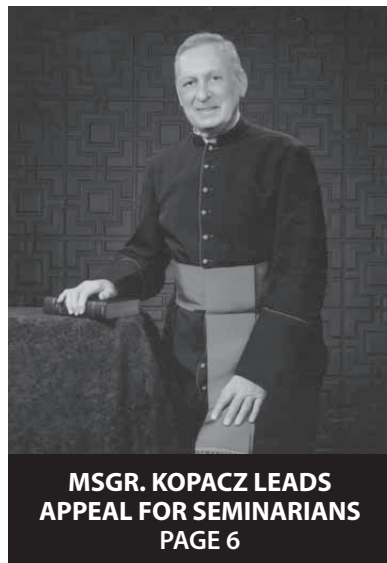


POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1911

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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE



MSGR. KOPACZ LEADS
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NEWSMARK

CONFIDENCE GIVEN. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk won a vote of confidence in parliament, facing down, for now at least, opponents who say he should quit over leaked conversations between senior officials that embarrassed the government.

In a late-night vote that was called on Tusk's own initiative, 237 members of parliament voted to express confidence in the government, over the 231 votes that Tusk needed to stay in power.

Proposing the vote of confidence appeared to be a tactic by Tusk to demonstrate that despite the leaked recordings his coalition was solid, and reminding the opposition they do not have enough votes to unseat his government.

FOREIGN POLISH EXPERT DEVALUES ALLIANCE. Doug Bandow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute and a former special assistant to President Ronald Reagan, says it is not in the United States' best interest to be in an alliance with Poland.

In a response to a letter by Polish ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, who defended the two nation's long-standing relationship — from the Revolutionary War to the war in Afghanistan — Bandow said "Friendship and mutual trust are not the same as strategic interest. Poland never has been vital for U.S. security, even during the Cold War."

He said Russia is a far-lesser threat to America, interested in border security and respect, rather than a hegemonic competitor, dedicated to global domination. Thus, says Bandow, Poland has no military relevance for Washington.

"America should maintain alliances only when doing so makes Americans safer. Backing Poland against Russia does not," he said. "Instead, doing so multiplies risks facing the United States without providing any countervailing advantages."

DESTROYER MAKES THIRD VISIT. The U.S.S. *Oscar Austin*, a guided missile destroyer, docked at Poland's Gdynia Naval port, part of a tour of American allies. This marks the destroyer's third visit to Poland and is at present part of the U.S. Navy's Carrier Strike Group Ten.

Prior to its arrival in Gdynia, the ship visited Tallinn, Estonia, and Karlskrona, Sweden, where it participated in the 42nd annual Baltic Operations Exercise. The annual military exhibit in the Baltic Sea and the regions surrounding it has been sponsored by the commander of the United States Naval Forces Europe since 1971.

The destroyer's captain, Brian Diebold, has Polish roots. His great grandfather Franciszek Zacharzewski was born in Poland and emigrated to the United States in 1909.

Poland and World War I

In this month's edition of the Polish American Journal, we begin a sixteen part series entitled Poland and World War I (See page 9). It was a hundred years ago that Europe and the world became embroiled in the most deadly war in history up to that time. The Polish people and Polish Americans became fully involved in that brutal conflict. Though Poland did not exist as a separate country at the time, most of the biggest battles of the war's Eastern Front were fought on Polish soil and Poles were deeply affected, both as civilians and soldiers.

The series will cover the origins of the war, major battles fought for Polish cities, treatment of Polish civilians, Polish soldiers in the fight, efforts to win American support for Polish war relief and independence, Haller's Army, and the Poles' struggle and ultimate success in achieving a free and independent Poland.



Mazowsze Cancels North American Tour



NEW YORK — The Mazowsze North American tour scheduled for November/December 2014 under the auspices of 2Luck Concepts has been canceled.

The 65th anniversary tour production was to include high-tech projections and several new additions and regional suites were slated to join the classic standards on the program.

"The tour was to be the same length as in 2007 and 2010 (four weeks), but as previous key cities such as Buffalo, Cleveland, Utica, Pittsburgh, Schenectady, Washington, Baltimore, Boston and St. Paul could not be secured. When replacement cities within the timeframe and route could not be acquired, it became evident that the tour would have to be planned for another time," said John Luckacovic director of 2Luck Concepts.

Repeat engagements in major markets came through, but almost every local presenter offered significantly less than the previous tours, and there were problems with air transportation assistance.

With 100 people in the company to transport and accommodate, it did not make logistical or financial sense. Unprecedented concessions were being considered including the elimination of the orchestra or the choir, and cutting down the number of dancers. As Mazowsze is the "The State Song and Dance Ensemble of Poland," it did not seem feasible to continue in this line of thinking.

The company is determined to return to North America in the near future.

Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski to Head Springfield Diocese

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Polish Americans are a major ethnic group in Western Massachusetts, with strong settlement patterns stretching from Adams — the most Polish municipality in Massachusetts — to Deerfield, Hatfield, Hadley, Chicopee and beyond.

With that in mind, Polish nationals and Polish Americans alike are bound to be pleased with the selection of **Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski** to succeed retiring Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell as leader of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield — a diocese in which Poles have long played an important



BISHOP ROZANSKI

role, both in devotion to their faith and their contribution to the See "Rozanski," page 3

Poland Takes Heat for CIA Prison

STRASBOURG, France (VOA News) — Europe's top human rights court has found Poland violated the rights of two terrorism suspects by allowing the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to secretly imprison them in the country more than a decade ago.

The European Court of Human Rights says Poland violated the European Convention on Human Rights by allowing terrorism suspects Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri and Abu Zubaydah to be secretly imprisoned on its territory between 2002 and 2003. The two are now inmates at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention camp operated by the U.S.

military.

They claim they were captured and then flown to a secret jail run by the CIA in a Polish forest, where they were tortured and mistreated.

The court blamed Poland for facilitating the process. It ordered Warsaw to pay fines to the two men.

The ruling is the first time a court has acknowledged suspects were held and tortured at so-called CIA black sites — under a program launched by Washington following the September 2011 terrorist attacks. The United States has acknowledged the program existed, but

See "Ruling ...," page 3

Orchard Lake Schools Icon

Rev. Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski Dead at 84

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — On Sunday, July 6, 2014, the Orchard Lake Schools community suffered the loss of their brother and fellow priest, Monsignor Stanley E. Milewski, P.A., who passed on from this life at the age of 84.

Monsignor Milewski was born on November 30, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan, to Stanley and Jadwiga (Opanowski). He attended St. Mary's Preparatory, Orchard Lake (1943-47); St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake (B.A., 1947-51); and St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth (1951-55) before being ordained a priest by Cardinal Edward Mooney for the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 4, 1955 and serving as associate pastor of St. Francis D'Assisi Parish, Detroit (1955-57).

Since 1957, Monsignor Milewski served the Orchard



Portrait of Monsignor Milewski by Vianna Szabo from the Orchard Lake Schools Collection.

Lake Schools as procurator-treasurer (1957-1977); teacher (1957-1968); Founder's Day committee/chair (1957-2005); treasurer, Dabrowski Foundation; vice rector (1968-1977); Ladies Auxiliary national chaplain (1968-2000); Ladies Day moderator (1970-2000);

Alumni Association national treasurer (1958-1977); athletic director (1973-1977); Perpetual and Extraordinary Ambassador (1974-2014); Orchard Lake Schools First Chancellor (1977-2000); Board of Regents (ex-officio member, 1977-2000); founder, Pope John Paul II Center (1978); and Chancellor's Senate (1980-2014).

In addition, Milewski furthered his studies at SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, by graduating with a Master of Divinity degree in 1975. He was also granted by Alliance College, Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania an Honorary Doctorate of Literature in 1978 and an Honorary Doctorate of Theology from Madonna University, Livonia in 2003.

He was also very dedicated to church, community and Polonia through his af-

filiations with the Catholic Conference of Ethnic and Neighborhood Affairs, Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), Friends of Polish Art, Knights of Columbus, Knights of Dabrowski, and Polish American Priests Association (PAPA), to name a few.

Monsignor Milewski is survived by his brother priests of the Presbyterate of the Archdiocese of Detroit and his Orchard Lake Schools family whom often fondly referred to him as "Monsignor Millie."

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He laid in repose at the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake until the celebration of his funeral Mass, July 11. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

ALMANAC



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August Sierpień

*Im więcej praw,
tym więcej przestępców.
The more laws, the
more criminals.*

— Polish historical fiction writer
Karol Bunsch (1898-1987)

- 1 1943. Eleven **Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth** murdered by Nazis in Nowogrodek.
- 3 1941. Birth of **Martha (Kostyra) Stewart**.
- 4 1306. **King Wenceslas III** of Poland and Bohemia murdered.
- 6 **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**.
- 10 1920. Allies recognize Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania.
- 11 1916. Russian army takes Stanislawow, Poland (now Ivanov Frankovsk in present-day Ukraine) from the Germans.
- 13 1838. Birth of **Fr. Dominic Kolasinski**, who builder of Polish churches in Detroit.
1873. Birth of **Jozef Haller**, General of Polish units of France during World War I. (d. 1960).
- 14 **SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**
- 15 **ASSUMPTION**
also known as *Matki Boskiej Zielnej*, Feast of the Lady of the Herbs. This day is marked in Poland by a massive pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.
Do Maryi Wniebowstapienia, miej w stodole połowę mienia — On the Ascension of Mary have in your barn half of your property (harvest).
- 17 **ST. HYACINTH**
Stw. Jacek, priest, 1257. He is often depicted carrying the Blessed Sacrament from a church about the be pillaged by the Tartars.
- 20 1794. **Greater Poland Uprising** begins.
1980. **Czeslaw Milosz** receives Nobel Prize for Literature.
1907. Birth of Henry Archacki, founder of the Polish American Historical Association.
- 23 1939. Signing of the **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact** in Moscow, officially the Treaty of Non-aggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, also known as the Nazi-Soviet Pact.
- 24 **ST. BARTHOLOMEW**
- 25 1939. Signing of the **Polish-British Common Defense Pact**, the agreement of mutual military assistance between the nations in the event either was attacked by some "European country."
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**.
1906. **Albert Bruce Sabin**, U.S. virologist, born in Poland. In 1955, he developed an oral vaccine against polio.
- 27 1764. **Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski** named King of Poland.
- 28 1852. **Fr. Leopold Moczygomba** arrives at the port of New Orleans on the Sea Eagle with four other missionaries recruited by Bishop John Odin of the Galveston, Texas Diocese. Four years later in Panna Maria, Texas, Moczygomba and a community of Silesian Poles establish St. Mary's, the first Polish church in America.
- 30 **BLESSED BRONISLAWA (1259)**
- 31 1247. Death of Konrad I of Masovia

This paper mailed on or before
July 31. The September edition
will be mailed on or before
August 28.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

The Ties that Divide

With great dismay, I read Christopher Schobert's review of "Aftermath" in the *Buffalo News* (Gusto, July 10, p. 9).

Schobert's review of the Wladyslaw Pasikowski's film about Polish anti-Semitism is fair, stating the film is a great source of debate in Poland. Some, as the reviewer points out, consider it an anti-Polish propaganda film. It certainly looks that way, and I am sure many of you will agree.

The plot, courtesy of *Wikipedia*:

"The film is a contemporary drama. It takes place in the fictional village of Gurówka in 2001. The story begins with the return of Franciszek Kalina (Ireneusz Czop) to his hometown in rural Poland after having lived in Chicago for decades. He learns that his brother Józef (Maciej Stuhr) is shunned by the community for acquiring and displaying on his farmland dozens of Jewish tombstones which he discovered had been used by German occupying forces as paving stones in a now abandoned road. Against the growing opposition of the town residents, the Kalina brothers attempt to learn more about what happened to the Jews of the village. They later realize that half the residents murdered the other half."

First, occurrences of Poles murdering Jews during World War II

were few and far between. There were unspeakable incidents, such as what is purported to have happened in Jedwabne, but that has not yet been proven to have been orchestrated by Poles alone.

What amazes me about films, books, and other accounts of "Polish anti-Semitism," is something the late Bronislaw Trzyszewski told me years ago about authors and directors who interpret the war decades after its end: "they can say and do what they want, but they did not live with Nazi rifles pointed at them, their children, their parents."

That statement, of course, is not a justification for killing. But if I was asked to give my life for a family member, I would go, hoping my sacrifice was not in vain. If, on the other hand, I was asked to sacrifice my life for a neighbor — Jewish or otherwise — I cannot say what I would do. The penalty for helping a Jew in Nazi-occupied Poland was death. That decision, I assume, would be circumstantial: Am I jeopardizing my family's safety by turning someone in? Will they still murder my family once they have this information? Can I buy time to give these people a chance to escape? How close I am to these people? Are they children who need their parents?

The questions go on and on, making the decision a most difficult one.

Now, multiply that by approximately thirty million. Anyone who tells you they would do the "right thing," i.e., sacrifice their life *regardless* of the circumstances, is someone who cannot fully appreciate the situation. Unless you have a fully-loaded Mauser pointed at your head (or that of someone in your family), the discussion is essentially moot.

*It is time to focus on
what we have in
common rather than
what keeps us apart.*

But passive acts of bravery and aggressive ones of hate are not the same thing, and impassioned arguments to find the truth are often tainted by emotion and misinformation. Movies like "Aftermath" ("inspired by true events") unjustly portray Poles as Jew-hating idiots. Were there such people? Indeed; not all Poles were angels. But that does not give writers and directors license to selectively interpret history simply to sell books and movie tickets. Particularly not when contentious issues such as accusations of murder are in the mix. The centuries-old relationship between Poles and Jews is far too complex to be broad-brushed and certainly far too delicate to warrant being told in a narrative "inspired by true events."

Through no fault but my own, I know very little of Jewish life before World War II. I have heard stories, and most have been positive ones, about good people living side-by-side and respecting each other's boundaries. Perhaps films like "Aftermath" strike a nerve with me because the entertainment industry gives us very little about the Karskis, the Sendlers, the Poles named as Israel's "Righteous Among the Nations," and tens of thousands of others who risked their lives to save not just their Jewish neighbors, but complete strangers as well. This, to me, is how Poles and Jews in Poland should be remembered. Poles were not all barn-burning lynch mobs, any more than Jews were all Russian agents, kapos, and other turncoats. To perpetuate those beliefs is a disservice to the memories of those who experienced the horrors of that time.

Should we forgive? Yes. Should we forget? Never. It is time to let the dead rest in peace and focus on what we have in common rather than what keeps us apart. Go to see "Aftermath" to help better understand the hatred Nazi Germany perpetuated. But keep in mind that, when it comes to Polish-Jewish relations, the truth — not gross generalizations "inspired by true events" — has much more to offer.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

AUGUST 1, 1944. The **Warsaw Uprising** (*powstanie warszawskie*) begins, a major World War II operation by the Polish resistance **Home Army** (*Armia Krajowa*) to liberate Warsaw from Nazi Germany. The rebellion was timed to coincide with the Soviet Union's Red Army approaching the eastern suburbs of the city and the retreat of German forces. However, the Soviet advance stopped short, enabling the Germans to regroup and demolish the city while defeating the Polish resistance, which fought for 63 days with little outside support. The Uprising was the largest single military effort taken by any European resistance movement during World War II.

CORRECTION. The photos in the Polka Memories photospread in the July 2014 PAJ should be credited to James M. Jaczkowski.

QUOTES

Unrequited Love Grown Cold

"Sikorski's comments (about the imbalance of the U.S.-Poland alliance) point to unsteady ties with U.S. allies. Poland is a major global ally for the U.S. In 2003, the country firmly backed the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq. And for sticking their necks out, the Poles hoped to receive an economic boost from the U.S. in return, but instead felt mostly underappreciated. Obama pushed to strengthen ties though, with renewed vigor in 2011.

"But by 2012, the golden age of relations had passed, according to the *Economist*. And echoing Sikorski's sexual metaphor of the useless nature of the Polish-American relationship, the *Economist* article went on to say that it is "like a companionable marriage where convenient sharing of chores, rather than romantic passion, has become the main bond."

— Jenna Kagel in Mic.com.

"The risk of government change can re-emerge during the next two months, but for now it seems the ruling coalition managed to push it into the freezer."

— *ING Bank Slaski economist Grzegorz Ogonek, following the vote of confidence given to Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk.*

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"I am absolutely convinced that our Polish partners will have to sooner or later change their point of view. They will have to come back to the issue of the benefits they can derive from cooperation with Russia in the political and economic spheres."

— *Russian ambassador Aleksandr Alekseev, following a meeting of Russia's ambassadors with President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.*

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"He was the face of Orchard Lake to the Polish American com-

munity, and the Polish American community sees Orchard Lake as the defender of their life and history here in the United States. In his heyday, he was at everything that had to do with Polonia both locally and nationally."

— *Orchard Lake Schools Chancellor Msgr. Thomas C. Machalski, on Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski, who died last month at age 84.*

❖ ❖ ❖

"I'm going to sleep later. I'm going to soak in the sun. I'm going to dangle my feet in Orchard Lake. And I'm going to spend a lot of time in the Shrine Chapel and the new chapel in preparation to meet my Lord — and may He be a kind and gentle judge to me."

— *Monsignor Stanley E. Milewski, from an interview in the Michigan Catholic in 2000 about his plans for retirement.*

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuance of Polish American Culture • Established 1911

USPS 437-220 / ISSN 0032-2792

The Polish American Journal is published monthly in four editions (Buffalo, Polish Beneficial Association, Association of Sons of Poland, and National editions) by:

PANAGRAPHS, INC.
P.O. BOX 271
N. BOSTON, NY 14110-0271

PHONE: (716) 312-8088
E-MAIL: info@polamjournal.com
www.polamjournal.com

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

POSTMASTER—Send address changes to:
POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL
P.O. BOX 198
BOWMANSVILLE, NY 14026-0198
www.polamjournal.com

IGNATIUS HAJDUK • Founder 1911-1920
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Effort Underway to Designate Lt. Col. Urban Gravesite as “Notable”

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A committee has been formed to have the name of America’s most decorated combat soldier of World War II listed on Arlington National Cemetery’s “notable grave sites.”

To bring attention to the effort, the Matt Urban Memorial Committee is holding a wreath laying ceremony near Lt. Col. Urban’s gravesite, Sec. 7A, Arlington, Sat., Aug. 23 at 9:30 a.m.

A reception will follow. Having his name on the list will make it easier for Arlington visitors to locate the gravesite of the hero, and learn about his remarkable combat service for our country. Lt. Col. Matt Urban, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, two Silver Stars, and seven Purple Hearts, along with numerous other medals and decorations from the United States, France, and Belgium.

An Arlington Committee is currently in the process of revising their list of “notable” graves, so now is an opportune time to accom-

plish this mission, said Maj. Gen. Marvin G. Back, U.S. Army (ret.), co-chair of the Matt Urban Memorial Committee. “LTC Matt Urban is high on the Committee’s list to be added, so your timely support is very important and very much appreciated.”

