

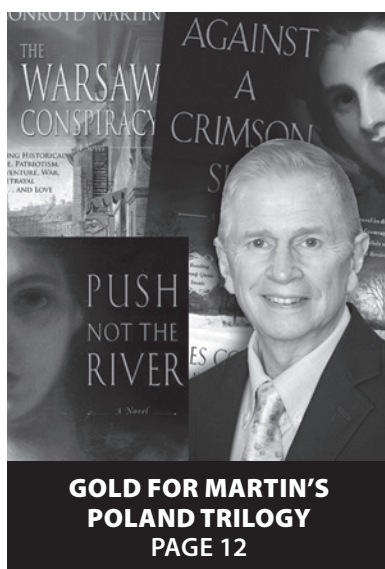
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**GOLD FOR MARTIN'S
POLAND TRILOGY**
PAGE 12

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

**SCHOLAR AND HISTORIAN DR. THADDEUS RADZIŁOWSKI PASSES • CLASS OF '18 ENTERS POLISH SPORTS HALL OF FAME
PLAV TO CELEBRATE 98TH ANNIVERSARY • CHALLENGING YAD VASHEM'S DEROGATORY AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS
PAHA ANNOUNCES ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE • LINDENS AND LIBERTY • IPA OBSERVES FIVE DECADES OF MUSIC**

Newsmark

BASE MOVE SUGGESTED. U.S. President Donald Trump recently suggested U.S. troops now stationed in Germany could be transferred to Poland. The 35,000 GIs there are a relic of the Cold War, when West Germany bordered the Iron Curtain. At present, Poland is a frontline country situated along NATO's Eastern flank. The Polish Defense Ministry recently indicated that Warsaw could offer up to \$2 billion in funding for such a permanent military presence. Predictably, Moscow reacted by saying NATO's expansion towards Russia's borders undermined stability in Europe.

GÓRAL FIRST TO SKI DOWN WORLD'S SECOND-HIGHEST MOUNTAIN. Andrzej Bargiel, 30, has become the first person to ski down the world's second-highest mountain. With skis in hand, the highlander from Zakopane climbed the 28,251-foot peak and skied back down to base camp intact. Last year, he had attempted the same daredevil feat but had to abandon the bid due to bad weather. The mountain, K2, is part of the Karakorums, which straddle the Chinese-Pakistani border. Footage of the descent made the TV news worldwide since Bargiel's brother was operating a camera-bearing drone, which filmed the event. Three years ago, Bargiel became the first skier in the world to descend from the nearby 26,295-foot Broad Peak. He has now skied from the summits of five of the 14 highest mountains.

Poland's Wanda Rutkiewicz, the first woman ever to climb Mount Everest, in 1986 became the first European female to climb K2. She died in 1992 after disappearing into an icy Himalayan crevice, never to be seen again.

HELP FOR SWEDEN'S FOREST FIRES. Poland has provided the largest single fire-fighting contingent to help battle forest fires raging out of control in Sweden. A convoy of 44 fire engines carrying 139 firemen was cheered in Sweden after driving off the ferries that had brought them across the Baltic Sea. Some held up signs saying "Thank you, Poland!" Motorists honked in gratitude at the sight of the bright-red Polish fire-service vehicles traveling cross country to the disaster sites.

The highest temperatures on record and a long-standing drought have made many of the blazes virtually extinguishable. As many as 50 separate fires raged this July in a country roughly the size of California, with woodlands covering two-thirds of its territory. Especially affected are coniferous wilderness areas in inaccessible mountainous terrain. The largely self-sufficient Polish contingent has brought its own fuel, food and medical supplies, logistic facilities and two special wildfire-fighting modules.

\$22 MILLION MUSIC CENTER PLANNED. The construction of a \$22 million International Music Centre at Żelazowa Wola, the birthplace of composer Fryderyk Chopin, is due to be completed by 2021. The design of Polish architects Stelmach & Partners, was selected from amongst 213 applicants from 18 different countries. Located about 30 miles west of Warsaw, the center will contain a 650-seat concert hall, recording studio, and rehearsal rooms, as well as conference halls and lecture rooms. The world-renowned composer was born in 1810 in a quaint little country manor now visited by throngs of tourists. Chopin piano concerts are held there daily for their benefit.

AIR FORCE GROUNDS MIG-29S AFTER CRASH. The Polish Air Force grounded its entire fleet of Soviet-made MiG-29 fighter jets after a pilot died in a northern Poland crash. Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak stated that "all flights using MiG-29 aircraft have been put on hold" pending findings by a state commission of aviation experts. Poland's Air Force fleet includes thirty-one MiG fighter jets, some of which entered service in 1989.

Although the pilot ejected from the jet in the early morning hours about 116 miles from Malbork, he was found dead not far from the wreckage. The plane had burst into flames after hitting the ground. It was part of the 22nd Tactical Air Base in northern Poland's town of Malbork.

Washington Wianki



With the Lincoln Memorial in the background, the Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, Krakowiaki Dance Group, and PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble pose on the steps of the Reflecting Pool in the nation's capital. All three groups performed classic Polish folk dances during the annual Festival of Wreaths — Wianki — a traditional and treasured part of Summer solstice observances held on St. John's Eve. *Story on page 12.*

Trump praises Poland, attacks Germany at NATO summit

Warsaw hopes to be a "keystone" between the US and EU

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Poland's current Polish administration speaks and acts as if a special Polish-U.S. relationship with America were an undeniable fact of life. The rhetoric of the ruling conservative Law and Justice party is visibly pro-American and is closer in spirit to today's Washington than to many European capitals.

Poland was favorably singled out at the latest NATO summit in Brussels by U.S. President Donald Trump who said: "There are countries like Poland that would never accept Russia's diktat. And there are countries like Germany that are totally controlled by and captives of Russia." He added that the United States was spending billions to protect Germany from Russia, while Berlin goes and pumps billions into Russia to make it richer.

Trump was referring to the controversial Russo-German Nordstream 2 pipeline, which circumvents the countries of Central-East Europe and threatens Ukraine's political and economic stability. More importantly, it is due to pipe Russian gas into the heart of Europe. On the basis of Moscow's previous dealings with its customers, that may also run the risk of potential energy blackmail.

Germany was also criticized by Trump for renegeing on its pledge of two percent GDP defense spending and

See "Special Relationship ...," page 4

Writing the Polish American Story

An Interview with Author Anthony Bukoski

by Leonard Kniffel

Anthony Bukoski was born and raised in Superior, Wisconsin, the port city where his Polish immigrant grandparents settled. After attending St. Adalbert's grade school and Superior Cathedral high school, in 1964 he joined the Marines, serving a tour in Vietnam. His stories reflect his Catholic upbringing in an ethnic neighborhood, his military experiences, and, most of all, his pride in his Polish American heritage. In April 2018, Nodin Press of Minneapolis published *Head of the Lakes: Selected Short Stories*, Bukoski's sixth book.

What is your approach to portraying Polish Americans in your fiction?

Let me respond at length to your first question. I'll be brief in answering subsequent questions. But this first one is important.

By writing short stories, I'm trying to bring attention to the role Polish Americans play in American life. For almost as long as I've been at it, my goal has been to illuminate the Polish American experience as I know it. The short-story writer Stuart Dybek and the novelists Suzanne Strempek Shea and Leslie Pietrzyk have ac-

See "Bukoski ..." page 4



Anthony Bukoski is an author and emeritus professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. He has published six short-story collections, including *Time Between Trains*, *Polonaise*, and *Children of Strangers*, and a recently released collection of his selected stories entitled *Head of the Lakes*.

Mosbacher Nomination Approved

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Donald Trump's nominee to be ambassador to Poland Georgette Mosbacher was approved by voice vote, July 12.

Mosbacher, of Florida, is president of Georgette Mosbacher Enterprises, Inc., an international business and marketing consulting firm she founded in 1992. She also sits on the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, to which President Barack Obama appointed her in 2016.

From 2001 to 2015, Mosbacher served as CEO of Borghese Inc., a global cosmetics manufacturer. Prior to that, she was CEO of La Prairie Worldwide from 1988 to 1992, and was marketing director at Fabrege from 1976 to 1980. In 1995, she founded the New York Center for Children, which assists children and families in need across New York City. She sits on the boards of the Atlantic Council, the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which supports veterans and mili-

tary families, and Business Executives for National Security.

Mosbacher also previously served as a co-chair of the Republican National Committee's Finance Committee, and was the first woman to serve as the general chairman of the Republican Governors Association. A published author, she has written two books on female empowerment.

Mosbacher earned a B.S. from Indiana University Bloomington.

Polonia Places

St. Michael's of Muskegon



by Gregory L. Witul

St. Michael Church
1716 Sixth St.
Muskegon, Michigan
Status: Open

There is no vacation like spending a week on Michigan's west coast. You can relax in a cabin, have a bonfire on the beach, or do some sailing. But when you need to take a break from nature and head into the city, the prime destination is Muskegon. And if you want to attend a Catholic Mass with a Polish flair, the place to go is St. Michael the Archangel Church.

In the early 1880s, Poles began settling along Lake Michigan's eastern shore. As they moved into Muskegon, these Catholics began to attend the Irish St. Mary's and the German St. Joseph's churches to fulfill their religious needs. As their population grew, many of the Poles from these two parishes banded together, and with the help Monsignor Casimer Skory of St. Adalbert's Parish in Grand Rapids, petitioned the bishop for a parish of their own. This group would be ministered to by Father Francis Piaskowski while they waited on the diocese for a response. On July 31, 1909 Bishop Richter declared that Saint Michael would be the patron of Muskegon's new Polish parish and assigned Reverend Andrew Narlock the role of founding pastor of the church.

FATHER NARLOCK hit the ground running, quickly raising funds and securing a building lot in six months. By 1911 there was enough money to construct a combination school and church building that would serve not only the Poles, but the Czechs, Lithuanians, Slovaks, and Ukrainians of greater Muskegon.

Having a school, teachers were needed and the Sisters of Mercy were engaged to fulfill that role. Over the next decade a rectory and convent were added to the campus; when the school began to overflow, classrooms were set up in the Polish Roman Catholic Union's Kosciuszko Hall. Eventually even this would not be enough and in the 1920s a temporary annex was added to the school.

During the 1930s, like much of the rest of America, St. Michael's Church was in tough financial straits. But while the parish struggled with debt, Father Joseph C. Plagens was able to manage it carefully, so much so that in 1941 he received permission to begin construction on a new church for St. Michael's.

On a cold and snowy February 15, 1942, Louis Frankowski, one of the oldest Polish pioneers of Muskegon, had the honor of turning over the first spade of soil for the new church. Designed by architect Edward J. Schulte, the Indiana limestone structure was built for the ages. With a carved stone St. Michael standing over the entrance, and an interior clad with St. Meinrad sandstone highlighted by works of the famed Tyrolean wood-carver Anton Lang, the church was a modern structure with ancient flair. Construction would be completed in 1943 with the consecration held on May 31, 1944.

Over the next three score years, the parish would build a new school, pay off all its debts, install a new bell and Rogers organ, and open a perpetual Adoration Chapel. Recently the parish razed the underused convent to make way for better handicap parking. And while St. Michael's no longer offers a Polish Mass, it does take part in Muskegon Polish Festival held Labor Day weekend in Downtown Muskegon's Hackley Park. If you want to polka in the park, it's the place to be.

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Cliffhanger Election in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At the annual meeting of the Washington Metro Area Division of the Polish American Congress, June 24, longtime member Thaddeus Mirecki squeaked by with 34 to 33 votes over Jacek Marczyński to be elected division president. Marczyński advocated an activist role for PAC, while Mirecki supported the Chicago-dominated status quo.

This vote was the closest in at least the last twenty years.

Mirecki's win is credited to the dozen delegates representing organizations that belong to the division.

Marczyński and other mostly younger PAC members associated with him generally beat out Mirecki-backed candidates for other offices. Marczyński and his fellow Knight of Columbus Tomasz Kolodziej were elected National Directors and will represent the di-

vision at PAC national meetings. Malgorzata Rogojska, a Marczyński ally, coasted to victory in the voting for vice president with 40 votes. Marczyński and Kolodziej were also elected vice presidents. Rising star Jacek Mamcarz, experienced activist Sławomir Korzan, Anna Kajkowska and Grzegorz Nowicki were elected to the division's board, while the only candidate supported by Mirecki to enter the board was Kathleen Bukoski.

College student Anastazja Kolodziej was elected corresponding secretary.

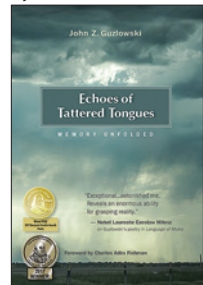
In a demonstration of unity, the division unanimously passed resolutions urging all Washington, D.C., area residents to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the restoration of Polish independence and the 40th anniversary of St. John Paul II's election as Pope.

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ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES
by John Guzowski

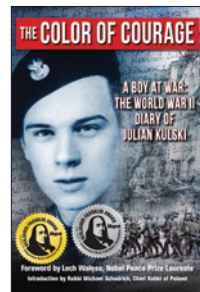
\$21.95
Item 2-667
hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches
200 pp.
Aquila Polonica / Language: English

Guzowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war in these straightforward, gut-wrenching narrative lyric poems. These snapshots of Nazi German rule illustrate that hardship didn't end with German surrender; the aftershocks radiated through successive generations. "Guzowski's simple language highlights the violence without offering any comment or consolation." — Publishers Weekly.

\$19.95

When Katrina Shawver met the eighty-five-year-old Henry Zguda, he possessed an exceptional memory, a surprising cache of original documents and photos, and a knack for meeting the right people at the right time. He relates in his own voice a life as a champion swimmer, interrupted by three years imprisoned in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Henry's path of resiliency and power of connection are as relevant today as they were in World War II.

THE COLOR OF COURAGE



by Julian E. Kulski
\$19.95
Item 2-674
Aquila Polonica
Publ., 2012, pb.
496 pp., 6" x 9"

"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. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

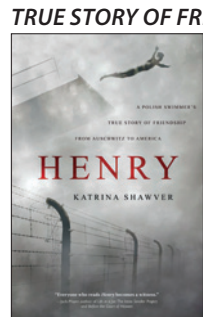
THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER



by Witold Pilecki
\$34.95
Item 2-673
Aquila Polonica
Publ., 2014
460 pp., pb. / 6x9 in.

