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MIROSLAW IRINGH

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NEWSMARK

Ocasio-Cortez Says No to Auschwitz Tour

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., who drew criticism and praise for comparing migrant detention centers at the southern border to concentration camps, is rejecting offers to visit the Nazi camps built in Occupied Poland.

Polish politician Dominik Tarczynski, vice-president of the European Conservatives in the European Council, invited Ocasio-Cortez to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Belzec, Sobibor, and Majdanek so the Democrat could “study the concentration camps here for real” and “see firsthand how different it is from [the] immigration processing centers on the U.S. border.”

Edward Mosberg, 93, a Poland-born Holocaust survivor, reached out to the lawmaker, saying she should tour the Auschwitz Memorial with him.

The *New York Times* published a full-page ad which was headlined, “Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, stop desecrating the Holocaust.” The ad, sponsored by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and his The Values Network, features a picture of Jewish concentration camp prisoners and one of the Congresswoman.

Singers to Meet in Buffalo, Hamilton

The Polish Singers Alliance (PSAA) will hold its 52nd International Convention in Buffalo, May 22-24, 2020. Among the planned events are a competition featuring approximately 15 choirs, a gala with a performance by the Radosc Song and Dance Ensemble, and a Concert and Mass at Assumption Church featuring a combined chorus of approximately 225 singers in performance.

PSAA also announced a grant to District IX choirs for its concert in celebration of 200th anniversary of the birth of Stanislaw Moniuszko, which will feature the Symfonia Choir, Cantabile Choir, Chopin Singing Society, Cantate Omnes Choir, and soloists, Sun., Oct. 27 at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Hamilton, Ontario.

Duda Initiates Lectures

President Andrzej Duda launched a project in which school students from across Poland will be able to spend the week listening to lectures by eminent academics.

The theme of the summer course, “The law for the common good,” allows students to take part in seminars and workshops.

New Painkiller Shows Promise

Researchers from the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Warsaw have developed a chemical compound with analgesic properties 5,000 times more effective than currently available painkillers.

Administering the compound, known as a peptidomimetic, causes the body to simultaneously send a signal inhibiting and relieving pain and a second signal extinguishing its source, according to the researchers.

“This is a huge advantage over previously known painkillers because they all work in either one way or the other, while none of them works both ways at the same time,” said Dr. Rafał Wiczorek, a member of the research team.

They say the substance could be used in neuropathic pain relief, acute trauma or palliative treatment. The research team is working on the first phase of clinical trials.

Chinese Investment Welcomed

Poland’s Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz said his country welcomes investment from China, and emphasized the manufacturing and innovative sectors of investment during talks in Warsaw with the Chinese government’s top diplomat State Councilor Wang Yi.

Yi called for Poland and China to take advantage of the Silk Road transport network, a growing link of rail services between the two counties.

And Another One Gone



PHOTO: ERICALIX ROGERS

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — After years of controversy, St. Adalbert, a historic 1914 Pilsen church at 1650 W. 17th St. on the city’s South Side, closed. It did not come as a surprise to its parishioners, who first heard of the planned closing in 2016.

The Archdiocese of Chicago ended services at St. Adalbert church with a last Mass celebrated July 14 in English, Polish, and Spanish. Cardinal Blase Cupich said in a statement that, after July 14, the church will “no longer be a sacred space and may not be used for worship.”

“They’re calling it a celebration Mass, but it’s a funeral Mass,” said Anina Jakubowski, a longtime parishioner. “Who’s coming to celebrate the closing of a church?”

Considered the Mother Church of the South and Southwest sides of Chicago and recognized as one of

the most beautiful Polish churches in the United States, it served for 142 years. Recently, the church has remained open for worship under the management of Rev. Michael Enright, pastor of neighboring St. Paul and St. Ann Churches.

Parishioners and many members of the Polish and Mexican communities tried to save St. Adalbert by raising funds needed to provide for an array of repairs. The church’s twin towers, for example, are crumbling and have been surrounded for years by scaffolding. However, the price of repairing the towers alone would exceed \$3 million.

In the meantime, the Chicago Archdiocese continues to search for a buyer of the property. Numerous groups have expressed interest in the property, but the Archdiocese promised that “future plans for the St. Adalbert property will be sensitive to the desires of the community and other constituent groups.”

Trump to Attend WWII Anniversary in Poland

To Date, no Russian Officials Invited

WARSAW — Confirming earlier reports, U.S. President Donald Trump will come to Poland for events to mark the 80th anniversary of the start of World War II on September 1, a senior government official in Warsaw has said.

Deputy Prime Minister Jacek Sasin cited as saying that Trump would be among foreign leaders taking part in the international commemorations in the Polish capital.

“President Trump will certainly be there; we have that confirmed already,” Sasin said in a media interview, as quoted by public broadcaster Polish Radio’s IAR news agency. “There will be other leaders as well; now all these visits are being confirmed.”

Meanwhile, Polish presidential spokesman Błażej Spychalski told the IAR news agency that Trump’s visit would only be definitively confirmed when it is officially announced by the White House.

A Polish newspaper reported Trump would spend two days in Poland when he visits the country for the World War II anniversary.

The Polish presidential spokesman was earlier this year quoted as saying that officials from European Union, NATO and Eastern Partnership countries had been invited to take part in observances of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II on September 1.

Spychalski, press spokesman for the Polish head of state, also said at the time that no Russian officials had been invited to visit Poland to mark the anniversary.

Wojciech Kolarski, a senior aide to Poland’s Duda, said earlier this year that German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier would likely visit Poland for anniversary events on September 1.

POLAND AND WORLD WAR II

How the Warsaw Uprising Challenged and Changed Poland

by Piotr Wilczek

“In the summer of 1944, the Nazi and Soviet armies were preparing for a terrible and bloody battle right here in Warsaw. Amid that hell on earth, the citizens of Poland rose up to defend their homeland.”

With those words, President Donald Trump, speaking in Warsaw before a striking monument to the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, brought the spotlight of the world to an event that for too long has been relegated to a footnote in Western history.

In the hot summer of 1944, the Nazi German Reich, which had spread destruction across the European continent, was on the run.

In the west, American, British and Canadian forces, supported by Polish

airmen, seamen and other allied forces, secured a foothold in Normandy and were beginning the fight to liberate

Rome following the Battle of Monte Cassino, which was captured by soldiers of the Polish II Corps.

And in the east, the massive Soviet Army had crossed the pre-war Polish border as it pushed tattered German forces back towards Berlin.

By this point Poland, which had been the first country to resist Nazi Germany in 1939, had suffered close to five years of brutal occupation and terror. Additionally, Poland endured what few other European nations experienced, the dual occupation by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

Between 1939–41 the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany undertook joint actions as outlined in the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and collaborated

PHOTO: FOTOGRAFICZNA WALCZĄCEJ WARSZAWY
Polish fighter in a uniform of a Warsaw tramway driver, from Ruczaj Battalion carries a flamethrower before fights for “Mała PASTa” building, August 22, 1944.

In the south, the allies had liberated

See “Warsaw Uprising,” page 4

ALMANAC

VIEWPOINTS

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August Sierpień

"You will go on blundering, for only he who does nothing avoids errors."

— **Janusz Korczak (1878-1942)**, Polish-Jewish educator, children's author, and pedagogue. Working as director of an orphanage in Warsaw, he refused sanctuary repeatedly and stayed with his orphans when the entire population of the institution was sent by the Nazis from the Ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp.

- 1 1944. The **Warsaw Rising** begins, a major World War II operation by the Home Army to liberate Warsaw from the Nazis.
- 2 1943. **Treblinka Uprising**. Some 600 prisoners at the Nazi Treblinka concentration camp stage an uprising and fled into the woods. Only 40 survived.
- 3 1924. Death of **Joseph Conrad**, 66, British and Polish author.
- 4 **ST. DOMINIC**
Gdy ciepło na Dominika, ostra zima nas dotyka.
St. Dominic warm, fierce winter storms.
- 6 **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**
1955. As a senator, **John F. Kennedy** visits Poland.
- 7 1927. Birth of children's book author **Maia Wojciechowska**.
- 8 1915. Birth of **Fr. Cornelian Dende, O.F.M. Conv.** of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*.
- 10 1582. **Peace of Jam-Zapolski**, under which Russia lost access to the Baltic and surrendered Livonia and Estonia to Poland.
- 11 1950. Birth of self-taught computer genius and Apple Computer founder **Steve Wozniak**.
- 12 1866. Birth of **Gabriel Sovulewski**, who helped develop Yosemite National Park, where he is buried.
- 13 1838. Birth of **Fr. Dominic Kolasinski**, who builder of Polish churches in Detroit.
1916. Birth of Polish American historian **Edward Pinkowski**.
- 14 **ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**
2004. Czeslaw Milosz (93), Polish poet and Nobel laureate (1980), dies in Krakow.
- 15 **ASSUMPTION**
Known as Matki Boskiej Zielnej, Feast of the Lady of the Herbs.
- 17 **ST. HYACINTH**
2002. Concluding a four-day visit to Poland, **Pope John Paul II** bids a tearful farewell to his homeland.
- 20 1940. Polish pilots fight in the **Battle of Britain**.
- 21 1907. Birth of **Henry Archacki** (d. Aug. 13, 1988), notable Polish graphic artist, journalist, researcher, historian
- 24 1989. Coalition government in Poland under the first non-communist prime minister **Tadeusz Mazowiecki** takes power.
- 25 1905. Birth of **St. Maria Faustyna Kowalska** of the Blessed Sacrament, OLM in Poland.
- 26 1906. **Albert Bruce Sabin**, U.S. virologist, born in Poland. He developed the polio vaccine.
- 27 1610. Polish **King Władysław IV Waza** crowned king of Russia.
- 28 1852. **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba** arrives in New Orleans with four other missionaries recruited from Poland to the United States.
- 29 1655. Swedish **King Karel X Gustaf** occupied Warsaw.
- 30 1288. Death of **King Leszek II**.
- 31 1980. Polish trade union **Solidarity** founded in Gdańsk

This paper mailed on or before **July 31, 2019**. The **September 2019** edition will be mailed on or before **August 30, 2019**

Make Plans for Polish American Heritage Month

Since 1608, when the first Polish settlers arrived at Jamestown, Virg., Polish people have been an important part of America's history and culture. In 2019, Polish Americans will mark the 38th Anniversary of the founding of Polish American Heritage Month, an event which began in Philadelphia and became a national celebration of Polish history, culture and pride. During 2019, Poles will mark the 411th Anniversary of the first Polish settlers, who were among the first skilled workers in America. On July 30, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished another noteworthy achievement by staging the first labor strike in America.

Polish Americans will also mark the 240th anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry, and the International Year of Kosciuszko, Hero of Poland and America.

Information about these historic events and ways to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month can

be obtained by visiting the Polish American Heritage Month Committee's site at PolishAmericanHeritageMonth.com. On this site you will find a list of "Things to Do During Polish American Heritage Month," the 2019 coloring contest artwork for schools, and Heritage Month posters that can be downloaded and printed.

Copies of the coloring contest artwork can also be obtained by calling the Heritage Month Committee, Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at (215) 922-1700.

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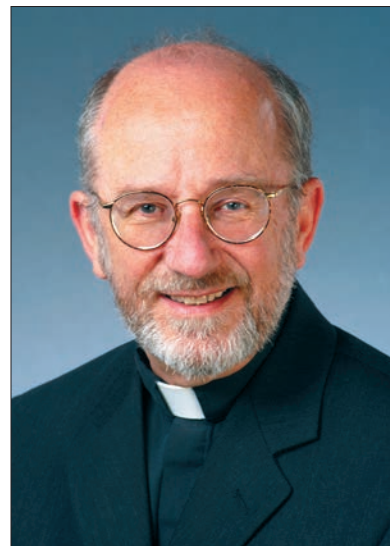
Staś Kmieć is the author of the July 2019 cover story, "Auschwitz Stories and the Story of Auschwitz." His name was inadvertently misplaced during the paper's layout.

Congratulations, Fr. Fiore

Polish American Journal Religion Editor **Rev. Benjamin Fiore, S.J.**, pastor of St. Michael Church in Downtown Buffalo, celebrated his 45th anniversary of ordination on Sun., July 14, 2019 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Michael Church.

Fr. Fiore was ordained on July 14, 1974 at Holy Cross Church, Maspeth, N.Y. His undergraduate degree was completed at LeMoyne College in Syracuse. He entered the Society of Jesus on September 8, 1964 in Plattsburgh, N.Y. He studied philosophy at the Jesuit philosophy, Loyola Seminary, completed his Masters at Fordham, and his major seminary study of theology in Rome, Italy. After ordination, he completed graduate study in the New Testament at Yale University.

Long associated with Canisius College in Buffalo, his career there began in 1979 when he taught in the Religious Studies Department, and acted as Chair of the Department for a number of years. Beginning in 1980 he served in a number of positions on the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, and in 1982 was co-founder of the Solidarity and Human Rights Association,



Rev. Benjamin Fiore, S.J. celebrated anniversary of his ordination.

which functioned until 1990. He served as publisher of its newsletter, *Messenger*. In 2005, Fr. Fiore became the President of Campion College at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, and served there until his return to Buffalo in 2013, when he became pastor at St. Michael Church in early 2014. He also resumed his teaching as an adjunct professor at Canisius College

and his activity on the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture.

Among his many publications are translations of two books with Dr. Marek Zaleski by Jozef Tischner, philosopher of Solidarnosc, *The Spirit of Solidarity and Marxism and Christianity*. Also with Dr. Zaleski, he published *A Way to Freedom*, a chronology of events in Polish history since 1772, published by the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College in 1988.

Among his many honors, he received the Golden Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, was inducted into the International Order of the Smile, in Warsaw, Poland, and received awards for religious service from the WNY Polish American Congress and General Pulaski Association. He was an *AmPol Eagle* Citizen of the Year in the Heritage Category.

Fr. Fiore has been the PAJ's Religion Editor since 1984, and has contributed almost 500 columns and features since that time.

Congratulations to Fr. Ben for his years of service to God's people and his many contributions to Polonia.

U.S. Embassy Co-Hosts Symposium on U.S.-Poland Relations

WARSAW — On May 30 at the Klub Bankowca, the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-hosted a symposium on "The Centennial of Polish-American Diplomatic Relations." The German Marshall Fund also helped with arrangements.

The symposium was one of three major events organized by the U.S. Embassy to highlight U.S.-Polish relations and celebrate the re-establishment of a democratic Poland 30 years ago. The U.S. Embassy held the successful kickoff event at the Bristol Hotel on January 30 and participated in events in Gdansk on June 2-3.

Poland's Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz and Ambassador Georgette Mosbacher gave welcoming remarks at the symposium, followed by two panel discussions: "New Century of Polish-American Diplomatic Ties" and "Poland 1989 – The Center of the World." The moderator of the first panel was Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz. Panelists



included former U.S. Ambassadors to Poland Stephen Mull and Daniel Fried, as well as former Polish Ambassador Boguslaw Winid and Professor Jakub Tyszkiewicz.

Former ABC journalist Dr. Alma Kadragic moderated the second panel and its panelists included former Polish Ambassador to the United States Jerzy Kozmiński, former U.S. Ambassador to Poland Thomas Simons, and Professors Thaddeus Kontek and Wojciech Roszkowski.

Following the panels, Poland's current ambassador to the United

States, Piotr Wilczek, spoke on the topic of "Poland and America – One Hundred Years of Solidarity and Success with More to Come."

During her welcoming remarks, Ambassador Mosbacher reiterated what President Trump said in Warsaw in 2017, that "The United States has never given up freedom and independence as the right and destiny of the Polish nation, and we never will Today Poland is one of America's most important allies, a valued member of NATO, and a proud member of the European Union."

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Declaration Calls for U.S. Military Headquarters, Combat Training Facility in Poland

WASHINGTON (Army Recognition News) — More than a year of intense Defense Department-led negotiations between the United States and Poland have yielded an agreement that involves additional U.S. infrastructure in Poland, as well as an increase in the number of U.S. rotational forces that operate there.

The agreement was signed June 12, 2019 by President Donald J. Trump and Polish president Andrzej Duda, during Duda's visit to Washington, D.C.

"As stated in the joint declaration, the U.S. and Poland continue to enhance our security cooperation," Trump said. "Poland will provide basing and infrastructure to support the military presence of about 1,000 American troops. The Polish government will build these projects at no cost to the United States. The Polish government will pay for this. We thank President Duda and the people of Poland for their partnership in advancing our common security."

Duda said the agreement is a "calm but consistent policy" in terms of security cooperation between the United States and Poland. "This is of breakthrough character," Duda said. "It moves us to another era. So far, we can say, the Americans were testing the situation in Poland, how it looks, how it feels — what about logistics, whether it is possible to stay in Poland and to successfully attain the goals and implement the tasks of a defensive nature."

Duda said he thinks U.S. military leaders have determined it is possible to do those things, and this is why the agreement was signed. He also said rotational forces are a good choice. "It is a rotational presence, yes it is," Duda said. "This is most beneficial from today's perspective to training soldiers through rotational presence. By having a rotational presence, more soldiers can come to a country, be present there, look at a culture, at the conditions



PHOTO: COURTESY OF 278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT, TENNESSEE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

U.S. and Polish forces participate in a simulated tank battle during the "Tank Battle" event held at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, July 13.

in place in a given country."

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan said the signing of the agreement underscores the shared values of the United States and Poland, and will serve to strengthen defense ties between the two nations. "Enhanced bilateral cooperation in security will deepen our Polish-American partnership, which is vital to addressing today's current threats and challenges," Shanahan said. "We look forward to this continued defense relationship, and friendship, for years to come."

