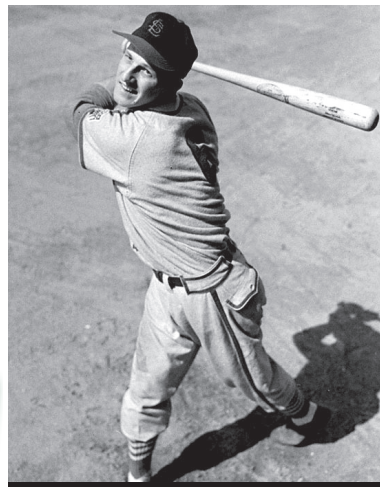


POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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"STAN THE MAN" EARNS FREEDOM MEDAL — Page 23

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF POLISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS • CLOSE THE U.S. CONSULATE KRAKÓW? GÓRECKI, WORLD-FAMOUS COMPOSER, DEAD AT 76 • AMBER: THE POLISH AMBASSADOR POLISH CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE • POLISH PARISH MUST GO "FOR THE GOOD OF ALL"

The Taste of Wigilia

by Staś Kmieć

"Gość w dom – Bóg w dom" (a guest in the home is God in the home); and there is nothing as heavenly as the savory aroma to the senses as one enters a Polish home for Christmas Eve dinner, but it is the indelible flavors that continue to linger in the memory. It is that taste that brings us together each year to share the wonders of a Polish *Wigilia*.

In the traditional Polish household, *Wigilia* is the most important meal of the year, and it is this thought that Poles must continue to embrace. Although the meal is meatless (Advent – the season of penance continues until midnight), there is no shortage of unique festive dishes.

The originality, variety and richness of Polish cooking is not exactly well-known outside of Poland and Polish circles, but if you have ever had the opportunity of eating good Polish food you will most probably, appreciate and relish it forever.

What makes these foods Polish? Poles today prepare spaghetti, pizza, and quiche and many of the world's cuisine. What makes these foods intrinsically Polish is the intricate mélange of historical circumstance, regional custom, reli-

See "Taste ...," page 8

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!



tej samej krainie byli też pasterze, przebywający pod gołym niebem i strzegący nocą swych trzód. ❖ Nagle stanął przy nich anioł Jehowy i chwala Jehowy ich opromieniła, a oni bardzo się przestraszyli. ❖ Lecz anioł rzekł do nich:

"Nie bójcie się, oto bowiem oznajmiam wam dobrą nowinę o wielkiej radości, która będzie udziałem całego ludu, gdyż w mieście Dawidowym narodził się wam dzisiaj Wybawca, którym jest Chrystus Pan. ❖ A oto znak dla was: znajdziecie dzieciątko owinięte pasami płótna i leżące w żłobie." ❖ I nagle przy aniele Pojawili się mnóstwo wojska niebiańskiego, wystawiającego Boga i mówiącego:

"Chwała na wysokościach Bogu, a na ziemi pokój wśród ludzi dobrej woli."



nd there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ❖ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ❖ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ❖ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is

Christ the Lord. ❖ And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ❖ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

TEXT: LUKE 2:8-14 | PAINTING BY ZOFIA STRYJEŃSKA, COURTESY OF POLISH MISSION OF THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

Preparing Polish-style Christmas

by Robert Strybel

If you are among the growing number of Polish Americans who believe Christmas has become far too commercialized, your Polish heritage may be worth exploring for meaningful alternatives. It is more Nativity-minded and family-centered and focused more on the spiritual and traditional rather than the commercial. On the other hand, some of the customs may have to be creatively adapted if they are to make the proper impression. Usually that involves displaying or re-enacting them in early or mid-December rather than on or after Christmas Eve.

IT'S ALL IN THE MIND! It requires personal resolve and determination

to enable our Polish Christmas heritage to enrich the Yuletide celebrations of our families, PolAm clubs, lodges, parishes or local communities. It requires courage to go against the grain and not get swept up in the "shop till you drop" propaganda constantly bombarding us in the media and on the net. That includes convincing our impressionable youngsters that all the grinning Santas they see are not "men of good cheer," but sales agents out only after their parents' credit cards.

See "Polish-Style," page 6

Poland Dedicates World's Biggest Jesus Monument

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Some 15,000 pilgrims gathered in the western Polish town of Świebodzin to mark the Feast of Christ the King by dedicating what is said to be the world's largest statue of Jesus. According to the originator of the project, Fr. Sylwester Zawadzki, the 440-ton monument soars to a height of 33 meters (108 feet), making it three meters (nearly 10 feet) taller than the world-renowned Brazilian figure of Christ the Redeemer overlooking Rio de Janeiro.

If the gold crown gracing the Polish statue is included, its total height would be 36 meters (118 feet). Those dimensions were no accident, according to 78-year-old Father Zawadzki. The height of the statue itself represents the 33 years Jesus walked the earth, but the crowning touch of his earthly sojourn were the three years he spent teaching, hence the three-meter crown.

The worshippers marched in procession from the nearby church of Divine Providence, where the 78-year-old priest had been before retiring, to the

foot of newly built monument. They sang hymns, held up placards proclaiming "Christ the King of the Universe" and carried religious banners and Solidarity flags. "Poland – not only be not afraid, but also have the courage to acknowledge that Jesus Christ can guide your thoughts and hearts, your will and deeds," Archbishop Andrzej Dzięga said in his sermon.

Fr. Zawadzki first conceived the project back in 2001, when he entrusted the town to Christ the King. Despite repeated setbacks, including opposition from his Church superiors, he continued to pursue this nearly impossible task, winning over officials and finding sponsors. The actual building started in 2006 with the creation of an artificial mound of earth, rubble and stone. No public funds were used, as the entire project was financed through freewill donations.

"The figure of Christ the King will welcome visitors to Catholic Poland," he says of his pride and joy, situated about 55 miles from the German

See "Jesus Monument" page 6



Komorowski to be Guest of Obama in Washington

WARSAW — Polish Radio reported that Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski has been invited to visit Washington on December 8.

This will be his first trip to the United States since he was elected the head of state in the summer.

"Poland is one of our closest allies and friends," U.S. President Barack Obama said in an interview with the *Gazeta Wyborcza* national daily.

"Poles have something that makes a man the best type of ally. There is a great will to defend freedom - their own and others."

Speaking at the NATO summit in Lisbon, Obama said Polish and American troops served together in the most difficult regions of Afghanistan.

"Poles feel compelled to help persecuted nations, as they once were aided by others," he said.

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OPLATEK • Polish Christmas Wafers



IF ORDERING OPLATEK ONLY, ADD ONLY \$3.00 SHIPPING CHARGES!

A MUST FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE

Keep this beautiful tradition alive in your family! Practice the ancient Polish custom of sharing the Christmas wafer with family and guests. Many people place a piece of oplatek—a thin wafer, made of flour and water—in each Christmas cards to family members and friends. Each Polish Christmas Wafer is embossed with religious scene.

SMALL (2 x 3½ in.) individual wafer w/glassine envelope—5/\$3.00

LARGE (6¼ x 3½ in.). Three white and one pink oplatki. Comes with decorative envelope (shown) depicting wigilia with history on back — 4/\$5.00

Learn more about this tradition from our website:

www.polamjournal.com

Follow Library Holidays link to the Christmas Listings

KOLEDY CDs



POLISH VILLAGE CHRISTMAS VOLUME I \$15.00



POLISH VILLAGE CHRISTMAS VOLUME II \$15.00

WOOD EGG ORNAMENTS



Hand-decorated Birchwood Christmas Our Lady of Czestochowa and Pope John Paul II ornaments from Poland. A beautiful heirloom gift.

Item 2-250

Our Lady of Czestochowa Christmas Ornament Egg **\$12.00**

Item 2-251

John Paul II Christmas Ornament Egg **\$12.00**

STICKERS

Wesolych Swiat / Merry Christmas



NEW DESIGN!

Shown actual size

Proceeds to benefit Catholic Orphanage in Bialoleka, near Warsaw, Poland and Polish American Journal Press Fund. 1" x 2". 20 stickers to a sheet. Perfect for presents, our line of Christmas cards, etc.

\$5.00 per sheet. (If ordering stickers only, shipping is \$1.00 per every four sheets).

BUTTER / CHOCOLATE MOLDS

Easy to use! To make with butter, simply coat the mold with vegetable oil (spray type works best), press in softened butter, clamp halves together, place and refrigerator until hardened and you're done. For chocolate, just pour and let harden. It's that easy! Give your table some Polish flair!



NEW! MINI POLISH FOODS MOLD. \$8.95

Six all-time favorites. Mold is 6"x6". Each food app. 2" x 1" x 3/8" deep.

Includes:

- Rye Bread • Pierogi
- Kielbasa • Golabki
- Pisanka
- Mini Butter Lamb

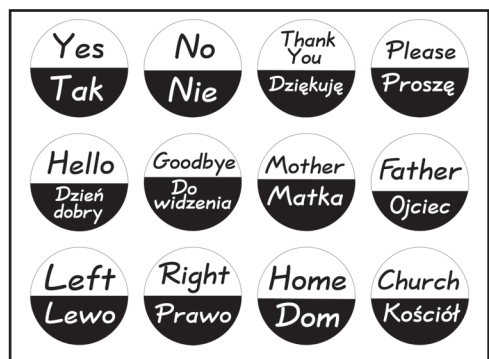
Includes:

- Merry Christmas
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Tree
- Manger Star
- Midnight Mass
- Wafer
- Christmas Play
- and more!



LET'S LEARN POLISH CHRISTMAS WORDS MOLD. \$8.95

12-coin mold. Each coin is 1-inch across x 1/4" deep.



LET'S LEARN POLISH EVERYDAY WORDS MOLD. \$8.95

12-coin mold. Each coin is 1-inch across x 1/4" deep.



EASTER BUTTER LAMB MOLD

Small
3-1/2" width by 3" tall
1-600 **\$4.95**

Large
5" width by 4" tall
1-601 **\$7.95**

"POLISH BABY" BIBS



Cotton bibs. Red fabric with machine embroidered words. (Fabric may differ slightly from picture).

\$10.00 each. Bibs will be shipped separately from The Polish Peddler in Hinckley, Ohio



WYCINANKI-STYLE BIRTHDAY CARDS

Designed by Doris Sikorsky

CARD 400 ("Sto lat") (right)
4¼"x5½" with envelope Full color design with Polish and English greeting inside.



CARD 401 ("Candles") (left)
5½"x4¼" with envelope with Polish and English greeting inside

\$2.50 each • 10 or more cards: \$2.00 each

SHIPPING & HANDLING

1-5 cards: \$1.00 | 6-10 cards: \$2.00 | 11 + cards: \$4.00

KOLEDY SING-ALONG BOOK

With Music and Lyrics in Polish and English

Published by the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour

Now you can sing-along to 37 of the most popular Polish Christmas Carols. This 90-page spiral-bound book contains the

words and music plus English translations that can be substituted for Polish. Published by the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour in 2003, the book also contains a message from the Rosary Hour director, an explanation (in Polish and English) of Polish Carols by the late Msgr. John R. Gabalski of St. Stanislaus Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., plus Pope John Paul II words about the importance of koledy to the Polish nation. Thirty-seven songs in all.

Published at \$7.00, available now for only **\$5.00**

CHRISTMAS CARDS — 75¢ each — 50 or more 50¢ each — 10-pack \$6.00

Greetings in Polish with English translation! Designed exclusively for the Polish American Journal by renown folk artists Doris Sikorsky (cards 301-304), Basia Frackiewicz (cards 201-206) and Daniel Haskin (cards 102 and 103), these 4¼" x 5½" full-color cards



CARD 102



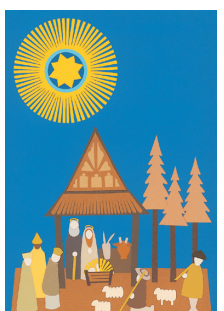
CARD 103



CARD 201



CARD 202



CARD 203



CARD 205



CARD 206



CARD 301



CARD 302

Send Christmas greetings in Polish and English to friends across the miles!

Christmas Card Assortment Available 24 Cards (2 each + random) for \$13.95

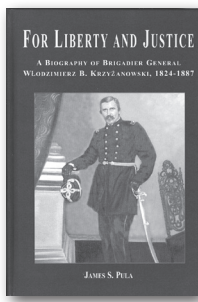


CARD 303



CARD 304

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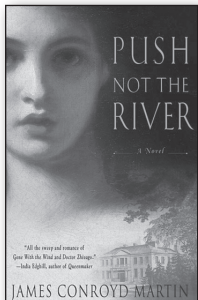
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FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE:
A Biography of Brigadier General
Włodzimierz B. Krzyzanowski, 1824-1887
\$29.95

by James Pula. 335 pp. plus introduction. 112 illustrations, hc. 1978, 2010
 Published by the Ethnic Heritage Studies Center at Utica College

A lavishly illustrated biography of a major Polish American figure of the 19th century, For Liberty and Justice tells the story of a Polish revolutionary exiled to America where he rises from private to general during the Civil War. Following the war he becomes a federal agent, helps Helena Modjeska begin her American career as a Shakespearean actress, and provides the setting for Henryk Sienkiewicz to develop some of the character sketches he later uses in his award-winning novels.

James S. Pula is vice chancellor and a professor of history at Purdue University North Central. He was twice awarded the Polish American Historical Association's prestigious Oskar Halecki Prize for outstanding books on Polonia as well as the Mieczyslaw Haiman Award for contributions to the study of Polonia.



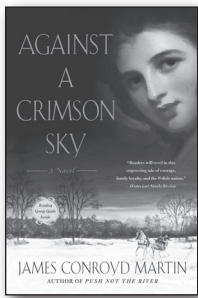
PUSH NOT THE RIVER
 by James C. Martin
\$15.95

St. Martin's Press. 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

AUTOGRAPHED! 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 paints the emotional and memorable portrait of the metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna, a proud and resilient young woman, and Jan, her soldier-husband. Critics have called the story Poland's *Gone with the Wind*.

The author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

"The story is well paced and compelling, the historical detail plentiful yet not overwhelming, and the characters engaging and true to the period." — *The Historical Novels Review*.

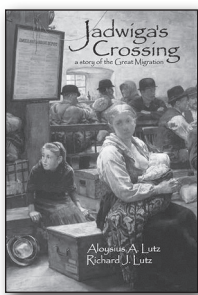


AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
 by James C. Martin
\$15.95

St. Martin's 369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

AUTOGRAPHED! "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 Napoléonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers. Having narrowly escaped death amidst the chaos caused by the violent dissolution of their homeland, Anna and Jan struggle to raise a family in uncertain times. When Napoléon Bonaparte comes calling, hinting at independence one day for the country, Polish legions form up—Anna's friends and family members among them—and accompany Napoléon as he battles his way across Europe in an effort that culminates in the doomed 1812 winter march to Moscow.

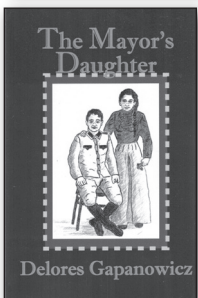
"A sprawling epic... entertaining." — *Publishers Weekly*.



JADWIGA'S CROSSING:
 A story of the Great Migration

Al and Dick Lutz' acclaimed work
\$19.95
 348 pp., pb.

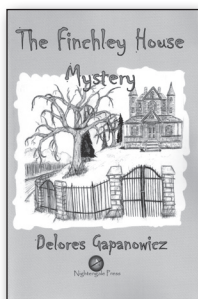
A perfect gift of heritage...The experience of late 19th Century immigration, as seen through the eyes of Paul and Jadwiga Adamik and what they went through to make America their new home. Appropriate for all ages 12 and up.



THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER
 by Delores Gapanowicz

Edition illustrated
\$12.95
 Nightingale Press, 2007. 176 pp., pb.

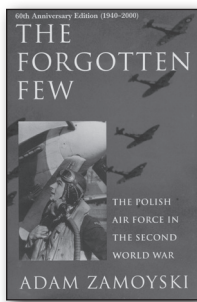
Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms didn't spend all their time milking cows and picking potatoes.



THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY
 by Delores Gapanowicz

\$13.95
 Nightingale Press, 2005
For Ages 9-12. 132 pp. pb.

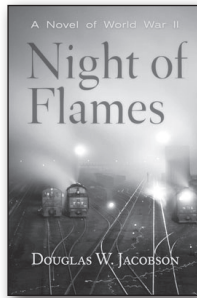
Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true? *Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.*



THE FORGOTTEN FEW
\$14.95

by Adam Zamoyski. hc. 239 pp.
 Fleeing to Britain after the Germans captured their homeland, the pilots of the Polish Air Force played an important role in the Battle of Britain and the air war in the European theater. They shot down 745 enemy aircraft, with another 175 unconfirmed, and 190 flying bombs targeted at London. A story of the life and times of these airmen stationed in Britain.

The story concludes sadly with an account of the development of anti-Polish feelings in Britain at war's end. Photos.

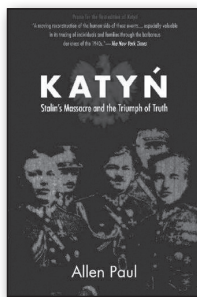


NIGHT OF FLAMES:
A Novel of World War Two
 by Douglas W. Jacobson
\$16.95

384 pp. pb., McBooks Press
"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."

In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna and Jan Kopernik the loss is unimaginable. She is an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; he, an officer in the Polish cavalry. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.

Through the long night of Nazi occupation, Anna, Jan, and ordinary people across Europe fight a covert war of sabotage and resistance against the overwhelming might of the German war machine. The struggle seems hopeless, but they are determined to take back what is theirs.



NEW! KATYŃ: STALIN'S MASSACRE AND THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH
 by Allen Paul
\$24.95

Northern Illinois University Press
 2010. 430 pp. pb. 9"x6.5"

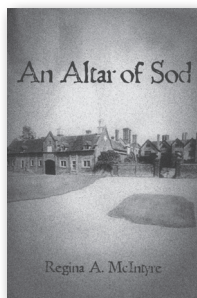
Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. Twenty years ago, Allen Paul wrote the first post-communist account of one of the greatest but least-known tragedies of the 20th century: Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportation of so-called "bourgeoisie elements" to Siberia. Today, these brutal events are symbolized by one word, Katyn.

Paul's richly updated account covers Russian attempts to recant their admission of guilt for the murders in Katyn Forest and includes recently translated documents from Russian military archives, eyewitness accounts of two perpetrators, and secret official minutes published here for the first time that confirm that U.S. government cover-up of the crime continued long after the war ended.

Paul's masterful narrative recreates what daily life was like for three Polish families amid momentous events of World War II—from the treacherous Nazi-Soviet invasion in 1939 to a rigged election in 1947 that sealed Poland's doom.

