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THE TASTES AND FLAVORS OF KRAKÓW — PAGE 5

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

1911-2011
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CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO AMERICAN POLONIA

PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

WHO WILL TELL POLONIA'S STORY? • ROMANOWSKI HEADS CLASS OF 2011 • PAINFUL MEMORIES
KNAPIK TO LEAD PULASKI PARADE • MORE PICNIC RECIPES • DAR HONORS POLISH WAR VET
HERO OF 9/11 • DIVINE MERCY CONGRESS TO MEET IN POLAND • THE BEST-KEPT SECRET

NEWSMARK

POLAND ASSUMES EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY from Hungary, as serious social and economic challenges plague the European Union. Goals of the Polish chairmanship are many: to strengthen cooperation with member nations with an aim of realizing greater stability; to deepen the integration of the European Union market, leading to more rapid economic growth; to support efforts to enlarge EU membership; to increase the strength of Europe's Food, Energy and Military security; and to proceed with the vital discussion of the 2014-2020 EU budget.

"We have taken the presidency at a difficult time," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk. "It is important that, despite all, what wins is the spirit for mutual assistance that is going to make Europe turn around."

A ceremonial official inauguration of Poland's assumption of the EU Council Presidency began with the premier performance of Polish composer Karol Szymanowski's opera "King Roger" in the Grand Theater of the National Opera.

BISKUPSKI TAKE REINS AT PIASA. Nearly 150 participants took part in the 69th annual meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA), June 10-11. The Embassy of Poland hosted a reception for meeting participants, who viewed an exhibit on Maria Skłodowska-Curie.

During the reception, Prof. Zbigniew Darzynkiewicz was awarded a diploma as a foreign member of Poland's Academy of Science. PIASA member Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski was the closing gala's keynote speaker, and emphasized the key role of PIASA in integrating the Polish scientific community in the United States, as well as the merits of longtime former PIASA Director and President Dr. Tadeusz Gromada.

"When Richard Daley decides not to run for Mayor of Chicago and Oprah Winfrey retires from her popular afternoon TV show, it's time to take the hint, it's time for me to leave," said Gromada, during his closing remarks.

Prof. Mieczyslaw Boleslaw Biskupski of Central Connecticut State University is the new PIASA director; Dr. Bozena Leven is the new Executive Director.

COURT MAY REOPEN KATYN CASES. (PAP) — The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, has ruled that it will grant consideration of complaints lodged by Polish citizens against Russian authorities regarding irregularities in Moscow's investigation into the World War II Katyn crime.

The ruling is being hailed as a breakthrough by families of the victims.

Six separate complaints have been filed in Strasbourg since 2007, lodged by both individuals and groups. Key allegations are that the official Russian investigation, which was broken off in 2004, was ineffective, and that the families of the victims have been treated in a degrading fashion.

Although the official Association of Katyn Families passed a resolution in 2008 stating that material compensation will not be sought — a stance that was reaffirmed in 2010 — families are still pressing for closure on several issues, including the full rehabilitation of the executed men. The latter process, normally applied to those unjustly sentenced in court, would clear the slain of any stain on their honor under Russian law.

Russian authorities have stalled the matter of rehabilitation, amidst claims of complications owing to the fact that technically, the 22,500 Polish citizens — largely reserve officers, were executed without trial.

Demonstrating Deep Devotion



FATHER ANDRZEJ PAPIEŻ celebrates Mass at "Cascadas de Juan Pablo II," (John Paul II Falls) in Colca Canyon, Peru. He was part of an expedition that unveiled a plaque honoring Blessed John Paul II in the world's deepest canyon.

by Jerzy "Yurek" Majcherczyk
HUAMBO, Peru — Five years ago, a plaque was cemented into a huge boulder at the bottom of the Colca Canyon, informing that the nearby waterfalls carried the name "Cascadas de Juan Pablo II." Five years later, next to this plaque, an array of four bronze plaques were also cemented into the rock for what proved to be a historic event.

A ceremony was held exactly on May 28, 2011, the 30th anniversary of the discovery of the waterfalls and the canyon by Polish kayakers. The participants of this ceremony had to pass their own "way of the cross," by walking over 17 miles to reach this destination. The narrow paths from the pre-Inca era led them

above the deep gorges, hot volcanic lava all while under the heat of the blistering sun and dry air. The journey began from the small village of Huambo, from where they walked 1.25 miles vertically down from an altitude of 3,330 m.a.s.l to the canyon bottom in Canco at an altitude of 1,330 m.a.s.l.

Being a participant of the kayaking expedition Canoandes of 1981, it was the fulfillment of another dream, which was to commemorate the Polish Pope, the greatest traveler and pilgrim of all time, and the achievements of Poles all over the world.

HOLY MASS ON A STONE ALTAR. On See "Colca Canyon," page 4

Army Ranger is Back in the Fight

Kapaczewski Overcomes Odds, Returns to Active Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — From the moment his broken body was pulled from an armored vehicle in Iraq — after an enemy grenade, dropped through a hatch, detonated inches away — Army Ranger Joseph "Kap" Kapaczewski vowed to be back in the fight.

"Is this going to ruin my chances of being a squad leader?" he asked as he was carried into a medical ward.

The soldier's lower right leg was shattered. Nerve damage left his right arm useless. And from hip to upper thigh, the flesh was shredded by the blast.

It was 2005, and doctors feared Kapaczewski would never walk, much less be able to remain in the elite, physically demanding Army Rangers.

Visitors to his hospital room at Walter Reed Army Medical Center heard his vow to rejoin his unit. They nodded, smiled, admired his spunk and didn't seem to believe a word, says his wife, Kimberley.

But he wasn't trying to impress. "I don't like people telling me I can't do something," he says.

With help from his false leg, Sgt. 1st Class Kapaczewski, 28, races down an Afghan road through enemy fire to reach a fellow Ranger who had been shot in

See "Kapaczewski," page 4



KAPACZIEWSKI

Documenting "Babcia Wisia"

Granddaughter to Preserve Veteran's Experience in Warsaw Uprising

LOS ANGELES — Jadwiga ("Wisla") Konopacka's grand-daughter, Karina Wielgosz, travels from Hollywood to Warsaw to explore and document her Babcia's (grandmother's) heroism during the Warsaw Uprising. Wisia was 23 years old during the 1944 Uprising.

A photograph of Karina Wielgosz aged five, enjoying a picnic lunch beside her Babcia Wisia, is a fond memento of her childhood. Her relationship with her maternal grandmother is something she values beyond measure. Having recently lost her paternal grandmother, Karina laments that she did not record those remarkable stories

See "Wisla" page 4

Summer Means Easy Livin' at the Działka

JANOWKA, Poland — So, just what is a *działka*, anyway? Well, it translates into English as an allotment, plot or parcel of land. But to the Poles it is much, much more than that. The *działka* (pronounced 'jow-ka') occupies a very special place in the psyche and soul of the Polish people. During the languid summertime it becomes a quiet and relaxing idyllic refuge, providing needed relief from the dark, cold winter, as well as an escape from the crowded city apartment blocks, and all the stress and strains of everyday life. The *działka* also functions somewhat clinically as a very welcome and easily accessible retreat conducive to recharging and renewing one's self.

A *działka* is typically a small holding located in a rural setting near, or ideally next to, a protected forest or nature preserve, lake, stream,



A typical *działka* located in the small village of Janowka, about 12 miles east of metropolitan Lodz, Poland. The sizzling BBQ grill, at right, promises just one of the many bounties that the summer abode has to offer.

river, farmland, or in a mountainous or seashore area. Normally, the basic dwelling is not large, being cabin-like in size. But, lately with more prosperous times afoot, some *działki* are now much larger and more elaborate in style and comfort, with the added

advantage of becoming a year-round residence. Flowers, vegetables, fruits and fruit trees are grown in abundance, no matter the circumstances of the dwelling.

The *działki* people amuse and enjoy themselves by pre- See "Działka," page 4

PHOTO: RICHARD P. POREMSKI

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August • Sierpień

"I don't like work... but I like what is in work — the chance to find yourself. Your own reality — for yourself, not for others — which no other man can ever know."

— Joseph Conrad

1 1944. **Warsaw Uprising** begin. 1930. Birth, in Chicago, of **Walter "Li'l Wally" Jagiello**.

2 1899. Birth, in Warsaw, of Apolonia Chalupiec, silent screen star later known as **Pola Negri**. (d. 1987).



NEGRI

3 1941. Birth-day of **Martha (Kostyra) Stewart**.

1924. Death of **Jozef Conrad Korzeniowski** (Joseph Conrad), 66, British and Polish author.

6 **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**.

8 1306. **King Wenceslas** of Poland murdered.

10 1880. Founding of the **Polish National Alliance**.

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 1916. Birth of Polish American historian **Eduard Pinkowski**, who discovered Pulaski's remains in Savannah, Georgia. He is the author of hundreds of papers and articles on Polish American achievements.

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.

Do Maryi Wniebowstapienia, miej w stodole polowę mienia. On the Ascension of Mary have in your barn half of your property (harvest).

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 1980. **Czeslaw Milosz** receives Nobel Prize for Literature.

22 1584. Death of Humanist poet **Jan Kochanowski**.

1939. Birth of **Carl "Yaz" Yastrzemski**, Boston Red Sox hitting star.

24 **ST. BARTHOLOMEW**

Na Bartłomieja apostoła bocian do drogi dzieci wola on St Bartholomew 's storks prepare for a journey

25 1919. Birth of **Matt Louis Urban** (d. 1995), in Buffalo, N.Y., the most decorated combat soldier of World War II.

26 **OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA**

27 1764. **Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski** named King of Poland.

28 852. **Fr. Leopold Moczygemb** arrives at the port of New Orleans on the *Sea Eagle* with four other missionaries.

29 1655. Swedish king **Karel X Gustaaf** occupied Warsaw.

31 1980. Polish trade union **Solidarity**, led by electrician **Lech Walesa** and others, is founded in Baltic sea port of Gdansk, Poland.

This paper mailed on or before **July 29**. The September 2011 edition will be mailed on or before **September 1**, 2011.

VIEWPOINTS

Who Will Tell Polonia's Story?

Boxes in archives in Orchard Lake, Chicago, Scranton, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York City, Buffalo and Detroit (to name just a few places), are veritable treasure troves of Polish American history. Program books, newspapers, business directories, journals, board minutes and recordings hold the stories that literally define American Polonia.

Archivists, most of whom volunteer their time, estimate that more than half of this material is in the Polish language. For this reason, much of it remains uncatalogued. While translation to English seems the obvious and simple solution, that service does not come cheaply. In the meantime, these stories sit in silence.

If you are well-versed in both Polish and English, why not consider volunteering your talents to the Orchard Lake Schools, The Alliance Library Collection at the University of Pittsburgh, The PNCC Archives in Scranton, or the Polish Museum

in Chicago—just a few of the many Polish American archives across the country that can use your help. For those who do not wish to travel, a friendly visit to your local Polish club or organization may find these groups, too, in need of volunteers.

You may also wish to stop by your local Polish parish, since many of the early records of these churches were written in Polish. Your knowledge of the Polish language could be extremely helpful in organizing an archive.

START AT HOME. The history of American Polonia is much more than these archives hold. It is the story of our parents, grandparents and those before them who made the journey across the Atlantic to better themselves, their families

and, ultimately, you and I. These are histories that must be preserved within our families. Do not make the mistake of waiting to "get around to it one day." Every day we delay increases the chance that a living relative will pass on and take with them a veritable encyclopedia of family history. How easy can gathering data be? Very. Take a notebook or tape recorder to the next family function; you will be surprised how much people are willing to share given half a chance. Once you have the information, document as much of that history as possible. Even if doing so seems a bother, remember that you are a link between your parents and your children. One day, they may find this information invaluable.

Be sure to ask how your parents

and grandparents celebrated holidays such as Christmas and Easter. How does that differ from what is done today? Did your family sing any special Polish songs on birthdays or anniversaries? What family recipes would you like to pass on to your children? Also, consider looking through family photo albums, making certain that all photographs are labeled, and if possible, dated. While you may know the lady with the sunflower hat is your mother's Ciocia Helen, will your grandchildren?

With the passing of each generation, a story gets lost, a name forgotten, a detail overlooked. By documenting and recording as much as possible, we help ensure our family's rightful place in the history of American Polonia.

Reasons to Buy Life Insurance from a Polish American Fraternal Benefit Society

1. Money, should something happen to you.
2. It's a supplement to your retirement.
3. To provide a way to peace of mind and security in old age.
4. It's a savings plan.
5. It's a way to borrow money.
6. You are contributing to the continuation of our Polish traditions and heritage.
7. Academic scholarships and grants for members and their children.
8. As a new outlet for social activities such as organized tours, trips, language classes, theater parties, golf outings, picnics, and children's parties, to name a few.
9. A subscription to the monthly publication, the *Polish American Journal*.
10. A way to give back to your community by participation in volunteer efforts.
11. A way to support organizations that promote our shared Polish heritage.
12. To help pay for your children's education.

Call a Polish American fraternal near you and see what it has to offer. You will be surprised to find out all that you are missing.

American Polonia's fraternal benefit societies were founded as mutual aid societies for the newly arrived. Over the past 100-plus years, these organizations have helped millions of Poles and their descendants by providing both financial assistance and guidance in assimilating to the American way of life.

Today, fraternal benefit societies offer more than financial benefits. Community and human needs, not always met by governmental bodies, are often addressed by fraternal. Through hands-on charitable and patriotic work, fraternal make a difference in the lives of individuals, communities and the nation.

When you join a Polish American fraternal benefit society, you contribute to a way of life that has sustained our people for generations.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE begins its 26th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. For information call 732-680-0680 or visit our website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org.

"If we don't help our Polish children, who will?"

Ronald Syslo, President

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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Abandoning Fells Point

Dear Editor:

With utter disgust I write you in response to your recent referenced article about the final demise of this treasured palace of worship. ("Stripping of St. Stan's Almost Complete," PAJ, July 2011).

Both grandparents were members and contributors to the church at its original location on nearby South Bond Street and helpful in the building of St. Stanislaus at its new and present location on South Ann Street and were continued worshippers there. My mom and dad had their marriage ceremony performed there resulting in a follow-up article in the old *Baltimore News American* newspaper titled "The Novelty Wedding." Both of their last names were the same, without relation. My father's seven brothers and sisters, my brother, myself and sister were all baptized there. Some went to their excellent school while others did not.

I have religiously followed this ridiculous decision by the Franciscan Friars (technical owners) and came to the conclusion that its demise was sanctioned by the Baltimore Archbishop hierarchy to allow the wrecking ball to swing away. The vibrant surrounding industrial area, once the core manufacturing came to a halt, was left with the numer-

ous vacant factory buildings only later to be converted to semi upscale apartment and condo living resulting in an overwhelmingly increased population. Logically it would follow that a place of worship would be a necessity to accommodate the Catholic community believers and members of the fold and to keep the Christian faith a vibrant necessity for those in the Fells Point area.

Bernard Helinski
Baltimore, Maryland

VALUES PAJ. For what it's worth to you, I, for one, read the PAJ every month; and if I don't have time, I pile up the papers until I can devote time to read them all in a marathon sitting. ("Nobody Reads it Anyway," PAJ, July 2011). I value PAJ for its reporting about American Polonia nationwide. I enjoy all the articles, but I especially like the book reviews and articles about Polish traditions. I would, however, like to read more about life in modern Poland and the experiences of Americans who go there to study, start businesses, or just visit as tourists.

Keep up the good work! My subscription is paid to 2014.

Jane Morse
Maryland

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

The Best-Kept Secret

"There is an equity issue here. If you get a job for 40 hours a week, you're going to pay more for your health insurance than if you don't get a job."

— **Robert Laszewski**, a former health insurance executive turned policy consultant, on the one unintended consequence of President Obama's health care law: older adults of the same age and income with similar medical histories could pay widely different amounts for private health insurance due to a quirk of the complex legislation.

The administration says it is working on the problem.

❖ ❖ ❖
"Maryland has bitten off more than it can chew. The new law, a blunt instrument, expropriates the role of the federal government in making foreign policy."

— From "Off the Rails," a Washington Post editorial on

a new Maryland law that says the state can exclude quotes to operate its rail commuter service by SNCF, a French government-owned company that during World War II transported Jews from France to Germany.

❖ ❖ ❖
"The reason I give him the benefit of the doubt is because he has to play both sides, or he'd be dead by now."

— U.S. Lt. Col. **William Chlebowski**, at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, who meets frequently with Afgan informants who tip off coalition forces about the location of roadside bombs, weapons caches and what militants are planning.

❖ ❖ ❖
"We have an excellent workforce in Czechowice and this expansion represents our confidence in operations there."

— TRW Automotive Hold-

ings VP of operations at European steering operations **Michael Degen**, on his firm's planned expansion of electrically powered steering (EPS) systems manufactured in Poland.

❖ ❖ ❖
"I think it's the best-kept secret of the boating industry in Europe — that is: Polish production and Polish quality."

— **Philip Scott**, a British expat and deputy chairman of the Polish Chamber of Marine Industry and Water Sports, on the transformation of Poland's ship building industry. Polish yachts are quickly becoming considered among the world's best.

❖ ❖ ❖
"All in all, pizza's not in a bad place."

— Restaurant industry analyst **Mark Kalinowski**, on the popular fare's share of family food budgets.

Help Continue a Truly Nobel Tradition, August 2011 Catholic League Appeal

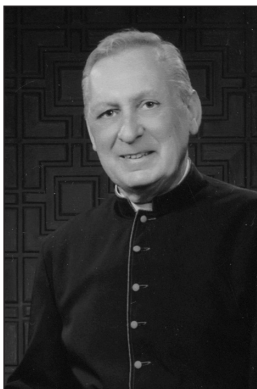
In 1908, a number of bishops from Poland gathered in Rome, eager to found a house of studies for Polish priest-students in the Eternal City, in order to pursue further education at the seminaries and universities of Rome. Also, the intent was to have their priests become more aware of issues beyond Poland and in the universal Church. The disciplines would include theology, Sacred Scripture, canon law, philosophy, Church history, social sciences, bioethics and various application of pastoral care. These priests would have the opportunity to become better acquainted with culture, art and priests from other countries.

On May 13, 1919, Bishop Joseph Sebastian Pelczar, (now a canonized saint) petitioned Saint Pope Pius X for his blessing in this endeavor. Without hesitation, Pius X responded immediately: "We approve this pious intention and we concede the Apostolic Blessing which should be a pledge of eternal goods for our venerable brothers, Polish bishops and for all beloved in the Lord who shall contribute for

this good deed."

