

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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A TENNIS IDOL IN THE MAKING?
PAGE 17

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

PAJ ADDS DIGITAL VERSION TO EDITIONS • VETERAN'S DAY ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST • THE ELECTION OF 1912
A NEW WORK ON WISCONSIN'S POLONIA • "ON A SCALE OF 1-TO-POLISH ... " • PASHF ADDS THREE MORE
HARVEST CUSTOMS AND RITUALS OF RURAL POLAND • FINDING ANCESTORS IN PASSENGER MANIFESTS

NEWSMARK

ROMNEY SAYS OBAMA ABANDONED POLAND (WBJ) — Republican U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who visited Poland the last week of July, accused President Barack Obama of "abandoning" Poland.

Romney made the accusation in a speech to U.S. war veterans in Nevada, July 24. He accused Obama of appeasement towards Russia saying "it began with the sudden abandonment of friends in Poland and the Czech Republic. They had courageously agreed to provide sites for our anti-missile systems, only to be told, at the last hour, that the agreement was off," said Romney.

"As part of the so-called reset in policy, missile defenses were sacrificed as a unilateral concession to the Russian government," he added, referring to Obama's cancellation of an idea initiated by former U.S. President George W. Bush to install an anti-ballistic missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic, a plan which Russia had opposed.

Romney, however, neglected to add that Barack Obama had presented an alternative missile-defense shield which will have elements located in Poland.

The White House hopeful met the leaders of Britain, Israel and Poland during a six-day overseas trip, his first since clinching the Republican Party's nomination.

OBAMA NOMINATES MULL, KOSINSKI. President Barack Obama nominated Stephen D. Mull as the new Ambassador to Poland, and Dorothy Kosinski to the National Council on the Humanities.

Mull, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career-Minister, is Executive Secretary at the Department of State, a position he has held since June 2010. Prior, he was Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Political Military Affairs, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs. Mull served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, and as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia. He has over 30 years of service at the State Department.

Kosinski has served as Director of The Phillips Collection since 2008. Prior, she worked at the Dallas Museum of Art, last as Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture. She also worked with the Douglas Cooper Collection of cubist art in Basel, Switzerland, and served as an independent curator of major exhibitions in London, Wolfsburg, and in Prague.

POLAND'S ROWING GOLD MEDALISTS FEATURE IN OLYMPIC ANTHEM VIDEO. (Polskie Radio) — Poland's 2008 Olympic gold medal men's quadruple sculls rowing team is featured in the official video for the London 2012 games by the British band Muse.

The video for the song "Survival" features famous gold winning athletes from past Olympic Games, and Poland's quadruple sculls team of Marek Kolbowicz, Konrad Wasielewski, Adam Korol and Michal Jelinski.

The Polish rowers pushed Italy and France into silver and bronze medal places in Beijing, four years ago.

The same four-man crew will be taking part in London 2012 and will be hoping to repeat the success. (pg)

LOT CONSOLIDATES NEW YORK OPERATIONS. On September 1, 2012, LOT Polish Airlines will move its operations at JFK from Terminal 4 to Terminal 1. LOT will also transfer all its Newark flights to JFK airport beginning Oct. 29, 2012. This move allows LOT to operate a larger number of flights offered from JFK and to provide a more consistent and attractive schedule for its New York passengers, particularly those in the business community.

These changes will lead to improved service for passengers traveling from New York and for those traveling from more than 80 cities within the U.S. who are connecting to LOT flights from its U.S. partners. LOT recently announced a new partnership with JetBlue at JFK. LOT's analysis shows JFK has greater traffic potential than Newark and better supports LOT's mid- and long-term network strategy.

Set in Stone



PHOTO: JERRY SOWDEN

MEMORIAL PARK SPOTLIGHTS HERITAGE. Joe Brozeski and the Polish Heritage Park he created in the old "Polish Hill" section of Oil City, Pa.

by Glen Mohnkern

OIL CITY, Pa. — A park along a usually quiet residential street in this small northwestern Pennsylvania community is putting a spotlight on the history of the Polish people.

The grass-covered space — developed over the past few years with the donations of many — is not yet complete, but more plans are in the works and fund-raising efforts continue.

"We are going to complete it," said Mike Fedorek, president of Polish National Alliance No. 905 of Oil City. The PNA is overseeing the development of Polish Heritage Memorial Park.

The park has been a dream of sorts for an Oil City businessman who readily admits he is obsessive about his Polish heritage.

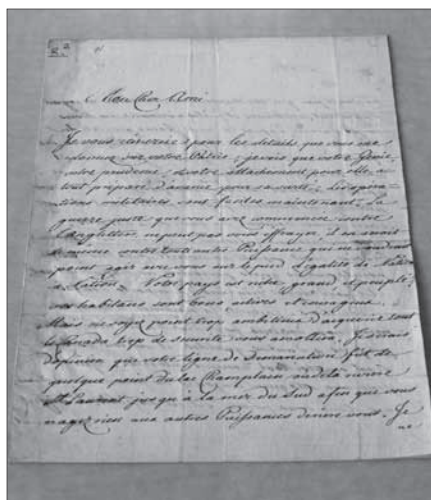
Joseph C. Brozeski said he worries that with each generation, our links to the past are diminishing. So he hopes the park in his hometown will encourage people to learn more about their ancestors, their traditions and, most importantly, the contributions these people made to America and the world.

"I hope it will give them a chance to reach back," he said. "I hope it will be a place for people who are interested in learning more about their heritage."

Brozeski thinks some parents fail to pass along the ethnic traditions that helped make families strong.

And, too many don't take the time to learn more about their history and Polish heritage. "Poland gets no credit for many of its accomplishments. People See "Heritage Park," page 4

FBI Returns Stolen Historic Artifacts To Polish Museum



One of the returned documents: A letter from Thaddeus Kosciuszko to Thomas Jefferson, dated Nov. 5, 1813.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — June 20, 2012 will be a day well-remembered by the Polish Museum of America (PMA). On that day, the FBI announced, through a televised press conference, the return of approximately 120 stolen documents and artifacts to the PMA, valued at approximately \$5 million. It was decades ago that these documents and artifacts were stolen from the PMA safe. Among the returned items were letters from American Revolutionary war heroes, a French emperor, Polish kings, and U.S. presidents along with rare Polish sketches and prints, Polish medals and even captured Nazi medals.

The current PMA staff had heard for a number of years that valuable documents were being returned. See "Museum ..." page 2

Happy Anniversary to the Vitamin!



KAZIMIERZ FUNK, 1884-1967. Isolation of vitamin B1 led to discovery of other essential elements.

worked at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, the Wiesbaden Municipal Hospital in Germany, the University of Berlin, and the Lister Institute in London.

Funk emigrated to the United States in 1915 and held several industrial and university positions in New York. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1920. With funding provided See "Father of the Vitamin," page 3

WASHINGTON — July 18th marked the 100th anniversary of the vitamin.

The term was coined in by Casimir Funk, a Polish American biochemist, in 1912. In the century since then, scientists have uncovered the specific functions of vitamins and established the many benefits of adequate intakes of these critical nutrients, which by definition are essential to health, wellbeing, and life itself.

Born Kazimierz Funk in Warsaw on February 23, 1884, Casimir was the son of a dermatologist. He earned a doctorate degree at the University of Bern, Switzerland, at the age of twenty. Funk then

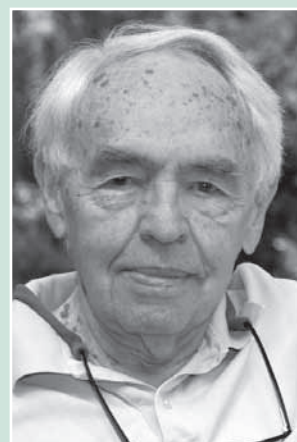
Pressing Ahead

Hippocrene's Jacek Galazka Reflects on Publishing Polish Interest Books

by Jacek Galazka

My publishing career began in 1955 when I joined St. Martin's Press in New York as an Assistant Treasurer. For the next seven years I learned the trade of selling books that our owner, Macmillan of London, sent us. Mostly these were reference books and textbooks about various subjects in the humanities.

When I made my first visit to Poland in 1960, after an absence of 19 years, I visited a few Polish publishers. One of them gave me a copy of a small book of aphorisms called *Myśli Nieuczestane* (Unkempt Thoughts) by Stanislaw Jerzy Lec. As I started reading I realized that Lec included many aphorisms that were quite political. For a few years after the workers' revolt in Poznan, in 1956, the communist censors eased up, and Lec was allowed to publish his "unkempt thoughts" — aphorisms that were barely disguised attacks on political oppression. Some aphorisms include: "The window to See "Galazka," page 5



JACEK GALAZKA

ALMANAC



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August • Sierpień

“Co, co lękać się śmierci też nie
żyją wiecznie.”

“Those who fear death do not live
forever, either.”

— Polish historical fiction writ-
er **Karol Bunsch (1898-1987)**

- 1 1943. Eleven **Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth** murdered by Nazis in Nowogrodek, Poland.
- 2 1899. Birth, in Warsaw, of poet and novelist **Stanisław Baliński**.
- 3 1924. Death of **Jozef Conrad Korzeniowski** (Joseph Conrad), 66, British and Polish author.
- 5 1762. Russia, Prussia and Austria signed a treaty agreeing on the **partition of Poland**.
1977. Record set in Michigan for world's largest kielbasa, 1.5 miles long and 3000 lbs.
- 6 **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**. 1955. As a senator, **John F. Kennedy** visits Poland and makes a pilgrimage to Częstochowa.
- 8 1915. Birth of **Fr. Cornelian Dende**, famed director of the *Fr. Justin Rosary*
- 9 1942. Death in Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz of **St. Teresa Benedicta** (Edith Stein), a Roman Catholic nun born of Jewish parents.
- 10 1881. Birth of **Leon Krzycki**, leader of early labor movements in the United States.
1932. Birth of the “Golden Voice of Polkas,” **Marion Lush (Luszcz)**, in Chicago.
- 11 1882. Birth of **Wladyslaw Anders**, General of the Polish Army during World War II.
1950. Birth of self-taught computer genius and Apple Computer founder **Steve Wozniak**.
- 13 1916. Birth of Polish American historian **Edward Pinkowski**.
- 14 1980. A strike begins at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, provoked by the firing of **Anna Walentynowicz**.
- 15 **ASSUMPTION** also known as **Matki Boskiej Zielnej, Feast of the Lady of the Herbs**.
- 17 **ST. HYACINTH**
Sw. Jacek, priest, 1257. He is often depicted carrying the Blessed Sacrament from a church about to be pillaged by the Tartars.
- 19 1587. **Zygmunt Waza** elected King of Poland.
1989. Polish president **Wojciech Jaruzelski** nominates Solidarity activist **Tadeusz Mazowiecki** to post of Prime Minister, the first non-communist in Polish power in 42 years.
- 20 1980. **Czeslaw Milosz** receives Nobel Prize for Literature.
- 22 1584. Death of Humanist poet **Jan Kochanowski**.
- 24 **ST. BARTHOLOMEW**
Na Bartłomieja apostoła bocian do drogi dzieci wola on St. Bartholomew's Day, 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.
- 29 1655. Swedish king **Karel X Gustaf** 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
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before August 30, 2012.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

On the Cusp of a New Horizon

Polish American Journal Adds Digital Version to Editions

This month, the Polish American Journal officially launches its digital edition. Readers now have the choice of receiving either the traditional, print version of the newspaper, or having an Adobe PDF file of the newspaper sent to their e-mail address. This, of course, also allows readers to open the paper on their iPhones and other devices.

While this is just the first step into this New World for us, we hope — given time and budget constraints — to make the PAJ easily available for all tablets and similar devices. We also are looking into the costs of digitizing back editions of the PAJ. Ideally, readers would have access to all 101 years of the paper. Given the costs involved, that task is somewhat daunting. However, we may very soon be able to make available ten years of back issues, which subscribers will be able to download and save for their research and reference.

Between the meetings and classes, I cannot help but wonder what the Polish American Journal's founders would think of new venture. Henry Dende, the immediate past publisher, passed away just as the internet began to take off. He, like his father, and the paper's founder Ignatius Haduch, were all newspapermen — guys with ink

in their blood.

WE ARE HOPING the newspaper repeats the success Henry Dende experienced when he changed the paper from a Polish language newspaper to an English language tabloid. At that time, Dende realized the paper's market had changed: more and more people were doing business in the English language, and while they still had great interest in events in the Old Country, many did not read or understand the Polish language as well as their parents.

Today, more people are getting their news from digital sources — the computer, tablets, and their telephones. We feel that, in order to maintain our mission to promote and preserve our Polish heritage, readers must have access to us in all available media.

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Veteran's Day Essay Scholarship Contest

For years, a dedicated group of people across the United States have been pushing the United States Postal Service for a Lt. Col. Matt Urban commemorative stamp. Letters have been written to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee and numerous Postmaster Generals since President Carter presented Urban with his due decorations in 1980.

IN HONOR OF VETERAN'S DAY and the men and women who have served our country, the Polish American Journal is giving away — through the generosity of the newspaper's patrons — over \$750 in cash and prizes to high school stu-

dents who submit an essay on the topic: “Why I Think the United States Postal Service Should Issue a Stamp Commemorating Lt. Col. Matthew Urban.”

Lt. Col. Matt Urban was born on August 25, 1919 in Buffalo of Polish immigrants. He entered the U.S. Army in 1941, serving as a Captain with the 2nd Battalion, 60th Regiment, 9th Infantry Division in France during World War II. He received 28 decorations, including the Silver Star (1 OLC), Bronze Star (2OLC) with “V” device, Purple Heart (6 OLC) and NYS Conspicuous Cross with four Silver and one Gold Clusters. In 1980, the U.S. Congress awarded Lt. Col. Urban

the nation's highest award for valor, the “Congressional Medal of Honor.” President Jimmy Carter described Lt. Col. Urban as the “Greatest Soldier in American History.” Lt. Col. Urban was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in March 1995.

Deadline for submissions is Veteran's Day, November 11, 2012. Winners will be notified by January 1, 2013. The winning entry, along with the names of all entries, will be printed in the January 2013 edition of the Polish American Journal.

For details, see advertisement on page 7 or contact us about contest rules.

Museum: FBI diligently worked to retrieve additional artifacts and documents

continued from cover
ments and artifacts from its collection had not been seen for decades. Most of this priceless collection was first acquired through the appeals, purchases, and fundraising efforts of the PMA's first curator, Mieczysław Haiman.

IN OCTOBER 2011, Maria Ciesla, president of the PMA, received a call from Harlan Berk, a well-known Chicago antique coin dealer. He received and subsequently purchased some documents and medals from a group of young people, who claimed that they found them in the basement of a house in which they were tenants. Dennis Fogue, Berk's employee, had discovered through his own research that these

documents might belong to the PMA or the Polish Roman Catholic Union (PRCUA). Mrs. Ciesla was surprised and overwhelmed, to say the least. But through the extensive research of Halina Misterka, the PMA's head archivist, and Teresa Sromek, another PMA archivist, it was substantiated that the documents and artifacts were, in fact, part of PMA's lost collection. A plan was devised with the promise that the PMA would reimburse Berk for the items he purchased. Mr. Berk continued to purchase whatever the sellers brought to his shop. But then the sellers, realizing that they may have priceless artifacts, considered the option of going to another dealer. It was then that the PMA contacted the FBI.

From that point, the FBI diligently worked to retrieve additional artifacts and documents. Through their investigations the FBI found an additional collection in the “sellers” Northwest Side home. This second lot was then stored at the Chicago FBI office, while it continued its investigation. The FBI interviewed individuals who were involved with the PMA during the 1970s and 1980s, the period of time in which the collection disappeared. During the course of this investigation, the FBI determined that the “residence in which the artifacts were discovered was owned by the mother of a former curator at the PMA.” Because the FBI investigations could not establish the date at which the artifacts disappeared from the PMA,



nor could they substantiate the person or persons responsible for removing them, and since the statute of limitations expired, the FBI and the U.S. Attorney General will not prosecute.

It is believed that not all stolen documents and artifacts have been recovered, but the PMA continues to be hopeful. Rest assured all that was recovered has been protected and safeguarded.

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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Trip to Poland was a Dream Fulfilled

Dear Editor:

My wife and I had talked about making our first visit ever to Poland for many years.

And just a few weeks ago, we finally accomplished this dream.

It far exceeded our expectations.

I was truly amazed at the spirit and the resilience of the Polish people. The resurgence of the Polish people, following the Nazi terrorism, and then Communist domination for more than 40 years, is nothing short of remarkable.

The Polish language and culture are somehow miraculously intact. Their fervent Catholicism is not like anything I have seen anywhere else in the world. The nation is full of dynamic young people...friendly and hopeful. It is interesting to note that an incredible 65,000 students currently attend the University of Warsaw. And the Polish economy is doing well relative to many of its neighbors. Added to this,

we were able to rendezvous with cousins in Krakow. And on our visit to Czestochowa on the holy day of Corpus Christi, we witnessed amazing religious fervor.

One image that will always live with me is the rebuilt city of Warsaw, and especially Stare Miasto (the old square), which was completely destroyed by the psychopathic Nazis, and now has been lovingly restored by the Poles.

It is staggering to think that Poland had somewhere around six million deaths in World War II, losing 17% of its population which is a higher percentage than either Germany or the Soviet Union and far exceeds the military losses of the USA and Great Britain. This is a stunning legacy of a people who truly know their roots and refused to let any usurpers destroy them.

And one final note. An Italian friend had told me that I would see the most beautiful women in the world in Warsaw. Sure enough, the

reality is that I have never seen so many stunningly gorgeous women anywhere as I saw in Warsaw.

Joseph Batory
Philadelphia

BE CONSISTENT. For many, many years I have enjoyed reading your publication. I am very pleased that you now include "Brush Up" in the edition you send me.

In the past I noticed that you accept and print adds that say "Chinese Raffle."

I feel that is a derogatory remark and ask that you do not print those words in future editions. We do not appreciate Polish jokes and I feel the Chinese do not appreciate that phrase.

Mary Ann Jaworske
Lutz, Florida

KARSKI BIOGRAPHY. Following President Obama's presentation of the Medal of Freedom to the late Jan Karski, we received several letters asking us to detail the World War II legend's life. Over the years, we have

published numerous articles about Karski. Upon his passing, his biography was printed and now is a permanent part of our On-line Library.

We understand that recent subscribers to the Polish American Journal may not have seen early stories on Karski. The same is true to stories about many Polish heroes — from the very popular (Pulaski, Gabreski, Curie, Urban, Walesa, for example) to those who do not share instant name identity (Funk, Kwolek, Scolvus, Witek, Koprowski, et. al.). We are grateful to those of you who take the time to let us know about these famous Poles and Polish Americans.