"Not only a riveting human drama but a powerful historical exposé." — *Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. national security adviser*

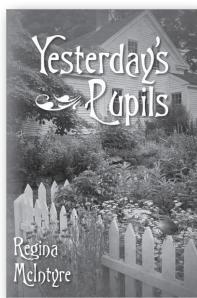
"Allen has given us the complete story of Katyn... a wonderful companion to my film!" — *Andrzej Wajda, Academy Award-winning Director of Katyn.*



AN ALTAR OF SOD
 By Regina A. McIntyre
\$19.95

Hats Off Books, 2001, 2010, 304 pp., pb

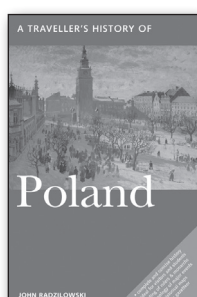
In 19th century Partitioned Poland, the village of Miska sits almost unchanged on the banks of the Vistula. This is the story of three families who are unforgettably joined by love, pain, struggle and hope. Rich in tradition, the story builds to a far-reaching conclusion.



NEW! YESTERDAY'S PUPILS
 By Regina A. McIntyre
\$17.95

Create Space Books, 2010, 208 pp., pb

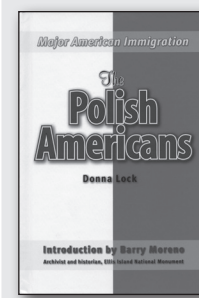
Sequel to "An Altar of Sod." At the turn of the 20th Century, three families emigrate from the same village in Poland. The Victorian era provides the style and mores that challenge these immigrants to adjust to that culture, and at the same time try to maintain their old world traditions and customs.



A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND
 by John Radzilowski
\$14.95

312 pp. ill., maps. pb.

A comprehensive historical survey guides travellers through a general history of the people and places of Poland from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer, historical maps.

BACK IN STOCK!

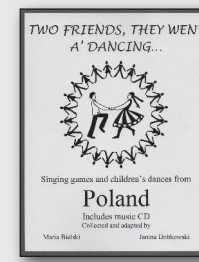
NEW! THE POLISH AMERICANS
 from the "Major American Immigration Series" by Donna Lock
\$22.95

Full color illustrated. Ages 9-12
 Mason Crest Publishers. 2008. 64 pp. hc. 9"x6"

Polish emigrants left their homeland for many of the same reasons as did other ethnic groups: poverty, religious intolerance, hardship, and a strict government. Yet in America's melting pot, the Polish have maintained a stronger hold on their traditions and customs than most of the other immigrant groups that arrived in North America during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This is due in part to the closeness of the ethnic Polish neighborhoods that grew up in the industrial cities where many immigrants settled.

Today, prominent Polish American associations work to ensure that people with Polish ancestry will never forget their proud heritage.

"A good overview of mainstream European American experience..." **Booklist.**

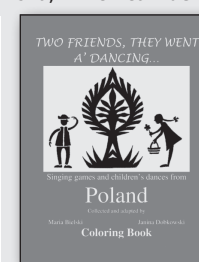


TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING
 by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowska
\$20.00

Singing games and Children's Dances from Poland
INCLUDES MUSIC CD, LYRICS, AND SHEET MUSIC

Spiral bound, softcover

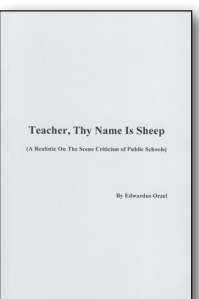
The book contains lyrics (in both English and Polish) of ten popular singing games, and a vocal music score with chords. Clear step-by-step movement and dance instructions are outlined precisely with the text. In addition, a CD of the recorded songs with accompaniment is included, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, and children can immediately enjoy the songs and games. Each page has an original "wycinanki" (Polish cut-out style) illustration, designed by the artist, Joanna Bielska, which can be reproduced for coloring or craft projects.



TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING COMPANION COLORING BOOK
\$4.00

by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowska
 Using these "wycinanki" icons, you can draw the story of each song, color the enlarged full page cut-out, or reproduce any of these icons for educational purposes.

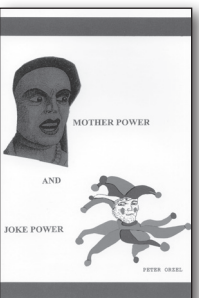
Some craft ideas are included.



TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP
 by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Edward Orzel)
\$9.95

Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.

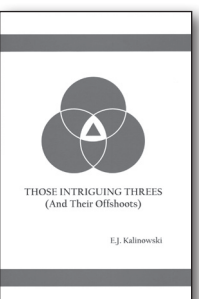
Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, first wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004. Among his views are "Give me a Principal with Principles." "It takes good parents, and good teachers, not a village, to raise good students," and "TV is today's mother, father, and teacher" among others.



MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER
 by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Peter Orzel)
\$9.95

Kalski Books, 1998. 142 pp., pb.

Mother Power is a compendium of psychological sketches on personalities in various fields: politics, military, medicine, theater, and religion, written in a pertinent, pithy manner pointing out how mother influence determined the success of the famous and infamous. *Joke Power* stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision. The author is a retired high school and junior high school teacher, who has penned numerous polemic observations in community and regional newspapers.



THOSE INTRIGUING THREES (and Their Offshoots)
 by E.J. Kalinowski
\$9.95

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The Importance of Polish Christmas Traditions

by Ryszard Krajewski



his is the time of year when we are exhorted to retain our Polish customs at Christmas. *Oplatki*, *koleđy*, *Wigili* — they are what many of us grew up with, especially those with a clear memory of an immigrant ancestor, such as a *dziadzia*, *babci*, or even a mother or father, if your family was newly immigrated. Nostalgia is often a driving force behind the urge to relive those memories, and share them with our own children. Perhaps the desire to honor the memory of our ancestors is a factor, too.

We may measure ourselves in how detailed our reconstructions of those traditions are. Do we have ornate pajaki and wycinanki? Is the szopka where everyone can see it? Did we bake enough pierniki? Do we have twelve varieties of food, to represent the 12 apostles (or 12 months, if you happen to be Communist)? Are we out looking for the Gwiazdka when the sun sets? The children are hanging the bombki, but watch out because the ornaments are expensive and fragile! Is there straw under the tablecloth? How about the empty chair at the dinner table? And, did the whole family put on their best and go to Pasterka at midnight?

More whimsical might be some of the fortune telling associated with Polish Christmas traditions. Will a man or a woman be first to walk in the door? Did you get the short straw from under the tablecloth? Did someone have an argument on the important day? All these events were thought to foretell the future.

But, why? Why do we take the trouble to once again recreate these hoary and ancient practices? Is nostalgia that great of a force? Do we

long to have ritual so much, that we need to imitate our ancestors in enormous detail? Even though some of us might not even be able to speak the same language they spoke? Even though we've never even been in Poland?

Certainly, traditions can be fun. But is a little fun the reason why these customs are important?

My wife and I were speaking about it tonight, in the context of our discussing the upcoming Christmas. We spoke about the articles we were seeing in Polish magazines, detailing the lists of Polish things to do that would be authentic enough.

What we both didn't like was the Disneyland quality behind it: the

Rituals have meaning, because they remind us of our meaning.

idea that you have to go on certain rides to really say you were in Disneyland.

The trip, in that case, becomes nothing but a checklist. We were afraid that Polish Christmas was becoming nothing but a checklist: "here are the things you must do to have a Polish Christmas, and if you don't, you aren't Polish anymore. You didn't go on all of the rides."

Yes, nostalgia is important. Ritual is important. They help to connect us to a cultural past that is our heritage. But, as reasons, they aren't sufficient. They are just a checklist. I'd guess that, by themselves, they cannot sustain a culture. They need to have more meaning than just childhood memories of another country, because then they are reduced to mere personal emotions, that, after awhile, seem like nothing more than peculiar motions to successive generations. At that point, the customs and traditions are blown away like straws in the wind.

The answer, my wife and I concluded, must be that traditions (to remain alive) need be thought of

more in the way they were when they were new, before they became traditions.

Why were these customs practiced in the first place? Because they had a meaning that carried great value, perhaps crucial value. Perhaps crucial to the survival of the culture and civilization they graced.

Can you imagine the first Poles who solemnly shared small pieces of oplatek with family members and friends — not as part of an ordinary meal, but as a part of the conveyance of a special message to each other? The message was a pledge of care and love. It wasn't just a wish of good fortune, but, in reality, a declaration of support. It meant "I am here for you. You can rely on me. And you must do the same for your siblings, children, and friends." A simple act, but with a powerful result: namely, the strengthening of bonds to family and society, now, and not just in our past.

When we keep an empty chair at the dinner table, it's not just a prop for Christmas. It reminds us that our bonds extend past the limit of death, past the limit of the earthly, reaching even into the realm of the divine.

These are things we would want to do, because of what they mean, even if they hadn't been practiced for a thousand years by our ancestors. They are not dead leaves to be put in a scrap book, taken out by us to be viewed once a year. They are alive. They help to keep us, and who we are, alive. They remind us that we are not just creatures following a script. We are human beings with souls. Rituals have meaning, because they remind us of our meaning. Customs have importance, because they remind us of our importance, and why we are so.

❖ ❖ ❖
Ryszard Krajewski was born in the United States (the first one in his immediate family), but is glad there was a large Polish community in his hometown.

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- The Pauline Fathers -



Wesołych Świąt

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- Ojcowie Paulini -

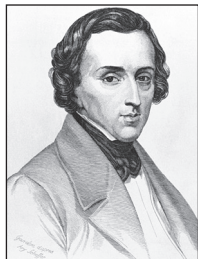
2010 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

- Dec. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE: Vigil Mass at 5:00pm in English. Midnight Mass in Polish. Procession to manger. Sharing of the Christmas wafer (Oplatek) after Mass in Cafeteria.
- Dec. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY: Masses in Polish at 8am, 10am & 12:30pm; in English at 9am, 11am, 2:30pm & 5pm.

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Fryderyk Chopin
1810-1849

“Music was his language, the divine tongue through which he expressed a whole realm of sentiments that only the select few can appreciate... The muse of his homeland dictates his songs, and the anguished cries of Poland lend to his art a mysterious, indefinable poetry which, for all those who have truly experienced it, cannot be compared to anything else... The piano alone was not sufficient to reveal all that lies within him. In short he is a most remarkable individual who commands our highest degree of devotion.”

—Franz Liszt, about Chopin

- 1 1896. Death of explorer **Stefan Rogodzinski**, famous for exploits in Africa.
- 3 1899. Founding of the **Polish Beneficial Association**, Philadelphia.
- 4 **ST. BARBARA**
Niechaj każdy pamięta, jaka Barbara, takie święta. Let everyone remember: as (the weather on) St. Barbara's Day, so the holidays.
- 6 **ST. NICHOLAS**
- 9 1990. Shipyard electrician and Solidarity Trade Union leader **Lech Walesa** elected president of Poland.
- 12 1981. Declaration of martial law in Poland.
Krowa co dużo ryczy mało mleka daje A cow that moos much gives little milk.
- 15 1859. Birth of **Lazarus Ludovic Zamenhof**, developer of Esperanto, the International Language, in Białystok, near Lithuanian, Poland and Byelorussia borders.
- 18 1929. Birth of **Cardinal Jozef Glomp**.
- 21 **ST. THOMAS**
First Day of Winter
1898. In Paris, **Marie**, 31, and **Pierre Curie**, Polish and French chemists, discover radium.
- 22 1982. **Richard Trumka** sworn in as president of United Mine Workers.
1959. Death of actress **Gilda Grey** (Maryanna Michalska), popular actress of the 1920s.
- 23 **ST. JOHN KANTY**
1937. Birth of first Polish American astronaut, Karol Bobko.
1925. Founding of the **Kosciuszko Foundation** in New York City.
Dzien Wigilijny Niech zawsze nad naszym domem świec złota gwiazda! May a bright star always shine over your home!
- 25 **Boże Narodzenie**
According to Polish tradition, the 12 days of Christmas predict the weather for next 12 months.
- 26 **ST. STEPHEN**
Chodzenie po koledzie Caroling begins today through February 2, Candlemas.
1655. Swedes withdraw from Poland.
- 27 **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**
1918. Greater Poland Insurrection begins.
- 30 1994. Consecration of **Bishop John W. Yanta, D.D.**, at Panna Maria. He is the first Polish American Texan given this honor.
- 31 **ST. SYLVESTER**

This paper mailed on or before December 1, 2010. The January 2011 edition will be mailed on or before December 31.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Now, More than Ever

Just before All Souls' Day, I learned the church of my Christening was slated for demolition. St. Barbara's in Lackawanna has been our home parish since my maternal great-grandparents came to the United States.

At this point, there is no official affirmation or denial of what might just be a rumor. In the meantime, however, former parishioners (the parish was closed in 2006) have been photographing the vacant shell just in case.

What is done is done. Nothing but a miracle will see the parish re-established. Razing the building is probably for the best. The Diocese claims it is still assessing the situation, but says a lightning strike has jeopardized the structural integrity of the bell tower.

Maybe the saint is trying to tell us something?

St. Barbara was the only child of a control-freak, pagan-worshipping father, Dioscorus. He shut her up in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world. In her forced solitude, Barbara gave herself to prayer and study, and contrived to receive instruction and Baptism in secret by

a Christian priest.

According to “Angels and Saints,” Dioscorus was enraged by her conversion, and the fact she added a third window (in honor of the Trinity) to a bath house he was having built. “So he himself denounced her before the civil tribunal. She was horribly tortured, and at last was beheaded. Her own father, merciless to the last, acted as her executioner. God, however, speedily punished her persecutors. While her soul was being borne by angels to Paradise, a flash of lightning struck Dioscorus, and he was hurried before the judgment seat of God.”

We'll have to keep an eye on the weather should a wrecking ball one day appear.

Some have argued to tear down the tower and leave the church standing, but what would become of it? Western New York is short on cash and creative power to re-animate the edifice. Knocking it down will remove the reminder of what Once Was. It is time to move on.

I—along with every one else who once belonged to a now-shuttered church—am left with memories: of cousins' weddings, family funerals,

basket blessings, Resurrection Mass, and *Pasterka*. Perhaps that's what makes it so hard to accept: the fact that I can't go home again, unless I want to consider a parking lot or empty field a sacred address. I wonder what all the souls are thinking.

Over the years, I have been a member of five other parishes, but always came home to St. Barbara's. And always at Christmas. There, I felt connected to my roots, my faith, and my Polonia.

Chances are you, too, grew up in a Polish American parish. Some of you may still belong to the church of your birth. Others may be experiencing—or have experienced—what we former St. Barbara's parishioners are going through. While all this can really ruin the holidays, surrender is not an option. Now, more than ever, is the time to perpetuate and promote what has been given to

us: our deep faith, our sense of family, our dedication to our community and—with Christmas at hand—our beautiful customs and traditions, delicious recipes, and the most melodious Christmas carols and hymns.

We are a direct link to our ancestors' hopes and dreams. I think they would want us feel happiness, especially at Christmas. We owe it to them, to ourselves, and to those who follow in our footsteps.

One day, we will tell our children and grandchildren about the churches and holidays of our youth, just as our grandparents told us about theirs. We should take great joy in knowing that, even though our surroundings and circumstances have changed, we still share the same values and traditions that are a part of the great Polish American mosaic.

Niech Panna Pszeniczna Bettejmska zamieni smutek w koledę!

With the closing of hundreds of Polish American parishes, it is now more important than ever to strengthen the inalienable bond between our culture and faith.

VIEWPOINTS

Close the U.S. Consulate Kraków?

Should the American Consulate in Kraków be shut down as a cost savings measure?

That suggestion is made in a report, “\$200 Billion in Illustrative Savings,” issued by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The body, also known as the Bowles-Simpson Commission, was established by President Obama ostensibly to develop bipartisan proposals to cut the ballooning U.S. deficit.

Bowles-Simpson suggests that Consulate Kraków is a Cold War relic “no longer absolutely necessary” to U.S. diplomacy. Instead of building a new consulate, as has been proposed to alleviate the current facility's overcrowding, the Commission proposes rethinking whether closure, a less secure building, or “teleconferencing and the Internet” would instead do the job.

Sorry, but we don't believe a computer stuck in an “American Corner” just quite cuts it.

The United States has had a consulate in Kraków since 1974. Although America had expressed interest after World War II in opening four consulates in Poland (and operated one briefly in Kraków from 1946-47), Moscow's lackeys in Warsaw sought to minimize American influence in the country. Only during the Nixon-Ford era of détente did the United States obtain permission to open a consulate in Kraków, in exchange for Poland's quest to open one in New York.

The Bowles-Simpson suggestion illustrates the penny-wise/pound-foolish approach to di-

plomacy to which America is frequently prone. If America wants to influence the world, it can't practice diplomacy on the cheap, like Canada does. Canadian embassies often cover multiple countries and, even where an embassy actually exists, it may not offer consular services.

The saying goes that the three most things about real estate are “location, location, location.” You are not a player if you are not there.

Can America afford not to be a player in Poland? How does one calculate the price of wanting American and waxing European influence—the latter often carrying a certain anti-American taint? In the myopic cost-benefit analysis of Bowles-Simpson, a new building for ten American officers may seem extravagant. Apart from the fact that it's not about American officers, how does one figure the cost of losing the rich reservoir of pro-Americanism that exists in Poland? How does one price the benefit of an American presence in Poland's intellectual capital, the mecca of the best and brightest of her young, the country's future leaders?

If Poland were a Visa Waiver country, the situation might be different. But is America's message “we care” when we force applicants to travel to Warsaw to obtain visas because Washington can't muster the *political* will to abolish visas for Poland? While Poles travel on their country's still inadequate roads to our Embassy in Warsaw, the signs along highway construction sites remind them “EU Euros at Work.” As they line

up for visas—after having fought alongside us in Iraq—they can remember that countries that did less (Lithuania and the Czech Republic come to mind) now travel to America visa-free.

One should also ask whether Bowles-Simpson reflects a lingering anti-Slavic bias among America's WASP elite. The last time America went on a consulate closing binge, in the 1990s, two European posts—Poznań and Edinburgh—were supposedly on the block. Poznań closed, but we still have a post in Scotland. Why did the Commission use Kraków as an example as opposed to, say, Dusseldorf? Marseille? Florence? Suddenly the Poles are busting the budget in Kraków?

No doubt critics will reply that, in an era of deficits, everybody must sacrifice. We're tired of the exercise of cost cutting on Polish backs. Poland went to Iraq—and got no contracts. Poland joined NATO—but we can afford no bases there, having also retreated on modest Missile Defenses. Poland bloodlessly brought down communism—but we beat a quick retreat from Central Europe, even liquidating the Peace Corps. U.S. investment in Poland is but a shadow of its European competition—and we can't even afford volunteer college kids. And now Kraków is to be the poster child of wasteful diplomatic spending?

Polonia needs to send a message loud and clear: hands off Kraków. It's in U.S. interests. It's important to Poland. And because Polonia votes.

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Preparing Polish-style Christmas

continued from cover

TRADITION REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE. It is next to impossible to introduce, cultivate or pass on traditions one is unfamiliar with. I good online place to find out more about them is www.polishtraditions.com. Those who still prefer traditional hard-copy books would do well to consider: the Polanie Club's classic "Treasured Polish Christmas Customs & Traditions, Father Czesław Krysa's "A Polish Christmas Eve" and Sophie Hodur-Knab's "Polish Customs, Traditions & Folklore." They are available at Polish Art Center: www.polartcenter.com.