The Polish Institute in Rome observed a centennial anniversary in 2010. It was a year of thanksgiving for all its service to the Church. During those one hundred years about seven hundred priests studied at the Institute. Forty-six were nominated bishops.

The Polish Pontifical College in Rome also has a rich history. It was established by St. Philip Neri, September 1, 1582. In the sixteenth century, the bishops of many countries founded a college in Rome for the further education of its



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

talented students.

However, due to limited enrollment, many Poles were unable to be admitted. In his compassion, St. Philip Neri, assisted in the founding of the Polish College. The archives of the College indicate that the College had to close, in 1586 due to several problems, primarily financial. (We hope a circumstance that will not have to be repeated in our time).

In 1865, there was renewed interest in re-opening the Polish College. May 16, 1866 was a memorable day as Pope Pius IX personally goes to the College, via di Salara Vecchia, and reestablishes it.

The present rector, Father Tadeusz Karkosz, writes (January, 2011) that "currently we have thirty-five priests in residence, coming from various Polish dioceses. All are being submersed in Early Church History and becoming familiar with contemporary Church issues."

"Polish bishops," he writes, "recognize a tremendous need for well educated Dogmatic theologians, canon law and liturgy scholars, advanced studies in Sacred Scripture in order to promote, in the most effective manner, the doctrine and all the connected studies, according to the spirit of the Catholic Church. The mission of the Polish College in Rome remains unchanged."

The Polish Seminary in Parish, France was established October 15, 1945. It's original home was in the "College der Irlandais." Later, on behalf of the Polish Episcopate, former Primate Joseph Cardinal Glomp negotiated to purchase a site on Issy-les-Moulineaux. In it's short history, this seminary can boast of three Archbishops, three bishops and scores of priest-professors for Poland and other countries. At present, the seminary



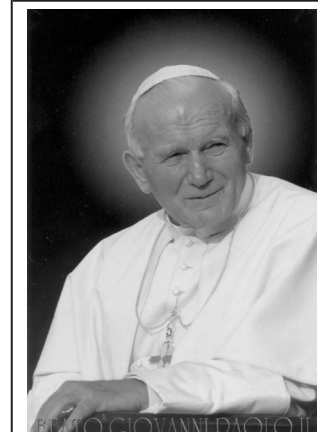
THE RECTOR, Fr. Tadeusz Karkosz and student priests at the Polish Pontifical College in Rome want us to be aware that the "most precious help comes to them from the United States, and that they embrace us all with their love and prayer."

provides studies, lectures, seminars, not only for priests but lay persons as well. Missionaries from many countries are welcomed. Students are being enrolled into a minor seminary. Truly this is a Center where "North meets South." Interestingly, the seminary receives financial assistance not only from the Catholic League in the United States but also from Germany, Ireland, and the French Episcopate.

The 2011 Catholic League Appeal for Religious Assistance to the Church in Poland will take place during the entire month of August in the diocese of Buffalo. Watch your respective parish Sunday Bulletin as to when you will be given the opportunity to continue and support the Polish Pontifical Institute, the Polish Pontifical College, both in Rome and the Polish Seminary in Paris. Please support the truly noble tradition of these seminaries for the growth and strengthening of the Church in Poland and throughout the world. Polish bishops continue to grant permission for seminaries to study and serve in dioceses of our country.

God bless you for what you will be able to do. Please, remember to pray for the success of this year's Appeal. I do remember to pray for all the benefactors, living and deceased of the Catholic League/"Liga Katolicka".

Msgr. Matthew Kopacz
Coordinator, Catholic League Appeal



2011 CATHOLIC LEAGUE APPEAL "LIGA KATOLICKA" RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND

Under the patronage of

BLESSED JOHN PAUL II
THE CATHOLIC LEAGUE HAS BEEN THE
"LIFELINE OF THE CHUCH IN POLAND"

Your prayers and contributions
are needed to continue."

MY GIFT THIS YEAR FOR THE CHURCH IN POLAND:

\$100 \$50 \$25 other _____

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MAIL TO: **MSGR. MATTHEW KOPACZ, COORDINATOR**
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Wisja: Risked her life to help soldiers

continued from cover

before they disappeared.

This Kickstarter campaign will raise \$10,000 in funds to shoot a documentary which will record her Babcia Wisia's journey across Warsaw to her eventual freedom, along with the wounded soldier she saved from certain execution by Nazis. Wisia and the soldier remained close friends until he passed away recently. Wisia is very much alive and approaches her 90th birthday with her usual energy and enthusiasm. Far from seeking glory, Wisia's only stipulation was that it "Tell the truth."



Jadwiga "Wisia" Konopacka was 23 during the Warsaw Uprising.

Countless other stories of bravery by soldiers and civilians alike remain untold, but the selfless actions of this particular twenty-three year-old woman remain a timeless demonstration of heroism in the face of tremendous adversity. For decades her full story has remained untold, but Karina will be guided by Wisia, back in time to witness the salient events and locations of such an unforgettable time in her life, in Warsaw.

History is forgotten when it is no longer personal. The world will soon share the per-



Karina Wielgosz at age 5, and her Babcia Wisia.

sonal story of Wisia, nursing wounded soldiers in a building with full knowledge that it will soon be bombed; carrying soldiers across hostile city streets into churches that were destroyed with them inside. Digging free and seeking refuge in a hospital, only to find Nazis raising the Swastika flag and rounding up the wounded for labor camps or immediate execution.

Awarded medals for her contributions, Wisia still eschews heroic labels. Wisia's Story will finally provide this twenty-three year-old heroine a chance to share her full experiences with her granddaughter and the world. Perhaps Babcia Wisia and little Karina can even take a photo of another picnic lunch together to add to the mementos.

❖ ❖ ❖

To make a donation or to learn more about the campaign, visit: www.kickstarter.com/projects/wisiasstory/wisias-story or contact Karina at kwielgosz@mail.com.

Działka: A Quick Get-Away

continued from cover

paring light meals, lounging around, napping in a hammock, reading various publications, listening to the radio (and now watching some TV!), chatting and conversing, socializing with the neighbors, taking strolls, *et cetera*. Various adult libations are savored and consumed in moderation (the women folk make sure of this). The more energetic denizens may engage in a full spectrum of available outdoor recreational activities. It's also a blessing that that the children enjoy their own loosely managed freedom with a full agenda of playful things to do, resulting in their almost never being bored or whiney.

During the era of imposed communism (1945-1989), it is notable that every worker had the right to a personal działka. The worker could use this state land but never own it. Vast "działka towns" were established on the immediate fringes of Warsaw and other cities. These so-called towns were subdivided into numerous checkerboard-style plots, usually with a simple shed type of shelter on them. The Poles visited there for

summer R&R and mainly grew vegetables for canning, pickling, and immediate eating. With the ouster of communism, ownership of these działki flowed to the people. Many of the now-retired workers are trending to sell these very desirable prime location lots to proactive real estate developers. However, many such towns of various sizes are still to be seen in and around all Polish cities.

The concept, suffice it to say, has always existed in some form or fashion, and still remains an exceedingly important and integral part of Poland's culture and social fabric — much akin to the Russian *dacha*. In American Polonia, this has translated to owning a cottage or cabin, usually near water or amidst a stand of trees.

Lucky you, if on your next visit to Poland your hosts say to you "czy chciałbyś odwiedzić naszą działkę?" Advisedly, please answer with an enthusiastic "tak" to the gracious invitation and quickly proceed to their działka. Then just kick back, relax, and watch the grass grow.

Colca Canyon: Cascades are only geographical name in honor of the Polish pope

continued from cover

an altar built of stones and a few planks, Father Andrzej Papież from Arequipa, was ready to begin. We waited until the first rays of sunlight illuminated the face of John Paul II on the tablet. This same image is posted on the front wall of the John Paul II School in Huambo. At exactly 13:13 we began Holy Mass as our late Pope John Paul II looked at us from high atop the boulder, at that moment we felt the size of the moment and his presence there.

Fr. Andrew dedicated this as a thanksgiving mass for the Beatification of John Paul II, and for the Polish explorers of the canyon in 1981 and the participants of this current expedition. In accordance with all those contributing to the plaques, I unveiled them and we continued our commemoration ceremony.

PLATES UNVEILED. With a beating heart and memories of face to face meetings with my beloved pope, I pulled off the fabric covering the plaques, with three plates

coming into view.

The vertical plaque to the right of the original plaque reads:

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL II
OUR FOUNDER. JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION. VATICAN
MAY 28, 2011

To the right of the previous plaque:

IN HONOR OF JOHN PAUL II,
THE GREAT APOSTLE
OF DIVINE MERCY.
JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER. USA
28 MAY 2011

Below this one, there is a plaque with the inscription:

IN HONOR OF JOHN PAUL II,
THE GREAT POPE,
SHEPHERD AND POLE.
ST. STANISLAUS
KOSTKA PARISH
BLESSED JOHN PAUL SQUARE.
BROOKLYN, N.Y. USA
28 MAY 2011

Yet to be unveiled was the fourth plaque, which was covered by a white and red flag. This plaque was revealed to be the only with three color logos and lettering, reading:



PARTICIPANTS had to trek over 17 miles to reach the canyon and falls. There, they were met by locals, who also took part in the dedication.

Kapaczewski: "I'm living the dream."

continued from cover

the stomach. Along with another soldier, they drag the wounded man 75 yards to safety and administer first aid as insurgents with heavy machine guns try to kill them.

The action earns an Army commendation medal with a "V" for valor.

The story of Joe Kapaczewski's rebirth as the only Army Ranger serving in direct combat operations with a prosthetic limb is more than a tale of will power and physical hardship. It also is the story of a young man with a natural insensitivity to morphine whose screams of pain brought nurses at Walter Reed to tears. It is about a bedridden patient, his leg held together by rods and pins, doing stomach crunches.

It is a story about Kimberly Kapaczewski, 30, agonizing over her husband — already wrecked once by war, yet striving so hard to get back into it.

And it is about a soldier who says his dream is just to be a soldier — and not a war hero-slash-amputee.

The 3rd Battalion, of which Kapaczewski is one of 12 platoon sergeants, just finished its 15th deployment since 9/11.

Kap was there from the start, enlisting after high school graduation in Bristol, Conn., during the summer of 2001.

He was ambushed two days before he was to come home. Insurgents on a highway overpass opened fire with ma-

chine guns and tossed down grenades. One fell through the open hatch of a Stryker vehicle, exploding inches from Kap's right side. Nearly every bone in his lower right leg was broken and a major artery cut in his right arm. Two other Rangers were hurt.

For his actions, Kap received a Purple Heart.

Kap has a natural intolerance to the relief of morphine, Kimberly says. There were times after surgery when his pain ratcheted out of control.

For months, doctors thought Kap had lost the use of his right arm because of nerve damage. But then he managed to wiggle a finger, and slowly, much of his sensation and most of strength returned to that limb.

In March 2007, his right leg was removed 10 inches below his knee.

Kimberly says she could not oppose Kap going back to war on one leg.

"I think that would destroy him," she said.

But the Rangers were skeptical. No one in Kap's condition had qualified for a return to direct combat. There are two other amputees serving in the Rangers,



THE PLAQUES honoring John Paul II. In addition to the one from the Vatican, other donors include the John Paul II Foundation in New Jersey, St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Brooklyn, and John Paul II High School in Siewierz, Poland.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL II
A GREAT POPE
AND A TEACHER.
THE COMMUNITY OF
JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL
IN SIEWIERZ, POLAND
MAY 28, 2011

DEDICATION. Moments later the priest Andrew blessed the plaques by sprinkling them with holy water. Dozens of residents of Canco and Huambo joined us in this ceremony, including several children who were baptized five years earlier at the exact same spot. For a moment there was complete silence, and then everyone took turns observing the plaques. Only the gusts fluttering the flags could be heard, and after a few moments applause was heard.

"CASCADAS DE JUAN PABLO II." As we stand by the waterfalls I look at them and remember how (exactly to the hour, 30 years ago) we fought on through here carrying a heavy raft and ravaged by hunger. We were powerless and hungry to the limits of human endurance and to

add to the matter we did not know whether our beloved pope was alive. We faced the wild untamed power of nature while he fought off an assassin's bullets. The roar of the falling water at this spot sent us a message, that our Pope was alive. Convinced of this we honored him by naming the waterfalls after him. As it later turned out, it became the first and only geographical name in the world in honor of the Polish Pope.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. The expedition to the Colca Canyon for the 30th anniversary of the discovery by Polish kayakers was organized by the Polish American Travelers Club with services by Classic Travel. The trip lasted from May 20-31 2011. The group was made up of 19 participants, including Poles from Poland and the United States. Additional photos from the expedition can be found on www.galeria.odkrywcy.com and <http://classic-travel.com/pl/gallery/wyprawa-do-kanionu-colca-w-30-lecie-odkrycia>.



STAFF SGT. JOSEPH KAPACZIEWSKI, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Kapaczewski suffered serious hip and leg injuries from an enemy grenade in Iraq on Oct. 2, 2005. The Care Coalition and the Wounded Warrior Project helped his rehabilitation process.

but neither is qualified for direct combat operations.

"I guess I'm just stubborn," Kap says.

Kimberly still recalls the early morning in 2009 — two weeks after the couple's first son, Wyatt, was born — when Kap left for his first combat deployment with a prosthetic. As they walked through the darkness across their front lawn, Kap stumbled over a stump and took a hard fall. Unemotional, he stood himself upright and went on his way.

"I'm living the dream," Kap says. "I feel like I started this war. I want to see it finished out with my buddies, with my friends. We made a commitment."

— digested from USA Today

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TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmieć

The Tastes and Flavors of Kraków

Kraków has always been known as a great place for eating. Even during the Communist era, when restaurants were such uninviting places, the city had a multitude of busy cafés, restaurants and eateries. The traditional politeness of the waiters was even more surprising. After the collapse of Communism, hundreds of new places opened in the 1990s. A number of restaurants returned to their former owners and old traditions were revived.

The price of food here is below the national average. Critics remark that this is due to the stinginess of Krakowians; however market research suggests it is a result of lower wages than in Warsaw and other parts of Poland. The customary tip in Poland is 10 percent, but in Kraków, if you give less no one will feel offended.

Around Kraków the local forests yield a bounty of game, with duck being very popular. The legacy of the area's former Austrian rule is evident in some of the sophisticated cakes and pastries.

In addition to the tourist population, Kraków is now a haven for students from across the world. In passing by an open-window food booth nestled between the shops, cafés and town houses, I encountered some American students on a weekend visit from studies in Vienna having some trouble ordering a *zapiekanka* (open-topped layered baguettes served piping hot, often referred to as Polish-style pizza). Their attempt at quick-fix sustenance on a budget at least kept them away from the McDonald's further down the block. I first became acquainted with the popular fast-food *zapiekanki* during my visits to Poland with my sisters in the mid-1980s.

In Kraków there are so many options to delight the palate and so many memories of past meals. I was introduced to *Staropolska* (ul. Długa 41) by Al and Mary Pierce of Boston's *Krakowiak Dancers*, and returned frequently. On three separate visits I met up with Christine Biestek from the *American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs*. Having first met Christine at the first American festival of Polish Dance Ensembles in Detroit, I connected with her more often in Poland. The food here is old-style, tasty and relatively inexpensive.

Wandering into the *Rynek* Market Square, I strolled by the *Noworolski Kawiarnia* café, housed on the east-side *Sukiennice* Cloth Hall's ground floor since 1880. In 1910, Jan Noworolski created one of the most modern Viennese style pastry shops. The elegant Art Nouveau decor conjures the image of a vanished world, as one reclines in a curved-back sofa beckoning to the elegantly-attired waiter.

In 1880 Rehman & Heindrich Confectionery was located here. More of a *knajpa* (dive) for the carters in the square and of very modest decor; it was equipped with wooden benches and inverted barrels to sit on. Beer, pork knuckles and sauerkraut were served. At the end of the 19th century the pub went bankrupt and Wincenty Kondolewicz pur-

pure gold and polychrome painted with beautiful peacock motifs. It is preserved in the same state to this day and is called the "White Room for Ladies Boudoir," as men can only gaze at the female patrons from afar.

The "Smoking Room" had its drifting billows further enhanced by large oval mirrors. The kitchen, the

anniversary celebrations will conclude in 2012, with the unveiling of its newly preserved interior and furnishings.

A visit to the **Jama Michalika** (Floriańska 45), renowned for its *Zielony Balonik* (Green Balloon) cabaret is a must. More a feast of the eye than the palate, the historic interiors invite patrons to go back in

trained staff, elegance and timeless charm, *Wierzynek* was considered the best restaurant in Kraków by the prestigious Michelin Red Guide. The restaurant was mentioned in the American bestseller *1000 Places to See Before You Die* as a place that is definitely worth a visit.

Wierzynek was inspired by the vast banquet feast hosted by burgher Mikołaj Wierzynek in 1364 for five European sovereigns. As such, it claims to be the oldest restaurant in the Kraków, even though the present establishment dates from 1945. Today, it is a fine eatery serving exquisite cuisine at high prices to local VIPs. Presidents and Royalty, along with Oscar and Nobel Prize winners and celebrities have dined at its tables.

The exceptional atmosphere is created by its opulent historic interiors. Each of the nine rooms has its own unique décor. Old suits of armor adorn the walls of the "Knight's Room," ornamental frescoes captivate guests of the two "Pompeian Rooms," and modern, surreal paintings by Rafał Olbiński and Tomasz Setowski contrast with the ancient clocks and tile stoves of the "Clock Room" and the "Chamber of Imagination."

This particular combination of tradition and modernity is reflected also in the menu. The chefs prepare dishes according to their own recipes, which are inspired by traditional Polish courtly cuisine.

During the Communist era, I dined here with my friend Regina Laskowska on an array of delicacies for only a fraction of what such a sumptuous meal and service would cost in the United States. The cost had increased and today such a meal is a considerable expense.

I decided on an old-style theme for my final meal in Poland and strolled down the winding cobble streets toward the destination.

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Next month: The last day continues with a stop at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul.



AT THE NOWOROLSKI, one can find such specialties as duck breast with parma ham, steamed spinach with a citrus and grape-pepper sauce, lamb chops in nut liquor sauce, or pork loin in cream-ginger sauce.



THE WIERZYNEK is considered the best restaurant in Kraków by the prestigious Michelin Red Guide. The restaurant was mentioned in the American bestseller *1000 Places to See Before You Die*.

chased it. He opened a restaurant, which unfortunately he did not cater to local tastes and the business began to decline.