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. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."

HENRY. A POLISH SWIMMER'S TRUE STORY OF FRIENDSHIP FROM



AUSCHWITZ TO AMERICA
by Katrina Shawver
\$19.95
Item 2-678
Koehler Books, 2017
pb., 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches
324 pp.



TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND
by Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz
\$19.95
Item 2-604
183 pp., pb.
A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-

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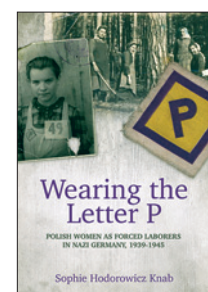
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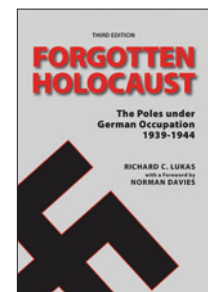
old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This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



WEARING THE LETTER "P"
POLISH WOMEN AS FORCED LABORERS IN NAZI GERMANY, 1939-1945
by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
\$19.95

Item 2-642
pb. 304 pages
6 x 9 inches

An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation — all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: THE POLES UNDER GERMAN OCCUPATION, 1939-45. THIRD EDITION
\$19.95
Item 2-647
358 PP. PB.

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. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

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“Special relationship” is debatable

continued from cover

is earmarking only 1.5 percent for that purpose. Poland has achieved the 2 percent mark and is planning to increase military spending 2.5 percent over the next few years. The United States spends 3.5 percent GDP on defense and bankrolls three-fourths of NATO's budget.

An anti-American thread seems to run through much of the West European establishment. It displayed a skeptical attitude towards Trump's meeting with North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un. And strong opposition has been triggered by Trump's withdrawal from his nuclear deal with Iran and by his custom duties on European steel and aluminium.

“With friends like that, who needs enemies?” said European Council chief Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister.

But, when asked to comment on the situation, Polish President Andrzej Duda preferred to rise above divisive current issues. “From a Polish perspective, the most important is to keep Euro-Atlantic bonds in good condition.” In fact, Warsaw has indicated its willingness to serve as a keystone connecting Europe and America.

POLISH PRO-AMERICANISM goes back at least to President Woodrow Wilson's demand for a free Poland during World War I. More recently, it was reflected during the U.S.-led Operation Iraqi Freedom to which Poland ea-

gerly contributed troops. Being ridiculed as “America's Trojan Jackass” by some West Europeans didn't seem to faze most Poles.

FDR was said to have sold Poland to Stalin at Yalta, but many realized that the ailing and failing U.S. chief executive already had one foot in the grave at the time. Older Poles prefer to remember the U.S.-funded Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, the CARE packages and the people-to-people contacts which gave Poles hope during their 45-year communist nightmare.

A year ago, tens of thousands of Poles heard Trump describe their country in the most glowing of terms at Warsaw's Krasicki Square. He publicly praised Poland and the Polish people for their patriotism and courage, their fidelity to God, country, and family, as well as their willingness to fight and sacrifice “for your freedom and ours.” The American president's views were entirely in sync with the values of the now ruling Law and Justice government.

WHETHER ALL THAT QUALIFIES as a “special relationship” is debatable. But the fact remains that for the Polish nation, America has always been a special case, often the sole beacon of hope, inspiration and consolation amid alien threats. For 45 years, it was ideologically alien communism. Now it is “post-communism,” as many Poles refer to the pro-globalist, liberal opposition.

Polish American Cultural Center Celebrates 30th

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish American Cultural Center was founded in February, 1981 at 24th & Brown Streets in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia. As time passed, it became evident that a larger, more central facility would be necessary to meet the long-range mission and goals of the Cultural Center.

In 1987, the Center moved to 308 Walnut Street in the heart of historic Philadelphia. The Museum's Exhibit Hall there opened on August 9, 1988. Since that time, the Exhibit Hall has been open to the general public 300 days each year and

is a focal point of highlighting Polish heritage to tourists from across America and around the world.

The mission of the Center's Museum is to capture and memorialize the spirit of an ethnic culture and to promote public awareness and appreciation of Polish history and cultural heritage to the broadest audience possible. Its objective is to provide programs and exhibits

open to the general public featuring the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans to the United States, and world history and culture in such areas as scientific, artistic, musical,



The Museum's Exhibit Hall is a focal point of highlighting Polish heritage to tourists from across America and around the world.

political, religious and military achievement.

The Center will mark its 30th Anniversary on Thurs., August 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. The event is open to all. Following the ceremony refreshments will be served.

For additional information call the Museum during regular business hours at (215) 922-1700, or visit its website at PolishAmericanCenter.com.

Bukoski. “I've tried to write about Polish Americans—both the good ones and the bad ...”

continued from cover

complished more than I have in this way. Others are adding to a Polish American literature written in English. This is important for Polish American authors to do, for we are routinely kept out of the major literature anthologies and are generally not mentioned in multicultural reference books. We have to make our way the best we can.

When I taught at the University of Wisconsin/Superior, I asked a fellow teacher why virtually no attention in American college and university courses is paid to Polish Americans. “Arrogance and ignorance,” he said, meaning that university teachers, many of them “diversity” specialists (at least in their own minds), don't see our story as either important or compelling enough to merit discussion. I approach what I do in order to tell readers about our ancestors and to inform these readers about a present where Polish names, food, music, and customs appear, though usually after the characters in the stories have largely been assimilated into American culture.

Tom Napierkowski, a great promoter of Polish American interests and a professor at the University of Colorado/Colorado Springs, once told me, “In the 1960s when it wasn't popular to be an ethnic, Polish Americans were ethnics. Today when it's cool to be an ethnic, suddenly we're no longer considered ethnics. How does this work?” Indeed, how does this work?

No matter how difficult the attempt sometimes seems, fiction and nonfiction writers, and poets like John Minzeski, Linda Nemecek Foster, and others keep writing the Polish American story. In thinking of these other writers' determination, I'm reminded of the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Fraternal Aid Society in my hometown. I'm a former president of what most people here call the “Polish Club.” Our members are getting old. Yet on the first Thursday of each month, we go to the Club for our meeting. The sergeant-at-arms puts up the U.S. and Polish flags. Then the meeting begins with a prayer the way it has for ninety years. Just like my worthy lodge brothers, Polish American writers appear determined to keep going.

In his essay “Growing up Polack,” John Guzowski, the poet, describes his dogged persistence. “Even if the world doesn't want to read what I write, I feel that I have to write about my parents' lives ... I have to tell the stories they would write themselves if they could.” I think a lot of us feel this way.

Thank you for letting me say all of this. Now I can be more specific about my approach to writing about Polish Americans. My own stories, my own remembering, centers on the Polonia of northwestern Wisconsin,

though I try to make the characters' concerns universal. The people I write about are noble, brave, industrious, worshipful. They attend mass. They respect the nuns and priests. But they sin. I learned long ago that if every story I wrote was about a humane, moral, upstanding community member, the stories would grow boring. There are kind and good people in the stories. But there are the sinners, though their failings aren't really so terrible. In “Holy Walker,” from the book *Time Between Trains* (2003), for instance, vanity and pride overcome Pani Pilsudski in the days before she's to lead the rosary at Rosary Sodality. In “Bird of Passage” from *Polonaise* (1999), a lonely widower calls the “Erotyczny” fantasy line listed in the back pages of one of Chicago's Polish newspapers. These and other sinners, if you could call them that, are eventually “punished” for their shortcomings, so that good usually triumphs in the stories.

Anyway, for something like thirty-six years, I've tried to write about Polish Americans—both the good ones and the bad—and to do so in the best way I can.

Your stories have gotten very good reviews. How does that make you feel?

Naturally, I'm delighted. The books have been reviewed in *Publisher's Weekly*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *The New York Times Book Review*, a lot of places. The reviews validate for me all of the years I've spent trying to learn to write. More important, in bringing attention to Polish Americans, the reviews inform readers that we exist in literature, that we are here. The reviews, I hope, encourage readers to look up the work of other Polish American writers, so there's that potential benefit as well.

In your new collection of stories, the pieces have been selected from your earlier books. How did you and your publisher choose which to include?

For the most part, I chose the stories. I wanted *Head of the Lakes* to be a Catholic book, a Polish American book, a Great Lakes book, and a neighborhood book. A few of the stories maybe don't fit so well. Perhaps I could have chosen better. I don't know.

What has surprised you most about the response to your work, either from readers or from listeners when you give a reading or talk?

Occasionally, a kind-hearted reader will call or email me after reading a book. The most recent letter I got in the mail came from a person in Milwaukee asking politely about a Polish word I'd used in *Time Between Trains*.

At readings, audience members are generally supportive. This is not always so, of course. People of Polish descent can be blunt

in their reaction to what I've written when my view of Polish Americans doesn't conform to theirs. One night at the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) museum in Minneapolis, I was giving a reading. As I walked in, the first words I heard were “You sure write strange stories.”

I agree; however, I also write uplifting and life-affirming stories. Consider the scene in “River of the Flowering Banks” from *Children of Strangers* (1996), where Father Nowak, a central figure in the stories—as he was a central figure at St. Adalbert's parish in Superior and in my life—appears in a gold chasuble, the sun glinting off of it. For a moment, the two boys in the story think Christ has come to them. In a way, He has. “The Wand of Youth” from *North of the Port* (2008) ends when a woman, worried about her daughter Janina's health, prays to the Black Madonna of Częstochowa. In the lilac-scented house of spring, Chopin plays on the phonograph. Finally, as the night wears on, the wife's patient husband calls from upstairs, “Let the phonograph shut off by itself now and you can listen in the moonlight upstairs.” Both moral and immoral characters inhabit the stories I write. Had she read a little more, the PACIM member in Minneapolis would have known this.

After a reading last November at the Chopin Theatre in Chicago, an audience member discreetly chided me afterwards for describing a Polish cavalry charge in World War II. More recently at a reading in a Minneapolis bookstore, a man kept asking my opinion of the Polish government making it a crime to blame Poles for the Holocaust. As I say, though, most people are courteous. The event's director at the Minneapolis bookstore said during the question-and-answer period that she is half-Polish, but that she's never thought much about it. Later, in a blog post, the young woman wrote that she was grateful to me for the reading and grateful to me for writing about American Poles. Up till then, her knowledge of Polish people had begun and ended with Stanley Kowalski, the brutish character in Tennessee Williams's play *A Streetcar Named Desire*. “And this,” she wrote, “is a shame.”

You speak through so many voices in your stories, yet I sense a thread of the author's voice.

You're right. Each story has an autobiographical element, even the one about the woman who rusts to death. In *Head of the Lakes*, the story is called “Rain, Fog, A Harbor City.” Clearly, I don't know anyone who's succumbed to oxidation. But I've lived many years in a city where railroad tracks, ore docks, just about everything is rusting and decaying.

Regarding the autobiographical element, many aspects of my life appear in the sto-

ries. My father worked in the flour mill. He was also once a seaman on the Great Lakes, something I wrote about years ago for *PAJ* in a short essay called “You Should See Buffalo.” My mother played the violin and adored Paderewski, my sister played Chopin on the piano, my father played Frankie Yankovic on the accordion. I joined the Marines. I lived in the East End of Superior. St. Adalbert's school has been razed. So, too, has our church. Father Nowak died long ago. His golden chasuble is gone. I hope this neighborhood lives on in the books I've written. I hope people know that once there was a Polish presence in Superior. I hope they know there is (someday they'll say “there was”) a Polish Club here.

How has Catholicism influenced your writing?

In some way, all of the stories concern sin and redemption. My hometown is a remote place—often cold and bleak. I like to imagine the early winter darkness as a metaphor suggesting how distant my characters are from the light of heaven. Their earthly struggle is often worth it. In “The Shadow Players” from *Head of the Lakes*, a young man makes silhouettes on the wall of his dying father's room. One shadow he attempts, but fails, to make is of the icon of the Black Madonna. It doesn't matter, for the father, as he nears death, sees the Madonna enter the room without the necessity of having his son make her out of shadows.

I might add that I've written stories about Polish Jews and Polish Catholics. By the way, I told this to my interrogator during the Minneapolis bookstore reading. One of the stories, “Time Between Trains,” appears in *Head of the Lakes*. The actor Liev Schreiber read the story to a live audience in New York City. When his reading aired on National Public Radio, something neat occurred. A UW/Superior alumnus, hearing the story on NPR in Buffalo, wrote to me, and we've corresponded ever since. Imagine it, a story on NPR about a Polish American neighborhood in Superior, Wisconsin.

What advice would you give to aspiring writers?

Listen to your teachers and critics. Stake out a territory of your own. Write about it as precisely as you can. Put your work away, then return to it when enough time has passed that you can see the work more clearly than when you wrote it. If you want to write, don't give up, ever, and I promise you I won't.

This interview was conducted in June 2018 by Leonard Kniffel, author and member of the board of directors of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

Religion

Court Disallows Agency Fees

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

A recent Supreme Court decision sided with the non-union government worker in his suit not to be forced to pay agency fees to AFSCME, the public-sector union that bargains for all workers, union members or not. **Bishop DeWayne**, speaking for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed disappointment with the Supreme Court in this anti-union decision. He said the Church has traditionally supported the union movement in the U.S. Springfield, Ill.'s **RC Bishop Thomas Paprocki** disagreed with Bishop DeWayne and noted that the free-speech arguments outweighed the "fair share for collective bargaining" position of the union. While support for unions goes back to **Pope Leo XIII's** encyclical "Rerum Novarum," Paprocki explained that material advantages and gain do not override morality and the duties of religion. In this case, Bishop Paprocki called attention to AFSME policy to "oppose legislation that restricts a woman's basic right to health care and reproductive rights," by which they mean abortion. He declared that "forcing public employees to subsidize unions that promote such immoral policies and activities is just not right" and he stated that AFSCME and two other unions contributed \$435,000 to Planned Parenthood in 2014, the nation's biggest abortion provider.