ADVENT (Adwent). This is a roughly four-week period of spiritual preparation for Christmas and a good time to remind our youngsters that the Christmas spirit is more than getting presents from Santa. It should also be a time to share our time, effort and abundance with those less fortunate: the poor, homeless, lonely, elderly and housebound. The media will be working to convince people that this is mainly the time for house-cleaning, shopping, decorating and partying, so remember to do good deeds.

CHRISTMAS CRIB (żłóbek). A good way to back your words with deeds is not to clutter the house with tacky, plastic Santa, reindeer

and snowman-type decorations and make the Christmas crib the main focus. Traditionally the nativity set is not displayed until Christmas Eve, but in America setting it up together with the Christmas tree would make sense if the tree goes up before Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS TOUR OF POLAND (święteczna wycieczka po Polsce). Polonia's foremost szopka authority David Motak of the Polish Falcons is leading a Christmas tour of Poland (Nov. 26th-Dec. 7th). Visits to such places as Warsaw, Kazimierz Dolny, Lublin, Zamość, Łańcut and Zakopane are planned, and highlights will include Kraków's renowned Christmas crib (szopka) competition and a 12-course Wigilia banquet. You will be back in plenty of time to enjoy Polonia's Christmas festivities and holiday celebrations with your family. For more details contact: Mary Górecki at PAT tours: 1-800-388-0988.

ST. NICHOLAS (Święty Mikołaj). Unlike the high-powered shopping and present-getting hysteria symbolized by Santa Claus, introducing Święty Mikołaj to your family and community is a good way to teach children the deeper meaning of the

season: spirituality and charity. At a St. Nick celebration on or around his feast day (Dec. 6) the kindly old bishop quizzes youngsters on their prayers, good deeds and behavior and rewards them with treats. Why promote the already grossly overpromoted Santa, the patron of greedy sales promoters and spoiled brats, when our own heritage has a far better alternative?

ST. NICK STICKERS (mikołajowe naklejki). The proceeds from stickers of the kindly Święty Mikołaj for use on gifts and envelopes go to brighten Christmas for youngsters at the Catholic orphanage in Białoleka, Poland. The suggested donation is \$5 per sheet of 20 plus an extra \$1 for shipping per four sheets.

Oplatek is the single most important artifact of Polish-style Christmas ...

To order visit: www.polamjournal.com/Bookstore/Christmas_Store/christmas_store.html.

POLISH CAROLING (kolędowanie). Consider getting together a Polish caroling party. This can be the parish choir or a group of amateurs, in street dress, choir gowns or the old Polish-style disguises. These may include a star-bearer, angel, devil, King Herod, the Three Kings (Wisemen), Grim Reaper, peasant couple, Jewish merchant, soldier, priest and Gypsy. Such performances can be staged at your parish, club, fraternal lodge, community center or shopping mall. And don't overlook paying a visit to a nursing home or two.

POLISH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS (życzenia świąteczne). The standard greeting is: *Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!* (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year). An expanded version might go: *Radosnych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia oraz wszelkiej pomyślności w nadchodzącym 2011 Roku życzymy wam wszystkim!*

A more religious-flavored version could go: *Obfitych łask Bożego Dzieciątka z okazji Świąt i Nowego Roku życzymy całej Waszej Rodzinie!*

OPŁATEK IN THE CARD (oplatek z życzeniami). It is traditional to enclose a piece of oplatek in Christ-

mas cards being sent to those you love but will not be meeting on Wigilia. Only a small piece (e.g. 1" or 1½" square) is required, since its role is purely symbolic. A corner of the oplatek is broken off and consumed by the sender before sealing the envelope to symbolize sharing the "bread of love" over the miles.

EVERGREEN BOUGH (podłaźnik, podłaźniczka, sad). Our Polish ancestors would suspend an evergreen branch or the peak-side-down top of a fir, spruce or pine from the ceiling or rafters, often over the dining-room table. It was decorated with fruits, nuts, sweets in shimmering foil and home-made ornaments. This simple, natural and interesting decoration fills the room with the an evergreen scent is worth promoting in Polonia.

CHRISTMAS TREE (choinka, drzewko). Whether your Christmas tree is real or fake, decorated with home-made or store-bought ornaments, be sure not to put it up too early. Ideally it should be set up and trimmed on Christmas Eve itself and not lighted until the Wigilia

CHRISTMAS EVE (Wigilia). To Polish people everywhere, this is the single most important day of the year. Steeped in religious belief, tradition and folklore, it is usually shared with one's nearest of kin. How you are on Wigilia (good, bad, happy, sad, peaceful or upset) resentful) is how you will be all year long — is a common belief. It is a festive meal of once-a-year treats and unique customs such as hay under the table-cloth and an empty place-setting at table. Rather than being allowed to dissolve in the Anglo-commercial melting pot, shouldn't these beautiful old customs be passed on to the next generation at home and actively cultivated by our Pol-Am parishes, PNA lodges, schools, clubs and wherever?

CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER (wieczerza wigilijna). Poland's single most important family gathering is rife with beautiful symbolism and age-old customs. Hay is scattered

on the table beneath the table-cloth, and the meal begins when the evening's first star appears in the sky. It comprises (depending on local tradition) either a dozen or an odd number of meatless dishes.

The meal begins when the evening's first star appears in the sky with the sharing of oplatek. After the meal, kolędy are sung and gifts are exchanged, after which the family attends Pasterka (Midnight mass).

CHRISTMAS WAFER (oplatek) is a white unleavened wafer imprinted with nativity motifs and sometimes referred to as "angel bread" ("chleb anielski"). It is the single most important artifact of Polish-style Christmas, without which the celebration would be unthinkable. Traditionally bits of the wafer are shared amid an exchange of best wishes with all present as a sign of love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Oplatek is usually available at Polish parishes or you can order it from the Polish American Journal at (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088, or on-line at www.polamjournal.com.

Jesus Monument

continued from cover

border. "This monument has been built to fulfill a religious and catechetical mission, not as a tourist attraction."

Reactions to the project have varied. Many of those who attended the recent unveiling view the majestic white statue topped with a glistening crown as a symbol of Jesus embracing all of Poland with his outstretched arms. Some believe it will become the destination of numerous pilgrimages deepening the faith of pilgrims. But others view it is overly grandiose and tacky and feel the money could have been used for worthier causes.

Many locals, however, feel the gigantic statue will help put their town of 22,000 on the map. Among them is Mayor Dariusz Bekisz who put it this way: "Whether people come for spiritual reasons or out of curiosity, they will leave money behind and aid the local economy."



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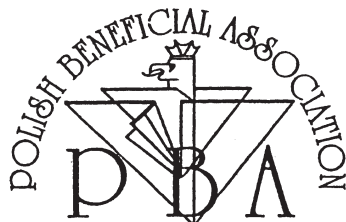
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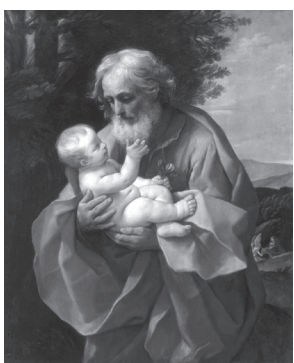


CHRISTMAS GREETINGS *from*
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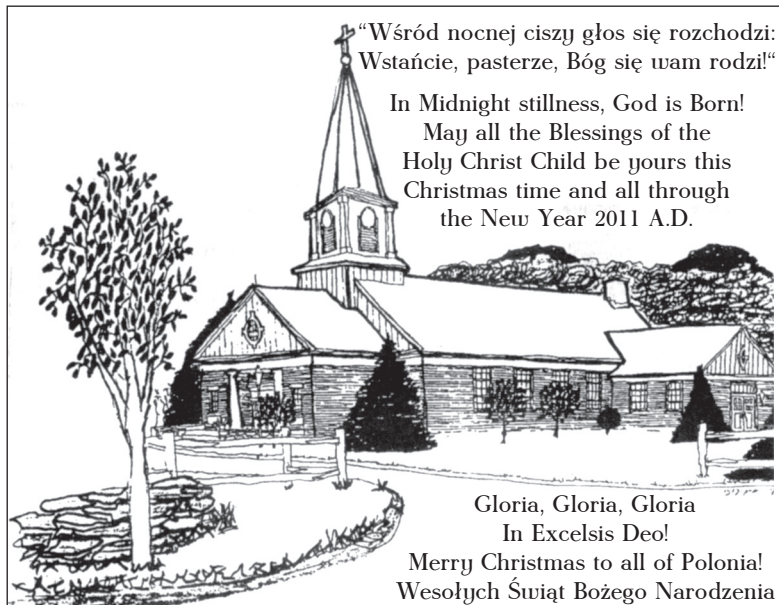


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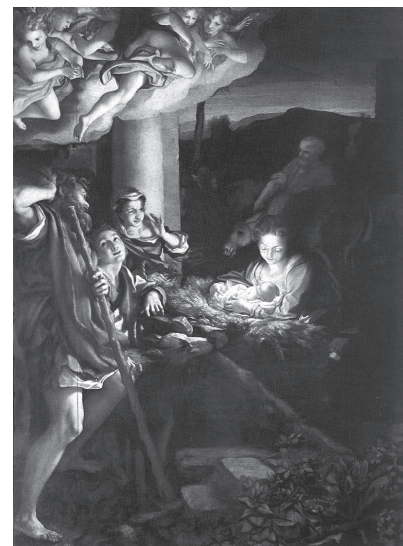
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May we begin this Christmas season anew and be reminded of the miracle of the Incarnation — Emmanuel, God is with us. Let us give thanks for the blessings and graces that we have received throughout this year. As we celebrated the birth of the Infant Savior, let us carry the spirit of the Christmas Season forward into the New Year.



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The Taste of Wigilia: Each household has a different set of food traditions

continued from cover

gion and taste, which over the centuries has contributed to transforming recipes into symbols – instantly recognizable and shared by both those that prepare the food and those who partake in its delight. Not merely edible mixtures of ingredients, the treasured recipes have become part nourishment, part cultural road map, and part fulfillment of a ritual bestowed with a significance that is greater than its capacity to satisfy one's appetite.

Each household has a different set of food traditions for *Wigilia* according to Poland's regional variations, marital circumstances and family status, but each has a unique inheritance to hold on to, maintain and revere.

As stated by Sophie Hodorowicz Knaub in *The Polish Country Cookbook* (Hippocrene Books 2002) — "Each region of Poland had their prepared dishes and quite frankly, served whatever their mothers and grandmothers had served in previous generations."

Wigilia is a unique portrayal through a culinary prism of the Polish countryside, the characteristic cuisine is inspired by the spirit and beauty of the nation's lakes, rivers and plains – the recipes wrought from the wealth of produce found therein.

Wherever there are Poles on Christmas Eve, there will be the *oplatek* wafer. There is much ritual connected with *Wigilia* (also known as *Wilia*, and in northeastern Kurpie and Mazury dialect — *Zilija*). The meal should have a certain number of courses and it will often represent all the elements of the land, lest any of the spirits connected with a particular branch should be forgotten and offended. There are mushrooms from the woods, *kasza* from the fields, fish from the water, and fruit from the orchard. Meat and animal fats are not eaten on this night, which brings the Advent fast to a close, but there may be as many as three different kinds of soup and fish dishes, followed by poppy-seed cake – a "must," as poppy-seed is supposed to bring "luck".

In Mazowsze, there can be various numbers of dishes, but the number must be odd; while in Podlasie there are to be twelve dishes – one representing each Apostle. Tradition also demands that an extra place be set for the Christ-child that may arrive taking the form of an unexpected guest or stranger.

Each region of Poland has its own *Wigilia* specialties. The *Kisiel* in Podlasie is distinctive to that area alone. Unlike the popular potato-starch red currant pudding, it is an oatmeal dish with cold-pressed oils, sometimes with added milk, along with poppy-seeds, raisins and honey.

Eastern areas of the Podlasie, Podkarpacie and Lublin regions serve *Kutia* – an ancient dish of poppy-seed mass served with wheat or barley, honey, dried fruit and nuts. The dish found its way into Lower Śląsk and Western Pomorze on account of post-War resettlement in this area from eastern territories seized by the Soviet Union.

Małopolska has *Moczka*, a soup

made from dried plums, while in Śląsk this soup is prepared from a special kind of gingerbread, almonds, raisins, prunes, dried apricots, pears, dried figs, and hazelnuts – all soaked in dark beer. *Ślązacy* also bake special *Zozworki* ginger biscuits.

In more recent years, I have often heard the comment that "all these traditions are from a long time ago; in today's world, why not change with the times?"... but aren't these traditions worth preserving? For Poles this is a true Christmas.

SOUP. The first course is soup – the most common is a clear beet broth with tiny mushroom-filled dumplings (*uszka*) floating within. The recipe is dated to the sixteenth century. A translucent dried-mush-



Barszcz wigilijny

room based soup (similar to *żurek*, but meatless) is served over *lazanki* (rectangular-shaped egg noodles) or coarsely mashed potatoes. The Śląsk and Wielkopolska areas delight in *Zupa Migdalowa* (almond soup), often served over rice. A creamed fish soup with dumplings is the course in Pomorze and Kaszuby, close to the Baltic coast. There is even a Śląskie soup called *Siemieniotka*, which is prepared from hemp seed and served with buckwheat groats (*kasza gryczana*).

The spelling varies in Yiddish and Russian, but to the Polish, it is *Barszcz Polski*, not *borscht* – depending on the area of Poland, *czwernony* (red) or *biały* (white). It is a soup *consommé* made with clear liquid from either fermented beets or rye flour. The intensity is the fermented *kwass* liquid. Shortcuts can be taken, but neither vinegar nor lemon juice can truly approach this customary flavor. The *biały barszcz z grzybami* (with mushrooms) is common in Kujawy, the east of Poland in general, and certain areas of the southern regions.

SECONDARY DISHES. Two kinds of *Kasza* (buckwheat groats and millet groats – *jaglana*) – loaded with nutrients, especially protein, offer a nutty, earthy flavor to balance the palate. Another grain option is *Kasza jęczmienna* (barley). This reflects the old rural traditions of the past that once dominated this time-honored occurrence. In the ever-changing modern times, it is an important homage to the simple tastes that are in many ways the roots of this seasonal custom.

Kapusta z Grochem (sauerkraut with dried yellow peas) is a dish with a translucent subtle sauce that is a signature *Wigilia* dish and takes on a special flavor at Christmas. There is also *Kapusta kiszona z grzybami* (stewed sauerkraut with



Kapusta z grochem mushrooms), *Ćwikła* (pickled beets) – finely grated beetroots with horseradish, *Gzybki z kwaśną śmietaną* (mushrooms with sour cream) or marinated mushrooms, and *Kluski z makiem* (egg noodles with honey and poppy seeds).

Kulebiak from Eastern Poland is a fancy-designed pastry pie with a filling of *kapusta*, mushrooms, onions, nuts seasoned with bay leaves, or it can appear with a filling of salmon, eggs and rice served with a bechamel or white sauce.

Salatka Jarzynowa, a newer addition to the menu is a popular Polish vegetable salad made mostly with potatoes, green peas, carrots, onion, dill pickle, hard boiled eggs, mustard and mayonnaise.

Goląbki in a meatless form – made of rice and mushrooms or *kasza* and mushrooms, is a dish that some families enjoy.

FISH. The Polish love fish – having easy access to pike, trout, perch and most importantly carp – to which is attributed invigorating power. Fish from the rivers and lakes was served more often than salt water varieties.



Karp w galarecie

ies. Southern Poland is less likely to include fish dishes in the *Wigilia* meal.

Buying or catching fresh carp (still alive) and having it exist in the bath tub or large basin is a typical Polish tradition, even to some degree today. The traditional Polish Christmas fish enjoys a life as a family pet for a few days before its ultimate destiny in the kitchen.

Karp po Polsku is carp stuffed with a mixture of mushrooms, vegetables, onions and nuts for *Wigilia*, which replaces the customary veal forcemeat; it is boiled in fish stock and red wine. It was adopted into French cuisine as *Carp Polonoise* – the highest honor for a culinary creation. An old Polish delicacy is *Karp w szarym sosie* (carp in grey sauce) utilizing plum butter, ground honey-gingerbread, dark beer, almonds and raisins. *Karp w galarecie* (carp in aspic) is a light chilled jelled-dish garnished with carrot rings, hard boiled eggs, and lemon

slices.

Many traditional recipes overlap and have influenced Jewish cooking, but old culinary cooking made use of Jewish fish dishes. *Karp po żydowsku* and *Szczupak* (carp and pike Jewish style) are popular favorites.

Herring was one fish from the sea that did find favor. It is fried, salted, or pickled and served in a variety of ways. *Śledzie po Kaszubski* (herring Kaszuby style) is made within a tomato concentrate with oil, mushrooms, onions, and raisins. There is also *Śledzie w śmietanie* (in cream sauce), a pickled herring in wine sauce with *crème fraiche* and onion, among many other variations.

Ryba w sosie greckim (Fish in Greek sauce) has become a popular modern favorite.

In the American Midwest the recipe for stuffed pike managed to make its way across the ocean, and owes its origins to Poland.

PIEROGI AND USZKA. *Pierogi* is a word that makes the mouth water. This delectable pocket-filled dumpling is filled with various meat-



Uszka

less fillings – cheese, potato and cheese, and *kapusta* (a unique recipe, which the words "cabbage" or "sauerkraut" do not justly describe).

It can be unjustly compared to *ravioli*, *won ton*, and *kreplach*, yet *piezogi* is a taste in a class by itself. Typical Polish *piezogi* are cooked in boiling salted water and are drizzled with melted butter.

Uszka, which means "little ears" is a smaller filled noodle, similar to the *tortellini* ("little hats") of Italy. Filled with wild mushrooms they delicately float in the beet *barszcz* broth. Experienced in northeastern Poland, *Kolduny* are stuffed noodles, which came to Poland from Lithuania.

DESSERTS. When it comes to pastries, in diversity, quality and taste Poland is second to none among European countries. The traditional *Makowiec* (poppy-seed roll) is the must-have on the *Wigilia* dessert menu. Besides the popular poppy-seed filling, this rolled cake can also be made with a "nutmeat" filling or with walnut, almond, or prune (*lekvar*) filling.

Babka is the national bread-cake and a must at every occasion. *Mazurki* include over fifty variations of elaborate cakes that are closely related to the famous Viennese torte.

Toruń Gingerbread Cake and *Honey Spice Cake* are baked in beautifully carved molds. The popular gingerbread *katarzynki* biscuits were known as early as 1640. *Piernik Staropolski* is yet another honey gingerbread cake with a chocolate icing exterior. *Kolacz* – the braided wheel sculp-



Makowiec

ture bread – popular at weddings, is also a familiar dessert in certain areas of Poland. The *kolaczki* foldover cookies are totally unrelated, and can be square, diamond shaped or round. The dough can be made with cream cheese, sour cream, or yeast. Fillings run the gamut of nuts, apricot, raspberry, prune and cheese.

Lamańce z makiem incorporates poppy seeds, milk, butter, honey, egg yolks, sugar, rum, vanilla pod, chopped almonds, walnuts and hazelnuts, raisins, chopped figs and candied orange peel.

Rogaliki (almond crescent cookies) mean "little horns" because of their shape. There are many versions – some recipes require rolling the dough and cutting it into triangles, adding a dollop of filling and rolling. They melt in your mouth.

