

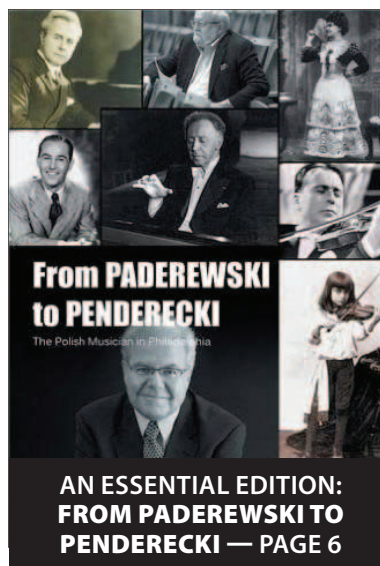
# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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**WHAT BREXIT MAY MEAN FOR POLAND • GET READY FOR POLISH HERITAGE MONTH • CATHOLIC LEAGUE APPEAL HEADING INTO THE FUTURE • FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR SCHNEPF • AN AMERICAN FACE IN POLISH POLITICS BISHOP ZUBIK AND GUN CONTROL • THE WOMEN OF THE UPRISING • CHICAGO'S POLISH POPULATION CHANGE**

## Newsmark

**RUSSIA USES NATO SCARES TO KEEP ITS PEOPLE IN LINE – FOREIGN MINISTER.** The Russian leadership rejects all explanations that NATO is a defensive alliance that poses no threat to Russia, because the Kremlin needs a state of conflict for domestic political purposes, Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said during the North Atlantic Alliance's recent Warsaw summit. "If the Kremlin told citizens of the Russian Federation, there was no longer any threat of a NATO invasion, people would soon start pressing for a better life and more freedom," he explained. "Considering Russia's great mineral wealth, it could be one of the world's richest countries were it not for all the corruption."

**OBAMA LECTURES POLISH PRESIDENT ON ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF RULE OF LAW.** At a private meeting with Polish President Andrzej Duda during Warsaw's recent NATO summit, his US counterpart Barack Obama expressed concern over Poland's constitutional crisis which opponents of Poland's current conservative government claim violates the rule of law. Following the meeting Obama told reporters: "I expressed to President Duda our concerns over certain actions, and the impasse over Poland's constitutional tribunal, I insisted that we are very respectful of Poland's sovereignty and I recognize that parliament is working on legislation to take some important steps, but more work needs to be done." His words were couched in diplomatic language far milder and more conciliatory than the fierce, no-holds-barred attacks regularly launched against the Law and Justice government by the liberal opposition that lost last October's election.

**PILOT THANKS POLES.** Nadiya Savchenko, the Ukrainian pilot who was recently released by Russia after spending two years behind bars, thanked her Polish friends in the lower chamber of Poland's parliament for their support. Savchenko came to Warsaw invited by Poles who contributed to her release and who wrote letters to her while she was imprisoned.

"I came to Poland to thank them, to understand the situation better," she said. "I want to say to all of my Polish friends: thank you for your support."

Savchenko was sentenced to 22 years in jail after she was found guilty in March on charges connected with the deaths of two Russian journalists. She was accused of directing artillery fire in an operation in eastern Ukraine, as a result of which the journalists died. Savchenko received a pardon from Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin said his decision came after a request from the families of the two Russian journalists.

**A SAFEHAVEN FOR JEWS.** Poland has become one of the safest European countries for Jews, the head of a European Holocaust foundation has said.

The *Algemeiner*, a U.S.-based Jewish newspaper, asked Jonny Daniels, executive director of From the Depths — an international organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and to the protection of Jewish heritage — about his reaction to a speech by Polish President Andrzej Duda's at the anniversary of a 1946 massacre of Jews in Kielce, southern Poland. Duda condemned anti-Semitism at the Kielce observance.

"Such behavior must be condemned," Duda said, speaking at commemorations of the killing of some 40 Jewish residents by their neighbors 70 years ago.

Daniels praised Poland and its leaders for its religious freedom.

"At the ceremony for the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising organized by TSKZ — the largest Jewish organization in Poland — for the first time ever, the president and prime minister of Poland were in attendance," said Daniels.

"Duda then visited the monument in the Warsaw Jewish cemetery, the first president to do so."

## NATO Summit — a Major Breakthrough



President Barack Obama and Polish President Andrzej Duda, shake hands before a press conference at PGE National Stadium in Warsaw, July 8, 2016. PHOTO: SUSAN WALSH/AP

### Rotating NATO presence in Poland, Baltic states, Black Sea area

### Moscow regards the summit as a display of "anti-Russian hysteria"

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — The recent two-day summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has changed Central-East Europe's security structure. For the first time ever, the 28-nation defense alliance decided to create a permanent military presence in Poland and the three Baltic states — Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. A roughly 1,000-strong battalion will be installed on a rotational basis in all four countries which share a border with Russia. All four are especially wary of potential Russian threats since Moscow's illegal 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula.

"These battalions will be robust and they will be multinational. They make clear that an attack on one ally will be considered an attack

on the whole alliance," NATO's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, a Dane, told a press conference during the summit. The United States will deploy some 1,000-strong battle-group in Poland, Germany is to lead its battalion in Lithuania, Britain in Estonia and Canada in Latvia. Other nations such as France and Belgium, will provide troops as well.

Under a separate US-Polish agreement, President Barack Obama is also sending Poland a 3,200-strong armored brigade, and several hundred GIs will also man the anti-missile installation on the country's Baltic coast. As a result, not 1,000 but a total of close to 5,000 NATO troops will be there to assist Poland's own 100,000-strong armed forces in case of need. NATO also agreed to set up a Romanian-Bulgarian multinational brigade in charge of monitoring southeastern Europe and the Black Sea region.

Poland's position was probably best See "NATO Breakthrough," page 4

## Polish Communities in UK Targeted with Abuse After Brexit

LONDON — The Polish embassy in London said it was deeply concerned by what it said were recent incidents of xenophobic abuse directed against the Polish community since Britain voted to leave the European Union.

Police said offensive leaflets and cards reading "Go home, Polish scum" and "No more Polish Vermin" were placed on doors and in mailboxes of Poles in Huntingdon, central England.

Anti-Polish graffiti was painted on the Polish Social and Cultural Association cultural center in London.

A Polish family was targeted in a hate crime arson attack when unknown perpetrators set on fire a garden shed outside their home in Plymouth, southwest England. The arsonists left behind a note saying, "go back home" and warned that the family would "be next." The shed was adjacent to the family's house, inhabited by the Polish parents and their four kids.

Cambridgeshire Police said officers had met upset members of the local Polish community after offensive leaflets were left on cars and See "Targeted ...," page 4

## PLANNING AHEAD

## Celebrations of Late Summer and Fall

by Robert Strybel

Each season brings with it fresh opportunities to explore our Polish heritage, actively cultivate it in our families, promote it in our Polonian organizations and share it with the rest of America. In that way, we are not only taking from America but also giving back something in return by helping to enrich our country's multi-ethnic mosaic.

### RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS.

Like tiny trickles, in August all over Poland parish groups set out for Czestochowa. They join with other groups along the way, turning the trickle into small stream which eventually becomes a mighty river of humanity as the destination draws near. The middle-aged pilgrims are generously interspersed with younger participants — scouts, high school and university students, uniformed



**A FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL (DOŻYŃKI)** can be an outdoor festival or indoor banquet. These events are held in most major Polish American cities and towns. (Above): Youngsters carry flowers in a procession at Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church in Houston, Texas, following a grand opening showing of the American, Polish and Texas flags, and the singing of the national anthems. PHOTO: JAMES SMOCK

soldiers, policemen and firemen, trade unionists and members of other organizations. There are young stroller-pushing married couples and the elderly and

footed)

See "Celebrations," page 2




## ALMANAC

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August  Sierpień

"The most beautiful thing in the world is, precisely, the conjunction of learning and inspiration. Oh, the passion for research and the joy of discovery!"  
— *Harpist Wanda Landowska*

- 1 1944. The **Warsaw Rising** (*powstanie warszawskie*) begins, a major World War II operation by the Polish resistance Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*) to liberate Warsaw from Nazi Germany.
- 2 1899. Birth of silent screen star **Pola Negri**. (d. 1987).
- 3 1941. Birthday of **Martha (Kostyra) Stewart**.
- 4 1306. **King Wenceslas III** of Poland and Bohemia murdered.
- 6 **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**
- 7 1944. Poles play import role in **Battle of Falaise**.
- 8 1264. **Statute of Kalisz** creates a "Jewish Nation" in Poland
- 9 1939. Polish POWs massacred by Nazis at Ciepelów.
- 10 1582. Russia ended its 25-year war with Poland.
- 11 1882. Birth of **Wladyslaw Anders**, General of the Polish Army during World War II. He was commander of the Polish Forces in the Soviet Union and commanded the Second Corps in Italy. His greatest achievement was the successful leadership of the Polish forces that took Monte Cassino, Italy.
- 13 1916. Birth of Polish American historian **Edward Pinkowski**, who discovered Pulaski's alleged remains in the Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia. He is the author of hundreds of papers and articles on Polish American achievements.
- 14 **ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**
- 15 **ASSUMPTION** also known as **Matki Boskiej Zielnej**, Feast of the Lady of the Herbs. 
- 17 **ST. HYACINTH**
1941. Signing of the **Sikorski-Mayski Agreement**, a World War II military alliance between Poland and the Soviet Union.
- 18 1655. Signing of the **Union of Kedainiai**, which put Lithuania under Swedish protection, ending Lithuania's union with Poland
- 19 2002. An ailing and aging **John Paul II** bid a tearful farewell to his homeland as he concluded a four-day visit to the Krakow region of Poland.
- 21 1907. Birth of **Henry Archacki** (d. Aug. 13, 1988), notable Polish graphic artist, journalist, researcher, and historian.
- 22 1939. Birth of **Carl "Yaz" Yastrzemski**, Boston Red Sox star.
- 23 1988. Some striking workers in Poland ended a walkout that had begun a week earlier, but 125 miners barricaded themselves in an underground shaft, vowing to stay until they'd won their demands.
- 24 **ST. BARTHOLOMEW**  
*Na Bartłomieja apostoła bocian do drogi dzieci woła*  
*On St Bartholomew's storks prepare for a journey*
- 26 1906. **Albert Bruce Sabin**, U.S. virologist, born in Poland. In 1955, he developed an oral vaccine against polio.
- 28 1996. **Agnieszka Kotlarska**, fashion model, was knifed and killed by a thief outside her home. She was the first Polish winner of the Miss International beauty pageant in 1991.
- 31 1247. Death of **Konrad I** of Masovia.

This paper mailed on or before **July 29, 2016**.  
The September 2016 edition will be mailed on or before **August 1, 2016**

## VIEWPOINTS / Robert Strybel

## What Brexit May Mean for Poland

When Britons voted 52% to 48% in their June referendum to withdraw from the European Union, alarm bells went off across the continent. Individual Europeans, experienced surprise, shock, relief, anger, joy or fear depending on their personal views and circumstances.

The move stunned global financial markets and even the Polish currency overnight dropped in value from 3.85 to over four zlotys to the US dollar. The leaders of the EU's remaining 27 member nations wondered how Brexit (the code-name for Britain's Exit) would affect their countries and began considering their options. Poland was no exception. Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski urged caution saying, "We need a longer period of reflection (on Brexit). This cannot be a hasty action consisting of forcing Britain out as fast as possible."

In practical terms, Brexit appears likely to impact Poland in several ways. EU economic assistance appears likely to decline. Our ancestral homeland has been the largest single beneficiary of EU financial aid, and Britain was one of the top contributors. There is also concern over the fate of an estimated one million Polish migrants now in the United Kingdom and how Brexit will affect its future immigration policies. Britain was also a close EU ally of Poland supporting many of Warsaw's conservative nation-first policies. Leftists and liberals tend to favor a "Brussels first and foremost" approach.

When the Brexit vote was announced, an instant gut reaction was noted on both sides of the divide. Scotland indicated it might leave the UK in order to remain in the EU, and militantly anti-Catholic Northern Ireland was rumored to be considering the unthinkable — joining the Republic of Ireland to retain its EU membership. But Brexit has also bolstered patriotic anti-EU sentiment in other countries, referred to as "populist" tendencies

by advocates of the "strong Brussels" option. Referendums on whether to leave the EU may be held in such countries as France, Holland, Italy, Austria, Finland, Hungary, Portugal, and Slovakia.

The Brexit vote only marked the start of a long process. British Prime Minister, who had lobbied to remain in the bloc, resigned, and new PM Theresa May (who, ironically, did not support Brexit) will negotiate the withdrawal procedures with the EU. That process is expected to take at least two years, probably much longer. Meanwhile, the EU's future is being hotly debated across the continent.

France and Germany have unveiled a ready blueprint for EU reforms: closer integration. To them that means individual countries would lose their right to have their own army, tax system, central bank and independent foreign policy. Member states would also lose their remaining control over their own borders, including the procedure for admitting and relocating refugees. Although those are just proposals for the time being, the EU is already trying to impose refugee quotas and fine countries €250,000 (over \$274,000) for each migrant they refuse to accept.

A recent survey showed that 83% of Poles wish to remain in the EU, but most do not want a Brussels-ruled super-state like that being proposed by Berlin and Paris. Most also prefer to stick to the zloty rather than switch to the euro, the bloc's common currency. Poland's ruling Law and Justice Party also favors EU reforms but in the direction of a voluntary alliance of sovereign national states. One that pursues commonly agreed projects and promotes common interests approved by the individual nations. The Polish government wants an EU responsive to the needs of its members, not one where Brussels' eurocrats arbitrarily impose their will on bloc participants, pressure and intimidate individual countries and interfere in their internal affairs.

## Celebrations of Late Summer and Fall

*continued from cover*

Munster, Indiana. That is when the annual parish indulgence fair to Our Lady of Ludźmierz, the Madonna of Poland's Tatra Mountain highlanders, is held.

On the east coast, more and more Polish Americans are walking to the Pauline Fathers' American Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pa., near Philadelphia. What began in the late 20th century with only a handful of worshipers had mushroomed into an annual event attracting thousands of pilgrims.

Even is there is no specifically Polish shrine in your area, there may be a Catholic retreat center to which as pilgrimage could be organized with Polish hymns and liturgy emphasizing the group's heritage. If the foot pilgrimage is not an option for whatever reason, a bus trip could be considered. Stopping for a meal in a Polish restaurant (if one is available) would help combine spiritual and physical refreshment.

**DOŻYNKI — POLISH HARVEST FEST.** Dożynki are held at various venues across America, wherever people of Polish extraction reside. They can be outdoor fests or hall-type festivities such as harvest balls or parish suppers.

The PolAm Dożynki usually begins with a Harvest Mass which can be held (with weather permitting) on an outdoor stage. The grain, fruit and harvest wreaths are brought to the altar by folk-costumed worshipers. A secular harvest ceremony involves the presentation of the harvest wreath by a group of folk-costumed "harvesters" to the lord of the manor. A harvest feast follows featuring all the traditional Polish comfort foods — boiled pork hocks, *kielbasa*, *kaszanka* (*kiszka*), *goląbki*, *flaczki* (tripe soup), roast bacon and *pirogi* and cakes such as *placek ze śliwkami* (plum cake), *sernik* and *babka*.

Entertainment may include folk song and dance performances as well as social dancing, craft demonstrations, souvenir stands and games

## October is Polish Heritage Month

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2016, Poles will mark the 408th anniversary of the first Polish settlers who were among the first skilled workers in America. The Heritage Month Committee of the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania Division, will also salute all American workers, and urge people to purchase the products and services offered by Americans.

Polish Americans will also mark the 237th Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry.

For additional information about these historic events and Polish and Polish American history, visit the Polish American Museum's Internet site at: [PolishAmericanCenter.com](http://PolishAmericanCenter.com).

Information about ways to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month can be obtained by visiting the Polish American Heritage Month Committee's site at [PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com](http://PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com).

On this site you will find a list of "Things To Do During Polish American Heritage Month," the 2016 coloring contest artwork for schools, and Heritage Month posters that can be downloaded and printed. Copies of the coloring contest artwork can also be obtained by calling the Heritage Month Committee, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (215) 922-1700.

of chance (*kobo* fortune/wheel of fortune), skill (shooting gallery) or strength. To the latter would belong arm-wrestling, tug-o-wars and tossing contests to see who can throw an empty beer barrel, cement block, sledge hammer or tire the farthest. The winners should be awarded Polish-type prizes.

**PUŁASKI DAY.** Kazimierz (Casimir) Pułaski, a hero of two continents who laid down his life for the cause of American independence, ranks among America's best-known Polish historical figures. Indicative of the individualistic Polish national character is the fact that he is commemorated in different parts of the country on different occasions.

As a federal holiday, Pułaski Day is celebrated in October to commemorate his death at the Battle of Savannah in 1779. But in Illinois and Wisconsin he is remembered on the first Monday of March in honor of his birthday in 1745.

But the biggest Pułaski Day parade has been held annually in New York City on the first Sunday of October since 1937. Drawing spectators from across the Eastern Seaboard as well as inland America, the

parade moves down Fifth Avenue and features colorful floats, marching bands, Polish folk dancers, Polish Scouts and other PolAm groups, soccer teams and many other marchers. This year it is taking place on Sunday, October 2nd.

It is New York Polonia's major annual affair and a full-blown project requiring regular preparatory meetings, the election of a Parade Marshal and Polonian Beauty Queen. A major Polonian banquet is held to mark the occasion. After the parade is over, family fun is provided by polka bands, Polish food concessions, souvenir stands and numerous attractions of the folk-fest variety.

Launching a major Pułaski Day parade from scratch in an area where none has ever been held would surely be a daunting proposition. But that should not mean ignoring the occasion altogether. Far less effort is required to hold a children's essay, art or coloring contests or set up a local exhibition devoted to the Polish general who helped George Washington win America's freedom. A Pułaski Day picnic or banquet might also be feasible.

*continued next month*

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# Heading into the Future with Baltimore's Polonia

by Maksymilian Bondyra

Baltimore's Polish community has been in decline for a few generations now. With the baby boomer generation rapidly aging and declining, the Polish organizations in the United States have been losing members faster than they're acquiring new ones. Even though the 1980s brought significant numbers of Polish immigrants to the Baltimore area, there has not been a sufficient increase of memberships within the Polish organizations. And this is a downward spiral that Polonia must reverse to protect and expand its heritage and culture.

It used to be that the majority of the Polish immigrants were employed as laborers and factory workers. These days the few that do immigrate here are professionals, and their children receive higher education and go on to be employed in the corporate world away from their Polish communities and roots.

*Go and meet these people in person and spend some time together. Talk, listen, help out, and make long and lasting friendships.*

Baltimore City's Polish community has contributed to the city's architecture by erecting amazing monuments such as that of Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski who gave his life to fight for the freedom of the American nation. It stands in Patterson Park where it was once surrounded by a vast community of Poles. Another amazing monument erected in 2000 is the National Katyn Memorial dedicated to the 22,000 Polish Army officers, leading citizens and intelligentsia, who perished in a genocide perpetrated by the

U.S.S.R. in 1942 during World War II. These victims who died for supporting a free Poland are honored in an annual remembrance that draws large attendance locally, and from neighboring states, to remember the horrific event that took place in Russia's Katyn Forest.

There once were several Polish churches in and around Baltimore that were built by the "Old Country" immigrants. The remaining few are now faced with declining parishioners or have lost their Polish identity. Holy Cross PNCC still maintains a small presence in the historic Fells Point area, once a thriving strong-

hold of Polonia. Holy Rosary R.C. Church is the last true Polish speaking parish that is now the center for the greater Polish community. On Saturdays there is a children's Polish School, which thankfully has shown an increase in enrollment throughout the last decade. Sunday's 10:30 a.m. Mass is celebrated in Polish.

Within the Baltimore metro area there are but a few remaining Polish organizations. There used to be a score and more back in the day. Within the few organizations that have survived, the members are dwindling, sometimes to less than 10, or the organizations are becoming dormant or disbanding from lack

of members. The still-active organizations have a purpose in the Polonia and they are trying to stay afloat as best they can. But don't think they are financially unstable. Some could stay alive for years without



Groups — like the adult Ojczyzna Polish Dancers — are key to revitalizing Polish American communities by offering face-to-face contact for members to talk, listen, and make long and lasting friendships. Strong fraternal, religious, social, and political organizations make for a strong Polonia.

any new income. But our purpose is to re-energize these organizations and have the younger generations and the newer Polish immigrants step in and operate these organizations for many more generations to come.

The adult Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, for example, was reborn again after being dormant for a decade. And even though there are newer members joining the group more often than in the past, the number of immigrants doing so is far less than the American Polonia. It takes a special interest and serious commitment for one to join a folk dance group and many people aren't that attracted to it.

**IN OUR POLISH COMMUNITY** there are many organizations in which one could get interested and spend some of their free time volunteering. For example, the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland gives scholarships to college students of Polish descent. One could also join the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, which erected an amazing memorial in a very attractive part of our city. And the Polish Community Association of Maryland, which hosts a huge Polish Festival annually at Timonium Fairgrounds, is always looking for volunteers.

Additional organizations are the Polish National Alliance (PNA) Council 21, which supports the children's Krakowiaki Dancers, Polish language and cooking classes, maintains the Henryk Sienkiewicz library and sponsors a soccer team. Other active organizations are the Polish Home Club, where there is a lot of polka dancing every weekend; the Polish Legion of American Veterans, which meets monthly at the PNA; and the Polish Women's Alliance of America, where its members are encouraged to participate in Polish activities related to women.