On occasion, we do reprint biographies and histories (such as Jaga Urban's series on Madame Curie), but repeating them at each reference is subject to space limitations. We are happy to suggest resources for those who wish to learn more about anyone whose name appears in the PAJ.

— M.K.

Father of the Vitamin

continued from cover

By the Rockefeller Foundation, Funk returned to Warsaw in 1923 to serve as the director of the Biochemistry Department of the State Institute of Hygiene. Funk moved to Paris in 1927 and became a consultant to a pharmaceutical company and founded Casa Biochemica, a privately funded research institution.

At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Funk returned to the United States to work as a consultant for the United States Vitamin Corporation. He became the president of the Funk Foundation for Medical Research in 1940.

His discovery was precipitated after reading an article by the Dutchman Christiaan Eijkman that indicated people eating brown rice were less vulnerable to beri-beri than those who ate only the fully milled product. This led Funk to isolate the substance re-

sponsible. Because that substance contained an amine group, he called it vitamine, and today known as vitamin B1 (thiamine). He put forward the hypothesis that other diseases, like rickets, pellagra, sprue, and scurvy could also be cured by vitamins. Funk later postulated the existence of other essential nutrients, which became known as B1, B2, C, and D.

In 1936 he determined the molecular structure of thiamin. He was the first to isolate nicotinic acid (also called niacin or vitamin B3).

Funk also conducted research into hormones, diabetes, ulcers, and the biochemistry of cancer.

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) annually honors Polish-American scientists with the Casimir Funk Natural Sciences Award.

CUTTING CLASS. Over 7,500 teachers in Poland may lose their jobs in an attempt to balance school budgets. Work hours will be reduced for another 15,000 teachers. One of the reasons given for the action is the decline in the number of Polish students. There were about 5.9 million school children nationwide in 2005. That number has dropped to the current 4.8 million.

Precise numbers of the cost-cutting measures are set to be released in October.

2012 Catholic League Appeal

By Msgr. Matthew Kopacz
Coordinator Catholic League Appeal

April 28, 2013 will mark the Seventieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Catholic League. In May 1943 seventy-six priests, representing fifteen dioceses and prominent laity met at the Hotel Lafayette in Buffalo, New York ratifying the purpose of the new Organization, formally adopting a constitution and at that time choosing Detroit, Michigan as the location of the National Office.

Following the ravages of World War II the Catholic League supported 966 parishes in eighty-six dioceses in Poland providing much needed liturgical vestments, vessels and other articles of devotion.

Today, while the immediate needs of the Church in Poland have changed since the League's founding, it still relies on the generosity of the Church in the United States for assistance. Currently, funds collected through the annual appeal help to support the Polish Pontifical College and the Polish Pontifical Institute in Rome.



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

These institutions provide advanced educational opportunities for the clergy of Poland. The Catholic League also responds to requests of local bishops in Poland seeking help for parishes, hospitals and orphanages.

The newly elected National Executive Director of the Catholic League, Bishop Andrew Wypych of Chicago, writes: "Now it is our turn to continue and build upon the rich tradition that has been handed down to us the torch of the League has been placed in our hands. The future of the League and the continuation of its mission is now our responsibility. I hope I can count on your support. The only way to insure the future viability of the Catholic League is for all of us to come together and work for its success. Individually we can do some things but together we can do great things. And great things is what I am envisioning. I would like to begin discussions on the future of the League. I am asking you to be visionaries with me just as those in the past have done for us. Together we can chart a new course for the Catholic League."

The late Bishop Karol Pekala of Poland once said: "We have need of your moral support, fully aware that spiritually, ideologically and morally you stand with us. It is most vital that we should not feel we stand alone."

Proudly we can testify that the Bishops, priests and laity of the great diocese of Buffalo have provided not only moral support but also financial to the Catholic Church in Poland. Hearts, for close to seventy years, have stretched across the seas continuing to bring to the Church in Poland — strength, solidarity, renewal in many forms of evangelization, courage, perseverance.

May we never forget the glorious work and generosity of the League in the past. Also, the countless dedicated supporters, priests and laity, heroes of the past many of whom have passed on to eternal glory. Can we, today, measure up to their height of service and dedication?

The 2012 Catholic League Appeal for Religious Assistance to the Church in Poland will take place during the entire month of August in the eight county diocese of Buffalo. Notice your parish Sunday Bulletin as to when you will be given the opportunity to contribute for the good work of the League.

May I suggest that this year you make a contribution "IN MEMORY OF _____," perhaps your parents, grandparents, other relative, a priest or nun who was influential in passing on to you the Catholic Faith.

Our Bishop Administrator, Edward U. Kmiec strongly endorses this Appeal and has stated how he was always edified by the warmth and faith of our diocesan family the dedication and faithfulness to God and to our Church. He assures us that he will mention to the new Bishop Richard J. Malone about the long tradition of the Catholic League in the diocese.

Please remember to pray for the success of this year's appeal. I, along with the student-priests in Rome, will remember you in prayer. Our Lady of Czestochowa revered Black Madonna of Poland, pray for us!

Religious Assistance for the Church in Poland



THE STUDENT PRIESTS, the Religious Brothers and Sisters, prepare for a daily liturgy at the Polish Pontifical College. The Brothers and Sisters fulfill a vital role in the operation of the College.



2012 CATHOLIC LEAGUE APPEAL
"LIGA KATOLICKA"
RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND

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Polish Pontifical College building.

Park: a place for people who are interested in learning more about their heritage

continued from cover

don't realize how Poland played such a significant role in European history, in world history," he said.

"There will be a resource in the park for people to use," he pointed out.

Construction of the park began in 2008 and continues to be carried out in stages as funds are raised. The park, dedicated in May 2008, lies on a level, rectangular tract of land near the banks of Oil Creek, whose waters are shallow under the summer sun. Oil Creek empties into the Allegheny River in downtown Oil City, a hilly town that boomed in the years after the world's first successful oil well was drilled nearby in 1859.

Both Oil Creek and the Allegheny played key roles in the oil excitement, providing a way for wooden barrels full of paraffin-rich crude to be sent from the developing oil fields down the river to Pittsburgh and other points.

The park stretches along Spruce Street, a few steps from Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, the parish that served for many decades as the community center for the Polish neighborhoods of Oil City. Spruce Street is at the bottom of a hill with narrow, sometimes steep streets which were lined with the two-story homes of Polish immigrants, many of whom worked in the mills and in industries tied to the oil industry. Polish grocery stores and other businesses flourished, and the area became known as Polish Hill.

The population of Poles in Oil City peaked during the 1930s, ac-

ording to *The Derrick*, the Oil City newspaper. The early families that arrived in the late 1800s carried names like Cominski, Jarecki, Klos, Kresinski, Letzniski, Rogeszski and Sabuski, the newspaper reported. Brozeski's grandparents, Stanley and Agnes Brozeski, lived near the site of the park.

Development of the park followed the earlier Polish Heritage Project. It was started in 1987 by Brozeski's late father, Carl, as a way to preserve the ethnic traditions of Assumption Church and included the sale of tapes and compact discs featuring the parish choir. For its work on the project, the choir received a papal blessing from Pope John Paul II.

The project, the largest of its kind in the world, continues today, its proceeds earmarked for the memorial park. An entire collection of the project is vested in the Library of Congress.

The Polish National Alliance of Oil City was one of the early supporters of the memorial park and took over the facility in June of last year to maintain it in perpetuity. Brozeski is managing the park.

Two other organizations – the Pulaski Club of Oil City and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 464 of Oil City – also were early backers.

The park features a large black granite stone with gold etching that includes the words "Polish Heritage Memorial Park of Oil City" and etchings of the Polish flag and the Czestochowa (the Polish Madonna). The U.S. flag (donated by the VFW), the Polish national flag (donated by the PNA) and the Pol-

ish state flag (donated by the Pulaski Club) flutter in the summer breeze on poles behind the center stone.

Looking at the setting from Spruce Street, two smaller granite stones on the left list the three local organizations and many other benefactors of the park.

Other stones, placed in a semi-circle, pay tribute to the Polish Madonna, Polish American war veterans, Assumption BVM Church, the Polish Heritage Project, and Pope John Paul II, as well as military leader Thaddeus Kosciuszko and nobleman, soldier and military commander Casimir Pulaski.

Three wreaths also were displayed on a recent day – one for Polish American war veterans, one for the Polish National Anthem, and another for the pontiff.

The granite markers were made by Greg Borland Memorials. Other companies that worked on the park included Reck Construction, BKI/Bert Klapac, Louis Kraft Co., King's Landscaping and Wilcox Greenhouse and Nursery.

More stones will be added in the future. Project plans have called for a dozen makers.

"We are going to finish all the memorials," Fedorek said.

The original tract of land for the park – about 90 feet by 30 feet – was purchased by Brozeski, who noted the help provided by former Oil City Mayor Sonja Hawkins. An additional tract was donated by his mother, creating a space that measures about 200 feet by 30 feet.

When did he come up with the idea for a park?

"I might have been thinking



HERITAGE PARK is located next to Assumption BVM Church, on Spruce St., near the foot of Oil City's "Polish Hill."

about it for some time," he said. "I've always been concerned about the lack of heritage. The church has been closing Polish parishes. I worry about Polish children not being aware."

While the citizens of the United States are Americans first, they should not be ashamed of celebrating their family heritage, he said.

"It's the spirit that these people brought with them," he said.

Fr. James Bajorek Offers Thoughts on Passing

WALLINGFORD, Pa. — Fr. James Bajorek, 58, former pastor of St. John Chrysostom R.C. Church in Wallingford, Pa., died after a year of illness. A devoted priest who served in several Philadelphia area parishes, Fr. Bajorek also ran 19 marathons, and was a world traveler.

He resigned as pastor in September 2011 after experiencing a seizure

Anyone interested in making contributions to the park should send them to Polish National Alliance No. 905, 410 Seneca St., Oil City, Pa., 16301. Checks should be made payable to Polish Heritage Memorial Park.

❖ ❖ ❖

Glen Mohnkern retired in 2010 as managing editor of The Derrick and The News-Herald, daily newspapers in Oil City and Franklin, Pa.

on July 8 that required emergency surgery and months of treatments. He returned to visit his former parishioners in December 2011 for an emotional farewell gathering in the Wallingford church.

Facing a terminal condition his view was, "We don't face death and die as if we don't believe in something."

FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE*

* Times & Performers Subject to Change *

SATURDAY, SEPT. 1

- Concertina All Stars -
- The Boys -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Male Dzianiszany -

SUNDAY, SEPT. 2

- John Gora Band -
- Top Dance -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Male Dzianiszany -

MONDAY, SEPT. 3

- (LABOR DAY)
- Polka Family Band -
- Top Dance -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Male Dzianiszany -

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8

- TKO Band -
- Polka Country Musicians -
- Mak Song & Dance Group -

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9

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- Tony's Deluxe Tones -
- Maki Song & Dance Group -
- Top Dance -

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Hippocrene's Jacek Galazka Reflects on Publishing Polish Interest Books

continued from cover

the world can be covered by a newspaper" and "not every boomerang returns — some of them choose freedom" and they were clearly political. Some were philosophical; others were just funny, or a mixture: "He who has a good memory can more easily forget more." On the way back to New York from Poland, I was translating aphorisms and thinking about how to get this book published.

In 1962 *Unkempt Thoughts* was published by St. Martin's Press and Lec became "the most exciting phenomenon I have encountered in many years ... who put his unhappiness into tiny perfect forms, aphorisms for an age of anxiety" said Clifton Fadiman, the famous literary critic of the time. Benjamin Britten composed a canto based on Lec's aphorism: "Burning stakes do not light the darkness." Adlai Stevenson, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations quoted Lec at the U.N: "Impartiality is not neutrality; it is partiality for justice." The book sold well and Lec became an overnight success, an essential "master of bitter illumination." I was proud of introducing him to the English-speaking world.

In 1963, I got a job at Charles Scribner's Sons, one of the oldest publishing companies in America, owned by the Scribner family since 1845. Its president, Charles Scribner, Jr., offered me the position of manager of their reference publishing department which needed to be reorganized to support an ambitious program planned by the company. I worked for Scribner in various capacities until 1985 when the company was sold and eventually became part of Simon and Schuster.

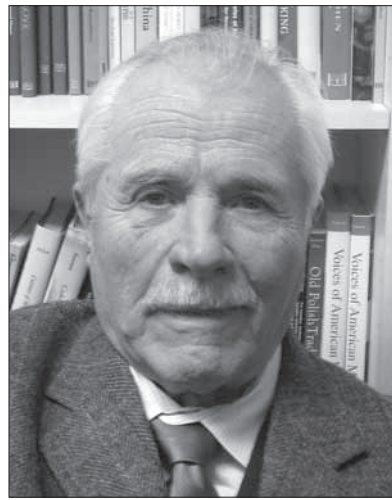
During my early Scribner years, the opportunities to publish Polish interest books were few and far between. Although the growing underground activities in Poland in the 1960s and 1970s and the Solidarity movement were attracting increasing attention in the U.S., this did not result in increased interest by the American book trade and the reading public.

In 1986 I had decided to start my third publishing career: to help publish Polish interest books for Hippocrene and to do some books on my own to be distributed by Hippocrene Books.

In the 1960s I met George Blagowidow, a Pole from Czestochowa, whose parents escaped the Russian revolution in 1917 and settled in Poland. As World War II was ending, the family had to leave Poland and they eventually settled in America. George made a brilliant career in publishing at Doubleday, Macmillan and Readers Digest. I got to know him very well and greatly admired his skills and his Polish patriotism. In 1971 he set up his own company, Hippocrene Books Inc. to distribute books of selected publishers. I never had a wiser friend.

Hippocrene started publishing Polish interest books right from the beginning. With his great talent for languages and experience in distributing dictionaries for Langenscheidt, a German publisher, George decided to commission English dictionaries for lesser known languages that were not published by Langenscheidt. By 2012 he published over 200 such dictionaries for 115 lan-

guages, just as America spread its wings to Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. No other dictionary publisher comes even close. Many Hippocrene dictionaries are the only English dictionaries for those languages available in American bookstores. Polish-English dictionaries by Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski who authored five



GEORGE BLAGOWIDOW. Established Hippocrene Books in 1971.

Polish-English and English-Polish dictionaries in various sizes and for various users, from travelers to translators, are perennials. For Hippocrene, no language is "too small." Its dictionary of Romansch-English serves the smallest ethnic group in Switzerland. As American forces became engaged in wars in many lands, Hippocrene dictionaries were often the only English dictionaries available for our troops and foreign aid workers.

I planned to help George in the publishing and promotion of all books while expanding his list of Polish interest books. In addition, I decided to start my own small publishing company called Polish Heritage Publications in Cornwall Bridge, Conn., where my wife and I had a weekend house. Hippocrene would distribute them to the book trade. For the next 15 years I was working — on weekdays — at Hippocrene Books, which had a rapidly growing Polish interest publishing program, and on weekends I was the publisher of Polish Heritage Publications distributed to the book trade by Hippocrene Books.

Hippocrene Books (named after the fountain of the muses in Greek mythology) was founded as a distribution and publishing company. From the beginning, the firm had a program of publishing Polish interest books, beginning with Boleslaw Prus' *The Doll*, several Polish-English dictionaries and a Polish cookbook titled *The Best of Polish Cooking*, as well as a biography of Jozef Pilsudski by Prof. Wacław Jędrzejewicz. George also published a number of books by Stefan Korbonski, the last leader of the Polish Underground in World War II.

POLISH HERITAGE ART CALENDARS. In 1986, the year I left Scribner, I got to work on my first independent publication. I published the first edition of a Polish Art calendar for 1987 featuring 12 paintings from the Kosciuszko Foundation of New York under my own imprint "Polish Heritage Publications." It was Albert Juszcak, then president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, who came up with the idea of a calendar of Polish paintings at the Foundation.

During my Scribner publishing

years, I got to know Polish booksellers and many Polish organizations that became excited about a Polish calendar. The Kosciuszko Foundation sold over a thousand copies of the 1987 calendar. So did Hippocrene Books as distributor. The Polish Falcons ordered a special edition of 1000 calendars for their members. It seemed worthwhile to continue, so I did for twelve more years, ending with the 1999 calendar dedicated to Krakow. One of my faithful customers for calendars was John Paul II.

The next three calendars, for 1988, '89 and '90 featured forty Polish paintings in public and private collections in North America, including the Polish Museum in Chicago, and the Gallery in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

The 1991 calendar of paintings in the Warsaw National Museum was the first to feature a Polish museum. The next three calendars showed paintings from the museums of Poznan, Krakow, and Lwow. The 1995 edition was the only calendar that was entirely based on a private collection in Warsaw, which was that of a famous Polish tenor and major art collector named Wieslaw Ochman.

The 1996 edition included paintings from the Polish Museum in Rapperswil, Switzerland, two paintings by Jan Rosen from the Papal Chapel in Castel Gandolfo, and more paintings from the Warsaw Museum. The 1997 calendar was based on the Wroclaw National Museum.

The last two calendars took a different approach; the 1998 calendar featured paintings that celebrated Wilno, while the 1999 edition, the last in the series, was dedicated to Krakow. Altogether, the 13 calendars presented 165 Polish paintings by 80 artists mainly from the early 19th century. During the golden age of Polish painting in the 19th century there was no Poland on the map of Europe, and very little was known about Polish art outside of Poland.

Over 150,000 calendars found their way to American homes and just about every Polonia organization took part in the promotion and sale of this series. Many of these illustrations were framed and preserved. Many schools used the illustrations and their descriptions, which were written by top art curators in Poland. All in all, it was the most satisfying venture in my publishing career.

POLISH HERITAGE PUBLICATIONS. Polish Heritage Publications went on to publish:

- *Polish Heritage Travel Guide to U.S.A. and Canada* (1992) by Jacek Galazka & Albert Juszcak. Prologue by Stanislaus A. Blejwas on Polish immigration in America and Canada. It is a unique handbook for travelers in search of Polish heritage in North America. There are descriptions of 195 sites (33 in Canada) in 90 towns in 26 states and 5 Canadian provinces. It includes 90 photographs. The guide includes informative appendices on Polish bookstores, Polish genealogical societies, Polish study centers, Polish place names, a brief history of Polish sports and a listing of over 90 Polish folk dance groups. Lastly there is an extensive bibliography and names of nearly 100 contribu-

tors.

- *American Phrasebook for Poles* (1990, 1993, 1995, 1997) by Jacek Galazka and Janusz Bibik. Professor Stanislaw Baranczak of Harvard University called it: "a revelation. Excellently conceived and executed it is enormously useful. There has never been anything like it." Now available from Hippocrene Books.