APOSTOLIC VISITOR OF SPIRITUAL CARE IN MEDJUGORJE APPOINTED.

Archbishop emeritus Henryk Hoser, of Warszawa-Praga, was tapped as the pope's special envoy to study the pastoral situation of Medjugorje in Feb 2017. He is now named an apostolic visitor to the site with an "exclusively pastoral" role, to see to the pastoral situation at the shrine and to assure a stable and continuous accompaniment of the parish community and pilgrims in Medjugorje. The Franciscans at the parish-shrine have long been at odds with the local bishop over the validity of the apparitions of Mary and the shrine's activities. The Yugoslav bishops in 1991 declared that it is not possible to state that there were apparitions or supernatural revelations at the shrine. Pope Benedict XVI established a commission to study the topic in further detail. A final report has yet to be submitted to the pope. The newly appointed envoy Archbishop Hoser declared that there were many genuine expressions of faith at the site as well as many vocations. The authenticity of the apparitions, on the other hand has not been determined. He distinguished between two sets of apparitions. "The first apparitions, which were to children, the repost more or less says that these need to continue being studied," he said. As for "the presumed current apparitions, the report has its doubts." He went on to say, "I personally am more suspicious, I prefer the Madonna as Mother, our Mother, and not a woman who's the head of an office, who every day sends a message at a certain hour. This is not the Mother of Jesus. And these presumed apparitions don't have a lot of value." While saying this as his personal opinion, he added that the Madonna does not function by saying, "Come tomorrow at this time, and I will give a message to those people."



TENTH ANNUAL MASS IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA. The combined choirs of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and the Karuzela Chorus (above) under the direction of Dr. Neil Stahurski, will sing at a Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Częstochowa.

PITTSBURGH — On Monday, August 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in honor of Our Lady of Częstochowa will be celebrated at Saint Paul's Cathedral. At this special mass, His Excellency, the Most Reverend David A. Zubik, bishop of Pittsburgh, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

This Marian celebration in honor of Our Lady of Częstochowa is an opportunity for the Polish community of Western Pennsylvania to express their devotion to their Patroness as well as their pride in their Polish heritage. Hundreds of faithful participate in this moving event each year. Many songs and readings during the mass will be in the Polish language. Singing will be led by the combined choirs of Immaculate Heart of

Mary Parish and the Karuzela Chorus under the direction of Dr. Neil Stahurski.

The mass will be broadcast on Christian Associates TV, available locally through Comcast and Xfinity on Demand, and via free online streaming at www.christianassociatestv.org.

This event is sponsored by the Polish Falcons of America, www.polishfalcons.org, the Polish Falcon Heritage Foundation www.polishheritage.org and the Polish Clergy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Saint Paul's Cathedral is located at 108 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2608, phone: (412) 621-4951, info@saintpaulcathedral.org



NAMED HONORARY ALUMNI. Very Reverend Cannon Mirosław Król, chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools, Jacqueline Jadwiga Kolowski, Buddy Clouse, Dale Massy, and Mary Karas were named honorary alumni of Class of 2018 the Orchard Lake Schools. The presentation was made June 9, 2018. Pictured are Very Rev. Król, Kolowski, and Clouse.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANONIZATION CELEBRATED.

A more solemn Mass was celebrated in Warsaw on the 70th anniversary of the canonization of **St. Andrew Bobola, S.J.** A promoter of the reunification of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, during the period of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, he was brutally martyred by Cossaks on May 16, 1657 in Janów Poleski. The evening Mass, at the national sanctuary in Warsaw adjacent to the Pontifical Faculty of Theology at 61 Rakowiecka St., was celebrated by the apostolic nuncio to Poland **Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio**, **Bishop Wiesław Lechowicz**, president of the Polish Bishops' Commission for Polish diaspora and Poles abroad, and **Piotr Jarecki**, auxiliary bishop of Warsaw Archdiocese. The homily was delivered by **Bishop Piotr Libera**, Bishop of Płock.

Fr. Mark Bartosic, pastor of Chicago's Blessed Virgin Mary Church and director and chaplain of the Kolbe House, Cook County Jail. He was named by Pope Francis as an auxiliary bishop in the archdiocese of Chicago.

Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, Almoner to **Pope Francis**, on his elevation to Cardinal. Traditionally, newly elevated cardinals have elegant and exclusive receptions in reception rooms of the papal palace for their families, friends and associates. Konrad Cardinal Krajewski instead had a celebratory meal in the dining room for Holy See employees. In addition to 40 of his family and Polish friends, the new cardinal invited some 250 poor people to the celebration, served by volunteers who work with him at the Office of Papal Charities, deacons, and Sisters of Mother Teresa. The pope surprised the participants when he arrived to dine with them.

Recently appointed pastors in the RC Diocese of Buffalo: **Fr. Peter J. Karalus**, reappointed at St. John Paul II Parish, Lakeview, N.Y.; **Fr.**

from the Adult Education Division of the Buffalo Public Schools. Her center provides a food pantry, food stamp assistance, school supplies, health care advocacy, job counseling, as well as high school equivalency diploma preparation, English as a second language, and computer skills to the underserved neighborhood.

Jacek P. Mazur, reappointed at Divine Mercy Parish and St. Mary of the Cataract, Niagara Falls, N.Y. (Fr. Mazur is a regular commentator and host on the Station of the Cross Catholic radio); **Fr. Michael Czyzewski, OSPPE**, (a Pauline father from Poland) appointed to Corpus Christ Parish, Buffalo, N.Y.

Larry Szrama on being awarded the "Generous Giving Award" for his generous support of Buffalo's Response to Love Center. He is president of Landies Candies, and he provided chocolates for each table at the annual Benefit of Love Fundraiser at which he received the award.

Fr. Chris Kanowitz honored by the Knights of Columbus in their magazine. Fr. Kanowitz's father is Jewish Polish and his mother is

Philippine. He serves the RC Diocese of Reno, Nevada.

Bishop Milan Lach, S.J. a native of Slovakia on his appointment as bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, Ohio (Ruthenian).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Jubilarians of the RC Diocese of Buffalo: (60 years) **Fr. George Maj, SAC** (recently deceased), **Fr. Walter Matuszak, Rev. Msgr. Daniel J. Myszkowski**; (55 years) **Fr. Matthew S. Kopacz, Fr. James M. Augustyn**; (50 years) **Fr. Richard A. Jesionowski, Fr. Nicholas Swiatek OFM Conv**; (1 year) **Fr. Cole Webster**. In addition to serving parishes in Pennsylvania and New York, he served 25 years in Japan.

Modlitwy

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

THANKSGIVING PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN. O Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily give you the just dues of praise and thanksgiving, you who by the wondrous assent of your will rescued a fallen world? What songs of praise can our weak human nature recite in your honor, since it is by your intervention alone that it has found the way to restoration? Accept, then, such poor thanks as we have to offer here, though they be unequal to your merit; and, receiving our vows, obtain by your prayers the remission of our offenses. Carry our prayers within the sanctuary of the heavenly audience and bring forth the gift of our reconciliation. Take our offering, grant us our requests, obtain pardon for what we fear, for you are the sole hope of sinners. Holy Mary, help the miserable, strengthen the fainthearted, comfort the sorrowful, pray for your people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God. Be ever ready to assist us when we pray and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it your continual care to pray for the people of God, you who, blessed by God, merited to bear the Redeemer of the world who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen. J.K.

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Polish Dancers Celebrate Wianki in Washington

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Legend: “Na Swiety Jan woda kwitnie” — “On St. John’s night the water blooms.” Jan Kochanowski, 16th century Polish Renaissance poet, wrote “Let us this evening celebrate with all its old accustomed state, with joyous melody and song.” And his sage advice was fully and enthusiastically adhered to here on the evening of June 23, 2018 on the plaza at the western end of the National Mall’s Reflection Pool. The annual event was organized by the

Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C. The Brothers-in-Law Band provided musical interludes to entertain the audience.

Polish folklore has it that on St. John’s Eve maidens weave wreaths — wianki — consisting of vines, ferns, flowers, etc., and then cast them adrift candlelit along a lake, stream or river in the hope that it will be discovered by the lucky man will fall in love with the maiden and become her husband. A wianki workshop was set up here on a large tarp with all the necessary greens and flowers. The maidens and attendees

were welcomed to weave their own wreaths in the form of a traditional headdress to be worn during the celebration and ceremonies. Participating maidens were also provided with a traditional white flowing robe to wear. The score-and-more of Polish and multi-ethnic maidens, wearing their wreaths, later processioned down to the waters of the Reflection Pool and participated merrymaking and group dancing before doffing their wreaths and simulating casting them adrift in the water.

Three Polish folklore dance troupes, being 40-strong, performed

during the three hour long evening celebration: Ojczyzna Polish Dancers and Krakowiaki Dance Group (youths) — both from Baltimore, Md., and PKM Polish Folk Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia. They, at different times, performed dances from the different regions of Poland, while sporting authentic and lavishly decorated costumes — all to the delight of the sizable audience. The singing of Polish folk tunes was showcased by Ojczyzna and was also much enjoyed by all. The combined folk dancers ended the evening on a very high note by

leading scores of crash-coursed and very eager spectators who pranced and twisted around the plaza in a very credible Grand Polonaise, contributing much to the magic and enjoyment of Wianki, as well as to the appreciation Poland’s customs and culture.

Despite intermittent rain showers, it was still a very enjoyable Wianki evening in Washington; attendees could be content in the knowledge that many similar celebrations were taking place in Poland during this joyful time of St. John’s Night.

Obituaries

Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, Historian and Co-Founder of Piast Institute

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, 80, an award-winning historian, whose work focused on Poland and other Central and Eastern European nations, including Russia, passed away July 20, 2018.

He wrote extensively on histories of these regions as well as the migration of peoples from Central and Eastern Europe, with special emphasis on Social history and historiography. He lectured widely in Europe and North America and published

more than 100 monographs, edited collections, journal articles, book chapters and scholarly papers.

In 1999, the President of Poland presented Dr. Radzilowski with the Cavaliers Cross of the Polish Order of Merit for distinguished contributions to the dissemination of Polish culture in the world.

In 2003, Dr. Radzilowski co-founded the Piast Institute with Virginia Skrzyziarz. It quickly became the largest Polish-American think tank in the United States. As president of Piast, Dr. Radzilowski focused the organization as a major research center, one of U.S. Census Information Centers, and as a representative of Poland and Polish-Americans in the United States, with worldwide network of accomplished fellows. Under his leadership, the Institute produced position papers, school curricula, research reports, conducted surveys, organized conferences and exhibits, and was very in-

involved in the life of American Polonia.

Prior to co-founding the Piast Institute, Dr. Radzilowski taught at University of Michigan, Madonna University, Heidelberg College and Southwest Minnesota State University, where he served as Chair of the department of history, director of the Regional History Center, director of Rural studies and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. He also served as the acting director of the Immigration Research Center of the University of Minnesota, co-directed special program on international business at the WU Vienna University of Economics and Business and chaired an International Conference on Migration at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. He served as President of St. Mary College from 1995-2003.

Dr. Radzilowski also served as an advisor and consultant to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and U.S. Bureau of the Census and was a member of the Ford Foundation Commission on Ethnicity on American Life. He was the National Endowment for the Humanities’ liaison to ethnic and community groups in the United States, a consultant for the New Jersey Department of Education and numerous other local and state government boards on ethnicity and pluralism. He had also written, produced, consulted and advised on a number of radio and television productions, including award-winning films created in conjunction with organizations such as PBS and A&E. Dr. Radzilowski received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan. He was a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In addition to his contributions to preserving Polish heritage in the U.S., Dr. Radzilowski was an American patriot, a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who served his country in Vietnam.

Dr. Radzilowski is survived by his wife, Kathleen, three sons, John, Paul, and Stefan, grandchildren Radek and Diana, sisters Fran and Cynthia, and brothers, Norbert and Fred.



Business Leader Richard Felix Mazur

Richard Felix Mazur died July 3, 2018. He was 86 years old, and was born April 10, 1932 in Hamtramck, Mich. to Felix and Mary Mazur.

Mazur spoke only Polish until the age of five, and when his parents tried to mainstream him into American public school, he couldn’t communicate. So it was parochial school for the first few years, where he honed speaking and writing skills with the help of librarians, to whom he read on a daily basis. That, and his success at Cass Technical High School, and then at U of M, taught him absolutely the value of education.

Mazur’s success is no doubt the result of a shrewd business sense—at one time he owned banks and insurance companies along with more than sixty franchises, including forty McDonald’s and 18 Ponderosas. He credited the philosophies of his Polish American parents and Polish immigrant grandparents. At the core of

his empire is a very simple, very humble notion: hard work, respect for others, and determination.

Mazur served during the Korean War working in military intelligence.

Mazur had many different talents and interests, and lived his life to the fullest. He utilized his people and analytical skills throughout his career, founding and running various companies in the insurance industry and commercial and residential real estate. He always had an active, entrepreneurial spirit. Mazur loved music throughout his life, and was an accomplished musician in his younger years. The trumpet was the instrument he excelled at most. He also enjoyed skiing, hunting, and playing racquet ball.

Memorial tributes can be made to Capuchin Monastery and Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, 29575 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, MI 48334.

Tony Krupski, Leader of Krew Brother Band

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Anthony “Tony Krew” B. Krupski, 76, originator of the “Krew Brothers” band, and an accordionist who entertained throughout Western New York for over 60 years, died July 1, 2018.

Born in Buffalo, Krupski grew up in Cheektowaga and was a 1959 graduate of Sloan High School. He earned an associate’s degree in engineering technology from Erie Community College North in 1961 and served for six years in the Army National Guard.

He was a stationary engineer at the former Good Shepherd Home from 1963 to 1977 then became maintenance supervisor after it became a state facility, retiring in 1999. He also was a stationary engineer for the Rich Products Corp. from 1969 to 1985.

Krupski was the oldest member of the Krew Brothers, seven brothers who performed together for over 20 years before starting bands of their own. In 1967, the five-member orchestra was made up of leader Tony (accordion) with brothers Dennis (trumpet), Allen (bass), Gary (sax/clarinet) and Don (drums). Their ages ranged from fifteen to twenty-seven. Brother Ken replaced Don on their third album, while Ricky Krupski replaced Gary on their fourth and final recording.

