a few examples include John Hallman on the previously undressed topic of Lutheran church records; Meghann Pytka explaining the triggers of the mass immigration of Poles; and Judith Frazin unearthing treasures in Polish language records.

For more information, contact the PGSA at 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60642-4101; e-mail [PGSAmerica@pgsa.org](mailto:PGSAmerica@pgsa.org), or visit its website at [www.pgsa.org/](http://www.pgsa.org/).

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.** — The **Twin Cities Polish Festival** and **Minnesota Film Arts** have joined forces to present the **Twin Cities**

**Polish FilmFest**, Aug. 13-19. It will run concurrently with the **Twin Cities Polish Festival** Aug. 14-15, 2010 as part of the Festival's celebration of Polish culture and heritage.

**Twin Cities Polish Festival** will be held August 14-15 on Old Main Street across from Riverplace and St. Anthony Main.

The festival, which attracted between 10,000 and 13,000 festivalgoers in 2009, will feature the return of many food and merchandise vendors, polka bands, Polish folk dance and musical groups, highland sheepdogs, the Chopin Celebration classical piano showcase and the "Na Zdrowie" 5k Fun Run. This year's event will also feature new vendors, exhibits and acts.

The FilmFest is a unique opportunity for the community to see award-winning Polish language films (with subtitles) from a variety of genres: contemporary feature films, dramas, comedies, anime, children's films and documentaries.

More films will be added to the schedule. All films will play at the St. Anthony Main Theater. Tickets can be pre-purchased online or at the theater box office. A complete list of titles with film summaries, as well as ticket prices and screening schedules, will be posted online at [www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org) and [www.mnfilmarts.org](http://www.mnfilmarts.org).

**CHERRY HILL, N.J.** — Sun., Sept. 12. Little Servant Sisters **Polish Festival and Country Fair**, 1000 Cropwell Road. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Live music, dance group, food and refreshments. Info call (856) 424-1962 or (856) 235-1521.

**BROOKLYN, N.Y.** — The **South Brooklyn Pulaski Parade Committee** crowned Paulina Zawadzka its 2010 Miss Polonia, Karolina Palac its 2010 Junior Miss Princess, and sashed Danuta Sieminski its 2010 Contingent Marshall at the organization's 50th anniversary gala, June 25.

The evening also celebrated the 110th Anniversary of the establishment of the "Polish-American Co-operative Savings and Loan Association," later known as the "Atlas Savings and Loan Association" and most recently, becoming a federally-chartered mutual savings bank known as "Atlas Bank."

The occasion was attended by fifteen past South Brooklyn marshals. South Brooklyn's 2010 Junior

Miss Princess, Karolina Palac, was born in New York in 2002. She attends St. Anselm Catholic School, attends Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish Supplementary School, likes to read and enjoys ballet. When she grows up she wants to be a teacher.

South Brooklyn 2010 Miss Polonia, Paulina Zawadzka was born in Poland and came to America as an infant. She attended Polish School on Saturdays; and is a member of the Polish Scouting Organization, being the leader of the South Brooklyn Cub Scout Troop. She will be attending CUNY Hunter in the fall. This summer she is volunteering at "Kolonia Zuchowa" a two-week Cub Scout sleep away camp in Pennsylvania. After that, she will attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland, and later, will take the opportunity to take time to visit relatives.

For many years **Atlas Bank** has sponsored and subsidized expenses of the South Brooklyn Pulaski Parade Committee. Having chosen Atlas President/CEO Danuta Sieminski as 2010 Marshal of South Brooklyn is most appropriate for the committee and the bank are celebrating milestone years — collectively 160 years of service to Polish American community of South Brooklyn. Under Sieminski's leadership, Atlas recently opened its first branch at 339 Sand Lane Staten Island, New York.

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — Corpus Christi Church is looking for Western New York's best pierogi by hosting its third annual **Buffalo's Best Pierogi** contest, Sat., Aug. 21 at 4:30 p.m. The contest is open to all amateur cooks. For the first time, businesses are also invited to attend, but must use a traditional recipe.

Applicants will be judged in one of three categories: Homemade Traditional; Homemade Non-Traditional; and Commercial. Deadline for entries is Saturday, August 13.

The contest will take place during Corpus Christi's 30th annual Dozynki Polish Harvest Festival, Aug. 21-22.

Corpus Christi Church is located at 199 Clark St. in Buffalo, one block east of the Broadway Market. Applications for the pierogi contest and a complete listing of the Harvest Festival events can be found on the church website at [www.corpus-christibuffalo.org](http://www.corpus-christibuffalo.org).

**ROCHESTER, N.Y.** — Tasty pierogi, lively polkas, and charming folk art will highlight the 2010 **Polish Arts Festival** at St. Stanislaus Parish: Fri., Aug. 6, 5:00-11:00 p.m. and Sat., Aug. 7, 4:00-11:00 p.m. on the parish grounds (corner Hudson Avenue and Norton Street).

*Pierogi, golombki, kielbasa, kapusta*, and homemade baked goods will be served in the auditorium from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Friday and 4:00-8:00 p.m. Saturday (or as long as food lasts). American fare such as hot dogs, hamburgers, potato pancakes, fried dough, ice cream, and beverages will be available on parish grounds. The festival will also feature games of chance and activities for all ages, including a special section of children's games. Beautiful Polish pottery will be available for purchase, and parishioner David Bryniarski will demonstrate the traditional art of creating *pisanki*. In addition, guided tours of historic St. Stanislaus Church will be offered at 6:00 p.m. each evening.

Ray Serafin's Brass Magic band will play both days from 7:00-11:00 p.m., and the Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble from Brampton, Ontario, will perform traditional Polish folk

dances on Saturday.

Adding to the excitement, \$5,000 in raffle prizes will be given: a \$500 raffle and a \$1,000 raffle on Friday; one \$500 drawing and three \$1,000 drawings on Saturday.

Admission is free. Parking is available at nearby Benjamin Franklin High School as well as in the parish's lot on Northeast Avenue. The festival grounds and parking areas will be patrolled by security guards on both evenings.

For more information, call the rectory at (585) 467-3068 or visit [www.polishartsfest.org](http://www.polishartsfest.org).

**TOLEDO, Ohio** — August marks the end of summer, and a number of events and festivals are planned in and around Toledo prior to Summer's end. Notable:

**Resurrection Polish National Catholic Church**, located at 1835 West Temperance Road, Temperance, Mich. (just north of Toledo) has two Masses each weekend: Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday at 12:15 p.m. Resurrection has been a local PNCC parish for approximately five years, bringing back to the Toledo area a religious tradition that once had several active parishes in the city. On August 18, 2010 Resurrection sponsors "A Taste of Poland" dinner on the parish grounds, with Polish crepes and salads featured.

**The Echoes of Poland**, a Toledo dance group founded by Paulina Tul-Ortyl in 1967, performs at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Festival in Wyandotte, MI on Saturday, August 28, 2010. The Echoes, as they are commonly called, have performed all over the Midwest and have made 10 trips to Poland since their founding. (more info at [society.prcua.org/toledoclub/echoesofpoland](http://society.prcua.org/toledoclub/echoesofpoland)).

A bit farther north, the **Frankenmuth Summer Music Fest** is held August 12-17 at Heritage Park in the Marv Herzog Pavilion, overlooking the scenic Cass River. This event draws polka fans from all over the country, and it marks one of the

last major outdoor festivals in the Ohio-Michigan area. This event has evolved over the years, and today, it is possible to enjoy six days of polkas, including Polish and Slovenian. (info at [www.frankenmuthfestivals.com](http://www.frankenmuthfestivals.com).)

**Randy Krajewski** announces that a new Choiceband compilation, "Choice Cuts," is now available for purchase. This disc contains 18 remastered tunes (six from each of the three Choice recordings). Many fans remember Randy's three-person band Choice from the late 80s-early 90s. The original Choice offerings were only on cassette, and now they are available on Randy's latest disc. To order "Choice Cuts," contact Randy at [Dr.Boogaloo@toast.net](mailto:Dr.Boogaloo@toast.net).

— *Toledo Polonia events provided by Margaret Zotkiewicz*

**PHILADELPHIA, Pa.** — Fri., Aug. 13. The Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation **Sixth Annual Summer Concert**, Ethical Society Building, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square. 7:00 p.m. Info/reservations contact Fred Wolanin at [ajwolani@gmail.com](mailto:ajwolani@gmail.com) or call Teresa Wojcik (215) 752-9270.

**PHILADELPHIA, Pa.** — Sat., Aug. 14-Sun., Aug. 15. **Walking Pilgrimage**, beginning from St. Adalbert Church, Port Richmond section, Philadelphia, to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa. Info call rectory (215) 739-3500.

**DOYLESTOWN, Pa.** — Sun., Aug. 15. **Polish Soldiers' Day**, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road. Mass at 12:30 p.m., activities throughout the day. All are welcome. Info call (215) 345-0600.

**DOYLESTOWN, Pa.** — Sept. 4-6 and Sept. 11-12. **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 [PolishShrine.com](http://PolishShrine.com).

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Polish Museum Honors the Przybylo Family

CHICAGO - Approximately 225 guests attended the Polish Museum of America's (PMA) 30th Annual Summer Ball, the Museum's annual fundraiser. The June 10 event was held at the Rosemont Hotel at O'Hare in Rosemont, IL,



(l. to r.): Thaddeus, Victoria, Alice, Andrew, Vivian, and Althea.

and was an evening of fine dining with a silent auction and dancing to the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra. This year, the PMA honored the six children of **Ted and Alice Przybylo** for their outstanding and continued support of the Polish and Polish American community. Receiving the Museum's prestigious Polish Spirit Award were **Althea Kroger, Vivian Kolpak, Andrew, Alice Pawlicki, Victoria Pindras, and Thaddeus**. Ted and Alice Przybylo started the "White Eagle" Restaurant and Banquets business in Niles, IL in 1966. Since its inception, Ted and Alice provided a gathering place for Chicagoland's Polish and Polish American community in an establishment filled with traditional Polish artwork and tapestries. Ted and Alice's Polish spirit and pride now lives on through their six children - all co-owners of the family business. They continue to uphold that Przybylo tradition by hosting many Polish parish jubilees, hospitals and organizations, along with supporting Polish children's dance troupes. Almost every week, the Przybylo family has its doors open to welcome elegant weddings, memorial luncheons, and home-cooked Polish American dinners. Among the many dignitaries honored at the White Eagle were President Jimmy Carter, Pope John Paul II, and the late Polish President, Lech Kaczynski. As the Chicago area becomes culturally diverse, so too does the Przybylo's White Eagle welcoming all who enter its doors. Additionally, the children continue their father's charitable works through the Ted S. Przybylo Foundation, which focuses on financial aid and support to needy villages in Poland: a children's orphanage in Lubzina, an institute for mentally disabled men in Debica, and a children's orphanage and hospital in Tarnow.

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 36 FRAMES.** Professional photographer **Wojtek Gil** combined his artistic skills, his photographic experiences, and some technical ingenuity to create a "people to people" experience in which a 35-mm Lomo Action Sampler camera, described by Gil as "the hero of the journey," an ambassador of sorts, traveled solo around the world. Gil's concept seemed simple: one country, one person, one photo shot. Three years ago, Wojtek had an idea of sending one such camera with single 36 frames film around the world. "The Traveler" camera was accompanied by a diary-type notebook in which each photographer from each country would write something about the photo or him/herself. It was difficult for Wojtek to decide which of the multitude of interested participants would be selected, as he had, at times, over 100 emails per day from hopeful participants. Those photo

snappers did not have to be professionals to be part of this adventure. The most important requirements were that each participant be fluent in the English language; agree to send the camera and notebook to the next participant, and to also pay for the required postage. The photographer from the Czech Republic took one day, but the photographer in Hungary took six weeks. At one time during its journey, the camera became lost somewhere between Togo and South Africa. Six months later it arrived safely back in Togo to continue the Gil-planned journey. This exhibit captures "global humanity." Each photo captured a different country, a different culture. At the end of this camera-traveling expedition, Wojtek Gil received not only his undamaged camera, a well-used notebook, and 36 photo images, but also fascinating cultural perspectives preserved by the participant. This exhibit was curated by the PMA's Paulina Jakubiec, and was made possible through the honorary patronage of the Polish Consulate in Chicago. There are plans for this exhibit to travel to Poland sometime this year, as well as to Los Angeles.

**PAC-ILLINOIS DIVISION'S NEW PRESIDENT.** Congratulations are in order to **Mary Sendra Anselmo**. This past May and for the second time in its 65-year history, the

Polish American Congress (PAC)-Illinois Division placed a woman at its helm. There is no question that Ms. Anselmo has distinguished herself as a civic and cultural leader. She has a long and dedicated history of public service. A lifelong Chicago resident, Mary Sendra Anselmo grew up in Chicago's Polish Triangle, and at an early age, became involved in service to others. Mary has been actively involved in numerous Polish American organizations, such as the Polish Museum of America, the Copernicus Foundation, the Legion of Young Polish Women, the Polish Women's Civic Club, and the Polish National Alliance. In many organizations, she has held a leadership role. For the past 25 years, Mary has been an educator, a legislative aide, and Director of Customer Service for the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Since 2004, she has been the Chief Deputy Clerk of Training and Development for the Circuit Court. Ms. Anselmo is

the recipient of numerous awards, including the Cook County Public Service Award, its Outstanding Leadership Award, and COMCAST's News Maker Award. A graduate of Mundelein College with degrees in Biology and American and Eastern European Government, Mary Sendra Anselmo will be an asset to the Polish American Community through her new leadership role as president of the PAC-Illinois Division.

**"BYE BYE GDR! TO LIBERTY VIA WARSAW!"** Cinema/Chicago, the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival in collaboration with the Chicago Cultural Center and the Polish Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago hosted a free screening of the Polish documentary **"Bye, Bye GDR! To Liberty via Warsaw."** Almost 400 film enthusiasts filled the Claudia Cassidy Theater of the historic Chicago Culture Center on June 19 to view this documentary. The 55-minute film, directed by Krzysztof Czajka, presented in Polish with English subtitles, recounts the escape of approximately 6,000 East Germans to West Germany via Warsaw in the autumn of 1989. Former East German refugees, Polish and German politicians, along with Polish citizens recount their sometime bittersweet memories of a people's flight from their own country (East Germany) through Poland to Warsaw in order to reach the West German Embassy, and then West Berlin.

**MUZYKA POLSKA SALUTES CHOPIN.** It is estimated that on June 30 almost 10,000 Chopin music lovers filled not only Chicago's world-renowned Jay Pritzker

Pavilion to capacity, but crowded the lawn of Chicago's Millennium Park to see guest conductor, **Krzysztof Urbański**, and to hear Poland's renowned pianist, **Krzysztof Jabłoński**. The Grant Park Music Festival Orchestra saluted Chopin with its *Muzyka Polska* Concert. The orchestra performed Wojciech Kilar's *Krzysztof Lutoslawski's* Concerto for Orchestra, and Fryderyk Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Opus. 11. This concert was sponsored by Chicago's Polish Consulate and the live broadcast of this performance on Chicago's classical radio station WFMT was sponsored by LOT Polish Airlines. In a bilingual introduction, Consul General Zygmunt

Matynia publicly thanked the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, the Grant Park Music Festival, the Chicago Park District, Chopin music lovers, and all those in attendance for making this wonderful concert a success.