**IN TODAY'S HIGH-TECH WORLD**, most people meet friends on social media and belong to clubs

online without ever meeting in person. For some this may be the only involvement option available in their communities. But for many others there is another option — go and meet these people in person and spend some time together. Talk, listen, help out and make long and lasting friendships. Making these friendships is the key to strong Polish communities. We need lots of volunteers to keep our Polonia strong for our kids and for the future generations to come.

Bondyra can be contacted at maksbondyra@yahoo.com, or at (410) 458-0308.

*Maksymilian Bondyra, 42, was born in Lodz, Poland. He is married and has three children with his wife Malgorzata. Maksymilian is a leader in Baltimore's Polish community. In the summer of 2015 he was selected to attend Warsaw's School for Leaders of Polish Communities Abroad in North America — sponsored by Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With other attendees from the United States and Canada he debated the issues of generational differences and the lack of interest in the Polish organizations in North America. He also attended the March 16, 2016 day-long Conference for Young Polonia at Poland's Consulate General in New York City, where the topic "Future of Polish Organization in the U.S." was discussed.*

*Bondyra has been a member of various Polish organizations for over 20 years, and is currently the president of PNA Council 21 and Lodge 238. He is a dancer in the adult Ojczyzna Dancers and director/choreographer of the children's Krakowiaki Dancers.*

## Consider a Donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation Scholarship Fund

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — The **Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF)** announces the establishment of annual scholarships to be given to college students of Polish or Polish American descent. The scholarships are available to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in **journalism** (print news, broadcast news, or advertising/public relations in either print or electronic media); and the **arts** (literature, including poetry, drama, story, etc.); visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, etc.); graphic arts (painting, drawing, design, sculpture, modeling, etc.); and performing arts (theatre, dance, music, etc.).

Both the journalism and arts scholarships will be \$1500.00 each. The fund drive for the 2017 awards will run until December 31, 2016. Applications will be accepted from January to April 30, 2017 with winners announced on May 31, 2017. Funds will be dispersed to the winners upon proof of full-time studies at an accredited institution.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant must be an American citizen, either by birth or naturalization.
- Applicant must be of Polish or Polish American descent.
- Applicant must be a full-time college student, currently enrolled at an accredited college/university in the United States, with confirmed future attendance at an institution in the Fall of 2017.
- Applicant must describe his/her involvement with the Polish community — past, present, or future.
- Complete application package must be received in its entirety no later than April May 30, 2017.
- There is a \$15.00 application fee.

### Factors for Consideration in Order of Importance:

- Demonstrated interest and involvement in Polish American cultural activities with future plans to advance those interests.
- Significant and potential contributions (academic, cultural, scientific, civic), open to all career fields.
- Academic and scholastic performance and achievements as demonstrated in application materials provided for examination.



**The complete application package can be downloaded from the PAJF's website, which has a link at www.polamjournal.com.**

### WE ASK OUR READERS FOR SUPPORT

The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in 2014 to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups

**The success of this scholarship fund drive, the Polish American**

**Journal Foundation — and ultimately the Polish American Journal — depends on the support it receives from Polish Americans.**

The PAJF is aware that, while there are numerous scholarships available for students of Polish descent, very few pertain to students in the areas of journalism and the arts. And, of those that do, strict criteria (membership in granting organization, residence, etc.) limits their availability to hundreds of other students. The PAJF hopes to bridge this

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## Farewell to Ambassador Schnepf and Diplomats

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Its going to be a major changing of the guard at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland this summer, when six diplomats will complete their respective years-long tours of duty and will depart to Warsaw for reassignment. Among those leaving are: Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf; Vice-Consul Ewa Pietrasienska; her husband Dr. Pawel Pietrasienski — Head of the Trade and Investment Section; Consul General Piotr Konowrocki and his wife Consular Officer Julia Konowrocka. Commanding Military Attaché Brigadier General Jaroslaw Strozysk was reassigned back to Poland two months ago.

The diplomats were honored during a reception at the Kosciuszko Foundation, July 2, 2016, under the auspices of Director Basia Bernhardt. Over 80 persons were in attendance. Due to the unexpected absence of the pianist, General Edward Rowny played the Polish national anthem on his trustworthy harmonica. Heartfelt testimonials were voiced about the ambassador and the supportive staff. Poetic and theatrical vignettes were performed in Polish by talented admirers. Standard and unique remembrance gifts were dispensed — one given in good fun was a decorative witch's broom — and much appreciated by the recipient with a big laugh. Polish Embassy Chef Andrzej Bielach prepared a Polish buffet enjoyed by all.

Ambassador Schnepf began his moving farewell speech by thanking “everyone for coming to say goodbye to us,” with his eyes visibly welling up. He thanked his staff “for a job well done in accomplishing the diplomatic goals of Poland, and cementing the good ties between Poland and the United States.” The Trade and Investment



Ambassador Ryszard and Mrs. Dorota Schnepf, with their children Maksymilian and Antonia, at a reception given on their behalf hosted by the Kosciuszko Foundation at its Third Annual Polish Day festivities. Other departing diplomats present were also feted.

Section was cited for the growing economic ties with the U.S. over the past few years. “Our Consular Section gave much help to those in need and in times of crisis.” Addressing the audience, Schnepf said “with your help we promoted and developed cultural ties across the U.S.”

“My biggest disappointment was the failure of getting Poland admitted into the Visa Waiver Program despite our coordinated efforts with Polish Americans and intense lobbying on Capitol Hill,” said Schnepf. “Polish Americans must become even more vocal in attaining those things important to Poland. Young Polish Americans must rise to become Congressmen and Senators — we must become engaged and not remain silent.”

The ambassador concluded his remarks than thanking “all for the support you gave to our Embassy,” and said he hopes to see all in Poland.

## Targeted: Polish Communities

continued from cover

delivered to homes. According to the local paper, the Cambridge News, the cards, which had a Polish translation, read: “Leave the EU/No more Polish vermin.”

The Polish embassy said in a statement: “We are shocked and deeply concerned by the recent incidents of xenophobic abuse directed against the Polish community and other UK residents of migrant heritage.

Immigration emerged as one of the key themes of the EU referendum campaign, with those who backed a British exit arguing the bloc had allowed uncontrolled numbers of migrants to come to Britain from Eastern Europe.

## NATO Breakthrough

continued from cover

summed up by its Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski who called 1999, the year Poland joined NATO “a milestone in Polish history.” He added: “We had a dream that one day NATO troops would be present in Poland. Today this dream has become a reality”

But the Warsaw Summit’s decision fell somewhat short of Polish hopes for permanent NATO bases in Poland. The Alliance had to bow to pressure from those NATO countries for whom such victims of Russian aggression as Ukraine and Georgia are remote hinterlands or fear that excessively antagonizing Moscow would be “bad for business.” Hence, the formula “rotational troop presence” rather than “permanent bases” was used.

That compromise was lost on the Kremlin, whose officials accused NATO of trying to “revive the Cold War.” Russian newspapers published such headlines as “anti-Russian agenda” and “anti-Russian hysteria.” “Nezavisimaya Gazeta”

“The production and distribution of this and any other similar material is committing the crime of inciting racial hatred,” said Detective Superintendent Martin Brunning in a statement.

London was home to the Polish-Government-In-Exile during World War II. The No. 303 (“Kościuszko”) Polish Fighter Squadron was one of 16 Polish squadrons in the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the Second World War. It was the highest scoring of the Hurricane squadrons during the Battle of Britain.

— compiled from Reuters, AP, and BBC reports

(Independent Gazette) warned of NATO’s alleged “plans for further confrontation with Russia and eastward expansion.”

Russia’s aggression in Crimea and eastern Ukraine has clearly revised the previously pro-Moscow orientation of Obama, who scrapped the Bush-era missile-shield project in Poland so as not to offend the Kremlin, called Putin “a true democrat” and tried to warm relations with Moscow. Now he supports continued sanctions against Russia and describes Poland as “one of the pillars of NATO’s eastern flank.” He also thanked Poland for assisting and supporting Ukraine.

The two-day Warsaw Summit — held in Warsaw’s ultra-modern (and turned into an impregnable fortress) National Stadium — also deliberated over such matters as the refugee crisis, the ISIS threat, and the war in Syria. It agreed on aid packages for Afghanistan and Ukraine. Outgoing British Prime Minister David Cameron said Brexit would not cause the UK to turn its back on NATO.

## Catholic League Appeal: “The Love Of Christ Impels Us”

by Msgr. Matthew Kopacz  
Diocesan Coordinator  
Catholic League



MSGR.KOPACZ

Once again we reflect upon our concerns for the Catholic Church in Poland. Through the seventy-three years history of the Catholic League Organization, much has been accomplished in charity which

cannot be evaluated in dollars alone or weighed by any material instrument.

Following World War II, after churches were re-built and tons of supplies were shipped to Poland, the inspired wisdom of the great Primate Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński pleaded with the Polish hierarchy in the United States: “Help us to train and educate priests to be enlightened leaders and teachers in the ways of truth and faith.” He then hopefully entrusted to their care and mission the support of the Polish Pontifical Institute and Polish Pontifical College, both in Rome. God

alone knew how far-sighted this effort would be when a son of Poland would be elected as successor of the Apostle Peter.

The Catholic League has been showered with accolades of praise for its accomplishment in charity:

- **Samuel Cardinal Stritch** (Chicago): “In my judgment this charity has been so outstanding an act of virtue that it has brought honor to all of us in the United States.”
- **Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński** (Poland): “Whenever I offer the Supreme Sacrifice vested in the liturgical vestments received from the Catholic League, whenever I hold in my hands your chalice, my mind and heart turn to you in America ever conscious of our unity in the mutual love of Christ the High Priest.”
- **John Cardinal Krol** (Philadelphia): “The Catholic Church in Poland continues to amaze the world. Not only is it vigorous in faith and works in Poland but because of the increasing vocations, it has strengthened the Church universal by sending hundreds of missionaries... credit is due also to the Catholic League which in no small measure has helped the Church in Poland.”



The Catholic League helps keep open the Polish Pontifical College and the Polish Pontifical Institute, both in Rome

- **Bishop Edward Head** (Buffalo): “By your generosity, support and prayers, you, the members of the Catholic League have kept the spirit of Poland alive. You have stood in solidarity with the people of Poland in their love of freedom, in their dignity as human beings, in their lives as members of the Catholic faith.”

As “Church,” we should continue to assist, stand alongside with our sisters and brothers in need — in Poland as well as those in troubled countries.

The Buffalo diocese family has always been compassionate, generous and supportive. Thank you and God Bless you. Like Simon of Cyrene, we continue to have tremendous moral significance, conveying consolation and encouragement.

As we get closer to a diamond anniversary of the Catholic League we concentrate on its present strengthening and plan for the future. Recalling the zeal, dedication and strong drive

of the Leagues pioneer leaders let us continue with the same spirit in helping to meet the present needs of the Church in Poland. Our example of generosity will influence and inspire younger generations of Catholics. Each generation adds to the fruitfulness of the previous.

The Buffalo diocese 2016 Catholic League Appeal takes place throughout the month of August giving the opportunity to make a contribution. The young, energetic priests at the Institute and College in Rome are grateful for the scholarships for higher studies you provide through the Catholic League.

Pastors, parish administrators are encouraged to have this second collection. An appropriate time would be the weekend of August 20-21, prior to the feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa, August 26. Contributions may also be forwarded to: Catholic League, 160 Cable Street, Buffalo, New York 14206.

I entrust all our efforts through the intercession of Our Lady of Czestochowa and Pope Saint John Paul II. God bless all of us for what we are able to do for the success of this year’s Appeal and the growth of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ.



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# An American Face in Polish Politics

PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI



**MINISTER/SENATOR ANNA MARIA ANDERS** (right) is welcomed by members of the Washington Metropolitan Area Division of the Polish American Congress. She addressed Poland's strategic and defense interests, its government's current policies, as well as recounting her life's fascinating journey.

by **Richard Poremski**

**SILVER SPRING, Md.** — Poland's Minister Anna Maria Anders allotted time to meet with the area's Polonia on June 21, 2016 at the behest of the Polish American Congress — Washington Metropolitan Area Division, and its president, Susanne Lotarski. Two score of attendees were present, including DCM Maciej Pisarski from the Polish Embassy. Minister Anders was in Washington to meet with members of Congress, attend foundations, and visit think tanks to lobby for the multiple interests of Poland, its present government, and business interests for her senatorial district in northeast Poland.

Anders is secretary of state in the Office of Prime Minister Szydlo and the Plenipotentiary of the President of the Council of Ministers for International Dialogue. In March, she was elected senator from the strategically and militarily important northeast region of Poland bordering Belarus, centering on the city of Suwalki.

The daughter of Poland's renowned General Wladyslaw Anders and national treasure actress/singer Irena "Renata" Bogdanska, Anna Anders was born (1950) and educated in England. She graduated from the University of Bristol and earned an MBA from Boston University. Anders still maintains a home in Boston and lived there with her late husband Robert Costa, a colonel in the U.S. Army, in which her son Robert now also serves.

Her book, *Corka generala i piosenkarki* (*The general's daughter and singer*) was published last year in Warsaw. Anders's seemingly borderless life is proving to be a very interesting one encompassing England (UK), the United States and now Poland — holding citizenship in each country.

A sampling of Minister Anders comments from the meeting are as follows:

- "The recent UK vote ("Brexit") to exit the European Union (EU) is not good for the UK or Poland, especially since 800,000 Poles now reside in the UK and their residency status could be challenged ..."
- "The present Polish government is frustrated with the very bureaucratic and dictatorial actions of the EU via its European Parliament that imposes itself into the internal affairs of Poland ..."
- "Poland has been attacked — and even labeled racist — for not wanting to take in the Middle East migrants now flooding into Europe. Poland's nascent 'Poles in the East' program wants to repatriate the tens-of-thousands of Poles (and also their non-Polish speaking descendants) who were exiled to the East by the USSR during World War II, especially to Kazakhstan. Poles stranded in Lithuania are also purposed. Last year 300,000 Ukrainians came to Poland and are integrating ..."
- "The American and worldwide Polonia are very important, not just culturally, because they can make investments in depressed areas of Poland to give those Poles a better life with more meaningful opportunities."

During a question-and-answer period, the audience posed questions on subjects germane to Poland's present political, geopolitical, economic, and educational/academic situations. The dialog was enlightening, and at times, participants engaged in feisty repartee.

Anders is a member of the conservative Law and Justice party, which in May 2015 delivered a stunning upset election victory over the liberal Civic Platform party, which ruled for the previous nine years. The political and legal reverberations are still ongoing in Poland. Anders represented, projected, and defended her party and its policies in a confident and friendly manner.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Bishop Zubik and Gun Control

Noting the horror of gun violence in Orlando, Charleston, Wilkesburg, Pa., and other locations, **Bishop David A. Zubik** (right) of the RC Diocese of Pittsburgh called on legislators to make it "more difficult for criminals, terrorists and those with dangerously impaired moral reasoning to make their point with a gun." Background checks for all gun purchases, limited access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines, making gun trafficking a federal crime, banning gun purchase for those on "no-fly" lists, he says, will not eliminate crime but will "limit the damage, enable the prosecution of perpetrators and make a statement about values in our society."



as if we invented marriage. Prior to his ordination as bishop, Bishop Konderla served for 15 years as campus minister in Texas. He suggested that his lengthy experience with youth ministry was the reason Pope Francis named him a bishop.

**CATHOLIC LEAGUE COLLECTION.** The Catholic League for Religious Assistance to the Church in Poland, taken up in the Buffalo RC Diocese since 1943, aims to support Church organizations & institutions, hospitals and construction projects. In return, Polish dioceses have been generous in releasing seminarians and priests for ministry in U.S. dioceses.

**STO LAT TO ...** **Michael Ruzsala** on receiving the Christian Service Award from Buffalo, N.Y.'s Canisius College Sodality of Our Lady. The adjunct lecturer on religious studies at Niagara University has written widely on Pope Francis, Padre Pio, David and the psalms, and the life and times of Jesus ... **Robert A. Wozniak** on being appointed vice-rector at Christ the King Seminary in East aurora, N.Y. He had served as director of seminarian forma-

tion at the seminary, a job he retains as he engages in his new position which will have him work with the diaconal and lay ministry formation programs.

**PRIESTS AS ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINS.** Fr. Lukasz J. Wilenberg, a 34-year-old Polish immigrant, accompanies U.S. Army paratroopers in their military exercises at Fort Bragg, in Fayetteville, N.C. He views his chaplaincy as a way of fulfilling Pope Francis' call to priests to get out of their rectories and smell like the sheep. The current 214 Catholic chaplains seriously limits the ability to offer Catholic services to Catholic military personnel.

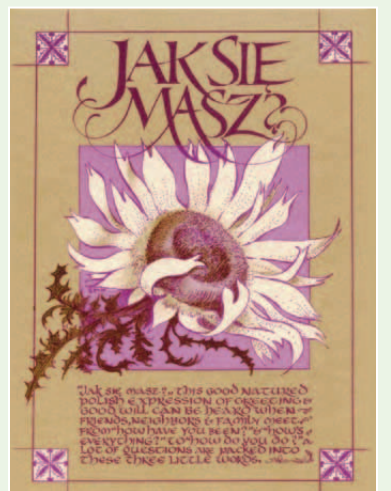
**ST. JOHN PAUL II'S RELIC BROUGHT TO DUNKIRK, N.Y.** Fr. Matt Nycz, a Polish native currently serving in the RC Diocese of Buffalo, led a pilgrimage to Poland "Following the footsteps of Polish Saints of Mercy" at the end of which he was presented with a relic of blood-stained cloth from St. John Paul II's cassock. The relic will be kept for veneration in Blessed Mary Angela Parish in Dunkirk, N.Y.

**BEATIFICATION PROCESS ADVANCES IN POLAND.** The diocesan stage of **Fr. Piotr Skarga, S.J.**'s beatification process ended in Kraków and the documentation was sent on to the Vatican. Fr. Skarga (1536-1612) was a Polish Jesuit and one of the leaders of the Counter-Reformation in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. He is credited with advancing the return of Poland to Catholicism from Lutheranism.

**ARCHBISHOP CHALLENGES HOUSE.** Archbishop **Thomas Wenski** of Miami chairs the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and has called on the House of Representatives to engage in bi-partisan work to address people in need and to give them priority in policymaking. He was reacting to the House Task Force's document on Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility. Effective programs for job training, the availability of good paying jobs, access to nutritious food for people of all ages, and the obstacles to upward mobility and the root causes of poverty are some of the issues he advanced.

**NEW BISHOP ADVOCATE FOR CATHOLIC TEACHING.** Bishop **David Konderla**, recently ordained for service in the Tulsa, Oklahoma RC Diocese, has worked for 19 years in post-abortion ministry and with Courage, the Catholic Church's apostolate ministering to people with same-sex attraction. "It is a dangerous idea that a woman has the right to take the life of her unborn child," he declared in the *Tulsa World* newspaper. He also said, "Marriage is under assault by a gender ideology that wants to say we can make marriage what we want,

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### TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND A Journey in History and of the Human Spirit

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.

**Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz** was a psychiatrist trained at the University of Chicago, and later Director of the Lake County Mental Health Clinic, Indiana, before opening her own practice.

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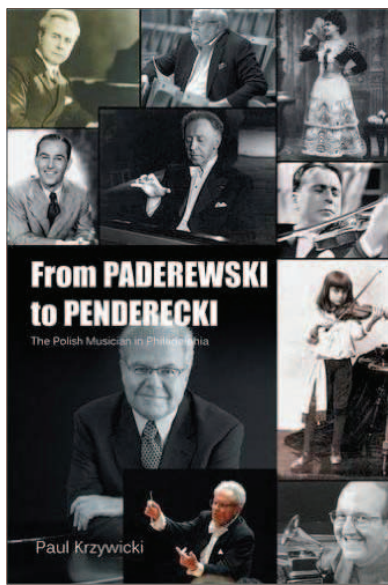
## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

## An Essential Edition for your Polish and Polish American Reference Collection

**FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI: The Polish Musician in Philadelphia**  
By Paul Krzywicki  
Lulu Publishing Services,  
2016, 379 pps.  
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During the latter half of the nineteenth century, Polish musicians were immigrating in droves to the United States. Some ended up in Philadelphia, forever altering the culture within. These musicians who influenced the Pennsylvania city as well as two of Philadelphia's musical institutions are profiled in *From Paderewski to Penderecki: The Polish Musician in Philadelphia*.

The history of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Philadelphia Orchestra are presented, as are the biographies of those involved. One such person was Jozef Hoffman. Hoffman was born near Krakow in 1877 and was taught by his musically-accomplished father. A prodigy in music, he was also mechanically inclined. As a child he toured Europe playing the piano with philharmonic orchestras. He was hired by the Curtis Institute to be head of the



piano department. Later he became the director of the institute.

Another notable personage was Marcella Sembrich who rose from poverty in Galicia and learned to play the piano and violin as a child. She took voice lessons and at the young age of nineteen began performing in operas. In the States, Sembrich sang 55 performances in just one opera season. She later became head of the opera departments at the New York's Institute of Musical Art and the Curtis Institute.

Approximately 200 Polish musi-

cians have entries in this book, ranging from the nineteenth century to the present. Susan Narucki, a soprano and Leila Josefowicz, a violinist are a couple of the many contemporary musicians profiled.