In addition to solo and combo performances at area nursing homes, restaurants and lounges, he could be found strolling the Broadway Market, Central Terminal, and other Polish American landmarks during the holidays.

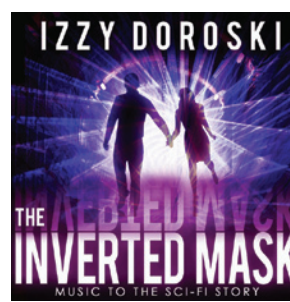
Sister M. Dolorine Piwowarski, 100

CHICAGO — Sister M. Dolorine Piwowarski of the Franciscan Sisters, died May 10, 2018. Born Sophie Piwowarski in Cleveland, Ohio on March 29, 1918, she entered the novitiate on August 15, 1933 and received the name Sister Mary Dolorine.

Sister gave 57 years of service in the field of education at a variety of places: twice at St. Mary in Hammond, Ind.; St. Adalbert in East St. Louis, Ill.; St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr in Chicago; St. Casmir in Cleveland; St. Joseph the Provider in Campbell, Ohio; and St. Leo the

Great in Cleveland. While at the various schools, Sister was also a sacristan, principal, assistant principal, CCD coordinator, Eucharistic Minister, local secretary, local treasurer and local minister. While she was teaching, she completed a Bachelor of Science in Education degree at De Paul University in Chicago.

At Mount Alverna Home in Parma, Ohio she served in the dietary department first as a dietary clerical aide and then as a dietary office aide. As her health began to decline Sister became a resident at the home.



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Happenings: Chicago Style

Seventh Grader Wins National Science Prize



Emilia Dobek accepting award.



Czesława Kolak



Województwo Podlasie Way

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — **Emilia Dobek**, 13, has been interested in the universe and space exploration since third grade. She and her dad watched last year's total lunar eclipse from the roof of their home in Skokie, Illinois. The red moon of that event fascinated her and launched her scientific passion.

As a seventh grader, the child of Polish immigrants, and a student at Skokie's East Prairie Elementary School, Emilia recently won the national Discovery Education Lockheed-Martin Beyond Challenge by designing a space station for traveling to Mars. She received her award at the Smithsonian Aerospace Museum in Washington, D.C. Emilia was among 400 applicants accepting this challenge. She received a \$10,000 prize and a trip with her parents to a behind-the-scenes tour of Cape Canaveral. Her school received a 3-D printer.

Dobek competed by submitting a two-minute video where she presented her design. "My design will ensure the safety of the astronauts but also make sure their comfort is out of this world," she says on her video. Her design calls for building the Mars Storage Station (MSS) to accommodate the need for abundant supplies. "The MSS will be in the sun's gravitational pull," she

says. "In order to maintain the orbit around the sun, an object must be going at the same speed it is being pulled toward the sun, in this case, 60,489.5 miles per hour."

In the video, Dobek also explains how her spacecraft, the Adventurer, will be powered by hydrogen fuel, that she knows is "the most abundant element in the universe." It will achieve the necessary speed and then dock into a space station before flying to the MSS to replenish supplies. She explains that a crewless cargo ship will drop off those needed supplies, such as oxygen, beforehand. Her design also includes a self-growing farm and physical and leisure activities for the astronauts.

Emilia's other interests include photography, gardening, playing musical instruments, learning taekwondo, and reading Harry Potter books. What will she do with her \$10,000 prize? She plans to save it for college, or for getting an airplane pilot's license.

POLISH CLUB HONORS KOLAK.

Through a Facebook initiative by Kinga Korpacz, a graduate of Edwin G. Foreman High School, a Northwest Side Chicago Public School, a group of approximately 50 Polish graduates gathered on June 16 for a first-time reunion, at the Lone Tree Manor in Niles, Ill. The gathering was to pay tribute to **Czesława**

Kolak, who organized the school's English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) program and founded its Polish Club. "I hope that these reunions will be held every year and in growing numbers," said Kolak, who began teaching at Foreman in 1983. Within two years, she established the school's Polish Club.

In conjunction with the Chicago Public Schools administration, she helped to create an ESL program to help young Poles being educated in the American school. The program brought in certified Polish-speaking teachers who not only taught the students English, but also lectured some subjects in Polish. In this way, the students did not fall behind their English-speaking classmates, learned all the required subject matter, and, at the same time, mastered the English language.

Korpacz indicated that graduate Robert Radkowski, vice president of the Polish & Slavic Credit Union, contacted a group of former students from a list of about 1,000. For this first reunion only graduates from 1991-1996 were invited.

Kolak mentioned that during her time at Foreman (1983-2012), the program inspired many young adults to achieve a college education. Many became educators, lawyers, nurses, doctors, engineers, restaurateurs, and financiers. The guests of honor also included Foreman teachers Bożena Jedlińska and Danuta Stapor who shared their fond memories of Foreman.

Kolak thanked those who organized this first official reunion and those who attended. Along with Korpacz and Radkowski, graduate Tomasz Wojdyły and his wife, owners of the Lone Tree Manor, along with other former graduates Urszula Lewandowska-Rybak, Aneta Branas, Agata Królicka, and Beata Sterliński helped to make this event a success.

Foreman's Polish Club was a success during Kolak's tenure. She organized nearly 20 trips to Washington, D.C., that allowed her students to visit Congress and the White House, and to meet various elected officials. She also made sure that students, their parents, and their teachers participated in many school and club events that involved holidays and special anniversaries in customary Polish style.

WOJEWÓDZTWO PODLASIE WAY.

On the Sunday afternoon of June 3, after **Father Tadeusz Dzieszko** celebrated mass at St. Constance Church, those who attended gathered outside. Accompanied by police cars with energy lights flashing and sirens turned on, vehicles from Polonia motor clubs travelled via motorcade to the intersection of Cumberland and Belmont Avenues in River Grove, Ill., where they were met with

scores of Polish flags fluttering in the wind. The street celebration was highlighted by music by the band, Juhasi.

The Voivodeship Podlasie Provincial Marshal, head of this provincial government, **Jerzy Leszczynski** came from Poland to participate in the naming of this intersection,



(l. to r.): Historians Daniel Pogorzelski, Andrew Schneider, Jacob Kaplan, and Ward Miller.

"Województwo Podlasie" or Podlasie Way. **Michał Podbielski**, director of departmental promotion for Radio 103.1 FM, was with him.

Local politicians and representatives of the Polish community joined in the procession. They included Polish Vice Consul, **Piotr Semeniuk**, River Grove Mayor **David B. Guerin**, Chicago councilmen **John Arena** of the 45th Ward and **Ariel Reboyras** of the 30th Ward, Mayor **Barrett F. Pedersen** of Franklin Park, Mayor **Nick Caiafa** of Schiller Park, **Marian Grabowski**, vice president of the Polish National Alliance, and representatives of the Białystok Voivodeship Club which is part of the Alliance of Polish Clubs.

Fr. Dzieszko welcomed the crowd and led Sunday celebrations when the honorary name of the Belmont and Cumberland intersection was unveiled. Mayor David R. Guerin, compared River Grove's ethnic diversity to the symbol of the Podlasie Region, a colorful bison, and stressed that this is the first such initiative in this town. Marshal Jerzy Leszczynski of the Podlasie Region in northeastern Poland thanked **Bogdan Dola** for his efforts of obtaining the honorary street naming.

The intersection of Cumberland and Belmont becomes another Polish influence on the Chicago suburban map, where Polish street names intertwine with American ones in one of the largest Polish population centers outside of Poland. The granting of an honorary street name does not, however, involve any administrative or legal change.

AUTHORS PUBLISH "LOGAN SQUARE." Four local Chicago neighborhood historians got together

to create a special book — "Logan Square, Images of America." After a two-year collaboration, the authors, **Ward Miller**, executive director of Preservation Chicago; **Andrew Schneider**, president of Logan Square Preservation; **Jacob Kaplan**, co-founder and editor of Forgotten Chicago; and **Daniel**

Pogorzelski, vice-president of the Northwest Chicago Historical Society, combined their knowledge and interests to write perhaps the best publication about Chicago's unique Logan Square neighborhood. There have been many books published about Logan Square, but these authors added an amazing collection of photographs from various periods of Chicago history. Edward R. Kantowicz of Canada's Carleton University wrote the introduction.

The Logan Square community, historically an important destination for Polish immigrants, is located on Chicago's Northwest Side. The area is characterized by lovely expansive boulevards, stately greystones, and large bungalow-style homes. Neighborhoods constantly change in their ethnic makeup. Today, representatives from different nationalities comprise the neighborhood. Germans, Scandinavians, Poles, and Hispanics, along with immigrants from the Caribbean, Africa, and Russia, form the cultural diversity of Logan Square.

In 2014 Jacob Kaplan and Daniel Pogorzelski co-authored "Avondale and Chicago's Polish, Images of America." Pogorzelski was asked if another book is in the future. He replied, "We have an eye on Humboldt Park, Belmont-Cragin, Jefferson Park."

TAX DEDUCTION. We ask our readers to consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. It is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for the promotion of Polish American culture. Learn more by turning to page 9 in this month's edition.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1978, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled "We Love the PAJ Press Fund" in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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Minnesota Voice

In Brief

Lindens and Liberty

Poles, Slovaks and Czechs share love of a tree rooted in myth

by Mark Dillon

Linden trees have a special place in Polish history, and a global effort to recognize their cross-cultural significance may be taking root as both sides of the Atlantic memorialize newly-won independence in Central Europe 100 years ago.

In the Czech Republic, the Trees of Liberty project had, as of July 11, mapped more than 1,910 Linden trees planted following the creation of Czechoslovakia in October 1918 and subsequent anniversary years. The group is looking to map more historic Linden plantings, as well as new plantings, from the United States. (See www.stromysvobodcz.cz for the current map).

Polish American participation is welcome, says Miroslava Floriánová, planting coordinator for the sponsoring Nadace Partnerství in Brno. Trees of Liberty is looking to record and tell the story behind each century-old Linden tree's original planting, and recognize hundreds of new centennial plantings this year.

A global tree planting is planned for Oct. 20 through Oct. 28, with 325 new Lindens pledged so far, according to the Trees of Liberty website. Nadace Partnerství is looking to plant 2,018 new trees in the Czech Republic and sponsor tree care, in part through crowd-funding.

In Polish, Czech and Slovak cultures, historic Lindens, with heart-shaped leaves, massive symmetrical trunks and heights that typically reach 60 to 80 feet, are thought to have medicinal and spiritual qualities that date back to early Slavic times.

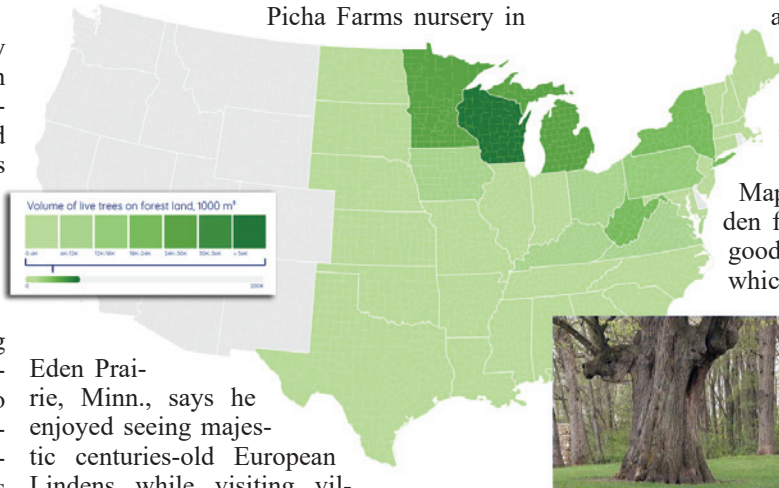
All three cultures cultivate honey that bees produce from Linden flowers' pollen, as well as tea from flowers. In Polish, the month of July is Lipiec, which also refers to mead (honey wine) made from Linden honey.

"The heart-shaped emblem masterfully unites the humanity, geography and heritage of the region" write Zuzana Palovic and Gabriela Bereghazyova in Slovakia: The Legend of the Linden, published early this year in Bratislava.

"The foliage of the Linden tree, 'Lipa' to the Slavs, is its most opulent feature, while its soft and malleable wood makes the Linden perfect for carving. From tribal relics, Viking shields and monumental Byzantine icons to

modern violins and guitars, Linden wood has accompanied our history and civilization."

Some of Poland's Linden trees date as far back as King Jan Sobieski's reign and were planted to recognize his military successes. In Minnesota, Terry Picha, a fourth generation Czech-American and owner of the Picha Farms nursery in



Eden Prairie, Minn., says he enjoyed seeing majestic centuries-old European Lindens while visiting villages in Poland.

Now Picha is planning to add two new Lindens this summer near a century-old American Linden on the cemetery grounds of what was founded as the Bohemian Evangelical Reformed Church in 1877 in the Minneapolis suburb of Minnetonka. Polish, Czech & Slovak and Romanian religious and cultural groups in the St. Paul and Minneapolis area are also making plans to plant "100th anniversary" Lindens and other tree varieties in the coming months.

Poland's most senior Lindens – some as old as 500 years — include trees in Zawieprzyc Park near Lublin, Suchodolina north of Bialystok, Czarny Potok near Nowy Sacz, Cielętniki near Krakow, Dobczyce south of Wieliczka, Krzykawka near Boleslaw and Radzymin on the outskirts of Warsaw, according to Polish arts blogger Lamus Dworski.

A Catholic tradition in Poland is to build a Marian shrine in a hollowed out portion of an older Linden. One bit of Carpathian village folklore is that praying to Mary at such a Linden shrine will help ease a mother's labor pains during delivery.

In Minnesota, the oldest state-documented Linden tree is in Oronoco near Rochester and known as the Moose Tree because it has three

branches shaped like moose heads. At about 165 years old, it was a sapling when the first Poles moved to Southeast Minnesota in the years following the 1848 Poznan Uprising. The tree is now more than 90 feet tall with an 18-foot circumference.