Letters of support can be sent via e-mail to usarmy.pentagon.hq-danc-osa.mbx.operations@mail.mil. To send via USPS, mail to: Historian — ANC Operations Arlington National Cemetery Arlington VA, 22211.

To learn more, visit matturban-memorialcommittee.com, or contact committee co-chair Col. Chester Szczotka at (313) 278-3895. The group also has a page on Facebook.



URBAN

Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Recipients Announced

HARTFORD, Conn. — On June 19, 2014, at a ceremony held at the Polish National Home in Hartford, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. honored five outstanding students with its Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship award. Each recipient will receive \$1,000.00. Scholarship Committee co-chairs Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo introduced the candidates, and presented the checks to the following honorees:

Tara Kowalski of Colchester is currently attending the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford majoring in biology/pre-pharmacy. Tara is involved in the Nutrition Club, serves as vice-president of the Pre-Pharmacy Club, and has been a member of the University of Saint Joseph soccer team.

Hannah Milewski of Bolton will be attending the University of Connecticut at Storrs and is as yet undecided about her major. A 2014 graduate of Bolton High School, Hannah has been an extremely-successful honor student and athlete, while being committed to the service of others. Her church involvement has included volunteering at a Hartford inner-city church, working at a food pantry serving the Manchester Area Conference of Churches, teaching Bible school, and participating in a



PHOTO: FRANCES PUDLO

(l. to r.): Tara Kowalski, Hannah Milewski, Kamila Orzechowski, Nathan Zlotnick, and Peter Zujko.

mission trip to Mexico.

Kamila Orzechowski of Wethersfield will be attending the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford majoring in pharmacy. A 2014 graduate of Wethersfield High School, Kamila’s extracurricular activities include junior varsity and varsity field hockey, choir, piano, and dance. Enrolled in Polish language school since the age of six, she has continued her studies of the language and culture by attending Polish Saturday School and also serving as a teacher’s assistant. In

addition, she has been very involved with Polish Scouting.

Nathan Zlotnick of Glastonbury will be attending Northeastern University in Boston, majoring in engineering. A 2014 graduate of Glastonbury High School, Nathan has pursued a rigorous program of studies each year, especially in math and science at the AP or honors level. He has also committed himself to participating in soccer, volunteering in multiple high school clubs, and working a part-time job.

Peter Zujko of West Hartford will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York majoring in engineering/robotics. A 2014 graduate of Conard High School, Peter has enjoyed high scholastic honors and extra-curricular activities of robotics, Table Tennis Club, astronomy, computer, and Engineering Club. He has been described as a quiet and reflective student who passionately engages in activities related to engineering and mathematics and expresses a particular flair for experimentation and innovation. Peter has great potential and the makings of a well-rounded scientist or engineer.

Rozanski: Grew up in Fells Point

continued from cover
region’s farming and manufacturing heritage.

Rozanski will be the region’s ninth bishop since the diocese was created in 1870 and the first bishop with Polish roots, according to church officials. To date, at least seven of the region’s eight bishops have had Irish backgrounds, including McDonnell, a native New Yorker who took over the reins in 2004. Canon law requires a bishop to retire at age 75, and McDonnell reached that age in December 2012.

Rozanski, 55, can serve the diocese for a good two decades before he must formally resign. For now, though, it’s a fresh start in a new city for the native of Baltimore, who lived in the city’s multiethnic

Fells Point section before his family moved to neighboring Dundalk.

Rozanski attended Catholic schools his whole life, including the Catholic University of America and its Theological College, where he received seminary training.

On Nov. 24, 1984, he was ordained as a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore during a ceremony at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. On Aug. 24, 2004, he was installed as auxiliary bishop of the Baltimore archdiocese. At the time, he was the country’s youngest Catholic bishop in the nation’s oldest Catholic diocese.

Rozanski is also co-chairman of the Polish National Catholic-Roman Catholic dialogue.

Ruling is Embarrassing Says Komorowski

continued from cover
has not named the countries that cooperated with it.

Lawyers for the two suspects and rights groups hailed the ruling.

Poland’s Foreign Ministry said its legal experts need to fully examine the ruling before commenting. But President Bronislaw Komorowski called it “embarrassing.” The court also said Poland’s own investigation into the allegations is ineffective.

Rights experts say the ruling may

have implications for Guantanamo Bay trials against terrorism suspects like al-Nashiri. He is accused of orchestrating an attack on a U.S. warship in 2000 that killed 17 American sailors.

The court ordered Poland to pay al-Nashiri 100,000 euros (about \$135,000 USD) in damages and 130,000 (about \$175,000 USD) euros to Zubaydah.

Poland’s foreign ministry said a decision had not yet been taken about an appeal.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION



We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, the PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization. Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

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

OUR INITIATIVE

In this, our initial year of operation, we will solicit funds for our first funding project. In June 2015, we will ask our members how the PAJF’s proceeds should be used. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran’s group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board will review these suggestions and cre-



ate a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

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— Saint John Paul II,
Gniezno, Poland, June 3, 1979.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 28th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

For information call (732) 680-0680 or write POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE, INC., 177 BROADWAY, CLARK, NJ 07066. e-mail: childshart@aol.com website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org

INTERNATIONAL

Moscow Denies Involvement

MOSCOW — Russia has denied any involvement in the **Polish tape scandal**. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says disparaging comments about the U.S.-Polish ties allegedly made by Poland's foreign minister showed "political realism."

In one of the leaked conversations released by a Polish magazine, Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski was heard denouncing the alliance with the U.S. as worthless and describing it in obscene terms.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk suggested foreign interests might have been involved in the eavesdropping. He did not name any country, but said businessmen trading coal and gas from Russia were being investigated.

Poles Design "Most Beautiful Stamp"

ASIAGO, Italy (PAP) — A **Polish stamp** won the Grand Prix for the **most beautiful stamp in the world** of 2013 at the 44th International Philatelic Art Awards.

The winning design was released by national postal services company Poczta Polska to mark the 455th anniversary of the foundation of the then Royal Post in Poland.

The stamp shows a section of an oak trunk with growth rings marking the centuries of existence of the Polish postal service.

Artist Agnieszka Sancevicz created the design.

The Royal Post was founded by King Sigismund Augustus (Zygmunt August) in 1558, and was initially chiefly used by the monarch to maintain correspondence with relatives in Italy.

Buzek, Siekierski, Among EU Leadership

BRUSSELS — Poles have earned greater position in the next administration of the **European Parliament** (EP).

Jerzy Buzek, a former EP president was selected as chairperson of the Industry, Research and Energy committee. Czeslaw Siekierski was appointed head of the Committee for Agriculture, and former EU regions commissioner Danuta Huebner was chosen to lead the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

Jaroslav Walesa was elected as

deputy-chairman of the Fisheries Committee, and Barbara Kudrycka and Danuta Jazłowiecka were chosen as vice-chairs at the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and Justice committee's respectively.

Other Poles in service include: Ryszard Legutko, vice-chairman at Foreign Affairs; Tomasz Poręba, vice-chair on the Tourism and Transport committee; Janusz Wojciechowski, vice-chair on the Agriculture and Rural Development committee; and former Polish foreign minister Anna Fotyga will lead the sub-committee on Security and Defense.

Ryszard Czarnecki was elected as one of 14 deputy presidents of the European Parliament.

Compares Russia to Hitler's Germany

KIEV (Window on Eurasia) — "**Putin's Russia has already long been a Reich**" much like Hitler's Germany. But ordinary Russians now, like ordinary Germans 75 years ago, have not taken note of the fact, because — so far — the state's repressive attentions have not been directed primarily at them, said Vitaly Portnikov, a Ukrainian commentator who earlier lived in Moscow for two decades. He said he reached this bitter and unexpected conclusion because the Russian Investigation Committee has announced plans to interview all citizens of Ukraine who are on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Obscure Gravesite Found in Peru

AREQUIPA, Peru (Polskie Radio) — **Archaeologists** from the **University of Wrocław** have uncovered 150 graves of a little known community that inhabited the **Atacama Desert** prior to the 7th century AD.

"These burials are of the virtually unknown people who inhabited the area before the expansion of the Tiwanaku civilization," said Professor Jozef Szykalski.

The graves had been dug in the sand, with no stone structures, meaning that they were highly difficult to locate, but as a result had not been looted by robbers over the centuries.

"Items found in individual graves indicate that the people already had a clear social division," Szykalski noted.

Polonia and Its History

by Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada

Many Polish Americans have no difficulty understanding that Poland's history and culture are worth studying if they are to retain their Polish identity. But, unfortunately, they do not show much interest or inclination to study the history of the Polish American ethnic group. Yet, no ethnic group can survive if it suffers from historical amnesia.

Polish immigrants began to settle in the United States in significant numbers in the 1850s, (Panna Maria, Texas 1854; Polonia, Wisconsin few years later) which means that the American Polonia has a history that goes back more than century and a half. These historical experiences are not only important for our self-understanding, but they are important for a better understanding of the general history of the United States. After all the early Polish immigrants helped create a modern industrial America working hard in the steel mills, mines, stockyards and factories and at the same built mature, nearly institutionally-complete communities with a parish at their heart, that supported a wide range of institutions. And they did it without a government safety network that exists today, namely social security, unemployment and health benefits, etc. As Tad Radzilowski said some years ago, "Polish Americans established a model of liveable urban neighborhoods and built some of the most beautiful churches in the ugliest industrial areas in the United States."

KNOW THYSELF. Sadly, many Polish Americans still do not have much respect for their history. They simply underestimate the contributions that were made by Polonians. When some years ago I began researching the important role of a Polish American leader in New Jersey politics in the early decades of the 20th century (Paul Supiński of Jersey City) I found that there were hardly any sources available to a researcher today. Not one Polish American organization in New Jersey was concerned about preserving historical records such as letters, newspapers, souvenir books, and so on. No one seemed to care that a repository had not been established, and that much of the raw material of Polonia's history in New Jersey had been lost through neglect and still others are in danger of being lost. This appalling situation that exists in New Jersey no doubt exists in other states as well.

But the situation regarding the preservation of Polonia's past may not be so bleak everywhere, especially after one reads the special issue of *Polish American Studies* Vol. LX, No.1, 2003 which was guest edited by Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, professor of history Eastern Connecticut University and Joel Wurl, curator, Immigration History Archives, University of Minnesota. The issue contains articles describing Polish American archival holdings at thirteen locations: nine in the United States (Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Conn.; Hoover Institution, Stanford, Calif.; Polish Museum of America, Chicago; Polish National Catholic Church, Scranton, Pa.; Central Archives of Polonia, Orchard Lake, Mich.; Pol-

ish Book Collection, Orchard Lake, Mich.; Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) New York, N.Y.; and Pilsudski Institute of America, New York, N.Y.); and four in Poland (Archiwum Nowych-Warsaw; Archives of the Polish Emigration, Toruń; Polish Emigrant Periodical in Poznań and Dom Polonia Archives in Pultusk).

American Polonia has existed since 1976 now called Instytut Badań nad Polonią i Duszpasterstwem. It not only published books by Rev. Mieczysław Krąpiec, Rev. Piotr Taras, Rev. Bolesław Kumor, etc., but also a journal *Studia Polonijne*. These Polonia centers understand that the history of Polish Americans is also part of the history of Poland.



To date, most research has focused on large urban centers like Chicago, Milwaukee, Buffalo and Detroit and omitted middle- and small-sized cities and towns in New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Vermont, Connecticut, New York. (Above). A young Polish boy identified as "Johnnie Yellow" picks berries in Maryland. He is in a family of agricultural migrants who traveled to Mississippi for harvesting and the Gulf of Mexico for oyster farming during the winter months. More data is needed on the history of Poles in the Sun Belt.

THERE WAS ONCE A LACK of books and other printed publications about Polonia but that is not the case today. They are now available in both English and Polish. So there is no good reason why Polish Americans or their compatriots in Poland should continue to be uninformed about Polonian history. In America we have the works of historians and social scientists such as Helena Znaniecka Lopata, Frank Renciewicz, John Bukowczyk, Joseph Wierczak, Stanislaus Blejwas, Daniel Buczek, James Pula, Donald Pienkos, Thomas Napierkowski and many others. In addition, there are periodicals like the *Polish American Studies* published since 1944 by the Polish American Historical Association and *The Polish Review* published by the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America since 1956. A special expanded bicentennial issue on Polish Americans (Vol. XXI No.3, 1976) edited by Thaddeus V. Gromada and Eugene Kleban appeared as well as a volume on *Polish-American Community Life: A Survey of Research* by Irwin T. Sanders and Ewa T. Morawska. Both research projects were funded by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

In Poland, since the 1970s two important centers of Polish American studies have existed: one, at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and the other at Catholic University in Lublin, known in Polish as KUL (Katolicki Uniwersytet w Lublinie). The Polonia Institute of the Jagiellonian University (now called Instytut Amerykanistyki i Studiów Polonijnych) published a series of books on American Polonia by such scholars as Grzegorz Babiński, Adam Wałaszek, Andrzej Brozek, Andrzej Pilch, Dorota Prasałowicz and many others. It also continues to publish a quarterly journal *Przegląd Polonijny*. In the Catholic University in Lublin a research institute on

MORE TO BE DONE. Yes, considerable progress has been made in Polish American studies, but there is still much to be done. Most of the past research focused primarily on large urban centers like Chicago, Milwaukee, Buffalo and Detroit and omitted middle- and small-sized cities and towns in New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, etc.

YOU CAN HELP. An additional challenge for scholars will be to include in their research Polish Americans in suburbia and in the sun belt states like Florida, California, Arizona, the Carolinas, etc. So writing a more balanced and inclusive synthesis of the Polish American experience will not be easy. It will require not only more research scholars but also the help and cooperation of ordinary Polish Americans. Individuals and organizations in Polonia will be needed in every state to document every aspect of their Polish experience and then place the documentation in a proper depository. If such a depository does not exist in your state, then it might be well to follow the example of Maryland Polonia which helped create an "Archives of Maryland Polonia" maintained at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. www.langsdale.ubalt.edu. The University archivists are encouraging Polonian Marylanders to donate newspaper clippings, brochures, correspondence, souvenir books, photographs, etc. There is no reason why similar Polonian archives could not be established by other state universities.

Time has come for Polish Americans to become a more confident, expressive, and demonstrative group, determined to retain its identity and ensure its survival. Knowledge of our past in America and being conscious and in touch with our Polish culture and traditions are indispensable.

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IN RETROSPECT / Richard Poremski

John Balik – Still a Hero

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — So John Balik saw the sun rise here on October 26, 1898, but he did not live to see it set on this fateful day of his life. The epitaph on his tombstone in St. Stanislaus Cemetery is brief but eloquent:

ERECTED BY CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE. IN MEMORY OF JOHN BALIK. BORN IN POLAND 1856, KILLED IN BALTIMORE, OCT. 26, 1898. WHILE STRIVING TO SAVE OTHERS FROM THREE RUNAWAY HORSES DRAWING A HEAVY WAGON. --- FOR STRANGERS, A HUMBLE LABORER WENT TO HIS DEATH. BY STRANGERS, HIS BRAVE DEED IS THUS KEPT IN REMEMBRANCE.

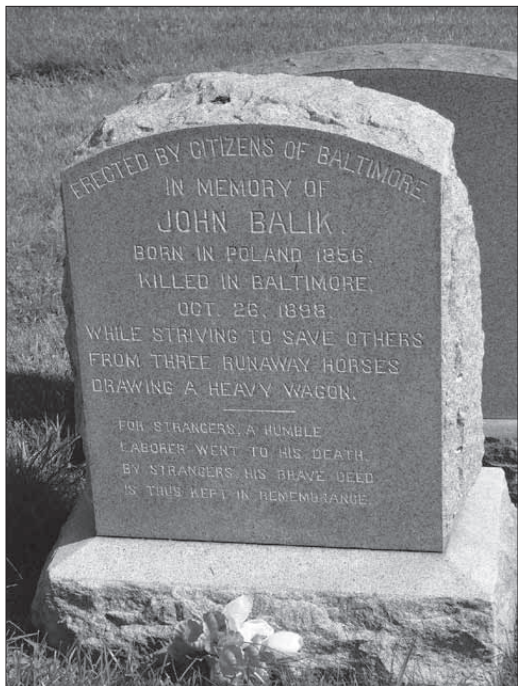


PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

Balik's memorial was rededicated April 13, 2002 by the Baltimore County Genealogical Society Eastern European Interest Group. The marker was uncovered by member Tom Bocek, who with Diane Lasek researched the stories that were printed in the *Baltimore Guide* and the *Dundalk Eagle* newspapers.

Here is Bocek's speech at the rededication:

We know very little of the life of John Balik. From the paucity of records available we know that he was born in Poland about 1856 and traveled alone to Baltimore on the German ship *Dresden*, arriving on July 28, 1891. We pick up his life only on the last day. Leaving his residence at 808 South Bond Street early on that Friday, October 21, 1898 he headed to work in the area of the Fells Point Market. At about the same time Frederick Eckles had hitched up his team of horses, and pulled a heavy load of kerosene out of the yard at the Standard Oil Co. John went over to Boston St. towards Fells Point.

The market at the end of last century was quite different than it is today. It was much larger and more open to the elements. The widest portion extended to Thames St. and was bustling with merchants and shoppers from all over the area. Besides the vendors who operated from

the stalls, the streets around the market were crammed with carriages loaded with everything from food and flowers to live chickens and game. Women and children would scurry about with their baskets in hand looking for the needs of the family before the crowds became too unbearable.

Into this lively scene came Mr. Eckles, unloading some kerosene at Broadway and Fleet St. His team of three horses was left unattended for a brief time, but long enough for something to frighten them, sending them on a mad dash towards the mass of people milling around the market. John saw this impending tragedy unfolding before his eyes, the wild horses charging, children playing in the street and people running for their lives. He did the unthinkable, running towards the horses in an attempt to divert them before they got to the children.

In this he was successful, but the crowd was stunned to see him overpowered by the animals, knocked to the ground and run over by the heavy load. He was taken to the University Hospital where he died.

The next day the papers hailed the heroic deed of John Balik. In the ensuing weeks there were letters to the papers and a call for a suitable monument to be erected in his honor.

The Rev. Dr. William Lord led this effort and a stone was set at his resting place in St. Stanislaus Cemetery on the third Saturday in March 1899. The last sentence reads: "His brave deed is thus kept in remembrance."

It is to fulfill that thought that we have gathered here this morning for a re-dedication of this monument to a man who unselfishly laid down his life for his fellow man. No person, city or nation can ask more of a fellow citizen than the inspiring deed of John Balik. It is just that we keep his memory as bright today as it was over a hundred years ago.

Rest In Peace and Valor, John Balik



He has long gone to his eternal reward, but he certainly is not forgotten.

Statue of World War II "Soldier Bear" Wojtek Unveiled

KRAKOW — A statue to Wojtek, Poland's "soldier bear," has been erected in Krakow to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino.