**PUCINSKI INSTALLS PWCC OFFICERS.** The Polish Women's Civic Club (PWCC) held its annual installation luncheon at the Rosewood Banquets in Des Plaines. Almost 100 guests gathered to welcome the PWCC's new officers and to hear the Honorable **Aurelia Pucinski** reminisce fond memories of her father,



(l. to r.): Judy Baar Topinka & Judge Pucinski

Roman Pucinski, and the PWCC. She had the pleasure of installing the following officers: President **Anna Burzycki**, Second Vice Pres. **Karen Kozlow**, Recording Secretary **Lenore Fuesz**, Treasurer **Alicia Dutka**, and Sergeant-at-Arms **Barbara Marquart**. A delightful choral and violin performance was presented by the youngest members of the Paderewski Youth Orchestra. Profits raised at this annual event will be allocated to the PWCC Scholarship Fund.

**ONION SHORTAGE.** There is a shortage of onions in Poland this year. Although the onion remains the vegetable in most demand in the Polish market, supplies this year are small and the quality of those available is poor. The spring floods took their toll on much of Poland's produce, but onions seem to have suffered the most.

## SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1971, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled **"We Love the PAJ Press Fund"** in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund are also used to support our **reader services** (postage, telephone, research, etc.), provide newsclippers with stamps and envelopes, and cover extraordinary expenses in producing the paper. **The Polish American Journal is not a profit-making venture.** Thanks to its dedicated staff, the PAJ is published as a "public service" for American Polonia.

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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for their donations to the **PAJ PRESS FUND**: **Chester Bijoch, Sr.**, Minneapolis, Minn.; **Ed Kieras**, Grand Rapids, Mich.; **George Morgan**, San Jancinto, Calif.; and one **"Friend of the PAJ."** Dziękujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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## Mazurek Brings Lighter Side to Commencement Ceremony



WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass. — **Edward R. Mazurek** (above) shared the stage with five valedictorians and writer John B. McInerney as class speaker at the 221st Commencement ceremony at Williams College.

Mazurek delivered tongue-in-cheek remarks from the perspective of a 21-year-old newly-elected U.S. president. He drew chuckles and applause when he pledged to "abolish all taxes" and to claim actress Scarlett Johansson as his First Lady. He also issued a "presidential pardon" to a fellow student who wound up on the wrong side of the law earlier in the year.

Mazurek, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Mazurek, Esq., of Philadelphia, graduated with B.A. degrees in Mathematics and English, with honors.

During the ceremony, McInerney, the author of "Bright Lights, Big City," was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters. Honorary degrees were also given to U.S. astronaut Stephanie D. Wilson, State Attorney General Martha Coakley; and G. Wayne Clough, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the National Science Board.

Among the school's five valedictorians was Christopher A. Chudzicki of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., who graduated with dual degrees in Mathematics and Physics.

Mazurek was selected by his peers to speak at the commencement. You can watch his speech on YouTube by searching for "Mazurek, Williams College."

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**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY.** An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. Requested equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. For information call 732-680-0680 or 732-341-5044

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## Procession Celebrates Faith and Co-operation of Polish Churches

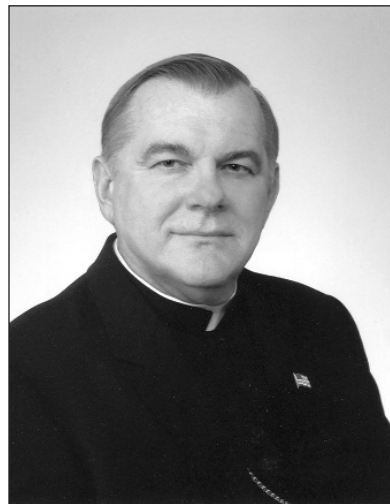
Continuing a tradition first celebrated in the RC diocese of Kraków in 1320, four churches in Buffalo, NY, joined to celebrate the feast of Boże Ciało (Corpus Christi) on June 6. The Mass was celebrated at St. Stanislaus Church by its pastor, **Fr. Thaddeus Bocianowski**. He noted that the holy day coincided this year with the beatification in Warsaw of **Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko**, who was murdered in 1984 by SB officers (the secret service in Communist Poland at that time) for promoting freedom and solidarity. The sermon was delivered by **Fr. Matthew Wydmanski**, pastor of Corpus Christi Church, who stressed the importance of the procession as the public manifestation of Catholics, of their love, reverence and devotion for the presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

The Corpus Christi procession that followed was prepared jointly by St. Stanislaus Church, St. Adalbert Basilica, St. John Kanty Parish and Corpus Christi Church. The procession through the streets of the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood was led by **Msgr. Matthew Kopacz**, **Fr. Thaddeus Bocianowski**, **Fr. Matthew Wydmanski** and **Fr. Simon Shaner**.

The participants followed the Holy Eucharist carried by pastors stepping on the rose petals thrown by girls in white First Holy Communion dresses. Young boys were ringing the bells as the procession was passing through the streets in a solemn atmosphere. Carried in the procession was the official diocesan traveling statue of Our Lady of the Visitation, blessed by **John Paul II**. A banner with the quote of **John Paul II**: "Nie lekajcie się, otworzcie drzwi Chrystusowi. Be not afraid, open the door to Christ," and a portrait of **Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko** were also carried in the procession. A reception at the Corpus Christi social club was the final part of the celebration.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: BUFFALO TO POLAND.** Nine volunteers from the Buffalo chapter of Habitat for Humanity flew to Poland in June to help build houses for needy fami-

lies. This latest Habitat project was made possible through the Global Village program in Gliwice, Poland. Low-income families work 750 hours of sweat equity in Poland to qualify and then repay the cost of the house through a zero interest mortgage. "We're helping to take them from a poor environment to a safe, decent environment," said David Zablotny, executive director of Habitat for Humanity in Buffalo, N.Y.



ARCHBISHOP WENSKI

**URGES CATHOLICS' PUBLIC ACTION.** In remarks delivered at the ceremony of his installation as Archbishop of the RC Archdiocese of Miami, **Archbishop Thomas Wenski** asserted that "Catholics should involve themselves in the public square—and do so coherently and unapologetically."

Spiritual leader of Miami's 1.3 million Catholics acknowledged the difficulties facing the Church in the United States, including the sexual abuse scandal and the "dictatorship of relativism" in the surrounding culture. He noted that the "radically secular world view wishes to reduce faith to the realm of the 'private' and the 'subjective' and thus tries to limit our freedom to serve, whether in health care, education or social services." Dedicating himself to proclaim a positive and consistent ethic of life, he rejected the notion that any human being, no matter how weak, is a "problem," whether in the womb, or poor, or refugee, or migrant.

### CATHOLIC CHURCH SUPPORTS ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH.

The Vatican issued a communiqué announcing a joint initiative with an international bio-pharmaceutical company to raise awareness and expand research of adult stem cell therapy. **Fr. Tomasz Trafny** from the Council for Culture remarked, "Considering the potential implication of scientific investigation, medical applicability and the cultural impact of research on adult stem cells, we view the collaboration with NeoStem as a critical effort." Using adult stem cells avoids the unethical manipulation and destruction of human embryos, which is common in embryonic stem cell research.

### PLAYS BY BRAUN ARE A SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL EVENT IN POLAND.

On May 27 the Franciscan Convent in Kraków, Poland hosted the promotion of two theatrical works dedicated to **Fr. Maximilian Kolbe**, "Maximilianus" and "Father Maximilian's Cell," written by **Kazimierz Braun**, a drama professor at SUNY at Buffalo, N.Y. The playwright was present for a "meet the author" session with teatrologists, actors, theater and literature critics, librarians, historians from the Jagiellonian University and Franciscans from Kraków and Niepokalanów, representing places where Father Maximilian lived and worked. The large audience also included students and professors from a high school in Częstochowa, from which young **Kazimierz Braun** graduated

### BLESSED TO BE INTERRED IN SHRINE.

After **Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko's** beatification at an open-air Mass in Warsaw's Piłsudski Square, before over 100,000 faithful, including his mother Marianna, his relics were taken in procession to the Warsaw suburb of Wilanów. The still-unfinished Divine Providence Basilica, a shrine to renowned Poles, will be his final resting place. Some relics of the new blessed will also be kept at Warsaw's St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, **Fr. Popieluszko's** parish, and others will be sent to churches across the Catholic world dedicated to Fr. Jerzy. Parishes as far away as Uganda and Peru have

requested his relics. More than 80 streets and squares in Poland bear his name, and hundreds of statues and memorial tablets have been unveiled in his memory. Some 18,000 schools, charities, youth groups and discussion clubs have been named after him.

### PILGRIMS TO REACH DOYLESTOWN SHRINE.

Sunday, August 8, is the date on which walking pilgrims are expected to arrive at the Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pa. While August 26 is the actual feast, the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa will take place on Sunday, August 29.

### ARCHBISHOPS RECEIVE THE PALLIUM FROM POPE BENEDICT XVI.

Archbishops **Jerome E. Listeecki** of Milwaukee and **Thomas G. Wenski** of Miami were given the pallium, an insignia of their office and ministry in the Church, in St. Peter's basilica, at the end of June. According to Archbishop **LeGatt** of St. Boniface, Manitoba, the pallium is a sign of the authority he shares with the pope, but also "a sign of the service of communion within the church, of the unity of faith and the unity of charity that I've been entrusted with, that all the baptized are entrusted with." The pallia are woven of wool from lambs brought in procession from the Church of St. Agnes (whose name means lamb in Latin) and are kept next to the tomb of St. Peter until they are bestowed on the archbishops. The six crosses on the pallium are a sign that bishops are called to love people as Christ did – with total self-giving. The pins which hold the pallium in place symbolize the nails of the crucifixion.

### COPERNICUS TO BE REBURIED.

**Nicolaus Copernicus**, the 16-century astronomer and church canon, whose ideas were condemned by the Church, was reburied as a hero in the cathedral in Frombork, Poland, where he served as a canon and teacher. Mathematical models led him to develop the theory that the earth revolved around the sun. When **Galileo** and others popularized that theory a century later,

they were condemned by Church officials for contradicting biblical truths. Copernicus never published his theories during his lifetime and so escaped a similar condemnation. He received a newly published copy of his book, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*, on May 21, 1543, the day he died. Buried in an unmarked grave in the cathedral for centuries, the astronomer-mathematician's remains were only recently identified through DNA testing against a hair found in one of his books. **Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk**, papal nuncio and newly-named primate of Poland conducted the reburial.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

Detroit archdiocese permanent deacons celebrating their 30th year: Deacon **Donald Junak**, St. Louis Parish, Clinton Township; Deacon **Norbert Motowski**, All Saints Parish, Detroit; and 10th year: Deacon **Gerald Smigell**, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Sterling Heights

**Our Saviour's** PNCC Parish in Woonsocket, R.I., on its 85th anniversary. Prime Bishop Robert M. Nemkovich and Eastern Bishop Thomas J. Gnat joined other clergy for the parish's anniversary celebration.

### STO LAT TO ... Thomas Wasilewski

a graduate of Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit on his ordination to the priesthood for the RC Diocese of Lansing, Mich., to **Michael Polinek** on his ordination for the RC Diocese of Erie, Penn., and to **Dick O'Polka**, of St. Patrick's Church, Franklin, Penn., on his ordination to the permanent diaconate for the RC Diocese of Erie, Pa.

**Stephen Bujno and Susan D. Kaczmarek**, on graduating from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Penn. Through its Religious Studies Division the seminary has a multitude of programs for the laity, either for their personal faith formation or professional needs.

Archabbot **Douglas R. Nowicki**, O.S.B., on his re-election as Archabbot of St. Vincent Archabbey, in Latrobe, Penn. St. Vincent is the first monastery established in the USA and one of the largest in the world. In addition to being spiritual leader of the monastery, Archabbot Nowicki is also chancellor of St. Vincent College and St. Vincent Seminary. He serves as spiritual leader of monasteries in Brazil and Tanzania, offshoots of St. Vincent's.

### 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.

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## St. Stanislaus Polish Festival

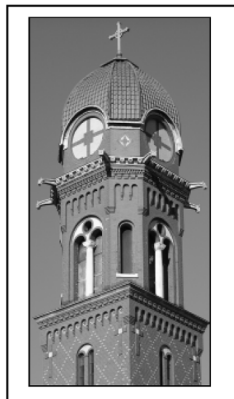
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(Every 1st Tuesday of the month  
2-2:30 p.m.)





## POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## New Polonia Media

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Western New York Polonia is embracing available technology. Various WNY Polonia organizations, including the Polish Cultural Foundation, Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister City Committee, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, Buffalo Polka Boosters, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, and the Polish Cadets of Buffalo now have groups or pages on the Facebook social network. Polka bands, like PhoCus and Those Idiots, can also be found on Facebook. The Polish Villa Restaurant and Am-Pol Eagle newspaper are on Facebook as well. Using this new media is an opportunity to keep our Polonia alive and relevant in today's world.

**POLONIA TIDBITS. The Buffalo – Rzeszow Sister City Committee** elected new leadership for the coming year: Jim Serafin (president), Andrzej Ogiba (vice president), Bogusia Carroll (secretary) and Mary Jane Wajmer (treasurer). Therese Clarke and Bogusia Carroll were added to the group's board of directors during the annual meeting ... **Daniel Derenda** has been named the Commissioner of Police by Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown. **Charles Tomaszewski**, the son of the late president of the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress Karol Tomaszewski and former head of the Buffalo DEA office, was named deputy police commissioner for operations by the Buffalo Police Department.

**Richard Szykowny** has taken over the presidency of the Polka Variety Social Club of WNY. Richard's son, **Michael Alan Szykowny**, was recently awarded his second Emmy for his graphics work on ESPN's "Sports Nation" program ... **Msgr. Matthew Kopacz** announced that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo collected \$63,962.83 in the 2009 Catholic League Appeal for Religious Assistance to the Church in Poland. This represents a 10% increase from 2008. The 2010 appeal will take place during the month of August (see page 3) ... The **Kosciuszko Club** in Dunkirk held its Annual Street Dance the Fourth of July weekend ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** has joined the **Polish Cultural Foundation** and the Music Department of **Buffalo State College** as a co-sponsor of the September 12, 2010 Rockwell Hall concert featuring Claire Huangci, the winner of the 2010 U.S. Chopin Piano Competition. The \$20 reserved seat tickets, which include a "Meet

the Artist" reception, are available from the Rockwell Hall box office at (716) 878-3005.