- *A Treasury of Polish Aphorisms* (1997). Compiled and translated by Jacek Galazka, with an introduction by Jerzy R. Krzyzanowski. Now available from Hippocrene Books.

There are 260 aphorisms by 70 Polish aphorists, including Stanislaw Jerzy Lec, Julian Tuwim, Fredro and Magdalena Samozwaniec.

- *Song, Dance and Customs of Peasant Poland* (1996). A reissue of a 1951 edition by Sula Benet with an introduction by Margaret Mead.

- *The Polish Heritage Songbook* — a reprint of a Polish compendium of songs that were forbidden by the communists until 1990.

The most exciting time for Hippocrene came when Hippocrene Books contracted with Edward Piszek to distribute the entire Sienkiewicz *Trilogy*. Piszek, a Polish American manufacturer of Polish foods, became a full-time philanthropist and a part-time publisher. He commissioned a new translation of the Sienkiewicz *Trilogy* by Wieslaw Kuniczak, a bestselling author of fiction — a monumental task which took seven years before the first volume *With Fire and Sword* was published on May 3, 1991. Both the 200th anniversary of the Polish Constitution and the publication of the book were celebrated at the Polish Consulate in New York, now again representing Free Poland.

In the years to come, Piszek published and Hippocrene distributed *The Deluge* in two volumes (1991), and the final volume *Fire in the Steppe*, a year later. With a front page review of *With Fire and Sword* in the NY Times Book Review by Prof. Norman Davies, who called the book "a Polish *Gone with the Wind*," the sale of the book exceeded 30,000 copies and the whole project was a great success.

Hippocrene also published Kuniczak's translation of *Quo Vadis* (reissued by Hippocrene in 2000), and published an updated edition of Kuniczak's *My Name is Million: an Illustrated History of the Poles in America*. In 1992, Kuniczak's *The Glass Mountain: Twenty-six Ancient Polish Folktales and Fables* completed the distinguished book col-

lection of this author, a good friend of Hippocrene and a fine novelist.

To complete the Sienkiewicz's oeuvre, Hippocrene published *Teutonic Knights*, translated secretly during WWII by Professor Massey at the University of Poznan. Hippocrene also reissued an English language edition of *In Desert and Wilderness*, published in Poland before the war. A translator who worked frequently with Hippocrene, Miroslaw Lipinski, translated *The Little Trilogy*, a book of three short stories by Sienkiewicz. A circular of books translated from Polish published by Hippocrene in the 1990s showed fifty Polish interest titles, not including dictionaries, including several history books, arts and crafts including cooking.

For the success of Polish interest publishing in America, major credit belongs to John Paul II. When he became the pope in 1978, there was an unbelievable surge of national pride in the hearts of millions of Polish Americans. Ziggies became Zygmunt overnight and Wladyslaws replaced many of the Walters. Polish interest books were flying out of the stores. Hippocrene Books, the only American publisher with a program of publishing Polish interest books, produced nearly 150 such titles. The dictionaries led the parade, history and cookbooks closely followed. I must mention Ada Dziewanowska, whose monumental *Polish Folk Dances & Songs, A Step by Step Guide* with 670 pages and 400 illustrations was awesome! Polish American press heaped compliments and cheered us on. Robert Strybel called Hippocrene "Polonia's cultural mainstay" and Wojciech Wierzewski at *Zgoda* and *Narod Polski* published their expert praise. The Strybels wrote an encyclopedia of Polish cookery, still very much in print, which Julia Child praised highly in a review. Mark Kohan at the *Polish American Journal* encouraged its authors to help us; reviewers like Florence Waszkielewicz Clowes did a great job and incomparable Sophie Hodorowicz Knab and Tom Tarapacki shared their expertise. Stas Kmiec did fabulous research on Polish dance groups in America. Richard P. Poremski made us feel famous. ACPC — American Council for Polish Culture (I bow deeply and gratefully to Debbie Majka) sold more of Polish Heritage calendars than anyone. And last but not least, Thad Cooke, the relentless and most effective Poland booster, shamed us all into buying more books on all occasions.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Polish Priests Spied on Pope John Paul II

In his recently published book "Spying on Karol Wojtyła," Polish author **Marek Lasota** uses documents from Poland's Institute of National Remembrance (INR) to establish the case that a number of Polish priests, some very close to the late pontiff, had collaborated with communist officials and passed on information on the pope to them. The spying began in Kraków and continued during the pope's days in Rome. The effort of the Polish communist government to undermine its powerful opponent, the Catholic Church, was widely known, but the names of the priests who were induced to work for the government security agency (SB) have now come to light. However, Polish historian and writer **Peter Raina** disputes some of the evidence brought forward. The author of essays and articles on Blessed Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, martyred by Polish communist officials, and Fr. Konrad Hejmo, accused of being a Russian spy in the Vatican, finds discrepancies in dates, fabrications in the names of "witnesses," and breaches of regulations of the INR safeguarding the names of accused persons. Some of the "revelations" appear to be a continuation of efforts to undermine the authority of the Catholic Church in Poland that date back to the communist period.

SEVEN POLISH MARTYRS REMEMBERED.

"Memoirs of War (1939-1945) of Priests of the Diocese of Częstochowa," a book recently published by the Catholic weekly "Niedzela," records the experiences of seven priests: four of whom who survived the hell of the Nazi concentration camps Dachau, Gusen, Auschwitz, Konstantynow, and Sosnowiec and three who worked in the Wielun region of Poland. In the Wielun region, 55 priests were sent to Dachau and 61 priests were killed, two of whom—**Frs. Maksimilian Binkiewicz** and **Ludwik Gietyngier**—were be-

atified by **Blessed John Paul II** in 1999. Photographs accompany the text and illustrate the Nazi Occupation and the Nazi German policy of extermination and suffering of those persevering the faith and fidelity to their own nation. Retired **Archbishop Stanisław Nowak** of Częstochowa notes that the memoirs of these diocesan priests "are the testimony of man's great love of God, of the fatherland and of the Church, as well as signs of adherence to the priesthood."

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DEVOTION IN POLAND.

A framed image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is being circulated among the 39 Knights of Columbus councils in Poland as the focus of prayer services. Our Lady of Guadalupe is seen as the guardian and patron of the creation of life, said **Stanisław Dziwiński**, coordinator of the Marian prayer program. At the service in St. Hedwig's church, the university church of the University of Rzeszów, officials present included university administrators, provincial and local government leaders, police, and firefighters. Rzeszów's **Bishop Kazimierz Górny** celebrated the Mass and the vice-general of the Podkarpacie Province placed the province under Our Lady's protection.

MISSING ALTARPIECE STATUE DISCOVERED.

A statue of the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus venerated at the church in Strobierna southern Poland, turns out to be a missing sculpture from the renowned Veit Stoss altarpièce in Krakow.

The discovery was confirmed by Professor Piotr Skubiszewski from the University of Warsaw, an expert in Veit Stoss art. "There are certain similarities between the statue of the Virgin Mary and the figure of St. John from St. Mary's Basilica in Krakow," said Skubiszewski.

The statue from Strobierna in the

southeastern region of Podkarpacie is the only such sculpture by Veit Stoss, a renowned Bavarian sculptor whose art covered the transition between the late Gothic and the Northern Renaissance and who is best known for the altarpiece in St. Mary's Basilica in Krakow.

VIRGINIA POL-AM PRIEST RETIRES AFTER 47 YEARS.

The **Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka**, a fixture in Washington Polonia, retired June 24 after 47 years of priestly service. A Mass marking his retirement and celebrating his nearly 50 years of sacerdotal service was offered at St. James in Falls Church, VA, where Fr. Majka has served for the past few years.

Fr. Majka was born in New Britain, Connecticut in 1938. He attended high school in Bloomfield, Conn., went on to junior college at Queen of Apostles in Madison, Wis., completing his college studies at the now-defunct St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Mich. He gives special credit during his years in Orchard Lake to the influence of the late Msgr. Zdzisław Peszkowski.

Majka was ordained in 1965. He has served in parishes in Lake Ridge, Warrenton, Spotsylvania, Fredericksburg, and Falls Church, VA. He continues to serve as Catholic chaplain at Washington's Dulles International Airport, where he still celebrates the Saturday Evening Vigil Mass. He was named a canon in the Archdiocese of Wrocław, Poland. In 1976, he participated in then Cardinal Wojtyła's visit to Alexandria, Virg.

He will continue to reside in the Annandale, Virg. area.

CHURCH CLOSINGS IN PHILADELPHIA.

The process of consolidation of parish resources begun under **Archbishop Bevilacqua** and continued under his successor **Archbishop Rigali** has reached a final phase under current Philadelphia **Archbishop Charles Chaput** with the announcement of the closing of seven churches and the ongoing planning for the future of all the other parishes in the archdiocese. Some of these, such as **St. Stanislaus Kostka** and **St. Josaphat**, are ethnic Polish parishes but find themselves in areas of declining church attendance and aging church mem-

bership. The archdiocese is the latest to be rocked with 26 allegations of sexual abuse, one of which led to the laicization of **Msgr. Francis J. Feret**, former pastor of St. Adalbert parish in the Port Richmond area.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... St. Casimir R.C. Church in St. Paul, Minn., celebrating 120 years and originally founded to serve Polish immigrants to the area. Since 1916 the Oblates of Mary Immaculate have staffed the parish adapting to the changing demographic and needs of the parish community. Today the parish includes Hmong (from Vietnam), Hispanics, Africans, African-Americans, and Caucasians. As the current pastor Fr. Bill O'Donnell, O.M.I., says, "We're trying to improve life in the neighborhood. The first step is to emphasize the issue: people have different ethnic backgrounds, but we're made in God's image."

St. Joseph's R.C. Parish, founded in 1887, St. Joseph's Parish, is the oldest Polish parish in Chicago's Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood. Its 125th Anniversary Celebration will begin Sept. 1 with a special Mass at the church at 4:00 p.m. Francis Cardinal George will officiate. An anniversary banquet will follow at the Mayfield Banquet Hall, 6072 S. Archer, from

6:00 p.m. to midnight. WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* host, Phil Ponce, will be Master of Ceremonies at this event. Reservations are available: \$60 for adults and \$25 for children. This will include dinner, open bar, cultural entertainment, dancing and music. Tables for larger groups are available. There will also be a silent auction and cash raffle. All proceeds from this event are earmarked for St. Joseph's Now and Forever campaign, which focuses, in part, on the extensive work that needs to be done on the Church Towers. For more information on St. Joseph's Church, details on the celebration and other churches in the area, go to www.pgsa.org

Philadelphia archdiocese priests: **Fr. Joseph C. Stec (55 years); Fr. Edward A. Pelczar, Msgr. John Jagodzinski, Msgr. Bernard E. Witkowski (50 years).**

STO LAT TO ... Sr. Mary Bernard Wiecezak, CSFN, who was honored by Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn., for her service as a hospital volunteer since 1988.


Sr. Francis Marie Wsteppek, CSFN, principal of Divine Mercy Academy in Ozone Park, NY, whose school was featured in the Brooklyn Diocese's TV program "Currents" as the "School of the Week."

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MODLITWY

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AN ELECTION PRAYER TO MARY. O most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. O Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection. Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. Trusting in your most powerful intercession, we pray: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unprotected. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer us. Amen. A.M.Z.

A PROELECTION PRAYER AT ELECTION TIME. Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, we thank you for the precious gift of human life that is greatly threatened

by the culture of death. Aware of the dangers we are now facing, we ask that you guide us in electing the leaders our nation truly needs: leaders with the wisdom to discern your providential plan; leaders who understand the weaknesses of the human condition; leaders who counsel our citizens to respect the rule of law; leaders with the fortitude to face the calumny of opponents with grace; leaders with knowledge of our Constitution and its natural rights; leaders who piety makes them aware of their own limitation; and leaders whose reverential fear informs their moral judgement. We pray that the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, promised by our founders and gradually realized by the suffering and sacrifice of many people in the course of our history, may be preserved, protected, and defended for all especially the most vulnerable members of our society. May Mary, the mother of God, and our mother, intercede for us, and keep our children safe from harm, especially those yet in the womb who are endangered by abortion. And may the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit sustain us in our struggle to live in peace as one nation under God. Amen. A.M.Z.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. J.W.

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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

The Election of 1912

As president, Woodrow Wilson endeared himself to Poles and Polish Americans by advocating a free and independent Poland following World War I. But certain views he had expressed years earlier were not quite so pleasant to them.

In the three-way race for President of the United States in 1912, Polonia was divided. Traditionally Democratic in their voting habits, Polish Americans were confronted with a more complicated reality that year. For the Democrats, the candidate was Gov. Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey. For the Republicans, it was the incumbent President William Howard Taft. The Progressives ran former Republican President Theodore Roosevelt.

In early 1912, political opponents of Wilson brought to the fore comments he had written about Poles and other immigrants while a professor at Princeton in 1902 in his book *History of the American People*. In that work, he made a brief mention of the "gallant Polish patriot Tadeusz Kosciuszko" and criticized the partitions of Poland as a corruption of the generally accepted "great law of self-preservation" practiced and recognized by nations for centuries. But the offending passage in the professor's book dealt with immigration:

But now there came multitudes of men of the lowest class from the south of Italy and men of the meaner sort out of Hungary and Poland, men out of the ranks where there was neither skill nor energy nor any initiative of quick intelligence ... sordid and hapless elements ... the coarse crew...

Woodrow Wilson clearly had some explaining to do. The offended ethnic groups were traditional Democrat voters and their ballots became very important by 1912 as more were naturalized or natural-born citizens and could vote. Especially Polish Americans.

The candidate exchanged letters with the leaders of Italian, Hungarian and Polish groups. He basically said that his comments in the book were taken out of context and that he was referring to contract laborers seduced to immigrate by unscrupulous agents, and those undesirable elements found in every nationality. Those who arrived of their own free will were welcome.

To Francis Drobinski of the United Polish Societies of South Brooklyn he wrote, "I yield to no one in my admiration of the Polish character. I have received the greatest stimulus from my reading of Polish history."

To Nicholas Piotrowski of the Polish Roman Catholic Union he wrote, "No one who knows anything of the history of Europe can fail to be familiar with the distinguished history of the Polish people."

In an address given to a Polish American audience in Milwaukee, Wilson praised the services of Pułaski and Kościuszko and called for all nationalities to unite as Americans. In Chicago, he branded as false the charge that he had denigrated the character of immigrants from Poland.

At one point, Wilson offered to rewrite the entry in his book that had



WILSON. Thoughts on immigration landed him in hot water. so offended Polish Americans, but that never came to pass.

Due to the controversy, Wilson's two challengers had a golden opportunity to draw Polish American voters away from him. Stanley Kunz, the leading Democrat of Chicago's Polonia, said that "no honorable and self-respecting Pole should give his vote to Wilson." An informal group of Polish Americans called Wilson "an enemy of the Poles," and the Catholic Church. The Polish National Alliance lined up against him. Others, particularly those aligned with the church, seemed to favor Wilson, though it is said that Polish priests railed against him. The general press took sides on the issue depending on which candidate they supported.

Progressive candidate Theodore Roosevelt had less of an impact in Polonia than in the country at large, though it had supported him as a champion of the working man during his successful 1904 campaign for president. Polish Americans seemed to divide along Democrat-Republican lines and dismissed Roosevelt.

Republican Taft exploited the Wilson book controversy by appearing at a Polish American church in Chicago, Immaculate Conception, where he met with a group of Polish priests. In October 1912, just before election day, he was the honored speaker at the opening of Alliance College in Pennsylvania, the PNA's new college aimed at educating Polonia's youth.

IN THE END, POLONIA'S VOTE seemed to split evenly between Wilson and Taft, with Roosevelt a distant third. Wilson won the general election and became the 28th president. The votes of Polish Americans may not have swayed the election either way, but President Wilson was grateful for their support. He may have remembered them when he came out in support of the rebirth of Poland years later. He most certainly thought of them during his 1916 reelection campaign when he strongly opposed a literacy test for voters (aimed at recently naturalized Americans) and heartily supported relief efforts for the Polish people caught up in the tragedy of World War I. He designated January 1, 1916 as Polish Relief Day to encourage Americans to donate to the relief effort. He easily captured Polonia's votes that year for reelection to a second term as president.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Polish Cultural Club Presents Jennie Marconi-Javorski Awards

HARTFORD, Conn. — Five outstanding Polish American young people were each awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship at the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.'s annual Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Awards and Strawberry Social Meeting recently held at the Polish National Home in Hartford, Connecticut.

Edward Stefan Kieltyka of New Britain, Conn., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kieltyka, and recently graduated from Xavier High School in Middletown, Conn., and will be a freshman at Saint Joseph's College of Maine in Standish, Maine. He plans to major in Mathematics and Sports Medicine. **Maciej J. Gadomski** of Bristol, Conn., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Konrad Gadomski, and recently completed his freshman year at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn.. Maciej will be a sophomore this fall. His goal is to graduate with a Bachelor of Health Sciences with a minor in Chemistry and Psychology, leading to an M.D. degree. **Timothy D. Slowikowski** of Harwinton, Conn., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Slowikowski, and recently graduated from Lewis



(l. to r.): Edward Kieltyka of New Britain, Maciej Gadomski of Bristol, Timothy Slowikowski of Harwinton, Christina Marconi of Brookfield, and Randall Waszynski of Glastonbury.

S. Mills High School. He will be a freshman at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. this fall. He plans to major in Computer Science. **Christina M. Marconi** of Brookfield, Conn., is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Marconi, and recently graduated from Brookfield High School. She will be a freshman at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington Branch, this fall. Chris-

tina plans to major in Marine, Estuarine, and Fresh Water Biology. **Randall Waszynski** of Glastonbury, Conn., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Waszynski, and recently graduated from Glastonbury High School. Randall will be a freshman at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York this fall. He plans to major in Pre-Medicine.

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In honor of Veteran's Day and the men and women who have served our country, the Polish American Journal is giving away — through the generosity of the newspaper's patrons — over \$750 in cash and prizes to high school students who submit an essay on the topic: "Why I Think the United States Postal Service Should Issue a Stamp Commemorating Lt. Col. Matthew Urban."

Lt. Col. Matt Urban was born on August 25, 1919 in Buffalo of Polish immigrants. He entered the U.S. Army in 1941, serving as a Captain with the 2nd Battalion, 60th Regiment, 9th Infantry Division in France during World War II. He received 28 decorations, including the Silver Star (1 OLC), Bronze Star (2OLC) with "V" device, Purple Heart (6 OLC) and NYS Conspicuous Cross with 4 Silver and 1 Gold Clusters. In 1980, the U.S. Congress awarded Lt. Col. Urban the nation's highest award for valor, the "Congressional Medal of Honor." President Jimmy Carter described Lt. Col. Urban as the "Greatest Soldier in American History." Lt. Col. Urban was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in March 1995.