This well-researched tome contains photographs, bibliography, index, and pronunciation guide. It is an essential edition for your Polish and Polish American reference collection. *From Paderewski to Penderecki: The Polish Musician in Philadelphia* by Paul Krzywicki is available from Amazon.com

**About the author.** Born and raised in Philadelphia, Paul Krzywicki earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Indiana University. He played the tuba in the Cambridge Brass Quintet of Boston, the Portland Symphony, and the Boston Ballet. He also held a position with the Buffalo Philharmonic and was an assistant professor at Youngstown State University. He spent 33 years as a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra. In 1972, the same year Krzywicki joined the Philadelphia Orchestra he became a teacher at the Curtis Institute. His wife Joan Grahek Krzywicki is also an accomplished musician, lecturer, and teacher.

### American Chapel at John Paul II Sanctuary in Kraków

KRAKOW — An American chapel has been dedicated at the John Paul II Sanctuary in the southern Polish city of Kraków at a ceremony officiated by Archbishop John Myers of the Newark Archdiocese, New Jersey.

The chapel is a donation from members of the Polish community in the United States and a group of benefactors in the U.S. The mosaics in the chapel have been designed by acclaimed Slovenian-born Jesuit artist Marko Rupnik.

The main wall features a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the two Americas, as well as images of St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Newark.

The American Chapel also contains a case with the blood-stained cassock which Polish-born Pope John Paul II wore during the assassination attempt on his life on 13 May 1981.

Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz of Kraków, who served as John Paul II's personal secretary, thanked the American donors for the gift.

"Let this chapel be a reminder of Poland's bonds with America. Let it inspire us to further develop our links with the American nation and a country which is home to at least ten million Poles and people of Polish descent," he said.

tanks and rocket launchers were displayed at NATO Picnics around the country, where people could also sample Poland's iconic "żołnierska grochówka," stick-to-the-ribs pea soup.

**EUROPE'S LARGEST BRICK CHURCH.** The Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Baltic Port of Gdańsk is Europe's largest brick church. Built in the Gothic style over a 142-year period (1346-1506), the structure dominates the Gdańsk cityscape.

The imposing edifice measures 364 feet in length and is 217 feet wide at the transept.

Popularly referred to as the Bazylika Mariacka (Marian Basilica), it can accommodate a congregation of some 20,000 worshippers.

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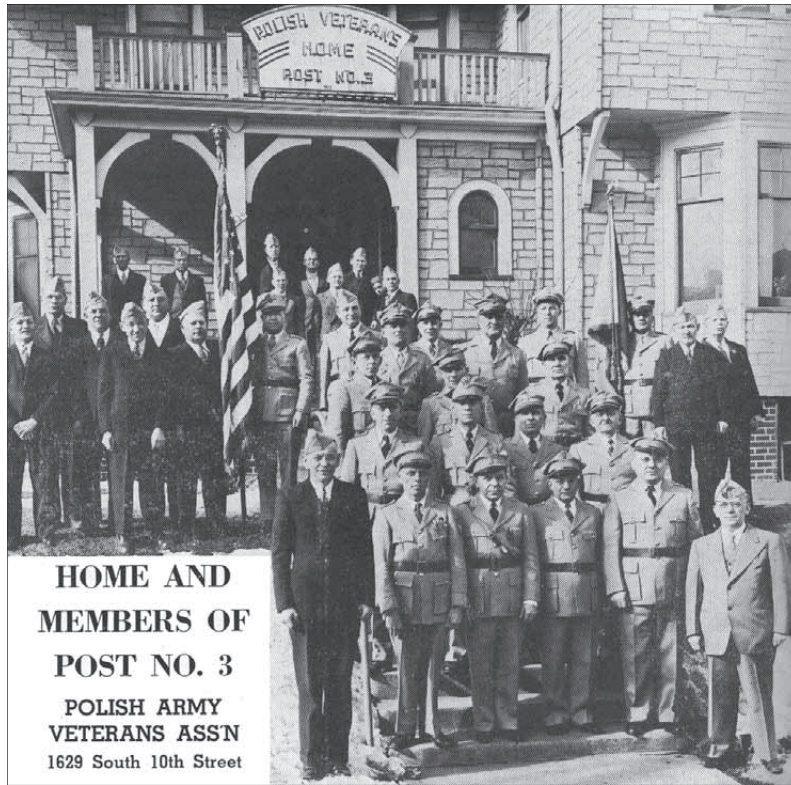
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On the 15th of this month, Poland will be celebrating Armed Forces Day. Commemorating the August 1920 Miracle of the Vistula, the day will be highlighted with equipment demonstrations, a wreath-laying at Jozef Pilsudski's Monument and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and parades of active duty, personal, and veteran organizations. Two

involve themselves with, the most famous of which was the commissioning of the Count Casimir Pulaski statue for Pulaski Park.

On the eve of the 150th anniversary of the death of Pulaski in March of 1929, the Polish Army Veterans Association of America Post 3 wanted to create a fitting tribute to the Polish American hero. Working with 10 other organizations, Post 3 raised \$15,000 and commissioned Joseph Kiselewski to design a monument. On Oct. 19, 1931, in front of a crowd of 30,000 that included Mayor Hoan and Governor La Follette, the statue was dedicated.

The unveiling of the statue was the second major event of for the Post in October of 1931. On October 4, 1931 the Polish Veterans Home Post 3 building was formally dedicated. The home was the cul-



Members of Post 3 standing in front of their home in 1947.

weeks before the battle and a fifth of the world away, another historic event was happening in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with the formation of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America Post 3.

On July 30, 1920 Bronislaw "Barney" F. Spott, a veteran of Haller's Army, held a rally at the South Side Armory with the desire to form a veterans organization. The men gathered agreed to form a group and elected Anton Leszczynski as commandant, Zygmunt Woldanski as vice commandant and Spott as adjutant. Less than a year later, member Joseph Karas traveled to Cleveland, and with like-minded organizations from across the country, established the Polish Army Veterans Association of America in May of 1921.

**ONE OF THE FIRST** undertakings following the formation of the Post was the selling of bonds to raise money for the newly-freed Poland. In the first years of the campaign the veterans sold over \$50,000 worth of bonds. This would be the first of many civic projects the Post would

mination of 10 years of work by the veterans. From this headquarters Post 3, as well as Auxiliary Post 1 of Veterans Post 3, would visit sick and homebound vets, raise money for veterans' families and host clubs and organizations. Dinners were held at the home, which included a March 1934 banquet held for visiting dignitary, General Jozef Haller.

The post-war era saw a swelling in membership with the influx of World War II veterans and sons and daughters of older veterans were allowed to participate in the Post. From the 1950s to the 1980s, the Polish Army Veterans Association was still very active in Milwaukee's Polonia. As the voices around the neighborhood transitioned from Polish to Spanish and membership declined, Post 3 was sold.

Even without a home, Post 3 remained dedicated to Polonia. In 2009, Post 3 still existed on paper, but it hasn't held any activities and may not even have any members. The Polish Army Veterans' former home at 1629 South 10th Street has been transformed into Casa Vieja, a merengue music club.



Post 3 as Casa Vieja in 2013.

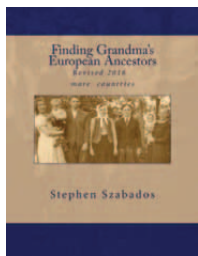


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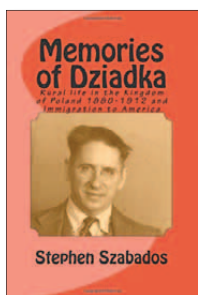
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POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success by Stephen Szabados \$19.95 164 pp., pb.

This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage.

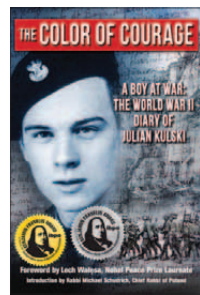
es many new sources for Polish records that have been implemented by genealogy societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.

NEW! A POLISH DOCTOR IN THE NAZI CAMPS



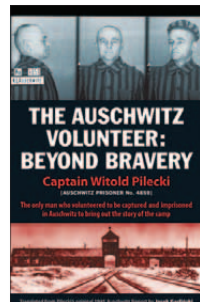
Memories of Imprisonment, Immigration, and a Life Remade by Barbara Rylko-Bauer 28 b&w illus. 416 pp., pb. 6.125" x 9.25" \$19.95

A daughter's account of her mother's wartime experiences and postwar struggle to rebuild her life. Jadwiga Lenartowicz Rylko, was a young Polish Catholic physician in Łódź at the start of World War II.



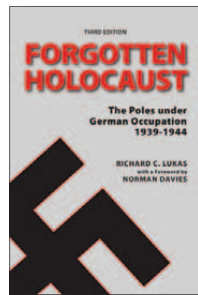
THE COLOR OF COURAGE A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski Paperback by Julian E. Kulski \$19.95 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012 496 pp., 6" x 9", pb.

"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16.



THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER by Witold Pilecki Translated by Jarek Garlinski \$34.95 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014 460 pp., 6" x 9", pb.

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp.



FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition \$19.95 358 pp. pb. Hippocrene Books.

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others.



POLAND: A HISTORY by Adam Zamoyski \$19.95 pb. 426 pp. 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture, which has been out of print since 2001.

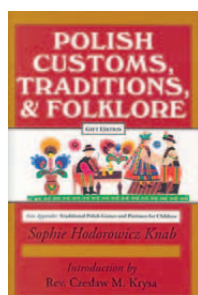


AMERICAN ORIGINALS Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play Editor: Timothy Borden \$22.95

Pb. 258 pp. / University of Toledo Press 9 x 6 inches American Originals, an anthol-

ogy of stories from Toledo Polonia will prove to be a favorite on any bookshelf devoted to the Polish-American experience. Eleven chapters discuss aspects of what makes Toledo's Polish community unique, such as the polka traditions, weddings, foods, neighborhoods, and culture.

The University of Toledo Press published American Originals as part of its series on the various ethnic groups who settled in Toledo.



POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE \$24.95 by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab 340 pp., hc. Hippocrene Books

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations.



HIPPOCRENE PRACTICAL DICTIONARY POLISH-ENGLISH ENGLISH-POLISH \$19.95 by Iwo C. Pogonowski 682 pp., pb. 7x4.5 inches 15th edition

Over 31,000 entries for students and travelers; a phonetic guide to pronunciation in both languages; a glossary of the country's menu terms; a bilingual instruction on how-to-use the dictionary; and a bilingual list of abbreviations.

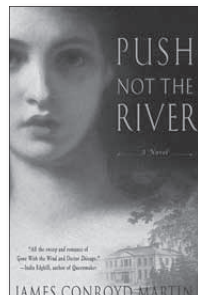
MY WAGGING TAIL by Stanley Bednarczyk \$19.95 / 476 pp., p.b.

There comes a time in life when one begins to look backward instead of forward. The story of growing up in Camden, N.J. as the son of Polish immigrants (and the youngest of five children) Bednarczyk, an 81-year-old Depression baby, recalls his life on the streets as a youth and as a letter carrier.

"A member of the so-called Silent Generation, he has something worthwhile to say." (Mary Latham, Polish American Journal).

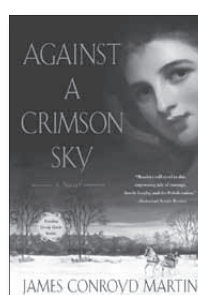
BE NOT AFRAID by Heather Kirk — \$19.95 Borealis Press, 276 pp., pb.

Learn about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book Be Not Afraid is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.



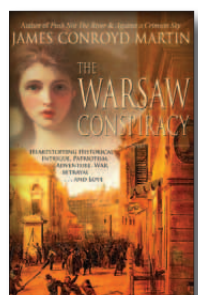
PUSH NOT THE RIVER \$15.95 St. Martin's Press. 496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY \$15.95 St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY Hussar Quill Press, 508 pp., pb. \$17.99

Portraying two brothers in love and war, The Warsaw Conspiracy completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Chicago's Polish Population Change

CHICAGO — Chicago has been called the home to the largest Polish population outside of Warsaw. However, if you consider a larger Polish population outside of Warsaw, Łódź and Wrocław each has a larger population than Chicago.

A quick search of the U.S. Census American Fact Finder reveals that, as of 2014, the City of Chicago also is now behind New York City in its Polish ancestral population. That fact finder search puts Chicago Polish ancestral population at approximately 150,000 and New York's at about 205,000. But when you look at historic census data, it's clear that New York City "passed" Chicago much earlier than 2007. Are Chicago Polish neighborhoods disappearing?

Using Chicago's Northwest Side as an example, and using the 2000 U.S. Census Data and 2014/2015 population estimates, there has been an approximately 31% decrease in population among those who identify themselves as being of Polish

nationality.

Here are a few examples of Polish population decreases on Chicago's Northwest Side:

According to that 2000 U. S. Census and comparing it with the estimates of 2014, we find that Chicago's Belmont Cragin Polish neighborhood decreased by 55%, (from 12,219 to 5,481); Norwood Park decreased by 14%, (10,997 to 9,423); Dunning decreased by 20%, (15,216 to 12,158); and Portage Park decreased by 41% (20, 854 to 12,242).

Gone are the days when schools in the city of Chicago were filled with Polish American and Polish immigrant children. With numerous Catholic schools being closed, many that once were filled with Polish-speaking children, are now non-existent.

Many Polish families are concerned about the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), which, due to the city's political turmoil, has seen many qualified school principals

and teachers taking jobs in schools outside of Chicago.

Today, the CPS problems mean that families who can, are moving out of Chicago to the suburbs. This includes African Americans and those of Hispanic heritage, as well. Moving to greener pastures has always been a trend among many ethnic groups, but there is another reason why Poles have left Chicago. A significant number of Poles from Chicago have moved back to Poland, with its citizens having opportunities to travel freely and obtain jobs in other European Union countries.

What segment of Polonia is striving to keep the Polish population together? A significant factor is the growth of Polish language schools, aka "Polish Saturday Schools." They appear to be the cornerstone of Chicago's Polish culture and language. The Polish language is no longer taught in parochial or public schools in the City of Chicago or its surrounding suburbs. In 1983, there

were 18 Polish Saturday Schools, with 130 teachers and 3000 students. By 2000, the number increased to 27 Polish language schools with 608 teachers and 12,658 students. Ten schools were located on the Northwest Side of Chicago, and eight were in the northwest suburbs. The nine remaining schools were either located in Chicago's South Side or the south suburbs. However, in 2015, fifteen years later, the number of schools doubled, with more than 54 Polish language schools of which 55% are located throughout the northwest and south suburbs, 28% on Chicago's Northwest Side and South Side, and 17% in cities outside the metro-Chicago area. Today, these schools have grown to 800 teachers and approximately 16,500 students. An additional 200 teachers, through the auspices of the Archdiocese of Chicago, teach religion classes in some Polish language schools. The schools are supervised by the Polish Teachers Association of America, (PTAA /

Zrzeszenie Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce). The PTAA, founded in 1962, provides the same curriculum and textbooks and co-organizes graduation ceremonies, proms, and various competitions for Polish school students. It also enhances teaching methods for its teachers through seminars and workshops.

Has Chicago been abandoned? Not really. For those who live in the suburbs, there are frequent trips into Chicago. On weekends, many Polish families drive into the "historic" Polish neighborhoods of their childhood to attend Polish masses at such churches as St. Hyacinth Basilica, Holy Trinity, Five Holy Martyrs, or St. Mary of Częstochowa followed by visits to the still-thriving Polish delicatessens, shops, and restaurants.

As long as Chicago's Polish Americans maintain a cultural commitment, they will continue to work as advocates for their children, especially for a Polish cultural experience no matter where they live.

PHOTO: MARY SRODON



McAuliffe, Cieslik, Komosa, and Matuszczak.

PHOTO: KONRAD ZIELINSKI



Rusiecki, Schack, Kaczka, and Quelle.

PHOTO: ALICJA OTAP



Dr. Filus, Professor Alojzy Z. Nowak (UW Vice Rector of Research), and Dr. Jarczewska.

national cooperative center based at NEIU.

The goal of PEACER, also known as The Center, is to implement new and innovative transatlantic scientific and cultural projects between the United States and Poland. The creation of the PEACER Center was the result of efforts of the Chicago Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation. **Dr. Lidia Filus**, chair of NEIU's Mathematics Department, and **Dr. Aleksandra Jarczewska** of the IIR of UW will co-chair The Center.

Thus far, The Center has helped organize a lecture on Polish culture for students at NEIU, and will co-sponsor an International Conference on Risk Analysis to be held in Warsaw in May 2017. Additionally, PEACER is taking the initiative in organizing an interdisciplinary and international conference to be held in the fall of 2017 to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Maria Curie-Skłodowska. There are also plans to hold mathematics competitions and workshops for high school and university students, as well as study visits to the United States and Poland.

**FLAG DAY CELEBRATED.** The Polish National Alliance (PNA) commemorated Flag Day on June 14 by conducting a flag raising ceremony at its Chicago office. This was to honor the U.S. flag, symbol of our country since 1777. Hosting this event was **Charles Komosa**, vice president of the PNA. Three United States veterans proudly raised the flags of the United States, Poland, and the PNA. They were **Romuald Matuszczak**, staff sergeant, USMC, World War II; **Richard Piasecki**, U.S. Army, corporal, Korean War; and **John Wantuch**, master sergeant, U.S. Air Force. There was a moment of silence and the playing of military taps in memory of those who sacrificed their lives defending our country. The ceremony closed with the singing of "God Bless America." The PNA then invited guests to a Polish-style luncheon inside its headquarters.

In addition to members of the Polish American community, guests included State Senator John G. Mulroe, State Representative Michael P. McAuliffe, the Honorable Dorothy Brown, clerk of the Circuit County of Cook County, John Cieslik representing Illinois Comptroller, Leslie Geissler Munger, and Margaret Laurino, 39th Ward alderman.

**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1991 TREATY CELEBRATED.** On June 17, 1991, a treaty of good neighborly relations and friendly cooperation, *Traktat o Dobrym Sąsiedztwie i Przyjaznej Współpracy*, was signed

between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn, Germany. This treaty provided a foundation for a close and solid partnership between Poland and Germany.

The Polish Consulate in Chicago hosted an anniversary celebration of the treaty on June 8, 2016. Representatives from both the Polish American and German American communities, as well as members of the international community, including the Chicago Consular Corps, and representatives of Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County administrations, were in attendance.

**Robert Rusiecki**, consul of the Republic of Poland, and **Herbert Quelle**, consul general of the Federal Republic of Germany, offered remarks. Consul Rusiecki emphasized that a need for a Polish-German agreement arose from the brutal invasion and occupation of Poland by Nazi Germany. Mr. Rusiecki also reminded everyone about the letter of Polish Bishops to the German Episcopate containing the already famous phrase "we forgive and we ask for forgiveness." The letter, sent in November 1965, on the eve of the Millennium of Poland's Christianity, turned out to be a milestone gesture that paved the way for the 1991 Treaty. It has been considered an act of reconciliation that helped both countries overcome divisions and helped initiate the building of a new Europe.

Consul General Quelle reiterated that among the undisputed suc-

cesses of the 1991 Treaty was the rapprochement between Poland and Germany and a breakthrough of reunification in light of the suffering of Poles under the Nazi occupation.

Both consuls pointed out that the growing cooperation of Poles and Germans has been accompanied by ever-growing economic advantages. Currently, Germany is the biggest importer of Polish goods. During the last 25 years, there has been a dynamic growth of trade between both countries.

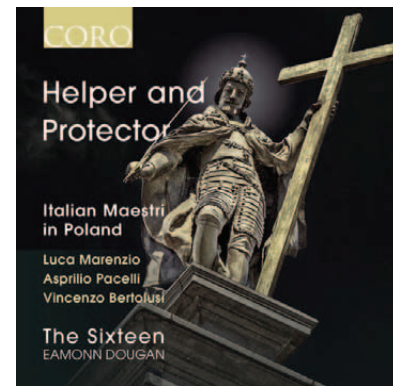
This gathering would not have been complete without a special musical program that featured a concert by the Polish-German duo *Duo Artus*, with **Krzysztof Kaczka** (flute) and **Perry Schack** (guitar), playing pieces by Fryderyk Chopin, Johann Sebastian Bach, Wilhelm Gabrielski, Zbigniew Bargielski, and Heinrich Marschner.

The Polish Consulate concluded the ceremony by inviting guests to watch a special video promoting World Youth Days. The video featured Agata Kornhauser-Duda, Poland's First Lady, as she sent a German language invitation to all to attend this July event in Kraków.

**PEACER INITIATIVE: UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW AND NEIU.** Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) and the Institute of International Relations (IIR) of the University of Warsaw (UW) announced the creation of PEACER (Polish and European Academic Center for Exchange and Research), a new inter-

## MUSIC

## "The Sixteen" Record Third CD in Polish Series



LONDON — The Sixteen, the U.K.-based choir and period instrument orchestra founded by Harry Christophers, has released a new volume in its highly acclaimed Polish series.

It features music of Italian composers working in the Polish court during the reign of Sigismund III Vasa (1587-1632).

The king brought in several prominent Italian musicians to his court, including Luca Marenzio, Asprillo Pacelli, and Vincenzo Bertolusi.

Their arrival heralded a new dawn for sacred music in Poland.

The CD, entitled "Helper and Protector," and released on the ensemble's own label Coro, includes the premiere recording of Marenzio's *Missa super Iniquos odio habui*, Pacelli's *Beati estis* and Bertolusi's *Ave verum corpus*.

Eamonn Dougan is the conductor.

Previous CDs recorded by The Sixteen in the series featured works by Bartłomiej Pękiel (b. ? - 1670) and Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki (1665-1734).



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### Lt. Col. Czekanski Named Commander

**BUFFALO** — Lt. Col. Adam Czekanski, a native of Sheridan, N.Y., is the new commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Buffalo District. Czekanski became the 73rd head of the district during a formal change of command ceremony aboard the *USS Little Rock* at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park in the Queen City.