The "I Am From Here: The Paintings of **Maciej Frankiewicz**" exhibit at Toronto's Al Green Gallery, ran until July 8 ... The "Warszawa" and "Polonaise" villages were very popular participants in the annual International Villages Festival in Brantford, Ontario from July 7 through 10 ... Chief Judge **William Skretny** of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of NY, Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka** and Erie County Clerk **Kathy Hochul** participated in the Greater Niagara Frontier Council BSA's first "Duty to Country and Community Day" event in Downtown Buffalo on the 9th.

The **Polish National Alliance** has announced the following scholarship winners for the 2010-2011 academic year: Meagan Adams (Fayetteville), Ryan Astemborski (Erie, Pa.), Michael Benczkowski (Erie, Pa.), Dyzio Guzierowicz (Rochester), Andrea Hlebica (Johnson City), Oliver Majewski (Syracuse), Monika Majkowycz (Syracuse), Adam Mscichowski (Rochester), Patrick Newton (Syracuse), Therese Pawlowski (Erie, Pa.), Thomas Sokolowski (Rochester), Keegan Sugnet (Penfield), Mark Szymczak (Lancaster), Stephanie Szymczak (Lancaster), Nicole Wroblewski (Erie, Pa.) and Sylvia Zabycz (Syracuse).

**Dr. Hank Stopinski** has been named principal of the new Health Sciences Charter School in Tonawanda ... The **Polish Consulate** in Toronto began a Chopin Piano Recital Series with a performance by Leonard Gilbert on July 11 ... July 11 also brought the "Our Lady of Czestochowa / Polish Day" to the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston and a card party and luncheon to the Polish Cadets Hall in Black Rock ... **Corpus Christi Church** on Buffalo's East Side was awarded a \$10,000 capital improvement grant by Buffalo Common Council President **David Franczyk** ... **Nate Suchyna** of Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood was inducted into the St. Francis High School Sports Hall of Fame ... Stained glass windows and other artifacts from the former **Queen of Peace Church** in Buffalo are now on display at the Buffalo Religious Art Center in Buffalo's Black Rock area. More information on the Center is available at buffalo-religiousarts.org/.

**Valerian Ruminski**, the artistic director of the Nickel City Op-

era, opened the group's 2010 season with performances of Verdi's "Rigoletto" at the Riviera Theater in North Tonawanda ... The 32nd Annual Cheektowaga **Polish Festival** brought performances by Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, The Knewz, Polka Family Band, Rare Vintage, Harmony, Polish Folk Ensemble, Ed Blazonczyk's Versatones, Jerry Darlak & the Touch, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, Ed Olinski Orchestra with the Vignettes and John Kondal, and PhoCus to the Cheektowaga Town Park from July 15 through 18.

On July 16, the Rochester Red Wings baseball team and the **Polonia Civic Center** hosted their annual "Polish Day" at Frontier Field ... Newly appointed Consul General of Poland Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Christopher Nixon Cox, Alexandra "Sandy" Schmid, NYS Senator William Stachowski, U.S. Attorney William Hochul and Buffalo Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz served as honorary grand marshals for the **General Pulaski Association's** parade in Cheektowaga on July 18. Grand Marshal honors this year went to Pulaski Association President Brian Rusk ... Niagara University graduate student **Mary Gibson** won the Professional and Business Women of Polonia's 2010 scholarship ... Cheektowaga High School graduate **Jeremy Nowak** was chosen by the Baltimore Orioles in this year's Major League Baseball draft ... **Dr. Kazimierz Braun**, a professor in the SUNYat Theatre and Dance Department and vice president of the Polish Cultural Foundation, was recently recognized for his two new plays, "Maximilianus" and "Father Maximilian's Cell" in Krakow. Plans for a production of these works in WNY are currently under discussion.

**Victoria Jarnot**, the former president of the Quo Vadis Choir" recently passed away ... Nine volunteers from the Buffalo Chapter of Habitat for Humanity recently traveled to **Gliwice, Poland** to help build houses for needy families as part of the group's Global Village program ... U.S. Attorney for the Western District of N.Y. **William Hochul** was named Polish American of the Year by the Buffalo Bison baseball organization at the team's annual "Polish Festival Night" on August 3 ... Lawn fetes and outdoor concerts continue to fill the air in WNY and CNY with the sounds of polka music. Check with your local Polonia media outlet to find your favorite bands or events near you.

## CONNECTICUT CORNER

## Pianist Melody Fader to Perform All-Chopin Program

HARTFORD — The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. and the Polish National Home, Inc. are pleased to announce their co-sponsorship of a Concert to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of beloved Polish composer, Frederic Chopin.

The **Chopin Celebration Concert** will be held in the beautiful Art Deco Ballroom of the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Ave., Sun., Sept. 12, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. A gala reception will follow. Admission is \$20.00 per person. The event is open to the general public and venue is handicapped accessible.

Pianist Melody Fader, whose Connecticut roots have served as a steppingstone to the world stage, will perform an all-Chopin program as guest artist. Miss Fader enjoys a busy career as a soloist, chamber musician, vocal accompanist, and interdisciplinary collaborative artist in New York City. She has performed throughout the United States and abroad, notably Chile, Italy, Belgium, England, Spain, Canada, Korea, and Israel. A *New York Times* review called her work "sumptu-



ous" and "stirring" and stated that she "plays with elegance." Melody is a prize winner of the Coleman Chamber Ensemble and the Aspen Concerto competitions. She earned her BM in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music and her MM in Collaborative Piano at the Juilliard School, where she studied with Margo Garrett.

For further information, please contact Ursula Brodowicz at (860) 521-0201 or Fran Pudlo at (860) 659-0356.

## PCCGH Awards Four Scholarships

HARTFORD — On June 10, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., awarded four scholarships to the following recipients at a ceremony held at the Polish National Home:

**Sabina Chins**, daughter of Wieslaw and Joy Chins of Wethersfield. Sabina, a 2010 graduate of Mercy High School, Middletown, will enter UCONN in the fall to study Nursing.

**Lisa Kociubinski**, daughter of Richard and Sophia Kociubinski of Wethersfield. Lisa graduated from Loyola University in New Orleans in 2009 with a BS in Biology and will be attending the University of Hartford in the fall seeking a Master's Degree in Neuroscience.

**Stephanie Kryzak**, daughter of Richard and Sarah Kryzak of

Woodstock, Conn. and granddaughter of Raymond and Irene Kryzak of Wethersfield. Stephanie will enter her sophomore year at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, where she is pursuing Majors in International Studies/Anthropology and Minors in Mandarin Chinese/Business Administration.

**Kenneth Waszynski**, son of Henry and Christine Waszynski and grandson of Mary Marek Hartz, all of Glastonbury, CT. Kenneth is a 2010 graduate of Glastonbury High School and will enter Central CT State University in the fall to study Marketing/Advertising.

All profits from the Club's annual Szopka Festival, held the last Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend at the Polish National Home, are dedicated to the scholarships.

## Holy Name of Jesus to Hold Dozynki

STAMFORD, Conn. — The annual Polish Harvest Festival "Dozynki" will be held on the **Holy Name of Jesus Church** grounds, 369 Washington Blvd., (Exit 8 on I-95), Aug. 7-8, 2010.

There will be a DJ providing dance music on Saturday from 7:00-midnight. Admission is \$10.00 per person. Food will be available for sale.

Sunday's festivities start with 11:30 a.m. Mass, celebrating the harvest. After mass, the Polish kitchen will open with traditional foods of pierogi, golabki, pyzy, grilled kielbasa, sauerkraut, potato pancakes, Polish donuts and many

other traditional Polish foods and beer.

From 12:30-9:00 p.m., there will be dancing to the music of Zambrowiaczy. Tickets for the annual raffle will be available. A donation for admission is \$5.00, children under 7 are free.

Holy Name is celebrating its 106th anniversary this year. All funds realized will go towards the restoration and repair of the school exterior.

For additional information call Chairman Peter Brakoniecki at (203) 223-2436 or email brakoniecki@optonline.net.

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## BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klaehn

## How Polish Are the Most Famous Poles?

Does the admixture of foreign blood help to develop a talent, broaden the cultural and intellectual understanding of the word or give new horizons? If so, this is good news for people of Polish origin living abroad, since their children influenced by diverse cultures may have more chances to succeed.

**Nicolaus Copernicus**, the famous astronomer who, just before his death, announced through his works that we live in heliocentric system, was definitively a cultural mix. He was a loyal subject of the Polish king, but his uncle, Lucas Watzenrode, bishop of Warmia (Emland), was of Teutonic origin. Both of Copernicus' parents came from the Western part of the Polish kingdom, highly influenced by Germany. While at the university in Italy, Copernicus joined the association of German students. Recently when his skull was found, it showed face features of his uncle—even my Polish friends from the Polish Culture Forum had to admit it. I am not trying to undermine Copernicus' Polishness, since he lived in Polish kingdom, but we do not even know whether he spoke Polish very well. All his papers and books were written in Latin, the world was different, the meaning of state was not the same as it would be in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries.

What about our famous composer **Frederick Chopin**, the one who made the world love Polish polonaises and mazurkas? His first and last name already suggests something other than Polish origin. Often his last name is polonised (near my parents' home in Krakow there is a "Szopen" street). Chopin's father was French, his mother was Polish. His father became a Polish patriot, emigrated to Poland in 1787 at the age of sixteen and had served in Poland's National Guard during the Kościuszko Uprising. From his childhood years, Frederick Chopin was immersed in Polish culture, music and tradition. He popularized Polish folk music all over the world. Yet, a part of his genius was the ability to be fascinated by the music that seems so common, and be able to transform it into something which everyone can understand. After the November Uprising (1930), which was followed by the Russian suppression, Chopin left for France and never came back to occupied Poland. He body is buried in France but his heart was later sent back to

Poland.

**Adam Mickiewicz** is widely known as the most famous Polish poet and one of the greatest Slavic poets alongside Alexander Pushkin.

The beginning phrase of Sir Thaddeus (Pan Tadeusz), the most famous poetic book by Mickiewicz, starts with the following sentence:

*"O Lithuania, my country, thou  
Art like good health;  
I never knew till now  
How precious, till I lost thee."*

This poem was written in France, where Mickiewicz lived as an emigre. Mickiewicz was born in Belarus and was educated in Lithuania. For him, Lithuania was a part of Poland he knew. The Polish-Lithuanian Kingdom, which ceased to exist shortly before Mickiewicz was born, was a country of many cultures and languages. For Mickiewicz the meaning of Poland is much broader than for those of us born after World War II.

**Maria Skłodowska-Curie**, the first woman to receive one and later a second Nobel award, was Polish as far as we know. Still, she might not have been able to achieve the world recognition she did without an important French connection. First, in order to be able to study, she had to go to France, since there was no place for women to study at the university in occupied Poland at the end of the 19th century. Second, she met Pierre Curie, her future husband, in France. He and his all-Curie family (his father, his brother) were brilliant people. Without help from her husband, who built a piezoelectric quartz balance, the Curies would probably never have been able to identify radium and polonium and describe radioactivity.

Some of the best Polish poets were of Jewish origin. **Julian Tuwim**, the greatest Polish poet of the 20th century, and author of the famous "The Locomotive," was Jewish by origin. His last name "Tuwim" comes from Hebrew "Tovim" meaning "good".

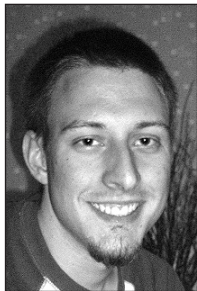
**Jan Brzechwa**, a poet who created beautiful stories and poems for children, was born as Jan Wiktor Lesman to Polish family of Jewish descent. The last name Brzechwa was just his pseudonym.

It seems that, in order to influence and develop Polish and world culture and science, it is good to use diversity rather than homogeneity. The admixture of foreign blood and foreign influence can help!

## Skalny Scholarships Awarded

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Two Louis & Nellie Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies were awarded for 2010 by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Committee Chairperson Ursula Brodowicz reported that the Skalny Scholarship Committee awarded \$3,000 scholarships to **Matthew Przybylek** and **Pawel Styrna**.

Przybylek of Wilmington, Del., is a 2009 graduate of the University of Delaware where he was awarded a BA in European Studies. As part of his studies at the University, he completed a year long program in Polish language & culture at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. This fulfilled the require-



ments of the University of Delaware Discovery Learning Experience in the Arts & Science program. As part of his political science and international relations studies, Przybylek submitted a highly evaluated paper analyzing the behavior logics of Jan Sobieski and his counterparts during events surrounding 1683 central Europe and the Battle of Vienna. He is the 2009 Recipient of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Study, and the 2009 Recipient of

the Global Scholars Award, among others. Przybylek has been accepted to graduate school at Columbia University where he plans to continue with Polish studies. His activities in the PolAm community have been extensive and include involvement in local politics and in the history of the sizeable Polish community in Wilmington. Przybylek states that he takes deep pride in his Polish roots and in the language and culture of Poland. He identifies himself as a Polish American who preserves and promotes the culture and history of Poland, that this is a defining characteristic of who he is and that it permeates his professional and social life.

Styrna of Chicago was awarded an MA degree in history at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His master's thesis was titled "Opinions on the Kiev Expedition in the American, British, Belgian, Polish and Soviet Press: A Sample from April-May, 1920." This thesis was described by the professor of history as a very detailed, rigorously argued, and extensively researched analysis and as greatly exceeding requirements. As a research paper it



met the highest standards for rigor, seriousness and analytical acumen. His professor also states that in 17 years of instruction at the university, Styrna was by far the most diligent, enthusiastic and dedicated student. He has completed several independent studies and seminars in Polish Studies. He is an intern with the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C. He is enrolled as a Continuing Education student, and has applied to the Masters program in Statecraft & International Relations.

Styrna is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. He is also a board member of the Chicago based Roman Dmowski Institute of America. He continues to be active in the Polish American community, including assisting and coordinating the observance of the Katyn Forest Massacre in May at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. He has been published in several publications and is working on two major essays for publication on Polish history.

Styrna believes that the study of history is a fine way to promote Polish history and Polish culture. His long term goals include earning a Ph.D. and becoming a professional historian of Polish history involved in American policy towards Poland.

## Little Servant Sisters Celebrate 160th Anniversary

CHERRY HILL, N.J. — On May 3, 1850, Blessed Edmund Bojanowski founded the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception congregation in Poland, to provide care and education for needy children, tend the sick and the underprivileged, and guide women. As a celibate lay apostle and a precursor of Vatican Council II, his utter love for God, devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and compassionate service to the needy had its source in the Gospel, dependent on a living union with Christ and His Church with ardor derived from the Eucharist.

The congregation developed amid hardships during and after the occupation of Poland by foreign powers, and spread to various continents. Since its foundation, the chief characteristic of the congregation's spirituality has been living daily the evangelical law of total love of God and love of others, revealed in Christ-like service in response to the needs of the Church and the world. Today, there are some 3,400 Little Servant Sisters in a Federation worldwide, including the missions. As the Father Founder, Blessed

Edmund's witness, writings and spiritual testament of simplicity and mutual love, continue to be an inspiration to his spiritual daughters who make their life a gift in love and service. The Little Servant Sisters in Europe, America, Africa and the Far East are engaged in early childhood education and schools, religious education, care of orphans and the disabled, parish ministry, assisted living and nursing homes, visiting home nursing, hospitals and clinics, works among the underprivileged, street children and AIDS patients.