While the United States doesn't permanently station forces in Poland, it does maintain a rotational force in the country. On average, about 4,500 rotational U.S. military personnel are in the country during any month. According to the agreement, the presence is expected to grow by about 1,000 personnel. Those troops will provide additional defense and deterrence capabilities in Eastern Europe.

The declaration also indicates the United States will establish a division headquarters in Poland, and that a combat training center will be established at Drawsko Pomorskie in northern Poland for use by both U.S. and Polish forces. Additional training centers around Poland are

also called for.

Under the agreement, the U.S. also plans to establish an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance squadron in Poland made up of U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles, to establish an aerial port in the country, and to build infrastructure to support an armored brigade combat team, a combat aviation brigade and a combat sustainment support battalion.

Initial infrastructure to support this U.S. growth in Poland, as well as the establishment of a U.S. special operations capability and an area support group, are expected to be funded by the Polish government, at no cost to the United States.

"Both countries seek to conclude international agreements and other arrangements necessary to realize the common vision for enhanced defense cooperation, including the streamlining of the functioning of the U.S. forces in Poland," the agreement reads. "The United States and Poland are to have a regular process to consult and plan for potential force posture adjustments and related infrastructure requirements for the U.S. forces deployed to Poland."

Previously, Poland had been a member of the Warsaw Pact with

the Soviet Union from 1955 to 1991. As a member of NATO since 1999, Poland now is looking to expand its contribution to the common defense of NATO partner countries. The U.S. will help Poland accomplish that goal, Shanahan said.

"The United States and Poland have a long-standing and fruitful defense relationship. Over time, our shared history of military cooperation, collaborative partnerships,

and continued commitment to security in the region have resulted in a strong and prosperous friendship," Shanahan said. "There is no question among NATO allies that the U.S. military presence in Poland contributes to security in the region, providing deterrence and strengthening the alliance, and that by enhancing that presence, we will continue to ensure democracy, freedom and sovereignty."

Air Training Underway, Too



COURTESY/PHOTO/RELEASED

An EC-130H Compass Call prepares to take off to execute the first training mission from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

USAF — A U.S. Air Force EC-130H Compass Call, Airmen, and support equipment have arrived at Krzesiny Air Base, Poland, to participate in training with other U.S. aircraft and the Polish air force as part of an ongoing series of military engagements. During this rotation, U.S. and Polish air forces will conduct training focused on maintaining joint readiness and enhancing interoperability.

The EC-130H and Airmen are deployed from the 55th Electronic Combat Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. They will join F-16C fighter jets and Airmen deployed to Krzesiny from the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

The EC-130H is an airborne

tactical weapon system that uses a heavily modified version of the C-130 Hercules airframe. The system disrupts enemy command and control communications and limits adversary coordination essential for enemy force management. The Compass Call system employs offensive counter-information and electronic attack capabilities in support of U.S. and Coalition tactical air, surface, and special operations forces.

This deployment has been fully coordinated with Poland.

"The deployment of the EC-130H to Europe demonstrates U.S. commitment to allies and partners and to enhancing regional security," said the USAF release.

QUOTES

Poland's Most-Harmed Group

compiled from news sources

"Israel does not recognize Polish documentation produced by the Main Commission for the Investigation of Hitler's Crimes. A Jewish eyewitness must be present, and in the case of murdered Poles it is very rare. Let's be clear: Poles who died for helping Jews are the most harmed group. They are the greatest victims because they are not counted either as the Righteous or as the victims of the Holocaust. They have no name. They are nobody. They are the murdered but unrecognized victims. In Poland thousands of family members of these victims live. And they live with this huge load of victimhood and injustice."

— **Magdalena Gawin**, Deputy Minister of the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, interviewed by Grzegorz Górny in *wpolityce.pl*.

"This is why when someone cheapens the history, or uses it for political point-scoring, we become agitated and upset."

— **Polish politician Dominik Tarczynski**, explaining to Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, why her comparison of

migrant detention centers to Nazi concentration camps built in Occupied Poland, is vexing.

"You honor us with your presence—welcome to America and to Texas and its Polonia. I humbly accept this prestigious award in the name of our Polish people living today in Texas and throughout the USA, and in Poland. God's Divine Providence has inspired us to build the Polish Heritage Center."

— **Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta** of the Diocese of Amarillo, to Poland's President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda, upon being presented the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. The bishop was recognized for his numerous initiatives in the Polish community, most notably his vision and leadership in founding the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria.

"It's heartbreaking. My mom, she was dying in bed. All she would do is pray for this church."

— **Anina Jakubowski**, a Polish immigrant whose family attended Chicago's St. Adalbert Church for generations, on the diocese's announcement to close Pilsen neigh-


borhood icon founded by Polish immigrants in 1874. The last Mass was held July 14 and it ceased to be a sacred space the next day.

"In Poland people know very little about their compatriots living abroad. Hardly anyone realizes what a huge number of Polish scientists work at foreign universities or how many outstanding artists of Polish descent actually create abroad."

— **Dariusz Bonislawski**, the head of the Polish Community Association, which hosted a Polish Youth Congress organized by Polish community members from various Latin American countries. Poles started emigrating to South America in the 19th century. Today, there are an estimated two million living in Brazil alone.

"The Polish are finally coming together. With every generation we don't want to lose our heritage, our culture — this is one way to get us all under one roof."

— **Tom Sorosiak**, a member of the Polish Cultural Center Advisory Board, to the Toledo, Ohio City Council, on plans for a 19,000-square-foot cultural center on the city's East Side.



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On a Wing and a Prayer: Jan Wnek and 150 Years of Polish Flight

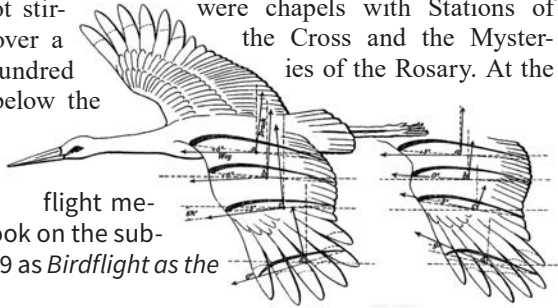
by Mark Dillon

This past May 16 marked the 150th anniversary of an accident in a village north of Tarnow that resulted in the death of a self-taught pioneer of Polish aviation — Jan Wnek.

More than two decades before hang gliders were popularized in Germany, a religious wood sculptor was building flying wings. With the help of a parish priest, Wnek launched his creation from the top of a 148-foot bell tower at the Church of Our Lady of Odporyszow.

Beginning in 1866, at church festivals such as Pentecost and carnivals, Wnek would fly an ash wood and varnished linen glider about 26 feet long with foot stirrups for navigation over a distance of several hundred feet into the valley below the church.

White storks were used to illustrate flight mechanics in the first book on the subject, published in 1889 as *Birdflight as the Basis of Aviation*.



A model of the glider, called *Loty*, currently hangs in Krakow's Museum of Ethnography while museums in Odporyszow and Tarnow feature Wnek's wood carvings. Gmina Radgoszcz, which includes Odporyszow, also honors Wnek

with a gold and blue rendition of his hang glider as its municipal coat of arms and flag.

Wnek was able to garner the resources to build a glider after making a name for himself as a sculptor under the patronage of Our Lady of Victory Pastor Fr. Stanisław Morgenstern. At the time, Fr. Morgenstern was also a member of the Galician National Diet, a quasi-parliament set up by then Austrian-Hungarian Emperor Franz Jozef.

In the 1850s, Fr. Morgenstern commissioned Wnek to make sculptures for the parish church as well as 52 chapels in the Krakow and Tarnow dioceses. Most of Wnek's 200 works depict scenes from the life of Christ and the Mother of God; among them there were chapels with Stations of the Cross and the Mysteries of the Rosary. At the

Odporyszow church wall, Wnek also created wood relief depictions of the life of Mary. (Source: *Muzeum Jana Wnka w Odporyszowie*.)

Wnek had no mechanical engineering training, never published drawings of his designs, or wrote



A full-scale model of The Church of Our Lady of Odporyszow in Matopolskie overlooks a valley in the Carpathian foothills.

about his flights. It is said that he carefully studied the construction and function of the wings of a duck, and then made wood and fabric models.

Accounts of Wnek's flights began to appear in 1867 in Krakow in a journal called *Calender of the Czech*, according to the Odporyszow museum's website. Parish church records also describe the flights, according to a report by Tadeusz Seweryn, director of the Krakow ethnography museum from 1945 to 1975.

Wnek's flight demonstrations came 22 years before the publication of *Birdflight as the Basis of Aviation* in Germany, which used white storks to illustrate flight mechanics.

On the eve of Pentecost in 1869,

which was the week after the first transcontinental railroad was completed in the United States, Wnek's glider crashed on takeoff and he sustained injuries that the 41-year-old would die from that July. The exact cause of the crash is not known, but Wnek's assistant Michal Sowinski, was blamed for the mishap. Wnek was survived by his wife, Marianna Ciomborowna, and three children.

For more about the Wnek's sculptures and the Church of Our Lady of Odporyszow, go to <http://sanktuariumodporyszow.pl/>. The church and shrine is named for a 1655 Polish defeat of the Swedish Army in the area during The Deluge and a related miraculous discovery of spring water by the area's defenders, who were suffering from extreme thirst at the time.

Conference to Present Gzowski Leadership Medal

TORONTO — Quo Vadis Conferences Canada has launched its inaugural Sir Casimir Stanislaw Gzowski Leadership Medal in honor of the conference's 10th anniversary.

The award will be presented to exceptional individuals who have helped shape the Quo Vadis movement, as well as to those who have demonstrated support for Polonia youth and for Polonia in Canada and around the world.

The medal is named in honor of one the most significant Canadians of Polish descent, Sir Casimir Gzowski, who fought for Poland's freedom in the November Uprising and became a political prisoner. He then emigrated to Canada, where he became an engineer, and helped to build some of the most important infrastructure in the country. He was knighted by Queen Victoria.

The medals will be presented for the first time at the upcoming Quo Vadis X conference in Toronto on September 21, 2019.

The president of Poland, Andrzej Duda, is an Honorary Patron of this year's conference, as part of the Polish Youth of the XXI Century project.

To learn more, visit www.quovadisconferences.com.

Warsaw Uprising. Home Army fought for values, for a belief in a higher set of ideals, including pluralism, liberty and justice.

continued from cover

in the invasion and subjugation of Poland, a fact now willingly overlooked by Russian officials.

This experience taught Poland's leaders and military elites an important lesson that the West would learn for themselves all too soon: the Red Army carried with it a set of principles and beliefs that were incompatible with Western civilization rooted in Greco-Roman values. Poles knew that although the reign of the Nazi scourge was coming to an end, it would be replaced by something equally sinister.

Thus in 1944, in a determined—albeit perilous—effort, the Polish Underground State and Home Army decided to launch an uprising. The home army was one of Europe's largest clandestine organizations, and was loyal to the Polish government in exile in London. As the German forces hastily retreated from Warsaw and the first Soviet tanks were spotted along the outskirts of the Polish capital, the lightly armed but highly determined Polish Underground State and Home Army rose up in a bid to liberate Warsaw.

What followed next was a heroic fight for freedom against all odds.

For the next sixty-three days Polish insurgents fought the Germans and liberated swaths of the Polish capital. However it was to be in vain.

As President Trump explained, "From the other side of the river, the Soviet armed forces stopped and waited. They watched as the Nazis ruthlessly destroyed the city, viciously murdering men, women and children. They tried to destroy this nation forever by shattering its will to survive."

The Polish strategy had been to quickly take command of the Polish capital in between the German retreat and ahead of the Russian advance. This action would allow the

Polish forces to be masters of their own home and, as it was believed, would hinder the Soviet threat to Polish sovereignty.

However, with the Soviet offen-

continued for sixty-three days, as the city became a sea of ruins, and a quarter of a million Polish fighters and civilians were left dead.

So what was it all for? What did the Polish Home Army fight for?

For freedom. For a better future in which an independent Poland would proudly rise again.

But more importantly they fought for values, for a belief in a higher set of ideals, including pluralism, liberty and justice. These values that the war taught the Poles could only be protected by a strong nation state and strong military. These were values that they knew to be alien in the Soviet Union—the same Soviet Union



Janina Marisówna-Tomiak, nurse and actress, stands before a poster calling "To Arms" on Muranowska Street in Warsaw, 1944.

sive halted, and Stalin not allowing American and British planes permission to land on Soviet-held Polish territory to refuel, thus inhibiting sufficient Western aid from reaching the Warsaw fighters, the Germans were free to methodically and brutally crush the Warsaw Uprising.

For days the Germans went block by block in Warsaw's Wola neighborhood, exterminating every man, woman and child they encountered. Forty thousand to fifty thousand people were killed in one week during the Wola massacre. Next Poland's Old Town was surrounded and pummeled by bombardment until barely a building was left standing. Such actions

that was responsible for deporting over one million innocent Polish civilians to gulags in Siberia. This Soviet Union was responsible for executing twenty thousand Polish officers and prisoners of war simply because of the uniform they wore. This Soviet Union tried to forcefully spread the Bolshevik Revolution across Europe in 1920, but was stopped at Warsaw.

Poles knew that Western civilization ended at their eastern border, and with it respect for Western values, traditions and beliefs.

Therefore, today, on the anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, let us pause to remember those who stood in defense of Poland and our Western values, including Julian Kulski,

who was only a teenager when he took up arms in the Warsaw Uprising; and the late Zofia Korbonska, a heroic radio operator who informed the outside world about Nazi atrocities; and Barbara Syska, who served as a messenger during the Uprising, bravely dashing between units to pass along orders. All these individuals, who later settled near Washington, D.C. embody the ethos of the Polish nation.

Today, Poles carry on the memory of the heroic Warsaw Uprising fighters, not only by bowing their heads on August 1, but also by working each and every day to uphold the values for which they fought. From burden-sharing in the NATO alliance, to serving around the world where freedom is threatened, Poland remains committed to its fundamental values.

Just as in 1944, when Poland took a stand against tyranny, so too today does Poland stand against the tyranny of the Islamic State and help other countries, such as Ukraine, stand strong in the face of tyranny. Poles must keep the mem-

ory of 1944 alive so that these valuable lessons are not forgotten.

In the words of President Trump, "The memories of those who perished in the Warsaw Uprising . . . remind us that the West was saved with the blood of patriots; that each generation must rise up and play their part in its defense—and that every foot of ground, and every last inch of civilization, is worth defending with your life."

May their memory always be with us.

◆ ◆ ◆

Piotr Wilczek was appointed ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States and the Bahamas in 2016. He is a noted author, literary translator and expert in comparative literature, who has authored or edited over twenty books. Prior to being named ambassador, he served as professor and director of the doctoral studies program in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Warsaw and previously served as head of the College.

This article was first published in the July 31, 2017 edition of National Interest magazine.

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And Baby Makes Three



HOLLYWOOD ACTOR JOHNNY GALECKI and girlfriend Alaina Meyer are expecting their first child.

Galecki, 43, and Meyer, 22, confirmed they were expecting their first child when the *Big Bang Theory* star appeared on *The Talk*.

He told hosts he is secretly hoping for a daughter but finished by saying the baby's health was the most important thing to him.

Galecki, who just completed the *Big Bang Theory*'s 12th and final season, used the show to ask the paparazzi to "please respect our privacy during this celebratory time for us and our families."

Galecki was born in 1975 to in Belgian to a Polish American father stationed there in the U.S. Air Force. His family moved back to Oak Park, Ill. when he was three years old, and he began his acting career began at age 7 when he appeared in stage productions. Galecki was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award, given for excellence in theatre, at age 11. Today, he has a net worth of \$50 million.

Jack White was "On the Prowl"

GDYNIA, Poland — Polish American rock legend Jack White provided the high point of the third day of Poland's Open'er Festival on July with a hit-strewn set of White Stripes, The Raconteurs, The Dead Weather, solo material, and a declaration that he'd come to Poland to find himself a new wife.

"Mother said don't come home until you have a Polish wife," the singer announced before a jaunty run through of The White Stripes' "Hotel Yorba," "so I'm on the prowl tonight."

During an energized and light-hearted set, White also claimed he'd take a few days off of his tour to sight-see around Poland, and took steps to heal his rift with The Black Keys by thanking them for headlining an earlier night at the festival.

Emerging bathed in his now-trademark blue light theme, White launched into a set from throughout his career, alongside solo songs, despite battling vocal problems throughout. "My voice is a little



WHITE. On his mom's orders, was looking for a Polish wife. raspy," he said. "I apologize but I'm doing the best I can."

Last year, during the opening of his tour in his hometown of Detroit, White invited his mother, Teresa Gillis, to join him on stage to sing backing vocals and polka with him during his performance of "Hotel Yorba."

Shawver To Discuss Poland as AZ Speaks Road Scholar

PHOENIX — Arizona Humanities has named Katrina Shawver, author of the award-winning *HENRY: A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to America* (Köehler Books, November 2017) as a Road Scholar in the AZ Speaks program for 2019–2021.

Arizona Humanities is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and the Arizona affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The mission of Arizona Humanities is to build a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection.

AZ Speaks is the longest running and most popular program of Arizona Humanities. AZ Speaks presenters represent a diverse range of expertise, from a variety of professional backgrounds including civic engagement, film and media, cultural and gender studies, and more. Speakers are carefully selected based on their expertise and ability to offer content and insight that inspires discussion with audiences of all ages and backgrounds. The Road Scholars program brings the best in humanities scholarship to virtually every corner of Arizona.