His deployments include two tours in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and one tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### LONG ISLAND

### Riverhead's Annual Festival, August 20-21

by Barbara Szydłowski

The 42nd annual **Polish Town, Riverhead, Long Island Street Fair and Polka Festival** will be held on Saturday, August 20 and Sunday, August 21. The day's events will start at 10:00 a.m. with a Mass at St. Isadore's Church, followed by the re-enactment of the Hejnal and an old-fashioned Polish wedding.

There will be two hundred street vendors featuring Polish food, arts, crafts and refreshments until 6:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m. (Saturday only) at the Polonaise Park it will be polka time with the musical stylings of the Boys from Baltimore and Mike Costa & the Beat from New Jersey, plus entertainment by a dance group. There is an admission charge for the polka festival.

At the Polish hall located in Polish Town, there will be delicious food being served in the air conditioned hall. Outside, a big party tent, refreshments and for your listening and dancing pleasure polka music by TKO featuring Chuck Pendrak and Eddie Biegaj. There is no admission charge — they want you to come and enjoy the day.

**THE POLISH AMERICAN MUSEUM** at 16 Belleview Avenue, Port Washington, will hold a Summer Art Exhibit from Saturday July 30 to Monday, August 30 featuring "Art with a Polish Accent" featuring Josephine Krawczyk and Barbara Silbert. Each artist will exhibit oil, pastel and charcoal, relating to Polish culture along with American themes and landscapes.

There will be a reception on Saturday, July 30 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Additional information call (516) 883-6542.

**ISKIERKI.** Long Island is not only home to wineries, parks, shopping malls and museums but also the site of the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport, Farmingdale. Once the home to Republic Aviation, over sixty five years ago, the complex produced over nine thousand P-47 Thunderbolts — the aircraft flown by **Colonel Francis "Gabby" Gabreski.** Today, this American aviation museum with a squadron of operational World War II aircraft has a more appropriate setting, the runways and hangars that dispatched Thunderbolts to war. Today the general public can see these vintage aircraft in flight in both air shows and re-enactments.

### POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## See You on WNY's Polonia Trail

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress and Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College's latest collaboration, the **WNY Polonia Trail**, is dedicated to showcasing significant historic sites throughout Western New York that have significance to the Polish American community. The Polonia Trail enables individuals to physically or virtually explore architecture, clubs, meetinghouses, churches, cemeteries, and other places that figured prominently within Western New York's Polish American Community and learn about the people who shaped it. Further, it allows individuals to discover the rich history of Polonia as it began in Buffalo where every step tells a unique story. You can visit the WNY Polonia Trail at poloniatrail.com.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** During its recent Polish Festival, the Syracuse Polish Scholarship Fund awarded scholarships to **Anna Bas-Masio** (SUNY Empire State College), **Emily Bak** (St. John Fisher College), **Emma Groff** (St. Lawrence University/Middlebury College), **David Jeselson** (Cornell University), **Michael Malinowski** (Onondaga Community College), **Alexandra Szelewski** (Syracuse University), **Alexander Siok** (Binghamton University), **Charvel Stanejko** (LeMoyne College), **Sadie Zacharek** (University of Notre Dame), and **Amy Zurawski** (Clarkson University). **Krista Baraniewicz** was crowned Miss Polonia and **Dr. Grazyna Kozaczka** was named the Pole-of-the Year at the festival ... **Justin Kohan**, a recent graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston, received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Kosciuszko Foundation for graduate studies at the Carnegie Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh.

**Pomost International** held its annual English language and American culture immersion camp in Buffalo's Sister City of Rzeszow in early July ... Toronto pop star **Anna Cyzon** won the Grand Prize at the recent Rzeszow Carpathia Festival ... **Buffalo Rzeszow Sister Cities Inc.** retained its officers for the coming year: **Jim Serafin** (presi-

dent), **Ed Reska** (vice-president), **Mary Jane Wajmer** (treasurer) and **Tom Zawadzki** (secretary) ... The Brampton, Ontario International Villages Cultural Festival included a **Polish Polonaise Village** and a **Polish Warszawa Village** from July 6th through July 9th ... On July 9th and 10th, the annual "**Podhale Piknik**" was held at the Podhale Parents and Youth Association's campgrounds in Franklinville, and the Dave Gawronski Band played at a **Polish American Folk Mass** at Immaculate Conception Church in Eden.

A new Polish restaurant, the **Polka Bistro Cafe**, recently opened in Mississauga, Ontario ... The WNY Chapter of the **Kosciuszko Foundation** elected the following leadership for the next year: **Raymond Dziezic** (president), **Robert Ciesielski** (vice-president), **Ewa Nowak** (secretary) and **John Medwid** (treasurer). The new board consists of **Hon. Ann Mikoll**, **Regina Grol**, **Hon. Carl Bucki**, **Dr. Andrew Wise** and **Wiesława Abczynska** ... **Ted Pietrzak**, former director of the Burchfield Penney Art Center, will be overseeing a \$2.5 million fundraising campaign for the Buffalo Zoo ... The **Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee** awarded scholarships to the following students: **Sarah Braciak** (Cheektowaga Central High School), **Adam Michael Bauer** (Depew High School), **Luc Gollwitzer** (John F. Kennedy High School), **Kristen Brzyski** (Maryvale High School), **Madeline Wnuk** (St. Mary's High School), and **Edward Radka** (West Seneca East High School). The next fundraiser for the scholarship fund will be at Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga, Oct. 1 ... Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston hosted its "**Our Lady of Czestochowa — Polish Day Celebration**," July 10.

This year's Cheektowaga **Polish American Festival**, which featured performances by the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, John Gora, John Steven's Doubleshot, Special Delivery, Maestro's Men, Rare Vintage, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY and Har-

mony Polish Folk Ensemble, was held in Cheektowaga Town Park the weekend of July 14th through 17th. The 78th Annual **General Pulaski Association Parade** was the highlight of the festival.

The Buffalo Touch performed at the **St. John's Polka Mass** and Lawn Fete in Alden on the 16th ... The **Buffalo Polka Boosters** held its annual picnic on July 24th ... Also on July 24th, Polish pianist **Igor Lipinski** performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Artpark in Lewiston ... **Jim Lawicki**, president of the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC), visited Rzeszow July 25-30 when he was in Poland for a PAC conference ... The International Institute of Buffalo held its "**Polish Cultural Night**" on July 26th. **Sophie Hodorowicz** Knab presented a program on Polish cooking and the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble performed during the event ... **Special Delivery** and **Box On** played at the Polka Jamboree in the Grove at the Lamm Post in Williamsville on the 31st.

**UPCOMING.** On Aug. 1, Phocus will perform during the Potts Deli **Miss Buffalo Polka Cruise** on the Buffalo waterfront ... The **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo** and WNY will host its annual Family Picnic at Como Park in Lancaster, Aug. 3 ... St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish will be presenting its Annual **St. Stanislaus Polish Arts Festival** on the parish grounds in Rochester, Aug. 5-6 ... St. Casimir Parish in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood will hold a "**Shishkababa Polka-Roc Fest**" featuring music by Special Delivery and Rare Vintage, Aug. 6-7 ... The Buffalo Bisons baseball team will take on the Indianapolis Indians on **Polish Festival Night** at Coca-Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo, Aug. 9. **The Knewz** will perform at the tent party before the game ... The Syracuse Chiefs will host the Rochester Red Wings at its **Polish Night** at NDT Bank Stadium in Syracuse, Aug. 10.

On Aug. 13, the **Polish Union of America** will hold its Annual Family Picnic in Centennial Park in West Seneca, and the New Direction Band

will perform at the 5th Annual **German-Polish Celebration** at Spring Garden Park in East Aurora ... It has been announced that there will be no **Owl Family Picnic** this year ... The annual **Polish Pilgrimage** to Midland, Ontario will be held, Aug. 14 ... **Annunciation Parish** in Elma will hold its annual picnic, featuring music by the **Knewz**, on the parish grounds the weekend of Aug. 19-21.

The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress will host its first **Polonia Picnic**, a free event for individual and organizational members of the Division, at Como Lake Park in Lancaster, Aug. 21 ... The **White Eagle Polish Song and Dance Ensemble** will perform at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Aug. 23rd ... The **Zabawa Festival** at Holy Trinity Parish in Erie, Pa. will take place the weekend of Aug. 26th through 28th ... Daemen College, the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College and the WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation will be bringing University of Warsaw political scientist **Sławomir Jozefowicz** to WNY in mid-September to participate in a series of events exploring the current political climate in Poland and Poland's role in the New Europe.

Forgotten Buffalo will be offering its "**Pride of Polonia Tour**" on September 10th ... The 2016 **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** in Toronto will take place on September 17th and 18th. More information is available at polishfestival.ca ... The "**White Eagle Smoker**" cigar event, a cooperative venture between the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress and the Cigar Ambassadors Club, will be held at the Eagles Hall on Ward Road in North Tonawanda on October 15th ... **Dr. Andrzej Rozbicki** and the Celebrity Symphony Orchestra will present **The Polish Tenors** at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga, Ontario on October 22nd.



If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. Aug. 6 for the September issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

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

WOMEN OF THE UPRISING / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

## The 63-day Struggle to Liberate Warsaw

This is a four-part series by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab regarding the Warsaw Uprising in Poland during World War II and the suffering of Polish women and children in the aftermath.

**PART I — THE UPRISING.** On August 1, 1944, Poland's Home Army (Armia Krajowa, AK) began the Warsaw Uprising, a heroic 63 day struggle to liberate Warsaw from Nazi occupation. It has been called the greatest and most tragic uprising in European history.

The Polish attack was planned as a two to three day revolt until the Russians could arrive with additional support. The Russian support never materialized and the short coup turned into a brutal and bloody two month struggle for the Home Army. The Germans used tanks, aerial bombardment and long range artillery on the insurgents. They began rounding up people from the houses in the districts which they still controlled and shot them — women, children and the elderly were not spared. They executed at least 30,000 citizens in what is now referred to as the Wola massacre. The genocide was intended to crush the Poles spirit for the fight. It didn't work. The people of Warsaw wanted their city, their country back in their own control and endured incredible hardships and sacrifices including lack of water, power, food, ammunition, death and destruction. The battle raged on.

Unable to compete with the reinforced German troops, the insurgents were forced into hiding, often into the sewers, from where they continued to organize and coordinate attacks. The people of Warsaw were dying at a rate of 2,000 a day. After a valiant fight, the Home Army



At the conclusion of the Uprising, the Germans, and the paramilitary groups assisting them, systematically blew up the city, block by block.

was forced to capitulate and negotiated a surrender on October 2nd, 63 days after the Uprising began.

Polish historians believe that 18,000 military personnel died and another 25,000 were injured. As the Germans gained footing they went from house to house, clearing out and evicting entire neighborhoods. Military personnel were summarily shot on the spot. Civilian losses ranged into the hundreds of thousands. At the conclusion of the Uprising, the Germans and the paramilitary groups assisting them, systematically blew up the city, block by block. The inhabitants of Warsaw that survived, chiefly women and children, were rounded up and marched through the streets under arrest.

The part of Warsaw called Ochota was one of the first sections to be taken by the Germans. "By August 6th, Ukrainian soldiers burst into the houses and removed all the inhabitants" writes Wanda M., who was 17 years old at the time. "They marched

us along the street... We had to stop periodically because there were executions, without reason. Some they told to raise their hands, others they told to turn around. These were individual units of the SS taking part in the confusion of the Uprising. In Ochota, Woli and Old Town, the soldiers acted especially barbaric. A few times I stood on the edge of the street to be shot — I'll either kill you or rape you — these were the alternatives. My aunt had taken a dressing case with her best jewelry... she gave(it) to these people as the price for our lives."

The people were gathered together in temporary holding sites until all people had been forced from their hiding places and gathered together and taken to a transit camp where their fate would be decided.

## Ambassador to UN Dedicates Special Exhibit at Port Washington Polish American Museum

by Gerald Kochan

PORT WASHINGTON, Long Island, N.Y. — On Sun., June, 5, the Polish Ambassador to the United Nations, **Dr. Boguslaw Winid** (right) dedicated an exhibit featuring one of the most poignant stories to come out of World War II. The event was the public premier of "Passage to India – The Wartime Odyssey of Polish Children and the Good Maharaja" that will reside through August at the Polish American Museum, 16 Bellevue Ave.



It features the touching story of 1,000 Polish children, mostly orphans, some of the more than two million Poles that were sent to the Gulags by the Soviets in the period of 1940-1941. It is the story of their odyssey from the Gulags to refuge in India, a story made even more relevant today by the actions of Putin in the Ukraine and elsewhere and the other war refugees from Southwest Asia and North Africa that Europe is presently facing. One of those children, Mrs. Alexander Puc was a specially honored guest at the exhibit opening.

After a few words of welcome by the president of the Museum Board, Barbara Szydłowska, the ambassador and the director of the Museum, Gerald Kochan, Colonel (ret.) assisted by his wife Malgorzata gave short presentations regarding the exhibit. The ambassador spoke of the Maharajah Jam Saheb of Nawa-

nager, the "good Maharaja" the primary benefactor of the children and how he is still honored in Poland by a street and school named for him. The director touched upon the story of the other Poles deported and their fate when given "amnesty" by the Soviets upon the German invasion of the USSR in late 1941. The resulting agreement between the Soviet government and the Polish government operating in exile from Great Britain resulted in the formation of a Polish Army in the USSR under General Wladyslaw Anders.

The evacuation of this army to



Maharajah Jam Saheb

fight on the Western Front when the Soviets were unable to properly equip and feed the force provided an opportunity to rescue some of the civilians including the orphans featured in the exhibit. The director's father was one of those who left with Ander's Army as a soldier but was transferred to Great Britain to reinforce the Polish Parachute Brigade. Col. Richard Jung, board member of the Center for Military Studies and special guest, had a similar background as his mother was rescued through the Anders Army relocation. Both admitted their parents' history helped inspire their choice to become U.S. army officers.

Refreshments were served and the guests were encouraged to roam freely around the exhibit and museum. The ambassador's family and staff mingled with museum staff and family members and general guests answering questions. All the attendees enjoyed the opportunity to have such direct access to the ambassador and his charming wife, Beata. It was truly a family affair in that, not only was the Ambassador assisted by his wife, but his young son Aleksander was fittingly there for an exhibit on children.

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A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: Wieslaw Chlus, Wethersfield, Conn.; Maria & Richard Ciesla, Park Ridge, Ill.; John Halley, Rowland Heights, Calif.; Lesniewski Family, Wyomissing, Pa.; Walter Lorek, Macedonia, Ohio; Richard and Pearl Wilgosz, Hollywood, Fla.; Regina Wnukowski, Philadelphia; and one Friend of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

# Babcia's Home-Made Comfort Foods

Comfort foods are those delicacies our mothers and grandmothers, maybe an aunt or friend of the family used to whip up and serve back when we were kids. Over the years many people have drifted away and have no idea how to prepare them but nevertheless nostalgically recall their savory taste and aroma and, above all, the warm family atmosphere that surrounded those meals. Maybe you'll recall some of the following:

**MILK SOUPS (zupy mleczne).** This was typical breakfast fare prepared by Polish immigrant babcias who did not much go for American corn flakes and other crunchy-munchy-style cold cereals. It is also a great way to use up such leftovers from the previous day's dinner as cooked egg noodles or rice. Bring 4-5 c milk to gentle boil and add 1-2 c cold cooked egg noodles or rice, reduce heat to low, stir with wooden spoon and cook covered several minutes. Provide salt and sugar for your eaters, since some prefer it savory (salt only) while others like it sweet (sugar). Sweet eaters often add a pinch of cinnamon in addition to sugar. A pat or 2 butter added to individual servings will enrich the taste.

**MILK SOUP WITH POURED-BATTER NOODLES (lane kluski na mleku).** Gently bring 4-5 c milk to boil. In mixing cup combine 3 heaping T flour, 1 whole egg, 1 t salt and several T cold milk and vigorously beat with fork to get a smooth pourable consistency. If it is too thick, beat in a bit more milk. Pour the batter in a thin stream into the boiling milk, stir with wooden spoon, reduce heat to low and cook 2-3 min. Serve in bowls. Provide both salt and sugar on the side.

**SAUERKRAUT SOUP (kapuśniak).** Prepare stock by cooking ½ - ¾ lbs meaty pork bones in 8 c water 1 hr, skimming off scum. Add 1 T salt, 2 carrots, 1 stalk celery 1 onion, 3 bay leaves, 10 peppercorns and 3 grains allspice and cook until meat comes away from bone. Drain 1 qt sauerkraut (reserving juice), rinse in cold water, drain, pressing out moisture, chop and add to strained stock. Cook on med heat uncovered 30 min. Dice meat from bones, and add to pot then reduce heat and cook covered until sauerkraut is very tender. In skillet fry up 4 slices diced bacon with 1 chopped onion, stir in 3 T flour and simmer until browned, stirring constantly. Dilute with

several T soup and stir into a smooth paste. Add to pot, stir and simmer several more min. If soup is not as tart as you like, add some reserved sauerkraut liquid. Salt & pepper to taste. A t sugar and ½ t caraway seeds may be added if desired.

**DUCK OR GOOSE SOUP (czernina).** Place the cleaned giblets (make sure to cut open the gizzard and remove any semi-digested grain lodged therein!), neck, wings and rump of 1 duck or goose and ¾ lb pork ribs in pot containing 7 c water and cook 1 hr, skimming off scum. Add 1 portion soup greens, 1 bay leaf, 2 cloves 2 grains allspice and several peppercorns and cook until meat and vegetables are tender. Strain. Dice carrots, remove meat from bones, dice and return to stock. Add ½ c or more pitted prunes, ½ c diced dried apples and ½ c raisins and cook until fruit is tender. Remove from flame. Fork-blend blood of duck or goose (containing several T vinegar to prevent coagulation) with 1 T flour and stir into soup. Simmer briefly. Adjust to taste with a little salt, sugar, vinegar. Serve over egg-noodle squares or other egg noodles, potato dumplings or diced cooked potatoes.

**JELLIED PIG'S FEET (galareta/zimne nogi/studzienina).** Singe 6 split pig's feet over flame to remove any remaining bristle. Scrub well with stiff brush, rinse and place in pot, cover with cold water and bring to boil. Simmer several min, then pour off water. Add fresh cold water to cover (2-1/2 qts more or less) and 1 T salt, bring to boil once again and reduce heat. Skim off any scum that forms at top. Add 8-10 peppercorns and 3 broken-up bay leaves and cook on low heat 2 hr. Add 1 portion soup greens (about 12 oz or ¾ lb carrot, parsley root, celery, leek or onion) and cook another 2 hr or until meat falls away from bone. When meat is nearly ready, add 2 - 3 buds crushed garlic. Remove pork feet. Drain stock, discarding vegetables and spices. (The carrot may be saved, diced and added to the aspic for better color.) Remove the meat from bones, discard bones and dice meat. Transfer meat to glass or crockery pans and drench with stock no higher than 2." Refrigerate overnight. Before serving scrape fat from top and discard. Cut into squares. Provide a cruet of vinegar as a condiment. Serve with rye bread.

*continued next month*

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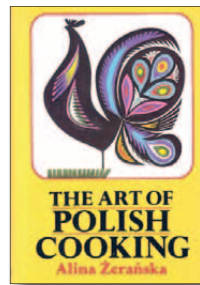


**POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK**  
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337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that 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.

The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Lovely illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book.

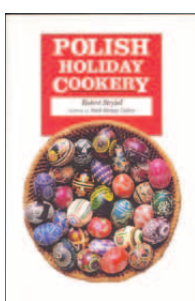


**THE ART OF POLISH COOKING**  
By Alina Zeranska  
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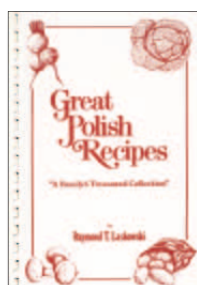
Reissued by Pelican Publ., The Art of Polish Cooking, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

**POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY**  
\$24.95  
by Robert Strybel  
248 pp., pb., 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.

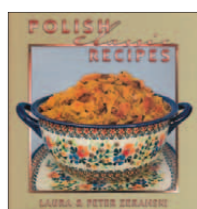


Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.



**GREAT POLISH RECIPES**  
by Raymond T. Laskowski  
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Spiral bound, s.c. 62 pp., index  
8.5 x 5.5 in.

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**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.



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

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.



**PIEROGI LOVE**  
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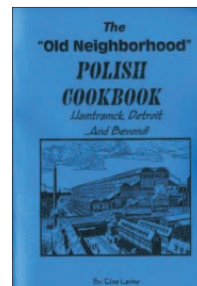
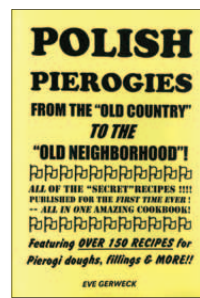
This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogie and fried apple pierogies to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierog for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors.

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photog-

rapher, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food Stories.

**POLISH PIEROGI:**  
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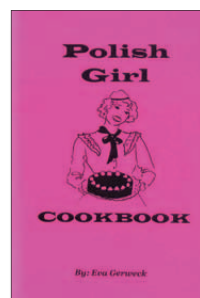


**THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:**  
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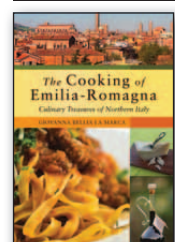
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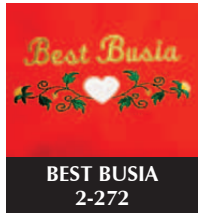
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## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## A Sell-Out Crowd for Hall of Fame Induction

TROY, Mich. — A sell-out crowd at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan welcomed in the 2016 Class of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame: **Ann Meyers Drysdale**, **Joe Kocur**, **Chester Marcol**, **Monte Nitzkowski** and **Tony Adamowicz**.