A group of Sisters of the American Province with Mother Jadwiga Cierpiska, superior provincial, from New Jersey celebrated the 160th anniversary with a pilgrimage and day of recollection at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. Father Jan Michalak, OSPPE, presided and gave the homily in the lower chapel at the Mass in Thanksgiving to God for the graces bestowed upon the Congregation during its 160 years of service of the Church on various continents; for the canonization of the Founder and of the Martyr, Blessed Celestyna Faron. Father Michalak was the conference master and led the Marian devotions, with the Rosary Walk to the original barn chapel.

Earlier, on April 25, 2010, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland, Little Ser-

vant Sisters of the Federation came on pilgrimage to celebrate the 160th anniversary with the Rosary and the Mass in Thanksgiving with Archbishop Jozef Michalik, President of the Polish Bishops' Conference, as presider and homilist.

Archbishop Michalik is Metropolitan of Przemyśl, the archdiocese which is home to the motherhouse of the Little Servant Sisters of Stara Wies, with Mother Beata Chistek, as Superior General, who was present on the occasion. Mother Beata had previously served in education in the American Province.

### St. Stanislaus Now Academy

NEW YORK — **St. Stanislaus Grammar School** in Greenpoint will be an academy, starting with this school year. The move was made to allow the school to be eligible for grants, which it could not receive if it kept its affiliation with the church. The Diocese of New York decreed that all parish schools must become academies by 2014 because of dire fiscal conditions within the diocese.

St. Stanislaus Kostka School is to be merged with the school at St. Nicholas Church. To date, no results of merger talks have been announced.

### Stewart Cable-Bound

NEW YORK — Like her fellow daytime TV diva Oprah Winfrey, **Martha Stewart** is heading to cable. The lifestyle queen has signed a deal to move her daily program to the Hallmark Channel, effective this September. The new show will be 90 minutes in length.

### New Home for Dubiecki

HOLLYWOOD HILLS, Calif. — Veteran actress and comedian Ruth Buzzi sold her longtime Hollywood Hills home for \$1,021,000 to film producer **Daniel Dubiecki**.

Dubiecki, 32, was executive producer of the offbeat comedy "Juno" (2007) and co-produced "Thank You for Smoking" (2005), films he worked on with Jason Reitman as part of their Hard C production company.

## 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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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

## Once Again, Springs is the Place

It is officially the Polka Fireworks but referred to by the regulars as “The Springs.” This year’s 36th edition gathered 19 great polka bands under that massive roof of the Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania as polka music echoed throughout the green valley of this fabulous venue.

The Blazonczyk family runs a tight ship and from the moment you dock your car everything runs on schedule. The pre-party party, the pool parties, the music in the two halls, the after-jams, the music workshops, all just happen when they are supposed to. Thousands of polka lovers filled the resort and made this five days of polka joy.

The honky sounds of Ray Jay & the Carousels and the driving styling of the Eddie Forman Orchestra started the live music on Thursday.

Friday offered the musical electricity of Alex Meixner, the multi-talented family sounds of Pan Franek & the Polka Towners, the unique fresh music of Brave Combo, the power of John Gora & Gorale, the Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, home-town favorites Li'l John and the ATM band and a repeat performance by EFO.

Saturday it was the award-winning Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones, The Polka Family, Brave Combo, Stephanie & her Honky Band, the unparalleled Freeze Dried, dynamic Dynabrass, the popular Buffalo Knewz and a energizing performance by Ryan Joseph Ogrodny.

Sunday brought Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones back to the stage, along with Stas Golonka & the Chi-

cago Masters and the extremely popular Henny and the Versa Js, with special performances by Dee Dee Orgodny and son Ryan.

Mon Valley Push and Paul Herchko’s Party Time filled the after-hours with plenty of crowd-pleasing music.

DJ Ken Olowin was the house music man for the week and, as always, kept the polkas playing throughout the five days.

The bands performing at Polka Fireworks always play up, performing at their peak. Whether on stage or at one of the jam sessions, each musician gives a little more, ready to please not only the fans but also themselves. Each of the bands at the fest this year, brought their best show and the fans notice and appreciate this.

The Polka Fireworks at Seven Springs is the place for musicians and their families to relax during their off stage time, taking in the pool, patio-lounge, restaurants, jam sessions, and other aspects of this grand resort. The atmosphere is as relaxed or as busy as you wish to make it.

**INSIDE OUTS.** Just driving up the long entrance to Seven Springs makes you feel good and it only takes a few minutes on the grounds before you see someone you know.

The excellent first-night crowd in the hall set the pace for the entire festival and the contrasting styles of Ray and EFO made for a perfect night.

Big Dan’s party, with a combination of Old School, TBC and others, was another big-crowd event, in the

hot sun, with plenty of cool drinks and shaving cream on top of shaving cream. Thanks to Fran and the crew for their kindness and “viewing balcony” on Saturday.

The pool area proved to be more than sufficient but still is not the grassy knoll of old. However, polka people adapt to almost anything. Still, as in all past years, getting your table meant staking it out early.

On Saturday, Ryan Joseph had a SRO crowd for the debut of his new musical career and then drew another SRO audience performing with Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones. The fiddles of Ryan and Ed were amazing. Kathy was selling out of Ryan’s promo CDs faster than Rob could munch down an onion sandwich for breakfast.

The 27th Concertina Jam filled the Matterhorn Lounge with 22 box players and a total of 30 musicians making it another unique and classic event. A personal thanks to all for helping to maintain this tradition. Special thanks to Paul for being the soundman for the jam and for two new members, Frank and Dan on stick. Over the years, many musicians have made this Jam unique, adding not only their musicianship, but their personalities. It has become a place where the novice can sit next to the pro and everyone is equal.

The music workshops, where musicians offered their expertise and talents to others eager to learn, were also a great success.

## A Polka Fireworks Photorama



Alex Meixner wowed the crowd with his dynamic accordion work.



Buffalo-born Joe Grenda on accordion with the Li'l John's ATM band.



Carl Finch of Brave Combo belts out a tune.



Rich Benkowski on concertina with Freeze Dried.



The dueling fiddles of Ryan Joseph Ogrodny and Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr.



John Gora, Rob Piatkowski and Tommy Wanderlich with Gorale.



Mike Burka and Tom Picciano of The Knewz from Buffalo.



Joe Ryndak and Bob Zielinski of The Concertina All-Stars.



Polka Editor Steve Litwin and Mitch Kempinski at the 27th Annual Concertina Jam.



The 27th Concertina Jam filled the Matterhorn Lounge.



Erica, Zosia, and Simon Piotrowski of the Polka Towners.



Big Dan's annual party with Old School and TBC.

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NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## Summer's Busy Weekends



Drummer for Charm City Sound, Dave Burnatowski.



Ron Urbanczyk of Buffalo's New Direction band, and Ed Ogradny, bass player for Carousels.



John Stevens, leader of Doubleshot, at the Hamburg Fairgrounds for the Polish Heritage Festival.

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The weekend of June 11th had two polka fests going on. At the Fairgrounds, playing for the 8th Annual Polish Heritage Festival on June 11, I heard two of the polka bands—John Stevens and Doubleshot and Mon Valley Push. I was pleasantly surprised to see Hank Guzevich playing accordion with the Doubleshot band who did a fine job, as did the Mon Valley Push. That same weekend, it was on to the Lamm Grove where Bob and Sandy Krawczyk had the official two-day opening of the grove with a reunion of the Charm City Sound band on June 12. This band comes from Maryland and consists of trumpet players John Miconi and Mike Ziernski, Steve Kaminski on sax, clarinet and vocals, Mike Matousek on bass and vocals, Nick DiSabastiano on accordion and vocals, Al Puwalski on accordion and vocals and Dave Burnatowski on drums. These seven guys sounded like a mini orchestra with their vibrant full sound! Their famous polka, "Marina," was a big hit with the fans! It was enjoyable to see them together again. I only wished more people had come to see the show. There was a better turnout the next day on June 13th to hear the super sounds of Ray Jay and the Carousels from Pennsylvania. Playing with Ray Jarusinski was Dave Dombrowski on concertina, Joe Grenda on accordion, Bob Kopanic and Rich Kois on trumpets, and Ed Ogradny on bass. They were awesome playing the crowd favorites such as "I'll Marry you Next Saturday," "Bije Mamcia" and "Pin-up Girl," as only Ray Jay can! Both days, in between sets, Al (Chico) Krupski did a fantastic job with his one-man show playing a

huge variety of tunes!

**Tony Rozek** informed me that the *Big Tony Polka Show* is back on 1440 AM on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. This show has gone through a few time slot changes.

Happy 17th Anniversary to Mike and George Pasierb for their successful *Rockin' Polkas* show on 1300 AM. They keep the public well-informed of polka doings and strive to keep polka music alive! Their efforts are appreciated!

**CONGRATULATIONS ...** to new grandparents Carol and Ken Machelski. Son **Nick** and wife **Kimberly** had their second child on June 29th—a beautiful little girl named Katelyn.

Also, recently, Carol's mom, **Mary Druzvik**, celebrated her 90th birthday with the family and that certainly was another special occasion! Congratulations and sto lat!

To **Kim** and **Tony Rozek**, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 17th. They have three children: Elizabeth, Antoinette, and Anthony, better known to everyone as "Maly Antek."

One of our local musicians, **Stephanie Pietrzak**, will be inducted into the International Polka Music Hall of fame at the IPA festival in Independence, Ohio held from Aug. 5th thru 8th. Our congratulations go out to her on this great honor. Her mom, Wanda, was inducted into the Polka Music Hall of Fame in the deceased category in 1999. We are proud!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Aug. 1.** The New Direction band will be at the Resurrection Lawn Fete from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Parish grounds are at Como Park Blvd. near Union Rd., Cheektowaga, NY

**Aug. 2.** The New Direction

band plays at the West Seneca Lions Bandshell on Union Rd. in West Seneca, NY. In case of rain, it will be moved to the West Seneca West Middle School Auditorium, 395 Center Rd., West Seneca, N.Y.

**Aug. 3.** Polish Festival Night at the Bisons ball game at Coca Cola Field. Live polka music will be provided by the Knewz for the pre-game tent party from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will also be dancing by the Krakowiacy dancers and a Polish menu will be offered. Call (716) 681-0278 for information.

**Aug. 4.** Polka Variety Club meeting at the Lily of the Valley hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission includes refreshments. New members always welcome call Dick or Marcia at 826-2281.

**Aug. 4.** Miss Buffalo Cruise boarding at 7:00 p.m. – Music by Phocus with Scrubby. Tickets are \$18 – Call Danny at 826-6575

**Aug. 8.** The Polka Boosters Club Picnic celebrating their 40th Anniversary at the Lamm Manor Picnic Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Music by several Polka Booster bands, hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, salads, chowder, pop and beer included with admission ticket. There will be a big Chinese Auction with a large variety of prizes. Everyone is welcome to join in this special celebration! Don't miss this one! For more information, please call Chris at 892-7977 or Ron at 773-6387

Note: There is no August Meeting for the Polka Boosters Club!

**Aug. 9.** The Polish Villa II is having their annual Miss Buffalo boat ride featuring music by the Buffalo Touch – call Ed or Rosie at 822-4908

**Aug. 13.** The Buffalo Touch is playing in Slade Park at the Erie County Fair from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Aug. 19.** Polkas in the Park from 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. by the New Direction Band at Ralph Galanti Park behind the Senior Center, Martin Rd., Lackawanna, N.Y. – bring your lawn chair and refreshments!

**Aug. 22.** The 22nd Annual Owl Picnic at the Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, NY – from 1:00 to 7:00 pm Doors Open at noon. Music by The Eddie O. Orchestra, Crash Cadillac, J.C. Thompson band, the Buffalo Touch, Concertina All-Stars Band, Phocus,



Ray Jay at the George F. Lamm Post, June 13.

Scrubby, Rare Vintage, Tony Krupski's Krew Brothers, the New Yorkers with C.J. Luksch and Danny Neaverth and Accordion Bill. All proceeds from this unique event go to charity! It is always a grand time! For more info call the Lancaster VFW Post at 681-8387.

**Aug. 29.** The New Direction Band play a noon polka Mass at St. Barnabas Church, Dick Rd. and George Urban Blvd., Depew, N.Y. and then entertain in the Pub Tent from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Sept. 5.** Labor Day Weekend Polka fest with the Florida Honky Band at the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. Music from 4:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is only \$8.00 at the door! For more info – call Sandy-837-2684.

Try to support as many of these events as you can—have fun and see you in September!

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# Buffalo Polka Boosters Plan to Celebrate 40th Anniversary with Old-Fashioned Picnic

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Plans are underway to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Buffalo Polka Boosters, Sun., Aug. 8 at the Lamm Manor Picnic Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., in Williamsville.

In 1970, a group of polka enthusiasts

thought about the idea of a club that would support polka music, and decided there was a need for such an organization in Buffalo.

An announcement was made on May 3, 1970 on the Stan Jasinski Polka Radio show. Six people — Jan Cyman, Matt Browarek, Wally Czaska, Jim Raczkowski, Billie



Jan Cyman and Whitey Ryniec at the Buffalo Polka Boosters first picnic. Cyman was the club's first president.

Jan Cyman, followed by Scrubby, the late Ray Boruszewski, the late Emily Boruszewski, the late Al Chwoj-dak, Pat Tytka, Andy Pilecki, Ron Handzlik, Chris Tanski, Mike Kurdziel, Sharon Goldyn, and Irene Weich.

Meetings were held in various venues beginning at Ray's. Meetings are now being held at the Polish Falcons in Depew.

The object of the club is to support and promote polka music, primarily Buffalo Polka Booster Band members in Buffalo and Canada.

Through the years many bands have been a big part of the club, such as: Dynatones, Big Steve & the Bellaires, Bell-Tones, Happy Richie, Valiants, Buffalo Bells, Buffalo Good Times, Sunshine, G-

Notes, K.B. Express, Krew Brothers, Steel City Brass, Mix & Match, New York Sound, Honky Hoppers, and Ampol Tones.

Current bands are as follows: Bedrock Boys (formally Ampol Tones) Ted Szymanski & City Side, John Goral & Gorale (Canada), Rare Vintage, Quality Sounds, Concertina All Stars, The Knewz, New Direction, and Jerry Darlak & the Buffalo Touch.

"The officers and board members have put in a lot of hard work, time and energy to keep the club going. At the present time the club has about 300 members, of which 125 are very active," said current president, Chris Tanski.

The club is hoping that past members and musicians who have left the club for various reasons can find the time to come back and share in all the memories over the years.

Buffalo has a reputation as being one of the polka hot spots in the country, and the Boosters are looking to celebrate that tradition with an old fashioned Polish picnic.