The statue of the unlikely war hero Wojtek the Bear has been erected in Krakow's Jordan Park, alongside a number of busts of national heroes including Wojtek's commander, General Wladyslaw Anders.

Wojtek the Bear joined the army as a cub in Iran, and quickly became a favorite with soldiers. He was the official mascot of the 22nd Artillery Company, and helped carry live shells and other ammunition. He was partial to a beer and the occasional cigarette, which he ate.

After he was demobilized, Wojtek retired in Edinburgh Zoo in



PHOTO: PAP/PIACEK/BEONARCYK

Statue of Wojtek.

Scotland, where he died in 1963.

The unveiling of the statue coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino in southern Italy which saw 55,000 allied soldiers, including Poles, killed or injured, along with 20,000 German casualties.



Wojtek enjoying a snack from a soldier.

Gifted Pianists to Convene at Chopin Piano Competition, October 25

NEW YORK — This year's **Chopin Piano Competition** will be held Sat., Oct. 25 at 10:00 p.m. at the **Kosciuszko Foundation**. It features the most gifted young pianists, who compete in a program featuring Chopin, Szymanowski, and many other talented composers of various eras and styles.

The Chopin Piano Competition was established in 1949, in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the death of Frederic Chopin.

Over the years, many outstanding musicians have been associated with the competition including Van Cliburn, Ian Hobson, and Murray Perahia. Today, the Chopin Competition continues to encourage gifted young pianists to further their studies and to perform the works of Polish composers.

This year's competition features Jury Chair Roy F. Eaton, the winner of the inaugural competition and a top prize of \$5,000.

Preliminaries are free and open to the public on Fri., Oct. 24 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, visit www.thekf.org/programs/competitions/chopin/.

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POLONIA PLACES / Greg Witul

Pulaski Park in Elmira, New York



Center and Davis Sts. Elmira, New York Status: Open

If you are driving from Manhattan to Niagara Falls, and you are taking Route 17 to get there, your half way point will be one of New York State's many smaller Polonias — Elmira. The Polish neighborhood on the city's north side is held up by three tent pole locations: St. Casimir Parish complex; White Eagle Club; and Pulaski Park.

For much of the 20th century, the people of Elmira's north end gath-

ered at West Center Street Park for picnics, sporting activities, or just to be outside. In the late 1960s the Polish community that lived in the area began petitioning the City Council to rename the park in honor of the great Polish-American general, Casimir Pulaski. Spearheading this effort was Stanley Klobuchowski, a well known local baseball legend and leader of Elmira's Democratic Party.

On Monday, October 19, 1970 the Elmira City Council passed an ordinance renaming the West Center Street Park to Pulaski Park.

Although the 10-acre park with a pool, softball diamond, basketball court and playground was already well developed when

it was renamed, Klobuchowski felt one piece was missing, a monument at the entrance to the park dedicated to Pulaski. For the next three years he worked diligently to raise the \$3,500 needed for the tribute. With the funds in hand, Klobuchowski hired local Polish American artist and onetime chief Design Engineer for American LaFrance, Jan Grybos, to craft the monument's plaque.

Grybos' design called for a bronze plate headed with the park's name. Below this was a profile of

the general flanked by the White Eagle on the left and the Coat of Arms of the United States on the right. Underneath and to the right of the profile, Grybos included a rising sun with thirteen stars framing the image. This entire scene stood above a timeline of Pulaski's life that included the year of his birth, his arrival in American and his valiant death.

The plaque was dedicated October 11, 1972. On Sunday, October 7, 1973 a celebration that included a parade around Elmira's Polish neighborhood, was held as the formal dedication of Pulaski Park.



The plaque gives a brief outline of Pulaski's life.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Before Passing, Gen. Jaruzelski Reconciled with Church

Two weeks prior to his death, **Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski** (inset), who seized control of Poland and attempted to suppress with brutality the Solidarity Union movement, received the last rites of the church. After his death from a stroke his funeral Mass was celebrated by **Bishop Józef Guzek** of the Polish Military Ordinariate. No Church figures were present at his interment in Warsaw's most hallowed cemetery.



"What a very odd but beautiful thing, that the head of the government which was at war with the Church should in the end be reconciled with the church," said **Fr. Raymond Gawronski, S.J.** "That's cause to ring the bells of glory, isn't it?"

"I don't think people mind having the holy Mass for his salvation," said **Fr. Piotr Mozdyniewicz**, of the Archdiocese of Kraków, "but on the other side, it was difficult for many people to understand why he was buried with such great honors."

While he agreed that the conversion was surprising, he added, "This is great. There is more joy from one repentant sinner, than the other

ones."

VATICAN ACTS IN CHILD ABUSE CASE. The Vatican defrocked **Archbishop Józef Wesolowski**, former ambassador to the Dominican Republic, for sexually abusing boys while serving there. Laicization is the harshest penalty the Church can enact against a cleric. This means he can no longer perform priestly duties or present himself as a priest.

In Poland, the Catholic Church has held a penitential service for victims of sexual abuse by priests, after calls for more action to curb molestation in the country. **Bishop Piotr Libera** of Plock stated during the service at the Jesuit church in Kraków: "As bishops, we must admit that, instead of putting the good of children in first place, we too often allowed ourselves to be deceived by the fraud, duplicity and denial mechanisms of perpetrators of the crime of pedophilia."

The Vatican Nuncio, **Archbishop Celestino Migliore**, and **Archbishop Wojciech Polak** of Gniezno also attended the Mass. A conference on child abuse at the Jesuit Academy adjacent to the church heard **Cardinal Dziwisz** declare that there is no place in the priesthood or religious life for people who harm children. An anti-abuse training program for priests and religious was launched

last year and **Fr. Adam Zak, S.J.** was named child protection officer. The Polish church established principles for preventing cases of pedophilia and set out guidelines for care of victims, canonical procedures for handling accusations and abuse related formation program for seminarians.

MASS TO RECALL UPRISING. The Sixth Annual Celebration honoring Our Lady of Częstochowa will be held in remembrance of the 70th Anniversary of the **Warsaw Uprising**, Tues., Aug. 26, at St. Paul's Cathedral in Pittsburgh. At 6:30 p.m., Radosław Fizek will perform Polish patriotic selections. The 7:00 p.m. mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend David A. Zubik.

For information, call the Polish Falcons at (800) 535-2071, or visit polishfalcons.org.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC LEAGUE APPEAL. **Msgr. Matthew Kopacz** joined **Bishop Andrew Wypych**, national director of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to the Church in Poland, in thanking the loyal supporters of the annual appeal and in calling attention to the tremendous force in peoples' lives as a result of the ministry of the Church in Poland. A new dimension to the mission of the League this

year will be its focus on assisting Polonia in the United States. The League will fund scholarships and formation programs for clergy and laity in both the United States and Poland. (See below).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... St. Philomena Parish in Franklinville, N.Y., celebrating the 50th year of its church building. **Fr. Henry J. Romanowski** as pastor then, dedicated the building in 1964 to replace the original 1875 structure. The parish began as a missionary church 140 years ago.

STO LAT TO... Msgr. John Jenik, who along with two other New York Archdiocesan priests was named auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York. After seminary training, bishop-designate Jenik studied Spanish language and culture in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and holds a master's in education from Fordham University.

COOKING SUDANESE CUISINE. **Fr. Ron Sajdak** of the RC Diocese of Buffalo and director of ROTA: Reaching Out to Africa ministry, joined **Fr. Paul Seil** and **Sokiri Sokiri** on Fr. Seil's TV cooking show "Our Daily Bread." They made kiswa, a spongy flatbread or crepe made from sorghum flour, and nyagua. The program aired on

Buffalo's WKBW-TV Ch. 7 and the recipes are available at www.odbtv.org. On a previous show, Fr. Seil welcomed **Fr. Michael Burzynski** of St. Gualbert R.C. Parish in Cheektowaga, N.Y., on a program focused on bones. While Fr. Burzynski discussed his extensive collection of saints' relics and their importance in the Catholic faith, Fr. Seil prepared osso bucco, an Italian dish made from braised veal shanks.

FAUSTINA ON STAGE. **Leonardo Defilippis**, founder of St. Luke productions, created "Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy," a one-woman, two-hour show that tells the story of **St. Faustina Kowalska**. The play shows the joys and great struggles the saint endured in her life as a mystic, interwoven with the story of healing and forgiveness in the life of a young woman who learns about Divine Mercy. In 2000, St. John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina, instituted the feast of the Divine Mercy, and helped to spread devotion to the Divine Mercy image and chaplet. The play will tour the United State through next spring.

NEW BELL IN WAWEL CASTLE. Kraków's **Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz** blessed a new bell at Wawel Castle named in honor of St. John Paul II.

Buffalo Diocese Launches its 70th Anniversary Catholic League Appeal

by **Msgr. Matthew Kopacz**
Diocesan Coordinator
Catholic League

Our diocesan parishes and many others have been collecting funds for the past seventy years to assist the Roman Catholic Church in Poland as it sought to sustain itself through the years of World War II and then under Communist oppression. Much has changed since then and the Catholic League is responding to those changing times.

For years the Catholic League for Religious assistance to Poland, has fulfilled one of its missions by responding to the bishops of Poland request to help provide advanced educational opportunities for its talented priests. They would be sent

to seminaries in Rome or Paris. Those priests, today some of them bishops, now serve the Church across the globe.

When special needs arises the League also responds to the requests of bishops seeking help for hospitals, organizations and Catholic in-



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

stitutions in Poland.

The time has come for His Excellency Bishop Andrew P. Wypych, the new Executive Director of the Catholic League, the National Board of Directors and priest-diocesan coordinators not only to reflect on the past but to develop a roadmap for the future. How can we broaden our definition and understanding of the mission of the Catholic League — not only for Poland but also for the needs of Polonia in the United States.

When the founders of the Catholic League adopted a constitution in 1944 they listed twelve specific purposes and the first was "To spread, foster and strengthen the principles of the Catholic faith among Catho-



CELEBRATING AN ACHIEVEMENT! When a student-priest finally receives his doctorate degree, there is a good reason to celebrate.



2014 CATHOLIC LEAGUE APPEAL "LIGA KATOLICKA" RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND

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THE PRIESTS' DINING ROOM in the Pontifical College, Rome.

lics of Polish descent." It is our hope that we can formulate new vision and an action plan.

At the onslaught of World War II, Pope Pius XII proclaimed to the world in his encyclical, "Summi Pontificatus," "Poland for its fidelity to the Church and for its services in the defense of Christian Civilization, written in indelible characters in the annals of history has a right to the generous and brotherly sympathy of the whole world." Pope Pius

XII asked for sympathy with action. Along with the bishops of the United States, Poles organized and sent material aid to Poland wherever possible.

In April, 1943, Bishop Stephen Woznicki, Auxiliary of Detroit, invited a small group of about ten clergy from Buffalo, Chicago and Detroit to his rectory to discuss if an organization for religious aid to Poland could be possible or just a hopeless dream. No one doubted the need but all felt that their group was

much too small to begin the venture. The committee then planned for a Formative Assembly to take place in the diocese of Buffalo with a broad representation of Polish-American priests and laity. Thus, the birth of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland organization.

Now it is our turn and responsibility to build upon this rich tradition of faith, new evangelization and charity. The torch has been placed in the hands of the clergy and laity of the present generation. We hope and pray we will receive your support through prayer, interest and contribution. In the words of Bishop Wypych, "Individually we can do some things but together we can do great things."

I will be most grateful for your support in the August, 2014 Catholic League Appeal — throughout the eight county diocese of Buffalo. Our diocese has always been on top in this cause, nationally. No matter in what part of the diocese you reside, we need you — you are the key to the success of this Appeal.

I entrust all our efforts to the intercession of the Blessed Mother of Czestochowa. May we work tirelessly to reflect the face of Christ. Be assured all contributors will be remembered in prayer.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

After 30 Years... Fireworks in Hamtramck

HAMTRAMCK, Michigan — The thought of having a fireworks display in Hamtramck, Michigan was unlikely, because of budget constraints. This blue-collar, multi-cultural city with strong Polish historical ties, just could not spend the approximately \$50,000 needed for a July 4th fireworks extravaganza. And so, for more than 30 years, there were no fireworks lighting up the skies over Hamtramck. That all changed this past July 5th.

Destination America, part of the Discovery Channel network, launched its second national essay contest called, “Red, White and You.” It teamed up with USA WEEKEND to announce the two city winners of its contest. Out of more than 2,500 essay submissions, the winners were Prescott, Arizona, and Hamtramck, Michigan.

Hamtramck’s winning essayist was firefighter, **John Dropchuk**. The prize: gigantic fireworks! What made this event so special for Hamtramck was that there was no money in its budget for such a costly event. This city has always been a city of immigrants, first from Poland and the Ukraine; a city filled with Polish delis, dry goods stores, restaurants, churches, and schools.

According to the 2010 American Community Survey, the city’s foreign-born population stood at 41.1%, making it Michigan’s most internationally-diverse city. As of the 2010 U.S. Census, Hamtramck’s 22,423 residents are 14.5 % Polish descent, 19% African American, 15% Bangladeshi, 24% Arab (mostly Yemeni), and approximately 10% Yugoslavian.

Hamtramck’s Keyworth Stadium was filled for the patriotic celebration thanks to this winning essay written by firefighter John Dropchuk:

“Hamtramck, Michigan is a perfect example of the melting pot that is the United States. We are a 2.1 square mile city surrounded by Detroit. Cultural diversity and a strong blue-collar work ethic make up the backbone of our town. There is no better representation of the pursuit of the “American Dream” than Hamtramck. Of our 22,423 residents, many are immigrants that speak one of the over 26 different



John Dropchuk and Mayor Karen Majewski.

languages. With over 25% of our residents living below the federal poverty line, a contest like “Red, White and You” could be the only fireworks many see this July 4th. The Hamtramck Fire Department is entering this contest on behalf of our residents, whom we feel deserve this celebration. 2014 marks our 100th Anniversary and we would love to celebrate with a community we feel is a true representation of America. Hamtramck truly is Destination: America.”

For some residents, it was the first REAL fireworks display they witnessed. For others, it was searching their memories of over 30 years ago. Happy 4th of July and **Happy 100th Anniversary to the Hamtramck Fire Department**. Sto lat and dziękuję bardzo, John Dropchuk and Hamtramck’s firefighters, for making this all possible.

ED PASCHKE ART CENTER OPENS. Make plans to visit the new **Ed Paschke Art Center** at 5415 W. Higgins. Easily accessible by car or by public transportation (a few steps from the Milwaukee Avenue bus or across the street from the Blue Line Jefferson Park Station, this is an art center that displays many of the works of “**Mr. Chicago**,” **Ed Paschke**. On June 22 the Center officially opened to the public. This opening, which coincided with what would have been the 75th birthday of the artist, attracted over 1,000 visitors. Paschke’s art shows a commitment to “figurative painting through individualistic blends of pop, surrealist and expressionist



styles.” This was the 1960s Chicago Imagists style of painting, celebrated in many museums throughout the world.

The Paschke paintings which are on display include “American Sueno,” “**Accordion Man**” (above) and “Canal Cinco.” Exhibition paintings will be changed periodically. Paschke’s “Luna Negra” painting has been transferred to a film wrap, and has been installed as a mural on the side of the building. A colorful mural that features several of Paschke’s works was put up last year on the walls of a railroad viaduct in the 5100 block of West Lawrence Avenue, next to the Copernicus Center in Chicago.

The Ed Paschke Art Center was established by the Ed Paschke Foundation and funded by the Rabb Foundation. The goal of the Rabb Foundation is to aid underserved communities such as Jefferson Park, the Polish immigrant community of Chicago’s Northwest Side, where Vesna K. Stelcer, the center’s interim director, and Lionel Rabb make their home. Jefferson Park was also the neighborhood where Paschke, the son of Polish immigrants, lived most of his life.

The idea of having an art center, not a museum, and offering free admission was the creation of Lionel Rabb and Ed’s son and daughter, Marc and Sharon. True to their word, the art center is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week, and admission is FREE. It includes a detailed re-creation of Paschke’s studio, about 40 of his works, and an educational center that will showcase exhibits by Chicago artists.

PAA AND SHELTER-HER. On July 10, more than 100 guests spent an evening at the **Shelter-Her** garden party supporting an initiative of the Women’s Shelter of the Polish

American Association (PAA). Each year, the Women’s Shelter provides approximately 180 victims of domestic violence, women and their children, a place to seek assistance and create positive changes in their lives. However, roughly 50% of those served are also in need of temporary and safe shelter. Thanks to the generosity of the Law Offices of **Robert Groszek**, the PAA was

ing great food, an excellent variety of beverages, and fantastic live music by the Slowianie Band. There were additional opportunities to help *Dar Secra* through interesting and exciting raffle and silent auction items. A special thanks to TV Polvison for coming aboard to document this successful event – all intended to help children in need.



Aldermen John Arena and Ariel Reboyras.

able to introduce its plan to supporters to make this shelter a reality. Polish-speaking immigrant women often seek this assistance from the PAA because language barriers hinder them from finding adequate help elsewhere. The PAA remains the only human services organization in the United States that provides a comprehensive and effective range of bi-cultural and bi-lingual services for the Polish community. The evening’s hostesses were **Jennifer Groszek** and **Jill Arena**. **John Arena**, 45th Ward Alderman, and **Ariel Reboyras**, 30th Ward Alderman, read a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Chicago congratulating the PAA for its efforts in the fight against domestic violence and the launching of its Women’s Shelter. Illinois Attorney General **Lisa Madigan** spoke on the issue of domestic violence and commended the PAA on its pioneering efforts in the Chicago Polish community.

DAR SERCA HAS SUCCESSFUL CRUISE. Kudos to the *Dar Secra* (**Gift of the Heart Foundation**) for hosting its third successful “Cruisin’ For Charity,” on June 29. Through the efforts of the Foundation’s junior board and, especially, **Diana Lebiecki** and **Andrzej Wolosewicz**, everything went smoothly. Over 420 guests enjoyed a perfect summer day cruise on Lake Michigan aboard the *Mystic Blue*, enjoy-

ANOTHER POLISH LINK AT LYRIC. In the June 2014 issue of the *Polish American Journal*, readers had the opportunity to read about “The Passenger,” an opera by Mieczysław Weinberg, that will have its premiere during Chicago Lyric Opera’s 60th anniversary season. Lyric Opera of Chicago has now announced that it will premiere two additional operas as part of its community-based program, Lyric Unlimited Initiative. The two additional operas will be presented in hopes of connecting with a wider audience. The first production, “**The Property**,” is a klezmer opera; and the second is the child-oriented, “**Second Nature**.” The musical score of “The Property” is composed by Los Angeles-based Polish composer, **Wlad Marhulets**, with a libretto by Stephanie Fleischmann and Eric Einhorn. The opera, based on a graphic novel by Rutu Modan, an Israeli illustrator, tells the story of “a woman and her daughter who travel to modern-day Warsaw to try to regain family property lost during World War II.” Interestingly, the opera, with its klezmer-flavored music, will include members of Chicago’s renowned Maxwell Street Klezmer Band.