**Ann Meyers Drysdale** was a four-time All-American basketball player, an Olympian, and a pro star, but is probably best known for becoming the first woman to sign with an NBA team, with Indiana, in 1979. Meyers Drysdale said that her original family name was Majorowski, shortened by her grandfather when he had a tryout with the Chicago White Sox. He father, Bob, captained the Marquette basketball team in 1945. He taught all 11 children to love sports. Ann's older brother Dave, was an All-American on the UCLA men's championship teams in 1973 and 1975 and a first round NBA draft pick. Now a broadcaster and executive, Ann said that her father never talked much about his Polish ancestry. However, her daughter Drew, who also attended the banquet, has researched the family's Polish roots.

**Joe Kocur** was a rugged forward who was a three-time Stanley Cup Champion in the 1990s, once with the Rangers twice with the Red Wings. Kocur said that the two things he identified with being Polish were food and stubbornness. He said that he succeeded in hockey despite being told that he wasn't good enough. "I was stubborn," he told the crowd. "That's my Polish heritage." Kocur also paid tribute to his grandparents, who traveled by boat from Poland to Newfoundland, and then took a train across Canada to Saskatchewan because "they wanted to find a better way of life."

**Chester Marcol** came to the United States in 1965 at age 16, shortly after his father died. He lived on a farm near the small town of Imlay City, Mich., where his mother's relatives lived. A soccer player in Poland, he became a soccer-style place kicker at his high school, and at Hillsdale College he kicked a record 62-yard field goal. He became a star with the Green Bay Packers, who twice led the NFL in scoring and earned NFC Rookie of the Year and Pro Bowl honors. After taking pain medication for an injury he developed serious addiction and substance abuse problems that ended his career and led to a suicide attempt. Now clean and sober, he works as a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor.

**Monte Nitzkowski** was a two-time All-American swimmer and water polo player at UCLA and later the most accomplished U.S. water polo coach ever. His grandparents came from Poland to Connecticut in 1871, and then traveled to Minnesota by boxcar. They had 16 children. Amazingly, half of them earned col-

lege degrees including Monte's father, John, who was the youngest. "I know how much this would mean to them," he said of his induction.

**Tony Adamowicz** won several major professional driving titles over his long racing career. He won the 1969 Formula 5000 Championship, the Trans Am season championship and three International Motor Sports Association season championships. He co-founded the Polish Racing Drivers of America (PRDA) with friends **Oscar Kovelleski** and **Brad Niemcek**. The trio holds the cross-country speed record for a passenger van. Adamowicz's grandparents were Polish immigrants who settled in the small town of Port Henry N.Y., where they ran a grocery store. Tony 'A2Z' was too ill to attend, but was represented by his sisters.

Board Chairman Jim Conrad said that the 44th induction was one of the most successful ever, as well as one of the best attended with well over 400 people. Information about the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame is available at [www.polishsportshof.com](http://www.polishsportshof.com).

**MORE HONORS.** Besides the inductions, the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame announced some other honors. The board's Matt Dobek Special Recognition Award was presented to **London** and **Mary Morawski**, who helped fund the Hall's beautiful plaque and memorabilia exhibit at the American Polish Cultural Center.

The 2016 Stan Musial Scholarship winners were also announced: **Daniel Ambrozy** of Parkersburg W.V., **Hunter Gordon** of Rocky River Ohio, **Skye Reese** of Concord, N.H., **Grant Reszczyk** of Orchard Lake, Mich., **Phoenix Vavincak** of Mt. Pleasant, Mich. and **Matt Washko** of Salisbury, N.C.

**Frank Kaminsky** was previously named the recipient of the Hall's Excellence in Sports Award. The 2015 winner of the John Wooden Award as the best collegiate basketball player, the 7-ft. center led Wisconsin to the national championship game. The Excellence award, which is given annually to an active athlete of Polish heritage, was presented to Kaminsky earlier this year when his Charlotte Hornets played the Detroit Pistons.

**NHL DRAFT.** The Detroit Red Wings selected defenseman **Dennis Cholowski** from British Columbia in the first round (20th overall) of the 2016 NHL Entry Draft. Also drafted were **Tanner Laczynski** (Philadelphia, 6th), **Austin Osmanski** (Buffalo, 7th) and **Jake Ryczek** (Chicago, 7th).

**VICTORY IN DEFEAT FOR POLES.** Poland lost to Portugal on penalty kicks in the Euro 2016 Quarter Finals, ending the Poles'

longest run in that tournament. Poland was eliminated without losing a game in regulation time.

**Robert Lewandowski** scored his first goal of the tournament with the second-earliest goal in European Championship history (1:40) after **Kamil Grosicki** crossed from the left to the center. Poland dominated until Renato Sanches tied it up for Portugal. The Poles played very conservatively after that. After extra time the game was still 1-1 and went to penalty kicks. Lewandowski and **Kamil Glik** converted the first two, but **Jakub Blaszczykowski's** kick was saved. Portugal made good on all five kicks and moved on to the Semifinals. Ironically, "Kuba" played great throughout the tournament.

Poland started group play by beating Northern Ireland, 1-0, then tied Germany 0-0, and then defeated Ukraine, 1-0. In the Eighth Finals, Poland tied Switzerland, 1-1, then won on penalty kicks, 5-4. Poland lost goalkeeper **Wojciech Szczesny** to a thigh injury in the first match, and he was replaced by **Lukasz Fabiański** the rest of the way.

It was a tough way to lose, but remember that four years ago Poland co-hosted Euro 2012 but failed to make it beyond the first stage. This was the first time Poland made it to the "knockout" stage of the European Championship. With young players like 19-year-old midfielder **Bartosz "Little Cabbage" Kapustka** and 22-year-old forward **Arkadiusz Milik** doing well, you have to be optimistic about the future of Polish soccer.

Coach **Adam Nawalka** said he was very pleased with the performance: "The team works as one. The team spirit was our driving force here. We need to think about what we've achieved here and continue to move forward." Nawalka's contract was renewed through World Cup 2018.

**NEWS AND NOTES.** **Joanna Jedrzejczyk** is still the straw weight champion after she successfully defended her title for the third time in an epic five-round belter against Claudia Gadelha at the Ultimate Fighter Night 23 in Las Vegas. The 28-year-old Pole known as "J.J." or "Joanna Champion" has a 12-0 record in MMA.

**Brock Lesnar** made a successful return at UFC 200, with a unanimous decision win over Mark Hunt for his first victory in the octagon since July 2010. Lesnar left the sport after suffering from life-threatening diverticulitis, and when he recovered in 2012 he joined the WWE.

**Brad Keselowski** stretched his fuel to the limit to win the Quaker State 400. Keselowski's victory was his second straight and fourth of the year, tops in the Cup series.

Angelique Kerber lost to Serena Williams



PASHF Director Al Kasprzak (left) and 2016 inductee Chester Marcol.

at Wimbledon. Kerber had beaten the number one ranked Williams in the Australian Open final in January but could not produce another upset. Born in Germany to Polish parents, Kerber usually trains at a tennis facility in Puszczykowo, Poland, owned by her maternal grandparents.

**MLB UPDATE.** **Travis Jankowski**, a former no. 1 pick out of Stony Brook, has been playing great for the San Diego Padres in center field ... Mets first baseman **Lucas Duda** hopes to return later this season after suffering a stress fracture of his back ... catcher **Kevin Plawecki** went down to Triple A Las Vegas Lake City after starting the year with the Mets ... After a strong start, pitcher **Mat Latos** tailed off and was released by the White Sox, then signed by Washington ... **Scott Kazmir** has had an up-and-down early season for the Dodgers, with most of his problems coming in the first inning ... Second year outfielder **Jake Smolinski** has been used off the bench by Oakland, but has performed well in his limited role ... **Troy Tulowitzki** had three hits on his bobblehead day in Toronto, including a three-run homer ... it's been rumored that veteran catcher **A.J. Pierzynski**, now with Atlanta, could return to the White Sox next year as team manager ... Pitcher **Brian Matusz** was traded to the Braves then released, and has signed a minor league deal with the Cubs ... Milwaukee reliever **Michael Blazek** has gone from a Cardinals farmhand and former 35th round pick to a big part of the Brewers' relief corps ... Seattle pitcher **Tony Zych** was sidelined in early May with rotator cuff tendinitis ... Braves pitcher **Mike Foltynewicz** returned to the team after a stint on the DL (elbow) ... 33-year-old reliever **Tom Gorzelanny** was designated for assignment by Cleveland in July ... Cubs **Matt Szczur** has been playing in the outfield in a reserve role ... catcher **Tim Federowicz** has been assigned by the Cubs to Triple-A Iowa ... A's reliever **Marc Rzepczynski** has been the subject of trade rumors ... after a slow start, Twins outfielder **Max Kepler** has been playing very well ... the Angels traded Texas native **Kyle Kubitza** to the Rangers, who assigned him to Triple A Round Rock.

## Poland at the Rio Olympics

*Polish Sportsmen have Won a Total of 291 Olympic Medals so Far*

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — The 2016 Olympics being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from August 5th to 21st, will be the Poland's 21st appearance at the Summer Games. More than 200 Polish athletes are competing in 22 different categories including track, boxing, cycling, sailing, fencing and weightlifting.

Poland, which had re-emerged as an independent country in 1918 after 123 years of foreign occupation, first participated in the 1924 Paris Olympics and managed to win two medals. Since then, Polish athletes have brought home a total of 291 medals in the course of 16 Olympic performances: 132 bronze, 89 silver and 70 gold. Of the countries that have yet to host Olympic Games, Poland is the third most successful nation.

Poland has captured the majority of its medals at the summer games as opposed to only 20 in winter competition. Polish representatives have won the most gold medals (23) in athletics, and its boxing team has brought home eight so far. Poles have also done well in wrestling, weightlifting and fencing. Although football (soccer) is not a traditional Olympic sport, Poland won the gold medal in

that department at the 1972 Munich games, and silver ones at Montreal (1976) and Barcelona (1992).

There was an interesting Polish American twist to the amazing but ultimately tragic story of Stanisława (Stasia) Walasiewiczówna, a Polish immigrant whose family had settled in Cleveland. A promising track-and-field star known in America as **Stella Walsh**, she was expected to win a gold medal for the United States in the 100-meter dash at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.

But, having lost her job at the height of the Depression, Stella lacked the money to get from New York to L.A. and instead accepted the Polish Consulate's offer to compete for her ancestral homeland. She went on to win Olympic gold for Poland and traveled to her old homeland, where she had become a national heroine. She continued her sporting career, before returning to the United States in 1946.

Between 1929 and 1950 she was Polish champion on 24 different occasions and set 51 Polish records. On seven occasions, Stasia represented Poland in international competition in 33 different sports. Her career included

setting eight European records and winning U.S. championships 40 times. She had long since retired from athletic rivalry when, in December 1980, Walsh was fatally shot during the hold-up of a Cleveland store. The autopsy required in such cases revealed that the Polish American track star had been an intersex, neither fully male nor female.

Earlier the same year, politics had entered the Olympic picture in the Old Country. Russian spectators, brainwashed by the Kremlin's anti-Solidarity propaganda, jeered, booed and whistled at Polish pole-vaulter **Mikołaj Kozakiewicz** when he won the gold medal at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. He responded by giving the Russians the vulgar bent-elbow sign, Europe's equivalent of America's "one-finger salute." It has been known as the Kozakiewicz gesture ever since.

Since the West had boycotted the Moscow games over fears of a possible Soviet invasion of Poland during Solidarity's heyday, the USSR retaliated by boycotting the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, forcing Poland and other then Soviet satellites to stay away. Five years later, after communist rule collapsed, that was no longer the case.

### Rio Bound Polish Americans

With the Summer Olympics approaching, here are the names of some of the athletes who have qualified for the U.S. team at press time: **Jenn Stuczynski Suhr** won the Olympic trial by vaulting 15 feet, 9 inches, the same height she cleared in London to win the gold medal in the women's pole vault in the 2012 Summer Olympics ... **Olivia Smoliga**, the Illinois-born daughter of Polish immigrants Tomasz and **Elżbieta Smoliga**, qualified for the USA Swim Team (100 backstroke), as did **Chase Kalisz** (400 IM) from Maryland ... **Jake Kaminski**, a veteran of the 2012 Olympics, will return to the archery competition ... cyclist **Matt Baranoski** will be in the sprint competition ... Wrocław, Poland native **Dagmara Wozniak** will be fencing (saber) ... **Katelyn Falgowski** will play midfield for the field hockey team ... 2013 Olympian **Paige Selenski**, who suffered a serious hamstring injury last year, was named a field hockey alternate ... gymnast **Sam Mikulak** will be in the artistic gymnastics discipline ... Meghan Musnicki, **Grace Luczak**, **Alex Karwowski**, **Steve Kasprzyk**, and **Joshua Konieczny** all qualified for the U.S. Rowing Team.

Tom Tarapacki



SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

## German-Soviet War, Running a Local Store, Tax Collector Demands

"Sibracy" (*Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II*) is written by Stefania Borstowa. Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakhstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

The war between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union started unexpectedly, since both countries were in alliance until Hitler's attack on June 22, 1941, in operation "Barbarossa." This brought lots of change into our lives here in Northern Kazakhstan and Krutoyarka.

There was a panic in the village, but also a cause for celebration, since a commissar of the Soviet government — whom we hated — was drafted into the military and left. As soon as I learned that he was gone from the *kolkhoz*, I quit construction work and went back to my family. We were soon aware that good times in Kazakhstan were over.

During the last year, we had received many parcels from my friends and family members from Poland: two with medicines, one parcel was lost, but none of the parcels which made it to us were opened on the way. Our Polish friends sent us roughly two thousand rubles in cash. Since the war had just started, and there was a front

between Poland and Soviet Union were deprived of any material help, letters from home, and the spiritual help and hope they brought into our lives. With communication cut off we felt that all the good things were finished, and that we would have to start a tough Siberian life. From this time, I have no notes — the recollections of what happened are based on my memories only.

As soon as I came back home, I was forced to work in the *kolkhoz*. I worked during harvest, tilling, plowing, hay-making and seed sowing. In July, our Kazakh landlord was drafted. Before he left, he asked us to take care of his family, his wife and children. He also arranged a job in a local village store for Marysia. We had to spend some time and go through bureaucracy to arrange the job for her. She had to admit that she voluntarily decided to resettle to the Soviet Union. This was a basic requirement. In the beginning, I had to help Marysia quite a lot to start running the store, mainly with paperwork and formalities, since the merchandize was coming rarely and we had only few items in stock. The majority of goods that passed through the store were intended exclusively to the *kolkhoz*. Marysia had to report to the administrator who supervised all stores in the district to settle the account once a month. The administration was really satisfied with her work and she was given as an example of honest and good work to other store man-

agers.

When finally Marysia realized that there were few activities in the store, since there were no customers and no produce, she was able to focus on other activities in the village. She was a village doctor again, visiting around the village and was able to learn what was going on in the neighborhood. When somebody showed up at the store, people were searching for Marysia around the village.

**"There was lots of laughter afterwards and I was wondering for a long time whether the tax collector had a chance to check the constitution ..."**

I subscribed to a Soviet newspaper, "Bolshevik Banner," which gave us some idea about where the war actions took place. The newspaper described the danger of the war to the whole nation and also warned people against spies.

One day a tax collector arrived in the village in a military uniform. We were worried about it since on his last visit, he summoned all Poles to the meeting and commanded them to pay all taxes immediately. He warned that if his request was not fulfilled, all Poles would be sent to

the labor camps. There was trembling and the children were crying all around. After his last visit we were able to visit the NKVD (Soviet CIA) office and learn more about the formal situation of Polish people in the Soviet Union. When we tried arguing calmly and logically that we are not obliged to pay taxes, this man took the gun from the holder and started screaming and ranting against us while hitting the table with his gun.

I got so upset and brave in the same time, I grabbed his gun, hit a table and call him and the crowd to calm down. When all the people calmed down, I told him that he needed to read the article no. 382 of the Soviet constitution. According to this article people who were deported and resettled and exiles who were civilians were not required to pay any taxes. After I did it, he asked us to get out and disband. When we walked home other women showed their surprise and admiration of how well I knew the Soviet constitution and how well I remembered article 382. I explained that I never had a true Soviet constitution in my hand and referring to this paragraph was just a creation of my imagination and despair.

There was lots of laughter afterwards and I was wondering for a long time whether the tax collector had a chance to check the constitution and what was in article 382, or whether this chapter was never even written. Everything ended well

and we were not harassed by Soviet administration until the next order from NKVD. The NKVD commanded us to relinquish our Polish IDs, and said we would be given Soviet IDs. This brought again fear and anxiety in our lives. We decided that we were not going to return our Polish IDs. For ten days I was travelling on feet about 30 km daily to tell all Polish families not to return their IDs. We succeeded in communicating it through the Polish community and nobody gave up their Polish ID.

Then, the rumor spread around the neighborhood that Polish mothers would be able to keep only one child, other children will be taken away. Immediately Jedrek, my younger son, became Marysia's son. We all started calling her "mother." Now, after forty years everybody still calls her a "mother."

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RESISTANCE / Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

## Peasant Distributors

*Resistance is a story about the conditions which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.*

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzinski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

**CHAPTER 5.** Dysthmus smiled, his visit would coincide with the Duzat's Sunday breakfast, and he was bringing a good appetite to appreciate Ludwiga's cooking. He had grown up with her two sons, Wicek and Fredryk.

During the reconditioning of his truck, he had been allocated a respectable German car, a dark green Opel Kapitán, along with forged documents and a forged driver's license. He was sure his new vehicle would make an impression on the Duzats.

He parked the car in the drive, picked up his gift packages of coffee and sugar, and sauntered up the walk.

Fredryk, the younger of the Duzat boys, opened the screen door.

"Marek, I heard the car and wondered if it was the Gestapo in that ugly Nazi automobile."

He held the door open for the package bearing guest. "So, you're still alive and well. The devil doesn't want you."

"No, I hear he's looking for you."

"Come in, you hapless beggar." He turned his head in the direction of the kitchen to call his daughter, "Pola, that ugly guy Marek is here

to see you. Shall I let him in?"

A shriek was heard from the kitchen as Pola rushed to the porch.

"Kochanek, Love!" was her only verbal greeting. She threw her arms around him.

Pola was Fredryk's delightful seventeen-year-old daughter. She had an intense crush on this dark and exciting man of mystery. Marek's interest in the opposite sex leaned toward the older, more experienced women about town.

Wicek's wife, Halina, fired questions at Marek as soon as he entered the kitchen. "Father Pawil alerted us of the possibility of a delay in future deliveries in his coded sermon this morning."

The elderly Ludwiga was years beyond feeling the excitement of adventure and intrigue. Life to her was black and white, day and night. She brought an extra plate to the table and abruptly interrupted the inquiries, "Thank you for the coffee, Marek. We are all out. Eat! I'll make a fresh pot."

"There is no reason for thanks. It's small payment for my breakfast."

He picked up his fork and started to eat while he gave an account of his recent encounter with the gendarmes. "I heard the sound of motors behind me. I tossed the package I had just picked up into the truck, slammed the tailgate shut, and ran for the cab to start the motor. I guess I knew those back roads better than my pursuers, but I'm sure they got a description of the truck."

Ludwiga admonished him. "Eat! They can wait for the story; your food grows cold."

"Ludwiga, my favorite cook, how are things going with the family food distribution?"

"Well enough, Marek. Although

I must say, we women are better distributors than you."

"How so, Matka?"

"We don't get caught!"

Wicek's son, Felix laughed. "That's true! Bapca, Mamma, and Aunt Matcha are known as the big-busted women of Sochaczew. The contraband food sewn into their clothing is winning the admiration of all the passengers on the train as they ride into Warsaw. The men are impressed with the breadth of their breasts." He burst into laughter.

Fredryk and Dysthmus bit their lips and lowered their heads.

"Bravo! Matka, but you weren't listening. I was found out—not caught."

"So, what's with the ugly green auto?" Fredryk challenged him.

"I have obtained a working cer-

tificate, and while my truck was in the garage for overhauling and a new paint job, Grot issued the Opel." He raised his head and blew a smoke ring in the air. "I am now gainfully employed by the Schultz Sewing Machine Company, and that name has been skillfully inscribed on the panels of my truck. The Home Army print shop has provided me with new identity cards."

Fredryk and Wicek leaned over to examine the cards that identified the bearer as Viktor Dielinski, Truck Driver.

"The Opel Kapitán is a bonus, thrown in. It's mine to use for scouting and reconnaissance missions."

"How did you manage to get the position?"

"A loyal partisan is the dispatcher for shipment of weapons and am-

munition that Schultz is manufacturing now." He smiled, "I'm all set up, nice and proper."

"Marek, what plans do you have to resume operations?"

"I am waiting on the delivery of some official looking documents from the print shop, marked 'urgent'. Levik, the printer for the Home Army's Bureau of Intelligence, has a stamp of the Governor General's signature to give them authenticity."

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Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

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## OUR POLISH SAINTS / Martin Nowak

## Caring For The Poor

**PART VIII.** Most Poles canonized in recent decades have been founders of Catholic religious orders and/or have been heavily involved with serving the poor, the sick, the homeless, orphans and other disadvantaged people in the world.