"Come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun. It will be fun to see some old friends, share some good times, dance some polkas, and most of all make some new friends," said Tanski.

For more information, contact President Chris Tanski (716) 892-7977.

## Host of Polka Varieties Show Passes

CLEVELAND — Paul Wilcox, host of the *Polka Varieties* for 27 years, died June 18 in South Fort Myers, Fla.

He never learned how to polka but handled the MC work on the show, and also teamed with Frankie Yankovic on tours to Hawaii, Austria, Japan and other locations.

Wilcox flew 23 missions over Japan in World War II. During the Ko-

rean war his B-29 was hit by enemy fire and he was captured and held in as a POW in China for over a year.

Wilcox joined WEWS in 1954 as an announcer and sports director, broadcasting Cleveland Indians games on TV and radio. He also broadcast hockey, tennis, golf and soccer. In 1956 Wilcox started hosting a polka hour on Sundays, originally with Yankovic.

## POLKA PATTERN / Polonia Media Network

The Jan Lewan Orchestra will hold a Reunion Dinner Event on Sunday, October 24, 2010, at the J.J. Ferrara Performing Arts Center in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The event will star Jan "Lewan" Lewandowski and his original 14-piece Orchestra and feature singer Ania Piwowarczyk, Music Director Stephen Kaminski and Emcee Peter Danielczuk. In addition, a special appearance by Amber Lewandowski is also planned.

International Media, the company handling the airing of "The Jimmy Sturr Show" on all PBS stations, has reported that the show has aired 563 times covering a total of 72.22% of the total households on the PBS system. The response from the airings has been tremendous.

The Continentals held their "Polka World" CD release party on June 27, 2010, at Blob's Park in Jessup, Maryland. The groups Ityh recording is a 2-disc CD containing 30 songs. It contains polkas, waltzes, and a few surprises including tango, cha-cha, mambo. The band performed most (I not all) of the songs at the release event.

On the heels of their successful 2009 release, "Live at St. Stan's A.C. Polish Fest," and to mark their 34th straight year playing at the fest, the Steve Drzewicki Band recorded their sets for another "live" CD at this year's festival. Among the surprises during their performance

were guest vocalists, brand new fiddle tunes and original songs penned by the band.

In a related matter, users of YouTube can enjoy a variety of music by the Steve Drzewicki Band at <<http://www.youtube.com/user/pma4usa#p/u/14/q3SnYU4mqm0>>. Among other things, there is new music written by Mike Corbin of the band and the very talented young fiddle player, Brien Ahern.

Marc Bouchard's accordion polka band plays at many events in Florida, but few in the North are familiar with his music. Thanks to YouTube, Bouchard may now be seen at <<http://verobeachlocalnews.com:80/2010/06/marc-bouchard-polka-band-at-vero-beach.html>>. It seems, however, to be the only video available of the band online.

After a short hiatus, PhoCus is back and hard at work in rehearsals this summer, planning to have their third CD recorded and released this fall. Jimmy Nowaczewski, Chaz Wroblewski, Andy Kuchmarski, Jimmy Johnson and Mike Melymuka are looking forward to purveying at least a dozen brand new polkas, along with four "Phocusized" polka classic arrangements, to their patient polka fans very soon.

Suddenly, new polka CDs are coming out fast and furious. Dave Bonczkiewicz & the Varitones celebrated the release of their debut

He was pre-deceased by his wife, Judy (Minogue) Wilcox, and is survived by his older sister Helen Wilcox, and two daughters: Rory Davies, and Kelly Wilcox.

Wilcox was interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hope Hospice.

CD, "Good Time Polkas - Introducing the Varitones Polka Band" at the Pulaski Club in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 18, 2010. There were drink specials at the dance, so it is hoped that the crowd was in condition to enjoy the music.

After over four years of everyone asking The Honky Express when they were going to make a CD, they announced that the band has finally gone into the studio for the first day of recording at Peppermint Records. A title has yet to be announced.

John Gora, leader of John Gora & the Gorale, announced that the award winning "Polka Playin' Fool" is available at every Duty Free Store across the Canada and U.S. border on the Canadian side. Sobieski Vodka may be your favorite, but when you purchase a bottle of Luksusowa Vodka you get a free CD with it ... so you can stray just this one time to get a really good recording.

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# New Website for Downloading Polka Music

BALTIMORE — Freddie Bulinski, a long-time polka musician and promoter, has created a new and very exciting web site for the purchase and download of polka music, [www.wideworldofpolkas.com](http://www.wideworldofpolkas.com). The site currently contains over 3000 polkas from different genres including Czech, Polish, Slovenian, German, Ukrainian and many other categories.

The site contains samples of each and every song, so that when you come to visit, you can listen to every selection available before choosing the songs you want to add to your collection. Bulinski has researched carefully to make sure everything is proper and all credits are recognized as to authorship of the music. The site contains the Dana collection, music from the past of legends like Walt Solek, Frank Wojnarowski, Gene

Wisniewski and Ray Henry. These wonderful recordings have been remastered and are now available as digital recordings thanks to the work of Todd Zaganiec and Polka Music Hall of Famer Billy Belina. "The work they have done to restore these and other treasures from the past has been nothing short of miraculous," said Bulinski.

In addition, you will also find many of the current and newest Polka recordings from bands like the Maestros Men, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze Orchestra and many, many more.

Take the time to visit [www.wideworldofpolkas.com](http://www.wideworldofpolkas.com). You will be delighted to see what's there and you will certainly have fun listening to the samples of the music that is there for your listening pleasure.

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### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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 Kitchen - Full Menu 5pm - 10pm | Lite Fare 10pm - Close  
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### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Doors Open 4pm | Bands 5pm - 12am  
 Kitchen - Full Menu 4pm - 10pm | Lite Fare 10pm - Close  
 • Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push  
 • Dennis Polisky and the Maestro's Men  
 • The Polka Family  
 • The Boys From Baltimore

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Doors Open 10:30am | Band 12:30pm - 6:30pm  
 Kitchen - Full Menu 12:30pm - 5:30pm  
 • Polka Mass at 11:00am  
 • Tommy Thomas Trio  
 • O'Such Rhythm and Music Trio

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<b>Maryland</b>	<b>Ohio</b>
Jay and Janice Lochner ..... 410-694-0201 (Jay has "Stay-With-Us" packages with rooms next to convention center!)	Debbie Jones ..... 740-635-4143
Mike and Ann Marie Matousek ..... 410-729-9697	Rose Marie Zebreski ..... 740-695-1705 (Debbie and Rose are running a bus trip from Eastern Ohio!)
Tommy Thomas ..... 410-285-5036 (Tommy is running a one-day bus trip from Baltimore on Sunday!)	Jill and Jimmy K ..... 440-319-1877 (Jill and Jimmy are running a bus trip from Cleveland!)
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THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Summer Festival Treats

Summer is the traditional season for Pol-Am festivals, parish picnics, backyard cook-outs and other outdoor activities, of which eating is an important part. Here are some suggestions that may add variety to your summer-fest menu.

**PIEROGI/FILLED DUMPLINGS (pierogi):** Combine 2 c flour, 1 c dairy sour cream, 1 small egg and 1/2 t salt. Work ingredients together to form a smooth dough. On lightly floured surface, roll out thin 1/3 of the dough, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into 2" to 2-1/2" rounds. Place a spoonful of filling of choice\* just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. Edges may be crimped with fork to ensure a better seal. Drop small batches of pierogi into lightly salted boiling water so they can float freely without crowding. When boiling resumes, reduce heat to gentle boil and cook 5 - 10 min, testing 1 for doneness. Remove with slotted spoon and serve at once. or allow them to cool on rack and reheat by frying in butter. Note: If you lack a team of pierogi-making volunteers, store-bought pierogi also go over well at outdoor events.

\*Favorite fillings include farmer cheese, potato & farmer cheese, potato and onion, cooked meat & onion, sauerkraut & mushrooms and fruit (blueberry, cherry, apple, etc.).

**BABY CABBAGE & SAUSAGE (młoda kapusta z kielbasą):** Remove the skin from 1 lb smoked kielbasa. Dice chop kielbasa or cut into thin half-slices. Place in pot, add boiling water to cover and simmer covered 30 min. Wash well 1 head baby cabbage at the loose-leaf stage (not yet formed into a compact head). Trim away base and any wilted or damaged leaves. Chop cabbage coarsely and add to sausage pot. Mix well and simmer under tender. In saucepan lightly brown 2 T flour in 2 T bacon or fatback drippings and stir into cabbage. Simmer covered another 5 min. Season with salt and pepper and sour to taste with lemon juice (1-2 t) and garnish with fresh chopped dill. Serve with bread or boiled, dilled new potatoes for a complete summer meal.

**BAKED CHICKEN (kurczaki pieczone):** Season cut-up broiler-fryer (chicken) or parts of choice with salt, pepper, paprika and marjoram, rub all over lightly with salad oil, place in large, shallow pan and bake in hot 450° oven 15 min, turning once. Sprinkle with water or stock, reduce heat to 350° and bake 60-90 min or until done. When

pierced with fork, the juice coming out should no longer be pink! Baste with pan dripping during baking and turn chicken over when bottom has browned. Pan may be covered with aluminium foil during baking.

**SUMMER BIGOS (letni bigos):** Drain 1 qt sauerkraut (reserving liquid), chop coarsely and cook in water to cover 60 min or until no longer crunchy. Separately, shred 2 large heads cabbage, scald with plenty of boiling water and cook 30 mins. Drain and mix together the cooked sauerkraut and cabbage. Add a roughly equal or slightly smaller volume of cooked meat and smoked kielbasa, cubed. (An economical way to prepare bigos for an event is to have club or committee members donate frozen, cooked, leftover boneless meat from their home freezers.) Toss to mix ingredients, add 2 peeled, diced apples, 2 bay leaves, 4 onions sautéed in a little fat and 2 mushroom bouillon cubes and simmer covered at 325° oven at least 3 hrs, stirring occasionally. Season to taste with salt, pepper, caraway and marjoram. When bigos cools to room temp, refrigerate until ready to use. Serve with rye bread or dilled potatoes (below).

**GRILLED PORK (karkówka z grilla):** Combine 1 c salad oil, with 2-3 buds crush garlic, 1 t paprika, 1/2 t ground caraway, 1/2 t pepper, 1/2 t marjoram and 2 t liquid Maggi seasoning. Mix well. Beat 2-3 lbs sliced pork neck lightly with meat mallet and place in glass or crockery container with lid. Pour marinade over pork, cover and refrigerate 1-3 days. Cook on grill, turning frequently until fully cooked. Pork should never be served rare or medium rare!

**BREADED PORK CUTLET (kotlet schabowy):** Pound 3/4" thick slices of fresh boneless pork loin (or use pork chops with the bone removed) to 1/3 to 1/4 of their original thickness. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in plain bread crumbs. Season with salt, pepper, marjoram and garlic powder and fry to a deep golden brown. Serve as main course with potatoes and salad or as a fast-food-style sandwich on crusty rye, whole-wheat, French or Kaiser roll with a splash of Polish-style brown mustard and/or dill pickle.

**GROUND CUTLETS (kotlety mielone):** Break up 4-6 slices stale French bread or equivalent amount of stale bread rolls, hamburger buns, etc. into bowl and drench with milk to cover. When soggy, squeeze out excess moisture and run through food chopper. Combine with 3 lbs ground pork, pork & beef or pork/veal/beef mixture. Add 2-3 finely

chopped onions (raw or pre-sautéed in a little butter), 2-3 eggs and work well by hand to blend ingredients. If too mushy, mix in some bread crumbs. Season with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Form fairly large flattened meatballs. If crunchy crust is desired, first dredge meatballs in flour. Brown on both sides in hot lard or oil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer another 15-20 min or so until fully cooked. Drain on absorbent paper. This can be a main course or just served in a bun as a kind of Polish "burger".

**GRILLED KIELBASA (kielbasa z rusztu):** Cut smoked kielbasa into 3" to 4" servings and cook on grill, turning to brown evenly on all sides. This is can served as a main course with potatoes and the braised cabbage/sauerkraut (below), with bread and a splash of horseradish or brown mustard and a dill pickle on the side or in a crusty bun. Note: Some Pol-Am butchers offer wiener-sized kielbasa ideal for serving in a bun.

**BRAISED CABBAGE & SAUERKRAUT (kapusta duszona):** At Polish summer fests and picnics "kapusta" is always a Pol-Am favorite as a go-together with kielbasa, pork cutlets or ground cutlets (above). In summer, a lighter and more economical alternative is to use fresh cabbage with the addition of a little sauerkraut for flavoring. Drain 1 qt sauerkraut (reserving liquid) and cook in water to cover 60 min or until no longer crunchy. Shred 3 large heads of cabbage, place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, bring to boil and cook uncovered 30 min. Drain. Combine drained sauerkraut and cabbage, add 1/4 lb diced (thick-sliced) bacon browned with 2-3 onions, 1 mushroom bouillon cube, 2 peeled, diced cooking apples, 2 peeled diced tomatoes, toss ingredients and cook on med-low at least 60 min. If not tart enough, add the reserved sauerkraut juice and simmer a while longer. Season with salt, pepper, caraway seeds or fresh chopped dill. If too soupy, pour off some excess liquid, sprinkle kapusta with flour, stir in and cook a while longer.

**SAUSAGE & KRAUT (kielbasa z kapustą):** Proceed as in preceding recipe, but add 3lbs smoked kielbasa and/or baked fresh kielbasa (cut into 2" pieces) when combining the cooked sauerkraut and cabbage. Omit the bacon and brown the onions in a little bacon drippings or oil. Bake covered in roaster at 350° 90 min.

**FRIED KISZKA (kaszanka/kiszka smażona):** Cut kiszka into 4"-5" portions and cook until browned and heated through on charcoal grill, in greased or vegetable-sprayed skillet or in oven. Kiszka can also be cut into 1/2 - 1" rounds and fried on both sides until browned in greased or vegetable-sprayed skillet. Serve plain or garnished with fried onions. Provide rye bread, mustard and/or horseradish and dill pickles.

**POLISH FRANKS (parówki):** You can give this popular festival food a Polish touch by getting veal frankfurters from a Polish deli. If only American-style franks are available, then at least serve them in a crusty wheat (French-bread-type), rye or whole-wheat hard roll and provide Polish-style mustard on the side.

## Wojtek, the Polish Soldier-Bear at Monte Cassino!

by Robert Strybel

All Poles and many Pol-Ams know about General Anders' Second Corps that left the "Inhuman Land" (USSR), traveled through Persia (Iran), Iraq, Palestine and Egypt, captured the Nazi fortress at Monte Cassino, helped liberate Bologna and Ancona in Italy and finally ended up in the British Isles. But not too many in Poland and fewer yet in Polonia have ever heard about Wojtek the Bear who accompanied them along the entire route. He was even said to have supplied Polish troops with ammunition during the Battle of Monte Cassino.