“The Property” will be connected with the Lyric’s premiere of Weinberg’s “The Passenger,” and will be performed at two other locations. South Siders can have the opportunity of seeing this opera at the Logan Center of Performing Arts at the University of Chicago, February 25-27, 2015. North Siders can see performances at the North Shore Center of Performing Arts in Skokie, March 4-5, 2015. Tickets are available at (312) 827-5600 or at lyricopera.org/property.

Soon-To-Be Chopin Plaza

Located in a small unassuming triangular-shaped piece of land formed by the intersections of Milwaukee/Elston/Melvina Avenues, located in west Side, is “Chopin Square.” The Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce has maintained three flagpoles on the island for about 20 years and has held annual flags ceremonies at this site. Apparently years ago, **Roman Pucinski**, former 41st ward alderman, dedicated this island in honor of Frederic Chopin and the rich Polish heritage of Chicago’s Gladstone Park area.

For years, the Northwest Side locals called this island “Chopin Square,” but 39th Ward Alderman, **Margaret Laurino**’s office could find no city records verifying the naming. Ms. Laurino now wishes to officially formalize the designation of this island, by using the word “plaza” instead of “square” to better reflect the shape of the island.

The alderman’s ordinance states that Chopin’s “name carries a strong sense of cultural pride for Pol-

ish people” and that “the headquarters of the Polish National Alliance, the Copernicus Foundation, and Chicago’s North- widely distributed Polish language newspaper, *Dziennik Zwiakowy*, are in the vicinity of the plaza.” It continues to state that the plaza will “honor the many Polish Americans who have settled on the Northwest Side of Chicago and contributed to the greatness of our city.”

With the reapportionment of Chicago wards, this piece of land will be in Laurino’s new 39th ward. She has introduced an ordinance that will be brought up to the Chicago City Council that will officially name this traffic island as “**Chopin Plaza**.”

A spokesperson for the alderman mentioned that a dedication ceremony for the naming the island, “Chopin Plaza,” would be held in conjunction with a Chopin tribute concert that will take place at Northeastern Illinois University. A plaque, honoring Frederic Chopin, will be installed on this island later this year in conjunction with Polish American Heritage Month celebrations.



MODLITWY

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS. The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

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

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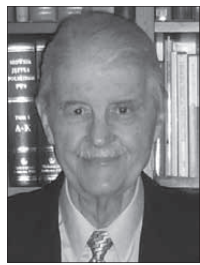
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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Summer Picnics Abound

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The **Polish Scholarship Fund**, sponsor of the 60th Annual Syracuse Polish Festival, announced that SUNY Fredonia freshman **Nicole Sidorowicz** was named Miss Polonia 2014; **Dr. Jozef Zwislocki** was named Outstanding Pole of 2014; and scholarships of \$1000 were awarded to **Karol Jablonski** (Union College), **Tia Marks** (University of Albany), **Konrad Mozdzen** (SUNY Institute of Technology), **John Slominski** (Clarkson University), **Alexander Siok** (Binghamton University), **Charvel Stanejko** (Le Moyne College), **Morgan Starczewski** (Duquesne University), **Mateusz Wozny** (Mohawk Valley Community College), **Sadie Zacharek** (University of Notre Dame) and **David Zurawski** (Le Moyne College).



Gessner

Dr. Peter Gessner, the former director of the State University of New York at Buffalo's Polish Studies Program, former president of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo and member of the Kosciuszko Foundation's National Advisory Committee, passed away on June 27 at the age of 83 ... The **Kosciuszko Home Association** of Dunkirk held its Annual Street Dance on Nevins Street on June 27 and 28 ... The New Direction Band played at the **Lackawanna Ethnic Festival** at Veterans' Stadium on June 29 ... **Brittany Mruczek** of Batavia received the \$15,000 Outstanding Falcon Scholar Grant from the Polish Falcons of America's Richard C. Gorecki Scholarship Program.

A **Polish American folk mass** opened the "Summer Festival" at Immaculate Conception Parish in Eden on July 12 ... On July 12 and 13 the **Podhale Parents and Youth Association** held its annual picnic at the group's camp in Franklinville ... **Wladyslaw Pasikowski's** film on Polish-Jewish relations, "Aftermath", was screened at the North Park Theatre in Buffalo during mid-July ... The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** held its "Annual Summer Stag" at the Bowen Road Grove in Lancaster on July 17 ... The Town of Cheektowaga presented its **36th Annual Polish American Festival** in the Town Park on Harlem Road the weekend of July 17 through 20. This year's festival featured performances by the Concertina All-Stars, Polka Family Band, Special Delivery, Polish-American String Band ("Mummers"), Rare Vintage, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Phocus and Bob Uleck Band. The Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra opened the festival with a Polish classical music concert featuring the works of Chopin, Moniuszko and Moszkowski ... The **General Pulaski Association** parade marched along Harlem Road into the town park on July 20. Honorary grand marshals of the parade included **Christopher Cox**, **Bishop Edward Grosz**, U.S. District Judge **William Skretny**, NYS Senator **Tim Kennedy** and Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka**. This year's parade was underwritten by a \$4500 grant from Senator Kennedy ... The **Buffalo Polka Boosters** hosted their Summer Picnic at Fontana's Grove on Clinton Street on July 27. Music was provided by the Knewz ... The **American Council for Polish Culture** held its 66th Annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Buffalo from July 30 through August 2. The theme of this year's meeting was "Proud Americans, Polish Roots" ... Mark Redlinski, the president of Redlinski Meats, retired to Arizona at the end of July, entrusting the family business to his cousin, **Joe Redlinski**.

St. Stanislaus Kostka parish in Rochester will hold its Annual Polish Festival on the parish grounds on August 1 and 2 ... The **Polish Union of America's** Annual Family Picnic will be held on August 2 at Centennial Park in West Seneca ... On that same evening, the **Polish Cadets** of Buffalo will host a "'50s & '60s Sock Hop" at its Grant Street club-rooms ... **Holy Mother of the Ro-**

sary Polish National Cathedral will host its parish picnic on the church grounds in Lancaster on August 3 ... The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and Western New York will hold its Family Picnic at Como Lake Park in Lancaster on August 6 ... On August 7, the **Professional & Businessmen's Association** will host its Annual Golf Outing at Harvest Hill Golf Course in Orchard Park ... On August 9, the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY and New Direction Band will perform at the **German-Polish Celebration** at Spring Garden in East Aurora ... August 10th brings **Blessed Mary Angela** Parish's Summer Festival to the St. Hyacinth school grounds in Dunkirk.

The Buffalo Bisons baseball team will hold its annual **Polish Heritage Festival Night** at Coca-Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on Tuesday, August 12. This year's honorees are PAJ Editor-in-Chief **Mark Kohan** (Polish American of the Year), and **Jennifer and Ricky Pijanowski** (Community Leadership Award). The **Krakowiacy Dancers** and the Knewz polka band will perform during the pre-game tent party and the game versus the Norfolk Tide. Tickets are available from Chris Tanski at (716) 771-1076 or Mark Gordon at 846-2018 ... The 35th Corpus Christi Parish **Dozynki** Polish Harvest Festival will be held on the parish grounds in Buffalo's historic Polonia district the weekend of August 15 through 17. Information on the festival can be found at dozynki.corpuschristibuffalo.org ... On the weekend of August 22 through 24, Holy Trinity Parish in Erie, Pa. will hold its **Zabawa 2014**, featuring the Polka Family Band, Mar-vels, Polka Country Musicians, Knewz and the Wiaty Folk Dancers of Erie ... The **Annual Owl Family Picnic** will be held at the Lamm Post in Williams-ville on August 24 ... The **Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa** will be observed at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in North Tonawanda on August 24. The Concertina All-Stars will provide the music, and there will be a pierogi contest and Polish platter dinner ... The **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** in Toronto will take place on September 13 and 14. More information is available at polishfestival.ca ... The **Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser** will be held at the Valley of Buffalo Hall on Union Road in Cheektowaga on October 4. Entertainment will be provided by the Buffalo Touch and Phocus.

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



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POLONIA ON FILM / Joseph W. Zurawski

Sea Legs (1930)

Comedy, Romance
Distributor: Paramount Pictures
Director: Victor Herman
Screenplay Writer: Marion Dix
Featuring: Jack Oakie, Harry Greene (as Gabriel Grabowski)

There is question whether *Sea Legs* was originally meant as a musical, evolved into a comedy, and then was released and enjoyed as a farce. It is believed that parts of the movie were originally shot silent and lips had to be synchronized for the singing duet. *Sea Legs* is definitely a transitional movie from the silent screen era into talkies.

The plot is convoluted and disjointed. A small island republic has a standing navy (the ship featured in the movie stands in one place throughout the film) of 20,000 funded, in part, by the United States. The lightweight champion of the U.S. Navy, Doyle, accepts \$100 and gets bamboozled by a lawyer named Grabowski into pretending he is O'Brien, who stood to inherit two million dollars if he serves in the Navy. On shore leave, Doyle (O'Brien) spots Grabowski who assures Doyle that he signed all the papers and is now O'Brien. He reminds him, "You're a forger. If you're Doyle, you'll spend a lifetime in jail."

Some "humorous" dialogue ends this meeting:

"How did you become a lawyer?"

Grabowski answers, "I learned by ear," and turning his back, says, "Good-bye boys, I'll be suing you."

Doyle (O'Brien) falls in love with the captain's daughter who owns

a tea shop and Doyle (O'Brien) has all the bills sent to Grabowski. When an American crew visits the tea shop, which features a wide assortment of cakes and pies, the resultant "fight" with the pastries is silly but entertaining.

O'Brien is murdered, and Doyle and Grabowski become suspects. A memo clears all that up and O'Brien's real father becomes head of the island's navy. His son shows up and promptly gets a dose of the sea.

Grabowski's first name is never mentioned in the film but a business card he distributes shows his first name as Gabriel. As unlikely as Gabriel is for a Polish name, perhaps all the problems Grabowski had with the French language, particularly its spelling, were meant to be indicative of the problems Americans had with Polish spellings. Once, when finding the French dictionary of little help, Grabowski, in exasperation, exclaims, "These foreign people."

The *New York Times* wrote that Grabowski was a Jewish lawyer. Others have made similar comments since Harry Greene, who played Grabowski, was known as a Jewish dialect comedian.



Joseph W. Zurawski is author of Poland: The Captive Satellite: A Study in National Psychology; Polish American History and Culture: A Classified Bibliography; Polish Chicago: Our History, Our Recipes; six regional histories (Niles, Illinois, Door County, Sister Bay, Keweenaw County, Liberty Grove, Saukville) and Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding.



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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for their donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **John and Ann Halley**, Rowland Heights, Calif.; **Brian Holuj**, Baltimore; **Jozef Kasperek**, Conroe, Texas; **Martin Nowak**, Lancaster, N.Y.; **Dr. John Niziol**, Clifton, N.J.; **Richard and Pearl Wiglosz**, Hollywood, Fla.; and two **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

UT Press Publishes New Book on Toledo's Polish Community

I am proud to announce *American Originals: Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play* is finally a reality. My regular readers may recall that several months ago, I mentioned that I was contributing to an anthology being published by the University of Toledo Press. *American Originals* is the latest book in its series on the various ethnic groups who have settled in Toledo over the past hundred-plus years.

When Editor Timothy Borden contacted me in 2007 about the idea of contributing to a book about Polish American heritage, I had already started contacting musicians and promoters in Toledo with the idea of writing a full-length book about polka music. As the years passed, work and family commitments turned into full-blown procrastination. Tim's encouragement gave me a new enthusiasm to meet with even more musicians and fans, basically anyone involved in Toledo polka over the years who would grant me an interview. I did it the old-fashioned way, taking a mini tape recorder, and sitting down over a cup of coffee or a mug of beer and listening to their stories. For every person I spoke to, I'm certain there are two or three more with equally rich memories of the "golden age" of polkas, yet time got away from me as the deadline came near.

The book wrapped last summer just as Tim was preparing to take a job overseas. To celebrate, he held a going away/book wrap party at his house in September 2013. It was great finally to sit down and talk with the other contributors, to reminisce about our experiences gathering the information, and to meet UT Press Director Barbara Floyd. The biggest joy, of course, was looking forward to seeing the work in print.

To paraphrase Tim Borden's introduction, "we did not try to create a Toledo Polonia Encyclopedia. For readers who may be disappointed that not everything is here, it's time to start writing the next volume on our region's Polish Americans!" I'm sure there's much more out there!

American Originals: Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play is the latest book to be published by the University of Toledo Press.

The 258-page work presents a glimpse into the history of one of Toledo's most important ethnic groups.

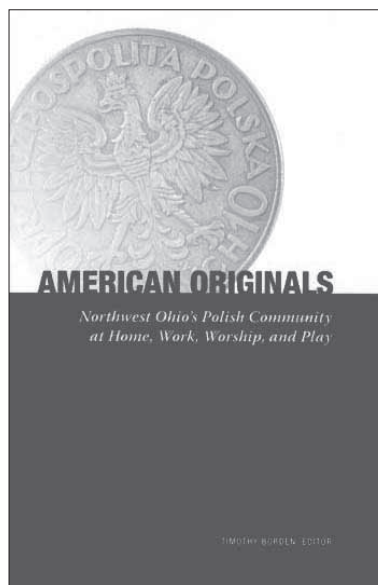
"The book is a mix of the broader themes that have shaped our community with the actual lives that Polish-Americans recall—sometimes remembered with pain, more often with joy, and always with the respect for the accomplishments of the families, friends, and neighbors," said Timothy Borden, editor of the book. "These are the histories of true American originals, who found a proper home for their ideals in the Polish-American community of northwest Ohio."

The book includes several chapters by Borden, who holds a Ph.D. in history from Indiana University Bloomington. Others with chapters include David Chelminski, Dorothy Stohl, Jane Armstrong-Hudiburg, Sarah Miller, William Samiec, and Margaret Zotkiewicz-

Dramczyk.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur also contributed a chapter on the history of her Polish family, including the story of her father, Steve, who was known in the community as "Kappy." Kappy began his career as a trucker and produce dealer in the 1930s, and in the 1950s, he and his wife, Anastasia, opened the Supreme Market in Rossford. The market sold Polish specialty items. Kaptur also recounts several trips she made to Poland to visit the homeland of her ancestors, and how moved she was by the Polish people and the tales of their struggles throughout history.

One such tale is told by author Stohl, who recounts the heart-wrenching story of Frances and Tadeusz Stocki, who lived in Poland during World War II. The couple married just as Poland was being divided between the Germans and the Russians, and they were imprisoned in a Russian gulag. The story of the couple's efforts to survive, how they were separated and amazingly reunited, and how they eventually ended up in Toledo is a



tale of unimaginable hardship and enduring love.

The book also looks at the artistic expression of Toledo's Polish community in its polka music. The chapter by Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk looks at some of the beloved polka bands that played in many venues around Toledo. It includes interviews with some of the bands' leaders, and discusses the evolution of

Toledo's polka music. A listing of polka recordings by Toledo bands is also included. In addition, Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk discusses the influential Toledo Polish music radio show hosted for years by Chet Zablocki, assisted by his wife Helen, and then after Helen's death, by his second wife, Sharon.

Other chapters look at Polish wedding traditions, the role of local Catholic sisters in educating the new immigrants to Toledo, and the experiences of those growing up in Toledo's two Polish neighborhoods—Kuhshwartz and Lagrinka.

"*American Originals* is an important contribution to scholarship about Toledo's history, and is also a fascinating read for anyone who is a part of the Polish community, or just an admirer," Barbara Floyd, director of the UT Press, said.

The book is for sale from the UT Press website: www.utoledo-press.com; at Barnes & Noble @ The University of Toledo; or by contacting Barbara Floyd, at (419) 530-2170.

The price is \$22.95.

FDA Allows Burzynski to Continue Cancer-Cure Experiments

WASHINGTON (USA Today) — The Food and Drug Administration has given a controversial Houston doctor the green light to resume administering experimental cancer treatments.

The FDA has lifted restrictions on a clinical trial run by Stanislaw Burzynski, who was the subject of an investigation last year.

Burzynski, 70, has wrangled with state and federal medical authorities for nearly 40 years over his claims that he has discovered natural substances that can fight certain cancers.

Burzynski — hailed as a maverick by his fans but derided as a snake oil salesman by mainstream doctors — has long claimed to have achieved dramatic success in hard-to-treat cancers, especially brainstem tumors that are usually

considered fatal. According to the National Cancer Institute, however, Burzynski has not produced proof that his drugs save lives by publishing a randomized, controlled trial in a peer-reviewed journal.

The FDA placed Burzynski's clinical trial on a partial hold — barring him from enrolling new patients — after the 2012 death of a six-year-old New Jersey boy in his study.

Last year, the FDA issued a sternly worded warning letter to Burzynski, expressing concern about patient safety and the accuracy of his records.



BURZYNSKI

In a statement, the FDA confirmed that it has lifted its restrictions on Burzynski because he answered all of their questions. In particular, Burzynski addressed "common and serious (and in some cases fatal) adverse drug reactions, as well as accurate information on how often tumors shrink after treatment with antineoplastons."

In a statement, the Burzynski Research Institute says it is planning to launch a large, definitive trial — called a Phase 3 study — of patients with newly diagnosed brainstem tumors.

The FDA's decision "marks an important step in the development of antineoplastons for the treatment of various forms of brain tumors," the institute said in its statement.

Some cancer specialists say they're disappointed by the FDA's

decision and concerned for the safety of young patients. Critics also say they're concerned about the financial impact on dying patients or their families, who often organize elaborate fundraising efforts to obtain the \$100,000 or more needed to pay for Burzynski's experimental treatments, which are not covered by insurance.

"This puts patients at risk," says Peter Adamson, chairman of the Children's Oncology Group and chief of clinical pharmacology and therapeutics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Research has shown that antineoplastons can cause serious and even life-threatening side effects.

Given the FDA's past dealings with Burzynski, Adamson says its decision is "indeed sad, but perhaps not surprising."

POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

Toward the Great War

Well documented is the Polish experience during World War II. Thousands of books and articles have been written about the subject. Much less known is the horrific experience endured by the Polish people during World War I. Called the Great War in its time, it involved more people and more countries in war than at any time in world history up to that point. That conflict began one hundred years ago.

Twenty-seven countries around the world declared war on at least one other nation as the result of a cascading system of alliances. These countries were as widespread and diverse as Bulgaria, China, Japan, Liberia, Guatemala, Cuba, Brazil and Thailand. British Commonwealth lands such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand without declaration automatically joined Britain in the war.