Deadline for submissions is Veteran's Day, November 11, 2012. Winners will be notified by January 1, 2013. The winning entry, along with the names of all entries, will be printed in the January 2013 edition of the Polish American Journal.

RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

- Contest is open to all students in ages 14-19.
- Contestants do not have to be subscribers to the Polish American Journal.
- PAJ employees and their family members are not eligible contestants.
- All submissions must be postmarked by Veteran's Day, November 11, 2012. Entries received after deadline will neither be considered nor returned.
- Composition must be original. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification. All sources must be cited.
- Prizes will be mailed after publication of the January 2013 edition and before February 1, 2013.
- Winners must provide photo (school photo preferred) to be printed in the January 2013 edition. Prizes will not be awarded to students not supplying photograph.

TO ENTER

- Submit an essay of an original composition of 1,000 words or less on "Why I Think the United States Postal Service Should Issue a Stamp Commemorating Lt. Col. Matthew Urban"
- Copy must be printed in at least 10 point type, double-spaced on standard typing paper. PDF and

Microsoft Word documents will be accepted subject to prior approval. eMail info@polamjournal.com for more information.

- Entries not sent via eMail may be mailed to: Polish Heritage Contest, Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, North Boston NY 14110-0271. All entries will be acknowledged.
- Include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, if applicable. This information will not be used for anything other than notification of contest winners.
- Each entry must be signed and dated by the entrant.
- All entries become the property of PAJ and will not be returned.
- If entrant is under 18, written permission of parent or guardian is needed for contest submission.
- Copies of all entries will be submitted to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee for consideration.

JUDGING

- Entries will be judged by creativity, relevance of expression of the subject, and overall impression, with the final decision not subject to arbitration. Spelling and grammar will be considered.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Two Ladies from Michigan Honored by Poland

CHICAGO — On May 4, Zygmunt Matynia, Chicago's Counsel General of the Republic of Poland, presented Poland's prestigious *Złoty Krzyż Zasługi*, the Gold Order of Merit, to Ms. **Barbara Lemecha** and Ms. **Henrietta Nowakowski**. Both women were recognized for promoting Polish culture, heritage, and history in the state of Michigan and throughout the United States. Not only did they have very active roles in the Friends of Polish Art Club – Detroit, but both ladies are and were active in numerous other Polonian organizations. Most importantly, their mission through the American Council for Polish Culture was to present the “Polish Perspectives” at annual National Conferences for the Social Studies. For several years, they worked tirelessly to create materials for these annual national gatherings at which 4,000-5,000 teachers and school administrators attended. They co-chaired these events and designed a booth also entitled “Polish Perspectives.” Each year, Barbara and Henrietta updated this booth using eye-catching posters which displayed Poland's history, heroes, scientists, artists, authors, leaders, just to name a few. They really captured the attention of teachers, who were fascinated by the displays. The teachers returned to the booth each year to secure the free handouts of the video discs, posters and other informative publications. Most importantly, these handouts were classroom-ready materials. The “two ladies from Dearborn, Michigan” wanted to “set the record straight” about Poland, its people, Poland's role in America, and the contribution of Poles and Polish Americans in the science fields. Their booth display and handouts told of Poland's 20th century history, in particular World War II, Poland's contributions to the Allied victory, and the Solidarity Movement's success in ridding Central and Eastern Europe of communism.



Barbara Lemecha (left) and Henrietta Nowakowski.

Ms. Nowakowski and Ms. Lemecha contributed many hours of labored love to this project from continuing their research, soliciting funds, gathering hard copy materials for the booth, manning the booth, then packing everything back to ship home. They never asked to be reimbursed for any of their expenses. Polonia owes these ladies its appreciation and gratitude. For their contributions in preserving Poland's and Polonia's history for future generations, a sincere *dziękuję bardzo i sto lat* is definitely in order. Now onto Henrietta's and Barbara's next project: to establish the identity of the first Poles who landed in Jamestown in 1608.

MUSIAL'S PIANO RECITAL AT WFMT AND STOJOWSKI DOCUMENTARY. It was a thrill to attend a piano recital performed by **Katarzyna Musial**. On June 17, guests of the Consul General Zygmunt Matynia and Chicago's classical music radio station, WFMT, 98.7 FM, had the opportunity to be in WFMT's Lewis Recording Studio to hear and watch the live performance of this talented piano soloist and chamber musician play music of Olivier Messiaen, Witold Lutoslawski, Fryderyk Chopin, Henry Gorecki, Alberto Ginastera, and Zygmunt Stojowski. Stojowski's *Vision de danse* and *Mazurka Fantasque* were enthusiastically received by the studio's audience.

Ms. Musial, a Polish-born Canadian, is an internationally acclaimed pianist, having won numerous awards, such as the Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition (New York), the Penderecki International Competition (Krakow), the Alban Berg prize (Vienna), just to name a few. She delighted the audience at her debut performance at Carnegie Hall, and the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Games. Katarzyna has performed throughout Canada, Europe and the USA. Her accom-

plishments are numerous.

Additionally, **WFMT** has announced that on **August 26, from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. (CST)**, it will present a two-hour documentary, entitled, *A Romantic Master Rediscovered: Zygmunt Stojowski*. This documentary is produced by Jon Tolanski and features the music of composer Stojowski. The broadcast will include interviews with Alfred and Henry, the sons of Zygmunt Stojowski. There will also be conversations with British pianist, Jonathan Plowright, Polish conductor, Lukasz Borowicz, and Polish American music scholar, Joseph Herter.

Stojowski spent the last 41 years of his life in the United States, where he died in 1946. His compositions remained forgotten and unperformed until recently. This WFMT documentary will expose the treasury of his beautiful works.

LIRA ENSEMBLE PAYS TRIBUTE TO ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA CHURCH. Chicago's historic **St. Stanislaus Kostka Church** was filled with parishioners and friends attending a special concert to help celebrate the 135th anniversary of the laying

of the church's cornerstone and the viewing of the **Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy**. July 1 was indeed a hot day, but all were there to hear the internationally renowned **Lira Ensemble**, artist-in-residence at Loyola University Chicago, present this concert of Marian Hymns. Among the hymns sung were the beloved *Bogurodzica*, *Zdrowaś Maryjo*, a song composed by Daniel Gawthrop, a non-Polish American who learned the Polish language while serving in the U.S. Army, and *Mananitas a la Virgen de Guadalupe*.

The iconic monstrosity, Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy (Our Lady of the Sign – Ark of Mercy) was



Our Lady of the Sign – Divine Mercy

officially unveiled and blessed by Francis Cardinal George on May 31, 2008. **Father Anthony Buś, CR**, pastor of St. Stanislaus decided that the sanctuary would be open to the public around the clock. **Stefan Niedorezo** was commissioned to sculpt this iconic monstrosity and **Malgorzata Sawczuk** was commissioned to apply the paint and gold gilding.

The *Chicago Reader* newspaper designated this church as “the best house of worship to turn to when you hit bottom.”

LEGION FASHION SHOW. Once again, the Legion of Young Polish Women held a successful fashion show with Legion members, former and future debutantes, escorts and children of all ages acting as models. The House of the White Eagle was filled with 265 guests to watch these models walk the runway in the lat-

est women and children's fashions. **Sharon Orlowski**, the Legion's Fashion Show Chair, was able to secure dresses and gowns from designers Mira Horoszowski, Maciej Zien, and Jessica McClintock, along with ladies' fashions from BonJour Madame, Boutique Unique, children's fashions from Marian Michaels of Winnetka, men's fashions from Black Tie Formalwear, and Hinsdale Furriers. All are well-known boutiques located throughout the metro-Chicago area.

Not only did the guests have the opportunity to see friends and family members model and enjoy a wonderful luncheon provided by the Przybylo family of the White Eagle Banquets, but they had the chance to win cash money or baskets filled with everything from dining gift certificates, a variety of wines, even a Vera Bradley bag and much much more.

AJC LAUDS MATYNIA. For a few years now, there has been a long-planned initiative at the Auschwitz Museum to conserve the barracks of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Thus far, 19 nations have contributed over \$97 million toward this goal. Poland's Consul General in Chicago, **Zygmunt Matynia**, was instrumental in the successful effort to secure funds from the United States for the project. The American Jewish Committee (AJC) Chicago Director Dan Elbaum lauded Zygmunt Matynia's efforts. “It is also a privilege to share the stage with a true *mensch*, Chicago's Consul General Zygmunt Matynia. Since his (Matynia) arrival in Chicago, this has been a day that Zygmunt has worked tirelessly toward. Zygmunt taught me something incredibly important that we should not forget. Poles constitute nearly half of the 1.3 million visitors to Auschwitz each year. Consul General – I must tell you that observing your personal commitment on this issue has been nothing less than inspiring.”

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...? / Robert Strybel,

Today's Poland is One-Third its Largest Size

Poland's legal holidays at present are: New Year's Day, Epiphany/Three Kings (Jan. 6), Easter Monday, Labor Day (May 1), Constitution Day (May 3), Corpus Christi (June), Polish Army Day/Assumption (Aug. 15), All Saints Day (Nov. 1), Independence Day (Nov. 11), Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and the Second Day of Christmas (Dec. 26).

The name **Rzeczpospolita Polska** (Republic of Poland), used between 1918 and 1939, was revived when Poland dumped communist rule in 1989. The Soviet-controlled puppet state it replaced had been known as **Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa** (People's Republic of Poland).

Today's Poland covers an area of 312,685 km² (120,727 miles²), a mere one-third of the territory it controlled in the Middle Ages as the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, a sprawling land empire that straddled the European continent.

Edmund Muskie (1914-1996), whose original family name was Marciszewski, was the first American governor (Maine), U.S. Secretary of State and vice-presidential candidate of Polish extraction.

Most popular Polish beers have an alcohol content of 5.7%-6.2%

ABV (alcohol by volume) and are stronger than the average American beer. Miller's Genuine Draft is only 4.7%, and Bud Light even more watery (4.2%).

Although widely used across Poland, many Polish first names are misnomers, chosen mainly because of their similar sound. Stanley, Walter, Chester, Mitchell, Bill, Harriet, Bernice, Stella, Grace and Lottie are not the proper equivalents of Stanisław, Władysław, Czesław, Mieczysław, Bolesław, Jadwiga, Bronisława, Stanisława, Grażyna and Władysława.

A Big Mac costs \$2.58 in Poland — one of the less expensive countries for this global favorite. It is even less in China (\$2.44), Russia (\$2.15) and Ukraine (\$2.11). At the upper end of the scale are Switzerland (\$6.81), Sweden (\$5.91) and Brazil (\$5.68), while the U.S. price is \$4.20.

Poland's per capita GDP (Gross Domestic Product – the total amount of goods and services a country produces) has risen from \$4,737 in 2001 to \$20,334 in 2011. It was the only European country

that did not fall into recession during the crisis of the late 2000s.

Surnames ending in “-ski” were the most common family names used by the nobility of Old Poland. The adjectival “-ski” ending meant simply “of” and referred to the nobleman's estate or a village he owned, so Ryszard Brzeziński would have originally meant Sir Richard of Birchwood.

The old Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzeczpospolita Obojga Narodów) was once one of Europe's largest land empires, but was wiped off the map in the late 1700s for 123 years. A downsized Poland appeared after 1918 and the one that emerged after World War II was small even smaller by 20%.

The country's elevation ranges from 2,499 meters (87,198 feet) above sea-level (Mount Rysy in the Carpathian Mountains) to 1.8 meters (nearly six feet) below sea-level (in the Vistula Delta). About 75% of Polish territory does not exceed 200 meters (656 feet) above sea-level. The European average is 320 meters (1,049 feet).

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Scholarships to Central NY Students

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Syracuse Polish Scholarship Fund awarded its 2012 scholarships to the following CNY students: Agnieszka Bak, Alissa Cornacchia, Janelle Dmochowski, Marietta Maria Guzda, Joshua Nemeyer, Karol Siok, Sonia Siok, Megan Elizabeth Visconti, Magdalena Wozny and Alexandra Szelewski who was also selected by public vote as Miss Polonia 2012 at the group's 59th Annual Polish Festival in June ... The Professional & Business Women of Polonia awarded its 2012 scholarships to Lindsay Kraus and Susan Nappo .

Mezzo soprano **Elizabeth Wojtowicz** gave a recital at the Lancaster Presbyterian Church on July 13 ... The Polish Genealogical Society of NYS has undertaken a project to digitize all of the *Dziennik dla Wszystkich* newspapers from 1911 through the early 1940s ... The Podhale Parents and Youth Association held its Annual Picnic on July 14 and 15 at its camp in Franklinville ... West Seneca native **Lee Stempniak** signed a \$5 million contract with the Calgary Flames hockey team ... **Matthew R. Ballard** of Albion began a series of Polish genealogical presentations at the Richmond Memorial Library in Batavia with "Polish Genealogy I - Starting Your Research Using U.S. Records" on July 17. The next lecture, "Polish Genealogy II - Turning to Catholic Records (U.S. & Poland)", will be on September 18 ... Fredonia born **Jenn Stuczynski Suhr** (Pole Vault) and Elma native **Jake Kaminski** (Archery) represented the U.S. at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

The 34th Annual Polish American Arts Festival, which featured performances by the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Phocus, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, New Direction Band, Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble, Maestro's Men, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, and Jimmy Sturr, was held in the Cheektowaga Town Park the weekend of July 19 through 22. The Annual General Pulaski Association Parade, led by grand marshal Jola Simon, on Sunday was the highlight of the festival ... Niagara University in Lewiston was the site of the Polish National Catholic Church's "National Youth Convocation 2012" July 22 through 27 ... St. Andrew Parish in Sloan hosted a Polka Mass as part of its Weekend Extravaganza on July 29.



WINS CHAMBER AWARD. Pictured left to right at the Amherst, N.Y. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Awards Luncheon at Samuel's Grande Manor are: vice president of First Niagara Bank Lena Prohaska; Dr. Kenneth D. Anthonie; and Amherst Chamber of Commerce President Colleen DiPirro. Hundreds of civic leaders gathered at the popular meeting spot to congratulate Anthonie accept the Chamber's "Award for Excellence."

Anthonie is the Chairman of the Board of the Eyes On America Foundation. This foundation has donated 75 cataract surgeries in the past the years for those without health care insurance.

The Polish Villa II's Annual **Miss Buffalo Sunset Cruise**, with music by the Buffalo Touch, set sail from the Erie Basin Marina in Downtown Buffalo on July 30, and the Potts Deli and Grille's 10th Annual **Miss Buffalo Cruise** with Tru Heritage will take to Lake Erie on August 6 ... The 39th Annual **St. Stanislaus Polish Arts Festival** is scheduled for August 3 and 4 at St. Stanislaus Koska Church in Rochester. Ray Serafin and Brass Magic will provide the music ... The Buffalo Touch will be featured at the **Resurrection Parish Lawn Fete's** "Polka Sunday" in Cheektowaga; **St. Stanislaus Parish** in Erie, Pa. will host a parish picnic at Pleasant Ridge Park in Fairview; and the **Buffalo Polka Boosters** will hold its annual picnic, with the Bed Rock Boys and Concertina All Stars, at the Lamm Post Grove in Williamsville on August 5.

Erie County Executive **Mark Poloncarz** will be honored as the Buffalo Bison's baseball team's Polish American of the Year at the its "Polish Festival" Night at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 14. The Knewz and the Krakowiacy Polish Folk Dancers will perform at the pre-game tent party ... **Forgotten Buffalo** will lead its "Polonia Pride" Tour through Buffalo's Historic Polonia District on August 17 ... The 33rd Annual **Dozynki Polish Harvest Festival** will be held at Corpus Christi Church in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District from August 17 through 19. This year's festival will feature Al Kania's Polka Smile, Eastern

Style, Buffalo Concertina All Stars, New Direction Band, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble and Buffalo's Best Pierogi Contest ... The **Annunciation Church Picnic** in Elma will feature a Polka Mass with John Stanczyk & Rare Vintage, and music by Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push in the beer tent on August 19 ... Polonia Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario will be the site of the Polish Alliance of Canada Central Ladies Circle's **Dozynki Harvest Celebration**, featuring music by Polanie on August 19.

Holy Trinity Parish in Erie, Pa. will hold its 19th Annual Zabawa, featuring the Polka Family Band, Mar-Vels, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push and the John Gora Band, on the parish grounds August 24 through 26 ... The 24th Annual **OWL Picnic**, benefitting Camp Good Days and Special Times, Mercy Flight, Troopers Helping Hands, St. Adalbert's Basilica and Wings of Hope, will feature the Eddie "O" Orchestra, New Yorkers with CJ Luksch, Crash Cadillac, Buffalo Touch, Dave Gawronski, Rare Vintage, JC Thompson, Knewz, City Side, Danny Neaverth, and Accordion Bill at the Lamm Post Grove on August 26.

If you have an item for this column, send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication the month (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.

Death of Jackie Schmid Shocks Community

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jacquelyn A. "Jackie" Schmid, a polka columnist for Buffalo's weekly Am-Pol Eagle newspaper, polka promoter, Polish American and political activist died at home, July 23, 2012. She was 51.

Schmid, an executive assistant to Congressman Brian Higgins, had just helped organize the Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival and General Pulaski Parade in Cheektowaga the weekend prior to her passing.

Schmid was a Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2012. She was presented the "Polish American of the Year" award by the Buffalo Bisons in 2008. At that time Judge Michael Pietruszka said of Schmid, "She is definitely one of the unsung heroes of Polonia. She works on all of these projects behind the scenes and just does wonderful things for the community."

Despite feeling ill, Schmid attended the Pulaski Parade and Cheektowaga Polish Arts Festival. Last year Schmid stated: "The Polish Festival is really important to keep the Polish heritage alive and pass down the traditions. The younger generations need to keep the traditions going."

Schmid planned the Pvt. Leonard Post Pre-Dyngus Day and Dyngus Day celebrations.

Schmid was vice chairwoman of the Cheektowaga Democratic Committee, general manager of the Cheektowaga Symphony Orchestra, a director of the General Pulaski Assn., Inc., an organizer of Squeezefest (an accordion festival and old-fashioned polka party), and a member of the Polish American Arts Festival Committee. She was also active as a polka promoter and member of St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga.

Cheektowaga Supervisor Mary Holtz has referred to Schmid as an "event planner extraordinaire" for the Cheektowaga Crabapple Festi-



val. Schmid was also an active volunteer with the Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission which organizes the Independence Day celebrations including the parade in the town.