AFTER-DINNER DRINK. The twelve main dishes are now often replaced by a twelve-fruit *Kompot*. Traditionally alcohol is not served at the *Wigilia* table. After the meal when the guests retire to a different room, *Wisniak* or *Wisniowka* is served for the women, while the men often prefer the stronger *Żubrówka* or *Jarzębina*, made from berries



Kompot

of the mountain ash. Homemade *Krupnik* (honey-spice cordial) has been a favorite in my family.

Whatever the number of dishes, it is important to at least try each one once. *Ile się nie spróbuje, tyle przyjemności w ciągu roku może człowiek ominąć* (however many dishes are not tasted, a person will lose that much happiness in the coming year).

In addition to the glorious foods, *Wigilia* in the Polish household is an evolution of family. The memories continue and live on in a different form each year. The ritual, the customs and the magnificent tastes of *Wigilia* is a tradition that will stay within forever.

Consult www.PAJtoday.blogspot.com for recipes or request recipes at: PAJtoday@yahoo.com.

Wesłoch Świąt Bożego Narodzenia. Zapraszamy do wigilijnego stołu!

ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

Amber: The Polish Ambassador

Presenting amber as a diplomatic gift has long been a tradition, with the most notable amber gift being the magnificent Amber Room in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 1716, Fredrich Wilhelm I of Germany presented it to Peter the Great of Russia — cementing a Prussian-Russian alliance against Sweden. Amber has been and still is used in many other diplomatic circles — receiving a gift of amber is considered to be upscale and thoughtful no matter how large or small the gift involved.

Today simply wearing amber makes us Polish ambassadors. It is a rare occurrence when someone wearing a piece of amber isn't asked where it came from or "what is that?" giving us an opportunity to talk about Poland and offer a fact or two about this most fascinating of places and people. Many times people are aware that amber is special and unique in the world but have no idea that amber was the key reason that trade routes were established thousands of years ago between Rome and Northern Europe. Before the rise of the Roman Empire the Greeks traveled along the Amber Road to bring back this important gem and healing stone called "electron" esteemed for its medicinal properties and for the fact that it generated static or "electricity" when rubbed against cloth. And even before the ancient Greeks admired amber, the Phoenicians highly regarded it and made this fascinating gem a cornerstone of their trade

and a measurement of their wealth.

It's easy enough today to use amber as an ambassador for Poland. When asked about your amber, be it an heirloom from a beloved Grandmother or Auntie or an exquisite new addition to your jewelry wardrobe, it is easy enough to say "yes it is from Poland and by the way did you know that Polish born astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was the first person to propose that the earth was not the center of the universe or that another Polish astronomer, Johannes Hevelius published the earliest exact maps of the moon?"

No reason to stop there — you'll find yourself happily highlighting facts about Poland such as pointing out that Poland boasts seventeen Nobel Prize winners including Marie Curie, the first and only Nobel laureate in two different sciences and first female professor at the Sorbonne University.

NATURAL RESOURCES in Poland include: coal, sulfur, copper, natural gas, silver, lead, salt, amber, and much fertile agricultural land. Some beer in Poland boasts as much as ten percent alcohol and in Gdansk there is a lovely liquor — sweet and aromatic — that contains flakes of gold and is the toast of the town. Przystanek Woodstock is the biggest open-air festival in all of Europe—an annual free rock music festival in Poland, inspired by and named for the Woodstock Festival, and takes place in July of every year.

In 1939, Poland had the largest Jewish community in Europe (almost 3.5 million). This may be why 70% of the German Nazi extermination camps during World War II were located in what is now Poland. Because the Poles were so tolerant of others, including the Jews, that is why we as Polish Americans are so quick to point out that these horrible camps were not Polish but German Nazi.

A FEW FAMOUS POLES include the cosmetics genius Helena Rubinstein and the writer Joseph Conrad and the biochemist Casimir Funk (1884-1967), who first isolated and formulated the concept of "vitamins" — he also proposed the name which we are so familiar with today.

Amber is not only beautiful, lovely and warm to wear — it lends itself so easily to opening the door for others to view Poland in a positive light and to share the gift of amber and Poland with everyone.



Wesołych Świąt
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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Wesoly Lud Represents Chicago, the United States, and Poland



WESOLY LUD and a Chinese dance troupe

CHICAGO — Fourteen dancers of the *Wesoly Lud*, "The Happy People," Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, their Artistic Director and Choreographer, **Michelle (Misia) Jaminski** and **Richard Jaminski**, along with Krystyna Rozwadowski, Janina Janiec, Anna Sokolowski, Vice President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union and her husband, Mark, had the opportunity of a life time. They participated in the first ever Shanghai International Popular Sports and Folk Dance Festival. From October 8-13, 2010, thirteen dance troupes with 132 dance ensemble participants from Europe, South America, and China proudly performed their national ethnic dances. Not only did *Wesoly Lud* perform regional Polish dances, but they danced the Chicago-style polka, a specialty of this dance ensemble. Misia Jaminski pointed out that *Wesoly Lud's* Lowicz costume was awarded first prize in the best costume competition. Members of this dance ensemble were international ambassadors of Polish folklore, as they showcased their talents and cultural pride by proudly representing Chicago and the United States, as well as being visible spokespersons for Poland. But they, in turn, witnessed the beauty and cultural treasures of the other participants and of their Chinese hosts. This truly was a global educational experience. Additionally, *Wesoly Lud* did perform at this festival's Polish Pavilion and were guests at a dinner

hosted by the Polish Consul, Andrzej Lysiak, at the Polish Consulate in Shanghai.

MUSEUM SALUTES ITS VOLUNTEERS. On October 15, the Polish Museum of America (PMA) held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening, filling the organization's Great Hall with volunteers who came from, not only the Chicago area, but from Michigan and Wisconsin as well. Over 75 individuals from an outstanding group of approximately 216 volunteers were acknowledged for their time and service to the PMA. These volunteers were from the PMA Board, the PRCUA officers and staff, the Polish American media, as well as from the PMA membership. Their volunteer efforts totaled almost 5,000 volunteer hours of service from August 14, 2009 – October 7, 2010. Special recognition and appreciation were given to the following volunteers for their hours of service to the PMA: Mal-



MUSEUM SALUTES ITS VOLUNTEERS. (l. to r.): Maria Ciesla, Jan Lorys, Malgorzata Palka, David Majkowski, Geraldine Balut Coleman, Mary Jane Robles, and Mitchelle Kmiec.

gorzata Palka, Esther Wilek, David Majkowski, Geraldine Balut Coleman, Katarzyna Derus, Mary Jane Robles and Jack Vishneski. Volunteer PMA Treasurer, **Mitchelle Kmiec**, received the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award. It was given to Ms. Kmiec for "her countless hours spent in building a solid foundation of financial reporting and accountability for the PMA." Maria Ciesla, president of the PMA, and the Museum staff hosted this evening. Special "thank you's" were abundant. Naturally, the evening would not have been complete without a wonderful Polish buffet prepared by Chicago's favorite caterer, Kasia Bober, and her staff.

PADERWSKI LEGACY LIFE MEMBERS HONORED. The Polish Museum of America (PMA) honored its first Heritage Life Member, Kenneth P. Gill, and its Legacy Life Members by hosting a black tie event. Held on November 5 in the Great Hall of the PMA, this biennial gala, "Ignacy Jan Paderewski at Polish Museum of America," was


the fifth such event. Started in 2002, this event pays tribute to those, who have given generously to the PMA. This year's Legacy Life members are Walter Cebulski, M.D., Ester Wilek, Marian K. Sromek and Jan. T. Osada, all of Chicago, along with Marie and Richard Rogowski of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Robert E. Michalak of Redmond, WA, and Peter H. Finie of Camarillo, Calif. Also adding to this "Paderewski Class of 2010," are the Emilia Plater Polish Language School of Schaumburg, Ill., and Illinois' Council of Educators in Polonia. This year's Mistress of Ceremonies was Chicago's and WGN-TV's twenty-year veteran and nine-time Emmy award-winning journalist, Allison Payne. Ms. Payne, a native Detroit, is co-anchor of WGN-TV's Middyay News with Steve Sanders and hosts the station's bi-weekly "People to People" news and public affairs program.


Maria Ciesla, President of the PMA, and Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., Chairman of the Board of the PMA and National President of the PRCUA, welcomed all. Mr. Jan T. Archacki of New York City presented the Museum with an original drawing of Ignacy Jan Paderewski created by his father, well-known Polish graphic artist Henry Archacki. Also, Mrs. Ciesla announced to all that the long-awaited renovation of the 4th Floor Gallery of the Museum will begin in January 2011. This gallery will be named the Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery. Several colored renderings of the proposed Art Gallery were on display for all to see. Volunteer architect and PMA member, Sean Ciolek, was on hand to answer questions about the renovation of the Art Gallery. And lastly, the Paderewski Room was available for all guests to see and tour.



PADEREWSKI LEGACY. (l. to r.): Jan Lorys, Maria Ciesla, Robert Michalak, Czeslawa Kolak, Helena Sromek, Jan Osada, Kenneth Gill, Jolanta Harrison, Allison Payne, and Joseph Drobot.


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Christmas Celebrations

BUFFALO, N.Y. — As always, the Christmas season brings out the best in our Polonia community. We let our pride in our Polish heritage shine for all to see. Many Polonia organizations bring their extended families together for a *Wigilia* celebration which they share with the entire community.

To get into the holiday spirit this year, please consider participating in some of the following Polonia Christmas activities with your families and friends:

THROUGH CHRISTMAS

• 4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD FAIR. Broadway Market, 999 Broadway, Buffalo

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

- WIGILIA & SZOPKA DISPLAY (A Polish Heritage Society of Rochester Event). 5:30 p.m. Cleary Auditorium, St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Avenue, Rochester. (585-248-0152)
- CHOPIN SINGING SOCIETY WIGILIA. 6:00 p.m. Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. \$25.00. (633-1755)
- POLKA VARIETY SOCIAL CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY. Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. Richard Szykowny (826-2281)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

- CORPUS CHRISTI ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR. 10:00 a.m. Sears Street Hall, 165 Sears Street, Buffalo. (896-1050)
- JUNIOR FALCONS NEST 52 CHRISTMAS PARTY. Noon. St. Paul Exempt, Rochester
- ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CAROLS (Featuring the Choirs of District IX of the Polish Singers Alliance of America). St. Stanislaus Church, Fillmore Avenue & Peckham Street, Buffalo

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

- FORGOTTEN BUFFALO'S POLISH TAVERN CHRISTMAS TOUR. 5:00 p.m. \$45.00. (833-5211)
- SUNYAB POLISH STUDENT ASSOCIATION 38TH ANNUAL WIGILIA. 6:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Social Center, Fillmore Avenue & Peckham Street, Buffalo. \$25/General Admission; \$15/Student. Martin Kozicki (347-853-3775)
- BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS CHRIST-

MAS PARTY (Featuring Rare Vintage). 6:00 p.m. Polish Falcons Clubrooms, 445 Columbia Avenue, Depew. \$25/Member; \$35/Guest. Chris Tanski (892-7977)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

- PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY. 9:00 a.m. Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Avenue, Depew. Richard Milewicz (634-3358)
- CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY. 1:00 p.m. Polish Cadets Hall, 927 Grant Street, Buffalo. Wendy Higgins
- POLISH CADETS OF BUFFALO HOLIDAY PARTY (Featuring the Balasteri Band). 7:00 p.m. Polish Cadets Hall, Grant & Amherst Streets, Buffalo. \$20.00. Wendy Higgins
- RESPONSE TO LOVE'S 2ND ANNUAL KOLEDY NIGHT (Featuring the New Direction and St. John Kanty Choir). 7:00 p.m. Potts Banquet Hall, 694 South Ogden Street, Buffalo. \$10.00. Sr. Johnnice (894-7030)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

- FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY. 2:00 p.m. Polish American Citizens Club, 385 Weaver Street, Rochester. (585-266-7215)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

- SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MASS AND CD PREVIEW (Featuring Brittany Mruczek). 11:00 a.m. Assumption Church, 435 Amherst Street, Buffalo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

- NEW YEARS EVE DANCE (Featuring John Gora). Polish Alliance Hall, 126 Albion Street, Brantford Ont.
- NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. Polish American Citizens Club, 385 Weaver Street, Rochester. (585-266-7215)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

- NEW YEARS DAY POLKA PARTY (Featuring the New Direction). 5:00 p.m. Potts Banquet Hall, 694 South Ogden Street, Buffalo. \$6.00.

SATURDAY, JANUARY /8

- KOLEDY CONCERT AND MASS (Featuring Brittany Mruczek). 3:30 p.m. St. Adalbert Basilica, 212 Stanislaus Street, Buffalo (895-8091)

All telephone numbers are in area code (716) unless otherwise noted. All events and activities are subject to cancellation and rescheduling by the sponsoring organization without notice.

POLITICAL POLONIA.

WNY Polonia's candidates did well in November's General Election. Successful Pol-Am candidates

for public office included:

- **Hon. Henry Nowak and Hon. Deborah Chimes.** NYS Supreme Court (8th Judicial District)
- **Hon. George Maziarz.** NYS Senator (62nd District)
- **Hon. Dennis Gabryszak.** NYS Assembly Member (143rd District)
- **Hon. Kathy Hochul.** Erie County Clerk
- **Hon. Richard Wojtowicz.** Amherst Town Councilmember
- **Hon. Stephanie Czerniak.** Colden Town Councilmember

POLISH CINEMA SHOWCASED.

November presented an excellent opportunity to explore the many nuances of Polish cinema. Three local Polish film festivals screened a myriad of Polish films covering many genres.

The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College hosted its Polish Film Showcase 2010 November 4 through 7 at the Montante Cultural Center in Buffalo. Festival highlights included the opportunity to meet Polish directors, Ryszard Brylski and Agnieszka Wojtowicz-Vosloo. More details on this festival can be found at www.canisius.edu/polish/events.asp.

The 2010 **Rochester Polish Film Festival**, sponsored by the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, was held at the Little Theatre in Downtown Rochester from November 12 through 17. The Opening Night Gala at the Inn on Broadway featured a piano recital by Wlodzimierz Pawlik and the opportunity to meet Polish actor Robert Wieckiewicz.

If you have an item for this column, send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e., December 6 for the January 2011 edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: pietruska@verizon.net. For more information on the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: <http://www.polegl.org>.

Dedication Commended



BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Four distinguished individuals and organizations were the recipients of the 2010 Service Award from the Downstate New York Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC).

Shown above (from left, holding plaques) are Assemblyman Joseph R. Lentol, who represents Greenpoint's Polish American community in the N.Y. State Legislature; Caroline Kowalczyk of Long Island's Polish Gift of Life, an organization with a record of nearly forty years helping children in Poland get life-saving cardiac surgery; Rev. Wladyslaw Kubrak, vicar at Ridgewood's St. Matthias R.C. Church.

Rev. Kubrak was a member of the PAC's executive board before he decided to become a priest.

The fourth recipient was the Chopin Foundation represented by Dr. Elzbieta Wirkowski and Tomasz Chabowski (far right). The Chopin Foundation promotes the appreciation of the music of the great Polish composer, Frederick Chopin, particularly this year, which marks the composer's 200th birthday.

Standing in back of the recipients are officials of the PAC's Downstate N.Y. Division: Frank Milewski, president; Vincent Brunhard Jr., executive vice president and Bozena Kaminski, vice president.

Merry Christmas

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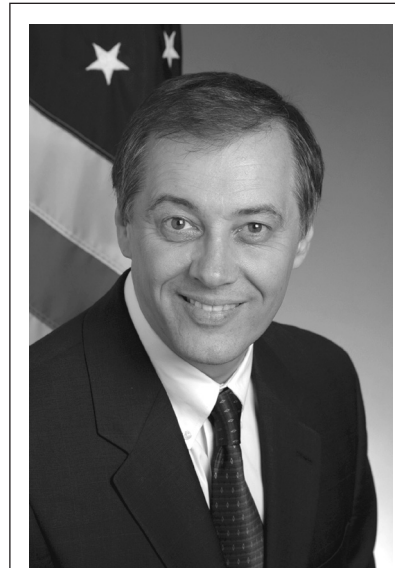
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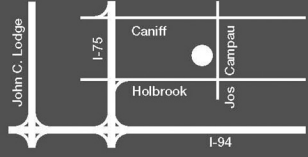
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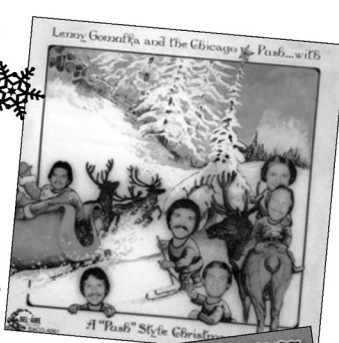
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Polka MAGAZINE

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Nellie Guzevich Passes, Nov. 18

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. — Nellie Guzevich, mother of the Polka Family Band, passed away Nov. 18, 2010, at the Pomona Valley Medical Center in Pomona, Calif. Originally from Perris, Calif., she was a performer with the Grammy nominated Polka Family band which traveled throughout the country.

Nellie was preceded in death by her husband, Frank T. Guzevich, on Jan. 22, 2006.

She is survived by three sons and their families; a daughter, 17 grandchildren; one great-grandson; three brothers, and four sisters.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 23 in St. Columba Catholic Church, 342 Iron St., Bloomsburg, Pa. She was interred in All Saints Cemetery, Bear Gap, Pa.

Letters of condolence may be sent to: Polka Family Band, 24 Bridle Walk, Bloomsburg, PA 17851.

Wiatrowski's Planet Polka Plays Oktoberfest



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Claude Wiatrowski's Planet Polka plays for the Oktoberfest at the Silver Tongued Devil in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado. The band played to a full house, October 1, 2010.

POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

This is Honky

Rich Raclawski is the concertman and continues the tradition of building new Eagle Concertinas, following in the footsteps of Walter Kadlubowski. Raclawski's concertinas not only play music, they sing with a voice that brings joy to honky music lovers and nothing demonstrates that more than his latest CD, *This is Honky*.

In a style reminiscent of the late Eddie Zima, Raclawski and the All-Star Honky Band gives the listener "Lollipop" polka, "Open the Window" polka, "Stop & Go" polka, "Picking Cherries" polka, "Zona Moja" oberek, the fabulous Zima waltz "Blue Waters" and more—14 tracks in all.

The All-Stars here truly are names that deserve that moniker with Eddie Madura on clarinet and alto sax, Wayne Sienkowski on drums, Jim "Chainsaw" Kucharski on upright acoustic bass, Dave Mitera on tenor sax, Matt Sienkowski on piano, Bill Gula on trumpet and, of course, Rich Raclawski on the Eagle concertina.

Playing the music as it should be played, with an instrumental mix that preserves the integrity of the its origins, this is a must-have for every honky, concertina, Polish music fan.

Recorded at Brother Rice Studio in Chicago, *This is Honky* was mixed by Matt Sienkowski, Billy Gula and Rich Raclawski. Visit the website at: www.rcrescent.com or email: rsraclawski@att.net.