In the United States, Linden trees (*tilia americana*) also go by the name of basswood and lime trees, named for the shape of their seeds, which are have "propeller" wings like Silver Maple trees. American Linden flowers are considered a good source of flavonoids, which are antioxidants while Linden leaves and oil are used to make cosmetics. (Source: livestrong.com).

Affluent residential neighborhood in Minneapolis. Linden Hill in Little Falls is a city-owned historic site and conference center. Some 27 municipalities cross America are named Linden, the largest of which is Linden, N.J. a historically Polish and Slovak community.

The highest natural concentration of Linden trees in the United States is in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin north of Green Bay, with more than 75 cubic feet of timber per acre, according to a 2016 Wisconsin state environmental report.

Lindens are also culturally significant in Slovenia. On a historic parkway from Ljubljana to Trieste, some 290 Lindens planted around 1810 survive. They were planted to mark the wedding of Napoleon Bonaparte to Austrian Princess Marie Louise.

When Slovenia gained its independence for the first time in 1991, the country's national leaders met at the site of a more than 700-year-old Linden known as The Najevnik. Each summer since then, elected officials meet there.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH. Minneapolis plans to mark the 90th anniversary of its church consecration in September with a tribute to **Victor Cordella**, the Polish architect from Krakow who designed the building. Pastor Fr. Spencer Howe is spearheading a fundraising drive to erect a new memorial to Cordella at St. Mary's Cemetery, Minneapolis, where he was buried in 1937.

"His grave, so many years after his death, is no longer visible," Fr. Howe says. "The 90th anniversary of Holy Cross Church prompts us to honor Victor Cordella with a simple tombstone."

Born in 1872, Cordella emigrated to the United States at age 21 after studying at what is now the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts. Over the next two decades, he became Minnesota's most prolific Catholic church architect, designing more than two dozen Roman, Byzantine, and Orthodox Rite structures, the last being Ss. Peter & Paul, in Gilman, in 1930. Cordella died in relative obscurity during the Great Depression as new commissions dried up.

Most Polish churches in Minnesota are Cordella's design. Holy Cross is organizing a bus tour of Cordella's works, slated for next May.

Cordella also co-designed the Turnblad Mansion, now The Swedish Institute, in Minneapolis. One of his early works, a tavern that is now Nye's Bar, was restored last year.

A LOOK AT WORLD WAR I cemeteries in the Carpathian foothills of Poland will be part of a discussion about the works of Slovak architect Dusan Jurkovic to be held at 11:00 a.m. on Aug. 11 at C.S.P.S. Hall on 383 Michigan St. in St. Paul. Jurkovic designed 35 Polish cemeteries at World War I battlefield sites beginning in 1916 as part of the Austrian-Hungarian Army's Krakow-based War Graves unit. Several include ornate wood chapels designed in Carpatho-Rusyn folk style. August 2018 is the 150th anniversary of Jurkovic's birth in Slovakia. Jurkovic is most famous for designing resort buildings, a cable car station, Czechoslovakia co-founder Milan Stefanik's tomb and a memorial to the August 1944 Slovak National Uprising. The event is sponsored by the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota.

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Polish American Journal Foundation

The PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. It does this by organizing and supporting special events, networking, and providing consultation to individuals and groups, which seek to learn more about the Polish community in the United States.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendents since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet

application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum;



Your support of the Polish American Journal Foundation underlines our efforts to share over a century of knowledge with the next generation. All donations to the PAJF are tax-deductible.

veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent

donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us utilize over 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 32nd year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

Martin's *The Poland Trilogy* Wins a Gold Medal IPPI

NEW YORK — The multi-volume e-book, *The Poland Trilogy*, by James Conroyd Martin, has won the 2018 Gold Medal for Best Regional E-Book, Fiction. It was awarded in New York City, May 29, by The Independent Book Publishers Group in its twenty-second annual awards program.

The trilogy portrays the drama of one family, their joys, sorrows, and enduring love for one another and their country. Based on the diary of a Polish countess and set during the Third of May Constitution years, 1791-94, *Push Not the River* paints a vivid picture of a tumultuous and unforgettable metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna, a proud and resilient woman.

Against a Crimson Sky continues Anna's saga as Napoleon comes calling, asking Polish lancers to accompany him on his fateful 1812 march into Russia.

Featuring the November Rising (1830-31), *The Warsaw Conspiracy* depicts the young cadets whose patriotism ignites the will of the nation in a daring challenge to reclaim independence from the Russian Empire.

In writing the trilogy, as well as the most recent novel about the Polish Hussars at Vienna, *The Boy Who Wanted Wings*, Martin has been called "in every way a modern day Henryk Sienkiewicz, weaving history and stories together in an accessible and thrilling manner" by Dr. Donald Pienkos, Political Science Professor Emeritus, UWMilwaukee.

HISTORY OF THE TRILOGY. In the mid-seventies, Martin resigned from a short teaching career and left the Midwest for Hollywood in order to study screenwriting. "All was going according to plan—until I met a young man who insisted I read his translation of his great-great-great-great grandmother's diary."

Out of politeness, he did read the diary of Countess Anna Maria Berzowska, who began her journaling in 1791 when her parents died and she was forced to live with an aunt, uncle, and two nefarious cousins.

The diary detailed her falling in love with neighbor Jan, while being obstructed in her happiness by crude Walter and scheming Zofia. The background to all of this was the nation at war and on the cusp of destruction. Martin saw even then what critics came to call it: a *Gone with the Wind* set in Poland.

Martin decided that a novel was needed, rather than a screenplay. Over the years, three agents, several editors, and a dishonest publisher failed to bring the book to fruition. Martin returned to the Midwest, took up teaching again, but continued pursuing publication. Eventually, Fate smiled and an agent sold the book to St. Martin's Press, as well as the sequel *Against a Crimson Sky*. Translations became bestsellers in Poland.

When Martin's editor left St. Martin's Press, so did he, and he went on to form his own personal publishing company which brought out the finale to the trilogy, *The Warsaw Conspiracy*. The novel was also translated into Polish.

"Oh, I have not given up on



James Conroyd Martin

film," Martin says. "It will happen one day."

Copies of the trilogy and *The Boy Who Wanted Wings* are available through The Polish American Journal Book Store and can be ordered through any bookstore or requested at your local library.

The author will make an appearance at the Twin Cities' Polish Fest (August 10-12) where he is scheduled to give talks and sign books each of the three days.

Martin will also have a book signing table at the Polish Festival in Portland, Oregon, on the weekend of September 21-23.

Polish Singers Alliance Sends Out Call to All Vocalists

Member choruses of the Polish Singers Alliance of America are searching for new lovers of choral music to keep America's oldest Polish cultural organization going for at least another 129 years. By joining your local church choir or secular PSAA chorus, you will bring joy to your own spirit, and to those who appreciate good choral singing.

If you appreciate choral music, have sung in a school chorus or church choir years ago, or want to meet fine people, you can be an asset to a PSAA chorus in or near your

PLAV to Celebrate 98th Anniversary

by Kenneth Milenovic

The **Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. (PLAV)**, commissioned in 1920, will be observing its 98th anniversary this year. It is one of only 50 Veteran's organizations chartered by the Act of Congress (July 23, 1984, Public Law #98-372). The PLAV has fourteen State Departments, Sons and Grandson Auxiliaries, and Ladies Auxiliaries.

The PLAV is an organization of veterans whose membership is not discriminatory on the basis of gender, race, color, religion or national origin. It is committed to the ideals of patriotism through allegiance to the nation, honor to America's principles and aiding in the rehabilitation of disabled veterans. Its goal is to dedicate time and effort to ensure that no benefits are denied to those who served their country and to support legislation intended for those who earned the right to those benefits. It maintains and upholds the rich Polish heritage, tradition and family values.

You don't have to be Polish to join. Any American citizen who has served in the armed forces of the United States, or, in its auxiliary units who has an honorable discharge (DD214)

On the Hunt for a Snoogle

by Barbara Betlejewska

AMHERST, Ohio — I had heard of Snoogles, but had never tasted one before. So one day, I decided to check them out. A Snoogle is an airy Polish-American pastry with a sweet cream cheese filling, and a buttery glaze.

Snoogles are long and slim, 16 inches long, making them an entire meal on their own. They are the brainchild of Tim and Terri Kiedrowski, who own and run Kiedrowski's Simply Delicious Bakery in Amherst, Ohio.

On my Snoogle hunt, I headed up Route 58 from our farm in Ashland County, Ohio. I always think of my father whenever I drive Route 58. My father and grandfather sold bootleg homemade potato vodka made by Polish immigrants located in "Slavic Village," the Polish enclave on Cleveland's near east side. They used the cash money to make the mortgage payments on the farm. Otherwise they would have lost the farm during The Great Depression. In contrast, the adjoining farm went to Sheriff's sale four times in the 1930s. My dad started selling our farm eggs and produce to city people in Cleveland as a teenager, and would place the vodka in the bottom of empty egg crates in his Ford Model-T and hide it with layers of eggs on top in case he was stopped and searched. Then he would drive west from Cleveland toward Lorain to take Route 58 south home, as the "revenooers" — his name for officials from the Bureau of Alco-

hol, Firearms, and Tobacco — were patrolling on Route 42, the main Cleveland to Cin-

nati
route
at



The Snoogle, the creation of Tim and Terri Kiedrowski.

the time.

In my hunt for a Snoogle, I retrace my dad's steps the opposite way, going north to Amherst, where Kiedrowski's Bakery is located just off Route 58. It is a delightful Polish bakery with polka music greeting all clients. Kiedrowski's was voted America's Best Bakery for 2011. And there they are, behind the bakery counter window, 12 to a pan, the famous Snoogles!

The pastry was concocted around 1984 by Tim and Terri Kiedrowski. Accidents can be disastrous in a bakery, but the "snoogle accident" was a welcome one for Kiedrowskis. Late one evening at the bakery, Tim was preparing ladylocks, and Terri was working on a batch of cheese danish. With leftover ingredients, these two happy bakers set out to create something new. A

little bit of this, a little of that, and *voilà*, the Snoogle was born! These sweet cream-filled confections have become Kiedrowskis biggest seller. When asked how many calories they have, Michael, their son, who dubs himself the "baker extraordinaire," said "enough to fill you up!"

In April, 2011, Tim and Terri Kiedrowski were awarded a trademark for their Snoogle.

If you see a pastry that looks like a snoogle, be sure to ask if they are from Kiedrowski's Bakery. If not, they are not the original.

Did they live up to their reputation when I sampled my first one? Yes, they did! And it's probably a great thing for my waistline that I live 35 miles away and won't be able to indulge myself too often.

For more info on Snoogles, check out www.kiedrowskibakery.com.

chorus.

Passaic, N.J. Chopin Male Chorus #182 welcomes tenors, baritones, and basses. Contact Austin Sroka, president, at (973) 641-9174.

Wallington, N.J. Aria Mixed Chorus #303 welcomes new singers. Call President Bogdan Modrzyński for details. (201) 757-1062.

Brooklyn, N.Y. Jutzenka Singing Society #226 always welcomes new sopranos, mezzos, and altos to their choral group. Call Barbara R. Blyskal, president, (718) 720-6089.

Greenpoint, N.Y. Hejnal mixed

chorus is searching for tenors, basses, sopranos and altos to come and join them. Call Miroslaw Kostro for details at 917-602-6194.

Long Island, N.Y. Oginski Male Chorus #283 of Hempstead is desperately waiting for new singers to help them. Tenors, baritones, and especially basses are in need of replacements. Call Jacek Borkowski, president, (516) 205-3378.

Philadelphia. Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich female chorus #321. Contact President Deborah Majka at (215) 627-1391.

JAGGER SUPPORTS JUDGES. A day before the Rolling Stones were to perform at National Stadium in Warsaw, former president Lech Wałęsa posted a lengthy open letter to them on Facebook. In it, he urged the legendary group to support anti-government protesters opposed to controversial judicial reforms.

"The current regime wants to destroy the independence of courts in Poland," said Wałęsa. "In clear violation of the Constitution, it is firing a third of Supreme Court judges in order to install puppets. Many people in Poland are defending freedom, but they need support. If you can say or do anything while in Poland, it would really mean something to them."

Without actually getting involved in the controversy, Stones frontman Mick Jagger, 74, cleverly indicated he knew about the protests that oppose lowering the retirement age of Supreme Court judges to 65. "Jestem za stary, by być sędzią, ale jestem młody by śpiewać" ("I'm too old to be a judge but not too old to sing."), he said in heavily accented Polish.

One of the first Western rock groups to venture behind the Iron Curtain, the Stones first performed in Poland in a 1967 concert at Warsaw's Congress Hall, which sparked off a veritable riot by frenzied teenage fans, shocking the Soviet overlords attending the concert.

Sports

Class of 2018 Enters Polish Sports Hall of Fame

by Tom Tarapacki

Former NFL offensive guard **Conrad Dobler**, gold medal winning swimmer **Rachel Komisarz-Baugh**, former basketball player and current University of Utah coach **Larry Krystkowiak** and national golf long-drive champion **Evan "Big Cat" Williams** were formally inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame Troy, Michigan.

Calling his induction "an unbelievable honor," **Larry Krystkowiak** said that the "Polish" part of it means more to him than the "Sports" part. **Krystkowiak** explained that in 1939 his father was seven years old when the Germans came to his home on the western border of Poland and gave them one hour to pack their belongings. His dad, one of seven boys, spent almost two years in a German forced labor camp. Eventually they made their way to the United States and settled with family in Shelby, Montana. It was difficult at times, and one of Larry's uncles died in a Montana snowstorm.

In 1999 Larry took his Uncle Marion back to Poland in 1999, calling it "the best thing I ever did." His uncle showed Larry where his family grew up and where relatives are buried. However, he was unable to find a well where he had hidden a rifle when the Nazis invaded. "Everybody here has a story," **Krystkowiak** told the audience. "Share those stories with your kids."