Almost all the hostilities took place in central Europe between the Central Powers and the Entente or Allies. The Central Powers consisted of only four countries: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (modern day Tur-

key). All the others were aligned against them. The main belligerents were Germany and Austria-Hungary of the Central Powers and France, Britain and Russia for the Allies, later joined by the United States. Italy suffered large losses in the south of the Eastern Front, having been enticed to join the Allies in the war after first being non-committal.

AND WHAT WERE THE CAUSES of this conflagration? The large countries of Europe had a deep distrust of one another, going back in a tit-for-tat fashion to the German defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, and even to the Napoleonic Wars of the early nineteenth century and the suffering, humiliations and upheavals they caused. Then there was Germany's desire, late to the game, for empire building to rival Britain and France worldwide. To achieve empire, Germany did not hesitate to bully its neighbors with bellicose language and provocative acts. And Germany's dream of empire included dominance of the European continent.

War also seemed to be perceived by many Europeans as an oppor-



Archduke Franz Ferdinand

tunity to right many wrongs that had piled up over the decades. Of course, each side was confident that it would easily prevail over the other.

As a result of this distrust among European nations, they armed themselves heavily. The continent became a powder keg waiting for a spark. That spark was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, in Sarajevo (controlled by Austria) by a Serbian nationalist on June 28,

1914. Austria-Hungary claimed the Serbian government was behind the deed and declared war on that country after issuing impossible ultimatums to it. The declaration came on July 28, 1914. What Austria figured would be an easy victory over a little weak country did not materialize. In response to Austria's declaration, Russia mobilized its army to defend ally Serbia. In turn, Germany mobilized to help it ally Austria-Hungary. France invoked its treaty to side with Russia, and the British invoked a clause in an old treaty to declare war against Germany when the kaiser invaded neutral Belgium.

DURING THE WORLD WAR I years, Poland did not exist as an independent country. It was still partitioned and occupied by Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary. The first country was an Allied power fighting against the latter two Central Powers. As a result, ethnic Poles fought for all three countries on both sides of the conflict, a real case of brother vs. brother. In addition, soldiers of Polish descent made up a not-insignificant portion of the French, Canadian and Ameri-

can armies for the Allies.

This was the first heavily mechanized war in world history. The newer technologies used included machine guns, submarines, tanks, and the first use of airplanes, dirigibles, poison gas and flamethrowers, all in the service of man killing his fellow man. In fact, the first use of poison gas in combat happened in Bolimów on Polish soil.

Before it was all over the grim toll would record more than twenty-five million people killed or missing and presumed dead. Of those, around ten million were civilian deaths. Poles suffered greatly in this war, almost half a million killed and almost a million wounded and injured in military service and another half million Polish civilian deaths. From their blood re-rose the Polish White Eagle like a phoenix reborn from the destruction of the battles, appearing again after an absence of 123 years as an independent nation.

The Great War ended centuries-old empires, changed the map of Europe forever and altered the political dynamics of the continent in ways that are still felt in the twenty-first century.

TRAVELOGUE: Five Days in Poland / Staś Kmieć

A Palm Tree Grows in Warsaw

Part IX

CEPELIA, HOME OF FOLK CRAFTS. Leaving the Polonia Palace Hotel, I quickly stop into the *Cepelia* store on the corner directly in front of the Metropol Hotel. The once popular empire of folk craft artifacts is now a mere shadow of its former self. Founded in 1949, the *Cepelia* chain was always where one could find uniquely crafted souvenirs – something that could not be found in the States; it was my favorite place to shop, and when the dollar was strong everything was vastly affordable. Hand-woven decorative kilims, rugs, figurines, tiles, tapestries, along with handcrafted regional folk art (carved wooden figures, decorated *pisanki* eggs, *wycinanki* paper cut-outs, laces, pottery), folk dolls and costumes could be purchased. A fraction of those items remain today and at greatly inflated prices.

Despite the changing times, economic and cultural climate, *Cepelia* has remained faithful to its fundamental goal of promoting art rooted in Polish native traditions. There have always existed two undercurrents in its activity: folk art associated with the work of country artists and decorative, artistic handicraft. The native concepts have inspired the creative work of contemporary artists, who have found their expression in fabric, ceramics, furniture, and wicker products. With its trademark stylized rooster, *Cepelia* continues to remain rooted in the popular consciousness.

At this particular location there was once an abundance of Bolesławiec Pottery; recently it has been substituted with another company's product. The store clerks said that the product was too expensive. I later read that the company was opening their own stores in major Polish cities and ended their relationship with the middleman.

CDT — CENTRALNY DOM TOWAROWY. I purchased a few items and proceeded down Aleje Jerozolimskie towards Nowy Świat. An area that was virtually destroyed during World War II, it is not without its architectural gems. One building of note is the Smyk Children's Department Store. This functional masterpiece was one of the triumphs of the Socialist Realist era, and has been officially recognized as a historical monument since 2006.

Designed to look like a gleaming lantern, the building was constructed in 1948-1952 at the intersection of Bracka, Widok, Krucza, and Jerozolimskie and was designed in the popular pre-war 1920s modernist style. The design made it a unique

building at the time, yet also a very controversial one. Stalin believed that modernism was the architecture of capitalism and particularly disliked it as the preferred style in the decades just before World War II and thus its association with the Second Polish Republic. Unlike much of the capital's pre-war architecture, the building is simple and functional – with no excess to enhance its contemporary appearance.

Built as a detached structure formed from three separate blocks,

Warsaw to use moving-stairway technology. The lobby of the store was originally decorated with terracotta wall tiling and oak flooring and a number of art pieces were commissioned for the interiors – these included distinctly modernist or post-modernist style sculpture and paintings.

On September 21, 1975 in the early evening, the structure caught fire. Starting on the 6th floor, the fire fed on rich wall coverings, carpets and fabrics. Pieces of the ceiling collapsed and the fire spread to another three floors of the building. Around 8.30 pm there was a large explosion, and around 10 pm the entire building has been thoroughly burnt out. As the fire consumed plastic store products, the flames provided a spectacular sight by turning light blue, purple and pink.

Shortly after midnight, the fire department had extinguished the fire, but the blaze had destroyed all but two floors. The cause of the fire was later assumed to have been caused by a faulty escalator motor which had malfunctioned, and then burnt out.

State authorities decided to renovate the *CDT*, but the government believed that it would be too costly to replace the original interior and all its furnishings as the country was in hard economic times. The reconstruction changed much of its original appearance and never allowed it to regain its former glory. During the reconstruction most of the distinctive furniture, as well as the whole of the glass façade were replaced with newer, less costly materials.

In the 80s it was renamed "Smyk," and in 2000, the chain was separated from the company's department stores line and re-established as a branded chain with products for children. The current owner wants to restore the flagship Warsaw store to its former grandeur and reopen it as a full service department store, as was originally intended.

Following the fall of Communism and the Poland's economic rise, three American fast-food chains opened in this area: *McDonald's* on one side of the street, with *Burger King* and *Kentucky Fried Chicken* across the way. *Burger King* has since bowed to the competition and ceased operations. An immense Gucci store wrapped like a piece of trademark luggage stand nearby.

THE WARSAW PALM TREE. On De Gualle Roundabout (the Charles De Gaulle statue and National Museum stand nearby) is a surprising sight... a 50-foot palm tree growing in the middle of a traffic island! Standing on the intersection between Nowy Świat and Al. Jerozolimskie is part of a modern art project, titled *Pozdrowienia z Alej*



WARSAW'S PALM TREE is the work of contemporary artist Joanna Rajkowska, who — during a trip to Israel — was struck with the idea of "planting" a palm tree on Jerusalem Avenue to add some sunny cheer.

the main block forms the core of the store itself – fronting the avenue, the second construction operates as a food hall, and the third became a small office building attached to the rear of the store. The structure was famous for its high windows, which were constructed using Polish oak frames and anti-reflective glass panes. The façade was specially designed to carry advertising and for most of its history was adorned with the store's trademark neon lights, arranged in the shape of spirals and supplemented with the vertically stacked letters "CDT," which stood for the store's original name *Centralny Dom Towarowy* (Central Department Store).

Inside the building, there were 6 main escalators and 4 elevators within a central stairwell – which made *CDT* the second building in



CEPELIA has remained faithful to its fundamental goal of promoting art rooted in Polish native traditions. Above: Polish pottery.

Jerozolimskich ("Greetings from Jerusalem Avenue"). Not an actual tree, this life-like art installation is a steel column (specially designed so it can bend in the wind), covered with natural bark and leaves made from polyethylene. The work by contemporary artist Joanna Rajkowska, was conceived during a trip to Israel, when she was struck with the idea of sticking a palm tree in Warsaw to add some sunny cheer.

Manufactured in California, the tree sent city hall into a spin. As it was not a tree, building, nor a monument, there wasn't anything in their big book of rules to direct the baffled bureaucrats what to do about it. Eventually, it was unveiled to a curious Warsaw public on December 12, 2002. The populace liked this surprise Christmas present so much it became a permanent fixture, as well as the occasional sleeping habitat of returning nighttime clubbers.

It went neglected and leafless two years later, until the artist and friends mounted its restoration. In the summer of 2007, the palm underwent a complete makeover, becoming more weatherproof and easier to maintain.

Born in Bydgoszcz, Rajkowska studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków, and art history at Jagiellonian University; she completed the Studio Semester Program at the State University of New York.

The project made Rajkowska realize the void left by the absence of the Jewish community in Poland and the significance of the history and etymology of Aleje Jerozolimskie to Warsaw's identity. Jerusalem Avenue was the location of Jewish settlement in the 18th century; by adding an almost surreally alien element (a palm tree common in the Middle East) in the spot that previously served as a location for a Christmas tree, the artist highlighted and challenged the invisibility

of the street's name. Conceived as a social experiment, the tree artificially melds an element of Israel's natural scenery into the Warsaw city surroundings.

In another way, the palm tree refers to a popular idiomatic expression in the Polish language – "palma odbija" that indicates "hit by a palm tree" – referring to something unthinkable. A behavior that verges on being silly, even idiotic, the project thus embodies humor and irony. Through the very presence of a palm tree in the middle of Warsaw, it may signify that the commonly accepted way of reasoning does not always fit the real world – something old-regime thinking Poles should be mindful of.

Twelve years of project's existence has generated a stage for a series of political events, performances and happenings under the palm tree. In 2012, the creator removed its leaves to protest against what she believed was the city's disregard for social needs amid a huge amount of spending on Euro 2012. "The Palm has always been on the side of those who are absent, deprived of their voice or spoken for by others who have no legitimacy to do so," said Rajkowska. "The tree has been many things: a Jewish woman, a nurse, and a victim of climate change and right-wing governments in Poland." The tree was the voice of opposition to the illegal annexation of Jerusalem and Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestine, which the Polish government appeared to encourage. "The Palm has always been and always will be a voice speaking up for all emancipatory and liberation movements."

The Warsaw Palm has its own website at www.palma.art.pl. I turn the corner onto Nowy Świat for a break at the famed Café Blikle.

To be continued

CENTER TO HELP WARSAW'S LGBT COMMUNITY. (*Rzeczpospolita*) — Plans have been put forward to create a shelter in Warsaw for struggling members of Poland's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.

The venture, which has precedents across Europe, would be funded by EEA Grants and Norway Grants under the umbrella of the "Citizens for Democracy" program.

The center would offer free accommodation for up to 250 people, and meals would also be provided free of charge. A social worker would be employed to help new arrivals find work, and the building would be under 24-hour surveillance as a protective measure.

According to Yga Kostrzewa from the Warsaw-based Lambda Association, which provides sup-

port to members of the LGBT community, many young Polish people are compelled to leave home owing to conflict sparked by their sexuality.

"We very often get calls on our helpline from people who have nowhere to go," Kostrzewa said.

HERE KITTY. A puma has been reported on the loose in the southern Polish city of Czestochowa, and has been blamed for the deaths of a few dozen chickens and some deer. Tests on the deer however, revealed death by another cause. Although city authorities concede that the animal may be a large dog, they have decided to set a trap to capture the animal, whatever it may be.

Should the trap fail, thermographic cameras will be set up to ascertain the identity of the culprit.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Sauces to Polonize Standard Fare

These days, many Polish-American groups planning an anniversary banquet or other gala occasion seem to increasingly have problems doing the food scene up right. The little, old "babcia" types that used to volunteer in the kitchen are a dying breed, so in many areas the only alternative are non-Polish banquet facilities or catering firms. All too often they try to impose their standard mainstream menu (roast beef, baked chicken, pork chops, barbecued ribs, etc.) and claim they are not "into" ethnic cookery and cannot accommodate special requests. But there are ways of getting around that.

If your mainstream banquet hall, hotel restaurant or outsourced caterer is uncooperative, do not despair! Simply have the kitchen staff prepare their standard plain-cooked dishes (poultry, fish and roasts) seasoned with little more than salt & pepper, but not barbecue sauces or other strong-flavored gravies. Then simply drench the portions with one of the following typically Polish sauces.

MUSHROOM SAUCE (sos grzybowy). Simmer 16 oz fresh, washed, drained and sliced (Portobello and/or white) mushrooms in 4 T butter 15 min. Dissolve 1 mushroom

bouillon cube in 2 c boiling water. Fork blend ½ c sour cream with 1 slightly heaped T flour and combine with slightly cooled mushroom bouillon, whisking until smooth. Add mushrooms, pour over sliced plain-roasted meat of choice (chicken, turkey, beef, pork, veal, etc.) and simmer gently 20-30 min covered. Serve with real (not instant) mashed potatoes and mizeria (sliced cucumbers with sour cream).

PRUNE SAUCE (sos śliwkowy). Cook 8 oz pitted prunes in water to cover. When they disintegrate, sieve or process. Melt 2 T butter in saucepan, stir in 2 T flour and 1 ½ c meat stock. Add the prunes and season to taste with salt & pepper, 1-2 T vinegar, 1/2 t ground ginger, 1 t marjoram and 1/4 t ground juniper. Bring to boil stirring constantly. Pour over hot, cooked, sliced roast pork, beef, duck, goose or turkey.

HUNTER'S SAUCE (sos myśliwski). Fry 1 large finely minced onion, 1 grated carrot and 1 slice of grated celeriac in 2-3 T butter or oil on med-low until tender. Add 1/2 c puréed tomatoes and 1 ½ c cold meat stock in which 2 T flour has been dissolved, bring to boil and whisk until smooth. Add 2 buds crushed garlic, 1 T chopped parsley,



A "goulash" made with Hunter's Sauce served over beef with barley makes a very hearty meal.

1 jg red dry wine, 2 T wine vinegar, 1/2 t ground juniper and salt & pepper to taste. Simmer on low under cover 10 min. Let stand another 10 min for flavors to blend. Serve over game (roast venison, boar, wildfowl) or domestic meats to which you want to impart a wild-game accent.

HORSERADISH SAUCE (sos chrzanowy). Melt 2 T butter in sauce

pan, stir in 2 T flour and blend well but do not brown. Stir in 1 c cold milk or ½ c sour cream or plain yogurt fork-blended with ½ c milk. Heat to boiling, whisking the whole time until sauce thickens. Stir in 1-2 heaping T prepared horseradish and season to taste with a little lemon juice, sugar salt & white pepper. Simmer briefly. Good over roast beef, beef tongue, broiled fish and hot hard-boiled eggs.

POLONAISE FISH TOPPING (ryba po polsku). Melt 4 T butter in saucepan. Stir in 4-5 finely-chopped hard-cooked eggs and toss to coat evenly. Add 2-3 T fresh finely-chopped dill and salt & pepper generously. Toss to blend ingredients. Sprinkle fried, broiled or poached fish with lemon juice and top with hard-boiled-egg topping.

POLONAISE FISH TOPPING II (ryba po polsku II). Fork-blend 1 c sour cream with 1 heaping T prepared horseradish, add 1 heaping t fresh chopped parsley and season to taste with a little salt, sugar and lemon juice to taste. Stir in 2-3 finely-chopped hard-cooked eggs and simmer briefly until heated through, but do not boil. Spoon topping over fried, broiled or poached fish.

SOS MUSZTARDOWY (mustard sauce). Mix 3/4 cup sour cream, 1/3 cup mayonnaise, 2 tablespoons Polish grainy or Dijon-style mustard, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon sugar in a medium bowl until thoroughly blended. Refrigerate until ready to use. Perfect with hot or cold pork, ham or hard-cooked eggs.

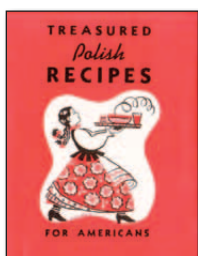
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POLISH CHICAGO: OUR HISTORY, OUR RECIPES \$29.95

by Joseph W. Zurawski
240 pp., hc., 720 photographs
G. Bradley Publishing



Since the 1830s millions of Poles have come to Chicago. This work recounts by vivid prose, rare photographs and poignant anecdote the amazing story of these indomitable people. The volume turns a spotlight on 36 Polish American restaurants and families who opened up their kitchens to share time-tested, delectable Polish recipes.



THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK \$16.95. by Sophie Knab. 337 pp., pb., ill.

This popular cookbook by beloved Polish American author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab is now updated with a new section on Polish Feasts and Festivals! Knab combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish

countryside through the year, giving readers priceless historical information to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants. Lovely illustrations by Elliott Hutten and pearls of practical wisdom from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book. This title includes over 100 easy-to-follow recipes, and a detailed bibliography and resource guide.

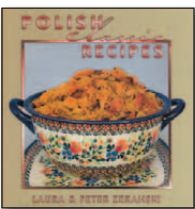


POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS \$16.95
By Laura and Peter Zeranski
2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100

color photos by Bob Rock

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES \$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.

GIFT PACK 12 FAVORITE GLOSS-COAT POLISH RECIPE CARDS \$5.00. by Polanie Publishing.

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 HOLIDAY COOKERY \$24.95
by Robert Strybel
248 pp., hc. Hippocrene Bks.



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.

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK: Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK \$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc.

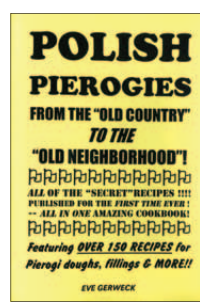
Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

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.

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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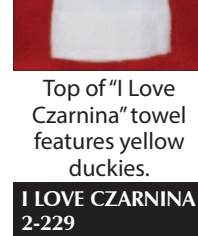
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Class of 2014 Enters Polish Sports Hall of Fame

Notre Dame All-American **Walt Patulski**, baseball great **Ryan Klesko**, and former heavyweight boxer **Duane Bobick** were inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame during ceremonies held at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan.

Patulski was an All-American defensive end at Notre Dame and in 1971 was awarded the first-ever Lombardi Trophy award given to the most outstanding lineman. Walt would later be named to the school's All-Century team. In 1972 Patulski was first overall pick in the NFL Draft, selected by the Buffalo Bills. In 1977 a serious knee injury ended his NFL career at the age of 28. Patulski, who attended the induction



Baseball great Ryan Klesko with his son, Hunter.