Around 1908, he solicited Jan Noworolski, a well-known pastry chef in Lwów, who came to Kraków, with his four children and mother-in-law following the death of his wife. He was seeking a location for his profession and a match was made. A joint venture was established and after one year Noworolski bought the shares from Kondolewicz and took over the establishment.

After extensive renovation, he opened the most modernly decorated patisserie of its time. Designed by renowned painter Henryk Uziębło, the Confectionery consisted of four halls. The first housed a buffet with a large alabaster counter.

The enclosed crystal glass-doored area housed the "Red and White" room with delicately carved chairs covered in red plush, with small crystal-topped tables and comfortable booths. On the walls were corner mirrors, rich paneling with small columns covered with

composition of wines, spirits and wine cellar were in the basement. Orders were transported by a rope-pulled elevator.

When Lenin was exiled from Russia at the start of World War I, he ended up in Kraków and held court at the *Noworolski* plotting the Bolshevik Revolution. He received couriers from Russia who received instructions how to proceed with the revolution. One of the couriers was none other than young Stalin, then known as Josef Vissarionovich.

Today one can find such specialties as duck breast with parma ham, steamed spinach with a citrus and grape-pepper sauce, lamb chops in nut liquor sauce, or pork loin in cream-ginger sauce. The restaurant is often understaffed and the supplies seem limited, so the menu is not always available. The best bet is a stop for an essential Kraków experience – tea or coffee and a taste of the delicious cakes, such as *orzechy-walnut* or *migdalowy*-almond. Use the opportunity to relax and get off your feet. Bring a travel guidebook or plot out your itinerary, because the wait may be lengthy. The café's

time and enjoy the atmosphere, as well as see the enduring marionette puppet shows.

Pożegnanie z Afryką (Out of Africa on Św. Tomasza 21) is the place for lovers of fine coffee and a quick stop for me to refuel. The aroma is fantastic with the variety of blends prepared in small espresso machines. Delicious canapés served on bread from the highlands and tea with homemade raspberry syrup are specialties of **Café Camelot** (Św. Tomasza 17). Next door the **Dym** (Smoke) serves Pinschinger cake with beer and spirits.

With a tradition going all the way back to 1364, it is hardly surprising to find that **Wierzynek Restaurant** has become something of a landmark in its own right within the Old Town. Its location on the corner of the Rynek and Grodzka Street places it right in the heart of this most important district, and makes it a favorite for visitors who want to watch the world go by from tables overlooking the Market Square. With fine cuisine, an impeccably

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Poland to Host Divine Mercy Congress

Fr. Patrice Chocholski, general-secretary of the worldwide Divine Mercy conference, called this second world congress "an answer of the whole Church to the universal call to Divine Mercy, present as the essential nucleus in the Gospel." Since the first congress in Rome in 2008 five continental and 50 national congresses have been held. During the second world congress in October 2011 talks and Masses will be held at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Łagiewniki, place of St. Faustina's tomb. Her mystical visions are the basis of the popular devotion. The congress will also have ecumenical prayer services at Auschwitz and workshops, adoration, chaplet, and testimonies in diverse languages in churches throughout Kraków.

STO LAT TO... Archbishop **Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz** of Minsk-Mohilev, Belarus, on his appointment as apostolic administrator of the diocese of Pinsk, in addition to his duties in Minsk. A sizable Catholic population, largely of Polish extraction, remained in Belarus after Russia occupied the Eastern part of Poland in World War II ... **Paul A. Zalonski**, Oblate of St. Benedict and member of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation, a Catholic lay ecclesiastical movement, on his internet blog *Communio*, which covers Church news and matters of interest to Catholics. He writes from Connecticut ... **Fr. Andrew P. Wypych**, pastor of St. Francis Borgia RC parish in Chicago on his appointment as auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Chicago. Bishop-elect Wypych was born in Kazimierz, Poland in 1954, was ordained as a priest of the archdiocese of Kraków in 1979, and came to Chicago in 1983. He served as dean of Chicago's Mundelein seminary.

Bishop Mark Leonard Bartchak on his ordination and installation as the eighth bishop of the Altoona-Johnstown diocese ... **Fr. Bartholomew W. Lipiec** on being named pastor of the new parish of St. Martha in Depew, N.Y. The parish is the result of the joining of two nearby parishes, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and St. Barnabas. Fr. Lipiec had been pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament parish ... **Fr. Steven Jekielek** and

Fr. Daniel Serbicki on their ordination to the RC priesthood by Bishop Edward Kmiec of the diocese of Buffalo ... **Fr. Józef W. Dudzik** on his appointment as pastor of Christ Our Hope RC Parish in French Creek, NY. Fr. Dudzik came to the United States from Poland in 2005. The new parish was formed by the merger of St. Matthias in French Creek and St. Isaac Jogues in Sherman ... **Deacon Walter T. Szczesny** on his assignment to diaconal ministry at Ascension RC Parish, Batavia, N.Y. and Genesee County Nursing Home.

ON THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD.

On June 28 Pope Benedict XVI recognized the heroic virtue of **Sr. Sofia Czeska-Maciejowska**, Polish founder of the Congregation of the Virgins of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1584-1650). This recognition is the start of the long process toward beatification and canonization.

Fr. Alois Abritdzki, killed by the Nazis at Dachau at age 28 for being a Catholic priest, was beatified in the German Diocese of Dresden-Meissen. His sanctity was recognized by those of his fellow prisoners who survived the death camp. He came from Radibor, a small village in eastern Germany on the Polish border inhabited by Catholic Slavs who immigrated to the area. His crime was to give witness to his faith, which the Gestapo saw as against the Nazi regime.

JOHN PAUL II'S RELIC GOES TO KRAKÓW.

A vial of the blood taken in the hospital when John Paul II was recovering from his assassination attempt was placed in the sanctuary of Bl. John Paul II at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Łagiewniki, Kraków. Attending the ceremony were **Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz** of the Kraków archdiocese, **Kazimierz Cardinal Nycz** of Warsaw,

Franciszek Cardinal Macharski Archbishop Emeritus of Kraków, as well as Polish government official, university leaders, students, youth leaders and teachers representing schools named for the late pontiff. Apostolic Nuncio to Poland **Archbishop Celestino Migliore** noted that relics of saints are particularly important because they testify that the holiness of God fills not just the spirit but also the body and the whole of life of a person in the world.

JOHN PAUL II BACK ON THE MARKET.

Washington D.C. Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, a think tank and museum, has struggled to attract visitors since its inception in 2001. Opened under the initiative of Detroit Archbishop Emeritus **Adam Cardinal Maida**, the Detroit archdiocese has a major financial interest in the center, while the center's programs are run through **Donald Cardinal Wuerl**, archbishop of Washington. The Ann-Arbor-based Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist had considered purchasing the center and remodeling it for use by the nuns-in-training of the growing order. That option turned out to be more costly than the sisters could manage and so the center returned to the real estate market.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Ann and Ed Markowski and **Anthony and Arlene Urbanowski** who joined other wedding jubilarians at the Mass at Philadelphia's Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul celebrated by **Justin Cardinal Rigali** ... **Edmund Cardinal Szoka** marking the 40th anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination Aug. 11 at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit. Cardinal Szoka once served as president of the government of Vatican City State and is a current Archbishop Emeritus of Detroit.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Picnic Favorites, Part II

SUMMER BIGOS (młoda kapusta duszona z kielbasą). Remove the skin from 1 lb smoked kielbasa and dice or slice into thin rounds. 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, sour to taste with lemon juice (1-2 t) and garnish with chopped dill. Note: Mature cabbage may also be used, but requires somewhat longer cooking.

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 PolAm butchers offer wiener-sized smoked kielbasa ideal for serving in a bun.

BRAISED CABBAGE & SAUERKRAUT (kapusta duszona). 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 ¼ 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 a little 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.

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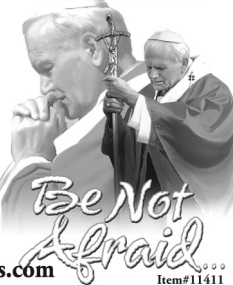
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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Poland's Growing Status

Polish-American relations have suffered under the Obama administration. Except for a short trip to Poland this year, the administration has not been Poland-friendly. The cancellation of the missile defense shield by our president on the anniversary date of the Soviet invasion of Poland showed that he is pursuing a friendlier policy toward Moscow at the expense of the former Soviet satellites, seeming to give Russia a veto power over United States moves in East Central Europe. And there has been no progress toward abolishing the visa requirement for Poles visiting America.

President Obama's visit to Poland was full of friendly platitudes and resulted in an agreement to station U.S. airmen in Poland to train Polish pilots to fly U.S. warplanes. Obama also promised U.S. expertise for advanced techniques for Poland to extract natural gas from its shale.

But strained relations between the two countries should be a plus for Poland in the long run. It shows Poland that it cannot rely too much on any one country for support and that it ultimately is responsible for its own security, both militarily and economically, although in the context of its NATO and European Union memberships. Also, going forward, Poland's relationships within Europe will most likely be more important to it than its ties to the United States.

POLAND HAS MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS since it jettisoned communism in 1989. Gone are the hyperinflation and 20% unemployment. Poland weathered the worldwide economic downturn of the past three years better than most countries because its economy by and large did not engage in risky financial practices (derivatives, questionable mortgages, un-

restricted debt) and is not home to financial institutions who participated in those practices. The Greek contagion has not affected it much because it is not part of the Euro Zone. In fact, Poland has said it will not adopt the Euro before 2019 due to the uncertainty over the Greece, Portugal and Ireland debt crises. It feels safer with the zloty for now.

It may come as a big surprise to most people, who still think of the country as poor and backward, but Poland is ranked by the International Monetary Fund as the world's twentieth largest economy based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a standard measure of economic strength. Its 468 billion dollar economy trails far behind no. 1 USA at 14 trillion. But it is the eighth largest in Europe - larger than Austria, Belgium, Denmark or Portugal. It outranks the "Asian tiger" countries of Thailand and Malaysia, as well as oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

TWO-THIRDS OF POLAND'S ECONOMY is rooted in the service sector. It has a business friendly environment, ranked sixth best in the world. Its low cost of doing business combined with a highly educated work force has attracted many Western European companies to open factories and offices in Poland. Polish inflation is under control at 3.1%, but its unemployment rate recently jumped to 12%. Its national debt is 53% of GDP, far better than the United States, which is at 100%. Its 2011 budget borrows just 13% of its needs, whereas the United States borrows 33%.

Poland carries on a robust trade with the rest of the world. Its top trading partner by far is Germany. Machinery and transportation equipment is its no. 1 import and export. The latest statistics show that the United States is Poland's

seventh largest trading partner. For 2008, the top U.S. export to Poland was military aircraft, followed by cars. Top U.S. import from Poland was electric apparatuses, followed by furniture. The U.S.-Poland trade balance is virtually even, with each country buying and selling each other about \$2.9 billion worth of goods.

The Poland of today is a more mature, confident country than it was just a few short years ago. The size of its economy and population have made it a natural leader among the former Soviet satellite states. Western European countries regularly consider Poland's leadership role when they attempt to formulate EU policies that will impact its easternmost members.

Poland has been referred to as the "Polish tiger" as a result of its recent economic strength. It is a rising star not only in Europe but in the world, and nations who would have ignored Poland just a few years ago now court it and seek business ties.

Its potential natural gas reserves may meet its domestic needs for at least 200 years, freeing it from dependence on foreign (Russian) sources of energy. Its vast coal reserves in the southwestern part of the country have long supplied its industries and homes with power, and now Germany's decision to abandon nuclear energy may mean a lucrative new export market for Polish coal and eventually gas.

Like most countries, Poland seeks self-reliance and independence in all respects. This does not mean isolation from the world. It is an important and active member of the European community and NATO. But more and more, Poland wants to be treated as an equal partner on the world stage and in its dealings with individual countries. And that includes the United States.

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

"Spearhead" Grot-Rowecki

The Polish word, "grot," means "spearhead," an appropriate pseudonym for Stefan Grot-Rowecki who had a long history of being on the leading edge of the Polish Resistance. Even as a boy in his hometown of Piotrkow Trybunalski, Rowecki organized the first secret scouting organization. Conscripted into the Austro-Hungarian army during World War I, Rowecki was interned in 1917 for refusing to pledge his loyalty to the Emperor of Austria. He was released in 1918 and, following the re-birth of independent Poland, he joined the Polish Army.

In June of 1939, Rowecki organized the Warsaw Armored Brigade which fought for the defense of Warsaw in September. Rowecki managed to avoid capture following the defeat of Polish forces, and within weeks helped organize the Union of Armed Struggle (ZWZ). He became the underground organization's leader in 1940, and went on to head up the Armia Krajowa (AK) in 1941 where he led sabotage activities in eastern Poland.

Collaboration with the enemy was rare in Poland (certainly compared to France and Belgium) but it did exist. Several Gestapo agents using the code names, "Hanka," "Genes," and "Sroka," were imbedded within the AK and eventually exposed Rowecki, who was arrested in June of 1943. Questioned by a number of high level Nazis, including Heinrich Himmler, Rowecki steadfastly refused to divulge any information about his Resistance actions. Even when he was offered freedom through an anti-Bolshevik alliance, he refused. Rowecki was sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin where he was executed in 1944 under direct orders from Himmler. The three collaborators were discovered and sentenced



to death by the Secret War Tribunal of the Polish Secret State, but only one, "Genes," whose real name was Eugeniusz Swierczewski, was actually executed.

It is possible that Rowecki's arrest was part of a wider conspiracy and intelligence operation against the Polish Resistance. Two weeks earlier, the Gestapo had arrested Colonel Ignacy Oziewicz, the commander of the National Armed Forces (NSZ). And, in July, 1943, General Wladyslaw Sikorski, president of the Polish Government-in-Exile, died in a mysterious plane crash. Within a month, the Polish Resistance had lost three of its top commanders.



Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish American author of the award-winning book, Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two, and a frequent contributor to this newspaper. He has written a second historical novel set in Poland in World War Two, The Katyn Order, which was released in May, 2011. Both books are available on-line and at any bookstore. You can visit him on the web at www.douglaswjacobson.com.



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GENEALOGY

From Dębkowski and Bednarz to Demboski and Cooper

It is a known fact that some Polish immigrants changed their surnames or had them changed after coming to America. Some were simply shortened, for instance from Nowakowski to Nowak or Kołodziej to Kołodziej. Others were translated, and Bednarz became Cooper (barrel-maker), and Jankowiak turned into Johnson. Sometimes Polish surnames were changed into something English that sounded a bit like the original: Wesoly > Wesley.

Some respelled surnames are

actually pronounced the way they should be in Polish. A good example is changing Kowal to Koval or Nowak to Novak. Dropping the "w" (and removing the "cow") from Makowski to create Makoski or removing the hardly audible "p" from Przybylski and respelling it Shibilski are some examples. Others include Bogutski (Bogucki), Colejay (Kołodziej), Grohoski (Grochowski), Galsavage (Galasiewicz), Yablonski (Jabłoński), Voytovich (Wojtowicz), Shanoski (Sianowski) and Kuharski (Kucharski). These phonetic modifications retain the names' general Slavic appearance and origin. Some respellings do not, for example: Czarny > Charney, or Szczęsny > Chesney. One Polish actress (who starred in the movie "With Fire and Sword") respelled her surname Skorupka into Scorupco, giving it an Italian ambience.

The Polish nasal vowels "ą" and "ę" add an "m" or "n" sound to syllables but this is lost on non-Polish speakers. Hence, the Dębkowski surname might get Anglo-mangled into something like debbcow-ski. By adding an "m" after the initial vowel and removing the "w" the name gets respelled into Demboski and everybody ends up pronouncing it the

way it should be.

If you are interested in the origin and meaning of your Polish surname, how many people use it, where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with it, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding a cut-rate \$10 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

For more information please contact: research60@gmail.com

You, Too, Can become a Polish Genius

Polish Genius is a general Polish genealogy email list started in August, 2001. This is its 10th anniversary.

The free list has over 750 members, many of whom speak and/or read Polish, German, Russian Cyrillic, Ukrainian Cyrillic and Latin, though English is the everyday language. Members live all over the world.

Members volunteer their own information, expertise, and suggestions. Most members joined because they needed help in researching their Polish heritage and stayed to help others.

Polish Genius also covers cultural and current topics about Poland and Polonia. Polish Genius has a wealth of information in the archives, including documents and photos in the "Files" section of its web site.

You can find out more about becoming a Polish Genius, here:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polish_genius

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Sluberski, Geary Return Home, Honored for Military Service



BUFFALO, N.Y. — Upon returning from duty overseas in support of Operations New Dawn & Enduring Freedom, two Erie County employees were honored by Erie County Executive Chris Collins for their contributions as representatives of the United States Air Force.

Technical Sergeant Michael Sluberski (right) and Master Sergeant William Geary (left) from the departments of Purchasing and Public Works, respectively, deployed with the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron from the Niagara Falls Air Force Base on March 8, 2011, and returned home to their family, friends and loved ones on June 4, 2011.

TSgt. Sluberski and MSgt. Geary flew aboard a C-130H2 Hercules Aircraft, accruing 185.4 combat flight hours, transporting 796 passengers including military personnel and dignitaries, and carrying 189 tons of cargo to support troops in Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Polish Children's Heartline to Hold First of Two Yearly Fundraisers, September 11

HOLMDELL, N.J. — "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?"

It has come to the time when the question asked must be answered, and that is: "You and I must."

This was the heartfelt thought of the late Jack Zajackowski, a staunch supporter who made this statement to the Polish Children's Heartline. These words express the feeling of many of its supporters and members. Since its inception in 1985, the Polish Children's Heartline has grown and progressed to a point that could be termed unimaginable in its early stages.

However, with this thought as an incentive, many people gradually became interested and truly wished to help the hospitals in Poland to treat seriously ill children to enable them to lead a normal life.

Although the question implies that we, of Polish heritage, should take the lead in answering it, there are many generous contributors who are of different ethnic ancestry. Over the past 26 years Polish Children's Heartline has helped its six hospitals in Poland to provide exceptional care to its pediatric pa-

tients by purchasing medical and surgical equipment in dire need and as requested by a hospital. While each of the hospitals service a particular region, Bialystok, Suwalki, Lodz, Zabrze, Katowice and Grjawo, children in need are treated from all of Poland. To the best of our knowledge, no child has been refused treatment.

To meet the needs of these hospitals, two major fund raisers are held each year, a Luncheon in September and Christmas Gala in December. This year's luncheon will take place Sun., Sept. 11, 2011 at the Robert B. Meyner Reception Center, at PNC Bank Art Center, GSP Exit 116, Holmdel.