STEPHANIE PIETRZAK was a 2010 inductee into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame and *This is Polka Music* celebrates this with twelve songs, three of them originals. "Please Come Back To Me," "Step by Step," and "Ty Ry Ryt Kum" oberek come from the musical pen of Stephanie. Always favoring Li'l Wally, Stephanie includes Jay Jay songs in the mixture, too.

Offering plenty of honky style and concertina, this one will be must have for Stephanie fans everywhere.

Stephanie Pietrzak is joined by: Eddie Madura, Jim Sierzega, Rich "Sudzy" Cerajewski, Dave Kurdziel, and Wayne Sienkowski.

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VERSATONES' "THRILLER." With the re-released the 1984 Eddie Blazonczyk's *Versatones Polka Thriller* album is now on CD. *Polka Thriller*

Kenny G Meets Koledy

A New CD from Stephen Kaminski

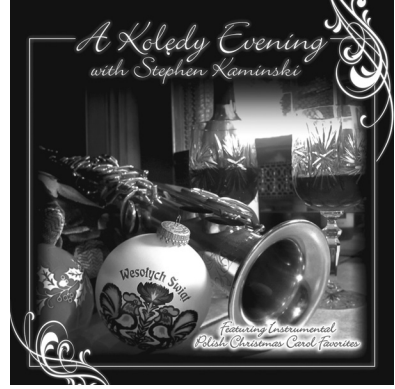
What Kenny G did for American Christmas songs, this CD does for Polish Christmas carols (Koledy). "A Koledy Evening with Stephen Kaminski" is a collection of beautiful and beloved Polish Christmas melodies, performed in an instrumental jazz style. It's the perfect CD for relaxing during the often hectic Christmas season.

Stephen Kaminski has always been active in the polka community, playing with bands like The Magitones and Jimmy Sturr in the '80s, and acting as Music Director for the famed Jan Lewan Orchestra, earning the band a Grammy Nomination in 1994. With the help of many of his polka musician friends, Stephen released his own solo projects, "Stephen Kaminski and the Dream Team" Volumes I and II, to critical acclaim. He now plays with Charm City Sound out of Baltimore, producing their

last two recordings, and this past summer toured with Freeze Dried from Chicago.

The idea to do an entire CD of instrumental koledy came from his wife Lynn. Stephen had done one koledy arrangement for a compilation CD released by Sunshine Records a few years ago and his wife has urged Stephen to do a whole CD. Last Christmas he recorded the CD as a surprise Christmas present to his wife, and this year released it through the Westwood Music Group for everyone else to enjoy this Christmas!

For the latest information, please visit www.StephenKaminskiMusic.com. The CD is also available from the Polish American Journal Bookstore.



Toledo Polka Events

The International Music Association holds its annual **Christmas Dance**, Sunday, December 5th, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. with A Touch of Brass as musical guests. Featuring Jim and Stas' Rutkowski, Bobby and Jimmy Earl, and John Owczarzak, TOB has been making music together for over 25 years and this band remains a perennial favorite with local polka fans. Reservations may be sent to Patty Muszynski, 3702 Hazelhurst, Toledo OH 43612.

The Toledo Area **Polka Society Christmas Party** will be held Sunday December 12th, with a Polish-style chicken dinner and musical entertainment by the Czelusta Park All-Stars. This group, headed up by Randy Krajewski, features polka "bad boy" Eddie Biegaj in a rare Toledo performance, in addition to Jim Mackiewicz, Jr. and Andrew Pawlak. For information, contact TAPS President Mike Marek at michaeldmarek@sbcglobal.net.

POLKA INSIDER

Looking Forward to Christmas

by Steve Litwin

"Christmas time is here again" sings Eddie Blazonczyk. A *Polish Village Christmas* is next on the CD player. We dig down into those lower shelves on the rack to pull out the other Christmas recordings including the koledy. Christmas Eve will sneak up on us, as it does every year.

Look forward to the holiday as you did when you were a child: start playing those Polish and polka Christmas recordings early; awaken the heritage in family members that may have forgotten the joys of a Polish Christmas.

In an age when we all seem to never have enough time, let us make time to enjoy the special meaning of that old ornament and delight in the Polish lyrics we all learned as children. Make it a polka Christmas. Make it a Polish Christmas. Make it a Christmas of old.

To everyone: Adele and I send wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia*.

has been remastered and repackaged and features Versatones' hits like "I Love Wanda," "Hey Pretty Girl," and "How Can I Love Her." Ray Henry's "Bombshell" polka and "Left Handed" also deserve special mention. With all tracks recorded between 1978 and 1984 and a listing of what musicians recorded each song, it provides some interesting history for the listener.

Musicians on the tracks include: Joe Dudek, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., Jerry Darlak, Jerry Tokarz, Rich Tokarz, Ed "Weasel" Wolinski, Jim Sierzega, Lenny Gomulka, Jerry Rajewski and Rich "Sudzy" Cerajewski.

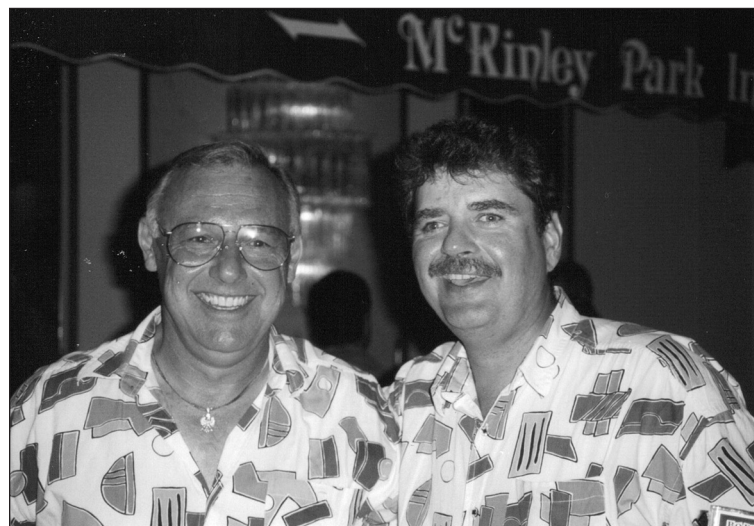
It's probably in your collection already, but now you can have it on CD. *Polka Thriller* is on Bel-Aire Records — The Vintage Collection.

OUR THANKS TO ALL. Adele and I, and our family, are so thankful for all the kind words, comments, prayers, cards and notes we've received following the passing of my mother, Louise Litwin, this past October. My mother loved people, loved being at parties and events. She danced at Dom Polski and Ampol Days and many other polka events in Western New York, and is probably dancing to Marion, Stas, Jerry and all those who are playing those polkas in heaven.

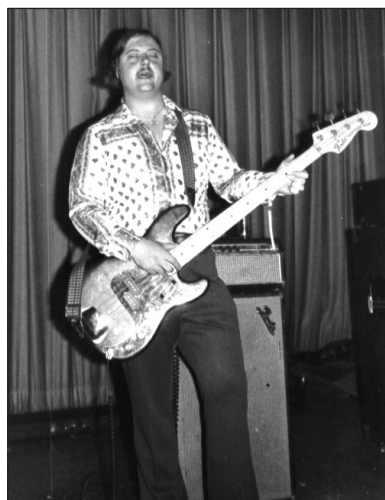
Thoughts linger, but memories from times past remind us of some joyful event, some warm moment, that is locked in time, forever to remind us of those that have been part of our lives.— Steve Litwin.

POLKA MEMORIES / Jimmy K and Steve Litwin

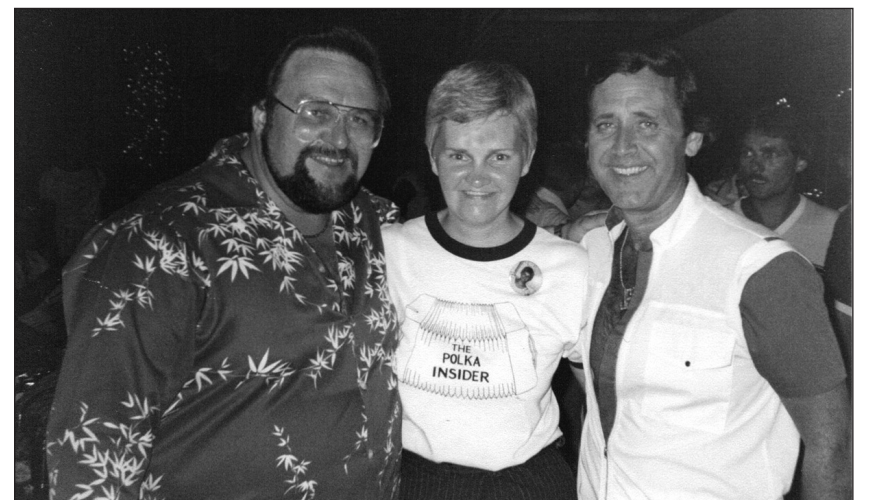
If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email: pajpolka@verizon.net. For more Polka Memories visit www.polkamemories.com.



Casey Kliszak and Rich Bojczuk at McKinley Park Inn. 1995.



Ed Pilarz, Ss. Peter & Paul, Depew, N.Y. 1980s.



Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., Adele Litwin and Jimmy Sturr, Polka Fireworks Festival Champion, Pennsylvania. 1984.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Merry Christmas Wishes

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Greetings everyone! Let me be one of the first to wish you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a very happy holiday season. Hope your holidays will be filled sharing good times and traditions with family and friends that are dear to you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ... Kim Poczwiński and Aaron Kacala, on their wedding, Oct. 30. Kim is the daughter of Danny Poczwiński, owner of the Potts Hall and Catering on South Ogden St. in Buffalo, NY, and Paula Poczwiński. Much happiness is wished to the newlyweds ... to the weekly local publication, *The Am-Pol Eagle*, on its 50th anniversary. Matthew Pelczynski, founder, published a pilot issue in July of 1960, followed by regular publication starting in September of 1960. The Am-Pol replaced the Polish language *Dziennik Dla Wszystkich*, which ceased publication in 1957. After Pelczynski's death in 1993, Renee Harzewski took over as the publisher until 2006. In 2007, Roger Puchalski was named publisher. A big reception in celebration of this anniversary event was held at the Millennium on Nov. 12.

NEW SHOW. On Nov. 4, a new polka show, *It's Polka Time*, premiered on Time Warner Channel 20.

This show will be on Thursday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Each show will feature two bands. What a welcome addition it is to have such a show available for our viewing. The first show featured the Eddie Forman Orchestra and the Maestro's Men when they appeared at Honor's Haven Resort in Ellenville, N.Y. They did mostly focus on the dancers with the band playing in the background. Watching this program, made you feel like getting up and dancing!

Many thanks and recognition goes out to Ron and Kathy Urbanczyk who diligently worked with Time Warner Cable to air Polka Joe Trzeciak's, *It's Polka Time*. Polka Joe, from Clifton Park, N.Y., has been videotaping and producing his polka shows for fifteen years. His shows are broadcast throughout New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

Do not confuse Polka Joe's *It's Polka Time* with the *Big Joe Polka Show* that ran on RFD TV as they are different shows. Polka Joe can be seen at polka festivals and dances around

the Northeast taping bands and the polka fans for his shows. Joe's productions always focus on the polka fans, which are always the center of attraction dancing and twirling to the music. One of our Buffalo bands, the Concertina All Stars will be one of the featured bands on Nov. 25th. Also, Joe taped three shows at the Buffalo Polka Boosters picnic in August which will be aired in 2011. It would be nice if we all let Time Warner Cable know how pleased with our with this program.

UPCOMING

Dec. 4. Polka Variety Christmas party at the Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Members and guests are welcome. Call Rich at 826-2281.

Dec. 4. Polka Dyngus Day Matinee at the Polish Villa II at 2:00 p.m. with music by the Buffalo Touch. Call 822-4908 for more information.

Dec. 11. Buffalo Polka Boosters Christmas party at the Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Everyone is welcome to attend but you need to purchase a ticket in advance. Please call Chris at 892-7977 for more

information.

Dec. 18. Response to Love Second Annual Koledy night, featuring the St. John Kanty Choir and the Love Center's Sister's trio at the newly remodeled Potts Banquet Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y. Music from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. by the New Direction Band. Food and drinks available – Admission is \$10 with proceeds to benefit the Response to Love Center. For table reservations, please call Sister Johnice at 894-7030.

Dec. 18. Koledy at Arty's Grill with the Buffalo Touch. 856-6027.

Dec. 19. The Buffalo Touch at the Sportsmen Tavern, Amherst St., in Buffalo, NY – admission \$3.00. 874-7734.

Dec. 31. New Year's Eve party at Potts Banquet Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y. Music by the versatile Bedrock Boys. For more information, call 826-6575.

Jan. 1. New Year's Day Polka Party at Potts Banquet Hall. Music by the New Direction Band from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Dance only admission is \$6.00; a dinner buffet will be available for \$6.95. 826-6575.

For the Snowbirds ...

For the month of December the following events are taking place in Florida:

Polish American Club, Inc., 1250 NW 22nd Ave, Miami, 33125 (305) 635-2240 will hold its annual Christmas Party at 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 12th. Dancing Music will be provided by the Swingables Orchestra and DJ Music by Carl Kochanek. Admission \$20.00 per person.

Polish American Pulaski Club, 3621 International Speedway Blvd West, Daytona Beach, 32124 (386) 258-7059:

- Dec. 5. Dinner/Dance from 1:00-5:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Ron Luznar and the Polka Pals.
- Dec. 12. Dinner/Dance from 1:00-5:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Ed Bilinski and the Sounds of the South.
- Dec. 19. Christmas Dinner & Dance from 1:00-5:30 p.m. Music by Audrey and the Polka Classics
- Dec. 31. New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance. Music by Ed Bilinski and the Sounds of the South. Champagne will be served. Call the club for hours.

POLKA PATTTER / Polonia Media Network

Nick "The White" Eagle Jablonski of the "Polish Freight" polka radio show passed away on October 8, 2010, after his courageous fight with Cancer. It is 26 years and approximately 1,400 shows since Jablonski started the popular program.

Five different weekly TV polka shows will show up when you visit <http://my.pegcentral.com>. Click on the "All Folders" button and the list of shows pops up and then click on "Polka Time." Every Tuesday the website presents the latest TV show from Wadsworth, Ohio, they record on Monday.

Jim Lepeak of Fisherville, Michigan passed away on October 26, 2010, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Lepeak was a inductee into the Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame. He spent many years on the Hall of Fame committee, volunteering his time. Over the years he also played his accordion at many senior citizen homes.

Full Circle is planning an eight-day Carnival Cruise March 11-18, 2011, The band lineup includes Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push, Jimmy Weber, who has reunited

The Sounds, and, of course, the host band, Full Circle. They will also have their favorite DJ, Kenny Olowin. Visit www.gonefullcircle.com for details.

Here is a story with a happy ending. After recovering for six months after a horrible accident, Nick Koryluk, formerly of Polka Family, recently performed with the Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men subbing for Rich Bernier in Pennsylvania. His entire family, Nick, Sr., Cathy and Christina, took time off from work and all were there to cheer him on.

There was also good news for polka fans in Chicagoland. Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze presented "Fan Appreciation Day" on Oct. 17, 2010, and the admission was free. The event took place at the Glendora House in Chicago Ridge, Illinois, which is one of the most popular polka venues in the area.

Birthday Polka Bash

FRIDLEY, Minn. — The Midwest Polka Association Dance will sponsor a very special dance to celebrate an "Early 95th Birthday" for Larry Trojanowski! Come and join his family and friends in wishing him a Happy Birthday on Sunday, December 19, from 2:00-6:00 pm at the Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall, 6831 Central Avenue (Highway 65). Music will be provided by Joe Glowacki's Nordeast 5 band. A light lunch will be served.

For more information, email Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call (651) 426-1079. For location directions, call (763) 571-1492.

Pint Size Polkas Volume Two: Dance!

MILWAUKEE — Mike Schneider is pleased to announce the release of *Pint Size Polkas Volume Two: Dance!*, the entertaining and educational follow up to his groundbreaking 2008 debut release.

Dance! features Uncle Mike and his Polka Band on 15 songs that teach children about the alphabet, numbers, occupations, personal hygiene and manners, and encourages kids to get up and moving to the happy sounds of polka music.

Pint Size Polkas Volume Two: Dance! includes polka remakes of such children's classics as "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," and "If You're Happy and You Know It," plus brand new originals like "Scrub, Scrub, Scrub," "Alphabetical Order in the Court," and "Please and Thank You."

Each track is aimed at educating kids on important concepts while entertaining the whole family through Uncle Mike's happy polka beat.

Since the release of Volume One in 2008, Schneider has appeared to discuss and perform his music on nearly twenty major network TV affiliates in seven states, including ABC7 Chicago. Schools and libraries in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin have hosted his *Pint Size Polkas* program.

In June 2011, Mike Schneider will travel to Georgia for a two-week tour of the state's public libraries.

For more information about *Pint Size Polkas Volume Two: Dance!*, please visit www.pintsizepolkas.com.



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To all of Polonia
Merry Christmas
and a Joyous New Year



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A Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



DID YOU KNOW? The *oplatek-sharing ritual* on Christmas Eve and the Holy Saturday food-blessing custom are practiced by more than 95% of all Polish families and continue to be the country's most widespread holiday traditions ... The *crèche-making contest*, held in Kraków in early December, is a fairly recent tradition dating from the pre-World War II period. Participating Christmas cribs, ranging from matchbox size to 10 feet tall, are displayed round the Adam Mickiewicz Monument in the Main Old Town Square ... Some families

insist on serving **12 dishes** for the traditional "wieczera wigilijna" (Christmas Eve supper). In other families it must be an **odd number**: 5, 7, 9 or 11, depending on the household's affluence ... Sad to say, more and more families in Poland

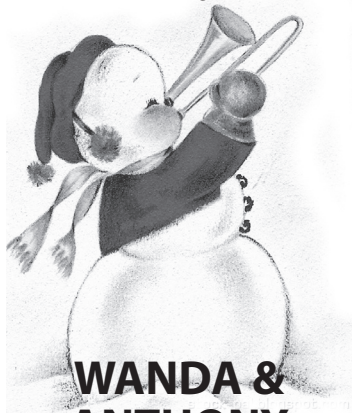
are setting up **artificial Christmas trees** in their homes and decorating them with today's plastic Santa Clauses, reindeer, snowmen and other tacky "Made in China" trinkets and blinking lights.

—Robert Strybel



Happy Holidays
Wesołych Świąt
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Wishes for the New
Year to all our Relatives
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about Polish-American contributions to the life,
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Visit our website at: www.piasa.org

PIASA'S 69th Annual Meeting (A Multi-Disciplinary
Conference on Polish and Polish-American Studies)
will be held June 2011 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, President and Executive Director

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia
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41st Annual Polish American Heritage Awards



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA KOLBASA

PAC ILLINOIS DIVISION GALA. (l. to r.): Christopher Kurczaba, Steve Poczowski, Zygmunt Dyrkacz, Zygmunt Golinski, Leszek Gil, Governor Quinn, Eva Jakubowski, Krystyna Pasek, and Mary Sendra Anselmo.

by Geraldine Balut-Coleman

CHICAGO — Over 300 guests attended the 41st Annual Polish American Heritage Awards Gala hosted by the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division (PAC-III.), held at the House of the White Eagle, Niles, Illinois on October 29. Mary Sendra Anselmo, President of the PAC-III., welcomed all to celebrate, not only the richness of the Polish American community in the Chicago area, but to acknowledge and pay tribute to individuals and organizations for their cultural, social, historical and humanitarian contributions to the Polish American community.