Shawver will offer two different programs through AZ Speaks: "Poland under Hitler and Stalin during World War II (1939-1945)" and "Polish Christians, Political Prisoners and Martyrs in Auschwitz and Buchenwald."

Shawver, an experienced writer and public speaker, spent many years researching World War II, Poland, Auschwitz, and the Holocaust. She began her writing career more than twenty years ago by writing hundreds of newspaper columns for the *Arizona Republic*. She is the recipient of the 2018 Polish Heritage Award from the Polish American Congress of Arizona. Among other awards, *HENRY* was named 2018 Best Nonfiction by the Arizona Authors Association.

To learn more, visit <https://azhumanities.org/>

*Kto latem pracuje, zimą głodu nie czuje.
Whoever works in the summer does not feel hunger.*

HAPPENINGS CHICAGO SYLE

Elżbieta and Krzysztof Krawczyński Collection

by Geraldine Balut Coleman Museum.

CHICAGO — On June 8, art and history enthusiasts filled the Sabina

P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) to begin an evening enjoying a traditional-style Polish cocktail hour and participating in guided art tours followed by presentations in the Paderewski Room. The PMA's Managing Director, Małgorzata Kot, officially began the evening by presenting an overview of the **Elżbieta and Krzysztof Krawczyński Collection**.

This collection was donated by **Anna Krawczyńska-Paré**, the daughter of the late Elżbieta and the late Krzysztof Krawczyński. The collection of over 50 works by leading Polish artists, including Jan Młodożeniec, Franciszek Starowieyski, Stasys Eidigeivicius, Rafał Olbiński, Waldemar Świerzy, Jan Dobkowski, and Tadeusz Kuliszewicz dates from the 1970s-1990s.

This exhibition opening gave art enthusiasts the opportunity to view the unique works of those Polish artists. Anna Krawczyńska-Paré spoke about the unique array of modern paintings, and of her parents' passion for promoting Polish art, music, and culture. She and her family donated the Krawczyński's modern art collection to the PMA to preserve it as a testament to her parents' devotion to Polish culture. She thanked the PMA and the special commitment made by Julita Siegel, who curated this exhibition.

Eliza Folkert, a young rising musical star from the Atlanta, Georgia area, then gave a short piano recital. Afterward, attendees were invited to the official ribbon-cutting ceremony that opened the permanent Krawczyński exhibition which now hangs in the Eastern Wing of the



Untitled (Tiger) by Jan Młodożeniec (1929-2000). Gouache on paper.

married in 1962 and spent 54 years together. They practiced in Poland until they immigrated to the United States in 1983.

Dr. Krzysztof Krawczyński's field of expertise was research in the field of immunopathology. During his career at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, he made outstanding contributions to the understanding of the area of viral hepatitis.

Elżbieta Gurtler-Krawczyńska was a recognized cardiologist. As a member of the Emory University Department of Nuclear Medicine, she taught and conducted studies in heart nuclear imaging.

The Krawczyńskis collected Polish art, organized events and fundraisers, and supported the Chopin Society of Atlanta.

Their lives ended in a tragic car accident in 2016.

Krawiec Becomes a Centenarian



Jan Krawiec

This past June 15, Jan Krawiec, retired editor-in-chief of the *Dziennik Związkowy* (*The Polish Daily News*), celebrated his 100th birthday. He was a World War II Polish freedom fighter, survivor of two concentration camps, a Polish activist, and journalist. Among the many cards and letters he received for his birthday was an apostolic blessing from Pope Francis.

For many years, Krawiec was a regular volunteer at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, where he regularly met with students to tell them about what is not written in textbooks. His recollections have inspired thousands of young people.

In May 2016, he was honored as Chicago's 125th Polish Constitution Day Parade Grand Marshal.

A party in his honor was held at the home of his goddaughter. *Dwieście lat, Pan Krawiec!*

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Faces of Margraten Project Seeks Photos of American GIs



Graves at the Netherlands American Cemetery decorated ahead of Memorial Day.

by Matthew Stefanski

One of the most remarkable places an American can visit overseas is an American military cemetery. While the cemetery in Normandy, France may be the most well-known, there are, in fact, many such places around the world where U.S. servicemen are buried, their graves cared for in perpetuity by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The Netherlands American Cemetery located just outside Maastricht in Margraten is unique for the ties that have formed there between the local Dutch residents and the American graves. Each of the 8,291 gravestones and 1,722 names on the wall of the missing have been adopted by individual Dutch citizens who visit throughout the year and bring flowers, especially on Memorial Day and Dutch Remembrance Day. In fact, there is a waiting list for those wishing to adopt a grave. This local activism and remembrance have led to another project called the Faces of Margraten.

In this event, held every two years, volunteers install pictures of the U.S. servicemember alongside their grave. So far, 6,000 photos

have been identified of the almost 10,000 men memorialized in Margraten.

For the 75th anniversary, the Faces of Margraten project hopes to have a photo for at least 7,500 of the World War II U.S. servicemen who are buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery. They are seeking the public's help in finding photos of the remaining men to give them a face. Among the servicemen for whom they still seek photos are many Polish American sounding names, including:

Michael Adamczyk of Philadelphia, Pa.; **Michael Bekierski** of Cleveland, Ohio; **Chester Bienkowski** of St. Louis, Mo.; **Joseph Borowski** of Queens, N.Y.; **Henry Czujak** of Fairfield, Conn.; **Walter Dzieniszewski** of Chicago; **Roman Kasprzyk** of Detroit; **Leonard Krolkowski** of Chicago; **Edward Pszczolkowski** of Detroit; **John Robaczynski** of Baltimore, Md.; **Theodore Ryzinski** of Pittsburgh; and **Edward Wolicki** of Buffalo, N.Y.



Information about the project, how to become involved in it or how to contribute a photo can be found on their website www.degezichten-vanmargraten.nl/

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RELIGION

Bishop Paprocki Versus Illinois Lawmakers — Again

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.



Bishop Thomas Paprocki of the RC diocese of Springfield, Ill., predicted in June that the state legislature would pass further legislation

expanding access to abortion in Illinois, after they passed the law, signed by the governor, that allows abortion at any time and for any reason. Now the legislators, many of whom are Roman Catholic, are promising to propose legislation that will repeal the state's parental notification law for abortions for minors on the grounds that they see access to abortion as a fundamental right. Illinois ACLU argued in favor of the repeal stating that the state should not be legislating "family communications" that "flow from trust and shared values among family members." They went on to say, "We need to trust youth in our state to make the health care decision, without forcing them to risk their health and safety." As it turns out, minors are required to receive parental permission for school trips and for aspirins but not for abortions.

Bishop Paprocki went on to warn that it is possible that abortion proponents might well be preparing further legislation that would deny religious health care providers who conscientiously object to providing abortions any protection now that the state law recognizes a right to abortion.

Mosbacher Tweets in Favor of LGBT Support

U.S. Ambassador to Poland **Georgette Mosbacher**, who has already stirred controversy with her statements regarding the current Polish government, tweeted on the 50th anniversary of the New York City riots at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village — which gave rise to the LGBTQ movement —

that the events "remind us of the importance of equality, freedom and tolerance."

Immediate reaction to her tweet noted (amongst other things) that the LGBT movement actually seeks to "destroy the traditional family and make people more dependent on the government" tweeted somebody using the screen name "BeautifulWarsaw."

More poignant were the responses that noted that the Poznań Protests, the first of the several massive protests against the communist government, took place on the same date and were totally ignored by the ambassador. Another tweet notes: "No, dear Ambassador@USAmb-Poland, today is the 63rd anniversary of the bloody suppression by the communist authorities of the uprising in Poznań. This makes us aware of the importance of freedom of conscience, religion and speech. And the crimes of left-wing totalitarianism."

In April, Jarosław Kaczyński, the head of Poland's Law and Justice party (Pi), which has formed the government since 2015, in a speech on patriotism called LGBT and gender ideologies a foreign attack on the family and went on to defend Polish culture as inextricably Christian.

US Teachers Union Becomes Pro-Abortion Lobby

Jill Stanek, spokesman for the Pro-Life Susan B. Anthony List, reported the National Education Association, a labor union of teachers forming America's next generation, "has formally taken an extreme position in support of a so-called 'fundamental right to abortion.'"

"The NEA should be about educating kids, not killing them," said Stanek.

The NEA went on to target "misogynistic forces, under Trump" that seek to "abolish the gains of the women's rights movement."

"They are the ones who are trying to silence the voices of millions of pro-life women like myself," said Stanek in response to claims of

abortion lobbyists such as the NEA. "They are the ones who strip the gift of life away from millions of women ... And, of course, they are the ones responsible for the countless deaths of nameless, little baby girls every single year."

Visiting the Oldest Righteous in the World

Jonny Daniels, spokesman for the group From the Depths, visited **Krystyna Dańko** on her 102nd birthday in the Polish city of Otwock. She saved five Jewish persons during the Holocaust, at the risk of her own life and that of her family. From the Depths pledges to "stand as witnesses to the witnesses."

Pro-Life Triathlete Seminarian

Michael Cygan, a seminarian at Buffalo Diocese's Christ the King Seminary, is serving this summer at St. Jude the Apostle Church in North Tonawanda, N.Y. He is currently training to compete in a triathlon (swim, bike, run) to raise money for the diocesan pro-life office (donations can be made online to Mother Teresa Home - www.buffalodiocese.org/mohter-teresa-home - or to St. Gianna Molla Center - www.buffalodiocese.org/st-gianna-molla-center). He has two half Ironman events under his belt and the race on August 18 in Penn Yan, N.Y. will be his first triathlon. He has already run a full marathon with fellow seminarian James Bobak.

Still four years from ordination, his brother Paul just celebrated his first anniversary as a priest and serves at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville, N.Y.

Facing the race as he does his vocation he said, "Sometimes it's difficult to say yes to something that's so big, but what I do know is that I can say yes to God right now ... In the Ironman it plays out when you look at the mile markers and you see there is so much ahead, but you can say to yourself, 'The finish line is so far away, but what I do know is that I can say yes to reaching the top of that hill.' Step by step, you work yourself to the end of the race."

MODLITWY

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PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES. Oh ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfortress of the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Look upon me with mercy. When you appeared in the grotto of Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary where you dispense your favors, and where many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. My loving Mother, obtain my request. I will try to imitate your virtues so that I may one day share your company and bless you in eternity. Amen. M.S.

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NEW YORK

Scholarships to be Presented at Pageant

by Barbara Szydłowski

On Saturday, August 3, the Pulaski Parade Committee of the Polish American Cultural Association will hold its annual **Miss Polonia Pageant and Dance**. Music will be provided by the Eddie Biegaj Band.

At the event, the \$1000 Polish American Cultural Association scholarship will be presented to Kristen Dubkowski by President Leon Jankowski. The Polish American Museum Founders Scholarship of \$500 will be presented by President Barbara Szydłowski to Julita Wiechowski, and the General Pulaski Foundation Scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to Thomas Yamond. All these students will be entering college in the fall.

The **Riverhead USA Polish Town Street Fair and Festival** will be held August 17-18. The festival is fun for the whole family, and includes street vendors, polka dancing, entertainment, and Polish food and refreshments. The Fair

will commence with a Mass at St. Isidore RC Church at 10:00 a.m. The Polish Town Polka Dance Festival will begin at 5:00 p.m. in Polonaise Park, and feature the music of Mike Costa & the Beat.

The Riverhead Polish Hall located in Polish Town will have outdoor dancing to the music of TKO Band with Chuck Pendrak from noon to 5:00 p.m.

The **Polish American Museum** at 16 Bellevue Avenue, Port Washington is open to the public during the summer months and will feature several new exhibits in the fall. To learn more, call (516) 883-6542.

At the Emily Lowe Gallery — located on the south campus of Hofstra University, Hempstead — is an exhibit: "Pushing Boundaries - American Art After World War II." It will be on display until August 16, and features works from the museum's collection by **Stanley Twardowicz**, Andy Warhol, and others. To learn more, visit hofstra.edu/museum.

Staten Island Dancers Polka for Senior Citizens



WOODBRIIDGE, N.J. — On June 9, 2019, the Polish children's folk song and dance ensemble **Lajkonik** from New Brighton, Staten Island delighted the residents at St. Joseph's Senior Home in Woodbridge with a performance of lively dancing, singing, and colorful costumes.

The children performed regional and traditional Polish dances, including the *krakowiak* and *polka*, as the senior citizens clapped and hummed along.

"Our children are promoting their heritage by entertaining our community and seniors with beautiful dances and songs from Poland" said Margaret Lorczak, director of the ensemble. "It is a wonderful and entertaining experience for both our children and the

seniors."

The mission of the dance ensemble is to promote Polish culture through traditional folk dance and songs to Polish and American audiences in the community. Based at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on York Avenue on Staten Island, the dancers attend weekly instruction of traditional Polish folk dances under the direction of Margaret Lorczak, Barbara Borejczuk, and Monika Borejczuk. They range from age 6 to 13, are members of the parish, and attend Polish supplementary school to learn the language and culture of their parents and grandparents.

Their next performance was at the Polish Festival at Snug Harbor Cultural Center, June 30.

Fulton Polish Fest, September 28

FULTON, N.Y. — This year, the **Fulton Polish Fest** is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 28th from noon to 7:00 p.m. at the Fulton Polish Home, located at 153 W 1st St S. in Fulton.

Fulton is located about 25 minutes Northwest of Syracuse.

This year's event will again feature traditional Polish and American food at reasonable prices. Entertainment will be Jasiu Klocek and his strolling accordion from noon-2:00 p.m., and then from 3:00-7:00 p.m. the stage will feature the popular Buffalo Polka Band Special Delivery.

The event is free of charge and the venue has plenty of parking.

Polish Holocaust Remembrance Mass Set for August 10

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Each year the Polish American community of Buffalo hosts a Mass commemorating the life and death of Maximilian Maria Kolbe, the 47-year-old Polish Conventual Franciscan friar who gave up his life in exchange for that of another Polish prisoner at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

In Auschwitz, Kolbe was prisoner #16670, a Polish Catholic, one of 15,000 Polish Christians imprisoned there in 1941. In July of that year, a camp prisoner escaped and ten men from Kolbe's barrack were picked to suffer death by starvation as a means of punishment and as a deterrent to other prisoners. Chosen among the 10 men was a man named Franciszek Gajowniczek, a married man with children. Kolbe stepped forward and offered to take his place. What followed for him and the other men was a slow and excruciating death lasting two weeks. Kolbe was the last of his group to remain alive. Hastening his death, he was executed by the Nazis by a lethal injection of carbolic acid on August 14. The next day he was thrown unceremoniously into the crematorium.

When the war was over, witnesses came forward, which led to Kolbe's beatification. On October 10, 1982 was canonized by Pope John Paul II as a martyr. He is frequently referred to as the Saint of Auschwitz. His feast day is celebrated on the day of his death, August 14.

In memory of Kolbe's heroic act of love in desperate times, the Polish American Congress of Western New York and the Polish Legacy Project of Buffalo are co-hosting the 22nd annual Polish Holocaust Remembrance Mass, which will be held at noon on August 10, 2019 at Resurrection Mausoleum, St. Stanislaus Cemetery, 700 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd., Cheektowaga.

It is with thoughts of the martyrdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe in mind that the Mass also remembers:

- All the Polish victims, both Jew-

ish and non-Jewish of Auschwitz and all the concentration camps established by the Nazis during World War II;

- The almost 2 million Polish forced laborers who suffered, and the many unnumbered, who died of sickness, starvation, or euthanized and whose infants and children were neglected and starved to death in Nazi Germany during World War II;
- The Polish men and women who died as a result of concentration camp medical experiments such as the Polish women at Ravensbruck concentration camp;
- The Righteous Poles who were murdered in their attempts to hide their Jewish neighbors and in so doing forfeited their own lives, such as the Ulma family of Markowa;
- The 200,000 children who were stolen from Polish orphanages, or from their families and sent to Germany to become German;
- The 22,000 Polish soldiers murdered at Katyn forest by the Russians;
- The thousands of Polish families who were deported to Siberia by the Russians, and the men, women, and children who died from starvation and exposure;
- The 566 patients of the psychiatric hospital in Kobierzyn near Krakow and Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, who were killed as part of Hitler's euthanasia action against the terminally ill, the mentally ill and the infirm;
- The Polish Catholic priests who died in Dachau concentration camp, and the Polish Catholic nuns who died in the labor camp at Bojanowo.

These are some the glaring atrocities committed against the Polish people and nation during World War II. The Remembrance Mass is a time of honoring, remem-



Rev. Kolbe, OFM, Conv.

bering and mourning the victims of Nazi and Soviet oppression. The event is open to the public. A table will be set up where participants can place photos of victims and survivors of Poland's tragic occupation. The Mass will be officiated by Rev. Czesław Krysa, pastor of St. Casimir Church in Kaisertown.

Following the service, a short procession will be held to the nearby statue of St. Maximilian Kolbe to honor the martyr of Auschwitz.

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

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Thank you!

Last November the Polish American Journal's main computer crashed. At that time, we asked readers for donations to cover its cost. We received several, for which we are forever grateful.

Shortly after, we learned we needed software, networking, and program upgrades. The cost of upgrades almost doubled the initial price of the computer itself. We had no choice but to place the system on credit.

In May of 2019, we asked our readers to help us. That plea was repeated in the June 2019 edition.

We were flooded with donations, large and small. With these gifts, we received kind words about the work we do for Polonia and Poland. Cliché as it sounds, the response was overwhelming.

We are happy to announce we paid off the computer, and the balance of the software upgrades.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Receipts for donations are being mailed as donations arrive. If you have not received one, please contact our office.