Schmid was born in Buffalo and raised in Cheektowaga, where she was active in local Democratic politics. She was a 1979 graduate of Villa Maria Academy. She also cooked for her family's restaurant, which was located on Broadway and Shepard Street on Buffalo's East Side, before it was moved to Cheektowaga. The restaurant was closed in 1985.

Brian Rusk, president of the General Pulaski Assn., lauded Schmid's collaboration with other directors as she served as co-chair of the parade for 10 years. He called her, "A fine and dedicated woman."

Rusk added, "She was a foundation of our Pulaski Assn. and parade for the last 15 years. We will miss her at the General Pulaski Assn. and I personally dedicate the parade yesterday in her memory."

Pulaski parade co-chair Mira Szramel said Schmid was always dependable. "I knew I could count on her," Szramel said. She added that she knew she could always "Call Jackie" and the job would get done.

— Am-Pol Eagle

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OBITUARIES

Chicago's Quiet Polish American



Joan J. Kosinski

Joan J. Kosinski, 77, an avid supporter of the Polish American community, died unexpectedly on June 29, 2012. Kosinski, a life-long South Side Chicago resident, quietly and generously contributed to so many worthwhile organizations. She gave, but wanted no recognition. She was proud of her Polish heritage and shared this pride with those she met. She was kind, humble, and smart.

The daughter of late Stanley and the late Josephine Kurek, "Joni" grew up above her Polish immigrant parents' tavern in Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood and learned her culinary skills working in the kitchen of Stanley's Tavern, which has been around since 1935 at the corner of 42nd Street and South Ashland Avenue. It is still operated by her sister.

"Joni" Kosinski not only belonged to many organizations, but she volunteered her time to them. For 40 years, she sat on the Board of The Polish Museum of America (PMA). For 10 of those years she was its president. At the time of her death, she was the PMA's vice president. She did everything and anything during those four decades, from chairing museum committees and bringing many guests to PMA events to stuffing envelopes.

She was a member of the Legion of Young Polish Women since 1952, the year she debuted at the Legion's White and Red Ball, held the offices of president and treasurer, and was an active member of its Advisory Board. Additionally, she was a life member of the Polish Arts Club, a member of the Polish Women's

Civic Club, and a former long time Board member at Chicago's St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital.

In 1990, Kosinski and her husband, George, received the PMA's Polish Spirit Award and, in 2003, they received the Advocates Society Award of Merit. In 2003, Kosinski was one of 50 individuals in the United States recognized as a "Polish American: Patron of Culture and Art." In 2010, Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, honored Kosinski with an "Outstanding Women in Philanthropy" award. Additionally, she received the Polish American Business Award from Polish American Congress-Illinois Division.

She was a life member of the Polish Arts Club and a member of the Polish Women's Civic Club. As an art and music enthusiast, Kosinski was lauded for her support of artists, musicians, and writers from Chicago's Polonian community. Her humble home was literally filled with hundreds of original pieces of art.

Joni Kurek graduated from Chicago's Lourdes High School and the Ray-Vogue College of Design. At one point, she ran her own dress shop, Joni's, with the help of her sister. In 1957, she married I. George Kosinski, who died tragically in 2007. They were successful owners and operators of Aluminum Case Corporation, a manufacturer of customized aluminum cases. She sold this company in 2010.

Kosinski is survived by her daughter, Maria Kosinski-Weiing, and sister, Wanda Kurek.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

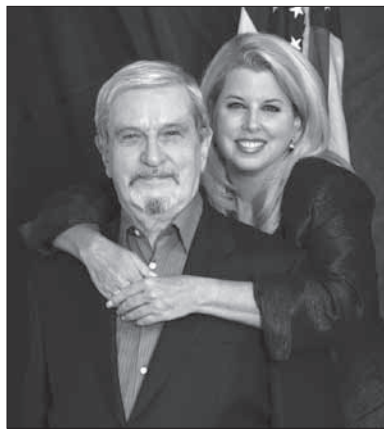
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Ryszard Kossobudzki, Poland's "Quiet Hero"



Ryszard Kossobudzki and daughter Rita Cosby.

Ryszard Kossobudzki, a veteran of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, has died in the United States at the age of eighty six.

Kossobudzki's war-time experience was described by his daughter, Rita Cosby, Emmy award-winning journalist, TV host, and *New York Times* bestselling author in the book *Quiet Hero: Secrets from my Father's Past*, which was published in the United States and in a Polish translation in 2010.

In her book, Cosby described how she uncovered an amazing story of her father's heroism and courage, as well as his secret: he found his war-time experience too painful to share with his family and it was only several years ago that, after her mother's death, while sorting out her belongings, that she discovered a suitcase containing mementos from her father's youth, such as a worn Polish Resistance armband; rusted tags bearing a prisoner number and the words Stalag IVB; and an identity card for an ex-POW bearing the name Ryszard Kossobudzki.

After the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, Ryszard Kossobudzki was taken into captivity and sent to a German POW camp near Dresden, from which he escaped and was ultimately rescued by American forces.

After the war, he studied in London and, having emigrated to the United States in the mid 1950s, changed his name to Richard Cosby. He made his first, and only visit to Poland, in 2009, after a lapse of sixty five years.

Michael Sokolski, Creator of Scan-Tron

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The name Michael Sokolski might not be of the household variety, but if you've ever filled in the little bubbles of a standardized test with a No. 2 pencil, you're familiar with his work.

Sokolski, the man who invented the Scan-Tron test format, died at the age of 85 of congestive heart failure.

Born in Poland in 1926, he left his homeland at the age of 16 after his house was bombed and his mother killed during World War II. He served as a tank driver in the Polish Forces. Following his time in the military, he moved to the United States and became a U.S. citizen in 1963. Eventually settling in Orange County, California, Sokolski founded Scantron in 1972. The Scantron forms, though reviled by many a student on exam day, revolutionized test-taking around the world.

Sokolski held a number of patents relating to his creation. In his free time, he sailed, fish, and flew as a private pilot. He also served as a reserve on the Santa Ana police force.

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



NAVIGATING AN URBAN PLAIN. Nowy Sacz, Poland. May 21, 1976.

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

The Old College Try

The June Polish American Journal lists a number of "Polish Days" at various major league baseball parks. Just so you know, every game is "Polish Days" at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. Everyone wears red and white with the Polish red cardinal on their chest.

Sources say the term "the old college try" was originated with major league baseball veterans and managers referring to the shortcomings of young players coming up from the college ranks. Like Frankie Frisch for example, "The Fordham Flash" in his rookie year prompted Christy Mathewson to remark "he was taking a long hold on his club and the old college try at the ball." Trying is a good thing. Never stop trying Mike Ditka said: "you're never a loser until you quit trying."

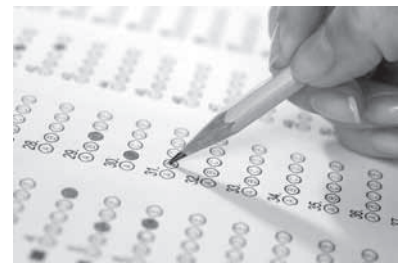
Here is a multiple choice question: "winning is to trying" as a. "knowing is to praying," b. "knowing is to studying," c. "it takes one to know one," or d. "knowing is to guessing." If you picked b. "knowing is to studying" you would be correct. However, in my case, d. "knowing is to guessing" was the appropriate answer for the torturous time I had taking the Scantron multiple choice tests all throughout my academic life, but primarily in college. Scantron is the standardized test where the individual uses a number two pencil to fill in the dot next to the correct answer or in my case, the guessed answer. Guessing was a major part of my strategy with any Scantron test and true to the hackneyed expression giving it the "old college try."

Scantron brings back many memories. A write-up appeared last month in Yahoo (and in this issue of the PAJ) that the creator of Scantron, Michael Sokolski, passed away at the age of 85. We can now add Sokolski to that long list of notable Polish inventors, thinkers, and Poles with interesting lives.

Students (some of them) are mourning the death of Sokolski. The other 90% of us now know who to blame for not being accepted into Law School.

ETHNIC GARB. I wrote in the June 2010 issue of the Pondering Pole that it is nice to have someone dress up in costumes at the ethnic events. Celeste Bonwicz, the daughter of *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Food and Restaurant critic Joe Bonwicz (Bonce-

wicz), dressed in a Polish folk costume for the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church summer picnic. It really added a nice touch to the event as she greeted guests and had her picture taken numerous times. She is an intelligent, attractive, and lovely person; thank you Celeste for doing that. You were one of the highlights of the festival.



Scan-tron form.

POLISH OR NOT? Anthony Sedlak, best-selling author, former host of Food Network Canada's show "The Main," and former celebrity judge of the "Family Cook

Off." Is Anthony Polish?

Dziękuję bardzo goes out to Ed Kwiatkowski for the information on the actor Tom Tyler (Vincent Markowski – Captain Marvel) and to Edward Grocki, poet and Polish culture promoter. He promotes to the first and most important group of people in his life: his children, grand-children, and great grand-children. If you have a thought about this month's topic, an answer to the question, a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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

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The 15th Annual Adirondack PolkafestUSA Grows in Scope

OLD FORGE, N.Y. — Once again, the hills were alive with the sound of polka music in the Adirondacks on Memorial Day weekend, thanks to the hundreds of participants at the 15th annual Adirondack Polka Festival.

New this year, a Polka Express Train from Utica was popular with fans as well as guests from as far away as Buffalo, N.Y. Saturday's bands included both the Eddie Forman Orchestra from Massachusetts and The Boys Band from Maryland, while Sunday offered the music of Old School and Hank Guzevich and the Polka Family.

The organizers and the Adirondack Special Events company express their gratitude to Polish DJs, editors, and advisors across the northeast for their help in making this year's festival a success.

For videos and photos of this year's event, visit: www.Polkafestusa.com or their facebook page, www.facebook.com/PolkafestUSA. For more information about next year's event, or help hosting your event, call Jim Connerty at (315) 369-5456 or email: jim@adirondackspeialevents.com.

Tribute to Ray Budzilek to be Held in November

CLEVELAND — The Bud Hundenski & the Corsairs big band will be featured in a "Tribute to Ray Budzilek," Sun., Nov. 11, 2012 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights. The 10-piece Corsairs will have two drummers, with Ray Budzilek, Jr. also on drums with the band and performing some of Ray Budzilek's Capitol hits.

For advanced tickets and more information on this celebration of Buzilek's music, contact Helenrae at (216) 661-5227.

The Bud Hundenski band has also released "Vintage Bud," a new CD that was recorded live in New York several years ago. For more information contact the band at P.O. Box 716, Coraopolis, Pa 15108 or email: swingtimemusic@gmail.com.

Polka Fireworks is a Blast!

The 38th annual Polka Fireworks at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Western Pennsylvania brought forth many emotions. Driving past the water wheel, at the entrance to the resort reminded us that this was our 30th consecutive year at this six-day fest. Like most things today, there were changes at various venues throughout the resort and in some aspects of the festival. However this multi-day event kept true to its name with explosive polka music, dynamic bands, notable stage performances, renewed friendships and more. Simply called "The Springs," by veteran attendees, this 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 Stacey Morris & the Nu-Tones, Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men, Andy Fenus & the Treltones, The Downtown Sound, Polka Family, Stephanie and her Honky Band, Pan Franek & the PolkaTowners, Stas Golonka & The Chicago Masters, Ray Jay & the Carousels, The Knewz, Jeff Mleczo's Dynabrass, Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Henny & the Versa Js, Li'l John and the ATM Band, Tony Blazonczyk & the New Phaze, The Boys, and Mon Valley Push brought their musical talent to the stages, lounges, rooms, halls and patios of this fantastic resort.

The 29th annual Concertina Jam party filled the Matterhorn Lounge on Sunday, July 1 as over 30 musicians took part in this onstage performance on Sunday bringing in concertina players from all areas of the country and regulars that have been part of this event since the first time.

This year's 38th annual Polka Fireworks is history but the 2013 Polka Fireworks will be here before you know it.

INSIDER'S FIREWORKS' FAVORITES. The Polka Fireworks or "The Springs" — one in the same ... DJ Kenny Olowin can actually make waves in the pool with his powerhouse polkas ... When off-stage, Richie Zebrowski gave lessons in how to slaughter a duck for czarnina ... The Maestro's Men were a classic Eastern Style powerhouse on Friday and Saturday with their dynamic style and sound ... The mix and levels for The Downtown Sound were perfect and the musicians demonstrated Chicago Style music at its finest ... Treltones with two concertinas provides even more honky than usual ... Musician on-stage most watched by other musicians: concertina virtuoso Greg Nowak.

It was great to see and talk with Matt and Vi Wasielewski at The Springs ... Shared a poolside table with Ray and Mary

Szymanski who then shared some wild animal stories from events in their yard ... The Futa family not only makes the Concertina Jam what it is, they also make you "family" ... Fran and Elaine provided a safe haven for the outdoor performance by The Boys ... Although they are not boys anymore, they are The Boys and made Saturday a great polka day ... Randy Koslosky beamed with pride at the performances on fiddle by his daughters ... Jim, Chris and Erik Bogdon remain the only father and sons trio at the Concertina Jam ... The Blazonczyks continue to keep this tradition what it is, The Polka Fireworks, The Queen of Polka Festivals.



Erica, Zosia, and Andrea Piotrowski of Pan Franek & the Polka Towners.



Ray Rzeszutko on drums and vocals with The Downtown Sound.



Henny Jasiewicz, leader of Henny & the Versa Js.



Greg Nowak on concertina with The Downtown Sound.



Randy Koslosky on accordion - Henny and the Versa Js.



Joe Ryndak and the Buffalo Concertina All Stars.



Tony Blazonczyk and John Furmaniak of New Phaze.



The 29th Concertina Jam at the Polka Fireworks.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Summertime Fun

BUFFALO, N.Y. — I hope everyone is enjoying the nice warm summer we are having. It's the season most of us wait for all year and it always flies by much too quickly.

POLISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL. The Polish Heritage Festival at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, held the second weekend of June, turned out well. It offered so many different exhibits, contests, entertainment, food ... a variety of things to do and see. I had the opportunity to hear



Ed Siwec takes a vocal with the New Brass Express.

Polka Family, Buffalo Touch, and New Brass Express. All did an excellent job, too. It was nice to see Eddie Siwec on stage with the New Brass Express. Ed is a polka friend and an experienced musician, excelling in clarinet, sax, and trumpet. He has played in many bands including the Dynasticks, The Brass Connection, Prime Drive, The Sounds, The Beat, TPM, just to name a few. He always adds his expertise and flair to any band he's with.

It was also good to see Kay and Ron from Erie, Pa., who came down for the day. Stephanie Pietrzak was



Denice Finan and DJ Mike Pasierb, enjoying the music at the Lamm Post.

in the audience when New Brass Express played, and she played few tunes with the band and did a great job.

STILL GOING STRONG. On June 16, Phocus took the stage at the Anchor Inn in Cheektowaga. It has been quite a while since this band played and I'm glad they are still together. Jim Nowaczewski and Bob Wroblewski on horns, Jeff Osika on concertina, Mike Melamuka on accordion, Mike Kurdziel on drums, and Robin Pegg on bass made some great music together.

AROUND THE TOWN. I, along with hundreds of others, are still in shock at the unexpected passing of Jackie Schmid. She was the key person behind many Polish and polka events around Western New York. (See story on page 9) ... The Bedrock Boys did a super job playing the early shift in the Town Park

Pavilion for a hot July 4th celebration ... Congratulations to Tadj Szymczak on his induction into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame. The official ceremony will be held Oct. 4 at the Tralf, downtown. Tadj has been involved with all kinds of music for almost 45 yrs. The last few have been playing bass and vocals with the Buffalo Touch. This is quite an honor and well-deserving.

KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED. Ted Szymanski, leader of Cityside, informs me that he is working with Hurliman's Pub, 2460 Clinton St., Cheektowaga, N.Y. to bring back polka music on Sunday afternoons.

Years ago, this tavern was called the Metropolitan, and Cityside played there many times.

A new place for polka music is always welcome.

Enjoy the warm, wonderful weather!

UPCOMING

Aug. 5. Polka Boosters Picnic at the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. From 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. Music by the Bedrock Boys and Concertina All Stars. Food served from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, Polish sausage, salad, baked beans, fruit, chowder, pop and beer. Members are \$20, Guests are \$25, Children 13-15 are \$10 and twelve and under are free. For more info and tickets, call Chris at (716) 892-7977 or John at 674-2662

Aug. 5. The Buffalo Touch play at the Resurrection Lawn Fete On Como Park Blvd. and Union Rd. in Cheektowaga, NY from 1:30 p.m.

Aug. 6. Potts Deli Tenth Annual Miss Buffalo Dance featuring Buffalo's newest polka band, Tru Heritage. Boarding at the Erie Basin Marina begins at 7:00 p.m., departure is at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$22 per person.

Aug. 8. Buffalo Touch plays at JFK Park, 44 Grafton Ave., Blasdell, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 11. New Direction is at the Second Annual German Polish Day at Spring Gardens, Two Rod Rd., Marilla, along with the Auslanders from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Polish and German food available. Admission \$10.00.

Aug. 12. The New Direction Band is at St. Stephen's Annual Polish Festival in Oswego, N.Y. from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Polish



Making the trip from Binghamton, N.Y. were Chuck and Debbie Troiani (left), who are pictured here with Buffalo's Kathy and Ron Urbanczyk.



Rayanne Bakowski and her dad, Al, at the Lamm Post.

platters, games, beer and music.

Aug. 14. The Knewz play in the pre-game tent party at Coca Cola Field from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The Bisons play the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs at 7:05 p.m. Call Chris at 892-7977.

Aug. 14. The Buffalo Touch are at the River Grill in Tonawanda, NY starting at 6:30 p.m. Call 873-2553.

Aug. 16. The New Direction play a concert in the park, at Galanti Park, Martin Rd., Lackawanna, N.Y. behind the Senior Center. Music from 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Free admission—bring your lawn chairs.

Aug. 18. The Concertina All Stars are at the Corpus Christi Dozynki Festival, 199 Clark St. in Buffalo, NY from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Aug. 19. The New Direction Band plays in the tent from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Dozynski Festival in Buffalo.

Aug. 19. Polka Music at the Annunciation Lawn Fete on Clinton St., in Elma, N.Y. with Lenny Goulka & Chicago Push.

Aug. 22. Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. surprise polka band—this month is a Hawaiian theme. Call Bill at 759-8194.

Aug. 26. Owl Picnic at the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. (See ad, next page).

There is no Polka Boosters Club meeting in August. See you at the picnic on Aug. 5!

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email : pajpolka@verizon.net.



POLKA LEGENDS MARION LUSH (left) and LI'L WALLY JAGIELLO (right) flank accordionist GEORGE SENUS.