Honors went to the Maria Seweryn representing the **Katyń Memorial Committee** (Historic Award), Zygmunt Golinski representing **Kolo Solidarność** (Historic Award), Leszek Gil, editor of *Informator Polonijny*

(Community Award), **Eva Jakubowski** (Philanthropic Award), **Zygmunt Dyrkacz**, Founder of the Chopin Theatre (Cultural Award), **Christopher Kurczaba** (President's Award), Krystyna Pasek representing **Da Serca, The Gift From the Heart Foundation** (Humanitarian Award), and **Steve E. Poczowski**, Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Local Union 705 (Polish American Heritage Award).

Guests of the evening included, but were not limited to: Frank J. Spula, president of the Polish National Alliance; Zygmunt Matynia, Consul General of the Republic of Poland; Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn; Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky; along with many state, county, and city of Chicago politicians.

The entertainment was provided by Marek Spychalski and the Wici Song and Dance Ensemble.

PNA Lodge 156 Celebrates 120 Years

SEATTLE, Wash. — In 1890, PNA Lodge 156 was incorporated in Washington state. As the largest and oldest lodge of eight lodges in the state, the 120th anniversary celebration was observed during Polish Heritage month at the Polish Cultural Center in Seattle. The keynote speaker was **Frank J. Spula** (photo, left), who gave the Silver Cross award to **James Hicker** (right) for 40 years of service. Awards were also given to Jean Hicker, Noel Koss, Glenn Stocker and Anne Marie Hicker. Members and guests were entertained by The Vivat Musical Choir, The Mlodzi Polanie dance group and violin selections by Luiza Hicker.



JAMES HICKER (right) introduces PNA President Frank Spula.

"Burning Questions: DVD Now Available

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Mishael Porembski's award-winning film "Burning Questions," about one Polish Catholic's search for the Poland he lost in World War II is now available on DVD at Amazon.

This Emmy Award-winning documentary about Polish Catholics in the Holocaust — seen on both NBC and PBS — is a great launching point for families, grade schools and universities to discuss the Polish Catholic experience during World War II. It's a serious subject but one that brings up the lasting legacy of

the tenacity and dignity of the Polish people.

During World War II, Poland lost six million of its citizens. Three million Jewish Poles and, less known, three million Christian Poles perished in concentration camps, forced labor, public executions and combat.

To to read more about the documentary, visit www.burningquestionsdvd.com/.

You can purchase the DVD from a link on her website, or search "Burning Questions," on Amazon.com.

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

We Three Kings – The Polish Version

Wesolych Swiat to all of the Polish American Journal subscribers and friends! Wesolych Swiat to all of the Pondering Pole fans, and that means you, mom and dad!

As this is written, the unemployment rate is hovering near ten percent. There are a number of Americans that have had a very rough year financially. Michigan has been particularly hard hit with the economic downturn, and that means it is likely a lot of Pol-Ams are struggling. We are praying for you. Don't lose hope. Remember you are Polish and that means you will adjust, redirect your efforts, and find a way to survive until your situation turns around. Above all, as I always tell my kids, keep going.

It would be nice, if you are really down and out, to have the Three Wise Men visit your home and present you with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (especially gold). Many parts of the Christmas story have deep meaning, traditions, and even a mystique attached to them.

There is the Angel visiting Mary to tell her she is with child; there is the trip by the Holy Family to Bethlehem to register for the census; there is the birth of Christ itself; and very popular, from Matthew's gospel, the story of the Three Kings.

Besides the origin and names of the Kings and the star that guided them (and most of what we know about them is legend), it is the gifts they brought for the newborn king that is most profound. The gifts have a utilitarian purpose, a spiritual significance, and then there is the symbolic meaning. According to Wikipedia, the gold symbolizes virtue, frankincense symbolizes prayer, and myrrh symbolizes suffering.

Other cultures have remade the Wise Men into their own perspective but I don't know of any custom for the Poles. Imagine the Wise Men from the East, the Eastern part of Poland. For sure, the Poles know virtue, prayer, and suffering. If the kings were Polish kings, what other

symbolic message would they convey? I think one of the elements would represent humility. One would symbolize empathy; remember the pledge "for your freedom and ours" for instance. The last gift would denote generosity, the sharing of time, things, and ideas. What gifts would your Polish Wise Men bring to the stable? What are the customs and traditions, if any, in Poland for The Three Kings?

Zloty, frankincense, and myrrh (and one million zloty).

GOOD ADVICE. In a story from the Yahoo finance file, Juliette Brindak and Matt Mickiewicz are two young entrepreneurs that became millionaires before they reached age 25. According to Matt: "People who say it takes money to make money are using the worst excuse ever ... Create massive value for others by providing a solution where no other exists."

Good advice. Now go out there and make a billion!

MINDING MATTERS. In response to the October Pondering Pole, this is part of an eMail letter sent by Bob Warshal of Knoxville, Tennessee:

When I was at a dinner party in Moscow hosted by a Russian family whose daughter was our translator for business meetings, the subject of Polish jokes came up and the Russians, daughter, mother, father and grandfather (who was a Russian bomber pilot in World War II) asked: "What is this, Polish jokes?"

Our American delegation tried to explain, including two of us who were of Polish heritage.

The Russian mother said: "That is ridiculous. We in Eastern Europe consider the Poles to be the best educated, most sophisticated of Europeans, on a par with England and France!"

MORE ADVICE. I learned about gift giving in Poland and not just at birthdays and Christmas. One doesn't go to a visit without bringing something for the household

and one doesn't receive visitors without preparing something to eat. My mother and I stopped to visit my grandfather's youngest brother in 1979 at his small farm. We had just arrived when the daughter seemed to disappear. I asked my mother where she was because she seemed excited to see us. My mother explained that the grandfather had sent her off to the market in town to get something to eat right away and within minutes we had sliced ham, cucumbers and tomatoes.

POLISH OR NOT? Mark Kirk, newly elected Senator from Illinois. Is he a Kirkiewicz from home?

Here is a list of P or Ns from the past year. Need research and resolution on their ethnicity please:

- Scott Boras, Professional Baseball Agent
- Urban Meyer, College Football Coach
- Erin Andrews, ESPN Reporter
- Elizabeth Banks, Actress
- Monica Crowley, Radio and Television Political Commentator
- Lasko Products, Inc., Ethnic Background of the Company's Founder
- Terrance Pegula, Billionaire
- Ashton Kutcher, Actor, Director, and Producer
- Alina Wilson, Survivor, Nicaragua

Dziękuję bardzo to Bob for the interesting stories and comments. I really do wish all of you a heartfelt and blessed Wesolych Swiat, and thanks for all of the letters and support throughout the year.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have an answer or a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; e-Mail alinabrig@yahoo.com. Please reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line.

REGINA A. SZAMBORSKA-MCINTYRE
 Author of **AN ALTAR OF SOD** and **YESTERDAY'S PUPILS**
 The Rozanskis and Kryzostanskis of Fictional Miscka, Poland

Wish you ...

Wesołych Świąt
Keep Polonia Alive!

PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

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 \$30.00.

I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Benedict XVI Greeted by Poles

On his recent state visit to the United Kingdom, **Pope Benedict XVI** found many Poles and other Eastern European Catholics in the welcoming crowds, such as the Polish-Brits who worship at St. Andrew Bobola Church in western London. With church attendance declining in highly secular Great Britain, those still devout are increasingly immigrants from Eastern Europe who moved there in the last decade for economic reasons. In Wales and England, about 10% of the practising Catholics identified themselves as Eastern-Europeans, a number far greater than their proportion of the general population.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr., on his 25th year of ordination in the PNCC. The celebration will take place at St. Michael the Archangel National Catholic Church Interim Worship Site in Cedar Lake, Ind. Recently moved from nearby Illinois, the parish is currently developing a new church space.

Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz, on his 60th anniversary of ordination. Bishop Rysz retired from the pastorate of St. Stanislaus Cathedral and the position of Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese of the PNCC in 1999 and returned to Old Forge, Penn., where he was born. He currently serves as pastor of Holy Name of Jesus parish in Nanticoke, Penn.

Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas on his 60th anniversary of ordination. Fr. Senior Banas served at Holy Mother of the Rosary PNC cathedral in Buffalo, Holy Trinity Parish in Hamilton, Ont., Canada, and in several Pennsylvania churches. He presently serves as pastor of Holy Cross PNC Parish in Ware, Mass.

St. Laurentius Polish Roman Catholic Parish in Philadelphia, Penn., embarking on its 130th year of founding and the 120th anniversary of its church building. The church is adorned with three wood carved Gothic altars, pulpit and statues as well as 11 windows imported from Germany. **Fr. Stanislaw J. Garska** initiated the total rehabilitation of the church in 1957. The current pastor of the parish is **Fr. Francis Gwiazda**.

PRESERVING CLOSED CHURCHES.

As part of ongoing efforts to preserve three of the Cambria City closed catholic Churches, a design workshop convened in November in a hands-on process involving citizens, community leaders, and de-

signers to build a new or alternative vision for the buildings. Partners for Sacred Spaces, a Philadelphia-based organization, helped lead the workshop. A revisioning process in Buffalo saw one closed church become a museum of religious art. The successful venture is branching out into a second closed church.

NEWT GINGRICH, GEORGE W. BUSH AND POPE JOHN PAUL II.

The former Speaker of the US House of Representatives **Newt Gingrich**, a recent convert to Catholicism, is in Poland promoting a documentary he co-produced on **Pope John Paul II's** role in defeating communism. The film, "Nine Days that Changed the World," Gingrich says, "is needed to remind young Poles, secular historians and people worldwide of John Paul's anti-totalitarian convictions." The film tracks the former pope's 1979 visit to Poland and its effect on the anti-communist opposition in Poland.

In his forthcoming memoir, "Decision Points," former president **George W. Bush** discusses his relationship with **Pope John Paul II**, especially the pope's influence on his decision to restrict embryonic stem-cell research. The two met in 2001, 2002 and 2004. It was after the 2001 meeting that the president restricted the use of federal money for research that involved the further destruction of embryos for research purposes. An issue where the two did not agree was the Iraq war, which the Holy See opposed.

RUSSIA TO RETURN CHURCH TO CATHOLICS.

In Smolensk, the site of the disastrous crash earlier this year which killed the upper echelon of Poland's government and Solidarity officials, the state archives building will be handed back to Catholics who will restore it as the church it once was. Poland has entered into discussion with the Smolensk government about the restoration. The neo-Gothic cathedral was built in 1897 and was

confiscated under the Stalin government in the 1930s.

STO LAT TO... **Patrick Dawid**, 10, son of **Zbigniew** and **Ewa Dawid**, on winning a Gold Triphy during the 2010 National Federation of Music Clubs Festival Cup held at Marywood U., Scranton, Pa. A member of Holy Mother of Sorrow PNC parish in Dupont, Penn., Patrick also has been named as a recipient of the 2010 Junior Incentive Award by the Music Scholarship Committee of the National United Choirs of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Sr. Bogusława Bagińska on her profession of perpetual vows as a Little Servant Sister of the Immaculate Conception at a Mass in the congregation's provincial-ate and novitiate in Cherry Hill, NJ. The vows ere received by **Fr. Zbigniew Majcher**, SDB, and provincial superior **Mother Jadwiga Cierpińska**. Later in the month the convent grounds were the site of the 42nd Annual Country Fair and Polish Festival. Proceeds from the carnival went to support the works of the sisters ... **Fr. Matthew Motyka, S.J.**, on his ordination to the priesthood. A native of Kraków, Poland, Fr. Motyka is a member of the California province of the Jesuits and will teach in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of San Francisco.

Archbishop Kazimierz Nycz, archbishop of Warsaw, on his elevation to the position of Cardinal by **Pope Benedict XVI** at the most recent consistory in the Vatican.



EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE. Rev. Marek Sobczak (center) expresses a prayer of thanksgiving for the Catholic Church's beatification last June of Poland's Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko. A statue to his memory is seen in the background.

Participating in the commemorative ceremony conducted at Greenpoint, N.Y.'s McCarren Park are: Michael Pajak, president of the New York Chapter of the John Paul II Foundation (left) and Frank Milewski, president of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress. The Sea League of America, Liga Morska, provided the honor guard (in rear).

Father Popieluszko was bestowed the Church's title Blessed as a result of his gangland-style murder by Communist authorities on October 19, 1984. The Communists ordered his execution for his inspiration of the people of Poland to maintain their courage and hope in face of relentless Marxist violence and terror in Poland's fight for its freedom and independence.

It is widely acknowledged that Poland's 1989 victory attaining this goal and the subsequent collapse of the Communist system should be significantly attributed to the influence of this fearless priest and the moral encouragement of Pope John Paul II.

With a commemorative mass scheduled after conclusion of the outdoor observance, the participants marched through the streets of this well-known Polish community to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church where Rev. Sobczak is pastor. As they did when they still lived in Poland, many in the throng marched to the church singing traditional Polish religious hymns.

Bishop Wojciech Polak from Poland's Gniezno Diocese was guest celebrant at the St. Stanislaus memorial mass. Later in the day, he traveled to St. Pancras Church in Glendale where he presided over the annual Polish Heritage mass sponsored by the Polish Apostolate of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

MODLITWY

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

THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE. Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and

rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be

said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. M.R.

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



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Petition Calls for Change in Identifying Nazi Camps

NEW YORK —American news outlets are either ignorant, lazy or maliciously libelous in consistently mislabeling World War II Nazi concentration camps as “Polish death camps,” the executive director of the Kosciuszko Foundation charges.

In a forceful, example-filled op-ed for the Oct. 24 *Huffington Post*, Alex Storozynski argued that journalists have no excuse for implying that Poland had any role in the concentration camps that Germany built and operated in Poland during the war.

Six million Poles died in those camps, the most noteworthy of which was Auschwitz (the German renaming of the Polish city of Oswiecim), Storozynski noted.

“The victims of those camps were Polish,” Storozynski wrote. “Newspaper editors justify use of the term ‘Polish concentration camp’ as geographical shorthand for ‘a German concentration camp in occupied Poland.’ But this shorthand is Orwellian doublespeak that turns victim into perpetrator and distorts history. ... The Auschwitz killing factory was a product of German engineering, and both Polish Jews and Catholics were murdered there.”

Storozynski, author of *The Peasant Prince*, the recent biography of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, said “(Hitler) would be pleased that today American newspapers blame Poles for his Nazi death camps rather than the Germans.”

The author railed against both the liberal *New York Times* and conservative *Wall Street Journal*, citing recent examples of mislabeling by each newspaper. Storozynski said a writer for the *Los Angeles Times* recently referred to “Nazi Poland,”

an inflammatory error that the *Times* immediately corrected on its website.

FORTUNATELY, POLES ARE NOT ALONE in defending the historical record, Storozynski wrote. Both the United Nations and prominent Jewish leaders have joined the fray.

“... in 2007, UNESCO officially changed the name of Auschwitz to ‘The Auschwitz-Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945),’” Storozynski wrote.

And in January 2005, David A. Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, reminded those “either unaware of the facts or careless in their choice of words” that Germany built several extermination sites in Poland. “... they were most emphatically not ‘Polish camps.’ This is not a mere semantic matter. Historical integrity and accuracy hang in the balance,” Storozynski wrote in quoting Harris.

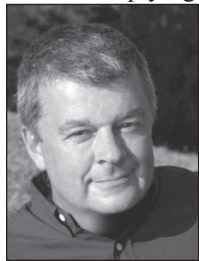
“The Germans executed thousands of Poles who tried to save Jews. The phrase ‘Polish concentration camp’ desecrates their memory,” Storozynski stated.

Storozynski concluded by noting that the Polish newspaper *Rzeczpospolita* has called for legal action against media who mislabel the Nazi camps as Polish. But the author called for a resolution outside the courtroom, asking newspapers and the Associated Press to merely banish the offending phrase “Polish concentration camps” from their stylebooks.

The Kosciuszko Foundation is sponsoring a petition demanding that the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post* and Associated Press revise their stylebooks to follow the wording of the 2007 UNESCO statement on German concentration camps in occupied Poland. As of the PAJ press time, nearly 32,000 people had signed the petition.

Readers can do so at www.thekf.org/events/news/petition/

— Jim Rygelski, ed.



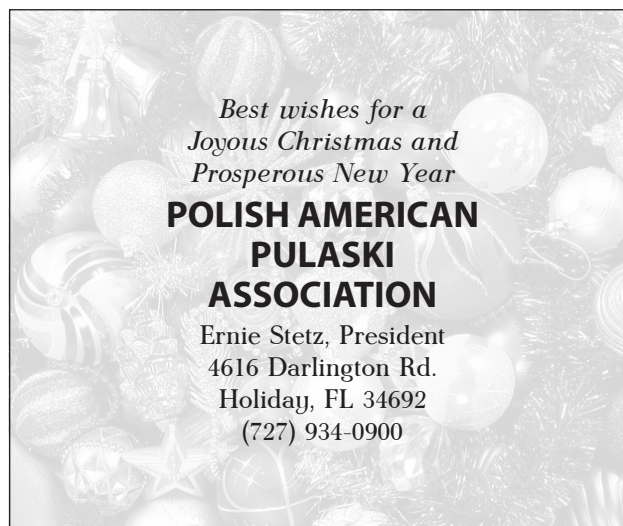
STOROZYNSKI. “The Germans executed thousands of Poles who tried to save Jews. The phrase ‘Polish concentration camp’ desecrates their memory.”

BRUSH UP ON YOUR POLISH / Christmas Edition

ANIOL AH-nyo angel
ANIOLEK ah-NYO-wek little angel
BOŻE NARODZENIE
BAW-zeh nah-raw-DZEH-nyeh Christmas
CHOINKA haw-EEN-kah Christmas tree
GODNE ŚWIĘTA
GAWD-neh SHFYEN-tah Christmas
GRZANIEC GZHAH-nyets hot mulled wine
GWIAZDA BETLEJEMSKA
GVYAHZ-dah bet-lay-EM-skah Star of Bethlehem
GWIAZDOR GVYAZ-dor Father Christmas
HERODY heh-RAW-dih Christmas skit
JASEŁKA yah-SEW-kah nativity play
JEDLINA yed-LEE-nah natural evergreen branches
KAPUSTA Z GROCHEM
kah-POOSS-tah z GRAW-hem stewed, meatless sauerkraut with whole yellow peas
KLUSKI Z MAKIEM
KLOOSS-kee z MAK-kyem noodles w/ poppyseeds
KOLEDA kaw-LEN-dah Christmas carol
KOLEDNIAK kaw-LEND-neek caroler
KULIG KOO-leek sleighing party
KUTIA, KUCJA
KOOT-yah, KOOTS-yah sweet Wigilia dish

MAKOWIEC mah-KAW-vyets poppyseed roll cake
MIKOŁAJKI
mee-kaw-WHY-kee St. Nicholas celebration
NOWY ROK NAW-vih RAWK New Year's Day
OPLATEK aw-PWAH-tek Christmas Wafer
OPLATEK aw-PWAH-tek Christmas get-together
PASTERKA pah-STAIR-kah Shepherd's Mass
PIERNIK PIERRE-neek honey-spice cake
PIEROGI pierre-UGH-ee filled dough pockets
RYBA RIB-ah fish
SIANO SHAH-naw hay
SYLWESTRA sil-VESS-trah New Year's Eve
SZOPKA SHAWP-ah Christmas crib
ŚLEDZIE SHLEDGE-eh herring
ŚWIĘTO TRZECH KRÓLI
SHFYEN-taw TCHEKH KROO-lee
 Feast of the Three Kings

ŚWIĘTY MIKOŁAJ
SHFYEN-tih mee-KAW-why St. Nicholas
WIECZERZA WIGILIJNA
wyeh-CHEH-zhah vee-ghee-LEEY-nah
 Christmas Eve supper
WIGILIA vee-GHEEL-yah Christmas Eve
ŻŁÓBEK ZHWAW-bek Nativity set



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Wishing you a healthy and full of joy Christmas and a Happy New Year from (name)
- Niech czas Bożego Narodzenia upłynie w atmosferze radości i miłości, a Nowy Rok spełni wszystkie Wasze marzenia. Wszystkiego najlepszego życzą (name)
Let this Christmas time be full of joy and love and the New Year makes all your wishes come true. All the best from (name)
- Zyczenia zdrowia, szczęścia i radości w Nowym Roku
Good wishes for health, wealth and happiness in the New Year

We are turning 100! Join the Celebration!