During the course of the year, contributions can be made in honor of individuals or in memory of someone. All contributions are acknowledged and may be considered as a 501(c)(3) tax deduction.

For further information on the event call (732) 381-6704 or (732) 680-0680. To learn more about the PCH, or to make a donation, write to: 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066-1849, or visit www.polishchildrens-heartline.org/.

42nd Annual Ladies Day Benefit Gala for the Orchard Lake Schools, Monday, August 15

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — Guests at the 42nd Annual Ladies Day Benefit Gala will enjoy a delightful evening for an excellent cause — supporting the academic and cultural mission of the students attending the Orchard Lake Schools.

Scheduled for Mon., Aug. 15, 2011, the Gala begins with at 4:00 p.m. in the outdoor Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes situated on the west end of the Orchard Lake Schools campus on the shores of Orchard Lake (weather permitting). The Gala follows in the St. Mary's Athletic Complex Upper Banquet Room, at 3535 Indian Trail, beginning at 5:00 p.m., with a cocktail reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, raffles, and a silent auction.

According to Chairperson Mary Kaye Neumann, "the reception, catching up, and mingling with friends will be ongoing until din-

ner at 6:00 p.m. After dinner and the Awards Program, the winning begins."

Neumann explained that three Grand Prize Winners, who will be named during an after-dinner drawing, will take home \$500, \$250, and \$100 in cash prizes. Another three winners will receive a free General Admission Ticket to the 2012 Ladies Day Benefit Gala. Tickets are available in three price options: \$110 for General Admission; \$126 for the Anniversary Club; and — new for 2011 — a \$75 First-Time Attendee Admission.

The Women's Council will honor the Orchard Lake Ladies Auxiliary of Wyandotte as the 2011 Women of the Year, for their generosity, dedication, and many years of loyal support. For more information please call (248) 683-0411.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Chicago Polonia's New Bishop Named

On June 13, Monsignor Jean-Francois Lantheaume, charge d'affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D. C., announced that Pope Benedict XVI added two more bishops to administer to the faithful within the Archdiocese of Chicago.

At a Chicago news conference, Francis Cardinal George announced that Reverend Andrew Wypych and Reverend Alberto Rojas will assist the Cardinal in the pastoral administration of the Archdiocese and will be liaisons to the Polish Catholic and Hispanic Catholic communities. Both will receive the title of auxiliary bishop. Additionally, they will fill the vacancies left last year by Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, who was named Bishop of the Springfield, Illinois, Diocese and Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, named archbishop of the San Antonio, Texas, Diocese.

Bishop-designates Wypych and Rojas were born and studied for the priesthood in Poland and Mexico, respectively.

Wypych, 56, born in Kazimierz, Poland, was one of the last seminarians to be ordained deacon in 1978, by the then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II). He became a priest in 1979, and served as an associate pastor in two Krakow parishes prior to his arrival in Chicago. In 1983, Rev. Wypych requested incardination, which was granted in 1989. He served in several parishes throughout the Chicago Archdiocese including St. Ladislaus and St. Eugene. He also served as parochial administrator and pastor of Five Holy Martyrs. Presently, he serves as pastor of St. Francis Borgia, on Chicago's Northwest Side. Bishop Designate Wypych has served as a dean of the Archdiocese's Mundelein Seminary.

Reverend Alberto Rojas, 46, was born in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and studied for the priesthood at St. Maria de Guadalupe Seminary and the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, Illinois. He was ordained in 1997. Rojas served at St. Gregory the Great, St. Ita, and Good Shepherd Parishes. Addition-



Father Edward Upton (left), pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and acting vicar for Vicariate V, talks with the new bishop-designates Alberto Rojas (center) and Andrew Wypych (right) following the press conference.

ally, Bishop-Designate Rojas served on the seminarian formation faculty of Mundelein Seminary.

Both will serve their respective pastoral communities in the South and Southwest Side of the Chicago Archdiocese.

LEGION HOLDS FIRST FASHION SHOW.

June 26 was not only a Sunday, but it was a perfect summer day. Over 325 guests filled White Eagle Banquets in Niles, Ill., to attend a fashion show. This was the first attempt by the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW) to organize a fashion show. Many considered this to be one of the major social events of the year. Attending this event was certainly time well spent. Legion members, children and grandchildren of members, former and future debutantes modeled creations from Yolanta Lorente, one of Chicago's top designers, along with fashions from Jessica McClintock, White House/Black Market, Little Fashionista, Black Tie Formalwear, and Hinsdale Furrier. Yolanta personally attended the fashion show and thanked the Polonian community for hosting this long overdue event, and she promised that she will be "back next year." The success of

this event was through the efforts of Legion members, but special credit must be given to Sharon Orłowski, Fashion Show Chair and Teresa Skawski, the Legion's President. Proceeds from this fashion show will be donated to battered women and abused children programs.

MEETS COMPTROLLER. Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka recently met in Chicago with Council of Women Legislators (COWL) intern Gina Kachlic,



Gina Kachlic and Judy Baar Topinka.

a political history major at Elmhurst College. Topinka explained that the Illinois Comptroller serves as the state's Chief Fiscal Officer, managing government finances and watching over public dollars. "Our office is committed to delivering the highest level of service to taxpayers and strengthening efficiency, transparency, and accountability, both internally and throughout state government," Topinka said.



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Polish Cultural Club Awards Scholarships

HARTFORD, Conn. — Cliff Archie, president of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., awarded \$1,000.00 scholarships to four outstanding Polish American young people on June 15, 2011 at the Polish National Home.

Thomas Cwikla is a Dean's List student at UConn in the field of Business Management. Caroline Kieltyka is a freshman at St. Lawrence University studying Political Science with scholastic honors, and will go into Pre-Law in the fall. Klaudia Kawka plans to attend Berklee College of Music in the fall and is seeking a degree in Music Composition. Natalia Zagula plans to attend UConn in the fall.



Pictured, l. to r.: Thomas Cwikla, Caroline Kieltyka, Cliff Archie, Klaudia Kawka and Natalia Zagula.

Benefit Held for Beating Victim

BAYONNE, N.J. — A 22-year-old Bayonne man is in a coma after a group of teenagers beat him to within an inch of his life. **Dawid Strucinski**, a recent criminal justice graduate from Rutgers University who is described by a friend as "one of the nicest people I've ever met in my life," was walking home from a convenience store around 3:00 a.m. when he intervened to help a buddy being attacked by the mob. CBS 2 reports that he suffered severe head trauma from the assault, and surveillance video shows his assailants, who numbered between 13-20, repeatedly punching and kicking him in the head while he was down.

Friends and family told the *Star-Ledger* that Strucinski is breathing on his own but remains in a coma at Jersey City Medical Center. Police have arrested three youths in connection with the savage beating: a 16-year-old boy, and two teenage girls, aged 17 and 14. Charges are pending against three other suspects, CBS 2 reports.

Strucinski's friends held a fundraiser at the Polish American Home in Bayonne to help cover the family's medical expenses. Donations can also be made by contacting Steve Grau at (201) 747-4362, or dawid.chipin.com, organizers said.

Motivation Results in Veneration of Family Name

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — **Emilia Czyszczonek**, a sophomore at Purdue University, helped to immortalize her family name and add to a growing body of research that could help doctors battle bacteria that become resistant to antibiotics.

Czyszczonek to take a soil sample, and instead of grabbing mud from the bank of a nearby river, she climbed into an Indiana cave, scraped a sample from the wall and found a virus that had never been seen before.

"I couldn't believe it," Czyszczonek said. "Mine was so unique that my professor really wanted to see what would come of it."

Viruses like the one that Czyszczonek discovered — which is named Czyszczonek1 — are called bacteriophages, and researchers are excited about their medical potential.

The research Czyszczonek and other students at Purdue are engaged in is part of a national program created by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Called the National Genomics Research Initiative, it allows undergraduate students to help build a massive database of bacteriophages that can be used by the scientific community to conduct medication and evolutionary research.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Play about Curie Presented at University of Ottawa

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Polish Cultural Foundation President **Dr. Kazimierz Braun's** play about Marie Sklodowska Curie, "Radiation," was presented at the University of Ottawa on June 28. This production featured performances by **Maria Nowotarska** and **Agata Pilitowska** from Toronto ... The organizers of the 9th Annual Polish Heritage Festival in Hamburg announced the winners of its various festival contests: **Shireen Azizian** (Queen Pageant); **Katherine Metzler** (Princess Pageant); **Christina LaRussa** (Duchess Pageant); **Kaitlyn Diedrich** (Sweetheart Pageant); **Sianna Piusinski** (Little Miss Pageant); **Sophia Burrows** (Festival Baby Pageant); **Jim Glover** (Pierogi Eating: 28 in 1 minute, 37 seconds); and **Karen Gold** (Pierniki Cookie Bake-Off) ... Cheektowaga Town Justice **Thomas Kolbert** was recently recognized as the Citizen of the Year by the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce.

The Advocates Club of WNY honored Erie County Comptroller **Mark Poloncarz**, City of Buffalo Common Council President **David Franczyk**, City Court of Buffalo Judge **David Manz** and City of Buffalo North District Councilman **Joseph Golombek** at its Spring Cocktail Reception at the Polish Villa II in Cheektowaga on June 30 ... **Vale-rian Ruminski's** Nickel City Opera staged Puccini's "Il Tabarro" on the *USS The Sullivans* at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park in early July ... Former Erie County Elections Commissioner **Larry Adamczyk** is challenging Buffalo Common Council President **David Franczyk** for his Fillmore District Common Council seat ... Army Sergeant **Sandra Jablonski Bourque** was recently named to

the NYS Senate's Veterans Hall of Fame ... This year's Professional and Business Women of Polonia Scholarship was awarded to D'Youville College student **Kathryn Zelazny** ... The Buffalo Sabres hockey team selected West Seneca native **Alex Lepkowski** in the fifth round of this year's NHL draft ... Zilycakes head cake artist **Shannon Pilarski** was featured on the July 3rd episode of "Food Network Challenge."

The **Polonaise** and **Warszawa Villages** were part of the 38th Annual International Villages Festival in Brantford, Ontario July 6 through 9 ... A portrait of **General Casimir Pulaski** was unveiled by the General Pulaski Association in the admissions area of Buffalo's VA Hospital on Bailey Avenue July 9 ... The **Podhale Parents and Youth Association** hosted its annual picnic at its camp in Franklinville on July 9 and 10 ... Soprano **Brittany Mruczek** was the featured performer at the "Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Day Celebration" held at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston on July 10 ... Also on the 10th, Rochester's **St. Stanislaus Kostka** Parish held its parish picnic in Seneca Park ... **Mark Pietruszka**, a 2011 graduate of Lancaster High School, was awarded the Presidential Scholarship and the LaFalce Theatre Scholarship by Niagara University ... **Justin Kohan** was named principal trumpet at the New York State Summer School for the Arts Orchestra Studies program ... On July 14, **Joe Macielag** & the Pic-A-Polka Orchestra played at the Veterans Park in North Tonawanda ... Cheektowaga's 33rd Annual **Polish American Festival** featured the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Touch, Lenny Gomulka, Rare Vintage, Freeze Dried, Bud

Hudenski & the Corsairs with Ed-die Biegaj, Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble and the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble during the July 14 to 17 festival weekend ... Polish pianist **Jan Lisiecki** performed the works of Liszt at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, Ontario on the 15th.

Buffalo's **St. Adalbert's Basilica** marked the 120th anniversary of its 1891 dedication with a polka Mass featuring the Buffalo Touch on the 24th ... A CD of the works of Professor **Ireneusz Lukaszewicz**, the music director of the "Quo Vadis" Choir and Villa Maria Chorale, will be available this fall ... Redlinski's **Red Hots** Restaurant opened on Ridge Road in West Seneca ... Other local Polonia groups that sponsored picnics during July included the **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS**, **Professional & Businessmen's Association**, **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester**, **Polish Falcons Nest 52** and the **Polka Variety Social Club**.

UPCOMING LOCAL Polonia events include the **St. Stanislaus Kostka** Polish Festival in Rochester (August 5 and 6), **Buffalo Polka Boosters** Annual Picnic at the Lamm Post Grove in Williams-ville (August 7), Rochester Polonia Civic Center "**Polish Night**" at Frontier Field (August 12), Polish American Congress **Christian Holocaust Commemoration** at the St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga (August 13), Buffalo Bison Baseball "**Polish Festival Night**" at Coca Cola Field honoring Polish American of the Year Andrew Golebiowski (August 16), Corpus Christi Parish's 32nd Annual **Dozynki** Polish Harvest Festival (August 20 and 21) and Holy Trinity Parish's 18th Annual **Zabawa** Polish Heritage Festival in Erie, PA (August 26 Through 28).

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. August 6 for the September edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: pietruszka@verizon.net.

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

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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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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klahen

Maria and Pierre Curie: First Meeting, Love and Marriage

From last month

Maria received a grant from the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry to study magnetic properties of various steels. She began her research in Prof. Lippmann's laboratory. She was in a search for better and less cumbersome equipment for a limited space she had to deal with to conduct her experiments.

Luckily, Joseph Kowalski, Polish professor from Fribourg University, was visiting Paris with his wife. Maria knew them from the time when she was a governess in Szczuki. They met again in Paris, Maria confided her problems, he thought that Pierre Curie may find a help. The next day Maria met Pierre Curie; they immediately developed an attraction. Pierre could not believe that he had met a woman who was on equal intellectual level with him. He used to believe that "women of genius are rare." Pierre was also curious about Maria's foreign roots, her patriotism and culture. Maria listened to his advices and his expertise in crystallography, magnetism and piezoelectricity with interest. During this first conversation Pierre asked Marie whether she would remain in France. She replied with persistence in her voice that of course she would go back to Poland since this is her duty for an occupied country.

Pierre Curie came from a very interesting family of Alsatian origin (the border region between France and Germany). His father and grandfather were medical doctors by profession but liberal intellectuals and scientists by choice. Pierre and Jacques, his older brother, were

very smart, very curious and contributed to several scientific breakthroughs. Pierre was home-schooled, since he was brilliant, but unable to learn in school surroundings. Pierre had sworn never to get married; he devoted his life to science completely.

Pierre and Jacques discovered a phenomenon of "piezoelectricity," which means that when crystals are deformed or compressed, they generate electricity. The brothers also demonstrated an inverse effect—that an electric field could cause a compression of crystals. Later this phenomenon was used to measure minuscule quantities of electricity and it helped Marie find and separate radium and polonium from uranium ore called pitchblende.

Pierre Curie studied magnetic properties of the materials for his doctoral thesis. He discovered, so called "Curie law" in paramagnetic materials: meaning that the magnetization of the material is (approximately) directly proportional to an applied magnetic field. He also discovered that heat changes the magnetic properties of the materials. This temperature at which a ferromagnetic material becomes paramagnetic is called a Curie temperature.



JACQUES AND PIERRE CURIE with their parents, Sophie-Claire and Eugene Curie in 1878.

perature.

So, during their first meeting, Pierre Curie was already a renowned scientist, eight years older than Marie, while Marie Sklodowska, after several obstacles (being a woman from occupied country and a foreigner in France) was just starting her promising scientific career.

After this first encounter they stayed in touch. Pierre sent Maria his publications, visited her in the laboratory, asked for a permission



Shortly after their wedding, Pierre and Marie visited Pierre's parents at Sceaux. Here they are in the garden with their new bicycles.

to visit her in her place. During one of these visits he suggested that Maria meet his parents who lived in a little house in Sceaux. Then, before Maria went to Poland in the summer 1894, Pierre, worried that she might not come back, asked her to become his wife. He even considered staying in Poland with her in case she decided not to come back. Happily she came to France back in October.

Pierre was so worried that Maria might not marry him that he even

went to Bronya, Maria's older sister, and invited her to visit his parents with Maria. In no time Pierre won the absolution from Sklodowski's family which is retained in a letter from Joseph, Maria's brother sent on July, 1895.

Pierre and Maria's wedding, July 26, 1895, was unconventional, just right for these two unconventional people. There was no white dress, gold ring, religious ceremony. Maria wore a navy-blue woolen suit on a top of blue blouse with blue stripes. The ceremony took place in a city hall in Sceaux and then in a little garden of Pierre's parents house. Bronya with Casimir and Prof. Sklodowski with Hela and also a couple of university friends were present. Their honeymoon was a bicycle trip on the charming roads of the Île-de-France.

Read more about Maria and Pierre Curie's love, work and family in the article next month.

Baba Jaga Corner: Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us

References:
Eve Curie "Madame Curie"
Rosalynd Pflaum: "Marie Curie and Her Daughter Irene"

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

All the Little Things

Okay, see if you can top this:

Monday — read and memorized the entire Polish-English dictionary.

Tuesday — learned how to create wycinanki and made, oh, about fifty cutouts.

Wednesday — learned how to dance the Krakowiak, Polonez, Mazur, Kujawiak, and the tango, Polish style.

Thursday — reviewed all of the major works of film directors Wajda and Kieslowski and wrote a ten-page critique on each.

Friday — drove to Panna Maria, Texas, to visit the "Oldest Polish Settlement in America, established 1854." Had a bite to eat and then drove back home.

Very impressive, right? And, compared to the first book of Genesis, not really possible. Although I do know how to dance the Polonez and say "sto lat!"

These five things are loosely drawn from the *100 Things Every Polish American Should Do* countdown, the bucket list suggested by the PAJ for the 100th anniversary year celebration. It is an awesome list of tasks and projects Polish Americans should do before they die. For God's sake, at least finish *one* is what your Polish mother would tell you.

I'm keeping up with the list each month and then it occurred to me — yeah, these are the big ticket items, and anyone, Polish or not, can do these, but does that make you Polish? Yikes! Am I losing my Polish sensibility and morphing into rootless, hamburger-filled American matter?

The answer is "no," and to prove the point this is what my week actually consisted of. It proves without a doubt that I am of the Polish race and live in the spirit of Wars and Sawa. However, you will see what a quite uneventful ride it was.

Sunday. I was at a baptism where

one of the grandpas, an Eastern European, was talking about how astounded he was when his grandson used the word *plaka* (crying) to describe another child. Pronunciation aside, (he wanted to say *placz*); it was still very unusual and surprising that the little guy said it. To stir the pot even more I threw out a few Polish words but no one was astounded.

Tuesday. Rented the movie, *The Adjustment Bureau*, starring Emily Blunt, the new wife of John Krasinski. While I was curious about the story, I have to admit I was equally as interested to check out Emily specifically because she is married to John. That is because Krasinski and I are probably related.