Kenneth and Ann Francis, Avoca, Pa.; **Brian Matulewicz**, Philadelphia; **Irene Mazur**, Warren, Mich.; **Bernice Meyer**, Nazareth, Pa.; **Mary C. Michna**, Wheaton, Ill.; **Dennis Piotrowski**, Torrance, Calif.; **Ed Wasowicz**, Shoreview, Minn.; and **Bishop Emeritus John Yanta**, Amarillo, Texas.

MINNESOTA VOICE

Remembering the Slovak Role in the Warsaw Uprising 75 Years Ago

by Mark Dillon

In Minnesota next month, when historians, diplomats and cultural groups gather to reflect on the 75th anniversary of Slovak National Uprising, part of the story will involve the multiple roles of Miroslaw Iringh of Warsaw.

Iringh, a journalist and resistance leader, led Platoon 535, the most international fighting unit during the Warsaw Uprising that began August 1, 1944. For the prior two years, traveling between Warsaw and Slovakia, Iringh organized communications aimed at encouraging Slovaks in Poland and his family's ancestral homeland to rebel.



PHOTO: WARSAW UPRISING MUSEUM

A photo of Miroslaw Iringh, alias Stanko, in his Warsaw Uprising uniform.

On August 24 and 25, speakers from several museums and universities, as well as a surviving eyewitness from the Polish-Slovakia border town of Becherov south of Gorlice, will meet in St. Paul and Mendota Heights, Minn. for a Slovak National Uprising Memorial Weekend and Remembrance conference. They will review what happened on the battlefields and behind the lines, and why it remains relevant now.

Some 70,000 fighters, both military and civilians, as well as U.S., French, British and Canadian air forces, joined in arms on August 29, 1944 against the Nazi puppet regime of fascist dictator Josef Tiso (the Slovak State), created in March 1939 after the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.

"The event celebrates the intersection of Slovak history with American history" said John Palka of Maple Grove, Minn., a conference organizer who is the grandson of Czechoslovakia prime minister Milan Hodža. Hodža served from 1935 to 1938 and his family fled to the United States in 1940-1941 via France, Spain and Portugal.

Featured conference speakers and sponsors include an historian from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York, a former Air Attache at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, two Rusyn cultural organizations in Pittsburgh and Minneapolis and the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Iowa. (See cs-center.org for more details).

Founder of the Warsaw SNV

Eighty years ago in Warsaw, Iringh was in the eye of the storm, joining the Czechoslovak Legion in Warsaw on Sept. 1 at the start of the German, and later that month, So-

viet invasions. At age 25, he saw his father Stanislaw killed on Sept. 5, according to a 1943 report archived at the Warsaw Uprising Museum. Following the occupation of the city in October 1939, Iringh spent three months in a forced labor camp.

The experience galvanized Iringh into not only documenting Nazi persecution in Poland but, in mid-1942 becoming the founder and head of the Slovak National Committee or Slovenský národný výbor v Poľsku (SNV) resistance group in Warsaw. This group played a vital role as both Uprisings took shape.

According to a 2014 paper by Michael Tomasz Wojciuk published by the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising, the SNV operated on three basic principles:

- Cooperation with the Polish Underground State (military, underground press and information, radio),
- Maintaining neutrality in Poland's internal affairs and
- Forming friendship between Poland and Czechoslovakia (in the Underground, through joint combat and postwar cooperation).

Adopting the Polish Home Army nickname Stanko in honor of his slain father, Iringh's writings were sent across the Tatra Mountains by courier. They gave provided inspiration to civilians of Slovak heritage in both countries, as well as to Slovak soldiers serving in Hungarian and German units stationed in Poland. Wojciuk's report also documents how Iringh's leaflets popularized the idea of a joint Pol-



PHOTO: MARK DILLON

Demeter Kokosh of North Crystal, Minn. His Rusyn family farm in Slovakia sheltered two Polish refugees in the aftermath of the Slovak and Warsaw Uprisings.

ish-Czechoslovak struggle against the Germans and Tiso, and spoke against division of Czechoslovakia.

One way Iringh was able to gather news and intelligence was through his Czechoslovak passport. It allowed Iringh to own a radio, something the Nazis prohibited to Poles, as well as relative freedom of movement, which he leveraged to coordinate planning and communications as he recruited more than 60 men for Platoon 535, Wojciuk's report said.

Eight women also served as medics and couriers in the unit, which was the only Warsaw Uprising unit allowed to use its own banner (see photo), a combination of the Slovak double cross (White Cross of Lorraine in a blue trimount on a red shield) and the Polish Kotwica.

By the summer of 1944, Slova-

kia had faced five years of hardship that included:

- Conscript Slovak State soldiers ordered to cross the border into Poland on Sept 1, 1939 as allies of the invading Germans
- Front line military assignments in the Ukraine in 1941 when Hitler invaded Russia
- Brutality at home as thousands of Jewish neighbors were shipped off to Auschwitz and other concentration camps, and had property confiscated
- Demoralized Slovak State soldiers being reassigned as construction crews in German-occupied Italy after the Germans' defeat at Stalingrad

A farm changes hands

One such Slovak State soldier was Peter Jurčišin, uncle of Demeter Kokosh of North Crystal, Minn. Peter deserted the Slovak State Army and helped Italian partisans in Ravenna in 1944. He would be killed by the Nazis that year, thrown off a cliff. In 1984, Demeter traveled to Italy to Cervia, where Peter's heroism was honored with a village square memorial and a plaque.

Now 85, Demeter will, at the Minnesota conference, detail his own experience as an 11-year-old during the Slovak Uprising. In May 1944 he watched two rebelling Slovak light artillery units with about 400 soldiers set up camp throughout his village of Becherov and several hundred-acre family farm several months before the Uprising. They were just 10 miles from the Dukla Pass, a key strategic point between Poland and Slovakia that saw heavy fighting between the Germans and Russians on the Polish side of the border.

"At our house, we had 3 or 4 soldiers, 4 horses and a supply wagon. This was a phenomenal influx of people of activities. Marching, singing, parading, training exercises," Demeter said. "Troops built a dance platform across the street from our house with music dancing singing each weekend; they also constructed a swimming pool by the creek. The field kitchen was located across the road from our house; I'd wake up in the morning to the cooking aroma drifting into our house; and of course, I'd hear and see the troops coming for breakfast."

As the Slovak Uprising unfolded, a festive summer turned to desperation amid a lack of courage by a leading Slovak general (the officer went on the radio to order two divisions back to base instead of revolting), broken promises by Russia, advancing from the east, and a lack of coordination with Communist Party-backed insurgents.

The Slovak soldiers in Becherov retreated south and west to Banska Bystrica as German troops advanced south from Poland and north from Hungary. Demeter's farm then became home to a 150mm German howitzer as well as a medical field hospital unit. His new house guest, Demeter said, was a conscripted Ukrainian tailor whom the Germans required to sew clothes for the wounded and amputees.

In the late fall/early winter after the Germans left, Demeter's new farm guests would be a Polish father and son who had fled across the border when the Soviet Army finally broke through after both



PHOTO: WARSAW UPRISING MUSEUM

Members of Slovak Platoon 535 pose with their unit colors.

Uprisings were put down in October 1944. Demeter's family hired them to help on the farm for food and lodging.

The American air role

Several hundred miles to the west that summer, U.S. bombers and fighter planes out of Italy and England provided logistical support and added firepower for the Slovak and Warsaw Uprisings. On August 29, the 15th U.S. Army Air Corps sent 500 bombers against oil and rail targets throughout Central Europe.

Among them was the 20th Squadron, assigned to blow up the Privoser Oil Refinery and associated railroad yards at Moravska Ostrava, now part of the Czech Republic. The whole 12 plane squadron was shot down. Forty-six men survived as prisoners of war while four men were able to evade capture with help of Slovak and Czech civilians, as documented in the book *Mighty by Sacrifice* by James L. Noles and James L. Noles Jr.

The Minnesota conference will include wreckage exhibits from two U.S. bombers, as well as a presentation on how a Polish-American copilot from Pennsylvania was rescued by a teenage Slovak girl after parachuting, and reunited with her 60 years later in 2004. One display item is a cockpit panel from a B-17 that crashed in Bošáca on August 29. (photo, right).

A cursed soldier's post-war fate

That same August week in Warsaw, Iringh's platoon was defending the Czerniakowska Point, an intersection of three roads near the left bank of the Vistula River, while trying to communicate with the Red Army, whose advance units were sitting just across the river.

"Iringh documented the fighting and everyday life of insurgents; his photographs from that time are well-known. Platoon 535 became a legend of insurgent forces," Wojciuk wrote in his report. "The unit fought for the Church of Our Lady of Częstochowa at Łazienkowska and buildings at Przemysłowa and Rozbrat."

On Sept. 17, with the Germans closing in, Iringh and his platoon, mostly wounded and depleted to less than a dozen people, evacuated to the Russian lines. The Russians then put him to work as a press correspondent until the end of the war for several publications: *Głos Żołnierza*, *Polska Zbrojna*, *Zwycięzcy* and *Gazeta Lubelska*, according to Wojciuk.

Diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1945, Iringh retired from the army with a pension, and at first, Iringh's

post-war journalism career seemed to thrive. For health reasons, he moved to Zakopane, where he worked as correspondent for *Gazeta Krakowska*.

In 1950 he returned to Warsaw to become field director of the editorial office of the weekly *Przyjaźń*. However, Poland's communist government had him fired from his job in 1951 because of his association with the Uprising, and revoked his membership in the Polish United Workers' Party. He then obtained a craftsman ID to get work as a street photographer.

The price of integrity

Despite being blacklisted as a journalist most of the time in the mainstream Polish media during the communist period, Iringh remained active in organizations promoting Slovak culture in Poland. He co-founded the newspaper *Život* for the Slovak ex-pat community, and was said to be a very sober person of high ethics.

In the late 1950s, as head of the Audit Committee in the Czech and Slovak Social and Cultural Association in Poland, according to Wojciuk's report, Iringh "detected irregularities in spending funds dedicated to renovation of a building, which was to house a café in Kudowa. He objected to mismanagement of funds of the Association, which caused a sharp conflict between Iringh and head of the association, his former fellow (Uprising) soldier Adam Chalupiec." Chalupiec betrayed his wartime comrade in arms and got him kicked off the board. In relative poverty, Iringh died in 1985.

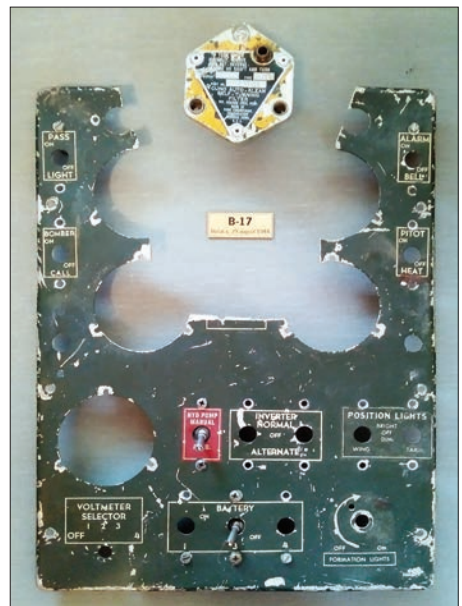


PHOTO: MARK DILLON

This electrical panel from a B-17 bomber that crashed in Bošáca, Slovakia the day the Slovak National Uprising began will be among the exhibits on display at a 75th anniversary conference in Minnesota on August 24 and 25.

Since 1989, however, Iringh's reputation has been restored. In 2005, his daughters donated his papers and photos to the Warsaw Uprising Museum, which now honors him with a permanent display case. Today, the intersection of Czerniakowska, Wilanowska and Okrąg streets in Warsaw is named for him, and visiting dignitaries such as the Slovak ambassador to Poland and Polish veterans groups lay wreaths at his memorial.

Platoon 535 members are listed on the Warsaw Uprising Museum website. http://www.sppw1944.org/index.html?http://www.sppw1944.org/powstanie/cudzoziemcy_03.html

ISKIERKI

World War II Film tells Story of Polish “James Bond”



Philippe Tłokiński (as Jan Nowak-Jeziorański) with Julie Engelbrecht (as Doris) in the World War II film *Kurier*.

by Staś Kmiec

The new historical action film *Kurier* (*The Messenger*) opened in Poland this past spring. Inspired by the real story of the “Kurier of Warsaw,” Jan Nowak-Jeziorański, an emissary of the Polish government in exile in London was given the perilous assignment of getting to London to inform the Polish government-in-exile about the situation in Warsaw. After meeting with English politicians, he returned to Poland without good news for the insurgents – Poland would not be able to expect assistance from the Allies.

Director Władysław Pasikowski relays Poland’s darkest hour; he is one of the most significant names in post-Communist Polish cinematography. Shot in Polish, the main character is played by **Philippe Tłokiński**, a Polish actor born and educated in France. The main female characters are portrayed by **Patrycja Volny**, a German-born Pole, and **Julie Engelbrecht**, a French-born German actress.

Magdalena Górka, a California-based Polish director of photography gave the film a saturated color effect, saying: “I get inspiration from Edward Hopper paintings.” The Warsaw Uprising Museum is one of the producers of *Kurier*.

Former Kraków synagogue is now a bar!

The Facebook cover photo for **Hevre Café** in Kraków shows that it’s a trendy destination, but Polish Jews protested the use of this former synagogue as an upscale bar.

Standing literally at the crossroads of Jewish and Catholic culture (symbolically represented by Corpus Christi and Rabbi Meiselsa Streets), the 19th century Chewra Tehilim was a prayer house in the Kazimierz district of the city’s old Jewish quarter. Badly damaged during World War II, many of the original architectural elements are still in place.

Organizers of FestivALT, an independent arts collective, staged protest interventions at the former synagogue, and called the opening – “one of the worst examples of the exploitation of the neighborhood’s Jewish heritage.”

The operators of the bar-café leased the building from a local Jewish community, which still owns it.

The building began serving as a synagogue in 1896.

The Nazis destroyed much of the interior during the Holocaust, though some of the former synagogue’s impressive frescoes survived.

“The world is not black and white” – Ryszard Bugajski

Polish film director **Ryszard Bugajski** died in June. He left behind many outstanding films, with his breakthrough *Interrogation* at the forefront. It was described as “the most anti-Communist film in the history of Polish People’s Republic and was entered into the 1990 Cannes Film Festival, after being suppressed by Polish Communist authorities.

In the circle of his interests, the boundaries between good and evil were blurred from the very beginning; moral shades of gray that prevented easy recognition of who is “good” and who is “bad.”

Unpublished Warsaw ghetto film



An unpublished film shot in 1941 by a Polish amateur filmmaker in the heart of Warsaw’s Jewish ghetto has just been shown for the first time in the Polish capital. To date, only films made in the ghetto by Nazi propaganda were known.

The Polish-Canadian director **Eric Bednarski** managed to obtain the precious film that has remained for more than 70 years in the possession of the descendants of filmmaker **Alfons Ziolkowski**.

Bednarski constructed a 70-minute documentary entitled *Warszawa - Miasto Podzielone* (*Warsaw - a divided city*) around the ten minutes of black-and-white rough footage shot in 8 mm.

“We see everyday life in the heart of the ghetto, crowds of people in the street, ruined buildings, children who traffic food from the Aryan to the Jewish side, desperate children, dying of hunger trying to get food bags through holes in the wall,” said Bednarski.

One year after the invasion of Poland in September 1939, the Germans created a special district for the Jews of Warsaw. They enclosed some 480,000 people to exterminate them with hunger and disease and deported 300,000 to the gas chambers of the Treblinka camp, 49 miles east of Warsaw.

Some footage was shot by Ziolkowski with a hidden camera from a car, but other shots had to be shot in the open. While filming,

Ziolkowski. was in danger of being arrested by the Germans and even shot.

The oldest Polish pyramid found

In Krynica (Lublin province), in the place of an early medieval hill fort, stands the oldest Polish mausoleum in the shape of a pyramid. The **Arian Tower** is the oldest tomb in Poland with a pyramid-shaped structure on top. It was the final resting place of a nobleman, **Paweł Orzechowski**, chamberlain of Chelm.

Because he was an Arian - follower of a nontrinitarian doctrine, it was known in advance that there would be no place for him at a Catholic cemetery. That is why the nobleman decided to build such an eccentric tomb

In late January and early February 2018, scientists determined that there had been ramparts on the hill. The discovery was made with airborne laser scanning. Archaeologists note that the fort is still a hypothesis, but historical documents support it. At the time of the construction of the mausoleum (early 17th century), the hill was referred to as “horodysko” - the word means a place where a fort used to be. This could mean that 400 years ago its relics were more visible. In the text of the prenuptial agreement of the son of Orzechowski, there is information stating that he wanted to be buried in the pyramidal mausoleum “together with his ancestors.”

With funding awarded by the municipal office in Krasnystaw, the renovation of the site will take place next year.

Warsaw Theater stages “Mein Kampf” play

The Powszechny Theater, a controversial theater company in Warsaw, recently courted outrage once again with its latest production: *Mein Kampf* – with its dialogue pulled directly from Adolf Hitler’s infamous work.

Director **Jakub Skrzywanek** wanted to show that the language used today “is worse than the language of Hitler.” He said that antisemitism in Poland is rising, and he wants the play to stir reflection

– among both liberals and conservatives.

“We are exploring *Mein Kampf* to find out to what extent the ideas and proposals committed to paper more than 90 years ago remain relevant today,” he said.

The theater wrote in its synopsis of the play online: “Examining Hitler’s language and narrative, we ask ourselves questions about the language used today, including hate speech. We ask how many words had to be said before the Holocaust happened, and how many more words will have to be said for history to repeat itself.”