Larry didn't grow up around a lot of Polish people in Montana, so he was thrilled when he went to the Milwaukee Bucks and found 19 **Krystkowiaks** listed in the phone book. Also, he thought it was significant that his first date with his future wife was at **Wolski's Tavern**, a legendary establishment on **Pulaski St.**

Rachel Komisarz-Baugh also talked about a family trip to Poland in 2011, where she got the chance to meet many relatives. She also visited the former German Nazi **Auschwitz-Birkenau** concentration camp, which left quite an impression on her.

Rachel told her own remarkable story of "Polish perseverance." A talented young gymnast who began training at the age of five, at 15 she suffered two fractured vertebrae while training. Although **Rachel** "hated" the water, swimming was one of the few sports her doctors approved of. By her senior year in high school she was winning state championships.

Komisarz swam at the University of Kentucky and became a seven-time All American swimmer and three-time SEC Champion. She swam for the United States team at the 2004 Summer Olympics, where she had won a gold medal in the women's 4x200-meter freestyle relay, and a silver medal in the women's 4x100-meter medley relay. Following shoulder surgery in 2009 she stopped competitive swimming and started coaching the sport.

Conrad Dobler talked about what a strong influence his mother (the former **Clara Broniecki**) was on him. The rugged offensive lineman was also very emotional when speaking about his wife, who passed away in March after being a quadriplegic for the last 17 years after falling out of a hammock and breaking her back.

Dobler was born in Chicago but the family moved West due one of his brother's asthma problems. Af-



NPASHF CLASS OF 2018 (l. to r.): national golf long drive champion Evan "Big Cat" Williams, gold medal winning swimmer Rachel Komisarz, All-Pro football guard Conrad Dobler, and current University of Utah coach Larry Krystkowiak.

ter finishing a great career at University of Wyoming in 1972 he was planning to go into teaching when local reporter told him he had been drafted; having no thoughts of a pro career, **Conrad** thought at first that it meant that he was going to **Viet Nam**. When he was told that he was selected in the 5th round by the **St. Louis Cardinals** his response was: "But I don't play baseball!" He then found out that the **St. Louis Cardinals** was also a football team. After being cut as rookie, he came back and enjoyed a **Pro Bowl** career.

Evan "Big Cat" Williams had the crowd of over 400 laughing with his stories about growing up in **Bayonne N.J.**, a city with a large Polish population. He fondly recalled his Polish mother, **Helen Lapinski**, whose family came here through **Ellis Island** in 1913. **Evan** said that his mom was a great athlete, and had knee replacement surgery at age 88 so she wouldn't have to give up bowling. He added that she and her sisters were dynamic polka dancers, and **Helen** was known as "the Polish Express."

Big Cat was credited with putting the sport of Long Drive on the map when he won back-to-back U.S. National Long Drive Championships in 1976 and 1977. The 6'6" 215-lb. athlete was a multi-sport standout in high school and college, and played two years of basketball for **Canisius College** in **Buffalo**. It was with the **Golden Griffins** that **Williams** got his nickname. At a practice he had a minor scuffle with a teammate, which the teammate got the best of. That same night heavyweight champion **Muhammad Ali** knocked out **Cleveland "Big Cat" Williams** in the **Astrodome**. The following day the team was calling **Evan "Big Cat"**. **Evan** joked that, if the champion had lost that title fight, "you'd be listening to 'Muhammad' Williams."

He transferred from **Canisius** to **Franklin (Ind.) College**, where he set records in golf, basketball, football, and track. He was offered tryouts with the **New York Knicks** and the **St. Louis Cardinals** as a punter, but decided on golf. **Williams** chuckled when he speculated about what it might have been like if he had been on the same football team as **Conrad Dobler**. However, at the time he was making more as an assistant golf pro than he would in either the **NFL** or **NBA**.

Joe Maddon was also honored as the Excellence in Sports winner. The manager of the **Chicago Cubs** wasn't able to attend the banquet, but he sent along a video message accepting the honor. The **Matt Dobeck Special Recognition Award** went to **Joe Drobot, Jr.**, current

president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. Seven students were also presented with **Stan Musial Scholarship Awards**.

POLAND MAKES EARLY WORLD CUP EXIT. Poland failed to advance from the group phase at the 2018 World Cup, and as a result national coach **Adam Nawalka** will not have his contract extended. "We will try to build a national team in a new way," the head of the Polish Football Association, **Zbigniew Boniek**, said during a joint news conference with **Nawalka**.

Poland fell short of the knockout phase of the World Cup in **Russia** after losing 1-2 to **Senegal** and 0-3 to **Colombia** in the group stage. After being eliminated Poland won its final game, beating **Japan** 1-0, but finished bottom of **Group H**.

In his day **Nawalka** was an outstanding midfielder, and played for Poland in the World Cup in 1978. He later moved to the U.S. and played for the semi-pro **Polish-American Eagles** while also working various manual jobs. After the fall of Communism, **Nawalka** returned to Poland in 1990 and got into coaching. He coached the national team since November 2013, and took Poland to the quarterfinals of the European championships two years ago. This year he brought the national team to the World Cup for the first time in a dozen years. Poland wasn't predicted to win the World Cup, but as the 8th ranked team in the world much more was expected.

Nawalka said he felt responsible for the team failing to meet expectations at the World Cup, and did not do a very good job choosing the players. Still, **Boniek** said that the outgoing coach "left this team stronger than when he started."

Team captain **Robert Lewandowski**, who took a lot of heat for not scoring in the World Cup, said that the team possessed "too little quality" as they failed to build on their promising Euro 2016 campaign.

Meanwhile, **Lewa** has apparently changed his mind about leaving his **Bayern Munich** squad. The striker has 151 goals in 195 appearances for the club and was the **Bundesliga's** runaway top scorer last season, finishing 14 goals ahead of the next nearest contender.

OLYMPIC GREAT PASSES. **Irena Szewińska**, who dominated women's athletics for two decades and later became a member of the International Olympic Committee, died at the age of 72.

Szewińska competed in five Olympics for Poland, winning gold medals in the 400-meter relay in

1964, in the 200 meters in 1968 and the 400 meters in 1976. She was also a 10-time world record holder in the 100, 200 and 400 meter races.

She took silvers in the long jump and the 200 meters at **Tokyo**, and added bronzes in the 100 meters at **Mexico City** and the 200 meters at the **Munich Games** in 1972. She set eight individual and two team world records and was the first woman to run 400 meters in under 50 seconds. In 1974 **UPI** named her **Female Athlete of the Year**.

In 1998, **Szewińska** became a member of the International Olympic Committee. She was the president of the Polish Athletic Association 1997-2009. She was elected as the third woman to the **IAAF** (International Association of Athletics Federations) Council during the first session of the 45th IAAF Congress in **Helsinki**.



Szewińska

She was born **Irena Kirszenstein** in **Leningrad** in 1946. A year later her father, who came from **Warsaw**, and mother, who was from **Kiev**, moved the family back to **Warsaw**. She exploded on the international scene at the 1964 **Tokyo Olympics**, winning a silver medal in the long jump and 200 meters, and gold in the 4 X 100 relay team. In 1967 she married her coach, **Janusz**

Szewiński, who survives her.

When she retired, her seven medals tied the record for most Olympic medals won by a woman. She remains the only athlete in history, male or female, to have held the world record in the 100m, the 200m and the 400m. In 2012, she was among the first inductees into the **IAAF Hall of Fame**.

Polish President **Andrzej Duda** remembered her as the "First Lady of Polish sport," saying her death was "a great loss and great sadness." **Thomas Bach**, president of the **IOC**, said the "entire Olympic family is in deep mourning" and that the Olympic flag would be lowered at the **IOC headquarters** in **Switzerland**, for three days in her honor. Her funeral service at the **Field Cathedral of the Polish Army** in **Warsaw** was attended by many family, colleagues and friends, including President **Duda**, while a large crowd gathered outside.

GORTAT GOES WEST. **Marcin Gortat** was traded to the **Los Angeles Clippers**, ending his productive five-year run with the **Washington Wizards**. The **Polish Machine** played in 402 of 410 regular season games during his career in **Washington**, starting in all but two of them, and started and played in every **Wizards** playoff game in those five years.

The 34-year-old Polish native was not only a terrific and durable player, he was also a proud Pole and hosted a **Polish Heritage Night** every season he was in **Washington**.

"We appreciate **Marcin's** contributions during his time with us and wish him the best moving forward," team president **Ernie Grunfeld** said in a statement.

"He is a very durable professional who helped the team in many ways to become a perennial playoff contender and set an example with his work in the community both in **D.C.** and in his native country of **Poland**."



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The Pondering Pole

“This is the real thing”

by Ed Poniewaz

Here is more on the polka connection to Polonia.

A copy of *The Clarinet Polka*, a novel written by Keith Maillard (Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Press, New York, 2002) was handed to me. *Clarinet* was previously featured in the Polish American Journal and now I am enjoying reading it, as a Polish American and also as an American baby boomer boy. There are many American and Polish American references and a number of remarkable passages such as this one. It is about the first time Linda, the main character Jim's sister, sees Li'l Wally the great polka band leader and performer. “Old Bullet Head” is Jim's nickname for his father.

“Just like me, Linda had grown up hearing polka music, but she'd never heard anything as wonderful as that. She said the music burned straight through to her soul. Everybody loved everybody, people were hugging each other...and Old Bullet Head leans down and whispers in her ear, ‘Hey Lindusia, I'll tell you a secret. *This is the real thing.*’ She said she'd never in her life been so proud of being Polish.”

Like sports, politics, or any other pastime, *Clarinet* is about the people drawn into the passion and devotion of something they like very much. Maybe even love very much. How Maillard, who is not Polish, was able to capture the essence of the Polish soul is amazing.

You might want to check out it out, but be warned: *Clarinet* is a very adult novel, including language and content.

I RECEIVED AN EMAIL from John Ziobrowski about his research on the origins of the polka and the age-old question of whether it is Polish or Czech. Not enough room to summarize the whole paper but I will mention of few points I thought were significant.

Ziobrowski differentiates the specific music and dance with the genre from which polka came. For the specific music and dance, he makes the point that the polka came

on the world stage in the early 1800s and specifically from Czechoslovakia. There are various theories of how and why it came about. One says that a single person invented it. Another says that the Czechs were sympathetic to the Polish Uprising of 1830 and in response emulated their music and dance in a large way. Here is a quote from his research paper on this:

“... another music historian, Gelakovsky, in the Czech encyclopedia Masacykuv Slovník Naucy stated that with the 1830 Uprising, the youth of Poland served as a pattern of patriotism to all Czechs. ‘From then on they imitated the Poles in everything,’ said Gelakovsky. ‘Polish folk costumes, Polish folk dances and songs, which were translated into the Czech language, all became the rage.’”

So it is possible from the Krakowiaks and other Polish folk dances the polka was morphed into what became the music and step we are familiar with. That is one spin that polka was extracted from the body of dances and music specific to the Poles.

The second is Ziobrowski's argument used to establish that the polka truly is a Polish invention. You might recall in the Pondering Pole column, Polish ethnographer and folklorist Oskar Kolberg found only a few mentions of polka. Those few mentions can support the argument of polka being Polish. Ziobrowski points the songs in Kolberg's *Complete Works* are all pre-1800 melodies, of which 32 are called “polkas.” This, Ziobrowski argues, is proof the polka existed in Poland in the 18th and possibly 17th centuries.

Ziobrowski has done some stellar analysis and research on this subject and we owe him for it. Perhaps my conclusion that polka is only American music and dance for the Polish might not quite be the case. You might consider revising your position on this one as well. I am.

FEEDBACK. I received a letter in the mail from Norbert Dzienciol, a man who worked with and became friends with my uncle Joe Poniewaz

many years ago. Uncle Joe was a one-of-a-kind character and a true lover of all things Polish. One Easter Sunrise Mass, I was the bell ringer for procession around St. Stanislaus Church. As we walked up one of the long isles, I was surprised to see my uncle Joe leaning out of the pew. As I came upon him, he gave me the “good job” nod and smile, something I will never forget.

Norbert notes in his letter the ways my uncle introduced him to a number of aspects of Polonia such as the Polish Falcons and Piekutowski sausage. I have stated before how encouraging friends and family to try Polish often times reaps a new awareness and engaged Polonian and that ultimately results in what we all live for: happiness. You can hear the joy in his letter about joining in on all of the Polish fun.

My uncle was a promoter of Polish things and apparently a mentor to Dzienciol. It made me feel good to read so many nice things said about a member of my family.

ALSO PERTAINING TO POLKA, received a very nice email from Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk informing me of another recommended history called *A Passion for Polka, Old-Time Ethnic Music in America*, written by Vic Greene (University of California Press, No-



Claire Ptak. Polish or not?

(November 1992). Amazon has a number of mostly used copies available.

FROM THE KAMINSKI FILE. I heard a wonderful story that made me smile. It is about Noah Kaminski, who goes to grade school in Florida. He is the son of Ted and Lisa Kaminski and is the grandson of Tony and Alice Kaminski of Saint Louis. After the class sang Happy Birthday to his friend, he raised his hand and asked the teacher if he could sing Happy Birthday in Polish. Here is the rest of the story as told by Alice.

The teacher invited Noah to the front of the classroom and

asked where he learned the song. He answered that he has a Babcia and Dziadziu who taught him, and his family always sings this at birthdays. Then as Noah began to sing “Sto Lat, Sto Lat,” the teacher smiled and surprised him by joining in the song. As it turned out she is from the East Coast and from a Polish family.

Is that just the cutest thing you've ever heard?

POLISH OR NOT? Still need ethnic profiles on **Elise Stefanik, Charlie Kirk, Amy Choziak, Greg Stuhr, Claire Ptak, and Joe Kenda.**

We are in the midst of a very hot summer, so stay cool Polonia. Dziękuję bardzo to Norb Dzienciol, Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk, and John Ziobrowski for the excellent feedback and participation, and to Tony and Alice Kaminski for the Noah story. Maybe special thanks to Tony and Alice for being such great grandparents to a wonderful boy like Noah!