Wednesday. I did grab the Polish pickles rather than the Kosher off the shelf. I consciously pick them because: a. I like them, and b. I want to vote with my wallet and send a subtle message to the store that some of their patrons really do prefer the Polish over the Kosher. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

Friday. My brother sends me an email that he watched Guy Fieri's show, *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*. This episode featured an Eastern European deli called *Kramarchuk's Sausage Company* located in the "Northeast" section of Minneapolis. He wanted to know whether I had ever been there. Matter of fact, I have, and strongly suggest you visit *Kramarchuk's* as well before the bishop closes it down.

Saturday. A favorite talk show had a mixologist explaining how to create a number of different exotic and exciting cocktails. For the vodka drink, he poured the "Sobieski" along with other kinds of liquors and mixers. Noted and nice touch.

All of the "connections" or happenings I saw, heard, or experienced throughout the week have a shred of Polonia in them, and if they

resonate, make them a part of me. Sounds mystical or other worldly and in a way it is, but when you take a step back, it is just who I am, who we are. That same week, I also ate pizza, watched the St. Louis Cardinals play baseball, and noticed a half-dozen landmarks in the city, and the sum of those things pegged me to a place on the map and were not really worth mentioning except to say they were just another part of my character, it is just who I am.

There is a wonderful quote in the book, *First Family, Abigail & John Adams* by Joseph J. Ellis (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2010, p.109). It is Abigail telling her sister how great it is to be together again with her successful and well-known husband. At that time, John Adams was posing for more and more portraits showing him in grand accoutrements, set before maps of territories, and holding scrolls of diplomatic victories. She said to Mary Crunch: "You know my dear sister that poets and painters wisely draw a veil over those scenes which surpass the pen or pencil of the other." To Abigail, the accomplishments were immensely satisfying for sure, but it was all of the minor and familiar happenings integral to the cohesiveness and well-being of her family that gave her the most happiness.

So love and finish your list and embrace the veil, the festivals, the balls, and the Polish public persona. Take pleasure, too, in all of the other little things and steer you towards it.

HAPPENINGS. It was one of the leaders of Polonia, (I believe it was Marta Korwin Rhodes, founder and publisher of the *Perspectives* quarterly newsletter), that asked the question, "would there be the same kind of demand to buy a soap named *Polish Spring* as there is for *Irish Spring*?" Even now you might emphatically say no, but maybe things

are changing.

The Dierbergs food chain in St. Louis sells *Poland Spring* bottled water. The name Poland is for Poland, Maine, and the city Poland is supposedly derived from the name of an Indian chief. Do any of our Maine readers know about this and can they share the history?

POLISH OR NOT? Dave Marsh, American music critic, writer, editor, *Creem* and *Rolling Stone* magazine man. Born in Detroit, Michigan. Is he really a Marcizewski?

Thanks to brother Greg for the word on Kramarchuk's. Good luck to my cousin Bob Bachuzewski on his long road to recovery. If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me by US mail at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139, or send e-mail to: alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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

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Stolen Icon Will Be Replaced with Replica

OSWIECIM, Poland — The Auschwitz "Arbeit Mach Frei" sign will not be returned to its original location at the main gate to the Nazi death camp. A replica of the sign will hang in its place.

Repair of the original sign was recently completed after thieves stole and seriously damaged it in 2009. Five of the thieves including the Swedish theft planner Anders Hegstrem were captured three days after the heist, and have been sentenced to prison. The customer who was to purchase the sign from the thieves however, is still at large.

The sign bearing the duplicitous phrase which in English means "Work Sets You Free" will be on display instead in an exhibition hall which is still in the planning stages.

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



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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

Fargo's WDAY Radio Welcomes It's Polka Time!

FARGO, N.D. — As of July 3, 2011, *It's Polka Time!* with Craig Ebel is now heard every Sunday afternoon from 2:00-3:00 p.m. over AM 970 WDAY in Fargo. WDAY has a 5,000-watt signal that covers a large area of Eastern North Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, North-

eastern South Dakota, and extreme Southern Manitoba, Canada.

The show is produced from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., and is also heard on 25 other radio stations across the United States.

Information regarding It's Polka

Time! radio shows and these radio stations can be found on the Internet at www.itspolkatime.com.

Radio stations interested in broadcasting the show can request a demo of the show by sending an e-mail to itspolkatime@hotmail.com.

Polish Center Honors Sturr

CHICOPEE, Mass. — The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning at Elms College will honor Jimmy Sturr, the native of Florida, N.Y., with its lifetime achievement award for his contribution of elevating Polish music and culture to a national and international audience at its annual Krakus Festival on Oct. 29 in Springfield, Mass.

"Jimmy Sturr's contribution to Polish music and the arts is extraordinary and deserves to be recognized by the Polish Center as he exemplifies what our mission is all about," Joseph Topor, president of the Board of Directors, said in the press release announcing the award. "Jimmy exemplifies the type of individual we wish to honor as his accomplishments fit our mission to

recognize those achievements that focus on the history and cultural traditions of Polish people in Europe and the United States."

The Polish Center, which was established in 1998 to celebrate the contributions made to the economy, arts and sciences by Polish people and Americans of other descents, also will name its music gallery as the Jimmy Sturr Hall of Music.

Founded in 1998, the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning is a 501(c)(3) non-profit museum safeguarding historical objects produced before 1950 representative of the material culture of the Polish people in America.

For more information, visit www.polishcenter.net or e-mail polishcenter@elms.edu.

POLKA INSIDER/ Steve Litwin

Polka Fireworks is a Blast!

The 37th annual Polka Fireworks at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Western Pennsylvania kept true to its name with explosive polka music, dynamic bands, never-ending parties, notable stage performances, renewed friendships and more. Simply called "The Springs," by veteran attendees, this multi-day event continues because of the dedicated work of the Blazonczyk family and Bel Aire Enterprises. They make the Polka Fireworks what it is, the "Queen" of Polka Events.

This year Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, The Polka Family, Stephanie and her Honky Band, Pan Franek & the PolkaTowners, John

Gora & Gorale, The Eddie Forman Orchestra, Stas Golonka & The Chicago Masters, Ray Jay & the Carousels, The Knewz, The Dynabass, Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz, Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Henny & the Versa Js, Darrell Weltin's New Brass Express, Andy Fenus & The Trel-Tones, Mon Valley Push, and Paul Herczko's Party Time brought their musical product to the stages, lounges, rooms, halls and patios of this fantastic resort.

This was our 29th year at the Polka Fireworks and the 28th year sponsoring our concertina jam party. On Friday, July 1, the Matterhorn Lounge was home for concertina players from all areas of the country.

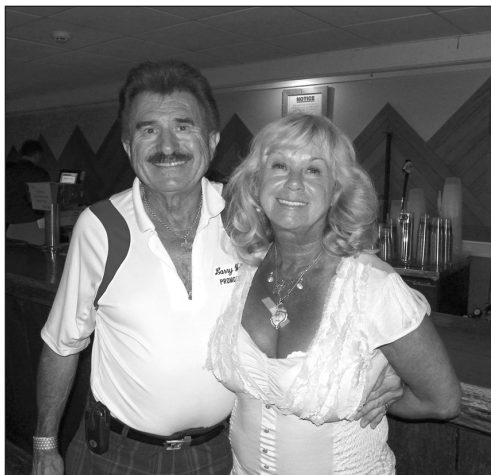
This year's 37th annual Polka Fireworks is history but the 2012 Polka Fireworks will be here before you know it. Bel-Aire Enterprises and Eddie Blazonczyk also invite you to attend their 36th Annual Fall Polka Festival at Seven Springs November 4-6, 2011.

INSIDER'S FIREWORKS' FAVORITES. Just being at Seven Springs is good for the polka soul ... Andy and The Treltones marking 55 years and back on stage ... Peg, our bartender for the Jam ... The Futa Family - there are none better ... Darrell Weltin and the Brass Express, they do it all and do it well ... Polka Guitar ... Big Dan's party and the annual

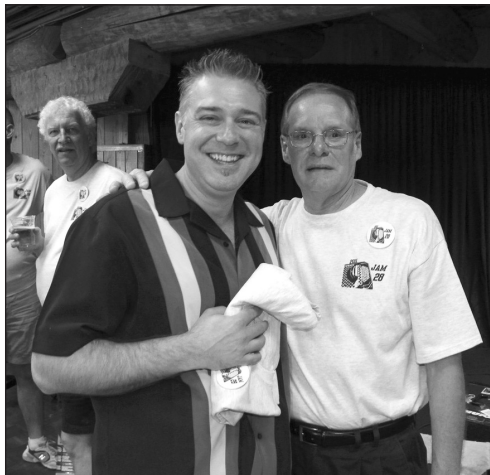
shaving cream war ... Steph on stage working the crowd ... Pan Franek and the family, Polish, powerful and perfect! ... The yearly veterans of the concertina jam and the new virgin jammers each year ... The S&D Polish Deli for food like my Babcia made and the patio restaurant area where we ate every day. Visit them on the web at: www.sdpolishdeli.com ... EFO for their kickin' style ... Twenty-nine years of great polkas, great people, great times at "The Springs" ... Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones - the all-time leader of the polka industry for so many years. You will be truly missed!



Andy Fenus of the Treltones — 55 years on the stage.



Larry and Diana Walk enjoying the Polka Fireworks.



Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr. and Polka Editor, Steve Litwin at the Concertina Jam.



Buffalo boy, Joe Grenda on stage with Ray Jay and the Carousels.



Dorota, Stanley, and Artur Pyszkowski of the S&D Polish Deli serving the best food at The Springs.



Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr. and Steve Michaels with the Versatones



Darrell Weltin of The New Brass Express



The Polkatowners keeping family tradition alive.



A view from the stage.



The 28th annual Litwin Concertina Jam.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Polkas and Summer go Hand-in-Hand

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Hi Everybody! Wow, what a glorious 4th of July weekend we had: beautiful weather, many interesting doings, abundance of firework displays and time to enjoy family and friends.

The Polish Heritage Fest on June 10 and 11 at the Fairgrounds provided lot of varied entertainment, contests, displays, food and music. **Tammy and Mike Stoich** from Pennsylvania were seen often on the dance floor enjoying the super sounds of **The Knewz and The Buffalo Touch** on Friday. Then on Saturday, I was able to catch Stephanie on stage with **John Gnojek** on trumpet, **Dave Zychowski** on sax

and clarinet, **Boomer Romanowski** on bass and **Ron Nowaczewski** on drums. Together they provided a happy, honky sound loved by all! The **Concertina All Stars** were on in the evening also and did an outstanding job. I noticed the CAS on stage in new coral-peach colored shirts when I arrived. Just by coinci-

dence, at the last minute I decided to wear a very similar shirt. The band jokingly said it looked like I was part of the band. I offered to play tambourine but they did not take me up on it.

A nice crowd on hand both days with people coming and going!

CONGRATULATIONS ... on the recent marriage of **Lexie Krupski** and **Patrick Furlong**. Lexie is the daughter of Alan (Chico) and Gloria ... to **Jackie Picciano** and **Rod Hamilton** on their marriage on June 26. Jackie is the daughter of Joanne and Dave Picciano and the sister of Tom Picciano, leader of the Knewz.

Also, Congratulations to **Melissa Mroz** and **Daniel White** on their marriage on July 1. Melissa is the daughter of Barb and Dan Mroz.

... to **Ron Urbanczyk**, leader of the New Direction Band, on his induction into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame. The annual induction gala will be held on October 6 at the Tralf Music Hall, 622 Main St., Buffalo. We're proud and happy to hear that Ron will be honored.

CONDOLENCES. Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Fred Wisniewski** and family from North Tonawanda on the passing of his

wife, **Nancy**, on June 17. They came out to many polka dances together. You may remember Fred for playing Santa Claus at many Christmas functions. Please keep the family in your prayers.

NA ZDROWIE! Happy retirement to **Linda Snyder** who retired from the Post Office and also get well wishes go out to her after surgery. Also, best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to **Barb Zwawa** who had gallbladder surgery in early July.

ANOTHER ONE GONE. Sad to hear about another one of our beautiful Polish parishes being sold. **St. Augustine's** on Penora St. in Depew will become the new site for the Vine Wesleyan Church. St. Augustine's was used as an oratory when the parish merged with St. James in Depew.

LAWN FETE SEASON. On June 26, at the OLC lawn fete, **Phocus** sounded really good. They have a couple new members including **Jimmy Adamczyk** who does a great job with vocals! He was formerly with the Alliance Band. Speaking of lawn fetes, St. Andrew's in Sloan did not have one this year. And, the Resurrection lawn fete in Cheektowaga featured no polka band this year. Things are changing.

STONED. In June, a memorial stone in memory of musician **Jerry Darlak** was placed at Hospice in Cheektowaga, N.Y. A small group of friends were present for this special dedication. It was a nice tribute to a talented musician.

Enjoy the rest of the summer—it goes by so quickly!

UPCOMING

Aug. 2. Annual Boat Ride on the Miss Buffalo sponsored by Dan Potts with music by Phocus and Scrubby.

Aug. 2. The Touch plays at the River Grill, 70 Aqua Lane, Tonawa-

nda starting at 7:00 p.m. Call 873-2553

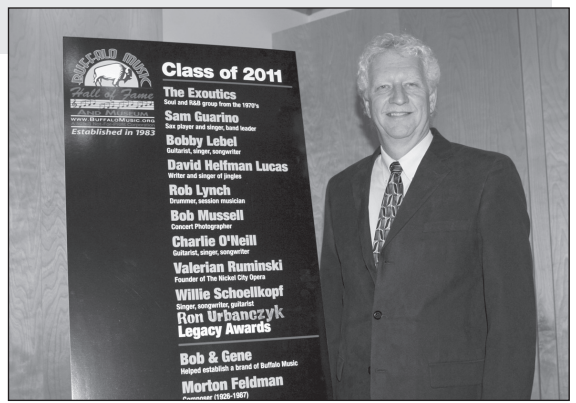
Aug. 7. 41st Annual Buffalo Polka Boosters Picnic from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Lamm Manor Picnic Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. Music will be provided by two great bands: The Knewz and the Buffalo Touch.

Members are \$18, non-members are \$20, Children up to age 12 are Free and Children ages 13 to 15 are \$8 when accompanied by an adult. Price includes hot dogs, hamburgers, Polish sausage, salads, homemade Manhattan clam chowder, fruit, pop and beer. Call Chris at (716) 892-7977 or Ron at 773-6387. Note: there will be no Polka Boosters Meeting in August!

Aug. 16. Polish Festival Night at Coca Cola Field, this year honoring Andy Golebiowski. Pre-Game Tent Party from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with music by The Knewz, Polish dancers, and a Polish menu. The Bisons will be playing the Toledo Mudhens at 7:05 p.m. There will be a post-game pyrotechnics show! Call Chris at 892-7977.

Aug. 19, 20 and 21. Annunciation Church Lawn Fete, Clinton St., Elma, N.Y. Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push is playing on Sunday from 3:00 to 7:00 pm

Aug. 20. Concertina All Stars



RUN URBANCZYK will be inducted in the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in October.

play at the Corpus Christi Dozynki Fest from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Clark St., Buffalo, N.Y.

Aug. 24. Polka Variety Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. Hawaiian Night with the Krew Brothers. Call Rich at 826-2281.



DON KOZAK demonstrates his love of polkas while Stephanie Pietrzak plays a tune at Erie County Fairgrounds.

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LANCASTER-BUFFALO

Add Some Bedrock Boys to Your Summer

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Venerable Buffalo polka legends, The Bedrock Boys, remind fans and friends of three public performances this summer

On August 21st they will be in the beer tent at Fourteen Holy Helpers lawn fete (Union near Clinton) from 2:00-5:00 p.m. The 23rd finds

them at Cheektowaga Senior Center, Broadway and Union, for the Center's concert series, 6:00-8:00 p.m.; and on Sept. 25, you can catch the band at the annual Dozynki held at Holy Mother of the Rosary PNCC, on Broadway in Alden, from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zatkiewicz-Dramczyk

Interview with Eric Hite and Randy Krajewski

Co-Hosts of Toledo's *Sons of LaGrange* Radio Show

Why did you decide to do an Internet show?

Eric: "I had for years tinkered with the idea of getting into Internet radio, to the point where I had done a few pilots. Nothing came to fruition. I didn't follow through with it. Randy Krajewski approached me about doing a show on the PolkaJammer network. This was back in the summer of 2010. We got together at Randy's house in North Toledo, to be co-hosts on the *Bad Boy Show* with Eddie Biegaj. After that, we knew we were going to do a show together. We talked about what to call it, what's our concept going to be, etc."

We started to put together bumps, intros, and ad spots to get started. We didn't want to go into the show ill-prepared."

Randy: "Our first broadcast was October 4, 2010. We have held the 7:00-8:00 p.m. Monday time slot since the beginning. As a team, we work well together. We each have our jobs. I take care of the music and the business end of it, and Eric takes care of all the engineering and production."

Where did the name come from?

Eric: "We were kicking around some different ideas about what to call the show. Randy came up with the name Sons of LaGrange, since both of us grew up in the LaGrange Street area. We had some other ideas in mind, but sons of LaGrange is what stuck for us."

What is the format?

Randy: "Our show is all pre-recorded. We play the best of polkas old and new. We do focus quite a bit on Toledo polka music. We have breaks at the quarter hour, bottom, and three quarter hour. We have friendly banter and chitchat. We average 12-14 songs each week."

"Stump the Squeezer" is an original we came up with. The idea is that we try to stump each other about some aspect of polka music, whether it's about bands, songs, musicians, and even sometimes the instruments themselves."

Eric: "Recently, we started a Jimmy Kimmel-style spot which we call "Unnecessary Polka Censorship." It's a lot of fun coming up with different songs that we bleep."

Who are some of the guests who have co-hosted with you?

Randy: "The first one was David Jackson, BGSU professor and polka aficionado. We have had Jim Mackiewicz Sr. and Jim Mackiewicz Jr. Also Jim "Little Mo" Molinski, Eddie Biegaj, Bobbie Earl, Ron and Sue Biskup."

Do you have a sponsor?

Randy: "Stanley's Market is a landmark Polish market in the neighborhood, located on Stickney Avenue. The owners started an Internet order business and they thought it would be good cross-promotion to be our sponsor."

What are your ideas for upcoming shows?

Eric: "We plan to feature different styles of music and/or spotlight more of our local musicians. We will be inviting veteran musicians who have contributed to the Toledo polka scene."

Final comments?

Randy: "We feel our show is well-rounded and we try to be funny

yet informative at the same time. Being musicians ourselves, we are very comfortable talking about the music itself."

Eric: "Doing the show has been very educational. I have learned even more that I didn't know about polkas and where the music has come from over the past 40 years."