It all began in the hills around the town of Hamadan, Persia, where Polish soldiers encountered a scrawny, famished little Persian boy holding a sack with something moving inside. He eagerly sold the little bear cub for two tins of Spam-like meat, and the Second Corps' 22nd Artillery Supply Company had it-self a mascot which it called Wojtek (VOY-tek).

The boy said the cub's mother had been shot, when he was still blind, so Wojtek probably had not ever seen another bear and was to go through life thinking he was human. The soldiers stuck a rag nipple onto a vodka bottle and fed Wojtek diluted canned condensed milk. But bears grow up fast. Within a year he was the size of a St. Bernard dog, and eventually he would be six feet tall and weigh in at 550 pounds.

Wojtek hated to sleep alone in his crate and often bunked down in one of the soldiers' tents. He loved sweets and beer and even an occasional cigarette, although by today's standards the anti-cruelty types would surely rant and rave. And he was crazy about the shower room, often pulling the cord and emptying the company's entire water supply on himself. He also enjoyed good-natured wrestling but never hurt anyone. After easily flooring a rival, he would lick his face.

One night soldiers heard a ghastly outcry and sprang from their bunks to find a terrified howling Wojtek who had come across an unexpected Arab trying to get close to the com-



Wojtek is seen here engaging in a favorite pastime, good-natured wrestling with a Polish soldier pal, whose face he would lick after winning.

pany's weapons. In Italy, when two soldiers had a hard time lifting an ammunition crate at Monte Cassino, Wojtek easily picked it up and carried it to where it was needed. The cartoon-style logo of a bear carrying an artillery shell henceforth became the 22nd Company's trademark.

Wojtek traveled with his comrades aboard the Polish troop ship *Batory* and ended up in Scotland. After the war, when the unit was dissolved, the question arose: what about Wojtek? He lovable bruin was too much to handle for any single family. It was finally decided to entrust him for safekeeping to the Glasgow Zoo until he could be moved to free Poland. Some of the veterans would visit Wojtek at the zoo, and he always lived up at the sound of familiar Polish speech. They threw him treats and occasionally a lit cigarette which he puffed with enjoyment. But he died there in 1963 of natural causes more than a quarter-century before Poland would throw off the Soviet yoke.

There have been occasional articles about Wojtek in different countries, but his most compete story was "Wojtek spod Monte Cassino" written by Polish war veteran Wiesław Lasocki and published in London by the émigré Polish Veterans Association. The book was later translated into English as "Soldier Bear."

When Britain's Prince Charles was visiting the Imperial War Museum with his sons, a guide mentioned the Wojtek story, but he only replied: "There's no need to tell me about it. I've already read the book to my boys."



The logo of Wojtek the Soldier-Bear graced the sides of 22nd Artillery Supply Company vehicles.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

# Poland's Loss is Germany's Gain

Poland didn't qualify for the 2010 World Cup, but three of her native sons have played prominent roles in the competition. **Lukasz Podolski, Miroslav Klose,** and **Piotr Trochowski** — all born in Poland — played for the German National soccer team that reached the semi-finals of the 2010 World Cup. In fact, Podolski and Klose are considered to be among the best strikers in the world. Unfortunately, all three could have been playing for Poland if the Polish Football Association had been interested.

Podolski (inset, left) was born in Gliwice in the Silesian region of Poland. His mother, Krystyna, was a member of the Polish national handball team and father Waldemar played soccer professionally. In 1987, when Lukas Podolski was two, his

family emigrated from Poland to West Germany. Lukasz played well in Germany and in 2003 Polish media urged that he be considered for the Polish national, and Podolski was definitely interested. However, then-Polish coach Pawel Janas rejected the idea, saying "as for today we have much better strikers in Poland... He's not even a regular starter at his club." Before long, Germany called Podolski up to its national team, and he soon became a standout. Podolski made his Euro 2008 debut against Poland. He scored both goals in a 2-0 victory. He avoided celebrating his goals, however, to show respect for his native country. After the game he gave an emotional interview on Polish television. Podolski still has Polish citizenship, but he travels with a German passport

Podolski is not only a terrific player, but the handsome 25-year-old is popular with the female fans. However, he and his fiancée Monika Puchalski, also a native of Silesia, are planning a 2011 wedding. The couple has a 2-year-old son, Louis.

Klose (inset, right), 32, was born in Opole in Silesia. Like Podolski, both of his parents were active in sports. His mother, Barbara

Jeż, was a member of the Poland women's national handball team. His father, Josef Klose, played soccer in Poland for Odra Opole before leaving then-communist Poland in 1978 for France when Miroslav was a young child.

Klose has stated that the decision to play for Germany instead of Poland was not an easy one, and if Polish officials had been faster, he would be playing for Poland. It wasn't until 2001 when then Polish national coach Jerzy Engel tried to convince Klose to play for Poland. By that time Klose was in a solid position in Germany and declined. The following year Klose starred for Germany World Cup team, where he was the second leading scorer in the tournament with five goals. In the 2006 World Cup he won the Golden Boot as the top scorer with five goals.

Klose has not openly proclaimed his love for Poland as Podolski frequently does. However, with the next UEFA EURO's in 2012 to be hosted by Poland and Ukraine, he recently told an interviewer that he looks forward to competing in the land of his birth. "I would like to play in Poland... It would be great to play in Poland one day in such a big tournament," he said. "I was born in Poland, that is where I have a family. I really like this country and the people living in it."

Klose's wife, Sylwia, was also born in Poland. The couple has twin sons.

Trochowski (inset, left), 26, was born in Teczew in northern Poland. The family. His with father Wieslaw and mother Alicja moved to Hamburg, Germany when Piotr was five. When he started to excel in soccer, his mother

sent several letters to the Polish Football Association, informing it about her talented son and about his willingness to play for Poland. However, the association apparently was not interested, and he chose to play for Germany. Trochowski was quoted as saying: "My heart is closer to Poland, but nobody there was interested in me, so I play for the Germans. There was no reply to my mother's letter, and the Germans were interested in me." He's only 5-6, but the left-sided playmaker has great technical skill.

Podolski and Klose often speak to each other in Polish, and in the past Polish viewers have enjoyed spotting Klose mouthing Polish expletives after he missed shots. Although many Poles were upset that the Polish pair was playing for Germany, other Poles took pride in the performance of Podolski and Klose in the World Cup after both scored in Germany's 4-0 drubbing of Australia in their opening World Cup match.

"A massive game for the duo from Poland," proclaimed the sports daily *Przegląd Sportowy*, with a photo of Podolski embracing Klose. "Polish goals in South Africa," headlined the newspaper *Polska*, adding "Germany's strong thanks to Poles from Silesia."

**NATIONAL TITLE FOR DANOWSKI.** John Danowski led the Duke's men's lacrosse team to its first NCAA title as the Blue Devils defeated Notre Dame in overtime, 6-5 in overtime.

Danowski, previously Hofstra's head coach, took over the Duke job in July 2006. He arrived after the 2006 season, when the previous coach was forced out because of the charges from a woman said she had been assaulted by members of the team. (Ultimately, the woman was discredited and the district attorney was disbarred).

Despite that turmoil, Danowski stabilized the program. Since then, the Blue Devils have appeared in four national semifinals and two championship games.

Danowski now has 285 career victories, 66 of them at Duke. Duke men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski, who has won 4 national titles at Duke, sent Danowski two bottles of champagne to celebrate the occasion.

John's father, Ed Danowski, was a great quarterback for Fordham University and the

New York Giants, and later coached football at Fordham. His son, Matt, was a 4-time All-American at Duke, and now plays professionally. Matt was on the sidelines with his dad for the championship game. Another interesting note: One of the players on this year's roster was freshman Jake Tripucks, son of basketball great Kelly Tripucka.

**RACING PIEROGI RETURNS.**

Andrew Kurtz, fired from his \$25-a-game job racing at Pittsburgh Pirates games dressed as a pierogi, recently was reinstated by the club.

Kurtz was canned for posting comments criticizing the contract extensions of GM Neal Huntington and manager John Russell on his Facebook page. In bringing him back, the Pirates said management determined his firing was not in accordance with company procedure. They insisted that the re-hiring had nothing to do with the enormous bad publicity the struggling Pirates had received.

Kurtz is in his second year as one of the 18 men who take turns dressing as pierogi mascots to stage a race after the fifth inning of every game at PNC Park. He raced about four times a month.

**POLISH PUNISHER.** The *Buffalo News* did a nice feature on champion kickboxer **Chris Kwiatkowski**, and it included a large photo of "The Polish Punisher" wearing a Polska scarf.

The 38-year-old Buffalo native recently won the gold medal at the 2009 Amateur Muay Thai World Championships in Spain. The 5-foot-9, 142-pounder known as the "Polish Punisher" is also a former Eastern United States Champion and received WKA Fighter of the Month honors in December.

In high school he played baseball and football and ran track. When he moved on to New York University to major in finance, he also became captain of its Division III track team, setting school records in the 200, 400 and 800 meters. After school he wanted an athletic activity to pursue, and ended up in Muay Thai, Thailand's form of kickboxing.

Chris also works as a real estate developer, recently finishing a 64-story building. "All I do is train, work and sleep," Kwiatkowski told the News. "My social life is pretty nonexistent. I'm a very focused person."

**BRUSH UP /** Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

**Health Part 2**

Jestem chory..... (YEHS-tehm CHOH-rih) **I am sick.** [Male form]  
 Jestem chora..... (YEHS-tehm CHOH-rah) **I am sick.** [Female form]  
 Mam mdłości ..... (mahm MDWOHCH.chee) **I have nausea.**  
 Tutaj mnie boli..... (TUH-taj mnyeh BOH-lee) **It hurts me here.**  
 Czuję się lepiej..... (CHUH-yeh sheh LEH-pyay) **I feel better.**  
 Czuję się gorzej..... (CHUH-yeh sheh GOH-zhay) **I feel worse.**  
 To jest lek który normalnie biorę..... (toh yehst lehk KTUH-rih nohr-MAHL-nyeh BYOH-reh) **This is my usual medicine.**

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

Jestem zaszczepiony ..... (YEHS-tehm zash-cheh-PYOH-nih) **I am vaccinated.** [Male form]  
 Jestem zaszczepiona..... (YEHS-tehm zash-cheh-PYOH-nah) **I am vaccinated.** [Female form]  
 Nie chcę transfuzji ..... (nyeh chshch trahns-FUH-zyee) **I do not want a transfusion.**  
 Poproszę o rachunek dla mojego ubezpieczenia (poh-PROH-sheh oh ra-HUH-nehk dlaah moh-YEH-goh uh-behs-pyeh-CHEH-nyah) **Please give me a receipt for my insurance.**

– Continued Next Month –

**TRIVIA TIME /** Ellye Slusarczyk

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Pope John Paul II when he died?<br>a. 79 b. 81 c. 84   | birth name of: a. Edmund Muskie b. Ted Knight c. Bobby Vinton   | discovered a planet outside our solar system with a year equal to a. Pluto b. Mars c. Earth  |
| 2. Gunther Grass, who wrote "The Tin Drum," was a: a. military general b. Nobel prize winner c. ballet dancer                                     | 6. Tadeusz Wladyslaw Konopka was a well-known a. TV star b. football coach c. boxer   | 10. Butch and Mary Kotoski, for many years, taught polka dancing at: a. the Madison SquarGarden Recreation Room b. Blob's Park c. The Roselawn   |
| 3. Kosciuszko's engineering expertise made it possible for the Americans to win the battle of: a. Saratoga b. Ticonderoga c. Oriskany             | 7. <i>Proszę o rachunek</i> requests a: a. check b. bank statement c. medical exam  | <b>ANSWERS</b><br>1. c 84; 2. b Nobel prize winner; 3. a Saratoga; 4. b upside-down Christmas tree; 5. c Bobby Vinton; 6. a TV star (Ted Knight of the <i>Mary Tyler Moore Show</i> ); 7. a check; 8. c 12; 9. c Earth; 10. b Blob's Park. |
| 4. The top of an evergreen or a simple evergreen branch was humorously called a. skinny spruce b. upside-down Christmas tree c. mixed-up fir tree | 8. It is a law in Poland that if a retail store is not socially useful, the store must be closed during Poland's main holidays, and these holidays number: a. 6 b. 10 c. 12 |  |
| 5. Stanley Robert Vintula is the  | 9. Alex Wolszczan, a Polish American astronomer and historian,  |  |

**HERITAGE /** Ellye Slusarczyk

**Black Storks**

Have you ever seen a black stork? Found in the warmer areas of Poland, is the majestic black stork. This large, tall wading bird is part of the stork family of birds. Its wingspan is most impressive. Black storks weigh about three kilograms.



surroundings, not at all like white storks. Its diet consists of insects and an array of amphibians. The familiar klee-klee chatter made by a white stork, is in contrast to a black stork's rasping call as he soars above the expanse of the land.

Tropical Africa and India are on the black stork's itinerary. Needed by these majestic birds are thermals of hot air. These thermals are formed only over land. Consequently, this migratory bird only flies over the narrowest points of the Mediterranean Sea and the Bosphorus. A great distance is

Black is the stork's dominant color, yet its belly is white and its legs are strikingly red, his gait is slow, yet steady. While in the air, he flies with an outstretched neck, similar to other storks.

Large, marshy wetlands are attractive breeding grounds; however, black storks breed on hills and mountains, provided there is an ample network of creeks nearby. Nests are located high in a tree.

A black stork is wary of his

flown each day, from 250 kilometers to as much as 500 kilometers. Migration occurs from the middle of August to the end of September. In the middle of March, the black stork returns to Poland.

Visit Warta Slonska, a noted bird preserve, with unspoiled countryside and crystal-clear lakes. Warta Slonska is a veritable bird-watching paradise. Listen carefully for the rasping of a black stork and you will be rewarded for this experience.

**Poland and other EU newcomers** were largely instrumental in persuading the European Union to help bail out debt-ridden bankrupt Greece. Germany, the European Community's biggest cash contributor, had been opposed to the aid, but finally succumbed. Now Portugal, Spain and possibly Italy are in the same dire straits as Greece. With the EU diverting aid money to Athens, Poland may get less funding from Brussels for its own.

**Poland and Latvia** want more NATO on their soil, the two countries defense ministers agreed during recent talks. Subject to half a century of Soviet domination, they remain wary of Russia's expansionist foreign policy. Polish Foreign Minister Bogdan Klich said that the Atlantic Alliance is still divided between old and new members and complained that NATO institutions were unevenly distributed between Western and Central Europe. Both Poland and Latvia joined the North Atlantic Alliance in 1999.

**Polish troops marched** in Moscow's victory parade marking the 65th anniversary of the defeat of Hitler's Third Reich. In a gesture of Russian solidarity following the recent crash of Poland's presidential plane on Russian soil, the Poles were invited to march in front of the contingents from the US, Britain and France. This marked a major departure from the 60th-anniversary celebration, when then President Vladimir Putin snubbed the Polish delegation by failing to mention the war effort of the Allies' fourth largest army.