Walt Patulski signs an autograph, while his wife, Karen, looks on.

Fordham. John's, Matt, was a four-time All-American lacrosse player at Duke, and now is one of his assistants.

POLISH OR NOT? When it comes to sports figures, I frequently get asked "Is so-and-so Polish?" That can often be a difficult question to answer. Unfortunately, family histories are sometimes discarded or forgotten, and some people don't know where their grandparents or great-grandparents came from. Even if they do, often it's hard to identify the exact ethnicity due to the unique history of Poland (which includes shifting borders, partitions and mass deportations).

Here is what I have been able to find out — to the best of my knowledge — about some of the names I'm asked about. One is NBA great **Dirk Nowitzki**, a native of Germany whose last name seemed to be a Germanized form of the Polish name Nowicki. I haven't seen much about his heritage until I came across an interview with Dirk in Polish news-

paper "Rzeczpospolita." In it, he essentially says that he has looked into it and found out that he has Polish heritage on his father's side going back to the 18th century, and that the name means "new person."

Here are a few other names. Tennis star **Stanislas Wawrinka** was born in Switzerland to a Swiss mother and a German father of Czech and Polish descent. His paternal grandfather had settled in Switzerland after fleeing Czechoslovakia for Germany in 1946. **Gregg Popovich**, the coach of the San Antonio Spurs, was born in East Chicago, Indiana to a Serbian father and Croatian mother. Pitcher **Jeff Samardzija**, now with Oakland, is of Serbian heritage. Doug Drabek, a former great pitcher and father of top prospect Kyle Drabek, is apparently of Czech heritage.

Over the years, the NFL has had a number of "Polish Rifles," or quarterbacks of Polish heritage. They've included names like **Ron Jaworski** and **Johnny Lujack**. However, a couple of top current NFL QBs have some Polish blood. The mother of New England QB Tom Brady is of one-half Polish, one-quarter Swedish, and one-quarter Norwegian, ancestry. Tom's maternal grandmother was Bernice Obitz. His father is of Irish descent. Dallas QB Tony Romo is Polish and German on his mother's side. Tony's father is a second-generation Mexican-American.

THEY SAID IT

"I'm gutted to have let down everyone but especially my teammates. It's been an incredible ride but I know this will make me stronger."

— A tweet by **Chris Wondolowski** about an hour after the United States was eliminated from

the World Cup by Belgium, 2-1. *Wondolowski had a chance for a miracle goal in the 93rd minute of the game, but his attempt to get a shot over 6'6" goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois went wide.*

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"I want to be the best player in this game, and I know I put the work in. Therefore, there's really no pressure because I definitely prepare myself."

— **Colorado Rockies star Troy Tulowitzki**, who started at shortstop for the National League All-Star team after finishing as the league's top overall vote-getter. *Tulowitzki, 29, is an All-Star for the fourth time, and now a three-time starter.*

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"As I scored my goal I got hit and so I wasn't able to do the flip."

— **Miroslaw Klose**, on why he didn't celebrate his World Cup final record 16th goal with his trademark forward flip. *The 36-year-old Polish born striker became the highest goal-scorer in the history of the tournament in Germany's 7-1 semi-final thrashing of Brazil.*

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"That was obviously huge. They showed a lot of love. They showed that I'm a really important part and piece of the team when they came over to Poland and helped me out. And I was definitely excited, so it was just an easy decision for me to pick Washington."

— **Marcin Gortat**, on signing a five-year, \$60 million deal to remain with the NBA Washington Wizards. *A big reason for his decision was that a delegation of Wizards executives and coaches, including head coach Randy Wittman, visited him in Poland just prior to the start of free agency.*



(l. to r.): Michelle Mullen, Aleta Rzepecki-Sill, NPASHF Jim Conrad, Excellence in Sports award winner Liz Johnson, and my Debbie Conrad.

banquet with his wife Karen, was presented for induction by George Goeddeke, a former Notre Dame All-American lineman who played professionally for the Denver Broncos.

Klesko, who played 16 Major League Baseball seasons (1992-2007) with Atlanta, San Diego and San Francisco, hit 278 home runs and 987 RBI with a .279 career batting average. He was an integral part of the Braves World Series Championship team of 1985, and made the 2001 All-Star team. Klesko's presentation came via video by former Atlanta Braves star John Smoltz; his father, John Smoltz, Sr., presented the honor in person. Klesko attended the event with his wife Kelly and son Hunter.

Duane Bobick, a top pro and amateur heavyweight boxer, posted a pro record of 48-4 with 41 KOs in the 1970s. He retired in 1979 at age 28. Bobick was unable to attend due to health issues. He was presented by professional boxing referee Frank Garza, and his award was accepted by his cousin Charlotte Czech and her husband Paul McDonald.

U.S. Women's Open bowling champion **Liz Johnson** received this year's NPASHF Excellence in Sports award. It was presented by former pro bowler and current gold-rated bowling coach Michelle Mullen. Liz Johnson attended the event along with her father Conrad Johnson, who spoke proudly about the family's Polish roots (their original name is Janiszewski).

Also in attendance at the event were many sports celebrities, retired

athletes and media representatives. Attendees included NPASHF Hall of Fame Inductees Tom Nowatzke (football), Tom D'Eath (hydroplane racing), Art "Pinky" Deras (Little League baseball) and Aleta Rzepecki-Sill (bowling).

Board Chairman Jim Conrad noted with sadness that Msgr. Stanley Milewski, the first chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools, took ill just before the banquet and was unable to attend. His often-humorous invocations were a highlight of the banquets. "It was the first time he missed a banquet in many years," said Conrad. Msgr. Milewski passed away a couple of weeks later. However, Conrad reported that there were over 450 people in attendance, making it one of the largest crowds in recent years.

NATIONAL TITLE FOR DANOWSKI. **John Danowski** led the Duke men's lacrosse team to the NCAA title as the Blue Devils defeated Notre Dame in overtime, 6-5. It was the Blue Devils' second straight title and third championship since 2010.

Danowski, previously Hofstra's head coach, took over the Duke job in July 2006. He came after the previous coach was forced out because of the charges from a woman claiming she had been assaulted by members of the team. (Ultimately, the woman was discredited and the district attorney was disbarred). Danowski stabilized the program and made it a perennial contender.

John's father, **Ed Danowski**, was a great quarterback for Fordham University and the New York Giants, and later coached football at

Support for Youth Baseball in Poland

by **Al Koproski**

STAMFORD, Conn. — The Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation (PNYBF) was founded by Stan Kokoska of Willimantic, Conn. Stan has continued to serve the children in Poland since his first summer teaching the children to play baseball in 1986.

Things have progressed since then and in 2004 a Polish team came to the United States to play in the Little League World Series. Now it is almost impossible to have a team come to the United States, as the cost of a visa, passport, airfare, housing and meals is too expensive for the relatively poor families of the children.

This spring the 14th Annual Dzialdowo Cup Tournament was held, with the winning team receiving a beautiful Crystal Trophy from the president of Poland. This summer the Baseball Field in Dzialdowo Poland was expanded to allow the now senior boys and girls to play ball. This field can be used for tee-ball, Little League, Babe Ruth, and Senior Teams.

From the port it is delivered by truck to many cities all around Poland and to summer camps sponsored by the Kosciuszko Foundation.

If you would like to donate to continue the promotion of baseball in Poland, make your check out to PNYBF and send it to 222 Ocean Drive East, Stamford, CT 06902. For more information call (203) 323-9944. The PNYBF is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. If you would like to volunteer, call or email oceanvu222@sbcglobal.net.



STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE. PAJ subscribers Al Koproski (left) of Stamford, Conn., and Tom Krajewski from Buffalo repair donated baseball and softball equipment, which will be shipped to Poland by the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation, founded in 1986 by Stan Kokoska of Willimantic, Conn., to teach children to play the sport in Poland.

The PNYBF thanks all who have donated towards the building of the baseball field and towards shipping the donated equipment to Poland. In addition to Tom Krajewski from Boston (near Buffalo), N.Y., the PNYBF would like to thank loyal supporter is Paul Sager of Pittsburgh, Pa., who annually donates used baseball and softball equipment to the organization.

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



OSCYPEK FOR SALE. Offering unique highland sheep's cheese. Krynica, Poland. May 21, 1976.

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

The Blacksmith's Kid

If it is **Kowalczyk**, someone once called some distant ancestor of yours "the blacksmith's kid," and it stuck. **Jankowski** was "the man from Jankowo (Johnsville), **Rybak** was a fisherman, **Mazur** hailed from the forested Mazurian Lake District, and **Baran** was stubborn as an old ram.

Whatever the case, you can learn all about a Polish last name, what it means, how it came about, how many people use it, where they came from and whether a coat of

arms goes with it.

If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank check or money order (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland. You will also get a useful genealogical contact chart which can help you track down your family records in Poland and possibly even turn up long-lost relations. For more information, please contact research60@gmail.com.

BRUSH UP ON YOUR POLISH


Are Your Ready for Some Piłka Nożna?

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rugby.....	rugby
cricket.....	krykieta
tennis.....	tenis
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basketball.....	koszykówka
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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Genealogy Software

An important part of organizing your family history is compiling the family trees. Pedigree charts and family group sheets are important tools in your research. They are important reference tools to keep the relationships of individuals to their ancestors clear in the minds of the researcher and family members. These charts can be compiled manually using standard forms, but these charts can be more efficiently updated using your computer and one of a multitude of genealogy programs that are available.

Genealogy software is used to collect the date and place of an individual's birth, marriage, and death. Details can be easily changed and clean copies of the important charts can easily be reprinted. Most genealogy programs allow for the addition of additional events, notes, photographs and multimedia. The programs allow the researcher to focus the management of all the information they collect on individuals, families, and events. Other useful tools that may be available are mapping tools and publishing tools.

Popular genealogy programs available are Family Tree Maker, RootsMagic, Legacy and Reunion. There are many more. Deciding which genealogy program to use depends on your immediate needs and

budget.

RootsMagic is a useful program to use when you begin your research because they offer a free version to allow users to become familiar with the use of such programs. It includes most of the useful functions and charts that are in retail programs. However, the free version does not allow printing of charts. The retail version adds the printing feature, the ability to save charts as PDF or RTF files and the ability to create a family history website. It offers a Windows version only.

FamilyTreeMaker is available for use on Windows and Macintosh computers. It has the standard features of most of the other retail programs. Additional features include the ability to merge information directly from Ancestry.com, a story generator and the ability to sync your FamilyTreeMaker information to your Ancestry.com trees.

Legacy offers both a free version and a retail version. The free version includes many advanced features that are in retail versions of other software programs. The retail version has many added features such as 34 more reports, mapping, wall charts, calendar creator, Source-Writer and interview reports. Both versions are offered for Windows computers only.

Reunion is another genealogy program that will help you to document, store, and display information about your ancestors but is available only for retail customers and it can only be used on Macintosh. It includes the advanced features of the popular genealogy programs and makes generating charts and printing easy. It can create birthday calendars, mailing lists, questionnaires and slideshows. Wall charts for family reunions are one of its specialties.

The programs described above are just a sampling of what is available. If you are unsure of your needs, I would recommend one of the free programs to get started and then upgrade to a retail program once you see what will fit your research needs and budget. Whatever your needs are, I highly recommend that you use one of the genealogy programs to help organize your genealogy research.

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Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to the Polish American Journal, is a prominent genealogist. In addition to numerous columns and papers, he is the author of three books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," and "Polish Genealogy."

ASK OUR MAN IN WARSAW / Robert Strybel

Genealogy Questions for the Answerman

Send all inquiries to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland; e-mail research60@gmail.com

Q: My father came here from Poland. I still have his Polish documents where his surname is written as Ciupa. Is that a typical Polish last name and does it have any meaning?

Carlos Ciupa
Buenos Aires, Argentina

A: Ciupa is not extremely common in Poland, but some 1,900 people sign themselves that way.

In slang the word *ciupa* has one of two different meanings: a jail or prison (similar to the American clink, slammer or hoosegow – the latter comes from the Spanish word *juzgado*) and a dullard, dimwit or clumsy oaf.

Q: My grandparents came to the United States in the early 1900s from a village called Lekawica, in

Tarnow County, near Krakow. To our knowledge, there are no family members left in that village or elsewhere in Poland.

My grandkids are starting to learn about history and the horrors of war. They have asked me if the village of Lekawica was impacted by World War Two. I have tried unsuccessfully to find answers in my local library and on the internet. Do you know anyone who might have such knowledge that I could contact?

Stan Zemula
Glennwood, Mo.

A: Lekawica is a large village of over 4,000 in southern Poland's Żywiec district (county) bordering Slovakia. From the late 1700s until 1918 the area was part of the Austro-Hungarian occupation zone known as Galicja. After Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, that area was incorporated into the Third Reich and its Polish residents deported

to what was known as the General Governorship, an entirely German-ruled entity created to supply the Reich with a pool of slave labor. It was less than one-third the size of prewar Poland.

After the war, some of the deported Lekawica residents returned to their homesteads. The Żywiec Beskid Mountains, part of the Carpathian range, is known for its gentle, rolling, forested slopes, unlike the craggy peaks of the Tatra Mountains are to the east.

The Żywiec area is known for its colorful regional culture, especially its highlander attire, folk bands and rustic architecture. Although you may not be able to read the Polish, you can get a glimpse of Lekawica online as it is appears at present by visiting: <http://www.lekawica.com.pl/aktualnosci,1,akt>

For information on the village today you can email: sekretariat@lekawica.com.pl

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

The Lives of 100 Successful Poles

Poles in the New World: The New Generation
by Edward Zawadzki
EZMedia Publishing, 2013

The premise of *The Poles in the New World* and *Poles in the New World: The New Generation* is to highlight the lives of 100 successful North Americans of Polish descent from the past and present.

The people Zawadzki profiles come from all walks of life. Actors, such as Jane Krakowski, and Pola Negri; scientists, such as Mięczyński and Karol Bobko; athletes, including Turk Broda and Mark Fidrych; and musicians like Pat Benatar and Marty Robbins, have each earned a spot in one of these volumes.

Besides these well-known figures, many not-so-famous individuals are profiled. A few of the lesser-known people of Polish origin include: Dr. George Jackowski who developed the rapid format cardiac blood test; Henry Juszkiewicz the Chairman of Gibson Guitars; and Morris Michael Edelstein, a Polish-American politician. But Zawadzki doesn't forget to include many of the superstars of the Polish community such as, Bobby Vinton, Liberace, General Casimir Pulaski, and Johnny Rzeznik.

Each biography is short, only about two pages long, but packed with not only basic biographical information, but interesting tidbits as well. For instance, after she married, Martha Stewart earned a bachelor's degree from Barnard College in both European and Architectural History. She then went on to work as a stockbroker on Wall Street before starting her own catering company. Christine Baranski, a TV and movie actress interestingly enough, did not allow her two daughters to watch television due to what she and husband deemed to be questionable content. Ted Knight, born Ted Konopka, who played Ted Baxter on the *Mary Tyler Moore Show*, quit high school to join the army. He earned five Battle Stars when he served with the 296th Combat Engineer Battalion during World War II.

These two volumes are filled with the lives of 100 people of Pol-



ish descent, some famous, some not. These individuals whether born in Poland, United States, Canada or Mexico are all vastly different but one thread is the same. Their Polish heritage has given them the ability to shape our New World.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Edward Zawadzki has been a sports editor and featured columnist for the Canada Free Press, a boxing promoter, a concert promoter, and now focuses exclusively on writing and broadcasting. His previous publications include *The Ultimate Canadian Sports Trivia Books Volumes 1 and 2*. Zawadzki's parents, survivors of the Second World War, settled in Canada following the war. His parents taught him much of Polish history and culture and he credits them for the inspiring him to write about these individuals of Polish descent. He often tours throughout the United States and Canada with his mother to promote his books, make presentations about Polish history, and speak about his parents' experiences as prisoners in Nazi war camps.

The Poles in the New World is available in both Polish and English. This review is based on the English edition.

Lead, Follow, or Lead

I saw a most excellent show on PBS about one of the surprising but prominent women in the American civil rights movement of the sixties and seventies. Her name is **Grace Lee Boggs**, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, and married to political and civil rights activist James "Jimmy" Boggs. Grace and Jimmy lived in Detroit and devoted a lot of their time and effort improving the lives of the African-American community there and nationwide. As mentioned in the documentary, Grace still lives in Detroit and has a special place in her heart for Mo-Town.

For good or bad, and you might not like her politics or philosophy or work, but Grace was quite the extraordinary person. Along with all of her tireless efforts for change and the five books she wrote, the show portrayed her as one of the "leaders" in the struggle. But I remember her saying something to the effect that Americans love their "icons" and she downplayed the higher reverential position she was accorded. Many heroes really aren't very good leaders and many of the individuals I think are great leaders, don't stir an ounce of feeling in anyone else.

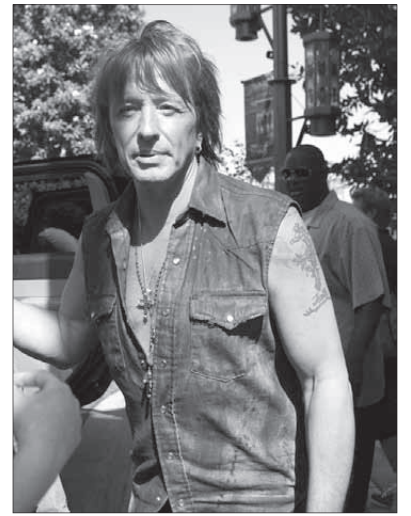
WHAT DOES THE LIFE of the Chinese woman Grace Boggs have to do with Polonia? Leaders are made up of various amounts of charisma on the one hand, and on the other, managerial or organizational skills. An overabundance of charisma produces hero-worship followers and the skilled managerial types are praised for getting things done, making profits, or winning. A leader with a lot of personality can be effective because he has the numbers behind him but might not really accomplish anything. Manager leaders might have the answers but might not be able to carry them out because no one is paying attention or won't believe it. A person with

exceptional leadership will possess ample quantities of both. Seeing Grace Boggs' life story subtracting all of the "revolution" rhetoric, she was very effective at developing and steering the effort to gain equal rights for the African American people. All of her efforts were focused on the cause rather than herself and that seemed to be the way she wanted it.

St. Louis Polish Falcon's Nest 45 has a giant album displaying their history — past to present — in pictures. I am struck by the group shots during the early years of the organization showing men or women seated with the members lined up behind them, twenty, forty, or a hundred strong in the photo. All of them are dressed up, the ones seated in the front row are the leaders, and they look like a bunch of Marshal Pilsudskis in suits — serious, and confident. The idea that all of the Polish people were only steel workers and miners isn't evident in these pics. These guys and gals cleaned up pretty well back then and the collars are white.