The Sons of LaGrange can be heard from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Monday nights on the polkajammernetwork.org.

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- Sun., Aug. 28** **Gazebo on the The Green**, St. Michael Church, 25 Maple Ave., Beacon Falls CT
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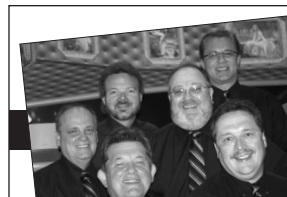
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Stage is Set Perch, Peach, Pierogi, Polka Festival

PORT CLINTON, Ohio — The 7th annual Perch, Peach, Pierogi and Polka Festival will be held in downtown Port Clinton at 109 E. Perry Street on Labor Day Weekend, September 3 and 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., both days.

Once again Lake Erie yellow perch sandwiches and dinners will be served along with pierogi and peach cobbler. Drinks will be available in the beer tent.

On Saturday at 5:00 p.m. the Black Tie Dance Studio will provide free polka lessons. The pierogi eating contest is set for 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

The Duane Malinowski Orchestra will perform Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m. and the Del Sinchuk Band from Youngstown will perform from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4:00 p.m. The final band to play at this year's festival will be the Eddie Rodick Orchestra. This band is a new addition to the festival and is guaranteed to be a crowd pleaser.

Admission for adults is \$3.00 and anyone under 18 is free. The facility is protected from the elements and will continue rain or shine.

For information, contact Jerry Arnold, (419) 341-3743, email gar-nold@thirdplanet.net; or Ed Verkin, (419) 341-4776, email ejvx2@adelphia.net. On the internet visit: www.koc1750.org.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Painful Memories

THE DRUGGIST OF AUSCHWITZ,
A Documentary Novel
by Dieter Schlesak,
tr. by John Hargraves
FS&G, 2011, photos, 370 pp.,
\$27.99

Schlesak presents an interesting history of the captives and captors in Auschwitz. He uses documented evidence and an author-narrator, Adam, written in italics as a diary, to detail painful episodes. It is centered on the actions of Victor Capesius, director of the Auschwitz medical dispensary and his cruel inhuman actions toward others. He methodically enriched himself with valuables from the camp survivors who had carried their possessions from home. Schlesak interviewed Ronald Albert, an Auschwitz guard who did not feel guilty—they were only following orders. It was a matter of survival. He also uses excerpts of actual testimony from the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial in 1963-65. It is a heartbreaking account of the atrocities that took place in Auschwitz and other death camps.

Schlesak is author of *The Evacuation, Dismantling and Liberation of KL Auschwitz*.

TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND,
A Journey in History and of the Human Spirit
by Krystyna M. Sklenarz, MD.,
Xlibris, 2011, photos, 228pp.

Sklenarz presents a fascinating autobiography of her life, beginning at age six. When the Germans entered their town, Krystyna's father and uncles left Poland and headed for England. She, her mother and her younger sister were instantly transported from a comfortable life to one of survival in the wilds of Russia. This precocious child and her mother, determined to survive, learned to live with hardships, hunger and uncertainty for over a year as they were moved from one camp to another. Her sister Barbara, however, died from malnutrition and Asiatic measles. They struggled under deplorable conditions, eventually were reunited with her father in England, and later moved to the United States.

This story is not so much a tale of war as it is the spirit of a very bright girl, who never had any formal schooling until age nine, then graduated from high school at age seventeen, and medical school at 24 when women were seldom admitted. She became the first woman in psychiatric residency at the University of Chicago and at age twenty-nine became its director. With support from her parents she became independent, determined, courageous and self-reliant. She married, raised two boys and traveled to Poland in 1977 to find her homeland once again free. A remarkable human interest story.

LOOKING AT POLAND

by Jan Kadziolska
and Tadeusz Wojciechowski
Oliver Press, 2011, 48 pp., \$24.95

Part of the *Looking at Europe* series, this oversized book is full of beautiful modern, colorful pictures and text on modern Poland. Designed for ages 11 and up, it will appeal to all. The text includes sections on the history of the country, towns and cities, people and culture, democratic Poland cuisine, education, transportation, economy, nature, and tourism. A glossary, websites and index are also provided.

ME AND MY DRAGON

by David Biedrzycki
Charlesbridge, 2011,
36 pp, \$16.95 HC, \$7.95 pb.

This oversized book contains pages in full color, depicting a young boy and his wishes for a dragon. He isn't interested in a dog, he wants a big red dragon. He then explains how he would care for, and raise a dragon.

With a fire-eating dragon, he would be sure the dragon could fit in the house, would get it a health checkup, give him a name, give it daily baths, and teach it how to fly. On good days he would put a leash on the dragon and even take him for a walk and make sure he ate well.

The goofy-looking dragon will certainly captivate young children.

Aquila Polonica Sponsors Prize for Best Article in Polish Studies

LOS ANGELES — Aquila Polonica Publishing has announced that it will sponsor a biennial prize to be awarded under the auspices of the Polish Studies Association to the author of the best article published in English dealing with any aspect of Polish studies.

The Aquila Polonica Prize is named for the Los Angeles- and U.K.-based company, which specializes in publishing the Polish experience of World War II in English, with first-hand accounts, memoirs, photographs, artwork, poetry, literature and historical studies.

"We want to encourage and reward the kind of scholarship that is so important to our understanding of history, culture and politics around the world," said Terry Tegnazian, Aquila Polonica co-founder.

The company's book "303

Squadron: The Legendary Battle of Britain Fighter Squadron," by Arkady Fiedler, recently won the top Gold Award for History at the 2011 Benjamin Franklin Awards, the premier awards ceremony in independent publishing, as well as a Silver Award for Interior Design. Silver Awards were also won by Aquila Polonica's "Maps and Shadows" by Krysia Jopek (for Historical Fiction) and "The Ice Road: An Epic Journey from the Stalinist Labor Camps to Freedom" by Stefan Waydenfeld (for Autobiography/Memoir).

"Our mission is to make an important part of recent Polish history better known to a wider, English-speaking public," said Aquila Polonica co-founder Stefan Mucha, speaking from the U.K. "These scholarly articles complement that mission, and we're very pleased to be able to sponsor this prize."

Articles published in English between August 2009 and August 2011 are eligible for the Aquila Polonica Prize. The prizewinning entry will be selected by a three-person committee appointed by the Polish Studies Association, with one representative each from the social sciences, literature/culture, and history.

The award carries a \$500 honorarium. The winner of this year's competition will be announced during the November 2011 National Convention of the Association for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies in Washington D.C.

For more information about the prize, please go to www.history.lsa.umich.edu/PSA. For information about Aquila Polonica Publishing, please go to www.AquilaPolonica.com.

PAJ Bookstore Adds Two Works About Massachusetts Polonia

The Polish American Journal Bookstore is now offering two acclaimed books documenting Polonia in Massachusetts: *The Polish Community of Worcester and Worcester County's Polish Community*, co-authored by Barbara Proko, Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles et al.

Unlike traditional histories that are mostly text, these coffee-table-style books by Arcadia Publishing rely on about 220 pictures each to tell a story. A brief introduction, themed chapters and detailed captions provide substance and context for photographs, maps, advertisements, documents and other vintage images.

Proko, a genealogist and journalist, describes them as "community pamiątniki. You can open these books to any page and browse. They lend themselves to sharing memories with family and friends. We all reminisce about people who are no longer with us, places that have been lost to the bulldozers of development, events and traditions that impacted our lives as Polish Americans. But photos were a scarce, expensive luxury decades ago. We typically have lots of memories, but few photos."

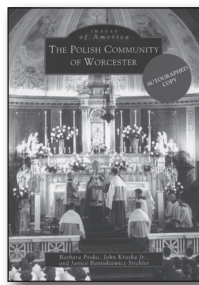
Old albums and trunks in people's attics were the key source of images for the Worcester area

books. Dozens of individuals shared their materials for the projects.

"Their enthusiasm and willingness to lend memorabilia enabled us to create books that are really family albums of Polonia—the journey to America, neighborhoods, parishes, schools, veterans groups, organizations like the Polish Falcons and PNA, businesses, athletics, holiday celebrations, and much more," Proko said. "Many of these photos had never before been seen by the public. Quite a number of our readers have been surprised to find their loved ones in photos they never even knew existed."

MORE TITLES from the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL BOOKSTORE

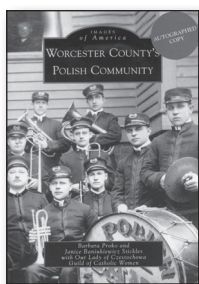
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THE POLISH COMMUNITY OF WORCESTER (MASS.)
by Barbara Proko, Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles, and John Kraska, Jr.
\$19.95
Arcadia, 2003,

128 pp pb.

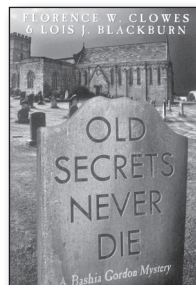
AUTOGRAPHED! Acclaimed as "a wonderful tribute" and "long overdue," this groundbreaking book documents the history of Polonia in a large industrial New England city, 1870-1970. More than 220 vintage photos and images—many never before published—paint a vivid picture of immigration, family life, work, Polonia's heart (Millbury Street) and soul (Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish), education, athletics, citizenship, military service, and Polish cultural traditions. 300+ surnames indexed.



WORCESTER COUNTY'S POLISH COMMUNITY (MASS.)
by Barbara Proko and Janice Baniukiewicz Stickles
\$19.95

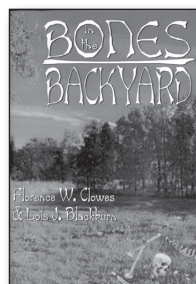
Arcadia, 2007, 128 pp pb.

AUTOGRAPHED! Lauded as a "community family album" and "a welcome complement to *The Polish Community of Worcester*," this photo history highlights the seven Polish parish seats of the Worcester Diocese—Clinton, Dudley, Gardner, Southbridge, Webster, West Warren, and Worcester—plus Gilbertville, South Grafton, Uxbridge, and other Central Massachusetts towns where Poles have settled in substantial numbers for more than a century. 225+ historic images, 700+ individuals identified by name.



OLD SECRETS NEVER DIE
A Bashia Gordon Mystery
\$14.95
by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2007,
220 pp, pb.

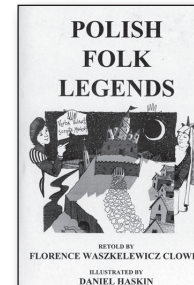
Bashia Gordon, semi-retired interior decorator and amateur sleuth, is at it again. When she learns her friend Connecticut State Trooper Mark Jankowski, is investigating the death of one of her clients, Gladys Goodell, her curiosity takes over. Soon a mummified baby is found in the old Goodell home. None of the Goodell sisters ever married. Whose baby could this be?



BONES IN THE BACKYARD
A Bashia Gordon Mystery
\$14.95
by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2001,
198 pp, pb.

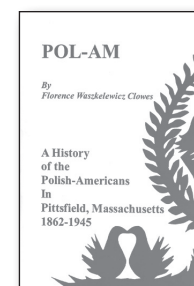
In the quiet corner of northeastern Connecticut, semi-retired interior decorator, Bashia Gordon, turns amateur sleuth when she and her Peace Corps friend, Dottie Weeks, uncover a fragmented skeleton in a septic tank. How did it get there? Who is it?

Trooper Mark Jankowski arrives on the scene, and is intrigued by Bashia. Identifying the long-dead victim becomes a challenge for Jankowski. Bashia's curiosity, intuition and Internet research skills keep her involved. Could the bones be the wealthy eccentric who disappeared years ago?



POLISH FOLK LEGENDS
by Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes
ill. by Daniel Haskin
\$14.95
Infinity Publishing, 2010,
208 pp, pb.

Forty legends collected in Poland or researched in many books and periodicals. Poland's first written history by Muenster in 895 states King Popiel reigned in Polonia 246 years before Christ. This is one of the many legends still told by the Poles.



A HISTORY OF POLISH-AMERICANS IN PITTSFIELD, MASS., 1862-1945
by Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes
\$14.95
Palmetto Press,
Vero Beach 2004

152 pp., 5.5" x 8.25", photographs, pb.

This is the first ethnic history of the Polish community in Pittsfield Massachusetts, with a listing of the people who originally settled there. Using church records, organization brochures and oral histories the author has compiled a valued history. In the nineteenth and twentieth century Polish immigrants came to Pittsfield seeking work in the woolen mills. They created social, religious, and business organizations, which encouraged others to join them. The north end of Pittsfield is well populated with the Polish community.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES — Pat Benatar has come out with a memoir called *Between a Heart and a Rock Place*. Benatar, 57, says she held off writing the book for a long time because she didn't think her life was "juicy enough."

She adds that the biggest surprise for readers might be that "I'm more like everybody else than not, and I have an amazing gig. I drive my kids to dance practice and cook dinner every night."

Benatar and her husband of 28 years, Neil Giraldo, who's also the lead guitarist in her band, have two daughters and homes in Hawaii and Los Angeles, and they continue to tour.

CONNECTICUT

STAMFORD — The annual **Polish Harvest Festival** will be held on the Holy Name of Jesus Church grounds, 369 Washington Blvd., (Exit 8 on I-95). On Sat., Aug. 13, from 7:00 p.m.-midnight, there will be a DJ providing dance music for your enjoyment. Admission is \$10.00 per person. Food will be available for sale.

On Sun., Aug. 14, the 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 live music. 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 107th anniversary this year. All funds realized will go towards the restoration and repair of the school and church. For additional information call Chairman Peter Brakoniecki at (203) 223-2436 or email brakoniecki@optonline.net.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON — **St. Hedwig Polish American Festival**, Mon., Sept. 12 to Sat., Sept. 17 Along the Riverfront. Mon.-Thurs. 5:30-10:00 p.m.; Fri., 5:30-11:00 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.

PENNSYLVANIA

DOYLESTOWN — Sept. 3-5 (Labor Day Weekend), and Sept. 10-11: **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. For info call (215) 345-0600 or visit Polish Shrine.com.

NEW JERSEY

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

NEW YORK

BINGHAMTON — Binghamton University radio station's Public Affairs and Specialty Programs Department will present a special music lyceum to celebrate the European heritage, diversity, culture, and music of the **Carpathian Mountains** during the month of August 2011.

Beginning Tues., Aug. 2, 2011, the 4th annual series of special commercial-free, stress-free programs entitled, "A Carpathian Holiday" will proudly feature an eclectic musical mosaic from all of the eight European nations included in the 900 mile-long, semi-circular mountain range of Central and Eastern Europe. The special programs will be broadcast every Tuesday evening from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at 90.5 on the local FM dial in the Binghamton, New York area and simulcast worldwide at www.whrwm.org.

The 4th annual lyceum, a special inter-generational, totally family-oriented, university and community program, hosted by Daniel Jan Walikis, will be presented on the *European Ethnic Melodies Show*, the EXCEL Award-winning radio and Internet simulcast show for "outstanding multi-cultural programming" on the campus of Binghamton University, your program, station, and university of nations.

ASOP President Makes Pilgrimage to Birthplace in Poland



(photo, left). Frank Knurowski, center, presents \$500 donation to the director of the school. (right) Knurowski joins two of the teachers and their students. He was very pleased to see that each teacher worked with only a few students. He was also impressed with the many displays of beautiful art work done by the students.

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — After a couple of decades elapsed, Frank Knurowski, president of the Association of the Sons of Poland (ASOP), decided it was time to go back and visit the town where he was born and renew friendships and visit his relatives in Nowy Targ, Poland.

He also set aside time to visit a school about which he had heard many good things. This school receives support from the Polish American organization "Kolo Jana Sabaly" located in New Jersey, and Knurowski decided to follow in the footsteps of other ASOP Board members who have visited other such schools



and orphanages during their personal visits to Poland.

On behalf of the ASOP he made a donation to the school and had an opportunity to visit the classrooms and see the activities of the students, all of whom are either physically or mentally challenged. The school operates as a regular school would, with the children being brought in the morning by their parents and then being picked up at the end of the day. The children live at home but receive special education at the school, with an emphasis on creativity. Knurowski was very impressed with the art work produced by the children and took several photos.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — The Twin Cities Polish Festival and The Film Society of Minneapolis/Saint Paul have joined forces to present the **Twin Cities Polish FilmFest**, August 12-18. It will run concurrently with the Twin Cities Polish Festival August 13-14, 2011 as part of the Festival's celebration of Polish culture and heritage.

From cutting-edge contemporary to exquisite historical, Chopin on screen to Family Friendly fare, the Polish FilmFest offers something for all. The first film announced for this year's FilmFest is "Venice" (Wenecja) by Director Jan Jakub Kolski and starring Magdalena Cielecka, Marcin Walewski, Agnieszka Grochowska and Grazyna Blecka-Kolska.

A full lineup of films will be released soon at www.mspfilmsociety.org. Purchase tickets at St Anthony Main Theatre or on-line at www.mspfilmsociety.org

All films are presented in their native language with English subtitles.

MINNEAPOLIS — **Holy Cross 125th Anniversary Mass and Banquet**. Sept. 11. Mass at noon, reception and dinner following in Cedars Hall at St. Maron's Church, 6th and University Avenues NE. Adults \$35/ Children 12 and under \$17. Invitations/reservations after July 1, 2011.

MINNEAPOLIS — **Holy Cross Fall Festival**. Sept. 17-18. Sat.: music, food and refreshments 5:30-9:00 p.m. "Under the Tent." Sun.: Polka Mass 10:00 a.m., chicken dinner, Polish food, games and fun 11:00-5:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL — Oct. 30. The SPCO joins forces with an all-star trio of today's most renowned artists as violinist **Leila Josefowica**, pianist Krill Gersten and composer/conductor Oliver Knussen perform Alban Berg's kaleidoscopic Chamber Concerto at 2:00 p.m. at Benson Great Hall in Arden Hills. Tickets are \$25 for main floor and \$10 for others. Beware, there is a \$9.00 service fee. Order online thespco.org or phone (651) 291-1144.

St. Stanislaus Festival Features Food, Music, Fun for All Ages

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Tasty Polish potery will be available for purchase, and parishioner David Bryniarski will demonstrate the traditional art of creating pisanki (hand-decorated eggs).

In addition, guided tours of historic St. Stanislaus Church will be offered at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Ray Serafin's Brass Magic polka band will play on both Friday and Saturday from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Adding to the excitement, \$5,000 in raffle prizes will be given. Admission to the festival 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.