**ST. SIGISMUND GORAZDOWSKI**  
Zygmunt Gorazdowski  
1845-1920

Canonized: 2005  
Feast Day: January 1  
Grave: Lychakiv Cemetery,  
Lwów (Lviv, Ukraine)

Born into a religious family in Sannok in the Austrian partition of Poland, he suffered from lifelong lung problems. He became a priest age twenty-five in Lwów after leaving law school and became known for his outstanding pastoral care as a parish priest. He wrote books and articles on religious and social issues. He initiated many works of charity and cared for the sick even at the risk of self-infection. Sigismund served for forty years at St. Nicholas parish in Lwów and founded the Sisters of Mercy of St. Joseph, soup kitchens, health services such as a hospice and home for invalids, and schools for orphans and the poor. In his charitable ventures he often worked with St. Joseph Bilczewski. He was known as the Father of the Poor and Priest of the Homeless. Patron saint of law.

**ST. SIMON OF LIPNICA**

Szymon z Lipnicy  
1437-1482

Canonized: 2007  
Feast Day: July 18  
Grave: Bernardine  
Church in Kraków

Born into a family of modest means in Lipnica in the south of Poland, Simon joined the St. Bernardine convent in Kraków after studying at Jagiellonian University, became a Franciscan monk and was ordained a priest. Known for his scholarship, he was devoted to the poor and suffering and converted many sinners. He preached at the royal Wawel Cathedral in Kraków. When the bubonic plague struck the city in 1482 he ministered to the sick and was himself infected and died. Patron saint of Kraków and young academics.

**ST. JOSEPH BILCZEWSKI**

Józef Bilczewski  
1860-1923

Canonized: 2005  
Feast Day: March 20  
Grave: Paupers' Cemetery of  
Yaniv, Lwów (Lviv, Ukraine)

Born in Wilamowice in the Austrian partition of Poland, he attended school in Wadowice, St. John Paul II's home town, and attended seminary in Kraków. After ordination, he received a doctorate in theology in Vienna and became a professor, dean and rector at Lwów University. He was appointed Bishop of Lwów at age forty. He initiated the construction of hundreds of churches in his diocese, organized schools for priests, financed Catholic societies and worked in relief causes for the population during and after World War I. He worked with St. Sigismund Gorazdowski on projects to aid the poor. Patron saint of hooligans and louts, because of his love for the downtrodden and outcasts.

**ST. SIGMUND FELINSKI**

Zygmunt Feliński  
1822-1895

Canonized: 2009  
Feast Day: September 17  
Grave: St. John's Cathedral,  
Warsaw

Founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mercy. He was born in the Russian partition of Poland and attended university in Moscow and Paris. Returning to Poland, he entered a seminary and was ordained. He was appointed Bishop of Warsaw in 1862 but was viewed with suspicion by Polish nationalists because he had the approval of the Russian occupiers. The following year he opposed the Polish Uprising. Yet he protested Russian brutality and was exiled to Siberia for twenty years, where he constructed a church despite Russian restrictions, and helped his fellow exiles as best he could. He later worked among the poor in Austrian Poland. Patron saint of the persecuted.

**ST. STANISLAUS OF KAZIMIERZ**

Stanisław Kazmierczyk  
1433-1489

Canonized: 2010  
Feast Day: May 5  
Grave: Corpus Christi parish church,  
Kraków

Raised in the mostly Jewish Kazimierz section of Kraków, he received doctorates of theology and philosophy from Jagiellonian University. He then joined the Canons Regular Order and was ordained. He dedicated himself to the care of the sick and poor and preached widely defending the faith. St. John Kanty was his friend. Patron saint of lay helpers in giving holy communion.

## WHO'S WHO IN POLONIA

## John Muszynski, Television Media Buyer

The largest agency buyer of television time in the United States, Publicis, handles over \$15 billion in accounts annually. The company recently restructured, consolidating its media investment operations and television negotiations into one unit. The person who now runs it all is

**John Muszynski.**

A graduate of Elmhurst College, a four-year private liberal arts college in Elmhurst, Illinois, Muszynski, 57, has been in media since 1981. He had a long career at Leo Burnett (working on brands such as Kellogg's and McDonald's) and Starcom Mediavest, a media-buying unit of Publicis Groupe of France.

Muszynski is the 2012 recipient of one of Chicago's top advertising honors, the Silver Medal Award, presented annually to a distinguished member of the Chicago advertising community.

In 2013, he was made a member of the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame.

Appointing the point man for upfront negotiations was an easy call, said Publicis CEO Dave Peniski. "He's really good at seeing the strategy. Relationship-wise, I don't



In addition to a \$350 million Coca-Cola Co. account for Starcom, Muszynski and his teams created a specific campaign for the U.S. Army, negotiating a deal with A&E Television Networks' History Channel to air short programs about real-life soldier stories during the rebroadcast of Steven Spielberg's

"Band of Brothers." For Allstate Corp., Muszynski and his team created "Gilmore Greats," vignettes of "pivotal moments" from past episodes of The WB's "Gilmore Girls." The vignettes ran for 30 seconds and were introduced with: "This 'Gilmore Great' is brought to you by Allstate"; they ended with the tagline "Prepare yourself for life's great moments. Are you in good hands?"

Muszynski and wife of 18 years, Gail Muszynski, the owner of Viva-Ki Yoga live in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Technology has changed the way viewers consume video, and there is now so much data at our disposal that I can go well beyond the standard Nielsen metrics. I can see who is consuming what and how those viewing patterns align with their purchasing behavior."

In addition to a \$350 million Coca-Cola Co. account for Starcom, Muszynski and his teams created a specific campaign for the U.S. Army.

think there's anyone better, certainly in our company, and you could argue industry-wide."

Given how rapidly the business is changing, Muszynski knows his work is cut out for him.

"You can't just look at it as a television market. It's a video market. Television viewing is not down, but a lot of it is fragmented and spread

## PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## If Traveling Through St. Louis This Summer, Check Out These Polonian Landmarks

Before I start, one side note on The Pondering Pole adventures this summer. Upon visiting the College of St. Benedict, located in St. Joseph, Minnesota, you will see the Gorecki Center, a "beautiful dining and conference center that offers state-of-the-art technology and consists of six meeting rooms that can accommodate large general sessions with seating for up to 500 people or smaller breakout rooms. The center was designed with two lobbies, a fireplace, an outdoor patio area, and windows from every view." There is the Kennedy Center and now the Gorecki Center. This is great signage and remember, if you want to infuse a Polish presence into the American mosaic, pay for a park bench or donate the funds for a university building. You will be creating a legacy and it is a perfect way to really teach the students of today about diversity.

And if you are passing through or scheduling a stop in the Mound City this August or even into Fall, here is a list of the churches in the area. Even if you do not belong to these religions, I recommend these places for the Polish cultural or historical tourist.

**ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA CHURCH.**

This is the historical Mother Church of the Poles in St. Louis and it is an example of a beautifully designed and restored place of worship. It truly is one of the gems on the list of historical churches in the city. St. Stans is no longer a Roman Catholic parish though. Please note from the website:

"We proudly profess Catholic faith and celebrate Catholic sacraments, but we are no longer a part of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, nor do we belong to the institutional Roman Catholic Church.

**ST. AGATHA CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

Agatha is a Roman Catholic parish with a congregation and Mass in the Polish language. It is just down the street from the

Anheuser-Busch brewery and the church and neighborhood are wonderful.

**PNCC OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS.**

There is a Polish National Church community in St. Louis and there is another on the Illinois side of the Mississippi. Consult the web site for more information.

**BLACK MADONNA SHRINE, EUREKA, MISSOURI.**

This shrine designed and built by Polish Franciscan Brother Bronislaus Luszcz, is a beautiful meditative place "set in a countryside atmosphere that refreshes the body and soul." The Mass schedule is irregular so check first for that.

**IF TRAVELING THROUGH CHICAGO...**

But if you decide to skip St. Louis and visit the "Second City," be sure to see St. John Cantius chosen as "America's Most Beautiful Church."

I have not been there, but this church, in the Goose Island neighborhood and built by Polish immigrants, won the "Church Madness" contest begun by Patrick Murray, "a self-proclaimed liturgy geek and consultant for Granda Liturgical Arts, a church design company in Omaha, Nebraska." I have seen an online slideshow of St. John's and it truly is amazing.

Please note there is talk of tearing the church down, even after an anonymous benefactor pledged one million dollars to help renovate it. I get the fact that we have a lot of old, hard-to-maintain urban churches, but I just cry thinking about losing another beautiful, majestic historical structure, especially one that has a Polish imprint on it. Pray the Chicago Archdiocese allows this place to go on.

**POLISH OR NOT?**

A while back I asked if Chicago-born and accordion-playing Dennis De Young of the rock group Styx was Polish. He is not. However, one of the earli-

est members was John "J.C." Curulewski. Like De Young and the rest of the guys in the band, J.C. was a Chicago native.

While De Young was the driving force and genius behind Styx's early success and later, along with Tommy Shaw, propelled them to superstar status, J.C., a solid performer and rocker, played acoustic and electric guitar and wrote a number of the songs on the first five studio albums the band produced. What struck me most reading about him was his humanity and giving nature. He left the band right when it was ready to bust out to be with his family, coach his son's baseball team, give guitar lessons, and eventually teach and mentor some of Chicago's best young guitar players. Too good a person apparently to die so young of a brain aneurysm at age 38. **John Curulewski:** Polish or not?

**Joanna Hoffman,** marketing executive and contemporary of Apple's Steve Jobs. She was one of the original members of the Apple Computer Macintosh team and the NeXT team. Joanna was born in Poland, the daughter of Polish director Jerzy Hoffman and his Armenian former wife Marlene. Check out Kate Winslett's Polish accent playing Hoffman in the motion picture Jobs. Not bad.

**Julie Pace,** Associated Press correspondent and frequent commentator on Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace, born in Buffalo, New York. Is Julie Polish or Not?

❖ ❖ ❖

Hope you are having a great summer and if you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, have an answer to a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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



Become a member today

**Polish American Historical Association**

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

Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$40.00. (\$25.00 for students) made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

**Polish American Historical Association**  
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1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06505  
www.polishamericanstudies.org



## Should You Hire a Professional Genealogist?

Researching family histories has become a very popular hobby world-wide. It is exciting but sometimes it is very challenging. There are numerous resources and it is difficult to understand where tiny clues fit in the jig-saw puzzle that is our family history.

Professional genealogists will help you with research. They normally offer their services for hourly fees that start at \$25 per hour and could be higher. Their services include:

- Translating Polish records
- Finding difficult information (brick walls)
- Finding living relatives
- Gaining access to Polish Archives
- Compiling complete ancestral trees

Although hiring a professional may seem an answer to your lack of research skills, my recommendation is for you to personally do as much of the research as you can. Ask professional researchers to help when you have hit a brick wall or when travel costs make hiring a local researcher more cost effective. I believe that a family member will produce the most accurate research because of the information that they have stored in their memories. It will be difficult for an outside researcher to access

all of this stored information no matter how thorough their questions are.

Genealogical research can seem very challenging or impossible when you first start. Research requires a detailed, problem-solving type of person. If you feel uncomfortable with research, partner with a family member who has these skills.

The genealogy community also has many educational tools to develop your personal skills. Classes are offered by genealogy groups and many local libraries. Genealogy books are another great resource and their numbers are growing daily. Websites such as Ancestry.com and Familysearch.com offer free access to many articles and videos on genealogical research. Also do not be afraid to start searching and making errors. Research experience helps you better understand the classes and videos.

### When is the best time to hire a professional researcher?

I hired a researcher on three occasions:

The first person did a great job finding a marriage record that broke down a brick wall that allowed me to expand my family his-

tory for my Hungarian origins. I hired the researcher because I was not sure where the record was, and his language abilities made the task easier. This was relatively expensive because of the overnight travel that was required.

A Polish researcher found information that led me to living descendants who gave me family stories that were not available in records.

Another project found birth, marriage and death records for my grandmother's family that were not available online or in LDS films. These records allowed me to piece together more of the story of her early life.

Note that these three projects were very short and the researchers were given specific information and instructions on what was needed. I could not have found the information without their help.

### To hire a professional:

- **Define your problem.** Make sure the researcher clearly understands what you want them to accomplish.
- **Give all known facts that you have.** (If you are not sure that a piece of informa-

tion is accurate, still include it but say that it may not be correct. It could still be a clue)

- **Ask for an estimate of cost and how to send money.** Make an agreement that includes the research goal and scope of the project, amount and method of payment, the content of the reports, and what forms the genealogist will prepare.
- After the work has started, be sure to communicate with your researcher often.

Most Polish genealogy societies have compiled a list of researchers in Poland. Contact the nearest group or go to their website to find someone near the area where your ancestors left.

Most researchers should be reliable, but it is still up to you to evaluate their skills, define the project correctly, and get the results you need.



Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," and "Memories of Dziadka."

## GENEALOGY NOTEBOOK

### Learn the Latest in DNA Analysis

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. —The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc., and the Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University invite all genealogical researchers to learn about forensic genealogy and the latest innovations in DNA analysis.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., is an internationally recognized forensic genealogist, the founder of Identifinders International. As a world traveler and multi-lingual, Fitzpatrick specializes in international cases. She has researched in over 50 countries, assists nonprofits, military organizations, attorneys, and law enforcement with cold case work, forensic identification, and locating hard-to-find individuals. Fitzpatrick has appeared in hundreds of domestic and international newspapers and magazines, and on international radio and television programs.

The seminar will be presented Sat., Oct. 22, 2016 at the Institute of Technology, Business and Development at Central Connecticut State University, 100 Main Street - 3rd floor. (Please note this event is taking place at CCSU's downtown campus and not the main campus).

The fee is \$20.00. Refreshments will be served. Free parking is available.

To view the lectures, Colleen Fitzpatrick's biography and registration form, please go to [www.pgscetne.org](http://www.pgscetne.org)

For more information, please email Diane Szepanski, Seminar Chair, at [Szepanski3@cox.net](mailto:Szepanski3@cox.net).

### A Gift From Heaven

Sometimes genealogists' dreams do come true.

The registers of the parish in Lipniki, Poland from the years 1838-1889 were lost during World War II. The pastor was murdered by the Nazis in a concentration camp, and he was the only person who could know something in this matter.

In 1986 the rectory was renovated. Workers began to demolish a wooden ceiling covered with reeds and plaster. Suddenly a secret safe collapsed and on the floor spilled out the parish books from the years 1838-1889. They were preserved in

excellent condition — a gift literally falling down from heaven.

Genealogist Waldemar Chorążewicz has led an effort to digitize these books. There is no prior agreement in place with the Diocese of Łomża to allow for publication of parish records on the internet. After several months of negotiations led by Dorian Olszewski, they agreed to a compromise. The books have been photographed by the fellow genealogist Wawrzyniec Myśliński. Images of the records will be made available for a fee by the priest.

Chorążewicz's team will index the entire collection and the index for the village, which will be entered into the Geneteka website with all the key data. Researchers are in the process of indexing the record and history of the parish, which they will present to the parish priest.

—*Polish Genealogy / Facebook*

### PGSA Meeting

**Topic: Polish Immigration to America**  
**August 14, 2016**  
**2:00-4:00 p.m.**  
**Arlington Heights Memorial Library**  
**Hendrickson Room**  
**500 N. Dunton Ave.**  
**Arlington Hts., IL 60004**

When did your Polish ancestors immigrate? What was their port of departure? Why did they leave? How did they get here?

Along with discussing the history of Poland, speaker, Steve Szabados, will provide insight and possible answers to questions about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully clear up your confusion as to what your Polish ancestors listed as their country of birth on early U.S. Documents.

A brief history of most of the departure and arrival ports will be given as well as details of life in steerage during the voyage. Finally, he will discuss the examination procedures that immigrants had to go through in order to gain admittance to the United States.

Steve Szabados is a genealogy lecturer and author. He has traced his ancestors back to the 1600s in New England and 1730s in Poland, Germany, Bohemia and Slovenia. His goal is to share his passion for family history. He has given numerous presentations to genealogical

groups and libraries in the Midwest. A graduate of the University of Illinois with a master's from Northern Illinois University. Steve is a member of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society, Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) and the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA). He has authored six books on genealogy and is the genealogy columnist for the Polish American Journal. Most Friday mornings he can be found as a genealogy volunteer at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library.

You can attend this presentation in person or register for the webinar at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3138575008623992321>

### Immigration Study

Under the auspices of Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis, Pepperdine University's Culture and Trauma Research Lab has contacted PGSA in a search for descendants of European immigrants who emigrated post World War II and would be interested in participating in their study. The goal of the study is to have a better understanding of the long-term impact of specific immigration factors. To take part you have to be 18 years of age or older and have a parent or grandparent who emigrated from any of the following countries: Germany, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia (Czechoslovakia), Austria, Hungary or Romania, to the United States between 1945-1952

Potential participants are asked to initially complete a 15-20 minute online survey for which they will receive a \$10 Amazon or Starbucks gift card for its completion.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact either Melissa Duguay (818) 971-9877 / [Melissa.Duguay@pepperdine.edu](mailto:Melissa.Duguay@pepperdine.edu) or Mia Singer at [mjsinger@pepperdine.edu](mailto:mjsinger@pepperdine.edu).

## POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

### Fill in the Blanks!

This month we will test your vocabulary in different areas. Several words in a given field will be provided and you are requested to add as many Polish words in that category as you can. Don't cheat by using a dictionary or Google, because the point is to find out where your own strengths and weaknesses are.

For instance, if we were doing this in English and you got the words of the following vegetables: **beet, cucumber and bean**, you would probably have no trouble adding: **cabbage, lettuce, turnip, carrot, potato, squash, peas, radish, corn, parsnip, asparagus, rutabaga, Brussels sprouts, spinach, cauliflower, broccoli, kale** and maybe a few more. Doing the same in Polish will probably be quite a different story, but give it a go anyway! *Note:* spelling here is not that important – the main thing is whether you have a rough idea of what the word sounds like.

- **FRUIT:** jabłko, gruszka, śliwka.
- **FAMILY MEMBERS:** ojciec,

matka, syn.

- **BUILDINGS:** dom, garaż, kościół.
- **OCCUPATIONS:** piekarz, nauczyciel, policjant.
- **COLORS:** czerwony, czarny, biały.
- **HOUSEHOLD PETS:** pies, kot, papużka.
- **CLOTHING:** koszula, spodnie, sukienka.

How many could you think of? Which group did you add the most items to? Now check your spelling in a dictionary or online. Have someone whose knowledge of Polish is more or less at your level do the same test. You'll find the answers in the next installment of this column.

### WORDS OF WISDOM Szlifuj polszczyznę!

Please send all questions and comments to: [strybel@interia.pl](mailto:strybel@interia.pl) or airmail them to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

## SURNAME CORNER

Attention: Students, Parents, Teachers, Clubs ...

### A good back-to-school project?

Finding out all about your last name might make an interesting and challenging class or personal project in the new school year. If your immigrant ancestors came from Poland, a custom-researched surname analysis will explain the meaning of your last name, how it originated, how many people use it, where they are from and whether a coat of arms goes with it. If one is found, you will receive a full-color image of the crest and an explanation of its

origin.

You will also get a useful genealogical contact chart which will put you in touch with genealogical researchers who can help you track down your family records in Poland, photograph and/or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly even turn up long-lost relations.

For a custom-researched analysis of your surname, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$12 for each additional name you wish to have researched) to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland; [research60@gmail.com](mailto:research60@gmail.com).

### DID YOU KNOW?

When introduced to someone it is customary to say "bardzo mi miło" or "bardzo mi przyjemnie" ("pleased to meet you").



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## OBITUARIES

## Eugene Obidinski

Professor of Sociology,  
PAJ Contributing  
Editor, Author



NORTH GREENBUSH, N.Y. — Dr. Eugene Edward Obidinski, 82, died June 13, 2016, at Van Rensselaer Manor after a long illness.

Born in Buffalo, he was son of the late Eugene J. Obidinski and Jane Manka Obidinski, and husband of Cynthia Runas Obidinski for nearly 50 years. He was raised in Scranton, Pa. and resided in Oneonta from 1970-2014. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Penn State in 1955, his Master's Degree from Fordham University and his Doctorate from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1967.

Dr. Obidinski was a Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Oneonta for 25 years and previously at Cedar Crest College, Gannon University (Erie, Pa.) and Penn State Scranton.

He was passionate about Polish American culture and wrote for many publications, including the *Polish American Journal*, where he served as a Contributing Editor. He co-authored a book, *Polish-American Folkways*, with Helen Zand. He was awarded the Haiman Memorial Medal by the Polish American Historical Association for an outstanding contribution to the field of Polish-American studies. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed spending time in his garden. He achieved his goal of traveling to all 50 states. In addition, he served as a board member of Community Maternity Services at Catholic Charities.

Interment is in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Scranton, Pa.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Catholic Charities, 40 North Main Ave., Albany, NY 12203.



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## Msgr. Bernard Witkowski

Promoter of Polish Heritage was 81

PHILADELPHIA — Msgr. Bernard E. Witkowski, 81, former pastor of St. Ladislaus Parish and St. John Cantius Parish, both in Philadelphia, died June 17.

Born in Philadelphia, the son of the late Bernard A. and the late Marie (Glowacz) Witkowski, he attended St. Adalbert School, Northeast Catholic High School and St. John Kanty Prep School in Erie before entering St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

He was ordained at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul by Archbishop John Krol on May 19, 1962. His first assignment was in hospital ministry at All Saints Chapel, Philadelphia, followed by teaching at Cardinal O'Hara High School.

All of his subsequent assignments were connected with Polish ministry, beginning with administrator at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, during a period of financial difficulty when Cardinal Krol was overseeing its reorganization.