We are asking all Poles and Polish Americans to help us celebrate our

10-carat anniversary in 2011.

As part of our upcoming 100th anniversary celebration, we are offering several patron advertising packages. These include the placement of congratulatory ads in our:

- ANNIVERSARY EDITION.** The October 2011 edition will be our 100th anniversary paper, which will be filled with articles about the paper's history, and reflections on Poland and American Polonia over the last 100 years.
- HOLIDAY EDITIONS.** While many of our supporters purchase advertising in our Easter, Heritage Month (October) and Christmas editions, for our 100th anniversary we are offering a 25% discount if you contract congratulatory ads for all three Holiday editions. For example, if you normally buy



1926. Pressmen, delivery boys, and staff outside the offices of the **Republika-Gornik**, the Polish-language predecessor of the **Polish American Journal**. In doorway (behind girl) is John Dende, the paper's founder.

three \$100 ads in each of our holiday papers, you can now secure these ads for only \$75.00 each.

CONTRACT RATE DISCOUNTS. While we offer standard discounts for multiple ad insertions, for our anniversary we are offering a year-long contract rate of 50% off our regular ad prices. You read that right! For example, a 4-inch x 2-inch ad (roughly business card size), which would normally cost \$50.00 for a one-time insertion, can be placed in the paper for whole year for \$25.00 per edition. (Offer does NOT apply to pre-existing accounts). We will add appropriate greetings for the holiday editions at no extra charge.

Join the celebration! Call our office today at (800) 422-1275 to be part of the PAJ's history, or simply fill out the form below and return with your payment.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1971, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled “We Love the PAJ Press Fund” in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund are also used to support our **reader services** (postage, telephone, research, etc.), provide newsclippers with stamps and envelopes, and cover extraordinary expenses in producing the paper. **The Polish American Journal is not a profit-making venture.** Thanks to its dedicated staff, the PAJ is published as a “public service” for American Polonia.

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

A sincere “THANK YOU” for their donations to the **PAJ PRESS FUND:** Lillian Cyran, Maspeth, N.Y.; Ruth Jarka, Park Ridge, Ill.; Marek Karski, Bedminster, N.J.; Miécia Kowalska, Cleveland, Ohio; Edward Kwiatkowski, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Andrew Modelski, Frederick, Md.; Walter and Martha Piatek, Berlin, N.J.; Irene Price, Staten Island, N.Y.; and two “Friends of the PAJ.” Dziękujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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Please place ad(s) in the following editions:

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 Anniversary edition only (October 2011)
 Other _____
 Please have a representative contact me

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ORGANIZATION (If applicable) _____

YOUR MESSAGE (Use additional sheet if necessary) _____

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Print address in advertisement? Yes No

Print telephone number in advertisement? Yes No

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Pulaski Scholarship Needs Your Support

PHILADELPHIA — Following an appeal by Mark F. Brzezinski, Esq. at an Annual Convention of the American Council of Polish Culture for the financial support of young Polish Americans pursuing higher education, an extremely generous grant from the Conrad R. Walas family gave birth to the ACPC's Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies.

Since then, students in graduate studies have besieged the Council for help in meeting the financial challenges they face today. Happily, the Council was able to dole out five \$5,000 scholarships from the Endowment Fund's income to very worthy students who have not only gone on

to successful careers but in a good many cases are also actively participating in Polonian activities at creative levels.

Unfortunately, the Pulaski Endowment Fund is still recovering from the recent economic troubles and the ACPC was able to offer only one \$5,000 grant last year and is faced with being limited to only one grant for the Pulaski Scholarship in 2011. At the ACPC's 2010 annual convention, Treasurer Gregory Biestek offered a donation of \$500 to the Pulaski Endowment Fund with a challenge that Polonia adds sufficient funds so that a second \$5,000 scholarship may be offered in 2011. This generous offer motivated

Brzezinski to seek once again to inspire Polonia groups and individuals to contribute to the Fund so that we can offer at least two \$5,000 scholarships this coming year.

Donations should be made out to "Pulaski Scholarship Endowment Fund" (ACPC is a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt organization) and mailed to: Gregory Biestek, Treasurer, American Council for Polish Culture, 817 Berkshire, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230.

For further information, please contact Marion Winters, Chairman Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies, at (508) 919-0160 or mwinters@charter.net.

Rather Speaks at Consulate



DANIEL RATHER, former anchor of the CBS Evening News spoke at the Polish Consulate in New York at a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of Solidarność.

A panel of international journalists from *The New York Times*, the Associated Press, *Time* magazine, and a host of television news organizations recalled their experiences reporting on the Polish Solidarność movement.

"Human Solidarity, Polish Solidarność," a dramatic exhibit of photographs and eyewitness testimonies was on display — telling the story of the strikes that led to formation of the first independent, self-governing trade union in the Soviet Bloc. The event was sponsored by the Overseas Press Club and the Polish Consulate.

"The fire of the Polish people inspired us in America," said Rather. "The teaching about Poland is slim to none in our country ... and I hope that can be remedied; the spirit of the Polish people is intertwined with their religion. What many do not realize is that Polish nationalism can not be separated from the religion of the country."

— *Staś Kmieć*

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

MINNEAPOLIS — The Bakken Trio Series at 4:00 p.m. on December 5 at Antonello Hall, MacPhail Center for the Arts, 501 Second Street, Minneapolis, will honor the 100 and 200 year mark of **Chopin**, Schumann and Barber with: Samuel Barber - Souvenirs for Two Pianos, Frederic Chopin - Sonata in G Minor for Cello, and Robert Schumann - Piano Quartet, Opus 47. Featured performers are Judy Lin & Claudia Chen - Piano, Arek Tesarczyk (Polish born musician from the Minnesota Orchestra) - Cello, Ben Ullery - Viola, and Stephanie Arado - Violin. Single concert tickets are \$25.00 and may purchased by calling (612) 374-3175.

BUNKER HILL, Minn. — Come and experience the **Polish Kulig** in

Minnesota from 2:00-5:00 p.m. on January 15. The PACIM will first start with an hour-long horse drawn sleigh ride through woods and end back at a bonfire where members will roast Polish sausages and marshmallows. Bring your friends, some spirits to keep you warm, plenty of warm clothes and enjoy an authentic Kulig.

Space is limited to the first 30 people. The ride will be held at Bunker Hills Park about 30 minutes north of the Cities in Andover. It begins promptly at 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that you be there about a half hour before starting time. Sausages, apple cider, etc provided. Participants only need bring warm clothes and their beverage of choice.

Register at www.pacim.org or

contact maggie_zborowski@anchorlink.com

MINNEAPOLIS — **Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann** will speak at the PACIM Library, 2514 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 29 on her book, *The Exile Mission*, an study of Polish immigrant values and actions before and after World War II.

Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann is also the author of a number of articles on the postwar Polish political diaspora. The Polish American Historical Association awarded her the prestigious Oskar Halecki Award for *The Exile Mission*.

Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann is the past President of the Polish American Historical Association, serves on the editorial board of the *Polish American Studies*, and The Polish American Encyclopedia. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Polish American Historical Association, the Pilsudski Institute, and the Advisory Board of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences. Her current research project involves a study of letters to editor in a Polish-language weekly *Ameryka-Echo*, between 1922 and 1969.

ST. PAUL, Minn.—**Rafal**

Blechacz will be the featured performer at a Chopin Society' presentation at 3:00 p.m., February 6, 2011 in Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University. Blechacz is the unanimous winner of the 2005 International Chopin Competition. Single concert prices are \$23 regular/\$20 member/\$12 student. For more information see www.chopinsocietymn.org, write chopinsociety@aol.com, or call (612) 822-0123.

Do You Practice Polish Christmas Traditions? Take the Survey!

Claire M. Anderson, a graduate student in Liturgical Studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, is researching the custom of sharing the oplatek (Christmas wafer) on Christmas Eve. There are other questions about traditions in your family, such as how many dishes you serve at wigilia. She has developed a brief survey for which she needs as many results as possible.

Please visit the survey and forward it to others: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/oplatek>.



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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

In the Spirit of Christmas

The Christmas Spirit has always been strong among the Polish people. Even in the harshest and most dismal of times, it has been present in their hearts.

In this 21st century land of plenty, we should remember that in the old days, poverty was more widespread. But even the poorest Polish families, in Poland and the U.S., managed to make the Christmas season a special time. If they could not afford to buy fancy decorations or the materials with which to make them, simple scraps of paper were fashioned into ribbons or ornaments. It may have meant weeks or months of scrimping and saving to afford special treats or gifts for the holiday, but somehow they did it.

In Poland, throughout the years of the partitions, as German and Russian traditions began to influence the seasonal celebration, often by planned design, the Poles clung to their own customs.

During the hellish years of the second world war, it was particularly difficult for the people of Poland to hold any holiday celebration. Not only was all of the country a virtual German or Soviet prison, millions of Poles were in labor or concentration camps or Siberian gulags.

The Nazis sought to replace Christian rites with their own rituals, and to remove Christ from Christmas celebrations, both in Germany and in conquered lands. In occupied Poland, there were instances where the Nazis prevented people from going out on Christmas Eve, and taking away those who had come together to celebrate the traditional Wigilia in their homes. The szopka (creche) competition in Kraków was banned. For those able to observe Wigilia, the customary empty place at the table for the beggar or Christ child took on a new meaning. It represented those persons in the family who were missing in the war, either imprisoned or their fates unknown.

For the Polish Christians incarcerated in the German camps, Christmas was of course particularly hard to celebrate. The cruelty of the SS knew no bounds. In some camps, the guards set up decorated Christmas

trees outdoors and would place the bodies of dead prisoners beneath them.

There have survived accounts of inmates of all nationalities, including Poles, singing Christmas carols in their native tongues in the prison barracks, and of small evergreens or branches being smuggled in to lift spirits. Remarkably, there are stories of a package of opłatek getting through to Polish prisoners in Auschwitz, of a priest being allowed to celebrate a midnight mass in a barracks, and of women allowed to make toys from scraps for sick children in the camp.

In the Siberian Soviet labor gulags, Wigilia celebrations were held despite the contempt of the Russian commandants. Pieces of bread were used for opłatek, evergreen branches from the frozen forests decorated the wooden barracks, and the Polish detainees tried their best to look neat and clean that night despite the rags they wore.

During the Stalinist Cold War years, Poles refused to give up their traditions. Despite constant harassment, religious ceremonies were observed. The communists attacked Polish Christmas customs and tried to emphasize New Year's Day as the season's main event, and introduced Grandfather Frost or Father Winter as atheist figures to replace the Christ child.

Americans of all backgrounds have largely abandoned their traditional ethnic Christmas celebrations, especially those further removed from their immigrant ancestors. Our forebears struggled to preserve our Christmas traditions in America, as did the citizens of our fatherland. Now that we of Polish blood are free and capable of keeping alive those customs, will we? Or will even Poland lose its authentic Christmas to a plastic, generic "winter holiday," as it integrates into the European community?

If we don't follow the old traditions a hundred percent, won't we make an effort to observe at least a couple of them? It's only up to us. We owe it to our Polish heritage and in remembrance of those who suffered so much to keep them.

The Christmas Spirit has always been strong among the Polish people. Even in the harshest and most dismal of times, it has been present in their hearts.

Kosciuszko Foundation Fundraising Dinner at Polish Embassy



HISTORIC GUESTS MAKE AN APPEARANCE. Dialoging in the photo above is General Thaddeus Kosciuszko (l.) and President Thomas Jefferson (r.) before an audience in the Blue Salon of the Polish Embassy.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Thomas Jefferson (portrayed by Richard Klimek and Steven Edenbo, respectively), were among the honored guests at the gala Kosciuszko Foundation Fundraising Dinner organized by Chairpersons Dr. and Mrs. Julian & Catharine Kulski — under the auspices of Ambassador Robert Kupiecki — to fund the Foundation's activities here in Washington.

The MC was Alex Storozyński, president of the Foundation. Ambassador Kupiecki awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland to a very surprised and most grateful Catharine Kulski, who had no inkling of the award. Kupiecki said the medal was in appreciation for Kulski's work and support of the Foundation and Poland, as well as to that of her husband's many related accom-

plishments.

The reunion and conversation between Kosciuszko and Jefferson, two friends since the American Revolution, proved to be most informative and entertaining to the large audience. Both actors were very true to their roles in every respect, and it resulted in an amazing performance.

After the dinner was served, special guest Rita Cosby was introduced. The Emmy Award winning journalist, TV host and now author, presented and lectured on her book "Quiet Hero, Secrets From My Father's Past." Richard Cosby (Ryszard Kossobudzki) was a heroic young member of the Polish Resistance in Warsaw during World War II, being badly wounded and made a prisoner of the Nazi Germans.

The Foundation plans to host a similar event each October.

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True Spy Stories

THE DARK GAME

True Spy Story

by Paul B. Janeczko

Candlewick Press, 2010

bibliography, notes, photos

226 pp, \$16.99. Ages 12 and up.

During the American Revolution a spy network in the colonies developed. Called the Sons of Liberty, they snooped on British military, sabotaged and stole equipment. George Washington became the director of espionage operations. Codes and invisible ink were created. Benjamin and Benedict Arnold were early American spies.

There were spies during the Civil War as well. Elizabeth Van Lew, using her mansion as a safe house for escaped prisoners, ran a network of agents, couriers and safe houses.

Espionage came into its own during World War I. German agents were developing methods of hampering war material production by ordering vast quantities of metals, keeping them out of the hands of American manufacturers. It was only after World War I that the United States began developing an intelligence operations network.

The Offices of Strategic Services developed many spy gadgets, explosive powder, super cameras and more. They developed a training camp for spies, readying for Cold War espionage. U-2 spy planes were created, successful in spying on Russia, until the last one, flown by Gary Powers was hit. In spite of the mechanics that were supposed to destroy both plane and pilot, he parachuted down in Russia. The

U.S. thought their secret plane was destroyed and fabricated a report on the purpose of the flight. The Russians were delighted to realize the United States did not know that their U-2 was no longer a secret.

Eavesdropping, moles, tracking devices, electronic devices developed and expanded, bringing the world into cyber espionage with computer devices capable of tracking almost anything. Satellites and optic technology gave rise to Global Positioning System used by the government and the general population. Today the National Reconnaissance Office operates all spy satellites used by various United States agencies, claiming not to be used for commercial espionage, other countries are skeptical.

IGNACY PADEREWSKI, POLAND

by Anita Prazmowska

Haus Publishing, 2010 index

photos, timeline, 200 pp, \$19.95

This concise book dwells on the state of affairs in Poland from 1860 when Ignacy Paderewski was born, through 1941 when he died. During that time the country experienced the January Uprisings (1863), the first World War, the Second Republic of Poland, a free Poland, and the second World War, with German/Russian occupation of the country.

In his lifetime Paderewski became known to the world with his concerts, his flamboyant showmanship, touring the United States twenty times (each time seeking donations for the Polish cause), as well

as Belgium, Paris, Germany, Hungary, Australia and New Zealand. He became politically involved with Roman Dmowski in the struggle to establish an independent Poland, but when Dmowski pronounced his anti-Semitism, Paderewski withdrew his support.

He was appointed Prime Minister in 1920. He found he was publicly recognized as a musician, rather than a politician and unfit for the political scene. The struggle between Jozef Pilsudski and Roman Dmowski dominated the country and Paderewski soon resigned.

The book clearly shows the struggles of Poland, its would-be rulers and outside influences. A chronology lists events that took place during Paderewski's lifetime.

THE INK GARDEN OF BROTHER THEOPHANE

by C. M. Millen

ill. by Andrea Wisniewski

Charlesbridge, 2010, \$17.95

This oversized children's book is a delight for all generations. The illustrations could compete with works of the monks of the middle ages, which is what the book is about.

Brother Theophane is one of the scribes, monks who made copies of the Bible and other great literary works, all by hand. But Theophane daydreamed, watching the flight of the birds and other colorful objects. Instead, he was sent to make brown ink, made from tree bark. In the garden he discovered he could make colorful inks from nature that sur-

rounded him. He made soft brushes from the donkey's mane and began to dabble through the night. In the morning the monks discover pages of brightly illuminated drawings and borders on their scribed manuscripts. From them on their words were illuminated with the colorful inks Theophane created.

ACE LACEWING, BUG DETECTIVE: THE BIG SWAT

by David Biedrzycki

Charlesbridge, \$16.95

Another oversized book, full of a colorful array of fascinating creatures. The full-color illustrations, created in Adobe Photoshop, are as fascinating as the text. The inside covers contain wonderful settings of the story.

It's springtime at Stinkbug Stadium and someone has stolen Buggy Goldwing's lucky bat. Buggy thinks he can't win, unless he has the bat of Lou Earwig's, famous bug leaguer. Stink bugs, roaches, butterflies, leafhoppers and ants are all suspect and Detective Ace Lacewing is called to help find the missing bat before they lose the playoff game. When the bat is found, it is cracked and Buggy has no choice but to get another bat. It is Madame Damsel who yells, "It's not the size of your bat"—and Buggy knows what he has to do.

PASS IT ON! When you finish reading your copy of the Polish American Journal, please pass it on, and ask that person to subscribe.

Holiday Doings

CARLSTADT, N.J. — Up to and including Wednesday, December 15th, the Home Office of the **Association of the Sons of Poland** located at 333 Hackensack Street, Carlstadt, will accept new and unwrapped toys for the **Toys For Tots** program.

Hours for donations are Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CHICAGO — The **Lira Singers** will present a program of Polish and English Carols at the following locations:

- December 11: Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake, Ill.
- December 26: St. Albert the Great Church in Burbank, Ill.
- January 2, 2011: St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles, Ill.

For more information, call (800) 547-5472 or see www.liraensemble.org.