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St. Stanislaus Polish Festival

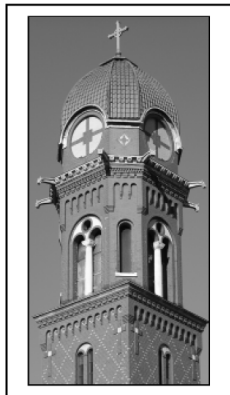
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Rochester, NY

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August 6: 4-11 PM

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- ❖ Ray Serafin's Brass Magic (7-11 PM)
- ❖ Tour our beautiful landmark church!
- ❖ Pisanki demonstrations
- ❖ Games for young and old, \$5,000 in raffles, Polish pottery, more!

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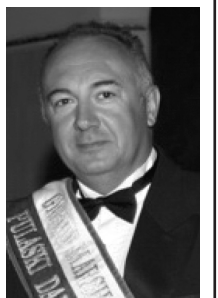
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Romanowski Heads Class of 2011

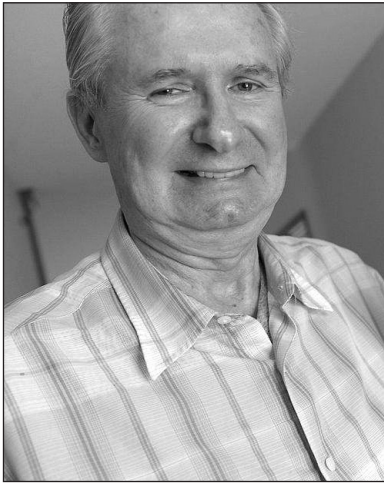
The National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame expanded its roster to 123 honored members this year, adding four-time Super Bowl champion **Bill Romanowski** and Little League baseball great **Art "Pinky" Deras**, Hydroplane race driver **Tom D'Eath** and former NFL official **Stan Javie**, to the Class of 2011.

Romanowski, drafted by San Francisco in 1988 out of Boston College, went on to an outstanding 16 year career in the NFL. He played in 243 consecutive games, an NFL record at that position, winning four Super Bowl championships. He is the only linebacker to start five Super Bowl games, and is one of only three players to win back-to-back Super Bowls with two different organizations. The two-time Pro Bowl selectee ended his career with Oakland in 2003.

Deras is widely considered the greatest Little League baseball player of all time. In 1959, Pinky and his Hamtramck, Mich. teammates reached the Little League World Series having won nine of ten tournament games by shutout. In the finals, Deras tossed a one-hit, 5-0 shutout against Puerto Rico, hit a grand slam in a 7-1 victory over Hawaii, and threw a three-hit 12-0 victory over West Auburn, Calif. in the championship game. Deras' single-season pitching statistics were staggering; 18 starts, 18 complete game victories, 16 shutouts, 10 no-hitters, 298 strikeouts (only 26 outs in the field), and just 10 walks in 108 innings. At the plate, he hit .641 for the season, with 33 home runs and 112 RBI. Two years later, Deras led Hamtramck to the Pony League World Series Championship. Largely forgotten since, he has gained new recognition with the recent release of the documentary film, "The Legend of Pinky Deras: The Greatest Little-Leaguer There Ever Was." Deras, now a retired Warren, Mich. police officer, spent five seasons in the St. Louis Cardinals minor league system.

D'Eath has excelled in the sport of hydroplane racing as a driver, designer, and builder. As a driver, he has won national championships in nearly every class of hydroplane racing. He is the winner of three APBA Gold Cups (1976, '89 and '90) and added Prince Edward Canadian Gold Cup titles in 1974, '76 and '80. He remains the only three-time winner of both. In 1988, he was named APBA "Outstanding Driver" while piloting the famous *Miss Budweiser*. When he retired in 1991, D'Eath was sixth on the all-time list of unlimited victories with 16.

Javie enjoyed a 29-year career as

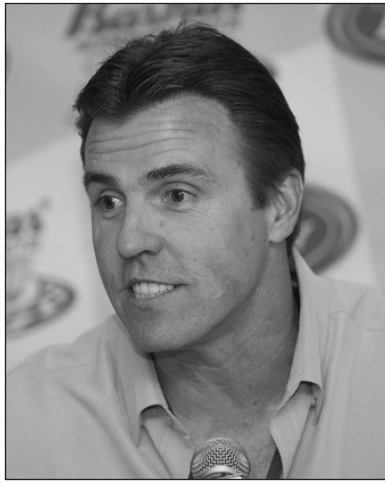


Art "Pinky" Deras

an official in the National Football League, throughout which he was known for his integrity and commitment. Stan had the distinction of being one of the few on-field officials to wear eyeglasses. As a back judge, Javie officiated in four Super Bowls (Super Bowl II, VIII, X and XIV), becoming one of the first NFL officials to achieve such a distinction. His last game worked prior to his retirement was Super Bowl XIV in 1980. Stan's parents emigrated from Poland (the original name was Jaworowski) when they were young and settled into a Polish section of Philadelphia called Manayunk, and Stan was the second youngest of their eight children. He graduated from Saint John High School where he also coached three sports for many years. He later graduated from Georgetown University. Stan Javie passed away in 2002. Today, his son Steve carries on the tradition as an NBA referee.

The NPASHOF held its 39th Annual Induction Banquet at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, MI. More info is available at www.polishsportshof.com.

HONORS FOR KOPICKI. Former basketball standout **Joe Kopicki** was honored with NPASHOF Matt Dobek Special Recognition Award. Kopicki began his basketball career at Warren Fitzgerald High School, where he was named to the First Team Class A All-State squad and selected as Macomb County Player of the Year in 1978. He was recruited to the University of Detroit by former coach Dick Vitale and played for Smokey Gaines on some very successful Titan teams, tallying 1,410 points and 771 rebounds. He was drafted in the third round of the 1982 NBA Draft, and went on to play three seasons with Washington and Denver, before going overseas. In Europe, Joe was a seven-time All-Star and was named the Spanish League's Most Valuable Player



Bill Romanowski

in the 1986-87 season.

Returning to his high school, Kopicki has spent the last four seasons as head basketball coach at Warren Fitzgerald, compiling a solid 57-32 win/loss record. However, more important than wins and losses is the fact that ten of Joe's student-athletes have gone on to play college basketball, and receive the benefits of a college education.

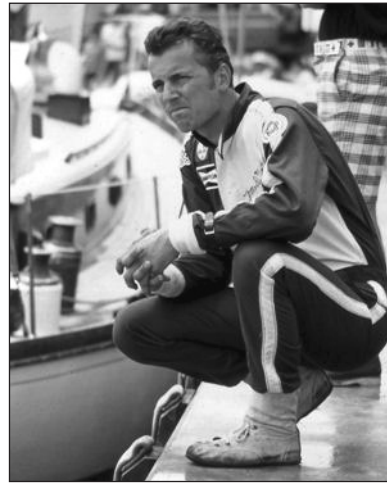
Joe has been married to his wife Jennifer for 25 years, and has three adult children, Jessica, Joseph and Matthew.

DYDEK PASSES. **Malgorzata "Margo" Dydek**, the 7-foot-2 Polish center who was the WNBA's No. 1 draft pick in 1998 and went on to become its leading career shot blocker, died in Brisbane, Australia at age 37. Dydek, who was pregnant with her third child, had been in a medically induced coma since having a heart attack. The child did not survive.

The WNBA's tallest player ever, she was drafted by the Utah Starzz in 1998, the league's second season. She played seven seasons with the franchise (later moved to San Antonio) before being traded to Connecticut in 2005. Dydek spent three seasons with the team, then, after retiring from full-time play, played two games with the Los Angeles Sparks in 2008. She led the WNBA in blocked shots nine times for a career total of 877 in 323 games. In 2001, she was the league leader in defensive rebounds, with 214. She averaged 10 points per game, for a career total of 3,220. Dydek would dunk easily in warm-ups, but would never do so in games.

Popular with players and fans, she spoke five languages and was affectionately called "Large Marge" by teammates. Despite her size, she exhibited remarkable physical grace.

Dydek played for teams in Poland, France and Spain before mov-



Tom D'Eath

ing to the US, and was considered one of Europe's top players. She was a member of the Polish Olympic team at the Sydney Games in 2000.

Dydek was born in Poland on April 28, 1974. Her father, Jan, a restaurateur, and her mother, Maria, were both well over six feet tall. So were her sisters, Kashka and Marta, who both played basketball at a high level. Dydek's survivors include her British husband, David Twigg, and two young sons. At the time of her death she was coach of the Northside Wizards in the Queensland Basketball League in Australia.

KAZMIR RELEASED. He went from being an All-Star to being released in just a couple years, but 27-year-old **Scott Kazmir** is hoping that his major league career isn't over.

In 2007 Kazmir went 13-9 with a 3.48 ERA and an American League-leading 239 strikeouts for Tampa Bay, earning an All-Star berth along the way. The Los Angeles Angels acquired Kazmir in August 2009, and he went 2-2 with a 1.73 earned-run average in six starts. However, he struggled in 2010, going 9-15 with a 5.94 ERA in 28 starts.

After giving up five runs and five hits in 1 2/3 innings in Kansas City in April, the Angels placed Kazmir on the disabled list with lower-back tightness. He spent a month in extended spring training in Arizona trying to find a consistent delivery and release point but made no progress in a rehabilitation stint with triple-A Salt Lake, going 0-5 with a 17.02 ERA, 20 walks and 14 strikeouts in 15 1/3 innings. He had such little command of his pitches that in one game he threw three of them completely behind the backs of right-handed hitters.

The Angels released him even though they will pay the remainder of his \$14.5-million salary for this season. Whether Kazmir's problems were mental, physical or both, the



Stan Javie

team acknowledged that he did not fail because of a lack of effort.

THEY SAID IT. "Peter Nowak was the best foreign player MLS ever brought over. He just exuded leadership (with the Chicago Fire). He just knew how to do it right. If that meant he had to fish his two Polish buddies out of the bar the night before the game, he would go there and say 'the cab is waiting.'"

— *Hungarian-born Soccer Hall of Famer Bob Gansler, when asked about the top players he's faced.*

❖ ❖ ❖
"She was one of the nicest people ever. She was kind-hearted. She was a great teammate. The position she played on the court was a lot like who she was in life. She protected the basket and always had your back. She bailed me out of a ton of drives to the hoop. She would get in there and block the shot."

— *Minnesota Lynx point guard Lindsay Whalen on Margo Dydek, her teammate with the Connecticut Sun for three seasons.*

❖ ❖ ❖
"Nobody worked harder to get his stuff back than Scott did. He was trying to bring every resource he could into it ... We really felt for Scott. He put everything he had into it. Unfortunately, he was sliding backwards instead of making progress to the point where there was no way he would get back to being a major league pitcher for us this year."

— *Angels Manager Mike Sciosia, on releasing pitcher Scott Kazmir.*

❖ ❖ ❖
"I say this to everybody who listens to me, and I'm not the only one to think or say this: Pinky was the greatest 12-year-old ballplayer who ever lived."

— *Former major leaguer Tom Pa-ciorek on Art "Pinky" Deras, his teammate on the national title-winning 1961 Hamtramck Pony League team.*

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

A Baltic Love Story

Queen Jurata, of the Baltic, was very beautiful. Her flowing, golden hair just enhanced her sea-green eyes. Because she was so lovely, Perun (Piórún), God of thunder and lightning, fell madly in love with her. So he commanded his storms to never disturb her waters.

Queen Jurata was a kindly queen. She sought to protect the creatures of the sea. She ruled that no one was allowed to set traps to catch any bounty from the sea.

One day while eating flounder at a royal palace function, she instructed one of her servants to save one-half of each fish and throw the other half back into the sea. Because she

possessed magical powers, she was able to keep the fish alive.

Along the Baltic coast lived a bold, free-spirited fisherman. Actually he exhibited little common sense and so he chose not to obey the Queen's law. He proceeded to set his traps, and, of course, caught many fish. He made a great deal of money from his fish sales and then spent it foolishly on fine clothes.

This angered the Queen. She decided to lure the fisherman close to the sea, then lure him into the water and drown him. Ironically, once they met, they fell madly in love with each other. They became sweethearts.

The Gods became very upset with Jurata and the fisherman. They said magical beings could only love other magical beings. Perun, of course, was livid. He had thunderbolts destroy the Queen's amber palace, and she and the fisherman were chained to the bottom of the sea, never to be seen again.

Today, those along the Baltic can often hear the doomed fisherman calling out to his true love. Very often pieces of amber from Jurata's palace, are frequently found along the Baltic's beaches.

Yes, the Baltic holds many fascinating tales. What do you think?

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- Poland has approximately 450: a. paved roads b. castles c. salt mines
- The length of the Vistula River is: a. 375 miles b. 651 miles c. 803 miles
- During the Teutonic Knight reign, anyone found with amber on them, were: a. hung on the gallows b. beaten severely c. fined heavily
- Brian Rafalski has been a veteran hockey player for the: a. Expos b. Rangers c. Red Wings
- Copernicus died in: a. 1503 b. 1526 c. 1543
- Uszka is a mushroom or meat-filled: a. dumpling b. harvest soup c. shepherd's pie
- Szczury* frolicking in the barnyard are: a. kittens b. rats c. piglets
- How tall was Lech Kaczynski? A. 5 feet, 5 inches b. 5 feet, 11 inches c. 6 feet, 1 inch
- In Wawel Castle is a pope's headwear, a gift from: a. Leo IX b. Innocent XI c. John Paul II
- Michael Dameski is an accomplished: a. game show host b. movie producer c. dancer

ANSWERS. 1b castles; 2b 651 miles; 3a hung on the gallows; 4c Red Wings; 5c 1543; 6a dumpling; 7b rats; 8a 5 feet, 5 inches; 9c John Paul II; 10c dancer

IN MEMORIAM / Jennifer Moskal Trowbridge

BENEDICT STEPHEN MARKOWSKI, 79, was born in Hamtramck, Michigan. Markowski earned a BA from Central Michigan College, and a MS in Library Science from George Peabody College (Vanderbilt), Nashville, Tenn. He began his career as a Bibliographer at the MSU Library, and from 1957-1997 was employed by the Detroit Public Library: first as head of the Foreign Language collection at the downtown library, then as Archivist for Ethno-European Materials in the Burton Historical Collection at the Main Library. During this time, he received a scholarship through the U.S. State Department from the Polish Government and the Polish National Sciences to research rare books and manuscripts throughout Polish libraries.

Markowski organized the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan along with their newsletter, *Polish Eaglet*. In his retirement, Markowski published his poetry as well as cultural articles on various biographical or historical subjects. In addition, he served on the Detroit Board of Education from 1973-1975. As Chairman of Region 6, he also sat on the Central Board.

STANISLAW EDWARD BASK MOSTWIN, 94, was a highly-decorated World War II Polish freedom fighter whose exploits were worthy of a Hollywood film. Mostwin courted capture and probable death when he parachuted into Nazi-occupied Poland on a mission in 1944 to bring relief and assistance to the underground.

The son of an industrialist and diplomat father and a homemaker mother, he was born in Poznan, in western Poland. He graduated in 1935 from the Gymnasium of Adam Mickiewicz, and for the next year, completed cavalry officers school in Grudziadz. Mostwin had completed a Master of Law degree and was scheduled to study at Cambridge University in England when German forces invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939. Mostwin served on the Western Front with Polish forces during the invasion, and when his homeland surrendered he was sent to a military prison camp. Escaping, he made his way through the Balkans to the Middle East, where he joined the Carpathian Uhlans (cavalry) Divisions in Palestine, then under British command. Wounded during the Battle of Tobruk in North Africa, he recovered and volunteered to become a courier for the Polish government in exile in London. While being trained by British Intelligence for secret missions as a member of an elite group of military and diplomatic couriers who were known as Cichociemni, or "Silent Shadows," he changed his name to Mostwin, Polish for "bridge."

LECH W. SOLECKI, 87, fought for Poland in World War II before moving to the United States, where he worked for more than 30 years for Pivot Point Corp. Born in Poland, Solecki and his family were forced from their home in 1940 due to the Soviet occupation

and were exiled to Siberia. He eventually joined the Polish Army, where he served in an elite intelligence unit as a lance corporal and also was trained as a paratrooper, radio specialist and map reader. For his services to Poland, he received the War Medal, the Defense Medal and the Siberian Medal for surviving the work camps. After the war, Solecki was reunited with his displaced family in Scotland. After several years, he brought his family to the United States. A longtime resident of the Kaisertown area of Buffalo, he was an active member of St. Stanislaus Catholic Church; Post 1, Polish Army Veterans Association; the Polish-American Congress; the Plewacki Stamp Club; and the Mickiewicz Library. Solecki received the Pulaski Award for outstanding community service.

LAWRENCE R. WUJCIKOWSKI, 84, was a national leader of the Polish Falcons who met Pope John Paul II during a trip to Rome in 1993. Born in Buffalo, Wujcikowski earned an associate's degree in applied science from the University of Buffalo. From 1950 until his retirement in 1987, he worked for John W. Cowper Construction Co., joining as an engineering assistant and eventually working his way up to superintendent and project manager. At age 16, he joined Buffalo Nest 6, Polish Falcons of America, and in the late 1960s and 1970s, he served as president of Buffalo Nest, then as a national director for District 9 and eventually as the organization's national president from 1988 to 1996. On his first trip to Poland in 1991, he received the Gold Medal of Honor, a Polish national award. He also served on the board of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress and the Polish Heritage Committee of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. In 1990, Wujcikowski was honored as National Citizen of the Year by Buffalo's *Am-Pol Eagle*. In 1995, the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation named him Polonian of the Year. He served with an Army engineering unit, both stateside and in Italy, as part of the post-World War II rebuilding effort, from 1945 to 1947.

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OBITUARIES

Blanche Balut, Volunteer, Raised Funds for Charities

Blanche (Pelagia) Bielski Balut, 96, of Croswell, Michigan, was born on December 20, 1914 in Wyandotte, formally Ford City, Michigan. She passed away on July 2, 2011.

Balut spent her earlier years in Wyandotte and Hamtramck, then in Jeddo. Married for 57 years to Bruno (Bronislaw) Balut, she was a member of Detroit's St. Raymond Altar Society and was one of the parish's most active volunteers and a major fundraiser of the Mothers' "March of Dimes." After her husband died, she moved back to Jeddo and renewed her membership in St. Patrick Church in Croswell. She was a popular contributor to its annual

Christmas Bazaar, where her Polish soups became a special attraction, selling out in the first hours.

Balut was an accomplished athlete in her day as an avid sailor, tennis player, a terrific swimmer, and an outstanding bowler, having won numerous awards and accolades for her bowling talents. In her senior years, she concentrated on her needlecraft talents. Her personal goal was to create quilts for each of her nine grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. She accomplished the goal.