Polonia, like all ethnic groups has and will always have a wide variety of leadership styles and I appreciate greatly all of the leaders we have had and have now. I'm generally not a "we need" guy but as we go forward there will be a need for capable and devoted leaders to manage effectively the parts of Polonia still relevant and to inspire the creation of new endeavors and cultural influences. The challenge for the new leaders will be to do more with less and to prudently steer those efforts. As history has shown with Grace Lee Boggs, they might emerge from surprising and unusual places in many different forms.

POLISH ROCKERS UPDATE. From the July Ponder Pole I said: "For some time I believed that **Richie Sambora**, the lead guitarist



JUST AS I SUSPECTED. Rock legend Richie Sambora is 100% Polish American. Before he took up the guitar at age 12, he had six years of accordion lessons.

for the band was half Polish (mom). Ethnic Celebs (ethniccelebes.com) brings him in as 100% Polish but I would challenge the name Sambora as being Polish."

I received a very nice letter from Joseph Malon, who lived near the Sambora's in the old neighborhood in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and he confirms that Richie's dad Adam was 100% Polish. Now that is A+ Pondering Pole verification.

Dziękuję bardzo to you, Joe, and Niech Pan Bog ci błogosławi (May the Lord bless you!)

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. Don't forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, ponderingpole.blogspot.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.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

Drzymała's Wagon

Sometimes we are inspired, or at least our spirits are lifted, by the actions taken by common, everyday people. They are not authors, politicians, professional organizers or business leaders. Just ordinary men and women. The shipyard worker who says "no" to his communist masters, the schoolgirl who defies the murderous efforts to keep her from learning.

This is the little known story of such a person in Poland more than a hundred years ago.

Michał Drzymała was born in Zdrój in 1857, a village about twenty-seven miles to the southwest of Poznań. He was an ethnic Pole but a German citizen, the village being at that time in the German partition area of traditionally Polish lands. He was a peasant who worked for a brewery.

From the late 1800s onward, the Germans enforced a policy of germanization in their "Polish provinces" known as kulturkampf. Its goal was to make "good German citizens" out of the Poles and once and for all stamp out Polish culture and language and traditions. To this end, a series of discriminatory laws was put into place to make the Poles comply to the germanization policy, and ethnic Germans were encouraged to move into Polish areas to introduce and reinforce the

supremacy of the German ways. A Prussian Colonization Commission was formed in 1886. It bought land from Poles and resold it to Germans.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, one of the laws imposed forbade ethnic Poles from building any new structures on land that they owned.

In 1904, Michał Drzymała bought a plot of land in Podgradowice not far from Zdrój. He wanted to build a house on the land but was denied permission to do so by the German authorities. So he bought an old circus wagon and moved into it with his wife and three children. He was told he could not do so because he was Polish and Poles were banned from building homes on their land. But Drzymała protested, saying that it was not a house, but a wagon. The German definition of a permanent structure was anything that stayed in place for more than twenty-four hours. So each day Drzymała would get out and push his wagon a few feet.

He was eventually arrested and put in jail for his defiance. His case wound up in the German courts. Meanwhile, word spread throughout Europe and even to America about the standoff. The Germans were sarcastically ridiculed for their behavior in the foreign press.

With donations from fellow

Poles, Drzymała acquired a newer, more modern wagon. Finally, after four years of legal wrangling and harassment, the Drzymała family was evicted from the trailer. Drzymała then built a dugout hut but was evicted from that, too. Tired of the struggle, he gave in, sold his land and bought a small farm in Cegielsko, not too far away. It had an existing house on it, so he would be in no violation of the law by living there.

So why didn't the German authorities simply throw Drzymała out of his wagon to start with? Why did they bother with legal arguments for four years? Because at the dawn of the twentieth century, Germany saw itself as a nation of laws. Of course, the kaiser had ultimate dictatorial powers, but there was a parliament that passed laws. And Germany wanted to be a member of the community of nations, a country that at least appeared to have a fair legal system that afforded its citizens due process.

Michał Drzymała moved to Grabówno in the Piła district in 1927 and lived there until he died ten years later. In 1939 the village



PHOTO: NATIONAL DIGITAL ARCHIVES OF POLAND

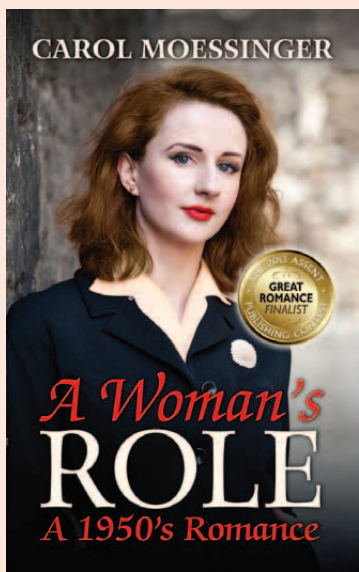
of Podgradowice was renamed Drzymałowo in his honor, a distinction historically reserved for royalty.

He was buried in Miasteczko Krajenskie near Grabówno. His grave was desecrated by the Nazis during World War II but restored afterward. It is inscribed with the words "Bohater Narodowy" meaning National Hero. He was awarded the Polish Order of Polonia Restituta posthumously. Drzymała became a Polish folk hero in his time, a symbol of Polish resistance to occupation and an inspiration for Polish nationalism and the struggle for an independent Poland. Just an ordinary guy trying to live his life. Even in 1981 poet Jan Pietrzak paid homage to him at the time of Solidarność with his composition "To Poland Were the Polish."

Drzymała's original wagons were destroyed, but a replica exists on the roadside between Poznań and Zielona Góra, placed there by the owner of an inn.

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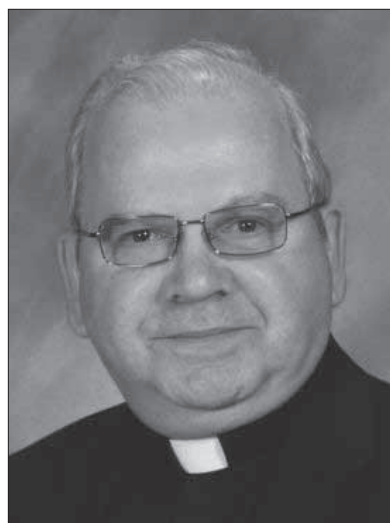
Kenneth P. Gill, Supporter of Many Polonian Causes

PHOTO: MALGORZATA KOT



Kenneth P. Gill, a stalwart of Chicago Polonia, was born on February 29, 1944 and passed away on June 29, 2014. He was the beloved husband of the late Marlene Wilczynski Gill and the son of the late Casimir and Sylvia Gill.

Gill was born, raised, and educated in Chicago, and retired as a librarian for Portage Park School of the Chicago Public Schools. Ken spent his entire adult life as an active member of Chicago's Polish American community, and, along with his wife, was a proud supporter of Polonia causes. He was an officer of numerous organizations, including the Polish American Congress, Illinois Division; the International Polka Association; Council of Educators in Polonia; the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance; the Heritage Club of Polish Americans; the Polish American Librarians Association; and served as a member of the board of directors of the Polish Museum of America. Always a reliable and conscientious volunteer, Ken gave his time and talents to all these organizations, as well as to the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Copernicus Center's Taste of Polonia, and many more organizations. When he agreed to volunteer, he always kept his word. Always friendly, always concerned, Ken truly was proud of his Polish heritage and its culture. Kenneth P. Gill is survived by his brother-in-law Joseph Wilson and sister-in-law Denice Kwak-Wilson, along with numerous cousins. The family has asked that all donations in Ken's memory be sent to The Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, 60642-4101 or visit www.polishmuseumofamerica.org. (GBC)

Msgr. Stanislaw Kempa, 66, Pastor of Holy Trinity, Lowell, Massachusetts

LOWELL, Mass. — **Msgr. Stanislaw Kempa**, 66, longtime pastor of the Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity, died June 17 at Lowell General Hospital, Saints Campus. Msgr. Kempa was born in Tarnow, Poland on May 1, 1948. He was the son of the late Mieczyslaw Kempa and Teresa (Ciesla) Kempa.

Upon completion of his Semi-

nary Studies, he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest by Bishop Jerzy Ablewicz, the Bishop of Tarnow, on May 27, 1973. In 1974, he received his Masters Degree in Theology-Cosmology awarded by the Pontifical Theological Institute in Krakow.

After the sudden death of his mother in 1988, his teen-age sister was left alone in the family home in Tarnow. Since she was not able to carry on herself, he decided to ask the bishop to relieve him of his parish obligations to take care of his sister during these years. In 1991, his sister was of age to marry and so Father Stanislaw was relieved of his responsibilities toward her. He was then awaiting a new assignment from his bishop. In April 1990, Bishop Jerzy Ablewicz died and was succeeded by Bishop Jozef Zycinski as Bishop of Tarnow. The Cardinal Primate of Poland and Bishop Jozef Zycinski, after making arrangements with the American and Polish Episcopates, assigned Fr. Kempa to serve on a permanent basis in the Archdiocese of Boston, Mass. with the agreement of Bernard Cardinal Law to work among the Polish people in the Archdiocese.

In September 1991, he was assigned to the Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity in Lowell and served as pastor from 1997-2014. He became a U.S. citizen in August of 2001.

He was a Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Lowell Council #72 and also a 4th Degree member of the Bishop Delany Assembly, since June of 1997. (GBC)

Msgr. Harry Mazurkiewicz, Head of Deanery

LA GRANGE, Texas — **Msgr. Harry Mazurkiewicz**, 87 passed away on Saturday, July 5, 2014 at College Station Medical Center in College Station, Texas.

Msgr. Mazurkiewicz was born in Chappell Hill, Texas on September 18, 1926, the son of Tony and Josephine (Bilski) Mazurkiewicz. He attended St. Mary's School in Brenham and went on to graduate from St. Edward's High School in Austin, Texas before entering St. Mary's Seminary in La Porte, Texas. He was ordained May 26, 1951, at St. Mary's Church in Brenham, Texas. He was briefly assigned to St. Monica's in Cameron, Texas before returning to St. Mary's in Brenham where he served as an associate pastor. In June of 1956, he was assigned associate pastor of Sacred Heart, and in 1966 he became pastor of Sacred Heart where he served until his retirement in 2006.

Msgr. Mazurkiewicz served as chaplain in the 871st Engineer Battalion U.S. Army Corps with the rank of captain. He served in different ranks in the diocesan level including Presbyteral Council, Clerical Endowment Fund, and Diocesan Development Fund Advisory Committee. He was appointed domestic prelate on May 9, 1982. He served as the dean of the Eastern Deanery and consulter and member of the Personnel Committee for Bishop Aymond. He also served as the state

chaplain of KJT.

Msgr. Mazurkiewicz served as a charter member of the Fayette Library Museum and Archives Board and as chaplain of the La Grange Fire Department for over 44 years. He also served as a member of the Hospital Foundation Board.

Colonel Marian Prusek, Polish Army Guerilla Fighter and U.S. Marine Veteran

PHOTO: ANDRZEJ BRANINAK

Marian Edward Prusek, 88, was born in Poland in 1926 and died on May 22, 2014, after a long illness. Prusek was the president of the Chicago branch of the Polish Army Veterans and a member of the Armia Krajowa (AK), fighting gallantly in battles near Radkow and Krzepin. After escaping from a Soviet prison and being hunted by the Soviet secret police in 1946, he fled across the border into the American occupation zone, and then traveled to London. In the early 1950s, Prusek emigrated to Chicago and within a short time enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and fought in the Korean War. Once he settled into civilian life, he worked for Sabena, the Belgian Airline. He settled in Chicago, where he spent the remainder of his life.

For over 60 years, he embraced anything and all activities pertaining to the veterans, philanthropic or social. He was especially involved in collecting medical supplies for the AK veterans in their Warsaw clinic. For the last 17 years, he was president of the Chicago branch of AK and also served as commander of the Group 90 of SWAP (Stowarzyszenie Weteranów Armii Polskiej w Ameryce - Polish Army Veterans Association in America). In April 2014, Prusek received news that he was nominated and subsequently received the honorable rank of "colonel" from Poland's Ministry of Defense.

For his service to the United States, he was given full military honors after his funeral mass at St. Constance Church on Chicago's northwest side. His ashes were transported to Poland, where another funeral mass was said at the Field Cathedral of the Polish Army (Katedra Polowa Wojska Polskiego), across from the Heroes of the Warsaw Uprising Monument. He received the Polish Army's full military honors. His ashes were then placed in the

Polish Army's Powązki Cemetery. He is survived by his wife Anna. (GBC).

Zenona "Sonia" Raczowski, Community Activist

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. — **Zenona "Sonia" Raczowski**, 84, a community activist who fought for fairness and justice for all people. A leader in the state's Polish American community, her experiences as a child POW deepened her understanding and appreciation for the cost of freedom.

A special passion was the Polish Scouting Organization. Raczowski was "always focused on helping young people and teaching them about how to achieve their dreams," said her son A. Rocky Raczowski.

Raczowski was nine when her father, a Polish army officer, was captured by Nazis and held as a war prisoner. She and her mother lived in seclusion for several years and were eventually sent to the camp near Auschwitz, where they lived for two years before the camp was liberated by allied forces in early 1945.

After the war, she finished high school and was accepted to the Jagiellonski University Medical School in Krakow. After receiving her medical degree in 1960, her parents surprised her with a trip to the United States, where she met Bogdan Raczowski. They married in 1962, and he preceded her in death in 2002.

Raczowski resumed her medical career in her adopted homeland, and began working at Sinai Hospital as a surgical assistant in 1967. In 2007, she was honored by Detroit Medical Center for more than 40 years' service.

Following her retirement, she became involved in the "New Detroit" Committee on Immigration, fighting for fair and reasonable immigration policies.

Ludmilla "Luba" Wiecek, Devoted to Harcerstwo

Ludmila "Luba" Alexandra Wiecek, nee Jaworski, 86, passed away on May 25. Born in Chicago, Ludmilla graduated from Holy Family Academy during the days when Polish was spoken throughout the school day with the exception of one English language class. She devoted her entire life to her family

and her Polish culture and heritage. In addition to raising five children, she worked side-by-side with her mother Zofia at the Peacock Bridal Shoppe in Chicago.

Wiecek took great pride in her Polish heritage. She actively participated in Harcerstwo, Polish Scouting, always offering a helping hand wherever she was needed, be it at Polish Scout camps, with its parents' organization, and/or with its Lechici and Orleta dance troupes. She was the dance troupe's biggest fan and their resident seamstress. Ludmilla became involved in Harcerstwo when her eldest son, Thaddeus, began with the organization. She was on its board parents' committee for approximately 30 years.

Her devotion to Harcerstwo was unprecedented. She cooked at its camp for over 20 years and volunteered at its weekly meetings. She sewed, pressed, repaired, and inventoried Lechici's costumes for over 40 years. In addition, she sewed some 200 costumes for the Orleta Dance Group. She continued her Polish costume craft until approximately two years ago, when her eyesight began to fail.

In 1945, Wiecek was a debutante at the White and Red Ball of the Legion of Young Polish Women. She was part of the first *en masse* presentation of debutantes in the United States, and remained a member of the Legion until her health limited her participation.

Her love, her smile, and her devotion left a lasting impression on all who knew her, and she will be truly missed. Wiecek was the loving mother of Thaddeus, Danita Cherney, Stephan, Jerome, and Conrad, and a devoted grandmother of Susanne Wiecek, Emilia Wiecek, Marcel Wiecek, and Jacob Cherney. She was preceded in death by her husband, Casimer Wiecek, parents Zofia Gutowska-Jaworska and John Jaworski, a twin sister Bogumila, and a brother Mitchell. (GBC).

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POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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POLKAJUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Polka Shoes Keep You Dancing

The Steve Drzewicki Band was formed in 1961 and today, more than a half-century later, is still providing great polka music to audiences in the Bay City area of Michigan, as well as other venues around the country.

Its latest CD, *Polka Shoes*, presents a lucky 13 tunes, with "Potato Chip" polka, "Jedzie Boat," "Miala Baba Koguta," and the title song, "Polka Shoes," just to name a few.

Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame inductee, Tommy Reder, makes his return to polkas and is highlighted on "Pickles with your Beer," and "Muzykanci." Other musicians that make up the unique Drzewicki sound include: Steve Drzewicki on drums; Gary Mueller on trumpet, fiddle, and accordion; Stanley Kowalski on accordion; Doug Lull on trumpet; Mark Durocher on bass; and Bill Triechel on accordion. Seth and Peggy add their magic with the bells.

Local and regional bands like the Drzewicki group are key components to keeping polka music alive in those non-metro pockets of the country. They know their audiences, and the audience knows them. The Steve Drzewicki band keeps those polka shoes dancing throughout the Greater Michigan area.

Contact the band via email at: sethdrz@yahoo.com or by telephone at: (989) 443-1807.

"Polka Festival" Show Celebrates 25th Year

DUDLEY, Mass. — Nichols College Radio's "Polka Festival" show is celebrating its 25th year.

Jeff Guyette began the show on September 22, 1989. Bob Guyette became his co-host in 1990, taking over the show in 2006 when son, Jeff and his wife Kristin moved.

Polka Festival airs Monday, 6:00-8:00 p.m. It can be heard at 97.5 FM, and on the internet at www.nichols.edu/wnrc and www.live365.com/wnrc. Listeners can call the station at (508) 943-8320 or e-mail at polkabob2005@msn.com.

"It's Polka Time!" Expands in Minnesota

DETROIT LAKES, Minn. — July 6, 2014 was the starting date of "It's Polka Time!" with Craig Ebel in this north-central Minnesota town. The radio program will be heard every Sunday, noon to 2:00 p.m. over 102.3 FM KRCQ.

KRCQ (50,000-watts) covers a large area of North Central Minnesota and Eastern North Da-

kota. The station streams its signal worldwide at www.realcountry102.com.

"It's Polka Time!" is produced from Minneapolis and St. Paul, and is heard on 26 other stations. It also airs on the Polka Jammer Network, Saturdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Information can be found at www.itspolkatime.com.

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- Lil John & The ATM Band (PA) Friday
- New Tradition (PA) Saturday
- Pan Franek and The Polka Towners (MI) Saturday

Band Line-Up Subject To Change

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Sunday Morning Polka Mass
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Kathy Blazonczyk and Brian Szumigalski working the Bel-Aire concessions table at hall entrance.



Ken Yash, drummer for the Maestro's Men.



Kevin Adams and Lenny Gomulka of the Chicago Push.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

40th Year of Fireworks Packs the House

The 40th Polka Fireworks filled the Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pa. with people, music, people, bands and more people. Featuring fourteen of the nation's best polka bands, the event drew fans from all over the country.

Pool parties with DJ Kenny Olowin, live music poolside and in the Joe "Zip" Lubovinsky Hall, planned and impromptu jam sessions, filled five days with polkas from morning to night and beyond.

The Blazonczyk family continues the legacy of this grand event and does it to perfection, featuring the best polka talent in the country. Add the 31st Concertina Jam Session, the night-time jams, and Big Dan's Party, and they become icing on the musical cake.