In 2017, the theater received threats and protests after it staged a play titled *The Curse*, about the Catholic Church, which condemned the clergy for covering up sexual abuse and sexual simulation. The protests outside the theater even turned violent in some instances, but the theater refused to back down.

The Last Klezmer of Galicia



Composer, conductor and pianist Leopold Kleinman-Kozłowski.

Composer, conductor and pianist **Leopold Kleinman-Kozłowski**, nicknamed the “last klezmer of Galicia, and an honorary citizen of Kraków, died at the age of 100.

Born on November 26, 1918 in Przemyślany near Lwów, from his early years music was his passion. In the Kleinman family, the klezmer traditions were passed down from generation to generation. After graduating from high school, he developed his musical

talent at the conservatory in Lwów in piano class.

The period of World War II was tragic. His parents and his brother were brutally murdered. Leopold first stayed in the Przemyślany ghetto, later he was placed in a German labor camp in Kurowice, from which he fled to the Home Army unit after a year. He took part in the battles with the Germans and Ukrainians. After the entry of the Red Army, he joined the Polish Army and went through the entire combat trail – all the way to Berlin.

He graduated from the State Higher School of Music, then became the artistic director and first conductor of the Kraków Military District Song and Dance Ensemble, and the music director of the Kołobrzeg Military Song Festival. He was later the musical director of the Jewish Theater in Warsaw and the Roma band “Roma.” As a consultant, he cooperated with the Greek ensemble “Hellen” and the “Rzeszowiacy” ensemble.

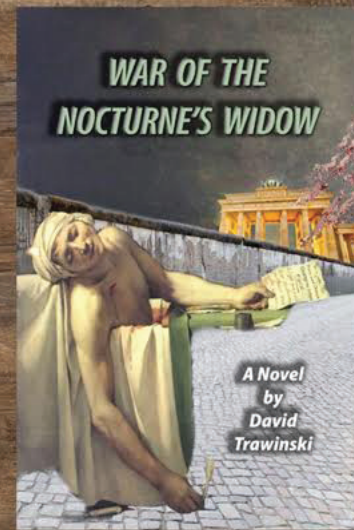
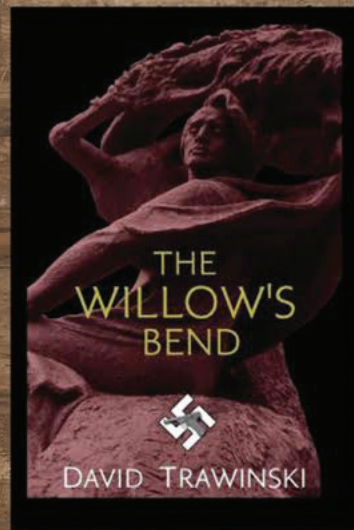
Leopold prepared six Polish ver-

sions of the musical “Fiddler on the Roof.” He composed theatrical music, and was the creator of the camp and ghetto music in the film *Schindler’s List* by Steven Spielberg.

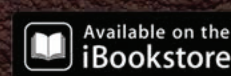
A renowned music authority and as the last authentic klezmer in the world, he knew how to perform traditional Jewish songs. He restored the public memory of Jewish culture in post-war Poland, and all over the world.

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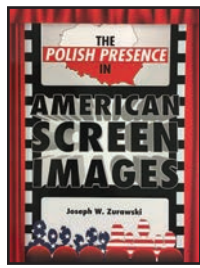
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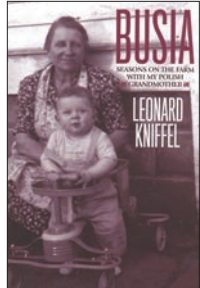
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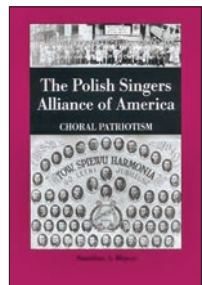
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BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER



by Leonard Kniffel \$15.00 hc. 59 pp.; 2017, 6.25" x 9.25" Item 2-702

The book chronicles one year in the life of a young boy and his grandmother on a farm in Michigan in the 1950s, a time without telephones and televisions. Instead, they cook and garden and work together to keep the stoves supplied and the cupboards filled. They prepare for holidays while Busia tells stories about life in the old country, Poland. Kniffel is the author of "A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home." He is currently president of the Polish American Librarians Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

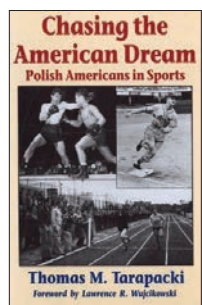


CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998 by S. A. Blejwas Item 1-660 Was \$22.50. Now \$14.95

Boydell & Brewer, 2005. 396 pp., ill. 6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

"A superb treatment of the formation and expansion of the oldest Polish-American cultural organization in North America." — Frances Gates



CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM by Tom Tarapacki \$11.95 while supplies last Item 1-701. h.c.; 151 pp.; 1995; B&W ill.; 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.5 inches New old stock.

"Chasing the American Dream" provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unprecedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations involved.

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swim-

ming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the Polish American Journal.

FROM PADEREWSKI TO



PENDERECKI The Polish Musician in Philadelphia by Paul Krzywicki \$24.95 Item 2-151 Lulu Pub. 2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music.

GENEALOGY

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER: From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose Garden In America

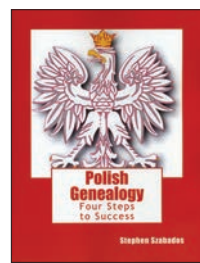


by Stephen Szabados \$14.95 / Item 2-218 61 pp., b&w photos 2015

Anna was the youngest daughter of a Polish farmer and very small physically. However, she was always in command when she was in the room. This book describes the tragedies in her early life and the challenges she overcame to make a new life in America. It is different from many stories of immigrants because it is told from the perspective of a woman.

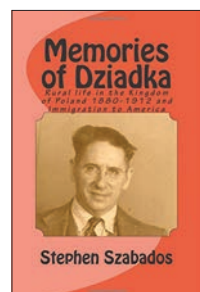
This book asks questions about her fears when growing up, immigrating to America, and making her new life. How did she face these fears? How did she overcome them? Szabados said by searching for answers, he found new insights about his grandmother.

As you read Anna's story, ask the same questions about your ancestors. If you do, your view of your family history will definitely change.



POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success by Stephen Szabados \$19.95 / Item 2-668 164 pp., pb.

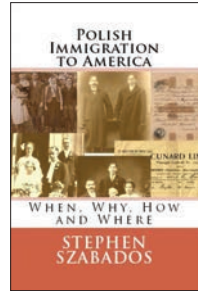
This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional sources are covered but it also discusses many new sources for Polish records that have been implemented by genealogy societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.



MEMORIES OF DZIADKA Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America / by Stephen Szabados \$14.95

Item 2-670 pb. 134 pp.

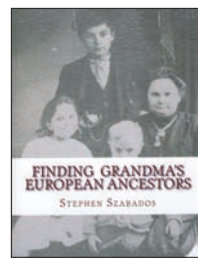
This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean; his arrival and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.



POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA by Stephen Szabados Item 2-271 \$17.99

When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here?

This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully clear up your confusion why your Polish ancestors listed that they were born in other countries on early U.S. documents. Brief histories of most of the ports that were used by Polish immigrants for departure and arrival; life in steerage; and the process of examination to gain admittance.



FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS by Stephen Szabados Item 2-653 / 210 pp., pb. \$19.95

This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed steps that will help you find the records that you need. The author uses his experiences to give tips on what to avoid and what works; how to find and use critical records; and how to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records.

FOLKLORE



FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE Retold by Joanne Asala \$12.95 Item 2-636 6 x 9 inches 157 pp., pb.

Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world.

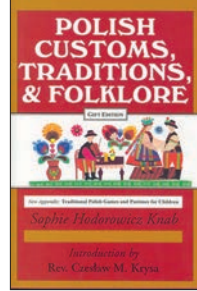
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.



SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A QUEST FOR AN AUTHENTIC POLISH SPIRITUALITY by Claire M. Anderson Item 1-675

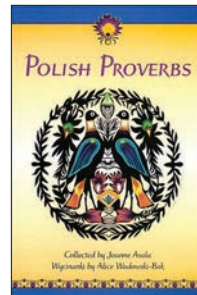
\$14.95 ACTA Publications 2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire Anderson, of Polish descent and currently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Wisconsin, explores this tradition and expands it by connecting these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.



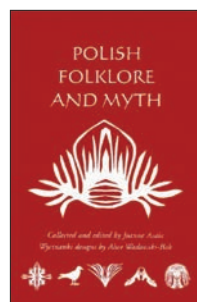
POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE \$24.95 Item 2-643 by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab 340 pp., hc.

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, nameday celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



POLISH PROVERBS by Joanne Asala \$14.95 Item 2-681 6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord." The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH by Joanne Asala \$12.95 Item 2-679 / 6x9 in / 118 pp., pb.

This book of engaging folk stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak.

HISTORY



POLAND: A HISTORY by Adam Zamoyski \$19.95 Item 1-659 pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

A substantially revised and updated edition

of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative"... "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable."

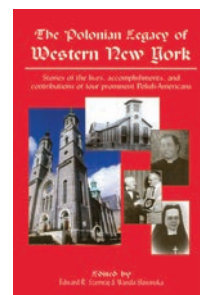
THE MAGNIFICENT 100



by Jaroslaw K. Radomski \$24.50 2018, Buffalo Standard Printing pb., 195pp., color illustrations. Item 2-655

The Magnificent 100 presents — in an alphabetically organized lexicon — 97 illustrated vignettes popularizing the biographies and works of over 100 Polish artists and writers through the ages. It also contains numerous online links to galleries of the artworks of artists and books of writers described in it, so readers can significantly expand their knowledge through those sources. The idea of presenting artists and writers together shows the more complex picture of the connections and interactions among them that are often treated separately. The aspects of our Magnificent 100 are presented in this book to help understand the psychological "genesis" of their works.

THE POLONIAN LEGACY OF WESTERN NEW YORK



Item 1-605 \$12.95 156 pp., sc., ill., b&w photos. 5.5 x 8.5

Edited by Edward Szemraj and Wanda Slawinska, the book focuses on the lives of spiritual and community leader Rev. John Pitass; architect Joseph E. Fronczak; and Mother Mary Simplicita, whose dedication to vocation and superb leadership of the area's Felician Sisters spans generations. The book also examines the lasting friendship between Buffalo's renowned Dr. Francis E. Fronczak and the composer/diplomat Ignacy Jan Paderewski.



THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FR. JUSTIN FIGAS, OFM CONV. Famed originator of the "Fr. Justin Rosary Hour" \$9.00, 82pp., pb., B&W photos

Fr. Justin's weekly message of spiritual guidance, encouragement, and hope was an influence on generations of Polish immigrants, their children, and grandchildren. His broadcasts, begun in 1931, continue today as the longest continually running religious radio program in the world.

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LITERATURE

POLISH PRINCESS



by Gail Engebretson
pb., 334 pp., English
5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches
\$18.95
Item 2-620

Tragedy and mystery surround the life of 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski. Ann is a gifted pianist growing up in middle America, yet her mother claims they are descended from Polish aristocracy. Anna struggles with insecurities that cripple her life until she meets a young Polish violinist. Together they find passion in their music and each other. When tragedy strikes Anna must find the courage to find face her past and her future.

Gail Engebretson is a native of Wisconsin and the granddaughter of Polish immigrants. She has been working in Early Childhood Development, teaching music for over 40 years.

AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY (Book 2)

\$15.95
Item 2-610
369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust.
“You don’t have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel,” says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.

THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY (Book 3)

\$17.99
508 pp., pb.
Item 2-611

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

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.

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-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.

RECIPE BOOKS



TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS
\$19.95
Item BK2364
hc 5.5” x 8.7” x 0.50”; 172 pp.; English language version with U.S. measurements
475 Recipes

Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski; Illustrated by Stanley Legun

First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language. Chapters on Appetizers, Soups, Meats, Poultry and Game, Fish, Vegetables, Mushrooms, Dairy Dishes, Pastries and Desserts. Recipes are included for famous Polish barszcz, for bigos, czarnina, pierogi, nalesniki, paszteciki... and hundreds of other interesting Polish foods.

It contains brief stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Harvest Festival (Dożynki) and others.

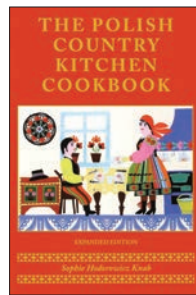
PLEASING POLISH RECIPES
by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski
\$8.95
Item 2-678
5.5 x 3.5 inches / 160 pp., spiral bound

This little cookbook features a great variety of regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, bigos, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas. Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS
\$24.95
Item BK 2572
by Ania Zaremba
sc., 6.5” x 9.25” x 0.5”; 224 pp., color photographs, index; English language version with U.S. measurements.

Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the usual “traditional Polish” fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family (grandma, grandpa, uncle, etc.).

More than 175 recipes, from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare such traditional Polish favorites as pierogi, blintzes, sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, bigos, horseradish sauce, paczki, angel wings, mazurka cakes and many more.



POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
by Sophie Knab
\$19.95
Item 2-632. 337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year. The *Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook* gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom (“Household Hints”) complement this book.

POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK



\$10.00
Item 2-302
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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

POLISH PIEROGI

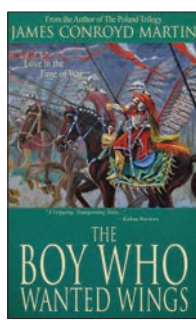
\$10.00
Item 2-303
by Eva Gerweck, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of “secret” recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerwecki. Fillings, toppings, and a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from New York to California!

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK

\$10.00
Item 2-301
by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc.

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

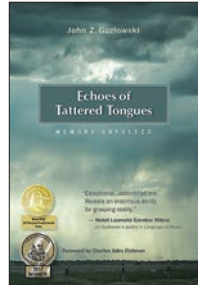


THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS
by James Conroyd Martin
Author of “Don’t Push the River”
\$14.95
paperback / Item 2-612 pb
\$25.95 hardcover / Item 2-612 hc
398 pp.

Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11, in 1683). As a Tatar and a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of a noble, winning her love seems just as unlikely a quest. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

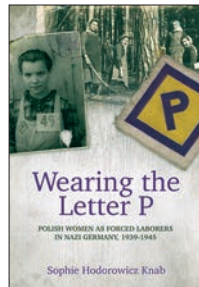
WORLD WAR II

ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES



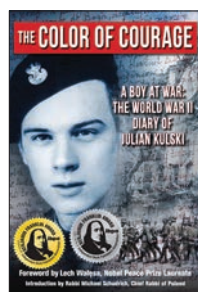
by John Guzowski
\$21.95
Item 2-667
hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches
200 pp.
Aquila Polonica / Language: English

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



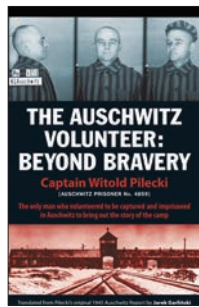
WEARING THE LETTER “P”
Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945.
by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
\$19.95
Item 2-642
pb. 304 pages. 6 x 9 inches

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.



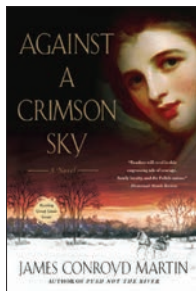
THE COLOR OF COURAGE
by Julian E. Kulski
\$19.95
Item 2-674
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012. pb.
496 pp., 6” x 9”

“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 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 happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report



PUSH NOT THE RIVER
Book 1 of Martin’s Poland Trilogy
\$15.95
Item 2-609
496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust.

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

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SPORTS

Polish Sports Hall Holds 47th Induction Banquet

by Tom Tarapacki

school in Virginia.

A crowd of about 500 assembled at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Mich., as the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame inducted four new members, and the event was live-streamed for the first time.

Salsa and Kapusta

The diverse group of inductees included Arlene Limas, who excelled in martial arts. The Chicago native was accompanied by family, including her mother, Diane (Barra) Limas. Arlene said that her induction caused her to be reflective and reconnect to some of her

The Real McCoy

Mike McCoy also spoke extensively about the Polish roots on his mother's side, and the strong influence they had on his life. Mike's maternal grandparents were John and Alice Szparaga. Alice's father, Joseph Sobolewski, came to the United States in 1883 and settled in Buffalo. Mike grew up in Erie, Pa., and during difficult financial times he and his parents lived with the Szparagas. Mike recalled that much of his home life was rooted in the Polish neighborhood that centered on Holy Trinity Church. McCoy later traveled to Poland and said that his



The Polish American Sports Hall of Fame induction drew 500 people.



PAJ Sports Editor Tom Tarapacki (left) and board member Alan Kasprzak flank A.J. Mleczeko.

fondest memories growing up. She also talked about visiting Poland with her grandparents as a teenager, describing it as "a beautiful and magical place." She said that the Polish people were "humble and hard-working" and that their "spirit was never broken." She added that "I like to think that that spirit is something that I've inherited, and that I've called upon throughout my athletic career."

Arlene reflected on having a large, loving family and growing up in Chicago with Polish traditions. She reminisced about polka dances, Wigilia meals, and even sang a bit of the Polish kolęda, *Pójdźmy wszyscy do stajenki*. She pointed out that her mother was one of 12 children, and asked the crowd, "Can you imagine how long *oplatki* took?" Her father's heritage was Mexican, but both sides got along well. "The salsa was right next to the kapusta," she laughed.