**Archbishop Józef Kowalczyk**, the Vatican's ambassador to Poland, has been named Primate of Poland by Pope Benedict XVI. Appointed papal nuncio (ambassador) in 1989 by his countryman Pope John Paul II, he replaced reigning Primate Archbishop Henryk Muszyński who is retiring.

The title of primate is now largely honorary, but Kowalczyk's post-war predecessors—Augustyn Hlond, Stefan Wyszyński and Józef Glemp—played a major role in shepherding this staunchly Catholic nation through the meanders of officially atheistic communist rule.

—Robert Strybel

## PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

# Reasonableness Test

It is the 3rd of July and I am deliciously eating a tomato picked from the garden. Put a dash or two of salt on it and it must be peeled. Oh how I love the summer and the home-grown cucumbers, watermelon, corn, beans, and the rest of the fresh fruits and vegetables! And may a curse be upon the squirrels and birds that torment me with pecks and nibbles!

Money is tight and the economy sags. Households and businesses are evaluating costs and spending. Popular topics in the news are the salaries and pensions and hours for workers. The struggle for control of an ever shrinking pool of capital is on for a number of different groups. It is both stressful and fascinating to listen to the rhetoric and the positions of those on either side.

Despite this, we still hear how this or that profession "deserves more pay." *Deserves* more pay. The discussion (or argument) almost always pertains to service jobs like education, medical, or safety. In truth, the kind of work that most teachers, nurses, or cops do, warrants our admiration and respect. I believe most of these folks, for what they do, should be paid one million dollars a minute. Make that two million dollars a second. Problem is their pay is tied to the will and resources of the citizenry. In truth, their vocation is service to society and love of humanity. That is really what they signed up for and the net pay for that is zero. In case you are wondering, they need to pay me two million dollars a minute.

So what is a job really worth? In free market economies, value, skills, education, and risk pay what the market allows. In a truly free market, greater risk gets higher returns; extreme talent or marketability gets greater wages; hard work should produce more income. The test of reasonableness is not in question. Baseball players should not be paid 18 million a year. For workers employed by tax funded enterprises, reasonable compensation is always a consideration. Salaries for government employees are scrutinized and managed for the benefit of the constituent tax payers.

Consider the reasonable test in all that we do. We don't take on any endeavor at church, home, at

the social club, or at work without stepping back to review the plan or design as something that can be completed, generally, on time and within budget. That works on the local level and it works in the macro. Most nations carry on their affairs with diplomacy and a spirit of goodwill. Most nations though, can point to at least one spot in their history where the bubble burst and circumstances were created that lacked all kinds of decency or common sense. The Polish *Liberum Veto*, one dissenting vote disqualifies all others, probably belongs in this category. At the other extreme in this category is the rise of Nazi Germany or Communist Russia.

Ethnic groups in the United States generally live and work within measured and productive states. There are organizations, communities, and churches that exist amicably but separately among the general population. Poland and Polonia can be seen as in transitional positions structurally, emotionally, and psychologically. Poland as a nation is proceeding in its status and role as a member of Europe and the world. Polonia is experiencing change, in many ways rethinking and negotiating its identity in the churches, neighborhoods, and organizations. I hope as things progress, Poland and Polonia make prudent and thoughtful decisions or actions. Does that seem reasonable?

## CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

# JFK Became a Champion for Poland's Freedom

John F. Kennedy entered the political arena in 1946 when he ran for Congress from Massachusetts. His good looks, charisma and intelligence, backed by his family's fortune, won him the election. Six years later he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Kennedy was a Democrat, but a centrist. It was said that he could have been equally at home in the Republican party. On one issue JFK was definitely right-wing. He was staunchly anti-communist. No political opponent could ever call him soft on communism. As such, he took up the plight of the captive nations of Soviet Eastern Europe.

One of Congressman Kennedy's first statements regarding Poland involved the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, which allowed admittance of thousands of Poles displaced by World War II into the U.S. In a criticism of FDR and his own political party, JFK said for the Poles, the new law could "atone in a small manner for the betrayal of their native country of Poland" at Yalta. A Boston Herald headline proclaimed: "Kennedy Says Roosevelt Sold Poland To Reds."

Kennedy said not much specific regarding Poland in the early 1950s. He took part in a Polish American Congress radio program in 1953, and spoke in generalities against the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe. But in September 1955 he visited Poland, traveling to Warsaw and Częstochowa to try to observe conditions there firsthand.

Why did he focus on Poland?

He was not ignorant of a large Polish American voting population in Massachusetts. But with his hatred of communism, he especially considered Poland to be the most vulnerable part of the Soviet empire. The Polish people's historically stubborn attitude toward freedom and independence was not lost on

**A POLISH "ALLELUIA."** One more thought about "Polish" Masses. There is an Alleluia that was composed in honor of John Paul II's visit to the United States (not sure which visit). Let me suggest using this one instead of, for instance, the Celtic or some of the other generic versions. While I enjoy the Celtic Alleluia (and if I were Irish I would want to hear it all the time), I do think it is slightly out of place and strange at the Polish Masses.

**POLKA UNPLUGGED.** There is a classical accordion concert at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in St. Louis July 18th. The artist is Lithuanian-born Martynas Levickis and he will be performing works by Bach, Scarlatti, Berinsky, and others. I am eager to hear it. Let me take this in another step. Has anyone ever heard "unplugged" versions of some of

our most popular and loved polkas?

**BUCKET LIST.** Compose a new Alleluia, Our Father, or what the heck, do a whole Mass with a Polish style and feel.

**POLISH OR NOT?** William "Billy" Zabka, the mean dude in the 1984 film, *The Karate Kid*.

**IF YOU HAVE A THOUGHT** about this month's topic, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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

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and ultimately lead to democracy.

But JFK rejected violence. He thought that any violent uprising would not get American help and would lead to increased repression and the possible end to even nominal Polish independence. He accurately predicted that true freedom and democracy would one day be achieved in Poland by gradual, peaceful evolution, not revolution.

Beginning in the late 1950s, Kennedy expressed this in speeches: to the New York City Press Club, the American Relief for Poland Dinner in Detroit, and in a notable Senate speech in 1957; to the Pulaski Day Dinner in Milwaukee in 1959; and to Polish American leaders in Hyannis and to the Polish American Congress in Chicago in 1960. He was fond of pointing out the love of freedom of his Irish ancestors and of the Polish people, seemed to have a great respect for them, and displayed a real knowledge and understanding of Polish history.

Though after he became president, Kennedy tended to focus less specifically on Poland, he never wavered from his advocacy of U.S. non-military aid to the nations and people of the Soviet bloc, and his hope for their freedom.

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### Description

- A. Polish Princess
- B. #1 Babcia (Script)
- C. #1 Babcia (Block)
- D. Small Eagle
- E. Medium Eagle
- F. Large Eagle
- G. Large Heavy Eagle
- H. Extra Heavy Eagle
- I. #1 Mamusia (Block)
- J. #1 Tatus (Block)
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## NEW BOOKS / Debbie Greenlee

**More Than Just an Account of Suffering at the Hands of the Nazis**

**INSIDE A GESTAPO PRISON:**  
*The Letters of Krystyna Wituska, 1942-1944*

Edited and translated by Irena Tomaszewski; 127 pp., several black and white photographs.  
Wayne State University, 2006

Haven't enough World War II diaries been published already? From a Polish perspective, the answer is "No," especially in English.

This book is a translation of hundreds of letters written by Krystyna Wituska during her imprisonment by the Nazis between 1942-1944.

The letters were gathered from several people with whom Wituska corresponded during her confinement.

Krystyna came from a fairly well-off family in Warsaw and enjoyed a peaceful life until the Nazis invaded Poland. She was 19 years old when arrested as a Polish spy. Her last years on earth were spent in four Nazi prisons, three of them in Germany. Though she tries to put on a happy face in her letters to avoid worrying her parents, Krystyna paints a horrific picture of her time in prison waiting to be sentenced. Her experiences are certainly no dif-

ferent than millions of other Poles who were imprisoned, tortured and killed by the Nazis. Here though, we experience the day-to-day gruesome details.

Tomaszewski was able to translate Krystyna's letters (most were written in self-taught German so the Nazi censors could read them) in such a way as to convey Wituska's personality. Tomaszewski has succeeded in maintaining what she calls the "emotional nuances" of this young woman's letters — difficult to do, considering the preciseness of the Polish language. Krystyna's saintly attitude towards her captors, cell mates and family is almost unbelievable. She was more concerned about the suffering of others than her own adversity. The book leaves the reader hoping that they too, can some day attain a similar philosophy towards life as Krystyna. This book is more than just an account of suffering: it is a memorial to Wituska.

Surprisingly perhaps, Krystyna turns out to be a modern woman who believes not only in the higher education of women but a person who

saw no reason why a woman could not work outside the home and still have a husband and children.

The author includes a few photos to help the reader to connect even more with Krystyna and her situation. Included in the appendix is an annotated list of her family and friends. These people are mentioned so often in Krystyna's letters that Tomaszewski sees fit to alert the reader as to the outcome of their lives. Clearly this took some research.

Many people often ignore the introductions in books. To do so would be a mistake in this case. The introduction to Krystyna's letters must be read because the amount of background history and little-known information provided is surprising and useful well beyond the scope of what is needed just for an understanding of the letters. People who read this book will come away knowing a great deal more about what went on during World War II concerning Poland and her people.

## OBITUARIES

compiled by Jennifer Moskal

**EMILY BERNARDONI**, (nee Kwiatek), 96, played first base on the Chicago Girls City Championship Softball Team at Wrigley Field during the Chicago World's Fair of 1933. Bernardoni was a member of the Polish Women's Alliance. She worked for United Airlines as an air freight agent and then enjoyed traveling with her husband after she retired.

**CHESTER BILINSKI**, 60, spent more than four decades directing traffic on the *Chicago Sun-Times'* classified advertising pages. Bilinski was born in 1949 in Bartoszyce, Poland, and emigrated to Chicago in 1963. He graduated from Carl Schurz High School and went to work for the Sun-Times before enlisting in the U.S. Army. After serving in Germany for two years, he returned to Chicago, got married and resumed his post at the Sun-Times. His official title was classified advertising supervisor of pagination, but his work went well beyond that over his countless years at the paper.

**CPL. MICHAEL D. JANKIEWICZ**, 23, was a member of the Ramsey, N.J. 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, based at Fort Benning, Ga. He served in Zabul province in Afghanistan as a member of the U.S. Army Rangers.

**MAX PALEVSKY**, 85, was the son of Polish Jewish immigrants, and grew up in Chicago during the Depression. During World War II, he served as an electronics officer in the Army Air Force, and graduated from the University of Chicago majoring in mathematics and philosophy. An expert in symbolic logic, he worked in the computer division of Bendix and for Packard Bell before launching Scientific Data Systems with 11 other scientists in 1961. He sold the Santa Monica-based company to Xerox in 1969. He went on to serve as a director and chairman of Xerox's executive committee before becoming a founder and director of Intel. He left the corporate world in the 1970s to produce movies, support *Rolling Stone* magazine and delve into politics.

**VINCENT X. YAKOWICZ**, 77, served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania over a 28-year career in two cabinet positions: Solicitor General and Secretary of Revenue, among numerous other positions with the state. Atty. Yakowicz received his education at Penn State University, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He also was elected a Graduate Fellow to the National Institute of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. following post-graduate study at Woodrow Wilson School of Government and Foreign Policy. He served on numerous law and community related boards and organizations. He also was an author and lecturer for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. In honor of his life, the governor ordered the state flag be flown at half mast May 24, 2010.

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- Duane Malinowski -
- Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push -
- Jimmy Sturr -
- Shippensburg Blaskapelle German Band -
- Steve Meisner -
- Bud Hudenski & the Corsairs -
- Ania Piwowarczyk & Radosc -
- Polka Family -
- Polish Intercollegiate Club -
- YCHTIS -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Cracovia -
- Polish Highlanders -
- Polish American Folk Dance Co. -

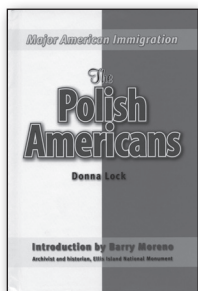


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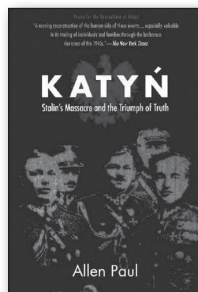


**NEW! THE POLISH AMERICANS**  
from the "Major American Immigration Series" by Donna Lock  
**\$22.95**

Full color illustrated. Ages 9-12  
Mason Crest Publishers. 2008. 64 pp. hc. 9"x6"  
Polish emigrants left their homeland for many of the same reasons as did other ethnic groups: poverty, religious intolerance, hardship, and a strict government. Yet in America's melting pot, the Polish have maintained a stronger hold on their traditions and customs than most of the other immigrant groups that arrived in North America during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This is due in part to the closeness of the ethnic Polish neighborhoods that grew up in the industrial cities where many immigrants settled.

Today, prominent Polish American associations work to ensure that people with Polish ancestry will never forget their proud heritage.

"A good overview of mainstream European American experience..." **Booklist.**



**NEW! KATYN: STALIN'S MASSACRE AND THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH**  
by Allen Paul  
**\$24.95**

Northern Illinois University Press  
2010. 430 pp. pb. 9"x6.5"

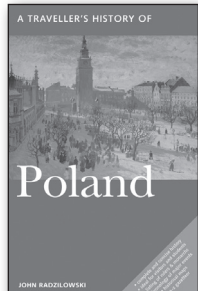
Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. Twenty years ago, Allen Paul wrote the first post-communist account of one of the greatest but least-known tragedies of the 20th century: Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportation of so-called "bourgeoisie elements" to Siberia. Today, these brutal events are symbolized by one word, Katyn.

Paul's richly updated account covers Russian attempts to recant their admission of guilt for the murders in Katyn Forest and includes recently translated documents from Russian military archives, eyewitness accounts of two perpetrators, and secret official minutes published here for the first time that confirm that U.S. government cover-up of the crime continued long after the war ended.

Paul's masterful narrative recreates what daily life was like for three Polish families amid momentous events of World War II—from the treacherous Nazi-Soviet invasion in 1939 to a rigged election in 1947 that sealed Poland's doom.

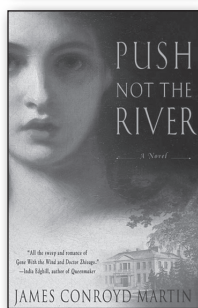
"Not only a riveting human drama but a powerful historical expose..." —**Zbigniew Brzezinski**, former U.S. national security adviser

"Allen has given us the complete story of Katyn ... a wonderful companion to my film!" —**Andrzej Wajda**, Academy Award-winning Director of Katyn.



**A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND**  
by John Radzilowski  
**\$14.95**

312 pp. 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.