Msgr. Witkowski subsequently served as pastor of St. Ladislaus Parish, Philadelphia, and finally St. John Cantius Parish, Philadelphia, until his 2010 retirement.

Earlier in his career he accompanied Cardinal Krol on a visit to Poland, where he became acquainted with Cardinal Karol Wojtyla.

He later participated in the arrangement for 29 Polish bishops, including Cardinal Wojtyla, to attend the Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia in 1976. This led to an unusual distinction as probably being the only American priest ever to be depicted in a Marvel comic book.

It happened after Cardinal Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II and Marvel put out a comic book biog-



Msgr. Bernard E. Witkowski presenting a gift to Pope John Paul II during the pontiff's visit to Philadelphia in 1979. Witkowski first met Wojtyla in 1976, when the future saint was a cardinal.

raphy on his life. In it Cardinal Wojtyla greets Father Witkowski saying in the balloon caption, "Bless you, it is so good to see you again, Father."

Msgr. Witkowski also chaired the Polish liturgical committee at the Congress and authored a play, "The Miracle of the Bread," that was presented during the Congress.

"Bernie was always so involved with the Polish people," remembers Msgr. John Conahan, a seminary classmate who also served with Msgr. Witkowski on the Cardinal O'Hara faculty and the two were best of friends for more than half a century.

"Monsignor Witkowski devoted his whole life to promoting Polish heritage," said Michael Blichasz, president of Philadelphia's Polish American Heritage Center. "His idea was America is not a melting pot, it is a mosaic, and that's something that makes it outstanding as a nation."

He also had great concern for the elderly, the poor and the unemployed, said Blichasz, and tried to make the church their contact.

"He always talked about having faith and he was devoted to Our Lady of Czestochowa and said when you lose your faith you lose your ability to communicate," Blichasz said.

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## Thank You

The family of Larry Wroblewski expresses its sincere thanks to friends and family for their prayers, cards, contributions, food and many acts of kindness throughout Larry's illness and passing.



Words cannot express how much we appreciate your support and sympathies. The love shown by so many is helping to ease our sorrow and heal our hearts from our devastating loss.

Special thanks to Fr. Walter Grabowski, Fr. Thaddeus Bocianowski, Fr. Matt Nycz, and Fr. David Krzeszowski. Thanks to the Wentland Funeral Home. We thank the North Collins Volunteer Fire Company for their presence during the Fireman's Last Call service and Funeral Mass Honor Guard.

The luncheon hosted by the North Collins Fireman, North Collins School community and Holy Spirit Parish was wonderful.

Thank you again for all you continue to do to support our grieving family.

God bless you all!

Basia, Amelia, Isabelle,  
and Sabrina Wroblewski

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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## For a Few Days, Life Was a Beach

by Larry Trojak

If, as so many say, polkas are a great way to unwind, and a trip to the beach is the quintessential American form of relaxation, then combining the two would seem a recipe for literally getting away from it all. Dick Pillar discovered this decades ago when he launched his annual “Pillar Polkabration,” a beachside polka fest that, at its peak, spanned 11 days and drew over 30,000 attendees. Held at Ocean Beach Park in New London, Conn., Polkabration was a must-attend for every avid polka fan, and something of a benchmark for aspiring polka bands that they’d made it to the next level in their budding careers. When Pillar stopped holding Polkabration at Ocean Beach (he held it for several subsequent years at other venues, including a nearby casino), it left a void in the heart — and itinerary — of polka fans everywhere. Enter Richie and Wally Dombrowski, co-leaders of the hugely popular Polka Country Musicians (PCM). Three years ago, recognizing that polka fans still pined for polkas at the beach (and not just any beach, but *that* particular one), they, in a sense, re-launched Polkabration, rebranding it Ocean Beach Park Polka Days. The response was solid enough to have the brothers Dombrowski bring it back for a second year, at which point it became obvious that “Ocean Beach” was once again a part of the polka vernacular and the polka-going public was only too willing to embrace it as a yearly destination.

**AS A PRIMER** to those who’ve never had the pleasure, the Ocean Beach experience has a number of components to it. To whet the polka appetite, festivities start on Wednesday evening with “house band” PCM performing on the boardwalk. Under the stars, with a warm ocean breeze wafting over the area, the scene could not be more pleasant, nor more welcoming. This year’s blood-red moon rising and reflected in the bay had more than one attend-

ee joking about the lengths to which the Dombrowskis will go to ensure things are just right.

When things start in earnest on Thursday, the focus shifts to the large, clean, sandy beach itself which (not coincidentally) is directly adjacent to a tent/pavilion which hosts polka bands daily from late morning until mid-afternoon. Imagine a spring break-like atmosphere with Matt’s All-Star Jam Band or Freeze Dried replacing Daft Punk as the music of choice. Sporadic outbreaks of people congregating to do shooters — complete with mostly unintelligible cheers — certainly add to that vibe.

When the afternoon’s festivities wrap up, those who hope to last the duration, grab some food before heading into the ballroom for the evening’s performances. Once one of the East Coast’s most charming beachfront ballrooms — complete with wooden dance floor and athletic-style spectator bleachers — the current venue has been “re-done,” perhaps to make it more wedding reception-friendly. However, the ballroom and the unchanged beach-view bar adjacent to it still retain much of their old magic and its impact is downright infectious. This year’s performances by Polka Country Musicians, The Boys, Polka Family, Freeze Dried, IPA Tribute Band, The Knewz, Maestro’s Men, Eddie Forman Orchestra and the aforementioned Matt’s All-Star Jam Band, were, without exception, impressive. Bands rise to any given occasion and Ocean Beach, touting a nice combination of great acoustics and storied past (Bill Czerniak’s Polka Soul would drive 25 hours each way in a Chevy Suburban to perform), seems to result in groups consistently bringing their “A-Game” and fans reacting accordingly. As if in a nod to the

past, the crowds were large, and raucous, the air conditioning was never up to the task, and the phrase “I remember one time here . . .” was on the lips of almost everyone.

Testimony to how unique this festival is, one of the most charming aspects of the Ocean Beach Experience doesn’t even occur at the park itself. In much the same way Chicago musicians used to gather at Mt. Pindo’s after their gigs, or their Buffalo counterparts would convene at Texas Red Hots on

Harlem, for decades scores of polka fans and bands alike, have been heading over to Ocean Pizza after music’s end. This quaint Greek-owned restaurant serves as the focal point for folks to rehash the day’s events, get food into alcohol-soaked bellies, or simply hope a jam session breaks out — which it often does.

Ocean Pizza has always been a part of the very fabric of Polkabration and Richie and Wally were wise (again) to consult with its owners in advance to ask them to remain open past their usual 10 p.m. closing time and know what to expect. To do Ocean Beach without Ocean Pizza is akin to visiting Vegas without playing the slots or seeing the Fountains at Bellagio.

It’s been said that without risk there is no reward. There’s little doubt that Richie and Wally took a huge gamble in assuming Ocean Beach Park Polka Days would be welcomed again. Judging from the attendance at this year’s event, it would seem that question has been definitively answered. Here’s hoping the rewards are commensurate with the effort they put into it and that polkas at Ocean Beach are here to stay. To the Dombrowski family and their excellent staff: you’ve proven that sometimes you can go back again. Kudos on a job well done!



## “Scrubby” Seweryniak Passes

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Polka legend Dave “Scrubby” Seweryniak passed away following the re-emergence of cancer, July 22. The popular entertainer, who rose to fame as the front man for the Dyna-Tones polka band, was 68.

Raised in the Polish American enclave of East Buffalo, Seweryniak was exposed to polka music at an early age.

He began on accordion at age 6, first teaching himself, and then taking formal lessons. Later, in his early teens, he saw a performance by Li’l Wally Jagiello, and was awed by the Chicago polka star’s charisma, singing, and concertina playing. He asked his father if he could learn concertina. His dad obliged, and Seweryniak began lessons with Frank Stanczewski, considered one of the masters of the instrument. The concertina became Seweryniak’s main instrument for the balance of his career.

In 1965, he formed his own band, the Dave Seweryniak Trio. In 1968, he met Larry Trojak, who at the time was the leader of Buffalo’s Casinos. That same year, Seweryniak joined Trojak’s band, and changed the name to Larry Trojak’s Dynatones.

In 1970, Trojak was called to military service, and Seweryniak took over leadership of The Dyna-Tones.

Seweryniak and The Dyna-Tones won numerous awards from the International Polka Association, the United States Polka Association, the Polish American press, and others. He earned many male vocalist awards. In 1992, the Dyna-Tones’ *When the Band Plays a Polka* was nominated for a Grammy award by the National Academy of Record Arts and Sciences.

From 1985-87, Seweryniak was a member of Sunshine, and recorded with that polka band.

His performances on stage were at times outrageous, and loved by fans. Among his most popular antics were the donning of a mummoo, a cape, and imitations of Li’l Wally and other polka stars. Seweryniak credited Liberace as the inspiration for his costume clowning.

In 1970, Seweryniak helped found the Buffalo Polka Boosters, which is still active today. He was inducted in the International Polka Association’s Polka Music Hall of Fame in 1994. Seweryniak retired from playing but made guest appearances with the band and others.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## Touch of Brass Reunites for Picnic

TOLEDO, Ohio — Success! After months of careful planning, the Toledo Area Polka Society (TAPS) Second Annual Polish Summer Picnic took place June 17 and 18 at Oak Shade Grove in Oregon. With the weather on our side, the board and committee chairs anticipated a good crowd for the weekend. With the featured bands being **A Touch of Brass**, reuniting after four years (Friday); plus **Ray Jay & the Carousels** and **Randy Krajewski & Badinov**, (Saturday); expectations were assuredly surpassed.

The long-awaited reunion of Toledo’s A Touch of Brass began just as the crowd grew into the hundreds on Friday. From the moment the five guys took the stage, excitement lingered in the air. Family members and fans of the band — many of whom wore reunion t-shirts created by a friend of the band — crowded the stage, and people who had not been out to hear polkas in a while enjoyed reminiscing to the music.

Three food vendors sold everything from taco pierogi to kielbasa burgers to golabki and Polish-style chicken dinners, replete with all the

trimmings. A Polish baked goods area featured coffee cakes, various rolls, chrusciki, and kolacky. The bar sold a solid variety of Polish and domestic beer, wine, and soft drinks.

As this was a two-day event, the festival continued into Saturday. Bands featured were Ray Jay & the Carousels and Randy Krajewski & Badinov. New to this year’s event was a Children’s Area and a performance by the Echoes of Poland Folk Song and Dance Ensemble on Saturday. In addition to the local audience, polka fans from points east and north in Ohio and Michigan showed up.

And it seemed like it had ended almost as soon as it had begun. While board members and volunteers tore down signs, stacked chairs and tables, and cleared the garbage, smiles came out on exhausted faces as the second picnic concluded. As we look forward to next year’s event, we would like to say a great big “thank you” to all of those who attended. Mark your calendars for the same time, next year — Father’s Day Weekend.

## An Interview with Badinov’s Randy Krajewski

Manifesto. noun, a public declaration of policy and aims

Randy Krajewski and Badinov are putting the finishing touches on the band’s second studio release called *Manifesto*. This CD is scheduled for a late summer release and contains some classic numbers, several new, original tunes, and maybe even a surprise or two. For those who say “why,” “when,” “how” and “oh my,” Randy answers some frequently asked queries.

**Q: Why has it been so long since Badinov has released a new product?**

**RK:** Although we all would prefer to devote more time to polka, family and job obligations really take their toll on availability. We knew it was time to get busy and schedules cooperated in such a way that we were able to invest the time and effort necessary to craft a new statement from Badinov.

**Q: What musicians are involved in the making of the music on this project?**

**RK:** Badinov regulars — Andrew Pawlak, Jimmy Rutkowski, Jimmy Mackiewicz Jr., and Matt Gury are all involved. In addition, Rich Benkowski, Dan Gury, Eddie Biegaj, and Eric Hite also make appearances. Performances from Toledo-native guitarist/singer/songwriter Tim Oehlers, and Toledo pop music mainstay Kevin Korecki on piano and Hammond B-3 are additional highlights.

**Q: What three words best describe this recording?**

**RK:** Original, diverse, and progressive.

**Q: Don Cialkoszewski’s (the Polish Kid) tune “Wow” can be found on this disc. What is your connection to Don?**

**RK:** I took lessons from Don at the age of 12 and always admired his style and talent. He was a big

influence on both my playing and more generally, on me. “Wow” was brought to me by Rich Bernier and I just had to do it!

**Q: Where are you recording and who is engineering this effort?**

**RK:** We are tracking at Smoochies Cavern studios in Dearborn, Michigan. Our drummer, Matt Gury, is engineering as well as playing drums and some bass guitar on these sessions. He is a multi-talented young man, and our association is producing some fine results.

**Q: Tell us about “The Gift of Life” polka.**

**RK:** For last year’s Lisa Biskup benefit, I put a band together called Accordions-A-Go-Go, and this original song was the final tune of our set. It was written to honor Lisa’s memory and is included on this album.

**Q: These days, the Eddie Blazonczyk library is a popular place for groups to mine for material. It**



**doesn’t seem that Badinov follows this trend. Why?**

**RK:** I love Eddie B’s music and sound, but for me, nobody played and sang it like he did. Between my writing and Andy Pawlak’s original music, we have a lot to say. Badinov tries to push the boundaries a bit, and give the listeners something new and different to ponder while still remaining true to our roots.

**Q: How do you respond to those who say that there is no room in polka for modern, pop/rock or other influences in the music?**

**RK:** I say there is room for everything if it is done with taste, quality and respect for cultural roots. I say polka needs to reinvent itself in an attempt to garner a larger, younger and more diverse audience. If this genre of music is to survive and thrive, there has to be musical growth, experimentation and outside-the-box thinking. For me, Crusade opened the door, Freeze Dried took the hand off and ran with it, and now, Badinov is pleased to be able to further “the cause.”

**Q: What does the future hold in store for Badinov?**

**RK:** Badinov plans on continuing to entertain locally (while making an occasional road trip) and to produce more new music in the future.



## DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

## Milwaukee Festival Exceeds Expectations

The Milwaukee Polish Festival once again exceeded my expectations when I attended in mid-June. It is truly a celebration of all things Polish and completely immerses you in the traditions and customs of the country. Five stages and vast grounds allow plenty of room for Polish dancers, artisans, vocal groups, orchestras, and most importantly lots of polka music. The bill of entertainment was overwhelming for a polka fan who wants to take in as much music as possible. **Polka Country, Polka Family, The Knewz, Polka Generation, Box On, Squeezebox, John Gora, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Buffalo Touch, and the IPA Tribute Band** all performed over the course of the weekend.



Lauren and Kaitlyn Esula, with dad Zen.

I spent much of my time going from stage to stage to enjoy the music from each of the bands for a set or two. Luckily this year brought beautiful weather which made it a breeze to attend the festival from the time it opened until the last band had cleared the stage. Although I could write for hours about the talents of each of these bands, it is impossible to do in just one article. Therefore I want to highlight on a few of my favorite memories of the weekend.

While watching **John Gora** perform with **Ted Lange** playing accordion in the band, John invited Ted's daughter **Alli** on stage. She jumped right in mimicking John's dance moves on the stage and helped him out with vocals while looking like she had performed with the band for years. Not only is she an absolutely beautiful girl but her upbeat spirit is evident through her charismatic smile on stage. Next John showcased her playing trumpet and sing-



Bernie Gorak II and Bernie Gorak III

ing "I Have a Polish Boyfriend." Her talent and professionalism were stellar — she didn't miss a note and her beautiful voiced carried perfectly with the band. John is one of my favorite performers and his encouragement to Alli was unmistakable. While watching her performance, it was delightful to watch her proud dad supporting her as she stepped on the stage.

As it seems that our polka audience is growing older, it is refreshing to see the Vineckis working together to keep polka music alive in their family. The effect on the crowd is evident when this family takes the stage. As each of their children is highlighted, the tables and chairs gradually empty as the crowd nears the stage. Parents **Rick** and **Alicia** take a back seat to these talented children who are following the legacy of their parents and grandparents. From oldest to youngest each one plays one or more instruments and contributes their singing talents as well. Being a longtime fan of **Polka Family**, it is obvious that **Alex** has been studying his Uncle Hank for years, as his motions, and mannerisms mimic Hank perfectly. Their high energy show can create full-fledged fans after only one set. The Vineckis are a role model to modern families who don't take the opportunity to spend needed time together.

I was lucky enough to meet another fascinating talented family when I was introduced to the father and son duo from **Polka Generations**. The Gorak family started this family band utilizing the talents of **Bernie Gorak** on drums, son **Bernie II** on bass, and grandson **Bernie III** on concertina. These three generations of Polish musicians epitomize what it means to continue the music and traditions of their culture. They each spoke with much pride about carrying on their family legacy through traditional polka music. Through the stylings of the famous Chicago bands which inspire them, it is clear to see that this family will continue making music for years to come. The amount of respect that these men have for one another is apparent.

Summer Music Fest is celebrating its 29th anniversary, and to do so has brought together the best in polka music. **Polka Family, Ampol Aires, Box On, Stephanie, The Boys, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, New Brass Express, Polka Country, and Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze** provide non-stop entertainment on the first weekend of the festival. Traditionally this weekend is filled with more Polish stylings of dancing and music. Music starts at 1:00 p.m. each day in Franken-



Lenny and Paulina Zielinski

munth's Heritage Park at Harvey Kern Pavilion. Dancing and music are continuous all day as fans can take a break and enjoy the beautiful sights of this city's centerpiece park.

As if that wasn't enough entertainment, the second weekend hosts **Squeezebox with Molly B, Leon Olsen, Frank Moravcik, and Fred Ziwich** performing upbeat polkas. The addition of the **Fabulous Hubcaps** brings a welcome mix of oldies and classic rock to this long-running festival. Both the music and the small town friendliness of this Bavaria-in-Michigan village will have you eager to return.

**FRANKENMUTH FUN.** You are not alone if one of your favorite summer events is the **Frankenmuth Summer Music Fest**. This event which draws over 25,000 annually will be held from August 11-13, as well as August 18-20, 2016. Not only is this event packed with outstanding polka entertainment but this charming town can transport you to a quaint German village without the cost and long plane ride. It is obvious why Frankenmuth's nickname is Little Bavaria the minute you enter this city. The shops and restaurants are reminiscent of Old World Germany with their intricate designs and beautiful use of wood. There are so many other attractions to visit while in this area, including the world's largest Christmas store **Bronner's Christmas Wonderland**.

A trip to this ethnic city is also not complete unless you treat yourself to a chicken dinner at **Zehnder's**. This family has been serving up delectable food since 1928 and strives to retain that same quality of food and hospitality to this day.

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Rory Szukalski, Kim Larsen, and Carla Lonski

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**IPA IN BUFFALO.** Buffalo will once again play host city to the **International Polka Association's** yearly convention. With three fun-filled days for polka lovers, the Millennium Hotel will be transformed into a polka lover's paradise.

Music by **John Gora, The Beat, Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Eddie Forman Orchestra, Music Company, Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Polka Country Musicians, The Knewz, The Boys, and the IPA Tribute Band** will offer attendees much for their admission. Buffalo is proud to be hosting this prestigious event for the second consecutive year. Our beautiful city offers much more than wings and mediocre sports teams. Our newly renovated waterfront and multiple new restaurants and breweries are reinventing the city of Buffalo. With over a dozen breweries, Buffalo is becoming a craft beer haven for beer aficionados with equally amazing food being offered.

We are also only a quick 20-mile drive to Niagara Falls. It is a short day trip to this landmark and a must for any out-of-town guest. You can enjoy the Falls by walking through one of the parks or getting an up-close look from the *Maid of the Mist* or behind at *Cave of the Winds*. Western New York has much to offer to make your trip to IPA a well-rounded vacation, while indulging in your love of polkas. Don't miss out on this Labor Day festival, visit [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com) or call (716) 681-2400 for reservations.

## HOME ON LAGRANGE

## Robert "Bob" Zielinski Inducted in CCHS Hall

by Randy Krajewski

Greetings from North Toledo's Polish village, known as "Lagrin-ka." Here's the latest polka word on the street — Lagrange Street that is.

Toledo's Central Catholic High School 2016 Music Hall of Fame banquet and awards ceremony was held July 24. Our departed brother-of-the-note, **Robert "Bob" Zielinski** (class of 1958), was posthumously inducted at that time. As polka fans well remember, Bob was the accordionist/leader of the **Kingsmen** for over 25 years in Toledo. He co-hosted a polka radio show on **WGOR** with his wife **Joyce** for many years as well. Bob was a fan and proponent of the East Coast style of polka, and he had a great affinity for the sound and style of Cleveland's **Ray Budzilek** band. Bob's music was a Toledo-Cleveland-East Coast composite. The **Kingsmen** recorded many albums, and Bob gave me the opportunity to travel and record with him extensively during my formative years.

Congratulations to my friend Bob, and thank you sir, for the library of fine music that you have left us. Thanks also for the generosity and instruction that you bestowed upon this accordion player.

Did you know that **Eddie "Baballo" Biegaj** is fronting a band from behind the drums? Well, it's true! The group is called "Heroes," and features the talents of **Rick Gazda, Chuck Pendrak** and other East Coast style veteran players. Their set list is comprised mostly of Eastern Style polka tunes, but also contains faithful renditions of Chicago's **Naturals** and **Kryger Brothers** classics.

**Biegaj**, who is also **Heroes** lead vocalist, has always been an Eastern fan and plays drums in that genre quite proficiently. Their debut gig in Brick, New Jersey was a sellout and a follow up engagement there is scheduled for July 10 (call Bernie at 732-901-9977 for tickets).