Limas is considered one of the greatest Taekwondo athletes of the 20th century. She won the gold medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, and for her career was undefeated in international competition. She currently runs a martial arts

visits were "very spiritual."

McCoy joked that he was "very close to changing my name to McCoy" to get inducted. Mike said that his induction into the Hall was a night to remember "our roots, the essence of who we are, and the values passed down to us through our heritage."

Mike was big at a young age; by the fifth grade he was 5-5 and 185-lb. However, Mike didn't play football until rather late because his mother was afraid that he'd hurt someone. He attended St. Mark's Seminary, intending to become a priest. He eventually changed paths and transferred to Erie's Cathedral Prep, where he took up football as a sophomore. Mike developed into one of the top linemen in the nation under the late coach Tony Zabrowski.

McCoy went on to earn All-America honors at Notre Dame, and was the second player taken in the 1970 NFL Draft, chosen by Green Bay. He played 11 years in the NFL with the Packers, Raiders, Giants, and Lions (don't confuse him with the Mike McCoy who coached the San Diego Chargers). The 70-year-old now runs Mike McCoy Min-

istries, which brings students in Catholic schools "the message of Faith, Hope, and Encouragement."

Playing With the Boys

Allison "AJ" Mleczeko expressed pride at her induction, but disappointment that her father wasn't in attendance. Traveling from Nantucket, Mass., bad weather caused his flight to be canceled. However, he was able to watch the ceremony from home via live-stream. She pointed out that her father took a lot of pride in seeing his daughter compete against boys on the hockey rink and encouraged her participation in the sport.

The Connecticut native went on to lead Harvard to the national ice hockey championship, be named the best female hockey player in 1999, and lead the United States to Olympic gold. The mother of four now works as a hockey broadcaster for NBC.

She said that her great-grandparents came to the United States from Łódź in 1917. However, her grandfather, Stanley, died at the age of 57 when Allison was just two. She said that a lot of the Polish tradition died with him, but that her induction is helping her delve more deeply into her family roots.

The fourth inductee, Mark Grudzielanek, could not be at the banquet because he manages the White Sox Triple-A affiliate in Charlotte. The former All-Star and Gold Glove infielder enjoyed a 15-year major league career, finishing with a .289 batting average and 2,040 hits. He accepted his honor by a videotaped message.

Special Awards

Two special awards were also handed out. ESPN pro basketball insider **Adrian Wojnarowski**, who was not able to attend because the NBA draft was being held that evening, accepted the Tony Kubek Media award via video. The "Kubek" Award was presented by Tony Kubek himself. The 50-year-old Wojnarowski pointed out that his dad, now 88, "has never been more excited about anything I've done."

Boston Red Sox general manager **Dave Dombrowski** also accepted his Excellence in Sports Award by video. He said that the award had special meaning for him; not only were both of his parents Polish, but while he ran the Detroit Tigers he lived a few miles from the Polish Sports Hall of Fame in Troy.

Scholar Athletes

Since 1993 the Board's Stan Musial scholarship fund has awarded over \$90,000 in scholarship money to high school student athletes from

across the country. This year's recipients were: Samuel Cirenza of Gansevoort, N.Y.; Stanislaw Gunkel of Chicago; William Jozwiak of Farmington Hills, Mich.; Grace Kruszewski of Royal Oak, Mich.; Isabella Lesinski of Rowley, Mass.; Drew Meinecke of Royal Oak, Mich.; Isabel Swatowski of Edison, N.J. and Hillary Ziemba of Jackson, Mich.



(l. to r.): Arlene Limas, Mike McCoy, and AJ Mleczeko with their Hall of Fame medals.

Polonia Booster

The Matt Dobek Special Recognition Award was presented to local businessman **Ray Okonski**. The Hamtramck native has been a major contributor to Polish American causes in Michigan for many years.

Among the crowd of 500 in attendance were past inductees Frank Tanana and Tom D'Eath; former NFL standout Luther Bradley; Piotr Janicki, the general consul of the Republic of Poland in Chicago; and Ryszard Walawender, the honorary consul in Detroit. For more information about the Hall go to www.polishsportshof.com.

Nowitzki Retires

Dirk Nowitzki retired from the NBA the same way he did most things — very quietly. Nowitzki was one of the NBA's best, and certainly the best player ever to come out of Europe. He won the NBA Most Valuable Player Award in 2007 and the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award in 2011 when his Dallas team won the title. Nowitzki retired as the NBA's sixth all-time leading scorer (31,560 points) and was a 14-time NBA All-Star.

Nowitzki is a native of Germany. He once told the Polish newspaper *Rzeczpospolita* that he has Polish heritage on his father's side going back to the 18th century, and that the name was a Germanized form of the Polish name Nowicki means "new person."

Tyson Controversy in Poland

Former boxer **Mike Tyson** got involved in some controversy in Poland resulting from a video in which he praised the Poles who fought in the Warsaw Uprising. The piece was produced by Foodcare, a Polish company; Tyson is a spokesperson for Foodcare's "Black Energy Drink."

The video went on YouTube ahead of the 74th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, and Tyson recorded it at his home in Las Vegas for free. In the video, the former heavyweight champion paid tribute to those who fought in the Uprising, saying "these brave Polish heroes are the true champions."

However, Tyson caught some flak while promoting "Black Energy" in Poland. He was questioned by cynics about whether the company was using a World War II tragedy for publicity purposes and asked what qualified him to be in a film about Polish history. He responded by saying, "You Polish guys didn't have s--- happen to you compared to what happened to Black people

in America," according to media reports. Tyson added: "I ask, who knows more about uprisings than dark-skinned people? What happened to y'all was really bad... but nobody in the world's been persecuted more than Black people."

FoodCare Chair Wiesław Włodarski said: "Few people know about it, but Mike is very interested in history. I have often talked to him about the history of Poland, including the history of World War II ... He knew a lot about this part of our past. He wrote and edited a part of the film himself."

Perkoski's Notebook

Polish-Danish tennis star **Caroline Wozniacki** married former NBA star David Lee. Lee had previously been engaged to **Sabina Gadecki**, a former Miss Polonia and Miss Western Massachusetts, who is now an actress and model ... The number of Poles who engage in physical activity has **increased to 64 percent**, up by two percentage points from 2018, a new study shows. Cycling is their favorite, which this year has grown more popular than jogging. However, one in three Poles do no sports, and Poles remain one of the least physically active societies in the EU. ... the U.S. lost to Mexico in the Concacaf Gold Cup final, but 23-year-old defender **Matt Miazga** played well ... Poland won 14 medals — three golds, one silver and 10 bronzes — at the **2019 European Games** in Belarus.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 34th 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 seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. 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

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POLISH CHEF

Summer Fruit Cookery

by Robert Strybel

POLISH APPLE PANCAKES (racuchy z jablkami). Beat 2 c sour milk (zsiadłe mleko) or buttermilk with 2 eggs until creamy, adding 2 c flour, 1/2 t baking powder, 1/2 t baking soda and 1/2 salt and beating until smooth. Stir in 2-3 peeled and cored cooking apples, coarsely grated or thinly sliced. (Optional: 1/2 t grated lemon zest may be added to batter.) Heat 4 T butter, lard or oil in skillet, spoon in batter and fry pancakes to a nice golden-brown on both sides. Add more fat as needed. Drain on absorbent paper and serve at once. Dust with confectioner's sugar or serve with jam or fruit syrup of choice.



PLUM-FILLED POTATO DUMPLINGS (knedle ze śliwkami). Peel and cook 1-1/2 lbs potatoes until tender, drain well and run through ricer or mash very thoroughly until lump-free. Add 1-1/2 c flour, sifted, 1 egg and 1/2 t salt and work into a uniform dough. Divide into 3 parts. On floured board form each part into a 1-1/2" roll, flattening top with flat of knife blade. Cut roll into 1-1/2" pieces, flatten each piece in palm of hand into a small patty, place a whole pitted plum (ripe węgiereki or Italian plums are best!) thereon, fold dough over it and roll snowball-fashion into a ball. Drop dumplings into boiling salted water, stir gently with wooden spoon and cover. When boiling resumes, uncover and cook 2-3 min. Remove with slotted spoon and serve at once. Toppings can include granulated sugar, sugar and butter-browned bread crumbs or sour cream sweetened with granulated or confectioner's sugar (1 c sour cream fork-blended with 1 heaping T or more sugar).

ROAST PORK LOIN WITH PRUNES (schab pieczony ze śliwkami). Rub a 4-5 lb pork loin with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1-2 buds crushed garlic, place in roaster, smother meat with 2 sliced onions, cover and let stand at room temp 1 hr. Remove loin, pat dry, sprinkle with flour and brown on all sides in hot oil or lard to seal in juices. Return to roaster. Brown onions in the pan drippings and return to roaster. Add 1 c water and bake in 375° oven 1 hr. Meanwhile, soak 2 c unpitted prunes in water to cover 20 min and add to roaster. Bake another 90 min or until tender but not overcooked. Cut the loin in 2 to see if it is no longer pink inside. Serve with rice (for an Old Polish touch — make it saffron rice!) and a green salad or (during autumn and winter) a grated carrot, apple, horseradish salad.

FRUITED SPONGE CAKE (placek z owocami). Peel core and slice thin 5 large cooking apples. Beat 5 egg yolks at high speed until fluffy, adding 5 T confectioner's sugar and 5 T sifted flour. Top mixture with 5 stiffly beaten egg whites and gently fold in. Pour 1/2 the batter into greased tube pan, add the fruit, cover with remaining batter and bake in preheated 375° oven 30-40 min. Allow to cool slightly before removing from pan and dust with confectioner's sugar. This cake can also be made with equivalent amounts of pears or pitted peaches, apricots or plums. Serve warm or at room temp.

EASIEST POLISH FRUIT TART (najłatwiejszy torcik owocowy).

Here is one the youngsters can whip up to surprise babcia and dziadzio! Purchase a sponge-cake bottom (available at Polish delis and many supermarkets). Just before serving, spread the top with powidła (plum butter). Top with real whipped cream, slice into wedges and enjoy!

COMPOTE/HOME-MADE FRUIT DRINK (kompot). In pot combine 1 qt water, 3 peeled, cored apples slices and a dozen or so washed whole plums. Optional: A peeled sliced pear or 2 may be added, but increase the water by 1 c. Add 1/2 c sugar or to taste, bring to gentle boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer several min. Serve at room temp or chilled as a stewed fruit dessert or refreshing fruit drink. Season with a pinch of cinnamon if desired.

HOME-MADE POLISH PLUM BRANDY (domowa śliwowica). Rinse well 12-15 oz unpitted prunes, drain, dry, place in jars and drench with 2 qts 100 proof vodka (or 1 qt 100 proof vodka and 1 qt 190 proof grain neutral spirits). Into each jar add 1-2 cloves and a 1/2 inch sliver of orange and lemon peel. (First scrub the orange and lemon with hot soapy water, then scald with boiling water. Peel fruit and cut away and discard the whitish inner lining of the peel before adding to jars.) Seal jars tightly and store in dark place for 4 weeks. Shake jars lightly every few days. After four weeks, pour mixture through cotton-filed funnel into bottles, seal and store in dark cool basement several months. Come Christmas, crack open your śliwowica, fill your guests' glasses and enjoy. "Wesołych Świąt!"

Bridal Registries Are Booming at Janelle Imports



Handcrafted and hand-painted Polish stoneware patterns and shapes are ideal for mixing and matching.

ENFIELD, Conn. — Bridal registries have quadrupled over the past 10 years at Janelle Imports, the largest U.S. importer of Manufaktura, Poland's largest privately-

owned stoneware factory located in famous Bolesławiec, Poland. Janelle has over 60,000 handcrafted, hand-painted items for use as place settings, serving platters and trays, table top accessories, bakeware, servers, tea and coffee, home decor and more.



Janelle Imports owner Elle Łoś-Englander.

Janelle's Polish stoneware collection offers classic, traditional and contemporary patterns and shapes in over 9,000 combinations, creating an expansive range of choices for customers.

The store sells direct to the public through its website, JanelleImports.com, which carries many items from its retail store in Enfield, Conn., a short distance from Hartford and an easy day trip from Boston, New York City or the Berkshires.

All products are offered at wholesale prices.

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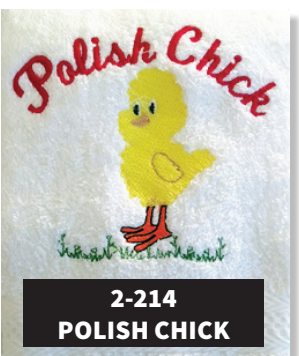
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THE PONDERING POLE

Reparations or Restorations?

by Ed Poniewaz

In the June 2019 issue of *Catalyst*, the journal for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, President William Donohue asks in his regular "From the President's Desk" editorial, "How much do I owe Oprah?" The editorial is about the current discussion (and some would say politics) of "reparations to African Americans because their ancestors were enslaved." You can read the piece yourself on the position he presents, but in it was mention of the discrimination of Southern and Eastern Europeans, "particularly those of Polish extraction ... in the Immigration Acts of 1921 and 1924."

I was not aware of the 1921 and 1924 Immigration Acts, and Dr. Donohue went through a litany of other groups that have, in one time or another, encountered discrimination and bigotry. My father used to tell the story about a company in Saint Louis that would not hire Catholics. In at least two or three company-sponsored "how not to discriminate" programs and workshops I attended in my career, "Polish employees" was an example specifically mentioned because businesses were afraid of being sued. Based on all the social unkindness we have endured for so many years, I always felt good about this. I really do believe our people have been held back by ignorant or mean-spirited persons or philosophies, but does anyone or anything owe us?

As this is written around the July 4th celebrations, there is a lot of talk about the American Dream. At least one definition says this is "the set of ideals (democracy, rights, liberty, opportunity and equality) in which freedom includes the opportunity for prosperity and success, as well as an upward social mobility for the family and children, achieved through hard work in a society with few barriers." That is pretty powerful stuff. Legal protections are, of course, important and needed, but in the "who owes?" cat-



A portion of Swiatek's restoration of Holy Family Church in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

egory (at least for Poles as Americans), the "Dream" should be balanced against the injuries, and the "Dream" wins out. Nobody owes you anything; shake it off, don't look back, and excel.

Restoration Genius

One great way to excel is to "show 'em what you've got," or in the case of **Swiatek Studios, Inc.**, repair and restore what you have created in the past, and this applies in many cases to you 1921 and 1924 immigrants. Swiatek has been around since 1967, started by Henry Swiatek Sr., and is now being continued with his son Henry Jr., his grandson Brett, and his daughter Stacey Swiatek by restoring historic buildings, churches, and homes. They also do faux painting services and their territory is primarily in the northeast.

From its web site:

The Studio is well known for our specialization in high-level architectural restoration projects, craftsmanship, historic conservation, decorative painting, statue restoration, plastering, and stained glass repair and restoration. We passionately apply our collective knowledge to

each and every project and focus on the design and production of quality artwork. You can see the results of this dedication in our work.

Henry Swiatek told me in a phone conversation that so many of our Polish churches in the United States are "cathedral like." He is right. What greater expression of the American Dream is there than the beautiful and significant work by Swiatek Studios. Check them out online at www.swiatekstudios.com, and be amazed at what they do.

Polish or not?

Another Polish model, and this one is for the ladies. **Francisco Lachowski**

was born in Brazil to a Polish father and a German and Portuguese mom. Like a lot of the most famous runway walkers, Lachowski began his career by competing and winning the "Ford Models Supermodel of the World" contest. Some of the designer labels he has worked for include Gucci, Dior, Versace, and Armani. He has appeared on the cover of a number of the top fashion magazines. "In 2015, models.com included Lachowski on their 'Industry Icons' and 'Sexiest Men' lists."

Clematis is from the Greek word meaning "a climbing plant," and the

different kinds are often named for their originators or particular characteristics. One kind of Clematis is called "**The Polish Spirit**," and it is called that because it was "bred by Brother Stefan Franczak, a monk, who for more than 50 years has been gardener at the Jesuit Theological College in Warsaw.

A description of the vine from the *Gardeners World* website:

Clematis 'Polish Spirit' bears rich purple-blue flowers from mid-summer to early autumn. Growth is very vigorous and the plant retains its foliage well throughout the season. It's perfect for growing up a trellis or fence and may also be trained to scramble through trees and shrubs. A viticella clematis, it shows good resistance to clematis wilt.

"Polish Spirit" is one of 70 species of Clematis that has won the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit for "this plant's continued popularity in gardens in the United Kingdom." Check it out, and — more importantly — grow one.

A new Polish vodka discovery. *The First News* website gives a report on **Frant**, which produces "a collection of niche, high-end vodkas and spirits from Poland." The brains behind Frant are **Dorota Zylewicz-Nosowska** and **Filip Pagowski**.

Zylewicz-Nosowska is described as "a long-time industry professional and all-around spirits nerd." Reading her impressive bio, it is

apparent she is the kind of person who throws herself completely into a project, doing the research with an eye for detail, and going for the exceptional product. She manages the operation, product development, export, and sales for Frant.

Pagowski is "a renowned graphic artist working between Warsaw and New York who co-designed Frant's brand identity." According to his bio on the Frant website, Pagowski created the "PLAY" icon (that little triangle pointing to the right) that tells us to play the video, or song on our phone, television, or other device. You have seen many variations on this click in your life. His father is the legendary poster artist **Henryk Tomaszewski**.

One product that Frant has developed is Wildflower, "a dry spirit distilled entirely from wildflower honey collected from the pristine Warmia-Mazurian fields." Sounds like a lighter version of Krupnik with a vodka taste and twist. Unfortunately, Frant vodka is not yet available in the United States, but per Dorota, "I am working on it."