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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Dance Time

PolkaMotion by the Ocean Returns

by Jennifer Pijanowski

I enjoyed two joyful days taking in the sights and sounds of the 64th annual Syracuse (N.Y.) Polish Festival. Upon arrival on Friday, we were greeted with the upbeat sound of **John Stevens' Doubleshot**. Even early in the evening, the dance floor was filled with some spectacular dancers on the large dance floor located right in front of the stage. I quickly noticed a couple dancing gracefully as the band played polkas, waltzes, and obereks. I took the opportunity to meet this sweet couple who share a deep passion for polka music and dancing.

Robert and Diane Macwethy of Utica could be spotted throughout the weekend shining on the dance floor in their colorful attire. I took a quick walk around the festival grounds checking out all of the highly competitive Polish food stands from local area restaurants and civic organizations. I instantly spotted a stand selling Polish goods like scarves, shoes, and purses and went to look inside. To my surprise it was a vendor I had met and purchased from in Milwaukee a few years ago. We had a nice time chatting and it was easy to find a lot of goods to purchase.

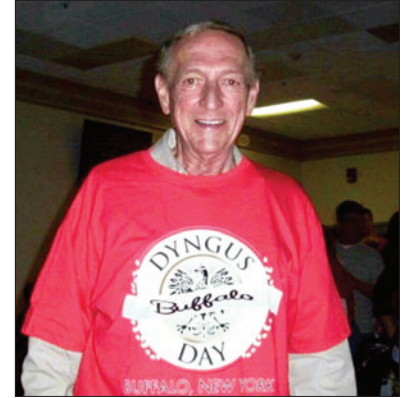
Rain was in the forecast for day two, but God blessed us with a gorgeous day filled with sunshine and a nice gentle breeze. Three polka bands alternated throughout the day yielding an ideal day for polka lovers. **Buffalo Touch, Concertina All Stars, and Stephanie**, kept the dance floor and onlookers engaged for a fabulous Saturday afternoon.



Art Kott and his wife at Syracuse Polish Festival.



Robert and Diane Macwethy



Ron Rydzynski, Dyngus Day 2018



Bernie Gorak and Jackie Jedlowski-Koziel at the Syracuse Polish Festival.

promoter **Art Kott**, whom I had not seen in years. It was wonderful getting a chance to catch up with him and absorb his positive outlook on the future of polkas. I would like to send a huge thank you to Art, who booked the talent for this year's festival and did an astounding job bringing lots of Buffalo talent to Syracuse.

I have attended this weekend event several times but this year was

in the country with one of the best-educated and healthiest populations. In past years it seemed like so many forgotten cities in our country were plagued with economic decline and crime. This year, I noticed much repurposing of old buildings, new coffee shops, restaurants, and work being done to restore the success which Syracuse once held. I look forward to returning for the Polish festival again next year to see the changes that have taken place.

GATEWAY GET-AWAY. Polka lovers know the drill of driving several hours to hear their favorite bands at dances, festivals, and church picnics all too well. A quick 12-hour Sunday trip to Pittsburgh was on my agenda to see **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push** perform on the *Gateway Clipper*. Hosted by Larry Walk, polka fans were bursting with excitement as they boarded the gorgeous three deck paddlewheel vessel. Tables quickly filled up on the bottom floor surrounding the ample dance floor, which would remain busy during the four-hour cruise.

on the boat including a large group of Canadians who celebrated Canada Day. Donned in red and white, they could be seen dancing and enjoying the music. The band sounded terrific, playing all of its fan favorites and sending shout-outs to their following.

Over 15 years ago, I attended an afternoon featuring Lenny on the same boat, so I was thrilled to be joining him once again for this particular event. Each time I watch his band, it is evident that polka music is fortunate to retain the most talented musicians.

FREE ADMISSION! The 25th annual **Barton PolkaFest** will be held on Sunday August 5th from 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. The community-based event is sponsored by the Barton VFW and takes place at Fireman's Field, 52176 Center Street in Barton, Ohio. Music will be provided by **John Gora & Gorale, Ray Jay & The Carousels, and Polka Country Musicians**. Home-made Polish food, ribs and chicken, raffles, door prizes, desserts, and an

open bar guarantee a good time for anyone. The most amazing part is that this event is free as a way to celebrate its 25th year providing polka music to this small town located 15 minutes off Interstate 70 at the West Virginia/Ohio border. Please call (740) 695-3029 for in-



Canadians celebrate Canada Day aboard the *Gateway Clipper*.

While watching the Buffalo Touch entertain the crowd, I noticed a familiar face to the side of the stage. It was longtime friend and polka

my favorite. The location of the festival hosts a backdrop of the beautiful architecture of this city that was once one of the thirty largest cities



Lizzie Wisniewski, Joe Dipyatic, and Ellie Wisniewski having some fun on the *Gateway Clipper*.

Breathtaking sights of the Steel City were visible while the boat sailed the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers. It was a hot and steamy day so the outside deck gave me a heavenly spot to enjoy the music while taking in the lush sights of Pittsburgh. Hundreds of fans packed

formation.

IN SYMPATHY. The Buffalo area said goodbye to another avid polka fan. **Ronald Rydzynski** passed away on July 7, 2018, leaving behind his loving wife Lucy, two sons Kenneth and Kevin, as well as his

grandchildren. Ron could be seen at many local dances and will be deeply missed by his polka family. Not only did he love the music but he played drums in a few bands back in the 1960s, namely Ted Cole Trio and The Minutemen.

CONGRATS, JOE! You will not want to miss out on the fantastic Labor Day weekend planned by the International Polka Association. (See pages 17 and 18 for details). The event will be held at the Millennium Hotel located in Cheektowaga, N.Y. When contacting the hotel, mention the IPA Polka Festival to receive the discounted rate.

The 49th annual Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards banquet takes place on Saturday morning celebrating those impacting polka music, both past and present. This year, Western New York's own **Joe Macielag** will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in the pioneer category.

POLKAMOTION BY THE OCEAN will be back in full swing at the newly remodeled Rehoboth Beach Convention Center from September 12-15, 2018. This year's lineup includes host band, The Boys, Polka Country Musicians, The Knewz, Jimmy Weber & The Sounds (making their only reunion appearance of the year) The Beat, Eddie Forman Orchestra (celebrating its 50th anniversary in the polka business), The Nu-Tones, Old School, and Crab Town Sound, featuring guest Polka Hall-of-Famers Freddy Bulinski and Freddy K.

Rehoboth Beach allows you to soak up these last bits of Summer sunshine. It is a quaint ocean-front, Atlantic Coast town that boasts a boardwalk lined with restaurants, shops, and hotels.

For more details, band schedules, ticket information, or lodging packages, visit www.polkamotion.com or contact Mike Matousek at (410) 729-9697.

Polkas Liven Up Ocean Beach Park

by Basia Szydłowski

New London, Connecticut, a seaport city and port of entry on the northeast coast of the United States, was the home of Ocean Beach Park Polka Days, June 20-23. The event was hosted by brothers Richie and Wally Dombrowski.

While relaxing on the sandy

beach, enjoying the Connecticut sunshine, I listened to the music of Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, The Boys, an all-girl orchestra from Michigan called The Polskie Chix, and the group of seven young talented musicians ranging in ages from 13 to 22 called Polka Method. The Polka Jammer Network was recording the bands playing in the pa-

vilion, where I had a nice chat with PJN IJs Peter Danielczuk and Ray Skorka.

After dancing in the pavilion, it was time to get ready for more music in the air-conditioned ballroom. It was a walk down memory lane, as I renewed friendships with many, including Kevin Adams, the Jim Sajkiewicz Family, Linda Libera,

and Cindy Yash. I also had a chance to chat with Mark Trzepacz, Rich Bernier, Dennis Polisky, and John Gora.

Polka music never grows old, but here at Polka Days, I noticed a change from the popular traditional Polish vocals to English vocals. Regardless, whatever the bands were playing, the dancing crowd was en-

ergized by the music of John Gora & Gorale, Polka Country Musicians, Maestro's Men, the IPA Tribute Band, Matt's All-Star Band, The Knewz, and Eddie Forman, who is celebrating 50 years of playing polka music.

Hats off to the Dombrowski brothers for keeping the sounds of polkas alive at Ocean Beach Park.

International Polka Association Celebrates 50th Anniversary



How the International Polka Association Began

The concept of a national polka convention had been developed and pioneered originally in Chicago. From the popular yearly moonlight dances starting in 1960, which attracted thousands of polka lovers from all sections of the United States and Canada — the first polka convention emerged in 1963. This developed into the International Polka Convention which was presented each succeeding year in Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo, New York.

In January, 1968 a steering committee comprised of Johnny Hyzny, Leon Kozicki, Joe and Jean Salomon, Eddie Blazonczyk and Don Jodlowski met to discuss plans for the next

convention. After a series of meetings they began preparations for the formation of the International Polka Association.

The Association was officially chartered by the State of Illinois as a “not for profit” corporation and was registered with the County of Cook (Chicago) in August of 1968.

Since 1968 the International Polka Festival has been presented under the auspices of the International Polka Association. The delegates to the 1968 Convention approved the establishment of the Polka Music Hall of Fame and the presentation of annual Polka Music Awards. As stated in its charter, the International Polka Association was organized as: “An educational and charitable organization for the preservation, promulgation and advancement of polka music and; to promote, maintain and advance public interest in polka entertainment; to advance the mutual interests and encourage greater cooperation among its members who are engaged in polka entertainment; and to encourage and pursue the study of polka music, dancing and traditional folklore.”

The International Polka Association presents many special awards each year to encourage the promotion of polka music. Through the efforts of the IPA, the month of January has been proclaimed as National Polka Music Month and the annual festival has served as a show place for new, deserving polka talent. Many functions under the auspices of the IPA are presented in various states, a weekly radio

program has been established and a bi-monthly news bulletin keeps the members informed of the business affairs of the Association, as well as polka related events and news from across the country.

The International Polka Association is also responsible for the continued operation and growth of the Polka Music Hall of Fame and Museum. It is through this branch that the Association has been able to continue its historical, educational and research goals on behalf of the polka music industry.

The International Polka Association (IPA) will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary with an International Polka Festival and Awards Banquet, being held August 31 to September 2, 2018 in Buffalo, NY.

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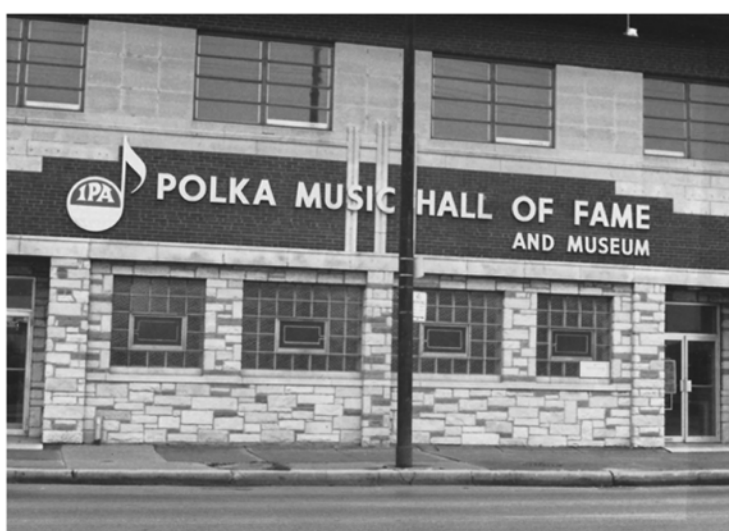
Polka Music Hall of Fame & Museum

For too long of a time those of us who enjoy polka music had neglected to bestow proper honor and recognition to performers, deejays, and others who have rendered years of faithful service to the polka entertainment industry. Through the years there was considerable discussion and research among our polka leaders to formulate an institution that would honor deserving polka personalities. Although there always was complete agreement as to the purpose and objectives of such an institution, there also existed the reluctance of any group to accept the challenge and responsibility.

To rectify this omission of duty, the delegates to the 1968 International Polka Convention voted and approved the establishment of the Polka Music Hall of Fame. The institution of the Hall of Fame serves to honor outstanding polka personalities who have made significant contributions to the advancement and promotion of polka music. After many months of research and development, the much talked about and long overdue Polka Music Hall of Fame became a living reality. The following year Frankie Yankovic and Li'l Wally Jagiello became the first Hall of Famers elected. They were honored in Chicago at a banquet and special installation ceremony.

The Polka Music Hall of Fame is administered by a twelve member Board of Trustees.

Since originally being established it has undergone several changes. Recipients of this coveted honor are determined by the votes of an academy of over 180 qualified electors. Each year they elect two prominent living polka personalities and one deceased polka personality, who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement and promotion of polka music. Another personality is elected in the pioneer category. Candidates must have been actively engaged in the polka field for a minimum of twenty years. They are selected from all sections of the United States and Canada regardless of ethnic origin, locality or style preference of polka music. A private Accounting firm with no affiliation with the International Polka Association has been retained yearly to conduct the election and certify the winners. In conjunction with the Polka Music Hall of Fame, the IPA also presents the annual Polka Music Awards for the favorite performers of the year.



In compliance with the commitment to establish the Polka Music Hall of Fame, the International Polka Association has provided continuous financial support for the improvement and expansion of the Polka Music Hall of Fame and Museum — a dream that became a reality. A suitable and functional building to serve as the depository for the Polka Music Hall of Fame, Museum and administrative office of the Association was purchased.

Later, due to changing circumstances, the building housing the Hall of Fame and Museum was sold and the associated memorabilia is now housed at 4608 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, in property owned by Polonia Banquets, where board and general membership meetings are also held.

In addition to its function of honoring deserving personalities, the Polka Music Hall of Fame and Museum also serves as a historical and educational medium for polka music. The Hall of Fame and Museum provide a means for people to learn about the origins and development of polka music in all its styles and forms. It also provides an historical record of events and occurrences in the polka field. The institution also contains an unparalleled collection of artifacts, sheet music, recordings and memorabilia associated with polka music that not only provides an educational resource for the general public, but is also a research tool for scholars, the media and historians.