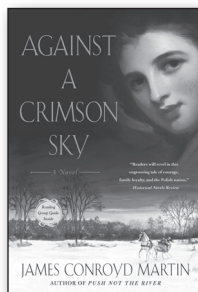
**PUSH NOT THE RIVER**  
by James C. Martin  
**\$15.95**

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 author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

"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.**

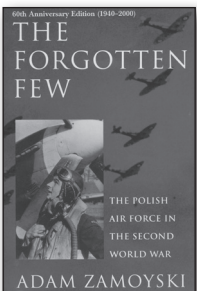


**AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY**  
by James C. Martin  
**\$15.95**

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.

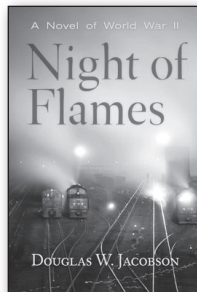
"A sprawling epic... entertaining." — **Publishers Weekly.**



**THE FORGOTTEN FEW**  
by Adam Zamoyski. hc. 239 pp.  
**\$14.95**

Fleeing to Britain after the Germans captured their homeland, the pilots of the Polish Air Force played an important role in the Battle of Britain and the air war in the European theater. They shot down 745 enemy aircraft, with another 175 unconfirmed, and 190 flying bombs targeted at London. A story of the life and times of these airmen stationed in Britain. The story concludes sadly with an account of the development of anti-Polish feelings in Britain at war's end. Photos.

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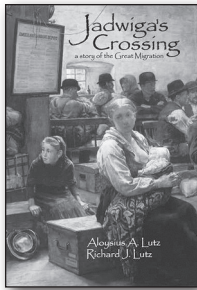


**NIGHT OF FLAMES: A Novel of World War Two**  
by Douglas W. Jacobson  
**\$16.95**

384 pp. pb., McBooks Press  
"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."

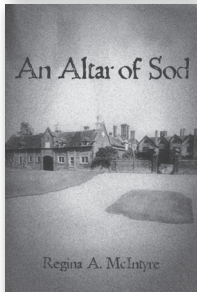
In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna and Jan Kopernik the loss is unimaginable. She is an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; he, an officer in the Polish cavalry. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.

Through the long night of Nazi occupation, Anna, Jan, and ordinary people across Europe fight a covert war of sabotage and resistance against the overwhelming might of the German war machine. The struggle seems hopeless, but they are determined to take back what is theirs.



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348 pp., pb.  
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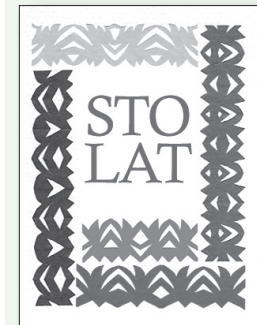


**AN ALTAR OF SOD**  
By Regina A. McIntyre  
**\$19.95**

Hats Off Books, 2001, 2010, 304 pp., pb  
In 19th century Partitioned Poland, the village of Miska sits almost unchanged on the banks of the Vistula. This is the story of three families who are unforgettably joined by love, pain, struggle and hope. Rich in tradition, the story builds to a far-reaching conclusion.

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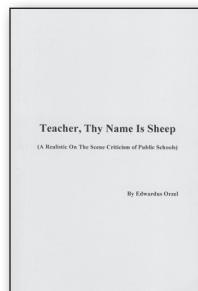
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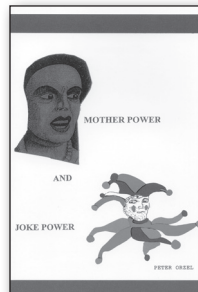
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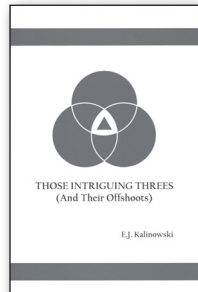
**TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP**  
by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Edwardus Orzel)  
**\$9.95**

Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.  
Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, first wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004. Among his views are "Give me a Principal with Principles." "It takes good parents, and good teachers, not a village, to raise good students," and "TV is today's mother, father, and teacher" among others.



**MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER**  
by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Peter Orzel)  
**\$9.95**

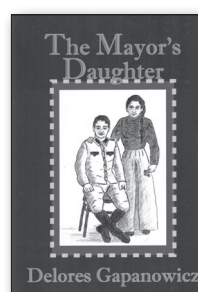
Kalski Books, 1998. 142 pp., pb.  
*Mother Power* is a compendium of psychological sketches on personalities in various fields: politics, military, medicine, theater, and religion, written in a pertinent, pithy manner pointing out how mother influence determined the success of the famous and infamous. *Joke Power* stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision. The author is a retired high school and junior high school teacher, who has penned numerous polemic observations in community and regional newspapers.



**THOSE INTRIGUING THREES (and Their Offshoots)**  
by E.J. Kalinowski  
**\$9.95**

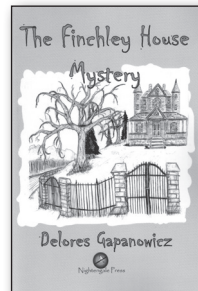
Self published / Kalski Books, 2009. 166 pp., pb.

Why are there so many threes in the Bible — both the Old and New Testament? Creation abounds in threes? Have you noticed the amount of triadic construction in nature? The premise of this book is the prevalence of threes in our world and how apparent these triadic aspects are if one takes the time to observe them.



**THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER**  
by Delores Gapanowicz  
**\$12.95**

**Edition illustrated**  
Nightingale 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. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms didn't spend all their time milking cows and picking potatoes.



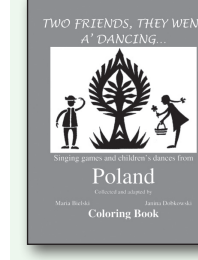
**THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY**  
by Delores Gapanowicz  
**\$13.95**

Nightingale 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?



**TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING**  
by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski  
**\$20.00**

Singing games and Children's Dances from Poland  
**INCLUDES MUSIC CD, LYRICS, AND SHEET MUSIC**  
*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.



**TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING COMPANION COLORING BOOK**  
by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski  
**\$4.00**

Using these "wycinanki" icons, you can draw the story of each song, color the enlarged full page cut-out, or reproduce any of these icons for educational purposes. Some craft ideas are included.

## ARTSBEAT / Staś Kmieć

## Quiet Hero

Emmy award-winning journalist, TV host, and New York Times bestselling Rita Cosby's new book *Quiet Hero — Secrets from My Father's Past* is the story of her father Richard Cosby, a Warsaw Uprising Fighter. Surprisingly, she knew little about his harrowing past: that he had left Poland after World War II and had scars all over his body that he refused to talk about.

One Christmas, when Rita was a teenager, her father abruptly announced he was leaving, which caused a severe divide in their relationship that would continue most of Rita's life. Years later, after her mother's death, Rita discovered a worn and tattered leather suitcase tucked away full of mementos from the youth of the man she knew only as Richard Cosby: including an old Polish Resistance armband, rusted tags bearing a prisoner number and the words Stalag IVB; and an identity card for an ex-POW bearing the name Ryszard Kossobudzki.

These relics would be the tools for Rita to open a new dialogue with her distant father, and embark upon the most amazing journey of her

life. "I needed to know what really happened," she thought.

After years of estrangement, Rita finally persuaded her father to break his silence. Richard spent his teens in the Polish Resistance, actively fighting the enemy to the last bullet in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. As a young boy, Richard watched his hometown get decimated by Nazi bombs, got a codename, and although his parents wanted to sneak him out of Poland, he secretly pledged to fight and showed unwavering loyalty to his country and comrades, telling them, "I'd rather die with friends, than live with strangers."

Kossobudzki, had escaped his Nazi captors and made his way precariously toward Allied lines. With him were approximately 60 comrades, many of whom were former Polish resistance fighters. During their trek away from the POW camp, a warplane flew low above the forest from which they were seeking cover-and-concealment. At first the men believed they had been discovered by the Luftwaffe. Fear turned to rejoicing when instead of the infamous black cross on

the plane's fuselage; they saw the bright white star of the U.S. Army Air Forces. The pilot upon spotting them dropped a chocolate bar with a note wrapped around it. The note was simple: "Go 15 miles west to American lines and freedom."

From that point Kossobudzki made his way to America, eventually becoming an American citizen.

Through her book, Rita Cosby is partnering with the USO on a massive, new campaign called Operation Enduring Care, which will help wounded warriors and their families. Book proceeds will go towards this \$100 million initiative, as well as two museums in Poland, the *Warsaw Rising Museum* (Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego) and *The Museum of the History of Polish Jews*, which is being built where the Warsaw Ghetto once stood.

For more information: [www.QuietHero.org](http://www.QuietHero.org).

#### POLISH CONSULATE AWARD-PRESERVATION AWARD.

The Metropolitan Chapter of The Victorian Society of America honored the **Consulate General of the Republic of Poland** with this year's *Preservation Award for Exterior Restoration*. In a ceremony held at The Museum at Eldridge Street in Manhattan, the recipients: Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Consul Marek Skulimowski, Vice

Consul Ewa Gumpert, architect Frank S. Smith, A.I.A. and general contractor Augustyn Lech were honored.

Treasurer Edward T.

Mohylowski presented the award acknowledging and detailing the work enacted by the Consulate — "At a cost of \$1,200,000, this monumental building has been brought back to its original splendor as a magnificent gift to the City and people of New York."

Located at the northeast corner of Madison Avenue and 37th St, The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland has occupied the former Joseph Raphael De Lamar residence since 1973. Built for a wealthy mining entrepreneur in 1902 from designs by noted architect C.P.H. Gilbert, its great scale and elegance ranks it as one of the finest Beaux-Arts/Chateausque mansions in the city.

Work, using non-toxic, environmentally-friendly and minimally-abrasive products, involved cleaning limestone and granite elevations, stripping and repainting decorative ironwork, repairing and repointing damaged brick; and cleaning of the towering slate mansard roof.

Several areas of a thick crust of city soot and grime, and painted-over dirt on the intricate stone work were meticulously cleaned by hand — at times with toothbrushes for access to small details. The exte-



Architect Frank S. Smith, contractor Augustyn Lech, Consul Marek Skulimowski, Vice Consul Ewa Gumpert, and Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka were honored.

rior restoration was approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Accepting the award, Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka said "I am especially grateful to The Society for recognizing our nearly two-year effort to revitalize the façade of the building and bringing a fresh breath in the heart of Manhattan."

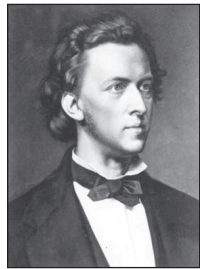
"It is a meaningful sign that the Consulate of Poland is getting closer to New Yorkers as a historical and architectural point of interest, as well as a vivid cultural center," said the Consul General. "The preservation works would not have been possible without the personal commitment of my predecessor Krzysztof Kasprzyk, who managed to convince Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to allocate necessary funds."

The Consul General extended an invitation to hold next year's Award celebration at the Consulate.

Once a location that was "off limits" to the general public, visitors can now wander through the ornate second floor during lectures and concerts listed at [www.polish-consulateny.org](http://www.polish-consulateny.org). The Consulate will begin illuminating this ebullient building at night, just in case anyone should miss it.

## OCTOBER IS POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Help Us Keep Alive Our Rich and Treasured History



CHOPIN. Famous French pianist?

Kościuszko. Wojtyła. Wałęsa. These are the names of famous Poles everyone recognizes.

But do you know I once had a high school math teacher tell me "I didn't know Copernicus was Polish"? Many people think Fryderyk Chopin and Madame Curie are French, or that Joseph Conrad was born in England.

For every Kościuszko or Wałęsa, there are thousands Kuklińskis and Malinowskis. Everyone knows Mike Krzyzewski, but what can they tell you about "Red" Mihalik? Do you know Kevlar - the material used in bullet-proof vests — was invented by Stephanie Kwolek, a Polish American chemist? Or that the Internet would not be possible without the work of Paul Baran? When you take your vitamins every morning, think of Kazimierz Funk, who was the first to formulate of the concept of these organic compounds.

How many of our war heroes are household names? Many will probably say Kosciuszko and Pulaski, but what about Matt Urban, or the Ripkowski Brothers? With the passing of generations, the names and contributions of

great Poles and Polish Americans will fade into history unless we teach our children and grandchildren about them.

And we offer a simple way to do that.

Printed on the pages of the Polish American Journal are stories and accounts about these great people. For almost 100 years, the PAJ and its Polish-language predecessors have brought you news from every corner of Polonia and Poland. News made by not only the Kościuszkos, Wojtyłas, and Wałęsas, but the Kozłowskis, Wisniewskis, and Arctowskis as well.

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#### WARSAW WATCH / Robert Strybel

**The zloty should remain** Poland's currency for a few more years, the late Polish President Lech Kaczyński insisted shortly before his tragic death in a plane crash. The Polish government, headed by his political rival Donald Tusk, has indicated 2015 as the probable date for switching to the euro (€), the European Union's common currency. Kaczyński believed Poland would need a few more years to independently run its own monetary policy, but also cast doubt on the euro's future. "Sooner or later Poland will have to adopt the euro, if the euro zone ultimately survives, and that isn't 100 percent certain. In Poland's real situation 2015 is too early."

**Russia's natural-gas monopoly** may soon be threatened by shale gas, of which Poland has rich deposits. Shale gas, an unconventional energy source, is packed into tight rock formations and now accounts for up to 20 percent of US natural gas output. Energy giants such as ExxonMobil and Royal Dutch Shell are snapping up prospecting licenses in Poland, Sweden, Germany and France to explore for shale. Major discoveries could shift the balance of power in Europe's relations with Russia which has been known to use gas and oil as a political weapon.

**There may be 2.2 million fewer** Poles by 2035 if the current declining birthrate and emigration continue. That would mean that every gainfully employed person would have to support two retirees as well as their own families. Behind the trends are economic concerns as

well as Western lifestyle options of avoiding or deferring marriage and childbearing and having only one child. The government hopes to make having children more attractive by expanding daycare and introducing more flexible working hours for mothers. Currently Poland has a population of over 38 million.

**"The Righteous Ones"** ("Sprawiedliwi" in the original) is the title of a new Polish TV series, directed by Waldemar Krzystek and devoted to Poles who risked their lives to save and aid Jews during the Holocaust. The main character is a young nurse named Basia (Barbara) who was active in Żegota, the Polish exile government's organization created for the sole purpose of rescuing Jews. Poland was Nazi-occupied Europe's only country where aiding Jews was punishable by death of the rescuer and his entire family.

**As the date of John Paul II's** beatification generates controversy, the media have marked the fifth anniversary of his death with reminders that he was the first pope to cross the threshold of a synagogue and mosque, organize a worldwide inter-faith gathering at Assisi and receive a Soviet leader at the Vatican. He also penned 14 encyclicals and 43 Apostolic Letters, visited 132 countries, canonized 478 saints and beatified 1,318 blessed. The Polish-born Pontiff was also the first Vicar of Christ to go mountain trekking, swim in a pool and sneak out of the Vatican to go skiing.

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