Originally from Rome, N.Y., Senus has lived in the Miami, Florida area for over 35 years and is a retired fireman. An excellent musician, he would often sit in with bands playing in the area, including Lush's. He also played many jobs with Li'l Wally. Senus and his wife became close friends with Li'l Wally and his wife, Jeanette.



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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

An Interview with Joe Zalewski

Leader of Toledo Polka Motion

This year, I had the opportunity to travel to Cleveland for the United States Polka Association Convention and Festival 2012 at the Doubletree Hotel. For so many polka fans, the week was a very emotional one, with the passing of Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. and his funeral on Friday, May 25. Having the chance to be in the audience for the TPM reunion that evening was perhaps a good way to celebrate all of our polka heroes.

The TPM reunion band truly was in their glory that night. It felt as if they never missed a beat from all of those years ago, and when they finally wrapped up, it was 3:25 a.m. and still, no one wanted to leave! The following are some thoughts from Joe Zalewski:

What led you to put together the TPM Reunion (at the 2012 United States Polka Association Convention)?

USPA President Barb Haselow talked me into calling up the guys and putting together a reunion band.

Initially, we were booked for 2011, however Dave Kish's daughter was graduating from high school that year and had her graduation that night. So that's how it became a reunion for the 2012 convention.

The TPM reunion band was the "Grand Illusion" version, i.e., myself, Michael Tylinski, Dave Kish, Andy Pawlak, and Eddie Biegaj.

The initial TPM reunion, which was held on a cruise in 2010, consisted of me, Ted Lange, Jack Beachly, and Jeff Mleczko. Ted and Mollie (Busta) were already going to be on the ship, and John Gora was sponsoring it, so that's how Jack was there. We put it together with the guys who were available at the time.

Though I was asked to put together a TPM reunion band (soon after the band broke up), other commitments took precedence at that time. With Barb's persistence, I finally talked to the guys, who agreed to put a reunion band together.

We only held one full practice in preparation for the 2012 convention, taking into account the various schedules of each band member."

Tell me a little bit about the reunion band.

Joe: I am the chief operating officer for BizTech (a computer manufacturing business) and Compuworks (a business-to-business computer network company which was acquired in 2004) in Toledo. I am married to Cindy, kids are Aaron (AJ) and Kirsten. I live in Toledo, Ohio. After TPM broke up in 2004, I took a hiatus



TOLEDO POLKA MOTION (l. to r.): Mike Tylinski, Andy Pawlak, Eddie Biegaj, Joe Zalewski, and Dave Kish.

from playing. I joined DynaBrass in 2011, playing bass exclusively with that band.

Michael: Michael is married to Laura, kids are Catherine, Christian, and Roman. Michael lives in Toledo. Michael played briefly with Chris Pacer's Change of Pace band after TPM broke up in 2004.

David: Married to Chris, daughter Victoria, works in corrections. Dave lives in Amherst, Ohio.

Eddie: Kids are Krystal, Kedzie, and Edziu. Eddie has one grandchild and another one on the way. Eddie lives in Belvedere, N.J., and does guest and special appearances, playing with Bud Hundenski, Jimmy Sturr and recently with the Piatkowski Brothers at Dyngus Day 2012 in Buffalo, N.Y.

Andy Pawlak: Married to Kristine. Kids are Graesyn and Gabriel. Andy lives in Sylvania, Ohio. Andy played the final season with Eddie Blazonczyk's band, including the final gig which was New Years Eve 2011 in Chicago. Andy fills in with Stas Golonka and Tony Blazonczyk, and plays with Randy Krajewski and Doc Lula and the Boyz from Toledo.

Do you have any final comments?

"I would say that while everybody is open to doing another reunion, especially after the reception we received at USPA, there are no immediate plans for this. We were even asked to do a summer tour, but with all of the guys' work schedules that is not a possibility at this time. We truly enjoyed the support of all of our fans at USPA 2012."

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

The Four Billion Year Story of Earth's Climate

GOLDBLOCKS PLANET

The Four Billion Year Story of Earth's Climate
by Jan Zalasiewicz and Mark Williams
Oxford University Press
2012, index, illustrations, references, notes, graphs, 303 pp., \$29.95

Not too hot, not too cold. Just like the Goldilocks story, we all search for the best. Not too dry, not too wet, just right for life on earth, a climate, however, that is in constant change.

Global warming? Climate change? Is it happening? One only needs to read this book to learn of the constant changes of the earth. Geologists Zalasiewicz and Williams have presented the reader with

over four billion years of climate change! Through the efforts of many scientists, oceanographers and paleontologists, using clues from ice, grains, fossils, astronomic data and rock strata, a picture emerges that shows evidence of dramatic changes that have taken place over the billions of years. Man, himself has caused much of the change, from increased carbon dioxide levels, to using fossil fuels, to exploiting the face of the earth itself, all causing speedy, dramatic change in climate and sea levels.

A geological timescale and some key events illustrate the enormous span of time covered in this book. Other graphs and illustrations help grasp the enormity of available information.

UNSEEN HANDS

by Adam Zagajewski
tr. by Clare Cavanaugh
FSG, 2012, 105 pp., \$15.00

First published in Poland in 2009, this American paperback edition contains short vignettes of life in Poland, Paris, Chicago or a neighborhood street. The poems are a pleasure to read, entering into the mind of the author as he writes of his family, his view of his world.

The poetry draws the reader into that realm: a young child's piano lessons or "crushed like an embryo in the narrow (airplane) seat," first communion or a glimpse into the past. The words are vibrant and strong full of meaning: "the nations were exhausted after many wars and lay serenely in their marriage beds,"

or "I look at a photograph of the city where I was born, at its lush gardens and winding streets, the catholic roofs and domes of Orthodox churches."

Born in Lvov, Zagajewski now lives in Chicago and Krakow. Clare Cavanaugh, once again has provided the American reader with a very readable translation.

WICHITA

by Thad Ziolkowski
Europa editions, 2012, 253 pp., \$16.00.

If you like to read about quirky families, this is the book for you; a story of brotherhood and self-destruction; an American tragedy. Lewis has just graduated from Columbia University and — against

his father's opinion — visits his mother, Abby, in Wichita. There, the turmoil begins. One of her boy-friends sleeps in the house, the other in a tent outside; a drug lab exists in the basement. Seth, Lewis's brother, is bi-polar, with a growing meth habit. Together they are active in a feminist Ponzi scheme called The Birthday Party and use the cash generated to start a business, Grateful Gaia Storm Tours and set off for a country tour.

It is a haunting picture of American society, with surprising characters, humor and devastating irony. A reminder of what can go wrong. Ziolkowski directs the Writing Program at Pratt Institute. This is his first novel.

TELEVISION

"On a Scale of 1-to-Polish ... We're Polish!"

by Staś Kmieć

On the TV reality show *The Bachelorette*, single mother and the show's "catch," Emily Maynard returned to the States following a series of suitor eliminations, to meet the families of her final choices — to flush out any overbearing moms, judgemental sisters and other potential whack-job in-laws. The first stop was Chicago to meet the family of



BUKOWSKI. Sister had vibe about bachelorette.

Chris Bukowski. In the heart of downtown Chicago, Chris tells her about his Polish family over a beer at the Polish pub, *Smak Tak* — "on a scale of one to Polish, we're Polish!"

His parents were born in Poland, and the family speaks Polish. He warns her that while his parents will be easy to win over, his sister might be a tough nut to crack. At the house, Chris' dad takes Emily aside and tells her he's worried she'll break his son's heart. Meanwhile, Mom tells Chris he has to fight for Emily, and sister tells her to cut him off quick if she's not feeling it.

Outside, Chris tells Emily he loves her and instead of responding, she kisses him for the first time. Moments later, he takes her around back where a traditional *Góralskie kapela* folk band is playing for the family. Emily and Chris join in the fun, but it's clear she feels awkward — perhaps preferring the two-step to the polka.

At the rose ceremony, to nobody's surprise but his own, Chris doesn't get a rose. He tells Emily he is completely shocked and asks what went wrong. She says things moved too slowly. Was it that, the sister's warning, or his Polishness?

BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

A Readable, Illustrated History of Wisconsin Polonia

Susan Gibson Mikoś
POLES IN WISCONSIN
Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2012
PB, Pp. 134, \$9.95. ISBN 978-0-87020-422-7

To Order: 1-888-999-1669
or shop.wisconsinhistory.org

Pop quiz: What state has the highest number of Polish Americans in its population?

Illinois? Michigan? New Jersey? Massachusetts? No, the answer is: Wisconsin. According to the 2000 census, 9.3% of Wisconsin's people have Polish roots (p. 7). Chicago may have more Polish Americans numerically, but no state beats Wisconsin in terms of the proportion of Poles in its population.

Poles have been settling in America's Dairyland since around the time of the Civil War, and now Susan Gibson Mikoś has given us a very readable, illustrated history of Wisconsin Polonia, published by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The book is particularly strong on the early years of Wisconsin Polonia, from its origins until World War II.

The core of Wisconsin Polonia, like American Polonia in general, originated in the 19th century as a result of the great *emigracja za chlebem*. Economic conditions in partitioned Poland pushed emigrants out of the country; economic opportunities pulled them to America. Mikoś' summary of Polonia's general history is very good.

What brought those Poles to Wisconsin? The answer lies in the specificities of that community which, again, Mikoś explains well. Wisconsin Polonia began to form early; like Panna Maria, Texas, and Parisville, Michigan, the earliest immigrants first came from Poland's Prussian Partition. Absent a critical mass of Poles with whom to form a community, Poles from the Prussian Partition typically first settled near Germans. And there were certainly enough Germans in Wisconsin, especially in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Polonia had other unique traits, too. While many Poles who emigrated to Wisconsin settled in Milwaukee, where they found industrial jobs, a considerable number became farmers in central and

northern Wisconsin.

What brought them to the counties north of Green Bay? A still not widely known aspect of 19th century Polish settlements in North America was the role of "colonization" schemes. Various entrepreneurs and groups, including Polonian organizations, wanted to settle Poles on America's vast rural lands. Were you surprised to learn that Poles represent the largest ethnic group in Wisconsin? John Radziłowski, who has written about those colonization schemes, noted that at one time the county with the highest percentage of Poles in the local population could be found in — would you guess — Nebraska?

Like Panna Maria and Parisville, the earliest immigrants first came from Poland's Prussian Partition.

Mikoś also documents the usual church building activities of Catholic Poles, but also adds some interesting facts about the religious diversity of Wisconsin Polonia, a diversity tracing its origins to Prussian Poland. Did you know that the Poles of "Pound in Marinette County became a center of Polish Baptists in America" (p. 19)? Milwaukee also hosted a Polish Methodist community, while Polish Jews were the backbone of the city's Congregation Agudas Achim.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I documents the history of Poles in central Wisconsin (especially Stevens Point) and northern Wisconsin. Part II focuses on Poles in Milwaukee. Part III provides an interesting primary source: the hitherto unpublished memoir of Maciej Wojda. Wojda, who came to America in 1868 at age 15, followed relatives to Wisconsin. In 1928, the 75-year old Wojda wrote his memoirs, detailing how he came to America and how he built a life here. Mikoś offers this memoir as representative of the experience of countless Polish immigrants, allowing them their own voice to express their own history.

Consider his account of his journey to North America: "At the end,

we were only getting half a portion of food and almost no water, although we were rocking on it, and that was the greatest misery. On our ship, fifty-four people died ... " (p. 111). Wojda's wry sense of humor shows through when he describes how his brother left Prussian Poland to escape conscription by the Kaiser: "Two days after Piotr's departure, three summonses came for him to report for service: one at noon, the second in the evening, and the third at midnight; and then they telegraphed to Bremen to stop him but the ship was already too far out at sea, so they had to leave him in peace, thanks be to God, because on account of this, Willy [King Wilhelm I of Prussia-original] had one less Polish soldier in the war" (p. 103). Wojda was much like

other immigrants, who were hardly "dumb Polack" laborers, when he adds: "I can speak, not badly, four languages, that is: Polish, English, German, and, as they say, Low Dutch ... " (p. 108).

While the book describes the golden years of Wisconsin Polonia well, it peters off when it comes to postwar and contemporary history. One would have hoped for more, for example, on the role of the *emigracja polityczna* in Wisconsin Polonia. Given the many churches that Wisconsin Polonia built, there should be some mention of their fate today, especially in this period of ethnic cleansing and parish merger/suppression by some American bishops.

The price is practically a giveaway. Strongly recommended.

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KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Customs and Rituals of Rural Poland

Votive Celebrations and Harvest Time

In Poland, the annual cyclical of traditions, customs and celebrations is based on the chronology of ancient calendars: agricultural, ritual and ecclesiastical, which is the backbone of its culture. Ancient pagan elements, as delineated by the Church calendar of feasts and ceremonial calendar, are regulated by the agricultural season. Region-specific rituals and customs form the cultural treasure of the rural countryside.

Święto Przemienienia Pańskiego. Feast of the Transfiguration. August 6. While the West has celebrated this feast since the seventh century, in Poland it has been known since the eleventh century. It was applicable as a holy day for the entire Church when Pope Callistus III introduced it to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at the Battle of Belgrade August 6, 1456.

According to evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus had to take three of his disciples - Peter, James and John to the top of Mount Tabor in Galilee, where they appeared in heavenly glory, in conversation with Moses and Elijah. Christian doctrine has given a much deeper significance - transfiguration inner spiritual transformation.

In the northeastern Kurpie region, several parishes practice unusual votive folk ceremonies, recorded in the sixteenth century - that are ancient in origin. Villagers bring to church offerings of wax on this day - thick wax candles, often hand-cast, with the entire length covered with animal figures of wax: miniature cows, pigs, horses, sheep, and other livestock. Holding the lit candles, they prayed on their knees and begged for protection against diseases of cattle and swine and asked for the welfare of livestock in all treatments.

The care of divine bees, bees and beekeepers was often requested in this region. In their intention a votive offering of a small cut from wax hives was brought to church. This rare form can be only found today in museum collections. For the intention of those who were ill, votives in the shapes of miniature wax hands, legs, jaw and heart, as well as figurines of children in infancy were offered. Votive ceremonies with hand-molded beeswax offerings were still practiced in the early twentieth century. Today it can be found at the church in Krypno Kościelne at the shrine of Our Lady of Consolation (*sanktuarium Matki Bożej Pocieszenia*).

A well-known proverb states: "Na Pańskie Przemienienie lepsze gospodarza mienie" (On the Lord's Transfiguration, the better the host property).

In the Orthodox Church, The Transfiguration is celebrated according to the Julian calendar on August 6 and August 19, according to the Gregorian calendar and is one of the twelve great feasts yearly. The ceremony on the feast day of St. Spas - *Święto Św. Spasa*, with respect to the Catholic celebration of the Transfiguration is held on August 18 and 19 in the Podlasie region's village of Grabarka, where Poland's largest Orthodox shrine and a major center of pilgrimage is situated on a hill in a monastery.

The feast, like all Orthodox holidays begins on the eve before. Pilgrims come to the holy moun-



CROSSES numbering in the thousands can be found at Grabarka.

tain which juts into a stream and drink from its miraculous water. They bring to the church penitential wooden crosses and plant them around the old church, which is why Grabarka is called "over a thousand Crosses." All through the night ongoing prayers and vigils are celebrated for the dead, along with confession.

Orthodox believers celebrate on their knees, and submit offerings of vegetables, grains and fruits, which are sacrificed before the image of St. Spas. It is a traditional harvest festival. On this day in churches are consecrated gifts of the earth - apples, pears, and plums. The most popular and respected fruit is the apple, so the feast is also called "Apple Spas." Mothers whose children had died and daughters who lost their mothers wait to have apples blessed. According to legend, these loved ones can eat apples only on this day. The ceremony ends with a procession of the faithful.

Święto Trójcy Przenajświętszej. Feast of the Holy Trinity. As a part of the sacredness of the church proceedings of this feast there was a votive ceremony of hand-made animal figurines made of wax or dough, that were brought in to the church along with votive candles. This was mainly celebrated in Myszyniec and Prostynia in the Kurpie district.

Prostyńskie animal figurines were mainly in the form of goats and deer, and were made with light wheat dough that is brewed and then baked in the bread oven, decorated with typical red strips and then set up en masse and sold at stalls near the church, at the time of yearly indulgence. Traditionally they are linked with the Podlasie region and sold on religious feast days and at fairs. For several dozen years the baking of "Prostynia Goats" has been confined exclusively to Ostrowa Mazowiecka, and their production has become a source of income to many of the poorest families. Their origin is linked to ancient magical rites of superstition associated with ritual cakes.

The sale of the goats is traditionally connected with the feast day of the Holy Trinity in Prostynia. There is an old legend attached to this tradition that is still told today where the Holy Trinity appeared in Prostynia on a goat.

Dzień Św. Rocha Feast of St. Roch. August 16. In the Polish tradition, St. Roch is the patron saint of animals, livestock, guardian dogs and friends of dogs. He is often presented with a dog licking his feet or at his side. He is also a defender against epidemic diseases, such as the plague and keeps livestock safe from disease and sickness. On this feast day, churches and chapels dedicate services and processions to him. Indulgences of mostly poultry and dairy products are given to the priests.

In central and northern Poland,

celebrations are held in fallow fields, meadows and pastures, where ritual fires are lit. Herbs dedicated to Corpus Christi and the Assumption of Our Lady and the Easter palms are burned along the path leading from the barn to the pasture to protect cattle from the plague, spells and charms, and allow breeding success. Sometimes the cattle were driven through the fire three times, as it was attributed with medicinal properties of plants and magic.

Even today in Kurpie, priests sprinkle holy water on the cows and bless them, commending the care of God. St. Roch was born and lived in the fourteenth century. He was known for his generosity as he gave all his possessions to the poor, and for the great dedication with which he cared for the sick of the plague during the epidemic that broke out in Rome, when he was there on a pilgrimage. Infected patients were miraculously healed, and his works of charity gained even greater fervor.

Święto Matki Boskiej Zielnej. Feast of the Blessed Mother of the Herbs. August 15. For rural residents harvest time was the period of the greatest toil, the heaviest, but most important for the whole year of work, crowning all their efforts and farm operations. It was a time which had its own rhythm, and many time-honored customs and rites.

In Polish and European folk tradition the Blessed Virgin, whose feast day is celebrated on August 15 - the Feast of the Assumption, is venerated as the patroness and keeper of the earth and all of its abundance.