POLKA MUSIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Leon "Bud" Hundenski 2018
Mollie Busta Lange 2018
Gary Brueggen 2018
Joe Macielag 2018
Edward Kutas Sr. 2017
Marge Machay 2017
Elmer Scheid 2017
Andrew "Andy" Fenus 2017
Fred Ziwich 2017
Don Jodlowski 2016
Richard Midura 2016
Dean Hansen 2016
Carl Finch 2016
Stanley "Stas" Golonka 2016
Mark Trzepacz 2015
Randy Koslosky 2015
Florian Chmielewski 2015
Chester Budny 2015
Kevin Adams 2014
Edward "Eddie" Biegaj 2014
Alfred Vrazel 2014
Cliff Hermel 2014
Frank Borzymowski 2013
John Furmaniak 2013
Tony Petkovsek 2013
Jan Cyman 2013
Craig Ebel August 2012
Wally Dombrowski August 2012
Tom "Tommy" Altenburg August 2012
Paul Wendinger August 2012
John Gora 2011
Henry "Henny" Jasiewicz 2011
Don Peachey 2011
Johnny Krizancic 2011
Richie Gomulka 2010
Stephanie Pietrzak 2010
Ted Okrzesik 2010
Richard Bobinski 2010
Edward Guca 2009
Joseph "Joe" Oberaitis 2009
Stanley "Stas" Bulanda 2009
Eddie Habat 2009
Michael Matousek 2008
Raymond "Ray Jay" Jarusinski 2008
Teresa Zapolska 2008
William "Wesoly Bolek" Borek 2008
Dennis Polisky 2007

Henry "Hank" Guzevich 2007
John Demerski 2007
Stanley "Wesoly Stas" Lyskawa 2007
Eddie Forman 2006
Jimmy Weber 2006
Gary Rhamy 2006
Adam Barthalt 2006
Gary Seibert 2006
Math Sladky 2005
Eddie Siwec 2005
Freddy "K" Kendzierski 2005
Li'l Richard Towalski 2005
Michael Nowakowski 2004
Billy Belina 2004
Lou Trebar 2004
Thomas Karas 2004
Jackie Libera 2003
Hank Haller 2003
Roger Bright 2003
Wally Maduzia 2002
Don Lucki 2002
Eddie Zavaski 2002
Johnny Karas 2001
Eddie Skinger 2001
Adolph Lesser 2001
Rev. Walter Szczypula 2001
Richie Tokarz 2000
Al Piatkowski 2000
Frankie "Gee" Grybosh 2000
Henry "Will" Wilczynski 2000
Keith G. Stras 1999
Joey Miskulin 1999
Jerry Goetsch 1999
Wanda "Kozioł" Pietrzak 1999
Frank Liszka 1998
Matt Wasielewski 1998
Eddie Korosa 1998
John "Jas" Przasnyski 1998
Joseph (Joe) P. Fedorchak 1997
Jerry Darlak 1997
Chet Gulinski 1997
Joe Rock 1997
Ray Dorschner 1996
Carl Rohwetter 1996
Vi Johantgen 1996
Bill Czupta 1996
Andy "Day" Dziagwa, Jr. 1995

Michael "Mitch" Biskup 1995
Adam Nowicki 1995
Sylvester "Shep" Wolan 1995
Larry Walk 1994
Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak 1994
Chester "Chet" Zablocki 1994
Lawrence Welk 1994
Virginia Seretny 1993
Stanley Przasnyski 1993
Fred Hudy 1993
Chet Dragon 1993
Tom Mrozinski 1993
Bill Czerniak 1992
Fred Bulinski 1992
Ernie Kucera 1992
Jan Robak 1992
Chet Kowalkowski 1991
Joe Marcissuk 1991
John Check 1991
Henry Jasiewicz 1991
Myron Floren 1990
"Jolly" Joe Timmer 1990
Norman Marggraff, "Fritz the Plumber" 1990
Brunon (Bruce) Kryger 1990
Verne Meisner 1989
Lucian Kryger 1989
Joe Czerniak 1989
Kenny Bass 1989
Lenny Gomulka 1988
Johnny Haas 1988
Al Grebnick 1988
Joseph F. Struzik 1988
Johnny Vadnal 1987
Emily Pinter 1987
Johnny Menko 1987
Jolly Jack Robel 1987
Matt Hoyer 1987
Antonina Blazonczyk 1987
Bruno Mikos 1986
Walt Groller 1986
Bruno "Junior" Zielinski 1986
Pat Watters 1986
Larry Chesky 1985
Joe Wojkiewicz 1985
Stanley J. Jasinski 1985
Cousin Fuzzy 1985

Jimmy Sturr 1984
Bernie Goydish 1984
Charlie Hicks 1984
Fezz Fritsche 1984
Johnny Hyzny 1983
Walter Ostanek 1983
Eddie Oskierko 1983
Lawrence Duchow 1983
Happy Louie Dusseault 1982
Johnny Libera 1982
Joe Fiedor 1982
Ray Stolzenberg 1981
Casey Siewierski 1981
Lou Prohut 1981
Johnnie Bomba 1980
Stan E. Saleski 1980
Ted Maksymowicz 1980
Al Soyka 1979
Marv Herzog 1979
Romy Gosz 1979
"Joe Pat" Paterek 1978
Alvin C. Sajewski 1978
Ignacy Podgorski 1978
Leon Kozicki 1977
Joe Lazarz 1977
Brunon Kryger 1977
Chet Schafer 1976
Dick Rodgers 1976
"Whoopie John" Wilfahrt 1976
Harold Loeffelmacher 1975
Steve Adamczyk 1975
Johnny Pecon 1975
Walt Solek 1974
Dick Pillar 1974
Marisha Data 1974
Ray Budzilek 1973
Gene Wisniewski 1973
Mattie Madura 1973
Marion Lush 1972
Ray Henry 1972
Eddie Zima 1972
Bernie Witkowski 1971
Walter Dana 1971
Frank Wojnarowski 1970
Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr. 1970
Frankie Yankovic 1969
Li'l Wally Jagiello 1969

Scholarships

Rhode Island Polonia Scholarship Foundation Awards Ten Students



(first row, l. to r.): Dr. Markelewicz, Kristen Setera, Marek Lesniewski-Laas, Emma Stowe, Stephen Grivers, Dr. Dorothy Pieniadz, Jason Cambra, and Gregory Malec, Foundation President. (back row, l. to r.): Nicholas Campanini, Jesse Vigeant, Megan Boory, Brandon England, Zachary Pinault, and Tyler Piekarski. Missing from photo: William Such.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — On April 7th, 2018, the Rhode Island Polonia Scholarship Foundation awarded ten Rhode Island High School seniors \$1,000.00 grants toward their college education.

The award ceremony took place at St. Adalbert's Parish Center, Providence. Participating in the Foundation's 40th awards ceremony were guest speakers Marek Lesniewski-Laas, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, and former recipients Dr. Robert Markelewicz, and Kristen Setera. The awards were presented by Dr. Dorothy Pieniadz, scholarship selection chairperson.

In addition to meeting all Foundation requirements, applicants had to provide an essay on Tadeusz Kosciuszko's principles of fair and just treatment, the sacrifices of Haller's "Blue Army," or Pope John Paul II's resolve to bring about the end of oppressive totalitarian regimes throughout Eastern Europe.

Since its founding in 1978, the Foundation has awarded 340 grants totaling \$306,000.00. These grants are made possible through the support of private individuals, businesses, and Polish American organizations.

For additional information about the Foundation please visit www.facebook.com/Rhode-Island-Polonia-Scholarship-Foundation.

PCCGH Scholarship Winners Awarded

HARTFORD, Conn. — On, June 20, 2018, at a reception and ceremony held at the Polish National Home in Hartford, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. honored five outstanding students with its 2018 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship award of \$1,000.00 each. Scholarship Committee co-chairs Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo introduced the candidates, provided background information on their accomplishments, and presented checks to the following recipients:

Adrian Gorczyca of Wallingford plans to attend Central Connecticut State University with an interest in computer science. A 2018 graduate of Mark T. Sheehan High School in Wallingford, Adrian took challenging honors and advanced placement classes.

Sara E. Loniewski of Storrs will be a freshman at the University of Connecticut at Storrs in the fall working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in allied health sciences, seeking a Master's degree in speech pathology. A 2018 graduate of Edwin O. Smith High School Sara pursued a honors/college level academic program, and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Camdyn Pegg of Wallingford

will attend the University of Hartford in the fall with a major in architectural engineering. A 2018 graduate of Mark T. Sheehan High School, he excelled in the advanced placement program achieving high honors, won the 2017 Rotary Youth Citizen of the Year Award, excelled at indoor and outdoor track, and was class treasurer for four years.

Karolina M. Wlaz of Wethersfield has been accepted into the rigorous six-year Direct Entry Physician Assistant Program at the University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, which will result in a Master's Degree upon completion. She is a 2018 graduate of Wethersfield High School and maintained high honors while taking honors/advanced placement courses.

Sylvia Zambrzycka of Shelton is currently attending the University of Connecticut at Storrs, where she will be a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in allied health sciences with a minor in psychology.

The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. was established in 1976 to preserve, promote, and share the history, culture, and customs of Poland with fellow Americans. All proceeds from its annual Christmas "Szopka" (elaborate mangers) Festival event are dedicated to the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship.

American Polonia at a Glance

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — The Polish American Congress, Western New York Division, delivered a petition endorsed by twenty Western New York Polish American community organizations to Senator Christopher L. Jacobs (NYS 60th Senate District).

The petition seeks legislation from both Chambers of the New York State Legislature to republish the **Holocaust and Genocide Curriculum** and to reinstate **Holocaust and Genocide studies** in New York State Secondary Schools.

The New York State Education Department first approved and published the Holocaust and Genocide Curriculum Guidelines in 1985 after a long and studied exercise to identify irrefutable primary historic sources and eyewitness testimonies that were included in Volumes 1 and 2 of those Guidelines.

RIVERHEAD, Long Island — The 44th Annual **Polish Town Fair and Festival** in "Polish Town USA," Riverhead, Long Island, will be held August 18 and 19. The street fair will open at 10:00 a.m. with a variety of vendors with food, refreshments, arts and crafts, music, and activities. Music by Middlesex Express will be at Showmobile. At 5:00 p.m., polka music and dancing to Polka Method, and The Beat start in Polonaise Park.

While at the Polish Town Street Fair, visit the Polish Hall for delicious food and refreshments. More information can be found on the internet at www.polishtowncivicasociation.org.

— *Basia Szydłowski*

PENNSYLVANIA

BENSALEM — August 5. Polish Army Veterans Post #12 **Polish Soldiers' Day**, Polish Veterans Park (Polanka), 3258 Knights Rd. Mass 1:00 p.m., followed by commemorative exercises and picnic. Call (215) 639-1019 for information.

DOYLESTOWN — August 19. **Polish Soldiers' Day**, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Rd. Mass at 12:30 p.m., and activities throughout the day. All are welcome. Info call (215) 345-0600.

DOYLESTOWN — August 26. Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia **Adam Styka Annual Art Exhibit & Sale** Preview Reception, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Rd. 2:30 p.m.

Call Marie Hejnosz at (215) 487-0221 for information.

DOYLESTOWN — August 26. **Polish Apostolate Day & Polish Women's Alliance of America Day**, National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Rd. Mass 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Info call (215) 345-0600.

DOYLESTOWN — Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 1-3) and the following weekend (Sept. 8-9) are the dates for the **Polish American Festival** at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Live music, dance groups, food and refreshments each day, noon to 8:00 p.m. Info call (215) 345-0600 or visit PolishShrine.com.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — **Adam Kornowski**, who finished up fourth grade in Chisago City, Minnesota, played John Lennon's "Imagine" for school's talent show. He gave a little bow and walked back to his seat as the crowd applauded.

Little did he know that his performance would be seen by millions of people around the world.

His mom, Michelle Cavarnos Kornowski — proud of his performance — posted it on Facebook so that friends could see it. She wasn't expecting many people to see it.

The video earned over has 9.2 million views and was shared more than a quarter of a million times.

"At some point, I realized it wasn't going to stop," she said. Cavarnos Kornowski tried to thank everyone who commented on his video, but she couldn't keep up.

Adam's dad is a musician and has been teaching him since he was five.

Adam has enjoyed the attention and occasionally asked how many people have seen the video, but he's mostly focused on normal 10-year-old kid things, such as baseball and enjoying summer.

Cross-Country Bike Trip Honors Slain Soldiers

NEW YORK — Three Polish war veterans biked across the United States in memory of 44 Polish soldiers who died in Afghanistan.

Michal Packo, Adam Lewkowski, Sebastian Stepniak peddled roughly 3,700 miles on bicycles from the Pacific to Atlantic coasts.

"The idea of the Tour of Remembrance of the 44 killed in Afghanistan was born over the course of two years," Packo told Polish news agency PAP.

Packo, whose spine and left hand were wounded in a landmine blast in Afghanistan, said cycling plays an important role in his physical recovery and his post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment.

The tour started in Los Angeles, June 15, and ended in New York on July 28 after going through California's Death Valley, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Chicago, and the Great Lakes. The organizers also intend to raise awareness about the role Polish forces played in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Poland joined U.S.- and NATO-led military operations in Afghanistan in 2002, deploying troops mainly in Ghazni. Poland also supported the U.S.-led military invasion of Iraq between 2003 and 2008. More than 20 Polish soldiers died in Iraq, most of them in 2004.

2018 "53rd Annual"

FREE PARKING!!

Polish-American Family Festival & Country Fair



Sept. 1, 2, 3 (Labor Day) & Sep. 8, 9 - - 12:00 NOON-8:00 PM

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

654 Ferry Road • Doylestown, PA 18901

Tel: (215) 345-0600 • www.polishamericanfestival.org • facebook.com/polishamericanfestival

Fun for Everyone!!

Amusement Rides & Games
Musical Entertainment & Dance Groups
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Living History Reenactors
Adam Styka Art Exhibit

** The Tamburitzans on 9/2 **

** Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra on 9/8 **

Admission

\$12.00 Per Person

- Midway Rides -

Unlimited Entrance to All Midway Rides - All Day Long!
(Extreme Rides at additional cost)

- Stage Shows -

Entrance to all Entertainment Shows, including Dance Ensembles, Bands & Major Performing Artists.

- Special Events -

Admission to all Special Events, Exhibits & Polish Village.