◆ ◆ ◆

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.

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

POLAND IN BRIEF

by Robert Strybel

Five-year-old found murdered after Poland's biggest police search

The body of five-year-old Dawid Żukowski was found following the biggest police search in Polish history. For ten days, police with tracking dogs, drones, and helicopters, backed by soldiers, boy scouts and local volunteers, had combed thousands of acres of fields and woodlands as well as abandoned buildings. The boy's father, Paweł Żukowski, 32, had collected Dawid from his grandparents in the town of Grodzisk Mazowiecki some 20 miles southwest of Poland's capital and was to have driven him to his mother in Warsaw. Instead, he texted her saying: "You will never see your little son again!" Later the same day the father's mutilated remains were found on railway tracks where he had committed suicide by jumping into the path of a speeding train. His empty, abandoned car was found in a church parking. Lot. Paweł was believed to have accumulated huge gambling debts which were probably a source of marital strife. Little Dawid's body was finally discovered hidden in brush next to a municipal reservoir near the town of Pruszków off the highway between Grodzisk and Warsaw. The boy had died of several stab wounds to the chest, presumably inflicted by his father before he took his own life. Police do not suspect the involvement of third parties.

Massacre of 130,000 Poles recalled

Poland has again marked its National Day of Remembrance honoring the Polish victims of the Wołyń Massacres (1943-45), carried out by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). "We pay tribute to the murdered Polish citizens and renew our commitment not to rest until the whole truth about that brutal crime is uncovered, and our compatriots — today buried in thousands of nameless graves — are properly commemorated," Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said.

The two-year campaign of ethnic cleansing climaxed in July 1943 when rampaging Ukrainian nationalists burned Polish villages to the ground and slaughtered their inhabitants with axes, knives, pitchforks, and iron bars. Many were burned alive, infants were impaled on fence pickets, and corpses were hacked to pieces.

Ukraine, which honors the UPA as freedom-fighters, has prohibited Polish archeologists from seeking and exhuming the remains of Polish victims.

Poland moving towards nuclear power

According to Piotr Naimski, the Polish official in charge of strategic-energy infrastructure, Poland plans to build six nuclear reactors which will generate up to 6 Gigawatts of electric power, over the next 20 years. That will account for about 20 percent of the country's energy requirements. With an economy heavily reliant on fossil fuels — extensive domestic coal deposits and imported crude oil — Poland has been criticized for dragging its feet in the global battle against climate change.

During president Andrzej Duda's June visit to the White House, a Polish-U.S. memorandum on cooperation in civilian nuclear energy was signed. Work on Poland's first atomic power plant began in 1982, but the project was scrapped in the wake of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in neighboring Soviet Ukraine.

Japanese company now owns top Polish beer brands

Popular both in Poland and across Polonia, such well-known Polish beer brands as Tyskie, Lech and Żubr are now owned by the Japanese brewing group Asahi Holdings Ltd. They had been part of Kompania Piwowarska (beer-brewing company), previously owned by South African Breweries-Miller.

Anti-monopoly regulators allowed Anheuser-Busch to take over SABMiller on condition that it sell off its Central-East European assets including Kompania Piwowarska which controls 45 percent of Poland's beer market.

Other brands produced by its Polish breweries include Dębowe, Dojlidy, Książęce, Wojak and Redd's fruit-flavored beers. Dutch Heineken and Carlsberg of Denmark own most of Poland's remaining breweries.



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Poles under 26 will pay no income tax

WARSAW — In an attempt to stem the exodus of young Poles seeking jobs in the West, the Polish government has endorsed a bill exempting workers from income tax until they complete 26 years of age. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told a press conference, that his government's priority was to make Poland "an increasingly friendly and attractive place to work and live for young people. He expressed the hope that the tax exemption will encourage young Poles living in Western Europe to return home.

According to the draft legisla-

tion, the tax exemption will apply to those under-26 Poles with an annual income lower than 85,528 zlotys (about \$23,000). The average Pole's annual net earnings are around \$7,000 (R.S.)

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Polish American Historical Association

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

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

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IN MEMORIAM

Edward A. Kloc, Army Air Corps Radioman and Gunner

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Edward A. Kloc, 95, a World War II radioman and gunner in the Army Air Corps, narrowly escaped death in the European Theater when the B-17 crew he flew with was shot down.

Enlisting in March 1943, in August 1944, he shipped to the European Theater with the 92nd Bomb Group.

Reluctant to share his experiences, research by his son, Thomas, revealed that his father's crew was one of eight lost on Sept. 11, 1944. Mr. Kloc also told his son that while he was hailed as a hero upon his return, he never felt like one. The younger Kloc learned that "after that loss, they didn't assign him to another crew."

Honorably discharged in March of 1946, Kloc returned home, married, had three sons and a daughter, and worked for 50 years in the Buffalo transportation industry. He died on June 17, 2019, in Montaubaur Heights in Clarence, where he and his wife had moved in May. He was 95.

Kloc was the seventh of eight children of Joseph and Sophie Pisz Kloc, both Polish immigrants, who raised their family on Warsaw Street in Lackawanna. He was president of both his grade school class of 1937 and of the Class of 1941 of Lackawanna High School.

While riding the bus daily from Lackawanna to Buffalo, a young woman who had been his high school classmate caught his eye. He and Irene Nowicki married on Sept. 11, 1948, in St. Hyacinth Church in Lackawanna.

After working more than 50 years in transportation, Kloc semiretired. At age 80, he was still making calls for a small transportation company, his son said. He was the former president of the Buffalo Transportation Club and Delta Nu Alpha transportation fraternity, and in 1997, was inducted into the Transportation Club of Buffalo's Hall of Fame.

He was a member of the American Legion Matthew Glab Post 1477.

A devout Catholic, Kloc was a volunteer at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church and a Eucharistic minister to residents of Autumn View nursing home, where he was named volunteer of the year in 2006.

Kloc was a skilled and enthusiastic singer, his son said. Despite being poor, his parents had a player piano and the family would gather around it to sing together.

Kloc's son, David, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, died at age 65 in 2015.

Chicago Southside Spitfire Wanda Kurek

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

South Side Chicago neighborhood icon, Wanda Kurek, 95, passed away quietly on June 18. A lifetime South Side Chicagoan, Wanda was born on March 24, 1924, the same year her father established Stanley's Tavern, located in the Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood of Chicago's South Side industrial corridor across the street from the west entrance of the former Chicago Stock Yards.

In 1957 her father became ill, and Wanda began a 77-year career as a tavern keeper. Since then, she never left home, growing up in the apartment upstairs above Stanley's. This truly became Wanda's world. She took over the business full-time after her brother Ted's death in 1983.

For years, her daily routine was the same. Up



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

around 6:00 a.m. to spend a couple of hours cooking the day's lunch specialties. The lunchtime hours, besides the delicious food, were filled with Wanda's feisty "words of wisdom," to her loyal customers. A strongly-opinionated spitfire, she was not afraid of anyone. Her fiery sense of humor put patrons into hilarious stitches. No one would leave the bar without saying "good-bye" to Wanda or giving her a hug. They knew that Wanda was always their faithful friend.

Her nephew, Walter Kurek, will be taking over the operation of Stanley's Tavern. Thus, it will continue to have one of the longest continuous liquor licenses in Chicago and one of the longest continuously owned family-run taverns in the city. It is said that Stanley's Tavern is Chicago's third oldest bar.

Ben S. Stefanski II, Banker, Entrepreneur and Public Servant

CLEVELAND — Ben S. Stefanski II, 81, died peacefully July 7, 2019 in the caring community of Jennings. Born in Cleveland on Flag Day, June 14, 1938, Stefanski was a dedicated patriot and community activist and oldest of Ben and Gerome Stefanski's five children.



Stefanski attended Gilmour Academy, graduated from Western Reserve University and earned his law degree from the University of Michigan.

Over the course of his career, Stefanski was a banker, entrepreneur and public servant.

At the Third Federal S&L, he served on the board of directors and worked as a teller, branch manager and vice president. As utilities director for the City of Cleveland in Mayor Carl Stokes' cabinet, Stefanski facilitated the creation of the Regional Sewer District and passed a \$100M bond issue to clean up the Cuyahoga River and make Edgewater Park safe for swimming. As a result, the Cleveland community is now celebrating clean water: Cuyahoga50.

Stefanski served in the Life Guard Society for George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, on the Board of the Kosciuszko Foundation and was active in countless charitable organizations. He was a founding member of the Polish American Journal Foundation.

Stefanski could often be found at the Polish Cultural Gardens planting and weeding, or watering flowers or mowing lawns in Slavic Vil-

lage.

He is survived by Christina Stefanski and Ben Stefanski III (Heather); grandfather of Ben Stefanski IV, Luke Ste-

fanski, and Bridget Long; a sister and brother; and many nieces and nephews.

Donations in his member can be made to the Cleveland Cultural Gardens CCGF, 10823 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland OH, 44106.

Last Polish inmate from 1940 transport to Auschwitz dies

WARSAW — Officials at the Auschwitz Memorial say Kazimierz Albin, the last surviving inmate from the initial transport of Poles to the German Nazi camp, has died. He was 96.

The Germans caught Albin in 1940 as he fled occupied Poland to join Polish armed forces abroad.

He was imprisoned and in June of that year put on the first transport to Auschwitz, where he became inmate number 118.

He fled in 1943 and served as head of the resistance Home Army's small sabotage actions division in Krakow.

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GENEALOGY

DNA and Genealogy Research: Dealing with DNA Surprises

by Stephen M Szabados

The DNA testing companies have flooded the market with many promotional ads that promise to unlock our family trees. The result of the promotions has generated large numbers of people taking DNA tests and finding that their family history does not magically appear. Now the test takers are looking for methods to understand their DNA test results. The first step to gain this understanding is to use the basic tools offered by the testing companies and then use traditional genealogy skills to solve their DNA questions.

Researchers are seeking answers to:

- Understanding what their DNA results mean? Ethnicity, relationships, etc.
- How are they related to the people who show up as their DNA matches?
- Can these cousins help fill in the blanks in the family tree?
- Do they need to identify everyone that shows up as DNA matches? (How deep should they go?)

Here are the basic tools to use when analyzing DNA results:

- Surname searches of your DNA matches
- Identifying Shared DNA Matches
- Adding surnames and other comments in the attached notes for your DNA matches
- Use the family trees of matches to find common ancestors
- Use traditional genealogy skills such as search logic, search techniques, organization of data, determining accuracy, and timelines to find more information outside the DNA data.
- Use traditional genealogical resources such as census records and city directories to identify possible relatives.

In most cases, the results of the tests have delivered no surprises and may seem boring. In some cases, DNA results produced significant clues and knocked down brick walls. However, many test results did not match the family tree created from the paper trail and caused confusion with the test takers. It is not an easy science to understand, and many test-takers are confused by the results they see.

If your DNA results do not make sense, the answers may uncover a dark family secret. Before you try to find the source of your problem DNA, ask yourself these questions:

- Do you need to know the answer?

- Are you prepared to deal with a dark secret that may upset the family?
- What will you do with the information once you know the answer?

If you uncover a dark secret such as previously unknown illegitimate children, how will each family member react? How will telling your family members the details of a dark family secret affect your relationship with them? Do you need to reveal the secret? Can you tell some family members but not everyone?

Be sensitive to your family members. Everyone will react differently. Some people do not have to know. Some people need to know. Be careful with who you tell and how you say it.

Once the cat is out of the bag, the cat will not want to get back into the bag. The cat may cause damage. Be careful!

Remember that understanding our results should help us advance our research. Use the tools offered by the testing companies to begin that search. Focus on the goals you had when you ordered your test kit. Follow the clues to open up new information for your family history.

DNA testing is only one tool in your genealogy tool kit, but it is a powerful tool. Use it wisely.

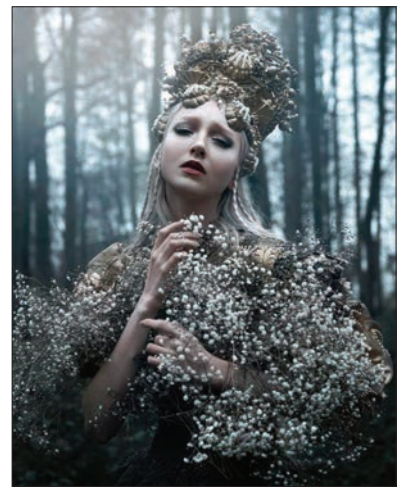
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If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$14 for each additional surname to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland. Each order includes a genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information please contact: resarch60@gmail.com.

Pagan Poetry



WARSAW PHOTOGRAPHER MARCIN NAGRABA teamed up with costume designer Agnieszka Osipa to create a series called "Pagan Poetry." The modern designs are based on pre-Christian dress of Poles and other Slavic groups. The model in the photo in the center is the photographer's mother.

The photo on the right is another one of Osipa's costumes, photographed by Bella Kotak.

Nagraba, Osipa, and Kotak can be found on Facebook, Instagram, and their professional web sites.

To view more "Pagan Poetry" costumes, visit www.slavorum.org.

Polish Genealogy Conference 2019

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. (PGSCTNE) and The S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies, Central Connecticut State University invite all to attend the 2019 Genealogy Conference, Fri., Oct. 18 and Sat., Oct. 19, 2019 at the Institute of Technology, Business and Development, downtown campus of Central Connecticut State University, 185 Main Street, New Britain, Conn.

Featured speakers will be Blaine Bettinger; Matthew Bielawa (vice-president, PGSCTNE); Dr. Mięczysław B. Biskupski, (Endowed Chair, Polish and Polish-American Studies, CCSU); Daniel Bućko (Warsaw, Poland); Thomas Sadauskas (Virginia); Jonathan Shea, A.G., (president, PGSCTNE); and Maureen Taylor (Photo Detective, Rhode Island).

Bućko will speak on "Inaccuracies, Errors and Conflicts of Information in Polish Vital Records and How to Resolve These Problems" and "The Genealogical Value of Royal and Government Estate Inventories."

A two-part seminar will be presented on "Introduction to Polish and Eastern European Family History."

Other lectures scheduled include:

- Introduction to DNA
- Phasing and Mapping Your DNA
- Photo Detecting 101
- Advanced Photo Detecting: Cracking the Cold Case
- Who Created Modern Poland?
- A History of Ellis Island – Separating the Myth from Reality and What
- Really Happened There
- How Your Ancestors Came to

America and Finding Their Records (1890 to 1950)

Another feature of the conference will enable participants to share their surnames and villages. This document will be distributed to all participants at the conference who will be able to view the information. Hopefully, they will find a new connection to their roots.

For more information, visit <https://pgsctne.org/2019-polish-genealogy-conference>, which includes conference schedule, biographies, and lecture summaries. Information and forms about our one-on-one consultation appointments with the speakers (a limited number are available), registration and lecture selections are also available.

Throughout the day, a collection of books, maps and other materials will be available to all attendees for consultation. Officers of the Society will be present to answer questions.

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DANCE TIME

An Overdue Return to Polka Fireworks

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Polka Fireworks has always held a special place in my heart as Seven Springs was the location of the very first polka festival I attended. After a 13-year hiatus due to a family commitment, I was elated when I realized that we could attend this year.

Nestled in the gorgeous mountains of Western Pennsylvania, the atmosphere is like no other. A breathtaking resort that caters to your every need, it demands that you relax and enjoy your time while visiting. We arrived a day after the festivities started and immediately headed to the pool party for **Polka Method**. Sunny skies and the energetic music of these young musicians set the scene for a memorable few days. While attending the **Concertina Jam**, I noticed a gentleman wearing a vintage John Gora t-shirt. I had to stop him to grab a picture and found out that he and his family had traveled to Polka Fireworks from Nebraska. They were engaged at the festival in 1992 and decided to return with some of their children to relive their great memories. I encountered the family enjoying the music and dancing nonstop over the course of the weekend. Jim sported a different vintage polka t-shirt each day and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the Daskiewicz family and hearing their story.

Friday's lineup included: **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Freeze Dried, Eddie Forman, and Old School**. It was a notable evening filled with music, seeing old friends, and making new ones. Before we knew it, Lenny was playing the closing set for the evening, which lasted much longer than scheduled. He played favorites for at least an additional 45 minutes — no one in the hall was ready to head to bed.

Bright and early with the sun shining, it was time to hit Big Dan's Party at 10:00 a.m. The party was hosted this year by Joe Zalewski and Holy Toledo Polka Days. **Dynabass** had the crowd energized full force when they brought Jeff Mleczek up to belt out a few tunes. After suffering a stroke several years ago, it was unclear if Jeff would ever return to the stage. The crowd roared as Jeff stood with pride and sang to his adoring fans. He smiled, made motions to his fans, and pointed to the heavens as he wowed all of us with his return. His hard work, dedication, and commitment to return were never more apparent than watching him command hundreds of fans encouraging him with every note.

After a quick trip up the hill to enjoy the impressive views of the resort, it was time to get ready for the Saturday lineup. **Ray Jay & The Carousels** and the **Nu-Tones** kept the dance floor hopping for the late afternoon and early evening before **The Beat** and **The Sounds**



Linda, Anna, Julia, and Jim Daskiewicz at the Concertina Jam at Polka Fireworks.

took the stage to finish off the festival itinerary. It was terrific seeing The Sounds together and their talent, banter, and magnetism have not lost any luster.

Thank you to the Blazonczyk family, who has worked tirelessly for the past 45 years to provide a stellar polka weekend to the fans. Their hospitality and gratitude to those attending the festival is unparalleled and it didn't take long for me to remember why Polka Fireworks has always been a fan favorite.