A bouquet of herbs, flowers and grain collected from the garden, fields and orchards was brought to church to be blessed. It is widely believed that the bouquets acquired unusual properties of magic and healing. On the way home from church, the bouquet's powers would prevent



THE LATE FR. LESZEK WEDZIUK and Basia Ostrowski presiding over the sharing of bread ceremony at the 2011 Dożynki Polish Harvest Festival at Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church in Houston Texas.

pests from threatening potatoes and cabbage. It would be stored in the house by a holy image. Herbs from it would be added to various kinds of teas and concoctions for the treatment applicable to any diseases plaguing humans and livestock. Blessing of plants is done in memory of a legend, which says that when the apostles in three days after the funeral of Our Lady opened the tomb, they found no body in it, but a countless number of fragrant herbs and flowers

The Blessed Virgin Mary according to a legend recognized by the Church is not dead. After her long earthly life, she fell into a deep sleep, and her soul and holy, immaculate, free from sin's body, were lifted on the wings of angels to heaven.

Religious celebrations take place August 15 at the Marian shrine in Stara Wieś near Brzozowa, to which numerous pilgrims travel.

Kalwaria observes a great religious event with a procession where under a canopy is carried a statue of the Virgin Mary resting on a stretcher. At the end of the ceremony the statue is raised and shown to the faithful.

A popular proverb - "W sierpniu każdy kwiat woła - zanieś mnie do kościoła" (In August each flower is

calling - bring me to church).

Dożynki. Harvest Festival. In pre-Christian times, this folk festival combined with a ceremonial thanksgiving for the completion of harvest and field work, which took place during the autumn equinox (September 23). Today, it is celebrated usually on one of the Sundays in September after the harvest. This custom, practiced by the Slavs and the Baltic tribes was related to the cult of plants and trees, than with primary agriculture. As the economy of manorial court in the sixteenth century prospered, harvest festivals began to be held in the courts of estates as a reward to the reapers (farmhands and employees) for work done leading to a bountiful harvest. "Plon, niesiemy plon w gospodarza dom!" (Yield, bring the yield to the host's (master's) home!)

The *Dożynki* celebration varies regionally and consists of two parts: ceremonial songs honoring the harvest which are solemn in nature and enacted with reverence; and the celebration of songs, dances, jokes, games, food and drink. "With the land there is bread and life and cause for celebration!"

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YEAR BUILT: 1966 • YEAR FOUNDED: SEPTEMBER 1917
PASTOR: FR. JACEK MAZUR

St. Stanislaus parish was founded in 1917 because of a need to serve the Polish families living at a distance from Holy Trinity, the only Polish parish in the city of Niagara Falls. Job opportunities caused some families to move farther east and, by the mid 1910s, the number was still growing. In September of 1917, the Bishop appointed the Rev. Stefan Szczepanski as organizer and first pastor of the newly founded parish. Fr. Szczepanski arranged to use the neighboring parish church of Our Lady of the Rosary until St. Stanislaus's was completed in 1919. Following the establishment of the parish, Fr. Szczepanski went about organizing a parish school for the youth. The Felician Sisters took charge in November 1917. In 1950, during the pastorate of Rev. Jozef Stelmach, a new school building was erected and a new convent built for the teaching Sisters. The Sisters continued to teach until the school closed in 1989 (due to declining enrollment). In the 1960s, the par-



ish was under the direction of Rev. Glowacki; he brought about the construction of a new church. Modern in style, it is use accessible because of its ground level entry. The Rev. Richard Jesionowski served as pastor during the 1980s and early 1990s when the parish came under scrutiny by the Diocesan Commission; this resulted in the merging of St. Stanislaus and Holy Trinity with one pastor. In 1996, the new Bishop of Buffalo appointed the Auxiliary

Bishop of the Diocese, Rev. Edward Grosz, as pastor of the twinned parishes and made him the Vicar General of the northern part of the Diocese.

In 2008, as part of the Diocesan plan, Holy Trinity was closed, and St. Stanislaus was renamed Divine Mercy Parish. It celebrates one Mass each Saturday (4:00 p.m.) and Sunday (10:30 a.m.), in addition to 8:00 a.m. Masses on Tuesday and Thursday.

Would you like to see your parish featured in "Reflections"? Please send a photo and a few paragraphs about the parish. While we appreciate full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name of last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Landry, Olkowski, and Lysiak Inducted into the NPAS Hall of Fame

TROY, Mich. —Hometown hero **Greg Landry**, women's basketball great **June Olkowski**, and three-time NHL All Star **Tom Lysiak** were inducted into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame in ceremonies held at the American-Polish Cultural Center.

Landry was drafted with the 11th pick of the first round by the Detroit Lions in 1968. He stayed with the team through the 1978 season, passing for more than 2,000 yards in 1971 and 1976. Landry was an outstanding runner at a time when most NFL QBs stayed in the pocket. He rushed for over 2600 yards and 21 touchdowns in his career. Among his many honors, Landry was voted as the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year following the 1976 season.

After ending his playing career in 1984, he went into coaching, including a stint as the Lions quarterbacks coach. Landry, 65, now lives in nearby Birmingham, and has been a sales representative for a plastic injection mold company, Atlantic Precision Products, in Shelby Township for the past 3 years.

Landry was disappointed that his mother passed away a little more than a month before his induction. Felixa K. "Fannie" Landry was born in Poland, died on May 16, 2012 in Nashua, N.H. after a period of declining health. The daughter of Andrew and Ursula (Olechna) Woroszewicz was 91.

Olkowski excelled as a student-athlete at Rutgers University in the 1980s where she led the Scarlet Knights to the AIAW nationals championship, averaging 19.6 points and 10.1 rebounds in her senior season. A Kodak All-American, she went on to coach at the University of Arizona, Butler University and Northwestern University after her collegiate playing career.

Lysiak, who was the second overall pick in the 1973 NHL draft, went on to star for 13 years with the Atlanta Flames and Chicago Blackhawks. The all-time leading scorer in Flames history, he earned All-Star honors three times in his career with nine twenty goal scoring seasons.

Over 400 people attended the induction of the Class of 2012.

POLAND FALLS SHORT. Poland, the tournament co-host with

Ukraine, was knocked out of the European soccer championship with its 1-0 defeat to Czech Republic in the team's final Group A game.

"I think that probably we were too sure about winning this game. The Czechs played excellent football," Poland Coach Franciszek Smuda said. "We had some opportunities before halftime, we didn't take advantage of them, and we lost the game." The Czechs won despite playing without their captain and playmaker due to injury.

"We knew that playing a more open second half meant we could be hurt by the Czech counterattacks," said Poland's captain, **Jakub Blaszczykowski**. "We had some great moments, but the final thoughts will be negative because we failed to reach our target."

In its first game, Poland tied Greece as substitute goalkeeper Przemyslaw Tyton was the unlikely hero. Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny had been sent off by the referee in the 69th minute. Robert Lewandowski had scored on a header in the 17th-minute, but the Greeks tied the match in the 51st minute. Twenty minutes later Szczesny was sent off for taking down a Greek scorer in the box. Tyton saved the day as he stopped Giorgos Karagounis on the penalty kick.

In the next match against Russia, Poland fell behind 1-0, but a dramatic goal by Blaszczykowski tied the score. With its second 1-1 ties the Poles hopes remained alive.

Poland then needed a win against the Czech Republic — weakened by the absence of their captain — to secure a place in the quarterfinals. Unfortunately, the Poles played poorly and lost 1-0.

STILL HOPE FOR POLAND. **Waldemar Fornalik** was appointed the national coach by the Polish Football Association on Tuesday, replacing **Franciszek Smuda**, whose contract expired following Euro 2012. The 49-year-old Fornalik has coached Ruch Chorzow since 2009, and played in the Polish league as

a defender in the 1980s and early 90s. As a coach he won respect for taking a group of unexceptional players in Ruch Chorzow and guiding the team in three years to second place in the Polish Cup last season. Nicknamed "Waldek King," it is hoped that he can do the same with a national team that has underperformed for years.

"It seems to me that the small mistakes, the nuances, decided that we didn't advance," said striker Robert Lewandowski, who scored the tournament's opening goal against Greece. "We can sit here and go on and on about what could have been if we hadn't made the mistakes we did. I think we gave it our all. We wanted the best. The fans were with us."

After early exits at the 2002 and 2006 World Cups and at Euro 2008, Poland's supporters were again disappointed in 2012. Poland had hoped that this year its three stars from Bundesliga champion Borussia Dortmund — Lewandowski, Jakub "Kuba" Blaszczykowski and Lukasz Piszczek — could bring the country its first ever win at a European Championship and a spot in the quarterfinals. The trio did play well in Euro 2012. Lewandowski scored with a header against Greece and Blaszczykowski, the team's captain, scored on a left-foot drive against Russia. However, it was not enough to get the team out of Group A, widely considered the weakest in the tournament.

The country also has two good young goalkeepers in 22-year-old Szczesny and 25-year-old Tyton. Tyton came on to save a penalty against Greece after Szczesny was ejected, and played well in the next two matches.

"We're going to move forward. We have World Cup qualifying coming up, and what we've built here we can't let fall apart, all the more because we definitely have potential," Lewandowski said. "We'll be a much better team in World Cup qualifying than we were here."



Fornalik



Blaszczykowski

BABIEC GRANDCHILDREN THRIVE ON THE WATER. The grandchildren of Jean and the late Frank Babiec of Pawtucket, R.I., continue to make their *babci* and *dziadziu* proud. The three Babiec grandchildren — **Thaddeus, Olivia,** and **Catherine** — are from Alexandria, Virg., and are competitive rowers for their colleges and high school, respectively.

This year has been particularly notable. Thaddeus, a member of the Boston University Men's Varsity Crew team, began his summer with an invitation to the US Rowing Men's Under 23 National Team Sculling Camp. By camp's end, Thaddeus was competing for a spot on the Men's 4x (Quad) going to the U23 World Championship.

Olivia finished her freshman college year with a gold medal at the prestigious Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia. This win was particularly meaningful because it gave Olivia's school, Drexel University, its first women's Dad Vail gold, ever.

Catherine, like her brother and sister, began rowing her high school sophomore year. Now a rising senior, Catherine earned a spot on the US Rowing Junior National team - High Performance Camp this summer. Since joining the camp, she has moved up to the Selection Camp boats and just learned this week that she made the Selection Camp boat going to Germany to compete.

Rowing and a love of the race runs in the family: the children's dad, **Daniel Babiec**, is a former college rower and Olympic trials competitor.

MADE IN POLAND. You may know that **Moe Drabowsky**, the prankster pitcher who starred for the Baltimore Orioles when they won their first championship in 1966, was born in Ozanna, Poland. However, you probably don't know that three other major leaguers were also born in Poland.

According to the *Baseball Almanac*, the others were **Nap Kloza**, **Johnny Reder**, and **Henry Pepłowski**. The three all had very brief major league careers, though they played in the 1920s and 1930s when making a big league roster was much more difficult.

John "Nap" Kloza was born on September 7, 1903, in Poland (city listed as unknown). He was 27 years old when he broke into the big leagues on August 16, 1931, with the St. Louis Browns as an outfielder. Despite being a great slugger in the minors, illness shortened his big league career. He later managed the Rockord Peaches of the All-American Girls Baseball League, and died in Milwaukee in 1962. Johnny Reder was born September 24, 1909, in Lublin, Poland. Reder was 22 years old when he broke into the big leagues on April 16, 1932, with the Boston Red Sox, and played in the major for one year. He was also an outstanding soccer goalkeeper. He later worked as an engineer and served in the United States Navy during World War II, before returning to Fall River, Massachusetts where he died in 1990. Henry Pepłowski was born on September 15, 1905, in Garlin, Poland. "Pep" was 24 years old when he broke into the big leagues on September 19, 1929, with the Boston Braves, and played 3rd base for one year. He died in Dover N.J. in 1992.

Of course, Drabowsky, who died in 2006 at age 70, enjoyed a great 17-year major league career.

THEY SAID IT. "The party is not over, because the Polish people, and their many guests, have no intention of letting go of something that they are experiencing for the first time in their lives. Poland's team is out, their hearts may be heavy, but the country is still at the center of sports in Europe for another couple of weeks."

— **Rob Hughes**, reporting on the impact of Poland's co-hosting UEFA Euro 2012 in the New York Times.

"We call that our Polish Play. Drabowsky pitched it, Musial hit it and Cub leftfielder Walt 'Moose' Moryn fielded it — hence the Polish Triangle."

The late pitcher **Moe Drabowsky**, recalling how he gave up Stan Musial's 3000th hit. With the Cubs up by two runs in the sixth inning, Musial stroked a pinch hit double to left field with two runners aboard to not only reach the 3000 mark, but also give his Cardinals a 3-2 victory.

Agnieszka Radwańska – World No. 2

A tennis idol in the making?

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Poland and our Polonia have the all the makings of a new national heroine, even though she achieved her hard-won victory through defeat. At London's legendary Wimbledon grass courts, Agnieszka Radwańska, 23, put up a valiant fight but ultimately was defeated 1-6, 7-5, 2-6 by one of the world's best female tennis player, the seasoned 30-year-old Afro-American Serena Williams, a five-time Wimbledon winner.

Agnieszka was victorious by virtue of being the first Pole to make it to the Wimbledon Ladies' Grand Slam final in 75 years. Although it was hardly discernable to the audience, the young Pole was still nursing an upper-respiratory-tract infection, and several days earlier was running a fever and had hardly been able to speak. Analysts see a great future for the Kraków resident who has made tremendous progress in recent years. Now No. 2 in the World Tennis Association Tour ranking, she appears a likely medal winner at this summer's London Olympic Games whose tennis contest will be played on the same Wimbledon courts.

"I'm still shaking so much. I think I had the best two weeks of my life," Agnieszka remarked after the match. In the tennis world, Wimbledon is a magic word, and she said she was extremely happy just to be able to play there in the final. "I'll try again next year," she added. "Aggie played so well and that's why she's had such a great career, and she's so young and you guys should give her another round of applause," Williams said of her Polish opponent.

Gaining 1,400 points in the WTA Tour classifications, Agnieszka overtook Russia's renowned Maria Sharapova, although she still trails behind Viktoria Azarenka of Belarus. Radwańska also took home the runner's-up prize of £557,000 (over \$863,000), a small fortune in Poland. Her Afro-American opponent pocketed the first prize of £1.15 million (\$1.78 million) and became the first woman over 30 to win Wimbledon since Czechoslovakia's Martina Navratilova in 1990.

Agnieszka has a younger sister Urszula, 21, who is also an up and coming tennis player. As a junior player, she won Grand Slam titles, including the 2007 Wimbledon girls' singles, but a year later also succumbed to Serena Williams. Urszula now ranks 54th in the world her career high, but many predict a rosy future ahead. Already over 30, the two Radwański

Sisters' tennis-court foe Serena Williams (privately they're good friends!) may soon be past her prime.

The last Polish woman to make it to the tennis world's prestigious final was Jadwiga Jędrzejowska (1912-1980) back in 1937. She ranked in the world top ten from 1936 through 1939, reaching her career high of World No. 3 in that year. Her name was a real tongue-twister to English speakers who for the sake of ease referred to her as "Jed" or "JaJa". Today's more linguistically sophisticated sports commentators have little trouble pronouncing the Radwańska surname, which happens to be a bit easier to deal with than Jędrzejowska. But, whatever the case, it appears likely that the international tennis community and the sporting world in general will be hearing quite a lot of it in the foreseeable future. Probably starting with the tennis showdowns at London's summer Olympics.



If that happens, anyone with a good supply of tennis rackets will probably make a killing in Poland. Not long ago, the great interest generated by world ski-jumping champion Adam Malysz was referred to as "Malyszomania". But due to the cost, danger and limited number of ski-jumps, it could never really take off (no pun intended!). But knocking a tennis ball back and forth or even bouncing it off the side of a building is within everyone's reach. Whether tennis it becomes Poland's new national pastime may largely depend on how the Radwański sisters perform.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Finding our Ancestors in Passenger Manifests

The arrival of our ancestors in America is an important event in our family histories. Reviewing passenger manifests from the ships will help document their arrival and will give valuable information of where they left and where they were going in America.

Almost 30 million immigrants entered the U.S. through more than a dozen ports between 1820 and 1920. The majority of immigrants entered through New York but many also entered through Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia. The industrial growth in the 1900s could not have happened without these immigrant workers and our Polish ancestors were a major part of this history.

One fact that we must know before beginning our search is the full original name of our ancestor. Since some names were changed after arrival, finding your ancestor's original name may be a challenge.

Many families believe that their names were changed when their ancestors entered America. However, this is a myth. Names on passenger manifests were based on official documents presented at the time of board-

ing. If families changed the spelling of their surnames, they usually did it after entry in order to make it easier for the people around them to pronounce their name correctly. Another problem with determining the correct name to use in your search is that some immigrants preferred to use their middle name in everyday use but their exit documents required the official to list their first name on the passenger manifest.

Ancestry.com is a very popular website to search for passenger records. The records of most entry ports can be found on this website and their databases seem to have more records. Also learn to use wild cards and the advance search functions to help overcome problems with the spelling of names.

Good luck in your search. The information you find will be treasures.



Stephen M. Szabados, the author of "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," is a regular contributor to the Polish American Journal.

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

On the Run with Bigaj

by Robert Strybel

Consider giving a loved one (or yourself) a unique, different and unusual gift of Polish heritage which can be passed down from one generation to the next — a Polish surname analysis.

Every Polish last name means something and came into being for a specific reason. Here are few taken from the PAJ's subscription list:

Bigaj: Variant form of Biegaj from the verb "biegać" (to run), hence runner.

Cytrynowicz: Patronymic tag

for the son of someone nicknamed Cytryna (lemon).

Krzemiński: Root-word "krzemień" (flint); most likely a toponymic nickname for someone from such localities as Krzemień, Krzemienna or similar.

For a custom-researched analysis of how your Polish surname came about, how many people share it, where they live and whether it is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish researched) to: Robert Strybel,

ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Also included free of charge is a genealogical contact chart (root-tracing websites, data bases, organizations and firms) which has helped many Polish Americans get started in their ancestral exploration. The list includes professional genealogists qualified to track down family records, photograph or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly even turn up living long-lost relatives in the Old Country.

What Was Your Ancestor's Property Worth?

Genealogists often find references to money in old deeds and other documents. Even U.S. census records frequently recorded estimates of a person's real estate. The natural question is, "I wonder what that would equal in today's dollars?" There is a web site that can answer this question.

S. Morgan Friedman's Inflation Calculator can convert a U.S. dollar amount for any year from 1800 through 2001 into the equivalent amount, adjusted for inflation, in any other year of that range. In other words, if you find that your ancestor purchased land for \$400 in 1805, the Inflation Calculator will tell you that the money he spent is equivalent to a purchase of \$5735.65 in 2010.