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, here are a few thousand words of photos from the 40th Polka Fireworks.



Concertina Jam number 31, sponsored by Steve and Adele Litwin at the 40th Polka Fireworks Festival.



PAJ Polka Editor Steve Litwin accepting the IPA's Joe Jozwiak Award with the IPA's Laura Mateja and Mike Matousek.



The crowd in front of the Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men.



Whitey Ryniec, a founding member of the Dyna-Tones, takes a vocal at the Concertina Jam.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

Lots of Surprises and Support for a Great Cause

BUFFALO, N.Y. — For decades, Niagara Falls was a hub for polka activities, but over the past few years the city has fallen short on polka functions. **New Direction** has been doing their part to bring polkas back to Niagara Falls. The **Polish Nook** and the **Echo Club** have opened their doors and received a warm response from the community.



Linda Merwin and her dad, Mike Chipchak.

I recently visited the Echo Club on a polka Sunday with New Direction. If you have never visited the Echo Club, it is well worth the trip. The property, which once served as a private Polish club, is rich in history and unlike any place you have ever visited. Many famous guests have visited this gorgeous 24-room mansion including Presidents William McKinley and Woodrow Wilson, Harry Houdini, Marilyn Monroe, and Pope John Paul II. Owner Deb Sirianni is thrilled to have polkas back in this historic Niagara Falls landmark. New Direction entertained the crowd from the upstairs hall which is complete with a beautiful dance floor, plenty of seating, and a bar. For \$5.00 admission it was a Sunday afternoon filled with wonderful music and a Polish sausage sandwich served to each attendee. The owners welcome patrons to peruse the property and the endless amount of memorabilia that is in this building. It has even been rumored that several ghosts reside in this property which only adds to its historical presence.

SPORTSMAN'S TAVERN, a music lover's mecca, hosted a polka dance for Father's Day. The **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** made their debut at this one-of-a-kind local hotspot. Dwayne and Denise Hall opened their doors to polka music with the Buffalo Touch several years ago and have now decided to host an additional polka band. It is the perfect venue to expose others to the fun and infectiousness of the music. The acoustics are absolute perfection and everyone in attendance enjoyed the performance. The small dance floor did not discourage anyone from getting up to dance to their favorite songs. My good friend Lin-

da Merwin brought her father Mike Chipchak, an avid polka fan in from Rochester to enjoy the band. It was a great mix of polka fans and bar patrons that stayed and enjoyed the music. Sportsman's has a second floor that overlooks the band, and it was a great place to sit, relax, and enjoy a cold beer while hearing the harmonious sounds of Buffalo Concertina All Stars. I am thrilled that the Hall family has decided to open their doors to yet another polka band. I look forward to their continued support and hopefully seeing other bands of this genre gracing the stage very soon.

SURPRISE! Buffalo Polka Booster Club members were treated to quite a surprise at the June meeting. A surprise band made up of **Mark Kohan, Rick Pijanowski, Jim Kaminski, Robin Pegg, and Ray Barsukiewicz** got together to provide music for the meeting. All seasoned musicians and friends, they sounded as though they'd been playing together as a group for years. The band pumped out all of our honky polka favorites for the crowd of enthusiastic dancers and spectators. Jim Kaminski took the lead on several of the vocals and showcased quite a talent for performing. Although they are not a traditional band, I hope that they decide to get together at least a few times a year. It was a dynamite evening watching these longtime friends really play music from the heart.

A GREAT CAUSE. My husband Ricky and I headed to the **Syracuse Polish Festival** this year. Clinton Square which is located in the



Jimmy Sturr.

heart of downtown Syracuse is a perfect backdrop for this large festival. Polish vendors selling amber, wood carvings, jewelry, household items, eggs, t-shirts and anything Polish-themed that you can imagine lined the streets. There were several Polish restaurants as well as organizations selling delicious Polish food. Lines were 30 people deep at almost every single vendor around lunchtime which obviously speaks volumes to the amazing

food. The festival, which showcases many Polish organizations, Polish scholarship fund, and promotes the



Ed and Jane Bednowski from Syracuse.

proud Polish culture in the area has been going strong for 60 years. This year the entertainment on Saturday was provided by the **Rymanowski Brothers** and the **Jimmy Sturr Orchestra**. The Rymanowski Brothers took the stage first performing a vast array of standard polka favorites. The quick wit of Gerry and his brother Dennis made watching the band extremely entertaining. Polka



Joe Ryczek, Gerry Rymanowski, Jerry Soliwoda, and Dennis Rymanowski.

lovers danced away in the street in front of the stage adding to the festive atmosphere. We even ran into many of our friends from the area that we have not seen in ages. Art Kott as well as Ed and Jane Bednowski were right in front of the band dancing to almost every single song. Next Jimmy Sturr stormed the stage in his true fashion. His orchestra started belting out polkas full force and really brought an exciting energy to the crowd. I have always been a huge fan of Sturr because I love his sense of performance and the showcasing of his musicians. The horn players jumped down into the audience and crowd went wild. Regardless of whether you like his style of music or not, it is impossible not to enjoy the performance. **Chris Caffery** of Trans-Siberian Orchestra was a special guest with the band. This unlikely polka musician who is associated with rock

music has been friends with Jimmy for several years. His unbelievable talent on the guitar added another layer of sound to this already phenomenal group of musicians. I really enjoyed the performance and from the smiles of the audience, I think everyone is attendance would agree with me.

CANADIAN VISITORS.

On our way back from Syracuse, we stopped by at Ray's on Clinton St. in Cheektowaga. There **Eddie Guca & the Polish Canadians** were performing alongside New Direction. Guca, who always has top notch musicians, has such a unique sound. I love the tone of his voice and you can tell that every lyric is coming right from his heart. Their affection for polkas shows through every time I see them play. The evening was a landmark event for long time drummer Joe Banal who was playing his last job with the band that evening. We were thrilled to run into our friends Les and Alice Kapuscinski who drove in from Oakville, Ontario to hear the Polish Canadians and wish Joe well in his retirement from the band. **New Direction** alternated with Guca for a seamless transition from the Canadian style polkas to some dance worthy honky favorites. Between the bands, they kept the large beautiful dance floor full for the duration of the evening. The combination of these bands made a perfect ending to our whirlwind polka tour.

HOF RELEASE PARTY. The Buffalo Music Hall of Fame has inducted many polka musicians including Art Kubera, Mark Kohan, Wanda & Stephanie, Big Steve Krzeminski, Ron Urbanczyk, Tadj Symczak, and Mike Nowakowski. Hard Rock Café recently held a CD release party and for the first time had a polka band perform. **The Buffalo Touch**, which has two hall of fame members itself, was asked to play as a part of the evening's performances. The crowd which was a mix of music lovers of all genres showed their support when the Touch took the stage. The five songs they performed included "Who the Hell is Alice" and "I Can't Reach That Far" which showcased Mike and Tadj. A few of the spectators even got up and danced the polka in front of the stage making it all that much more enjoyable. Fellow inductee Ron Urbanczyk and his wife Kathy were also in attendance showing their support for the Buffalo Musicians Hall of Fame. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for this band to play at a Hard Rock Café and I am happy that I was there to witness some additional exposure



Ed Guca and Joe Banal.

for the music. Here's hoping that the Niagara Falls Hard Rock Café decides to host a polka band there next Dyngus Day. Now that would be something!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 1. Polish Happy Hour, Thirsty Buffalo Buffalo-5:00-7:00-Free.

Aug. 3. New Direction, Town of Cambria Gazebo Concert, 4160 Upper Mountain Rd., Sanborn, N.Y. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Free.

Aug. 8. New Direction, Erie County Fair, Slade Park Gazebo, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Aug. 9. 4th Annual German Polish Celebration, New Direction & Austlanders, Spring Garden Pavilion, 3838 Two Rod Rd., Marilla, NY 4:00 -10:00 p.m. \$7.00

Aug. 12. Buffalo Bisons Polish Night, The Knewz, Coca Cola Field, Buffalo. Music from 5:00-7:00. The Bisons are honoring Mark Kohan as 2014 Polish of the Year Honoree and presenting the Community Leadership award to Jennifer and Rick Pijanowski. Group Tickets available for \$7.25 call Chris Tanski (716) 771-1076.

Aug. 12 — Buffalo Touch, River Grill, Aqua Lane, Tonawanda, N.Y. 7:00 -10:00p.m. Free.

Aug. 16. Special Delivery. Corpus Christi Dozynki. Sears St., Buffalo, N.Y. 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Aug. 16. New Direction, Echo Club, 341 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 6:00-9:00 p.m. \$5.00

Aug. 24. Owl Family Picnic, Lamm Post, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, NY. Variety of polka bands; call for more information (716) 633-9242.

Aug. 24. New Direction, Fourteen Holy Helpers Summerfest, 1345 Indian Church Rd., West Seneca, NY 1:00-4:30 p.m. Free.

Aug. 26. Special Delivery, Cheektowaga Senior Center, Broadway & Union Rd., Cheektowaga, NY. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free.

BEYOND BUFFALO

Aug. 22-24. Zabawa, Holy Trinity Parish, 220 Reed St., Erie, PA. Polka Family Band, MarVels, Polka Country Musicians, & the Knewz. Free.

Aug. 29-31. IPA Convention, Embassy Suites, 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence, OH, including John Gora & Gorale, The Knewz, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, The Boys, IPA Tribute Band, Full Circle, Polka Country Musicians, and The Project. Three-day pass \$40.00/single day admission available.

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Chet Kowalkowski and Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.: Highlights of a Lifelong Friendship

Part IV — Conclusion
by Chet Kowalkowski

MUSICIANS MONTHLY BREAKFAST CLUB. For the past fourteen years, some 40-plus musicians and polka-related friends (mostly retired) have gathered the last Wednesday of every month for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. at the Southern Bell Restaurant in Bridgeview, Illinois.

The original group of six musicians was inspired by myself, along with Eddie Labuda, Leon Kozicki, Walter Krystofiak, Eddie Nowak and Teddy "O" Okrzesik. From an informal group of six, founded in February of 2000, it has mushroomed into the current number. We sing happy birthday to those celebrating birthdays during that month. There is plenty of historic discussion about polka music and those polka artists who were popular years ago.

We exchange memorabilia, artifacts and photos about our experiences from years ago. Guys come from near and far to test their memory about the bands, names and locations that had existed. It's a time for camaraderie and reminiscing about the "good old days" when the halls were located on second floor with dozens of stairs to climb carrying equipment, no elevators, no air conditioning, and music at weddings that started at 6:00 p.m. and ended at 1:00 a.m. Sometimes it lasted longer and even continued the next day. To think that some modern day musicians complain about playing a three- to four-hour job.

Nostalgia and pleasant memories are experienced every last Wednes-



PHOTO: CHET KOWALKOWSKI COLLECTION

CHICAGO POLKA MUSICIANS COFFEE CLUB. 1990. Bottom row, l. to r.: Wally Maduzia, Leon Kozicki, Chet Kowalkowski, Bolek Lacek. Middle row. Walter Krystofiak, Jim Kucharski, Al Piatkowski, Eddie Nowak, John Jaworski, and Zak Ziobro. Top row: Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., Stas Bulanda, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., Tony Blazonczyk, Tom Lizek, and Frank Samoraj.

day of the month except December.

During the months of May and November, we have a jam session at which musicians bring their instruments and play for a half hour or more. After all of the discussion and frivolity has ended, the gang gets together for the monthly group photo, taken by the gracious and accommodating waitress.

BEL-AIRE DAYS SING ALONG.

In 2004 when Bel-Aire Days was moved to Joliet, John Jaworski, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. and I started singing a few songs at the bar. In 2005, Bobby Pivin joined in playing on the concertina. Each year it got bigger and bigger. It became an annual sing-along with Eddie B. and friends, and more and more people

come to see him sing. We gather around a picnic table and everyone sings along.

Eddie B. really drew the crowds along with his musician buddies, friends and polka music supporters. Sadly, the extensive and illustrious music career in which Eddie B. started came to an end with his passing on May 21, 2012. His final participation in the Bel-Aire Days sing-along was in July of 2011.

Chet and Eddie B's legacy is found and proven in the numerous recordings on 45s, LPs, cassettes, CDs, movie reels, videos, newspaper/magazine articles, and the memories of his family, band members, friends and fans. So we carry on with wonderful memories and the intention of continuing our polka traditions in the years that follow.



My gratitude and thank you is extended to: my granddaughter Becky (Jackinoski) Little and Fred Marek for assistance and development, editing, and production of this bit of Chicago polka music history, which has been presented in the *Polish American Journal* these last few months. Bóg zapłać!

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

University of Michigan Formally Recognizes Copernicus Program in Polish Studies

ANN ARBOR — The University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) and the International Institute (II) have formally approved the establishment of the Copernicus Program in Polish Studies. The program is supported by the Nicolaus Copernicus Endowment, LSA and the II, and administered as part of the Center for Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES), and the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia (WCEE). It is directed by Genevieve Zubrzycki, associate professor of sociology.

The Copernicus Endowment was founded in 1973 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus. Its activities quickly gained national and international recognition and is now widely regarded as the premier Polish Studies program in North America. It has been at the forefront of rigorous, multidisciplinary analysis of Polish affairs, and the teaching of Polish language, history, culture, and politics. Undergraduate and graduate courses relevant to Polish Studies are routinely taught by a dozen faculty and lecturers affiliated with the program. Since 1990, over 25 doctoral dissertations on Polish topics have been successfully defended. The Copernicus Endowment funds Copernicus Fellowships for Incoming Graduate Students in Polish Studies and Copernicus Summer Grants, and supports Polish language instruction.

In addition to formal instruction and graduate training, the Copernicus Endowment organizes the Annual Copernicus Lecture, which has featured luminaries such as Zbigniew Brzezinski, Henryk Gorecki, Agnieszka Holland, Ryszard Kapuscinski, Leszek Kolakowski, Czeslaw Milosz, and Krzysztof Penderecki. Many of these distinguished lectures have been part of broader programming built around symposia and mini-courses, art exhibitions, musical performances, and film series.

In 1999, the Copernicus Endowment's Steering Committee organized an unprecedented — and never replicated — conference on the tenth anniversary of the Polish Round Table Agreement, attended by key participants of that historic event and prominent scholars from across the world.

By formally recognizing the Endowment's activities as a Program on its 40th anniversary, the University of Michigan is investing in a vibrant and internationally renowned area studies program with wide support at the university and in the community, while contributing to the University of Michigan's tradition of excellence in global education. The Copernicus Program in Polish Studies promises to deepen and spread knowledge on Polish-related themes in the future and looks forward to building new bridges with educational institutions of that vibrant society.



**Let's remember
the sacrifices
they made for us**

Dear Friend of Polonia:

October is Polish American Heritage Month, a time for Americans of Polish descent to reflect not only on the contributions our ethnic group has made to the American way of life, but (and perhaps more importantly) also on the sacrifices made by our ancestors to give us a better way of life.

With the passing of each generation, we lose a bit of our "Polishness": the names of great-grandparents who came here are forgotten; a traditional dish is dropped at a holiday; names become anglicized or changed entirely.

The Polish American Journal serves as monthly reminder of all the good associated with being Polish. On our pages are stories of immigrant families who have bettered themselves in America. We report on Polish Americans who have attained top positions in all walks of life. We describe and teach the customs *babcia* and *dziadek* brought to America. It has become — in part — our mission to make sure traditions are not lost, for they underline the most important aspects of life in America: family, faith, and community.

But we cannot do it alone. We rely on people like you help us continue publishing. The easiest way to do this is to show your support in the form of patron advertising. We depend on our holiday issues to pay for the printing and mailing of the paper throughout the year.

Can we count on you?

To guarantee placement of your ad in the Polish Heritage Month edition, please return the form below with your check by **September 18th**.

**OCTOBER
IS POLISH
HERITAGE
MONTH
A TIME TO
REMEMBER**

Interns Needed

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The **Piast Institute** has openings for two **interns** to work in its research and policy area, in particular with the Polish American Communication Initiative (PACI) project. Successful candidates will be university students with majors in History, International Relations, Political Science and other Social Sciences as well as International Business and International Communications. Ability to speak and read Polish is strongly preferred. To apply send a short letter of intent with a copy of an up-to-date resume to: Virginia Skrzyaniarz, Executive Vice President, Piast Institute, 11633 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

As an early witness to the Holocaust, he was among the first to bring detailed evidence to the Allies about the extermination of the Jews of Europe. He was recognized by Yad Vashem (the living memorial in Jerusalem) as Righteous Among Nations.

Concert pianist Igor Lipinski of Northwestern University performed and all-Chopin program. UWM Professor Neal Pease will speak about Jan Karski and other important anniversaries.

The event was held July 13, 2014 at the Polish Center of Wisconsin on South 68th St.

Vinton at Historic Theater

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Historic Riviera Theatre and Performing Arts Center in North Tonawanda announces Bobby Vinton, "The Polish Prince," will be performing live at 8:00 p.m., Sat., Sept. 2014. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Bobby Vinton has been called "the most successful love singer of the Rock era, starting with his first hit release "Roses Are Red." From 1962 through 1972, he had more number one records than any other solo male artist.

For tickets and more information, visit www.RivieraTheatre.org, or call (716) 692-2413.

Statue of Mary Dedicated

BUFFALO, N.Y. — St. John Kanty parish replaced the original statue of the Immaculate Conception, which stood at the corner of the church grounds for some 50 years. Former pastor **Msgr. Robert Golombek** blessed the new statue and **Laura Kowalski**, a first communicant this year, placed the crown on Mary. Landscaping of the corner grotto completed the project. The statue proclaims the continued service of St. John Kanty Church to Buffalo's Polonia.

Scholarship Presented

WHITEHOUSE STATION, N.J. — The Polish American Citizens Club of Whitehouse Station presented a \$500 scholarship to **Andrew Lachenmayr**, a Hunterdon Central High School senior. The presentation was made during the club's June board meeting at Liberty Hall in Whitehouse Station.

Lachenmayr will attend Ithaca College, and study international business and German. He has been involved with two student exchanges in high school and is looking forward to more opportunities to study and work internationally.

Concert and Lecture Honor Karski

FRANKLIN, Wis. — A lecture and concert paid tribute to Jan Karski, the Polish World War II resistance movement fighter and later a professor at Georgetown Univer-

Raising Dough for Pierogi Maker

HOUTZDALE, Pa. — **St. Barbara Parish** has been in existence for forty-plus years. In an effort to preserve the Polish culture, it has held annual Polish festivals, and has become well-known for preparing and selling Polish foods in Central Pennsylvania.

The demand has become so great that the workload is overwhelming for the all-volunteer staff. The church is hoping to purchase a pierogi making machine, which is quite expensive — approximately \$30,000.

If you can help, either by donation or with fund-raising, please contact Chrissy Lidget, eMail criss1222@yahoo.com; (814) 577-9520.

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