She is survived by two daughters, Geraldine Balut Coleman, Diane Z. Kautz, and Dennis Balut.



Peter J. Gorecki, Choir Director, Organist, Composer

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Peter J. Gorecki, a choir director, organist and composer who was a central figure in Polish music here for many decades, died June 13. He was 86.

Gorecki served for 28 years as musical director and conductor of the Chopin Singing Society, longer than any other director of Polonia's premiere chorus, before he stepped down in 1981. He led the Chopin group on two concert tours of Poland and conducted it on numerous televised concerts.

As music director for the City of Buffalo, he produced the city's Summer Concert Series and founded the Buffalo Community Orchestra, which performed in the series. He also introduced piano lessons for children at the city's community centers.

He also directed the United German-American Singing Societies, the Kalina Singing Society, the

Polish Singing Circle and the choir at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, where he was organist and music director for 30 years.

Born in Pszcyna, Poland, the son of a church organist, Gorecki attended the music conservatory in Katowice, Poland, and the Handel Conservatory in Munich, Germany. During World War II, he was forced to work in a labor camp in Germany.

In a displaced-persons camp after the war, he organized a choir and began composing and arranging his own music.

He left Germany in 1949 and came to the United States. After a couple of years on Long Island, he moved to Buffalo and started playing organ at St. Stanislaus Church. Soon, to support his growing family, he was working with several different choirs.

"Monday I worked with Kalina," he told an interviewer in 2009,

when he was honored by the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo. "Tuesday was Chopin's. Wednesday was the Polish Singing Circle. Thursday was the German choir, and Friday was a different German choir."

In 1981, he and his wife startled the local Polish community by moving back to Germany, where he worked as a church organist and choir director on a more relaxed schedule for the next 10 years.

The Goreckis returned to Buffalo in 1991, spending summers at their home in West Falls and wintering in Boynton Beach, Fla. He was musical director of the Paderewski Singing Society and continued to work with other local musical groups until he retired two years ago.

He was also choral director of the Polish Singers Alliance of America.

The Buffalo Common Council honored him by proclaiming June 3, 2009, Peter Gorecki Day.

Marian Wojciechowski, Fought at Battle of Mokra

Marian Wojciechowski, 97, of Las Vegas, passed away June 5, 2011. He was born April 25, 1914, in Polaniec, Poland.

Wojciechowski was a World War II veteran, a platoon leader who fought German forces Sept. 1, 1939 at the Battle of Mokra, considered to be a tactical victory for the Polish cavalry. His regiment, the 21st Pulk Ulanow Nadwislanskich, was later awarded the Virtuti Militari. He continued fighting after Russia attacked Sept. 17, 1939, then joined the Polish underground resistance. He was arrested and tortured by the Gestapo in Radom, and sent to Auschwitz (Nr. 50333), Gross Rosen, and Leitmeritz concentration camps. In the displaced persons camps of post-war Germany, he met and married Wladyslawa Poniecka, who had survived the Gestapo prison in Pawiak in Warsaw, and the concentration camp Ravensbruck (Nr. 7532) north of Berlin. In 1950, they came to America with their daughter,

and settled in Toledo, Ohio.

Wojciechowski was awarded a master's degree in economics and business administration from the Warsaw School of Economics in 1937. He worked as auditor for the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives before his arrest in 1942. From 1946-1947, he was an officer in the Polish Civilian Guard under the command of the U.S. Army in the American Zone of West Germany. He also served as chief liaison officer for Polish groups to the International Refugee Organization.

Wojciechowski was the owner and editor of the Polish-language weekly newspaper "Ameryka Echo" in Toledo until 1961. He worked for many years as urban renewal project administrator with the City of Toledo. From 1980-1994 he was an administrator with the Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo, finally retiring at the age of 80. Wojciechowski moved to Las Vegas in 1998 to be closer to his family.

He was a past commander of the Polish Army Veterans Association Post 74 in Toledo for 10 years, a member of American Legion Post 545 in Toledo, and a member of the VFW. Wojciechowski actively participated in many organizations, such as the Polish American Congress and Polish National Alliance. He also received many honors and awards during his lifetime, including medals for his military service during World War II and his work in urban development.

In 2009, at the age of 95, Wojciechowski realized his wish to return to Mokra to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of World War II. He also visited the former Polish Army Cadet Officers Cavalry School in Grudziadz, and even Auschwitz along the way. He was accompanied on this splendid adventure by his grandson Craig, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of Toledo, and Dr. Roman Rozycki of the Las Vegas Polish community.

Rose A. Wartko, Polish Union President

Rose A. Wartko of West Scranton, Pa., passed away on June 26th, 2011 at Abington Manor following a short illness. She was the widow of John Wartko.

Born in Scranton, she was the daughter of the late Michelangelo and Josephine Ruvollo Zanghi, and was a graduate of West Scranton High School.

Wartko was an active fraternalist throughout most of her life and served as the president of the Polish Union of USA for the past ten years remaining active until her recent hospitalization.

For the year of 2011 she was

elected as the president of the Fraternal Societies of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Wartko was also president of the Polish Union Zonta Club where she was a member for over 50 years; secretary of Women's Division #5; and for over 40 years Secretary of Gr. #400. She was especially proud of her role as the first Polish Union Fraternal Activities Coordinator.

One of her many accomplishments was the founding of the Polish Union Debutante Ball, which has been successfully conducted for the past 32 years. Wartko was a former employee of J.C. Penny's

Telemarketing Division and Mallard Sportswear.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rose Wartko Educational Fund, c/o Polish Union, P.O. Box 660, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0660.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A SUBSCRIBER? Send us a photocopy of the oldest PAJ cover with your name and address label on it. The three oldest papers will win a free 3-year subscription for their owners! Deadline is September, 2011.

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EXPLORING POLONIA'S PAST / James Pula

A Polish American Hero of 9/11

Most people seldom look to the sky except to check the weather or in the event something draws their attention upward. When they do, they may notice an occasional airplane or the distinctive contrail of a distant aircraft too high to actually be seen. If you live near an airport you might have a better appreciation for how many planes land and takeoff, but how many people realize that every afternoon there are about 5,000 planes in the air over the United States at any given moment? That's right 5,000! Imagine trying to keep track of all that traffic, being responsible for making sure catastrophes are avoided.

Fortunately, major disasters do not happen every day. Planes are kept separated by altitude and distance to avoid collisions and the landing and takeoff paths are strictly monitored and controlled so that planes are not only kept apart spatially but separated in landing times to guarantee a buffer zone of safety. There is an occasional accident, but mid-air collisions are very rare, and most accidents are attributable to human error. Technology can help, but human control and intervention are essential in making critical decisions that keep the system running safely. This, of course, assumes a systematic approach with planes arriving and departing on regular schedules with established flight plans. But what would happen if chaos were suddenly injected into

this swirling mass of airborne metal and gasoline?

That is what happened on the clear blue morning of September 11, 2001, when terrorists began an assault on America. One plane hit the World Trade Center. Then another. Still another slashed into the Pentagon. A fourth was hijacked over Ohio and headed back over Pennsylvania toward Washington, DC. Still others were out of contact — were they also hijacked? Who could tell? What could be done? At United Airlines, this unfathomable problem was dropped squarely into the lap of its director of flight operations control, Hank Krakowski.

Henry P. Krakowski was born in Evanston, Illinois. After high school he graduated from Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology in 1975, earned a bachelor's degree in aircraft maintenance engineering from St. Louis University, then went on to complete a master's degree in business and management from the National-Louis University in Chicago. For five years he was a member of the Lima Lima Acrobatic Flight Team, performing aerobatics in a navy T-34 trainer that he rebuilt himself. After holding positions with Mid-

way Airlines and Air Illinois Airlines, in 1978 he began a career with United Airlines where he served as a flight engineer and pilot of Boeing 727, 737, and 747 aircraft, and DC-8, and DC-10 planes, before becoming director of flight crew resources and then director of flight operations control. When tragedy struck, it was

his job to decide what to do.

In the chaos it seemed the only way to stop what appeared to be an orchestrated and ongoing attack was to immediately ground all aircraft. It had never been done before. Thousands of planes scattered all over the country, not to mention international flights already on their way across the Atlantic or Pacific who would not have enough fuel to turn back. One of the largest groups of planes were those of United Airlines. Jumping immediately into action, Krakowski had all of United Airlines' flights on the ground safely in record time. His exceptional efforts were recognized with a promotion to vice president at United, followed by an appointment as chief operating officer of the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Organization. Hank Krakowski, a Polish American hero of 9/11.



THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



NOT A FIDDLER ON A ROOF. Kazimierz Dolny, Poland. June 23, 1976.

BRUSH UP / Prepared by the Polonia Media Network

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

- osoba niepełnosprawna f**disabled person (oh-SOH-bah nyeh-phehw-noh-SPRAHV-nah)
- wózek inwalidzki m**.....wheelchair (VUH-zehk een-vah-LEETS-kee)
- pies przewodnik m**guide dog (pyehs psheh-VOHD-neek)
- Jestem niepełnosprawny m** I am disabled/handicapped. [male] (YEHS-tehm nyeh-phehw-noh-SPRAHV-nih)
- Jestem niepełnosprawna** I am disabled/handicapped. [female] (YEHS-tehm nyeh-phehw-noh-SPRAHV-nah)
- Potrzebuję pomocy**I need assistance (poht-sheh-BUH yeh poh-MOH-tsih)
- Czy jest dostęp dla wózków inwalidzkich? Is there wheelchair access?** (Chih yehst DOHS-tehmp dlah een-vah-LEETS-keech?)

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

2011 "46th Annual"

Polish-American Festival



Sept. 3, 4 & 5 (Labor Day) & Sept. 10, 11 --- 12 Noon-8:00 PM

654 Ferry Road ♦ P.O. Box 2049 ♦ Doylestown, PA 18901
Tel: (215) 345-0600 ♦ Web: www.polishamericanfestival.com

Festival Admission Includes:

- Midway Rides - Unlimited Entrance to All Midway Rides - All Day Long! (Extreme Rides at additional cost)
- Stage Shows - Entrance to all Entertainment Shows, including Dance Ensembles, Bands & Major Performing Artists.
- Special Events - Admission to all Special Events, Exhibits, Polish Village

Admission \$10.00 Per Person

FREE PARKING -- BUSES WELCOME -- ADVANCE GROUP RATES AVAILABLE

Our 46th year!!

Belmont Magic Show
Cooking Demonstrations
Styka Art Exhibit
Annual Craft Show

POLISH WARRIORS FROM ACROSS THE CENTURIES
16th-20th Century

Mike & Mary Malecki
- Banner of Jasna Gora -

Rick Orly & the Husaria
(winged horsemen)

Polish WWII Re-enactors
See battles, Cavalry Parade, weapon demonstrations, & much more!

VISIT the Polish Village & EXPERIENCE Poland

- Delicious Polish & American Food -

FESTIVAL

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE*

* Times & Performers Subject to Change *

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

- Ania Piwowarczyk & Radosc -
- The Boys -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Mona Liza -

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4

- Ania Piwowarczyk & Radosc -
- Polka Family Band -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- PKM -
- Janosik -
- Mona Liza -

MONDAY, SEPT. 5

- (LABOR DAY)
- Polka Country Musicians -
- John Stevens' Doubleshot -
- Rosie and the Jammers -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Mona Liza -

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

- Piwo Band -
- TKO Band -
- The Concertina All Stars -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Mona Liza -

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

- Polish American String Band -
- Mike Niemiec's Variety Band -
- John Gora Band -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Mona Liza -

Throughout the Festival you can also enjoy...

- Górale (Polish Highlanders)
- Dożynki (Harvest Festival)
- Polskie Wesele (Polish Wedding)

FUN FOR ALL

FESTIVAL SWEEPSTAKES

GRAND PRIZE
NEW! 2010 TOYOTA YARIS

2nd Prize - \$1,000.
3rd Prize - \$500.
4th & 5th Prizes - \$250.

Tickets \$5.00 each or 6 tickets for \$25.00.
Tickets available at the Shrine & on the Festival Grounds.
Drawing Sunday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 PM. You need not be present to win.

For the Safety of All - No Personal Food, Drinks or Pets Permitted on Shrine Grounds

Video Taping &/or recording of Performers & Performances is Strictly PROHIBITED!

ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN

100 Things Every Polish American Should Do

100 FOR 100. We continue our countdown to our 100th Anniversary with another 10 items this month. In today's world of lost identity, it is important to know who you are, the roots from which you come, and what your background represents. Show pride in your Polish and Polish-American heritage.

AUGUST

71. Bring a bouquet of flowers and herbs to Church on the feast of Our Lady of the Herbs – *Matka Boska Zielna* (Assumption, August 15).
72. Celebrate the Harvest by attending or having your own traditional *Dożynki, Święto Plonów*.
73. Visit and attend Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pa. The Polish American Festival occurs during the first two weekends in September.
74. Read books concerning the Poles during World War II, such as *A Question of Honor: The Kosciuszko Squadron*, and stories of courage and survival during this period; and read about



Early 20th century photograph of Polish women holding bouquets for Matki Boskiej Zielnej.

PHOTO: KRAKOW ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

a vibrant, colorful Poland before the war in *Warsaw: The Cabaret Years*.

75. Learn about or relay the experience of growing up in a Polish neighborhood in the United States.
76. Send your children or grandchildren, or attend a summer youth program, such as to the ACPC's "Youth Leadership Conference" in Washington, Polish National Alliance's Youth Camp, or a summer camp in Poland.
77. Keep an eye out for products made in Poland and equip your home with such items as

Boleslawiec pottery and Polish crystal.

78. Learn about the Polish Catholic Church and the Polish National Catholic Church in the United States.
79. Increase your music library or discover older recordings. Hold a "Polish Record Swap," where people can bring in to trade or sell vintage Polish or polka 33, 45, and 78 r.p.m. recordings, or to swap digitized versions of the originals. Keep this music history archived for the next generation.
80. Learn where you come from. Document the village or town of your origins: research the history, discover family photos, visit and take new photos — preserve the memory.

For tips on how to accomplish these items: recipes, music, lyrics, online and store contacts inquire at: PAJtoday@yahoo.com or check: www.pajtoday.blogspot.com.

—Edited and compiled by *Stas Kmieć* from contributors to be announced in the anniversary edition.

From the Pages of the Polish American Journal: Historical highlights from the newspaper and its predecessors

1962. The PAJ becomes the official publication of the Polish Union of North America, USA, a fraternal benefit society based in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Within the next three years, the PAJ becomes the official publication of the Polish Beneficial Association (Philadelphia), The Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn, USA, and the Association of the Sons of Poland, then headquartered in Jersey City, N.J.

1963. John Gronouski appointed Postmaster General by President Kennedy—the first Polish-American to serve in the Cabinet position.

1964. President Lyndon Johnson initialtes the policy of "Building Bridges" to "peacefully engage" the peoples of Eastern Europe and to encourage the democratization and

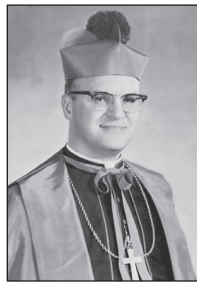
independence of the entire region, from Soviet domination.

1964. Most Rev. Stanislaus Brzana (inset) became bishop of Diocese of Buffalo. First Polish American to do so.

1966. United States Postal Service issue stamp in honor of Poland's millennium.

1966. Celebration of the Polish Millennium of Christianity.

1968. Aloysius Mazewski, newly elected President of the Polish Na-



tional Alliance, is elected President of the Polish American Congress its seventh convention in Cleveland, succeeding Charles Rozmarek.

1969. The first formal dialogs between the Polish American Congress and leaders of the American Jewish community begin in an effort to create new understanding and communication between two peoples who lived together in Poland for seven centuries until the Nazi occupation and devastation of Poland and their ruthless annihilation of the Jewish people.

REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

St. John the Baptist R.C. Church

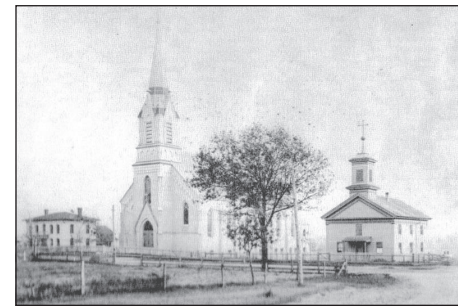
1211 W. Main St., Princeton, WI 54968-9297

Rev. Dale W. Grubba, Pastor



The first Catholic Church (wooden) was built as a mission in 1870 by Polish immigrants. In February 1875 Bishop Martin Henni (Diocese of Milwaukee) assigned Rev. Joseph Szepecht as the first resident pastor. On November 21, 1883 the parish was incorporated.

The famous German American architect, Adolphus Druiding designed the present church for this Polish congregation in 1887. This church is one of very few remaining examples of Druiding's building that still exist and used for its original purpose. Druiding was responsible for designing some 400 buildings, mainly churches in the Midwest. The church structure has remained basically the same as when it was built.



The first St. John the Baptist was a wooden building, built as a mission in 1870.

Between 1895 and 1973, the School Sisters of St. Francis taught in the parochial school. Since 1973, lay teachers have kept the school operating.

Through assimilation, death and an influx of non-Poles, the ethnic character of the parish has become more diverse and less Polish.

— Roger F. Krentz, Ph.D.

As part of our 100th year observations, we are reflecting on the great houses of worship built by Polish Americans. We ask our readers to provide us with a photo and a paragraph or two on their 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 us last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

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1911 - 2011

100

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO AMERICAN POLONIA

This year, the Polish American Journal, the nation's largest, independent, English-language monthly dedicated to the Polish community in North America, will observe its 100th anniversary. To celebrate the event, we will publish a special Anniversary Edition in October, which is also Polish Heritage Month.

We have many great articles and features planned for our centennial edition, including a history of the paper; congratulatory letters from Polish and Polish American leaders; the continuation of our monthly featurettes on great Polish American churches; reflections on Polish-American relations; a Polish American time line; and much more.

To bring attention to this occasion, we will publish an extra press run. These papers will be mailed to selected institutions and archives, as well as leaders in

government, religion, academia, entertainment, and other areas.

Since 1911, the PAJ and its predecessors have documented the lives of Polish immigrants and their ancestors, and as such, we want the anniversary edition to be one all Polish Americans can be proud of.

We humbly ask for your support in making this a reality, and want you to be a part of this momentous edition. Join the celebration!

Call our office today at (800) 422-1275 to be part of the PAJ's history, or simply fill out the form below and return with your payment.

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