The Inflation Calculator only goes up to the year 2010, the last year for which inflation statistics are available. This should be sufficient for genealogy purposes. The pre-1975 data comes from the Consumer Price Index statistics published in the Historical Statistics of the

United States (USGPO, 1975). All data since then is from the annual Statistical Abstracts of the United States. You can access the Inflation Calculator at: www.westegg.com/inflation/.

—Eastmans Online Genealogy Newsletter

5th Annual North Star Genealogy Conference

EDINA, Minn. — The 5th Annual North Star Genealogy Conference will be held at Event held at Colonial Church, Oct. 5-6. The topic, "New Approaches and Old Sources," is sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society, and will feature D. Joshua Taylor as keynote speaker. Known to many genealogists from his appearances with Sarah Jessica Parker and Ashley Judd on NBC's popular "Who Do You Think You Are" series, he is a nationally known researcher, speaker and author. Conference also plans more than a dozen breakout sessions with the Upper Midwest's leading genealogy educators. Visit www.mnsg.org to register.

BRUSH UP / Prepared by the Polonia Media Network

Past and Present

teraz.....(TEH-ras)
now
 dziś.....(djeesh)
today
or
 dzisiaj.....(DJEE-shy)
today
 dziś rano.....(djeesh RAH-noh)
this morning
 dziś po południu.....
 (djeesh poh poh-WUHD-nyuh)
this afternoon
 dziś wieczorem.....
 (djeesh vyeH-CHOH-rehm)
tonight
 w tym tygodniu.....
 (fihm tih-GOHD-nyuh)
this week

Phonetic ch is like ch in loch
 m, f, n = male, female, neuter
 w tym miesiącu.....
 (fihm myeh-SOHWN-tshuh)
this month
 w tym roku.....(fihm ROH-kuh)
this year
 wczoraj.....(FCHOH-rei)
yesterday
 przedwczoraj.....(pseht-FCHOH-rei)
day before yesterday
 wczoraj rano.....(FCHOH-rei RAH-noh)
yesterday morning
 wczoraj po południu.....
 (FCHOH-rei poh poh-WUHD-nyuh)
yesterday afternoon

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Polish Summer Favorites – Fresh and Locally Grown

Frozen vegetables, canned goods, salad greens shipped from the other end of the country and “fresh” strawberries in January may be better than nothing. But nothing can beat the flavor and nutrition of vine-ripened tomatoes and other really fresh, locally grown produce. The freshest fruits and veggies are

available at roadside fruit and vegetable stands or farmer’s markets found in many areas. They can be used to prepare such treats as the following.

FRESH TOMATO SOUP (zupa ze świeżych pomidorów). If you have been raised on canned tomato soup,

you probably don’t realize how good the made-from-scratch variety can be. And it’s super easy too! Simply wash and cut into quarters 2-1/4 lbs fresh, vine-ripened, in-season local tomatoes and simmer in 2 T butter in saucepan or skillet until tender (only a few minutes), stirring with wooden spoon frequently.

Force mixture with wooden pestle or spoon through sieve into 8 c meat stock, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Fork-blend 1/2 – 3/4c sour cream with 1 heaped T flour until smooth and add 1/2 c hot soup 1 T at a time, stirring constantly. Stir sour cream mixture into soup pot and

return pot to flame. Simmer but do not boil around 10 so flour loses its raw taste. Season to taste with salt & pepper and serve over cooked egg noodles or rice.

TOMATO SALAD. (sałatka z pomidorów). Wash and slice 2-3 firm tomatoes and arrange on large serving dish in a single layer. Chop 1 med onion fine. Salt & pepper tomatoes and sprinkle with a little lemon juice. Sprinkle a little chopped onion at center of each tomato slice. Variation: Slice, arrange and season tomato slices as above. Slice 2 small onions wafer thin and arrange on top of tomato slices. Sprinkle salad with chopped chives or green onions. Note: This salad is very good dressed with vinaigrette. It can also be dressed with liquefied sour cream, but it should be added just prior to serving – otherwise the salad will become “soupy.”

GREEN ONION & EGG SALAD (surówka ze szczypioru z jajkiem). Trim the whiskers or tough stem base form 3-4 bunches fresh green onions. Rinse in plenty of cold water, shake dry and slice green tops and white bottoms at 1/4” intervals. Place in salad bowl, salt and pepper, add a sprinkle of sugar (optional) and top with chopped hard-cooked eggs (allow 1-2 eggs per bunch green onions). Toss and lace with enough sour cream to just coat ingredients.

QUICK & EASY PICKLES (pikle szybkie i latwe): In saucepan combine 1 c 6% distilled vinegar, 1/4 c water, 1 T salt, 1 c sugar, several peppercorns and grains allspice, 1 bayleaf, 1 t mustard seed and 1-2 buds garlic and bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer about 10 min. Set aside. In large bowl combine 1-3/4 lbs small cucumbers, peeled and sliced 1/4” thick, 2-3 small onions thinly sliced, 1 green bell pepper (minus seed portion) diced. Drench with warm marinade through sieve to catch the spices, cover with dinner plate and let stand on counter until cooled to room temp. Pack into small jars with twist-off lids, seal and refrigerate. Ready the next day.

VEGETABLES POLONAISE (warzywa po polsku): Vegetables cooked in lightly salted water until tender (especially cauliflower, wax beans, potatoes, Brussels sprouts, carrots, cabbage and potatoes) as well as pierogi and noodles are excellent when garnished with butter-browned bread crumb topping. Heat 2-3 T unsalted butter until bubbly and add 2-3 T plain dry bread crumbs, simmer, stirring frequently, until nicely browned. Spoon mixture over hot, well-drained veggies, pierogi or noodles.

PEARS IN CHOCOLATE (gruszki w czekoladzie). This nice, light dessert (perfect after a heavy meal) is proof that gourmet treats need not be expensive, elaborate or difficult to prepare. On dessert plate pour a T chocolate sundae topping or other chocolate sauce of choice. On it place a well-drained canned pear half cored-side-down. Pour a t chocolate sauce over it and top with a dollop of real whipped cream. Decorate cream topping with a whole, fresh berry (raspberry, strawberry, blackberry). That’s all there is to it! Optional: Chocolate topping may be enriched with rum or cognac (1 T per 1 c sauce).

THE POLISH KITCHEN STORE

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COOKBOOKS

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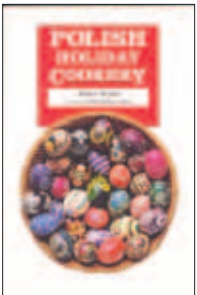
\$16.95
by Laura and Peter Zeranski
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth



Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY

\$24.95
by Robert Strybel
248 pp., hc. Hippocrene Books



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

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

TREASURED POLISH CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

\$29.95
208 pp., hc. Polonie Publishing



Overflowing with the customs and traditions of the Polish Christmas holiday season, as it was and still is observed in Poland. It also provides **menus and recipes**, carols and music, Jasełka, the Nativity Play and tree ornaments. The authentic decorations are patterns with detailed instructions for reproducing. Delightful reading throughout the whole year.

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Polonie Publishing
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GIFT PACK 12 FAVORITE GLOSS-COAT POLISH RECIPE CARDS

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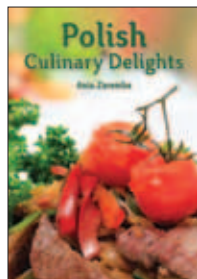
Appealing red-ribbon cello packet of the most popular and treasured recipes, including Cabbage Rolls, Turkey Cutlets with Mushroom Sauce, Baked Apples in Red Wine and more. Handy for your recipe box— perfect as party favors or hostess gifts!



POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS

\$22.95
by Ania Zaremba
224 pp., sc.

Written to bring authentic Polish recipes to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the usual “traditional Polish” fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and other members of her family. Large text. English-language version.



MY HOME-MADE POLISH RECIPES

\$17.95
by Anna Zaremba
160 pp., hc, spiral bound

Bilingual (English/Polish) cookbook containing over a 120 Polish recipes. Every recipe was tried in both countries, so it will definitely taste the best. With both USA and European measurements you can use it anywhere you go. In the book you will find sections with salads, soups, meats, seafood, desserts and pies. Only one recipe per page with full color dividers for individual sections, hardcover bounded by plastic spirals for ease of use while cooking. Two indexes for recipes - one in English and one in Polish will make it easy to find your favorite dish.

At the end of the book you will find (full color, in English language) very useful cooking info like: Cooking Tips, Herbs & Spices, Baking Breads, Baking Desserts, Vegetable & Fruits, Measurements & Substitutions, Equivalency Chart, Food Quantities, Calorie Counter, Napkin Folding, Microwave Hints and Cooking Terms.

Note: This book is shipped through the U.S. Postal Office using Media Mail service. Typically delivery times are between 1 and 2 weeks. Please be advised, certain destinations in the U.S. may take longer.

NEW! THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:

Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00
by Elna Lavine
44 pp., sc.

Ninety-six recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner

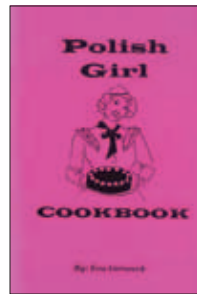


pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

NEW! POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK

\$10.00
by Eva Gerweck
44 pp., sc.

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



NEW! THE POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK

\$10.00
by Jonathan Becklar
44 pp., sc.

This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right in your kitchen that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.



NEW! POLISH PIEROGI:

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

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



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I LOVE CZARNINA 2-223 POLISH CHEF 2-220



POLISH CHICK 2-224 FOREVER POLISH 2-222

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

The Ambassador's New Washington Residence

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It was destined to be a perfect “two-fer” (“2 for 1”): a splendid, enhanced *parapetowka* coupled with a most memorable celebration of a cherished national holiday. All credit is deserved by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki who combined the inauguration of the magnificent new Residence of the Ambassador with the celebration of the 221st Anniversary of the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791, which was observed here on April 25, 2012. (Extensive coverage of the event appeared in the June 2012 issue of the PAJ.) Seven hundred invited guests enjoyed the ambassador's gracious hospitality dispensed on behalf of the Republic of Poland.

Parapetowka? *Parapet* is the Polish word for windowsill. In Poland they are wide and shelf-like extending into the room. Normally they are filled with plants, flowers, framed photos, etc. Just before moving into a new house or apartment, the owners of the still-bare dwelling customarily stage a house warming window-sill-party aptly called a *parapetowka* because all the food and drink for the guests to enjoy is arrayed on the ubiquitous window sill spaces.

The Residence is located in the exclusive Embassy Row area of the city, on Whitehaven Street. Two of the most immediate neighbors on the *cul-de-sac*, just off of Wisconsin Avenue, are the Embassy of Italy and the residence of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The Georgian style mansion was built in 1927 by renowned architect Nathan C. Wyeth, who also designed the interior of the Oval Office in the White House under President Taft. The original owner of the mansion was Paul Mellon, famous multimillionaire, philanthropist and art collector,



NEW RESIDENCE'S GRAND INAUGURATION. Pictured above, flying the flags of Poland and the European Union, is the new Residence of the Polish Ambassador. Guests are arriving for the annual celebration of Polish Constitution Day that was ideally coupled with the home's *parapetowka* — the traditional Polish house-warming party.

who was later followed by other notable owners.

The Polish government purchased the building in 2008 for approximately \$10,000,000. Four years and untold millions of dollars later, the all-encompassing renovations undertaken were finally completed. Ambassador Kupiecki jokingly quipped that “I had no idea how problematic the renovations and contractor relationships would become, even eclipsing some of my involved and complicated diplomatic undertakings here in Washington.”

The historic dwelling's original façade and exterior walls were preserved and restored. A multipurpose great hall, fully equipped with advanced visual, audio and lighting systems, was built into the back of the building's ground floor. It can easily accommodate sizable receptions, conferences, concerts and lectures. Tall French doors open unto an expansive greensward and oasis of

flowers, shrubbery and trees. But, in the end, the building is still very much a traditional home occupied by the ambassador and his family on the private upper level of the Residence.

Hillary Clinton was the guest speaker at this “May 3rd” celebration. After Ambassador Kupiecki's speech and introductory remarks, he turned to Clinton and said with a smile “Now that we are both neighbors you know where to come if you ever need to borrow a cup of sugar.” After concluding her formal remarks, Clinton warmly welcomed the ambassador to the neighborhood and humorously said that this gathering reminded her of a block party. She surveyed the mass of humanity standing in front of her and told the ambassador in reciprocation “That if you ever seemingly need a bushel of sugar to just come on over, we'll do the best we can and even take up a collection along the street.”

CONNECTICUT

STAMFORD — Four students of Polish descent from Stamford were awarded scholarships from the Polish American Cultural Society of Stamford. Jerzy Karwowski, president of the organization, and committee, awarded scholarships to: **Tomasz Babinski**, who will attend Syracuse University; **Gregory Koproski**, who will attend Franklin Pierce University; **Kamila Magiera**, who will attend the University of Connecticut; and **Kaitlin Nizolek**, who will attend the University of Baltimore.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — On Aug. 12, the **Polish Genealogical Society of America** will feature a talk on I.J. Paderewski. Richard Kujawa, Operations Manager of the Polish Museum of America will discuss the ways in which Paderewski supported and encouraged the Polish community in the United States.

His talk will be followed by a tour of the newly renovated Paderewski Room, completed in 2009. The Polish Museum of America lays claim to having a collection of the most significant artifacts of his life: both as a musician and statesman.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. There is a large enclosed parking lot adjacent to the museum.

SPRINGFIELD — Poet/author **John Guzowski's** “Wooden Trunk from Buchenwald” — an essay about the wooden trunk my parents brought with them from the refugee camps in postwar Germany — was chosen as an “Editor's Pick” in Open Salon's 4th of July issue devoted to the stories of immigrants. Guzowski is Professor Emeritus at Eastern Illinois University.

CHICAGO — Newberry Library's **Fall Workshop**. Sat., Oct. 13, 2012. 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. “High Tech- Low Tech: Old-fashioned Genealogy Meets the 21st Century.” Join Marsha Peterson-Maass, Matt Rutherford and Thomas MacEntee for a free full-day workshop discussing these low tech fundamentals plus ways to use high tech online tools to make your research easier. Check out their blog for further details and registration information at www.newberry.org/genealogy-blog. The Newberry Library is located at 60 W. Walton.

MICHIGAN

ORCHARD LAKE — “**Forbidden Art**” Opening. Fri., Aug. 17, 2012. The Polish Mission Galeria, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, MI 48324.

The Forbidden Art exhibition is a first-of-its-kind outreach project for American audiences by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (A-BSM) in Poland. Featuring 20 panels that showcase photographs of original art made from 1940-1945. The exhibition is a hallmark of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum's new directive to memorialize the past through education. Created with the intent to raise awareness of the Holocaust to American audiences, the museum selected the best pieces of camp art from the collection of over 6,000 artifacts. A detailed story accompanies each piece, inviting viewers to experience a special degree of intimacy with the objects' imprisoned creators.

The Polish Mission located at Orchard Lake Schools was founded in 1885 and serves as the leading organization in North America for the study and preservation of Polish

Culture, Art, History, and Genealogy.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — **Twin Cities Polish Festival**. August 11 (10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.) and Aug. 12 (11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) Main Street, SE Minneapolis, on the Mississippi River Bank. Volunteers are needed. Visit at www.tcpolishfestival.org/ volunteer or contact Anna Burke at (701) 226-2755; eMail anna_burke@yahoo.com.

ST. PAUL — **Genealogical Book Sale**. August 25. Back by popular demand, the book sale offers hundreds of genealogy related books, some out of print. Bargains are guaranteed! MGS Auditorium, 1185 Concord Street North, Suite 218. Visit www.mngs.org for more details.

ST. PAUL — **MNGS Potluck Picnic, Silent Auction, and Raffle**. August 25. Relax with friends old and new in Thompson Park's newly remodeled picnic shelter, 360 Butler Ave. Bring a dish to share, grilled meats provided. Picnic begins at 4:00 p.m. and has a suggested minimum donation of \$10 per person, which includes beer and wine. Silent auction and raffle end at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Robin PanLener at rpanlener@gmail.com.

MINNEAPOLIS — **23rd Annual Soup Festival**. October 28, 2012. PACIM's popular soup tasting/sampling of a variety of Polish soups will be held in Kolbe Hall, lower level of John Paul II School, Holy Cross Church complex at 17th Avenue and Fourth Street NE. Handicap parking and elevator entrance at rear of the building are accessed by the alley between the church and school. The event includes a dozen different soups, bread, beverage and dessert. If you are interested in volunteering to help out at this event, please contact Jane Flanders at jane-flanders44@msn.com.

NEW JERSEY

JERSEY CITY — **Katyn Forest Massacre Memorial Committee, Inc.**, Polish Army Veteran Association and Polish American Congress cordially invites all Polonia, all Polish American organizations, veteran groups, and individuals to attend and participate in the laying of flowers and wreaths in front of the Katyn monument, Exchange Pl., Sept. 16, at 3:00 p.m. Program includes: Invocation, National Anthems, Honor Guards, laying of flowers and wreaths by veterans, organizations and individual guests. Special presentation by young students of the Pilsudski Supplemental School and Aria choir. For more information please call Chris Nowak at (908) 875-4179 or e-mail krzysztofnowak@yahoo.com.

Donations for monument repairs are accepted at: P. O. Box 1602, Cranford, N.J. 07016

PENNSYLVANIA

OIL CITY — Fr. Justin Pino will be conducting the **Annual 9-Day Novena** in preparation for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Assumption B.V.M. Parish, 7 Pulaski St.; August 7-15. 7:00 p.m. Daily services will have Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Recitation of the Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction. On August 15, a Solemn High Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. with a Prelude of Polish Hymns to the Blessed Mother before mass. Public is welcome. For information call (814) 677-4004, Ext. 10; or eMail sjoffice@stjosephchurch.comcastbiz.net.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OCTOBER AS...
POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

October is Polish American Heritage Month, and the Polish American Journal invites you to join the celebration! You can participate by sending greetings to American Polonia in the form of patron advertising in the October edition of the PAJ. This special edition will contain greetings from friends, businesses and organizations who are proud of their Polish roots.

By being part of this special edition, we ask you for your help in strengthening the ties between all Americans of Polish descent during Polish American Heritage Month. This special month is set aside to honor those whose selfless dedication helps to preserve our rich Polish traditions.

Through your patronage, we are able us to bring American Polonia a paper it can be proud of, as it is our mission to keep alive the traditions

which define us. Every month we publish the good news about Americans of Polish descent who make a difference in the world today.

To guarantee placement of your ad in the Polish Heritage Month edition, please return the form below with your payment by September 14th.

We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to a greater alliance between all Polonia.

Please Return Today!

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