Big Steve Krzeminski to Join IPA Hall of Fame



Western New York polka fans are celebrating as the late **"Big Steve" Krzeminski** is being bestowed with a prestigious award. I was grateful to learn a little more about Steve by sitting down and

chatting with his wife, Arlene. Known as a big man with a big heart, the charismatic bandleader is being honored at this year's International Polka Association Hall of



Donna and Ed "Scotch" Skoczylas, and Arlene Krzeminski caught up at Seven Springs.

Fame Awards by receiving the Pioneer Award.

Becoming a successful bandleader at just 16 years old, his career as a musician spanned decades. He is credited with bringing the slower Chicago style music to the Buffalo area in the 1960s when the faster Eastern style was dominating the polka scene. The band spent 36 years entertaining folks at venues not only in the Buffalo area, but also throughout the region and Canada, performing at least three times a week.

Arlene explained to me that Steve was deeply influenced by Li'l Wally, Marion Lush, Walter Os-

tanek, and Eddie Blazonczyk, and worked tirelessly to make his mark on the polka world. Many of his local fans would accompany the band to its out-of-town performances via bus trips which brought Steve to book more out of town performances and helped him gain popularity. Hawaii Polka trips, Caribbean cruises, and a multi-year polka festival in Crystal Beach were some of the innovative venues that hosted polka music thanks to Steve's continual campaigning. The festival held in Crystal Beach boasted the largest dance floor in North America where 1,500 couples could dance at the same time. At the height of the festival, over-capacity crowds attended to hear Marion Lush and Big Steve & the Bellaires. Krzeminski was also instrumental in kick-starting Falcons Days, a three-day polka event held in Depew, N.Y. To

his untimely death in 1999 after a short eight-month battle with cancer at age of 54. Buffalonians also recall the *Polka Saturday Night* TV shows, which Steve hosted to not only showcase his band but the many other talented bands in the area. Dancers packed the halls of the Executive Inn from 1984-1986 to be a part of the show. It lives on through posting on social media networks and YouTube videos.

It is impossible to list all of his accomplishments, but his greatest would be the impact he left on his fans, friends, and — most importantly — his family. Arlene reminisced about the years the band and wives spent together. They were a united family spending time together on the road as well as celebrating in their leisure time. I witnessed this deep bond at Polka Fireworks when, after 30 years, Arlene was



Leona Hrycyk, Mike Riel, Peter Hrycyk at Big Dan's Party at the Springs.

this day, polka fans reminisce about Falcons Days.

Playing DJ as a child in the backyard with his brother it was inevitable that Steve's influence on polka music would run far deeper than simply being a musician. Steve hosted a radio polka program for almost 40 years and quickly became a household name. Starting at the age of 15, his impact reached a 50-mile radius including Western New York and Southern Ontario. His captivating personality grew his fan base which created the longest running daily polka radio show on WHLD-AM and WBTF-FM. Steve continued hosting his radio show up until

reunited with Bellare member Ed "Scotch" Skoczylas and his wife Donna.

Arlene remains very close to many of Steve's old bandmates, wives, and their children. All of them still hold a very important place in her everyday life. Being given the Pioneer Award will give this tight knit group of her polka family another reason to relive those great years traveling along with Steve.

When asked what this award means to her, Arlene admitted that it is bittersweet. She and her family are very proud of all of Steve's accomplishments, but they unquestionably wish that he was here to accept the honor himself. It only takes a few minutes of talking to Arlene to recognize the strong, loving, devoted relationship they shared and the hole that was left in her heart when he passed away. There's no doubt there will be a polka party going on in heaven led by Steve's bigger-than-life personality.

If you would like to attend the awards ceremony, there is still time. The Hall of Fame Awards ceremony will take place on Saturday, August 31 at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, N.Y. Tickets are \$40 and include a sit-down luncheon and the Hall of Fame awards ceremony. You can visit www.ipapolkas.com or contact Lori Urbanczyk at (716) 867-5674 for information.



Former member of The White Eagles Whitey Ryniec and wife Bonnie take a spin on the dance floor.



The Dynabass' Jeff Mleczek was back on stage at Big Dan's Party.

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NEW RECORDINGS

Gora's Latest is a Tasteful and Balanced CD

by Mark Kohan

Next time you see John Gora, buy him a drink.

Then buy his new CD.

The drink is out of respect for a man who never sits still. Between work with Gorale, solo DJ jobs, or running tours (all toast-worthy), Gora is putting out recordings which have earned international attention — as will his latest, *My Polish Roots and Beyond*.

This studio session is built atop his core band of Johnny Winiarz (drums), Robbie Piatkowski (trumpet and vocals), Joe Poper (guitar and vocals), and completed with Gorale plug-ins Ted Lange (accordion and piano), Al Piatkowski (accordion and concertina), Greg Winiarz (bass), and Dan Mateja (reeds).

Gora's choice to begin the CD with two Polish-language polkas is an acknowledgement to his pedigree, and a reminder to fellow musicians that 2/4 melodies without any ethnic connection are corny and (even worse) contrived. As Polonia (and thus the polka world) tries to avoid the pangs of assimilation, Gora shows off his survivor instincts and recaps what drove Polish American polkas for the last century.

The first tune, "Walentyna," has been pleasing fans at live performances for the past few years, and deserves to be the lead cut. It's a great song. "Ach Te Baby," a polka version of Greek singer Demis Roussos' "Goodbye, My Love, Goodbye" is next. Some songs work well as polkas. Some don't. This one does. It deserves the repeat button — several times.

Next, Gora does what he does best: he keeps things interesting by mixing things up. "Dolary" oberek is followed by the disco polo tune, "Hey, Hey, Goralu."

For those of you unfamiliar with disco polo, it is a mix of traditional and folk-like melodies played to disco beats. A lot of Gora's work comes from disco polo fans, by recording two of these songs, he proves he knows his marketing. I'd

like to see him in charge of a few of our polka organizations. They could use a man of his razzle-dazzle.

The next attention-getters are a polka remakes of the 1972 Daniel Boone hit "Beautiful Sunday," and "Best Years of Our Lives," a Baha Men single from the "Shrek" sound track. While still borrowed, they are not — thank God — adapted from country tunes, which the polka industry leans on more than it should. While I am not a fan of guitars in polka music, Poper plays some very tasteful and well-executed parts on "Best Years."

Gora's versions of the standards "Siwy Kon" (in a mini-medley with "Hupaj Suipaj"), "Pod Krakowem," "Zagraj Mi Muzycko" (a.k.a. "Suicide" polka, "Bruno's Polka" and host of other names), and "Przyjechal Do Niej" ("Going Ahead") polka are spot on. It is heartening to hear the Polish language sung correctly.

The maudlin ballad "Tatus I Mamusia" (Father and Mother) waltz does what it is supposed to do: bring tears to the eyes of anyone who ever had a pleasant thought about their parents.

A polka version of Ricky Nelson's "Travelin' Man" is first-rate. Based on how they turned this song into a danceable hit, I think Gora and the band should examine crafting a few originals — something our industry is lacking.

Another disco polo song "Na Opolskim Rynku" starts with a Benny Hill-esque horn lead that — at first listen — made me jumpy,

which I think is what it was supposed to do. However, I was quickly calmed by a fantastic melody that took me to the square in Opole. It is the most European-sounding song on the recording and will be most welcomed by disco polo fans.

Gora does a great job with English and Polish-language versions of the Marii Konopnickiej poem-turned-drinking song "W Piwnicznej Izbie" ("In the Beer Pub"). This tune is proof that Poles and polka fans do not have to rely on German *biergarten* standards to have a good time. This song and Gora's two versions are as sincere as it comes.

I have, or had, thousands of recordings that were played once, and then put or given away. And like all recordings, you will play some songs more often than others. Within the first week of owning it, I have played *Roots* over a dozen times.

Musically, *My Polish Roots* is miles ahead of what I have heard lately; given the talent on it I'd expect nothing less. The CD is filled with every bell and whistle in today's playbook but done subtly and tastefully. Syncopations, accents, and other embellishments are meant to complement the music, not replace it. The musicians on *Roots* demonstrate how this should be done.

My Polish Roots and Beyond is a tasteful and balanced recording, with something for everyone. Pick one up from www.polkaconnection.com or directly from the band at johngora.com.



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1	Li'l Wally Jagiello	1930	8-17-06	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ / Promoter	Chicago / Miami
1	John Daigle	1980		Musician (Drummer)	Massachusetts
2	Ray Barno			Bandleader / Musician	N.J.
2	Tony Blazonczyk	1972		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
3	Polka Mike Rudzinski	1952		Polka D.J. / Musician	Dubois, Pa.
3	Mike Stapsinski			Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
3	Cindy (Koslosky) Olszewski			Former Polka D.J. / Former Miss. USPA	Pa.
4	Happy Louie Dusseault	1934		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Massachusetts
5	Tammy Spalding			Musician / Vocalist (Nutones)	Pa.
7	Eddie Guca	1944		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Canada
7	John Furmaniak	1948		Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Chicago
7	Bobby Zima	1952		Musician (Drummer) / Versatones	Chicago
10	Marion (Luszcz) Lush	1931	5-4-93	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
10	Helen (Szubzda) Curtin			Polka D.J.	Massachusetts
11	Billy Siegel	1950		Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
12	Richie Midura	1935		Musician (Sax & Clarinet) Conn. Twins	Conn.
13	Carol Forman			Vocalist (Promoter EFO)	Massachusetts
16	Diana Walk	1946	12-1-2015	D.J. (Larry & Diana Walk Show)	Ohio
16	Jerry Chocholek	1942		Musician (Original Versatones)	Chicago
17	Bernie Koslosky	1960		Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Minn.
18	Stan Rutkowski	1956		Musician (Touch Of Brass)	Ohio
19	Debbie Morano	1952	1-6-14	Polka D.J. Johnstown	Pa.
19	Mike Matousek	1956		Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician / Emcee	Md.
20	Stephan Kubiak	1929	12-28-07	Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician	France
20	Kenny Machelski	1950		Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
22	Li'l John Nalevanko	1952		Bandleader / Musician / D.J. / Promoter	Pa.
23	Anthony (Tony) Maddie	1955		Musician	Ohio
23	Stan Golembewski			Polka D.J. / Promoter	Mass.
25	Robin Pegg	1958		Musician / Vocalist	Uniontown / Buffalo
30	Wild Wilson	1960		Polka D.J. / I.J.	Minn.
30	Jean Marie (Kubritski) Marzuchowski	1961		Musician / Vocalist	N.J.
30	Don Jodlowski	1940	11-15-14	Bandleader / Musician	Chicago

Home Run



Baseball continues to grow in popularity across Poland.

DZIALDOWO, Poland — Baseball is alive and growing in Poland. This March the largest tournament in Europe was held in Dzialdowo for the 19th year. The Dzialdowo Yankees celebrated their 25th Anniversary under founder and trainer Zdzislaw Ziolkowski, who has been instrumental in supporting the expansion on baseball in Poland for the last 30 years.

This year's tournament was attended by boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14. They came by bus and train from Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus.

The teams travel on their own, and are housed in two schools, where the games are held in Olympic-sized gymnasiums. Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation President Al Koproski thanks all who have supported the children in

Poland and Eastern Europe for the last 25 years.

This past June, the Senior Baltic League had its tournament with over 200 senior players participating. The tournament also took place in Dzialdowo, with 20 teams competing in three categories. The winning teams were Deby Osielsko, Yankees Dzialdowo, and Gepardy Zory.

The Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation is a 501-c-3 nonprofit organization. If you would like to help it continue its mission in Poland, make a check out to PNYBF and mail to 222 Ocean Drive East, Stamford, CT 06902.

The foundation also accepts used equipment in good condition, which can be shipped to the above address. Call Al at (203) 323-9944 for more information.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Marconi-Javorski Recipients Announced

HARTFORD, Conn. — On June 19, 2019, at a reception and ceremony held at the Polish National Home, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. awarded four outstanding students with its 2019 Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship. Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs Florence Langridge and Virginia Pudlo introduced the candidates, provided background information on their accomplishments, and presented a check for \$1,000.00 to the following recipients:

Olivia V. Dybinski, daughter of Jaroslaw and Agnes Dybinski of Berlin, Conn., plans to attend the University of Connecticut, Storrs, in the fall majoring in applied mathematical sciences with a goal of becoming a math teacher.

A 2019 graduate of Berlin High School, Dybinski maintained High Honors throughout high school, was inducted into the National Honor Society, and tutored a middle school student in math for four years.

Bruno L. Wieckowski, son of Beata Wieckowski of Glastonbury, Conn., will continue his studies at Central Connecticut State University School of Business, New Britain majoring in accounting.

Wieckowski has distinguished himself by spending a month at the University of Miami as a lab volunteer researching traumatic brain injury (2015) and epilepsy (2016) resulting in two professional abstracts, one of which he

co-authored. He also assisted the New England Air Museum for three years working on the Restoration Team and helping to establish the No. 303 Kosciuszko Squadron RAF exhibit. Wieckowski also was instrumental in reviving the Polish Club of CCSU, which is still going strong, and served as its president during his freshman year.

Jessica M. Witkowski, daughter of Slawomir and Krystyna Witkowski of Farmington, Conn., will continue her studies in political science at Pace University-Dyson College Arts & Sciences, New York City, in the fall.

Witkowski has excelled in her challenging courses, was initiated into the National Honor Society, and maintains a Dean's List status. Active in sports, she has been involved in field hockey as a Unified Sports volunteer and Relay for Life Captain. Witkowski was president of the choir and has been a member of an orchestra and choir for eight years. Her Polish heritage is very important to her and she is proud to have been an active member of Polish Scouting for fifteen years, serving as Troop Leader for two years.

Karol Wroblewski, son of Marek and Barbara Wroblewski of Wethersfield, Conn., will continue his studies in pharmacy at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Albany, New York, in the fall.

Wroblewski plans to graduate with a PHMD Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2023. He was initiated into the National Honor Society and has consistently been on the Dean's List throughout college. Wroblewski serves as the secretary of the National Community Pharmacists Association, is a volunteer coordinator for the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy.

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 their annual Christmas "Szopka" Festival event are dedicated to the Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship.

Wrona Captures PSAA Prize



The Polish Singers Alliance of America awarded the Leokadja Dombroska/Polish Singers Alliance of America scholarship to **Dominik Wrona** (above). He hails from Oakville, Ontario and is a private student of Dr. Natalia Tyomkina, who studied under Emil Gilels at the Moscow Conservatory.

Having completed all 10 grades of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Wrona is working to complete his Associate Diploma of the Royal Conservatory of Music. He is also a student at the University of Toronto where he is pursuing a Computer Science Specialist degree and a Classics minor.

Wrona serves as an organist at the St. Anthony of Padua Polish Roman Catholic parish, is a piano teacher, as well as a performer. He has performed at both of the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College Scholarship Concerts benefitting the Fund, which he is now a scholarship recipient of. In addition, he sings with the Symfonia Choir and the Cantabile Choir based in Ontario.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OCTOBER AS
POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

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

Sadly, each generation loses a bit of its "Polishness." The names of great-grandparents who came here are forgotten. A traditional dish is dropped at a holiday. Names become anglicized or changed entirely.

The Polish American Journal



The culture and traditions brought to America by our ancestors are disappearing. Your support enables us record and maintain this rich heritage for generations to come. Above: St. John Cantius R.C. Church, Detroit (closed in 2007).

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

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

Can we count on you?

To guarantee placement of your ad in the Polish Heritage Month edition, please return the form below with your check or money order by **September 12th**.

Please Return Today!
Cut at the dotted line and mail by out office by **September 12, 2019** to guarantee your place in our special Heritage Month Edition.

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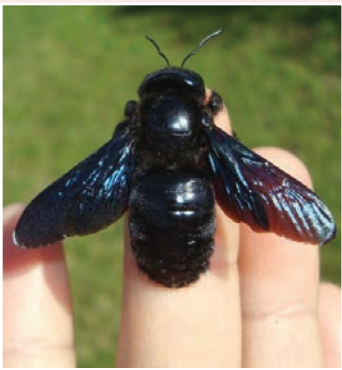
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Declared Extinct in 2002, "Black Bee" Making a Comeback in Poland

by Staś Kmiec

Mountains and Poleski National Park.

"Honey, I'm home!" The **Violet Carpenter Bee**, otherwise known as a "Black Bee," because of the distinctive dark violet, almost-black color of its wings and body, was declared officially extinct in 2002.



The large bee, not seen in Poland for 70 years, has made an incredible comeback after ecologists turned to the internet for help in finding the insects.

Reaching almost one inch in size, it is the biggest bee in Poland. The Nature and Human Association (Stowarzyszenie Natura i Człowiek), started the initiative to monitor the bees and encouraged residents to photograph and share their encounters with the insects on Facebook.

First reports of the bees' sightings began to emerge in 2004 and again in 2005. By 2016 they were identified in six permanent habitats — Wrocław, Oława, Miechów, Włoszczowa, Western Bieszczady

WILD HONEY harvesting was already known in the Polish lands 2000 years ago, according to archaeological sources. For centuries, harvesting wild honey was more profitable than hunting or trading timber. While the bees work is estimated to be worth four billion zloty per year, they are still threatened by the loss of their natural habitats and pesticide use. Poland has attempted to restore wild beehives in its forests. Poland is home to 470 different bee species, with the western honey bee being the most common.

Poland remains both an importer and exporter of honey. According to the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics, in 2017 Poland imported 26.5 thousand tons of honey, produced 15.2 thousand and exported 15.5 tons, meaning that some of the honey was re-exported.