We'll have to wait and see what these talented players are going to book in the future, but I definitely see a need and a niche in the field for something different, and these guys have the credentials and capabilities to do their thing in today's polka arena. In addition to his role in **Heroes** and the band **Bavarski**, look for **Eddie** to be doing some work with the **Jimmy Sturr Orchestra** this summer. Dates are still being ironed out as **Johnny Karas** takes some time off from the polka road.

The **Polish Connection** of Wisconsin has released a new disc called "Three Little Words." This seventh studio effort from the group deserves a few words. Original, progressive songs, good vocal harmonies, and a polished sound make for an enjoyable audio experience. Check out the waltz offering entitled "The Touch of Your Hand." It's a non-typical waltz selection from a polka band and a real breath of fresh air. The **Polish Connection's**, "Three Little Words," and they are; buy, listen and enjoy.

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## 2016 EVENTS

- **SEPT. 11 — WELCOME BACK "MEMBERSHIP DRIVE" /VETERANS APPRECIATION DANCE.** FREE to Members and Veterans, 1st Responders, Gov. Employees. (Membership Meeting 12:30) Music: Varitones Dance Band 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- **SEPT. 24 — SKORPION BAND** 7:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. (non-Polka event). Call Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321 for info.
- **OCT. 9 — PULASKI DAY DINNER & DANCE.** Varitones Dance Band 3:00-6:00 p.m. DINNER 1:00-3:00 p.m., MEMBERS \$15.00 | NON-MEMBERS \$20.00 | KIDS 7-14 ½ PRICE | UNDER 7 FREE. RESERVATIONS REQUESTED (602) 909-4965, (602) 275-9329.
- **OCT. 30 — HALLOWEEN/COSTUME CONTEST** Music: Sylvia's Arizona Band 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- **NOV. 4 — MEET & GREET.** DJ "Nickelcity" Dave 6:00 p.m. FREE. "Polka Country Musicians"
- **NOV. 5 & 6 — POLKA COUNTRY MUSICIANS** (Conn.). \$12.00 at the door, both days 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **NOV. 26 — "ANDRZEJKI" SKORPION BAND** (non-Polka event) 7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Call Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321 for info.
- **DEC. 11 — CHRISTMAS DINNER & DANCE. JOHN FILIPCZAK & AZ CLASSICS** 3:00-6:00 p.m. DINNER 1:00-3:00 p.m., MEMBERS \$15.00 | NON-MEMBERS \$20.00 | KIDS 7-14 ½ PRICE | UNDER 7 FREE. RESERVATIONS REQUESTED 602-909-4965, 602-275-9329
- **DEC. 31 — ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION** 7:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. Call Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321 for info.
- **POLISH WOMAN HERITAGE GROUP OF AZ. SEMINAR** (women only) 7:00 p.m. Sept. 8, Oct. 9, Nov. 10, Dec. 8. For more info. Bogusia Klecha 480-626-3188

[www.pulaskiclubaz.org](http://www.pulaskiclubaz.org), [www.facebook.com/pulaskiclubaz](http://www.facebook.com/pulaskiclubaz)  
Admission: \$8.00 members/\$10.00 guests (unless noted)  
Doors open 1 hour before event • Bands & Times subject to change

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POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to johnzz@cox.net.

- JULY 30
• Box On. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30
• Dennis Polisky. Lowell Folk Festival. Lowell, Mass. (978)275-1764
• Jimmy Sturr. Historic Track. Goshen. N.Y. 6-8. (845) 294-5333
• Tony's Polka Band. Arvin Fire Co. Mechanicville. N.Y. 5-9. (518) 664-6711

- JULY 31
• Special Delivery/Box On. Lamm Post. Williamsville. N.Y. 2-8. (716) 668-9101
• Dennis Polisky. PACC. S. Deerfield, Mass. 1-5:30. (413) 665-8735
• Stephanie. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30
• Tony's Polka Band. Polish Community Club. Utica. N.Y. 2-6. (315) 732-0087
• Eddie Forman. Stanley Park. Westfield,, Mass. 6-8. (413) 572-6263
• John Stevens. St. Nicks Grove. Primrose, Pa. 4-8. (202) 526-7811
• PA Express. American Legion. Rositer, Pa. 2-6. (814) 938-9891
• Northern Lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach. Fl. 2-5. (386) 258-7059

- AUGUST 1
• John Gora. St. Joseph Bakery. St. Catharines. Ont. TBA. (905) 937-4411
• Eastern Sound. Seashell Stage. Hampton Beach. NH. 7-9:30. (603) 642-4134
• Phocus. Pott's Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga. N.Y. TBA. (716) 826-6575

- AUGUST 3
• Eddie Forman. Town Common. Leicester,, Mass. 6:30-8:30 (508) 892-7021
• Dennis Polisky. Town Green. Southington. Ct. 7-9
• NJ Polka Stars. Thompson Park. Jamesburg. NJ. 2-3:30. (609) 424-0660

- AUGUST 4
• Special Delivery. Fundraiser for Kristy Mazurek for Assembly. VFW Post 7275, 3741 Walden Ave, Lancaster, NY (6-8)

- AUGUST 5
• Tony's Polka Band. Sacred Heart/St. Mary. New York Mills. N.Y. 6-11. (315) 316-0506
• Walt Grollier. Evergreen CC. Fleetwood Pa. 7-11. (610) 944-7501
• The Beat. Potts Banquet Hall. Buffalo. N.Y. 7-11. (716) 675-6588

- AUGUST 6
• Special Delivery. St. Casimir Lawn Fest. Buffalo N.Y. 4:30-9. (716) 824-9589
• Eddie Forman. Immaculate Heart of Mary. Granby,, Mass. 6-10. (413) 467-9821
• Tony's Polka Band. Sacred Heart/St. Mary. New York Mills. N.Y. (315) 316-0506
• Walt Grollier. Musikfest. Bethlehem, Pa. 12-4. (610) 332-1300
• Joe Stanky. Sacred Heart. Dupont, Pa. 7-11. (570) 654-3713
• Concertina All Stars. Fun Fest. Sharon, Pa. (716) 983-4815

- AUGUST 7
• Polka Country Musicians. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30
• Mike Surratt. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater. Md. 4-8. (410) 798-6807
• Mon Valley Push. Am. Legion. West Brownsville Pa. 3-6. (724) 785-8333
• Dennis Polisky. Evergreen CC. Fleetwood Pa. 2-6. (610) 944-7501
• Polka Family. K Pulaski Club. New Castle, Pa. (724) 658-6221
• Fritz's Polka Band. Musikfest. Bethlehem, Pa. 12-3:30, (610) 332-1300
• Buffalo Touch. 14 Holy Helpers. West Seneca. N.Y. 1-4. (716) 674-1670
• New Direction. Sanborn Hamlet, Cambria N.Y. 6-8

- AUGUST 9
• The Knewz. Coca-Cola Field. Buffalo. N.Y. 5-7. (716) 843-4373
• Buffalo Touch. River Grill. Tonawanda. N.Y. 6:30. (716) 873-2553

- AUGUST 10
• NJ Polka Allstars. Baritan Bay Park. S. Amboy. NJ. 6:30-8:30 (609) 424-0660
• The Eastern Sound. Ellis Park. York Beach. Me. 7-9
• The Knewz. Aurora Park. East Aurora. N.Y. 6-8

- AUGUST 11
• Alex Meixner. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga. N.Y. 7-11. (716) 675-6588

- AUGUST 12-14
• Steve Drzewicki/Veritones/New Brass Express/Misty Blues. Sweetest Heart of Mary. Detroit. Mi. (313) 831-6659

- AUGUST 12
• John Stevens. Kielbasa Fest. Plymouth, Pa. 4-6. (570) 719-9986
• Tony's Polka Band. Evergreen CC. Fleetwood, Pa. 6-10. (610) 944-7501
• John Stevens. St. Johns. Larksville Pa. 7-11. (670) 77-9620

- AUGUST 13
• Jimmy Sturr. Hunter. Mtn. 12 noon. (800) 486-8376
• Joe Stanky. Kielbasa Fest. Plymouth Pa. 4-6. (570) 719-9986
• New Direction. Spring Garden Park. East Aurora. N.Y. 4-10

- AUGUST 14
• Dennis Polisky. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30
• John Stevens. Musikfest. Bethlehem, Pa. 12-3. (610) 322-1300
• Alex Meixner. Musikfest. Bethlehem, Pa. 3:30-7. (610) 322-1300
• Jimmy Sturr. Funfest. Florida N.Y. 6:30
• NJ Polka Stars. Warren Park. Woodbridge. NJ. 6-7:30. (609) 424-0660

- AUGUST 16
• Ed Guca. Polish Falcons. Depew. N.Y. 8-10:30. (716) 684-2373

- AUGUST 19
• Joe Stanky. St. Marys. Scranton, Pa. 7-11. (570) 343-5151
• Concertina All Stars. Erie County Fair. Hamburg. N.Y. 1-4. (716) 649-3900

- AUGUST 20
• The Boys. Town Fair. Riverhead. LI. 5-11. (828) 658-2779
• John Stevens. St. Marys. Scranton, Pa. 5-9 (570) 343-5151

- AUGUST 21
• Dennis Polisky. Lion's Pavilion. Hatfield, Mass. 1-5. (413) 665-2129
• The Knewz. Annunciation Church. Elma. N.Y. 4-8. (716) 683-5254
• The Boys. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30
• The Eastern Sound. St. Michaels. Peabody, Mass. 12-5. (978) 532-3208
• Joe Stanky. Cass Fairgrounds. Primrose Pa. 12-4. (530) 544-2211
• John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
• Mon Valley Push. City Park. Monessenla, Pa. 2-4

- AUGUST 24
• Art Gaylor. Leonard Post. Cheektowaga. N.Y. 7:30-10. (716) 684-4371

- AUGUST 24/25
• John Stevens. Best Western. Matamoras, Pa. 11:30-3:30. (318) 491-2400

- AUGUST 26
• Dennis Polisky. St. Andrew Bobola. Dudley, Mass. 1-5. (508) 943-5633
• Tony's Polka Band. German Flatts Town Park. Mohawk. N.Y. 5-9
• The Knewz. Holy Trinity. Erie, Pa. 6:30-10:30. (814-456-0671

- AUGUST 27
• The Boys. Holy Trinity. Erie, Pa. 6:30-10:30. (814) 456-0671
• Dennis Polisky. VFW. Dalton, Mass. 2-6. (413) 684-9714
• Mon Valley Push. Riverfest Park. California, Pa. 11-1
• Jimmy Sturr. Otisville Fair. Otisville. N.Y. 6PM. (845) 386-1315

- AUGUST 28
• Lenny Gomulka. St. Benedict's Grove. Reading, Pa. (610) 775-4559
• Golden Tones. St. Mary's. McAdoo, Pa. 3-7. (570) 929-1014
• The Boys. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 3-7. (724) 861-5872
• Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach. Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
• Dennis Polisky. Downtown. Holyoke, Mass. 12:30-1:30
• Concertina All Stars. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Tonawanda. N.Y. 1-4. (716) 693-3822

- AUGUST 29
• The Eastern Sound. Seashell Stage. Hampton Beach. NH. 7-9:30. (603) 642-4134

- SEPTEMBER 2
• John Gora/Mike Costa. Millennium Hotel. Buffalo N.Y. (716) 681-2400

- SEPTEMBER 3
• The Knewz/The Boys/IPA Tribute Band/Concertina All Stars. Millennium Hotel. Buffalo N.Y. (716) 681-2400
• Dennis Polisky. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Doylestown, Pa. 4-8 (215) 345-0600

- SEPTEMBER 4
• Eddie Forman/Lenny Gomulka/Music Company/ Polka Country Musicians. Millennium Hotel. Buffalo. NY (716) 681-2400
• TKO. Our Lady of Czestochowa.

- SEPTEMBER 5
• Eddie Forman. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30
• John Gora. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Doylestown, Pa. 12-4 (215) 345-0600
• Chris & Ronnie. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Doylestown, Pa. 4-8 (215) 345-0600
• Dennis Polisky. Spencer Fair. Spencer, Mass. 10 AM. (508) 885-5819

- Doylestown, Pa. 12-4. (215) 345-0600
• John Stevens. Our Lady of Czestochowa. Doylestown, Pa. 4-8. (215) 345-0600
• Mike Surratt. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater. Md. 4-8. (410) 798-6807
• Dennis Polisky. PACC. Webster, Mass. 2-6. (508) 461-6794
• Jimmy Sturr. PLAV. Pine Island. N.Y. 2-6. (845) 651-4266

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POLKAMOTION 2016

Great news! Despite the fact that construction will prevent the annual Polkamotion by the Ocean festival from taking place at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center next September, arrangements have been made to conduct polka dances at the nearby W. T. Spooner American Legion Post 17 Pavilion, 113 American Legion Rd, Lewes, DE, for the enjoyment of polka fans who still plan to vacation at the ocean resort town.

POLKAMOTION 2016 MUSIC SCHEDULE

- Thur., Sept. 15: Polka Family (6:00-10:00 p.m.)
Fri., Sept. 16: Eddie Forman Orchestra (6:00-10:00 p.m.) with a special reunion performance by Charm City Sound.
Sat., Sept. 17: Polka Country Musicians (6:00-10:00 p.m.)

Adult admission for each dance is only \$15 (\$10 for youths 16 - 20; kids under 16 are free) and the full bar serves very reasonably priced drinks. Food will not be available but complimentary snacks will be served. There is ample parking and the grounds provide space for a large crowd but seating is limited inside the pavilion on a first come, first serve basis. Advance tickets are recommended. Jolly Trolley will provide shuttle service from Rehoboth Beach to Lewes for the dances but you must call (302) 227- 1197 or visit www.jollytrolley.com/pay-per-seat to reserve and pay for your seat. After each dance, polka DJ parties will be conducted at Zogg's Raw Bar & Grill, 1 Wilmington Ave., Rehoboth Beach, DE, from 11 pm - 1 am. And, the annual "best ball" Polkamotion Open Golf Tournament will be conducted as usual on Wednesday, September 14, 2016.



For more information visit www.polkamotion.com and www.rbpolka.com or call Mike Matousek at (202) 246-7918.

IN 2017, POLKAMOTION WILL BE BACK AT THE REHOBOTH CONVENTION CENTER.

Polka Dreams @ Sea 3 Carnival Pride. Apr 2 - 9, 2017. Baltimore, MD to Grand Turk, Freeport, Half Moon Cay - Bahamas. Includes Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Ray Jay Of The Carousels, and Polka Dreams All-Star Band.

Summer Music Fest 2016. Frankenmuth, MI. Showcasing The Nation's Top Polka Bands. Includes listing for Frankenmuth Area Lodging and a list of nearby hotels.

2016 - FRANKENMUTH Summer Music Fest Daily Schedule. Lists dates for Thursday (Aug 11 & 18), Friday (Aug 12 & 19), and Saturday (Aug 13 & 20) with featured bands and locations.

Continuation of the Polka Calendar listing events from August 26 to August 29, including bands like Lenny Gomulka, Golden Tones, and The Boys.

48th Annual International Polka Association Festival & Convention. Millennium Hotel - Buffalo, New York. Labor Day Weekend 2016 - Mark Your Calendars! Friday, September 2; Saturday, September 3; Sunday, September 4. Includes a list of performing bands and contact information for the IPA.



## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — You can witness one of Poland's largest World War II re-enactments by joining historian Jan Lorys on a **Military History Tour of Poland**, Sept. 10-25.

Among the stops on the trip are: Gdańsk/Gdynia (Naval Museum; Allied Polish destroyer *Blyskawica*; the fort Westerplatte, where World War II began; two Teutonic Knights Castles); Bydgoszcz; Grudziądz; Warsaw; Sochaczew (reenactment of the Battle of Bzura between the Polish Army and the Wehrmacht) and others.

For a full itinerary, prices and answers to other questions, e-mail: janlorys@yahoo.com

## NEW YORK

NEW YORK — Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner **Nicholas D. Kristof** is this year's recipient of the Jan Karski Spirit Award.

Kristof is a highly respected journalist and *New York Times* columnist, with an influential voice in drawing public attention to humanitarian crises around the world.

He will be presented the award on November 1, 2016 at the Tishman Auditorium of The New School, 63 Fifth Ave.

The event is organized by the Jan Karski Educational Foundation in collaboration with The New School for Social Research. Updates regarding this event will be posted on the Jan Karski Educational Foundation's website: www.jankarski.net.

## OHIO

CLEVELAND — The 27th An-

nual **St. Casimir Alumni Picnic** will be held at the Wickliffe Italian American Club, 29717 Euclid Avenue, Sun., August 21. It is open to family, neighbors and former classmates.

There will be a Polka Mass at noon on the picnic grounds. Entertainment for children and adults will be provided. Covered pavilion for the music, eating and dancing area, with music provided by the Northcoast Mix, with Tony Czekanski (Class of 1967). There will be "Balloon Art and Face Painting," by Kathie Bee and "Euclid Beach Park Memorabilia" to enjoy along with their famous "Frozen Dairy Treat."

A "Polish Lunch Menu" includes choice of kielbasa, stuffed cabbages, sauerkraut, pierogi, cabbage and noodles, hot dogs, dessert and sodas and water. Bring your own alcoholic refreshments. Free coffee will be available. Food will be served from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

A prize drawing will be held at 5:00 p.m. 1st Prize is \$500.00; 2nd Prize, \$300.00; 3rd Prize, \$200.00; there will also be sideboards and raffles.

Tickets are \$5.00 each, which includes admission to the grounds and a chance at the cash drawing. Winner need not be present to win. The grounds are open until 8:00 p.m.

For additional information, please call Dan Horn (440) 951-1391, Rich Palcie (440) 748-1904, or Marcia Haymer (440) 477-4837.

TOLEDO — A copper theft from the former **St. Hedwig's School** is just the latest in a string of recent

incidents during which thousands of feet of plumbing were swiped from the vacant building.

Investigators are trying to identify who broke into the property at 225 Dexter St. in the Polish Village and stole copper pipes.

Toledo police reported two previous incidents between June 20 and 24. In the first theft, someone broke a chain lock from a door and left with about 3,000 feet of copper plumbing.

The second time, a thief smashed a glass door and stole roughly 5,000 feet of copper pipe and 14 toilet valves. That theft resulted in a loss of about \$10,000, police said.

On July 5, someone kicked through a plywood-covered side door to enter the building. Police are working to determine how much copper was stolen.

Zach Silka, a Diocese of Toledo spokesman, said the parish continues to assist police investigating the case.

United North Inc. previously announced plans to turn the former school into a 44-unit apartment complex for low-income senior citizens. The school closed in 2005.

— *The Blade*

## TEXAS

COLLEGE STATION (The Eagle) — The great-grandson of Polish immigrants, **Jim Mazurkiewicz** (right) of the Texas A&M



Agrilife Extension Service, was honored with the highest award presented by the Republic of Poland to a noncitizen.

At a ceremony in the gardens of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Mazurkiewicz was honored by Polish President Andrzej Duda with the Medal of Merit for his efforts in developing an agricultural partnership between the U.S. and Poland.

A Regents Fellow and director of the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership program the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Mazurkiewicz said he is both "humbled and honored by this recognition."

"Words cannot express the gratitude I feel to be awarded the highest medal, 'the Medal of Merit,'" Mazurkiewicz said. "I know that my great-grandparents are smiling down from heaven."

Over the past six years, Mazurkiewicz said he has been "heavily involved" in facilitating 35 bilateral visits to Texas by politicians, entrepreneurs, farmers and scientists from the country to give them an opportunity to learn more about American agriculture.

"[I am proud] to continue to further my Polish heritage through agricultural education, developing business relations as well as forming partnerships and friendships between the Republic of Poland and the Texas agricultural industry," Mazurkiewicz said in a statement. "We all play an important role in producing enough food and fiber to feed the world. We can learn a lot from each other in addressing the challenges that lie ahead."

In addition to his role with the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, Mazurkiewicz also serves as president of the Polish American Council of Texas. Through the non-profit, he and his colleagues work to educate Texans on Polish culture, traditions and history.

## ENTERTAINMENT



**RETURNS AS ALICE.** Mia Wasikowska returns to the role of "Alice" in the fantasy adventure film *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.

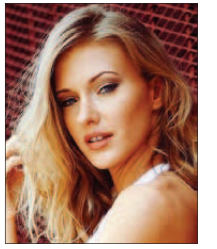
It is based on *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis and is the sequel to the 2010 film *Alice in Wonderland*. The film, released by Walt Disney Pictures, is currently in theaters, and will be available on DVD and *On Demand*.

**LOVE WAS IN THE AIR.** The



award-winning actor and producer Leonardo DiCaprio and Polish model **Ela Kawalec** were seen this Spring in and around New

York City, enjoying each other's company. Kawalec is signed to Elite Model Management in Miami, who have her listed on their website as Ella. Since July, however, DiCaprio has been seen with model Nina Agdal.



**AND BABY MAKES FOUR.** Actor **John Krasinski** and wife Emily Blunt (*Into the Woods*) celebrated their sixth anniversary, this time with two beautiful baby girls. It has been less than a month since Blunt gave birth to their second daughter, Violet.

After dabbling in military dramas with *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi*, Krasinski headed back to his comedic roots with his soon-to-be-released film *The Holders*, which he also directed.

## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OCTOBER AS POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Dear Friend of Polonia:

October is Polish American Heritage Month, a time for Americans of Polish descent to reflect on the contributions our ethnic group has made to the American way of life — from discoveries in the worlds of science and technology to accomplishments on the local high school football field.

Sadly, each generation loses a bit of its "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 in the enclosed return envelope by **September 15th**.



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