PHILADELPHIA — Saturday, December 11, is the date for a **Polish Christmas Open House** at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, historic Philadelphia, 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Free. Info call (215) 922-1700.

MINNEAPOLIS — **Wigilia Benefit Dinner** for Disadvantaged Polish Children, sponsored by the **Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM)**. December 12 at 6:00 p.m. (traditional time of the first star), at Gasthof Restaurant, 2300 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis. Tickets are \$35.00 (\$5 tax-deductible). Space is limited. Reservation deadline is December 6. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call (763) 571-9602.

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THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Beet and Mushroom Soups for Your Wigilia Table

CLEAR BEETROOT BORSCHT (czysty barszcz czerwony). Soak 2-3 dried bolete mushrooms in 1 c warm water several hrs, cook in same water until tender and set aside. Peel and coarsely grate 1 lb beets, pre-baked in oven until fork-tender and cool enough to handle, and combine with 5 c vegetable stock. Add the mushroom liquid (reserve mushrooms for your sauerkraut dish below), 1 large, peeled, coarsely-grated apple. Bring to boil and simmer 2 min. Add 1 bud crushed garlic and (optional) 1/4 c dry red wine. Strain, discarding contents of sieve. Season soup to taste with salt, pepper, lemon juice and a little sugar until you achieve just the right tangy taste you want. Serve in bowls with traditional uszka (ear-dumplings).

LITTLE-EAR DUMPLINGS (uszka). Save mushroom stock for clear mushroom soup (below). Soak 1

slice French bread in 1/2 c warm water. Chop and sauté 1 coarsely-chopped onion in 2 T butter until tender and lightly browned. Pass mushrooms, onion and squeezed-out pre-soaked bread through food chopper or process briefly. Add 1/4 c bread crumbs, stir in 1 egg white, salt & pepper to taste and mix well. Filling should be on the stiff side, so if it's mushy, stir in a little more bread crumbs and set aside. Sift 1 c flour onto bread-board, work in egg yolk and just enough water (roughly 1/2 c) to bind ingredients into a dough. Knead until smooth, roll out very thin and cut into 1 1/2" squares. Place a little filling on each square, fold 2 opposite points together to form a triangle and pinch shut. Gently pull 2 ends of the triangle, join into a ring and pinch them together. Cook in lightly-salted boiling water without crowding until uszka float up. Remove with slotted spoon and serve.

CLEAR DRIED MUSHROOM SOUP 1. (czysta zupa grzybowa z suszonych grzybów). If you have cooked bolete mushrooms for ear-dumplings (above), an easy way to prepare this soup is simply to combine the leftover mushroom stock with enough vegetable stock to make 5 c. Season with a little salt & pepper and (optional) a few drops of Kitchen Bouquet, bring to boil and serve over cooked egg noodles or cooked lasagna, cut into 1" squares. If you have no leftover mushroom stock, rehydrate and cook 1 oz dried boletes. When tender, slice into strips or dice and add, together with the mushroom stock to enough vegetable stock to make 5 c. Add a mushroom bouillon cube, bring to boil, simmer briefly and salt & pepper to taste. Garnish with a little freshly-chopped parsley if desired.

CLEAR FRESH MUSHROOM SOUP 2. (czysta zupa grzybowa ze świeżych grzybów). To prepare clear mushroom soup using fresh mushrooms, rinse well, pat dry and dice 4-6 oz fresh Portobello mushrooms, simmer with a finely

chopped onion in 2 T butter about 10 min, stirring often, then transfer to pot containing 6 c water. Add 1 (Knorr or Winiary) mushroom cube, bring to boil and simmer 10 min. Salt and pepper to taste, add 1 t cider vinegar and serve over cooked egg noodles. Garnish with chopped parsley if desired.

CREAMED MUSHROOM SOUP (zupa grzybowa zabieleną). In skillet brown 8 oz washed and chopped fresh Portobello mushrooms with 1 chopped onion. Add to 6 c water

and 1 mushroom bouillon cube in pot and bring to boil. Remove from heat. Fork-blend 3/4 c sour cream with 1 heaping T flour until smooth, then add 1 c soup 1 T at a time, whisking until smooth. Stir into pot and simmer several min. Season to taste with salt, freshly ground pepper and a T or so vinegar or lemon juice. Garnish with chopped dill and/or parsley if desired. Serve over cooked egg noodles or cooked diced potatoes.

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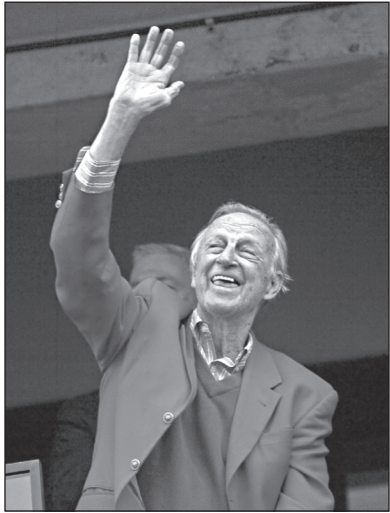
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

“Stan the Man” Earns Presidential Medal of Freedom



The greatest St. Louis Cardinal of all-time will add one more distinction to his long list of achievements. **Stan Musial** (above) will be honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor for an American civilian.

The medal is awarded to those who have had “an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States or to world peace or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.”

“Musial has always been seen as a baseball icon,” said — Ryne Gery in *Redbird Rants*, the Cardinals fan-site. “He was one of the greatest hitters of all-time. But he is receiving the medal for reasons that go beyond the diamond. Musial is described as baseball’s ‘perfect knight.’ He is the ultimate gentleman, a role model who lives with great optimism and joy.”

Musial lives in St. Louis, where he is involved in the community both on and off the field.

“Stan the Man” batted .331 with 3,630 hits — fourth most all-time — in 22 seasons. The three-time MVP played in 24 All-Star Games, won seven batting titles in his career, and helped the Cardinals to three World Series championships in 1942, 1944, and 1946. He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1969.

Musial also served in the United States Navy during World War II, forcing him to miss the 1945 season.

The legend is the eighth baseball player to receive the award. The last was Buck O’Neil in 2005. Musial

is one of 15 recipients chosen by President Barack Obama this year. The others include basketball great Bill Russell, financial genius Warren Buffett, and former president George H.W. Bush

KESELOWSKI CAPTURES CHAMPIONSHIP. With a third-place finish at Texas Motor Speedway in the O’Reilly Auto Parts Challenge **Brad Keselowski** captured his first Nationwide Series championship.

“As I was thinking the past few weeks knowing that it looked pretty good to win the championship, I couldn’t help but think of all the things that could go wrong, and when you think of those things, you say to yourself that I’m not going to get my hopes up until it’s really there,” Keselowski said. “Now it’s here, and it really happened. I feel like I should be going to Disney World.”

Keselowski gave team owner Roger Penske his first NASCAR national touring series championship. He also became the first Dodge driver in the series to win the title. Keselowski is in his first year driving a full-time Sprint Cup and Nationwide schedule for Penske.

The 26-year-old Michigan native has recorded six wins and 27 top-10 finishes in 33 Nationwide races this season.

MINUS MARIUSZ. The World’s Strongest Man competition returned to South Africa in 2010, but **Mariusz Pudzianowski** didn’t compete. “Pudzian” has won five World’s Strongest Man titles — more than any other athlete — as well as two runner-up titles. However, in 2009, Pudzianowski debuted as a mixed martial artist and so passed up competing as a strongman this year.

Poland was represented by Janusz Kulaga and Robert Szczepanski, though neither man made the finals.

This year’s winner was Zydrunas Savickas of Lithuania, who narrowly defeated American Brian Shaw. ESPN will run its WSM coverage

over the holiday season.

JAWORSKI’S THE BEST. Many athletes have difficulty transitioning to life after athletics, but not **Ron Jaworski**. “The Polish Rifle” was once one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL, but today he is considered by many as the best football analyst on TV.

The son of William and Molly Jaworski was born and raised in the steel town of Lackawanna, N.Y. just outside of Buffalo. A three-sport standout in high school, he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals right out of high school but his father insisted he go to college first. He played football at Youngstown State, and was drafted in the 2nd round by the Los Angeles Rams. “Jaws” was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles in March of 1977. He led the Eagles to the NFC playoffs in 1978 and 1979. In 1980, Jaws led the Eagles to a 12-4 record, the NFC Championship and their first-ever berth in a Super Bowl. Ron finished the 1980 season as the no.1 passer in the NFC and was selected to the Pro Bowl. Ron later played for the Miami Dolphins and KC Chiefs before retiring in 1990 after sustaining a season-ending knee injury. Ron’s career statistics include 28,190 passing yards and 179 touchdowns.

After retiring Ron got involved in broadcasting — among other things. He’s best known for his work on ABC and ESPN, where he has demonstrated a unique ability to analyze and explain the Xs and Os of pro football in a way that fans can understand. Most media observers consider him the best at what he does.

From time to time Ron’s rumored to be a coaching prospect. However, he’s probably too busy with his various interests, including Ron Jaworski Golf Management, Inc., which manages golf courses in southern New Jersey, northeast Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Jaworski married his high-school sweetheart, Liz. The couple resides in Voorhees, N.J. and have three grown children.

LUBANSKI PASSES. Bowling great **Ed Lubanski** recently passed away at the age of 81.

In 1959, Lubanski became the second bowler in ABC history to win four titles in one year — team and team all-events, singles and individual all-events. He also was on the Stroh’s all-events title team in 1951. He was BWAA bowler of the year in 1959 and on the All-America team in 1958-59. He was Detroit’s King of Bowling in 1952-53 and ’68. Lubanski was also a member of the 1952, ’53, ’54 and ’64 BPAA National Championship teams.



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Ed Lubanski

A minor league pitcher in the late ’40s, Lubanski eventually chose to make bowling his career. At age 21 he won a BPAA National Doubles title with fellow Hall of Famer Ed (Sarge) Easter who at the time was 67 years old, making the duo the youngest/oldest pair ever to win that title.

In 1959 Lubanski rolled two consecutive 300 games in a tournament in Miami, Fla., a feat that was nearly unheard of in that era. He was also one of the last of the sport’s stars to use a two-finger grip.

In addition to the USBC Hall of Fame, the Detroit native was a member of the Michigan Sports, Polish American Sports, Detroit Sports, Detroit Bowling and Michigan State Bowling Halls of Fame.

Lubanski is survived by his wife of 62 years, Betty, and children Janis, Edward, Paul and Robert; a daughter, Denise, predeceased him.

REMEMBERING BILLY. Many Polish Americans were involved in sports in the early part of the 20th century. Mostly they made their marks in football and baseball, but a few conquered other sports. One of them was William Ignatius Burkowski, better known as **Billy Burke** (inset, above, right), who was one of the greatest golfers in the 1930s.

Born on December 14, 1902 in Union City, Conn., William Burkowski first became involved in golf as a caddie at the Naugatuck Golf Club in Connecticut. Back then American golf was largely considered a “country club” sport

reserved for the wealthy. However, the son of a working class Polish immigrant caddied in order to earn some money when he was 15, and was quickly drawn to the game. He couldn’t afford clubs or a bag, so some members gave him clubs and he carried them in his hands. He kept playing despite losing the ring finger and severely injuring the little finger on his left hand while working in a steel mill.

At age 16 he won the Naugatuck club championship in a driving rainstorm and became known as

“The Boy Marvel.” Supporters bought him a golf bag so he could play in the state amateur, which he lost on the final hole. They following year, 1923, he went on to win the state amateur. That victory led to Burkowski, who anglicized his name to Burke, getting a job as a golf pro at the Mattatuck Golf Course in Waterbury, Conn.

In 1931 Burke went to the U.S. Open at the Inverness Club in Toledo. He trailed the leader, George Von Elm of California, by two strokes at the start of the 36-hole final round on Sunday, July 4th. At the end of regular play, Burke and Von Elm were tied. On Monday following day they played a 36-hole playoff to decide the title, and ended the day still tied. On Tuesday they launched another 36-hole playoff, but this time Burke ended up winning by a single stroke. After 144 holes and 589 strokes, Billy Burke was the U.S. Open champion. Burke’s victory was particularly significant not only because he used steel-shafted clubs, but also because the lengthy playoff caused a change in all future playoff formats.

Although the Open win was the high point, Burke enjoyed a fine career. He won 10 career tournaments, and finished third at the Masters twice. Burke played in 159 career PGA Tour tournaments and finished in the top 10 an amazing 80 times. He was also considered one of the finest Ryder Cup team members of his era, going undefeated in the 1931 and 1933 Ryder Cups. Burke was inducted into the PGA Hall of Fame in 1966 and died in Florida in 1972.

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TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- Looking like tortellini, a favorite dish is stuffed with: a. horse-radish sauce b. mushrooms c. farmer’s cheese
- Norbert Schemansky, famed weight lifter, earned: a. four Olympic medals b. Mr. Olympus championship c. a Medal of Honor
- Aniol* means: a. Anna b. anoint c. angel
- Choinka* is a party for: a. Christmas Day b. St. Stephen’s Day c. resident villagers
- A *kolednik* is a masquerader who enjoys: a. eating b. singing c. hunting
- Nowy rok* is: a. New Year’s Day b. Feast of the Magi c. last day of winter
- “May all the nations of the world know that Poles have a

- language of their own and not that of geese” is a quote by: a. Mikolaj Kopernik b. Prince Mieszko c. Mikolaj Rey
- Polish-born Ludwik Zamenhoff invented the international language known as a. Silesian b. Litho Baltic c. Esperanto
- Penance crosses throughout Poland denote: a. religious offerings b. heinous crimes c. road crossings
- Christian Laethner is considered by many to be a great: a. basketball player b. world-class boxer c. NASCAR racer

ANSWERS. 1. b mushrooms; 2. a four Olympic medals; 3. c angel; 4. c resident villagers; 5. b singing; 6. a New Year’s Day; 7. c Mikolaj Rey; 8. c Esperanto; 9. b heinous crimes; 10. a basketball player

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Commitment to Memory



BUFFALO, N.Y. — In preparation from the annual All Souls Commemoration, John Niedzwiecki-Nurt planted a white birch tree at the Polish Veterans Plot at St. Stan's Cemetery in Cheektowaga, N.Y., to replace one that had been destroyed four years ago in a storm.

The Niedzwiecki family, members of whom fought in the Armia Krajowa (A.K., "Home Army") during World War II, donated the tree to honor all Polish veterans. Rufina, Jan, Józef and Helena were members of the Stołpce-Naliboki group of the A.K. in eastern Poland. Rufina remained in Poland after the war. Helena was imprisoned in Ravensbruck by the Nazis, survived and later emigrated to the United States, where she settled in Buffalo and later Utica. Jan was killed by the Nazis in 1943. Józef "Nurt" was awarded the Virtuti Militari for his roles in battle. He later lived in Buffalo. His son John is researching the family history and the history of the Stołpce-Naliboki group of the A.K. and hopes to publish his findings.

The white birch grows widely in Poland and was planted at the cemetery as a remembrance of the ancestral landscape of the veterans buried there. Niedzwiecki-Nurt is a landscape designer with Seasonal Landscaping & Nursery in West Seneca, N.Y.

— Andy Golebiowski

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Retired Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati was honored by the University of Dayton's Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, for outstanding dedication to using various forms of media to communicate Gospel values, when he received the annual Daniel J. Kane Religious Communications Award ... **Rev. Msgr. Anthony E. Jaworowski**, marked his 66th anniversary in the priesthood as the resident priest at Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, Upper Merion Township, where he has been a resident priest at Sacred Heart Parish for the past 17 years ... **Kirsten Rafinski**, now a Westmont Hilltop, Pa. senior, spent her junior year abroad in Poland through the Rotary Youth Exchange, and she wrote about her experience for readers of *The Tribune-Democrat* ... **Brigid Pasulka**, an English teacher at Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago, received the 2010 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, a prestigious national honor recognizing first-time novelists, for "A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True," which is partially set in Poland and was published in 2009 ... **Walter Cygan**, a former resident of Brighton Park, was named Fraternalist of the Year by the Polish National Alliance.

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POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

The Oft-Forgotten Navy

"In all the dispatches of naval operations and major engagements I almost always find the name of a Polish ship that distinguished itself."

— **Sir Dudley Pound**, *British First Sea Lord, 1942*

Of the many aspects of Poland's contribution during World War II, perhaps one of the most overlooked is the performance of the Polish Navy. The bravery and tenacity of Poland's cavalry brigades is well documented, the skill and daring of Polish pilots during the Battle of Britain is legendary, the perseverance of the hundreds of thousands of Polish soldiers who fought in France, Belgium, Holland, and the Middle East is gradually getting its well-deserved recognition. But in the annals of World War II history, little is written about the Polish Navy.

When the war broke out in 1939, the Polish Navy consisted of less than a thousand sailors, four destroyers, five submarines, and six mine sweepers, as well as a few training ships. By prior arrangement, most of the Polish naval vessels were to make their way to Great Britain in the event of war, and fight alongside the Royal Navy. On September 1st, 1939, the destroyers, *Blyskawica*, *Grom*, and *Burza*, (Lightning, Thunder and Tempest) sailed to Scotland and entered the Firth of Forth. This destroyer squadron soon began clandestine operations off southern Ireland marking the first time the Polish Navy fought in two seas, the Baltic and the North Sea.

THE DESTROYERS were soon joined by two Polish submarines, the *Wilk* (Wolf) and the *Orzel* (Eagle). The daring escape of the *Orzel* from Estonia — described by Winston Churchill as "epic" — was the subject of an earlier installment of this column. But the escape of the *Wilk* was every bit as harrowing. For twelve days the *Wilk* navigated the treacherous, shallow waters of the Danish Straights, evading mines and German warships. When the *Wilk* finally broke through to the North Sea, damaged by a depth charge, and dangerously low on

fuel, commander Boguslaw Krawczyk, sent his last telegram before arriving in British waters: "I crossed the sound. I'm going to England. Long live Poland." Krawczyk became the first Polish naval officer to receive the Distinguished Service Order from Britain's King George VI.

By the end of the war the Polish Navy had participated in major naval operations including: Narvik; Dunkirk; Tobruk; the landings at Dieppe, Anzio, North Africa, and Normandy; the Battle of the Atlantic; and the hunt for the Bismarck. Polish sailors, who numbered over four thousand by the end of the war, sailed over a million nautical miles, escorted more than seven hundred convoys, and carried out more than a thousand combat patrols.

The Polish Merchant Fleet also managed to escape from the Baltic with nearly fifty vessels. During the war the fleet evacuated British and Polish troops from France; brought American troops to Britain; carried millions of tons of cargo to Murmansk and Africa; transported Allied troops to North Africa, Salerno, the south of France, and Normandy; and brought children to safety in America.

Unable to return to Soviet-dominated Poland at the end of the war, hundreds of Polish naval officers and sailors settled in Scotland. On September 28, 1946, the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Navy, Vice-Admiral Jerzy Swirski addressed his troops. "Thus we come to the end of the glorious pages of the history of our navy ... deprived of our Motherland and our ships ... may the good God take care of us ... and lead us back to a free Poland. Long live Poland."

Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two. Mr. Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and has written a second historical novel set in Poland in World War II. The Katyn Order will be released in May, 2011.

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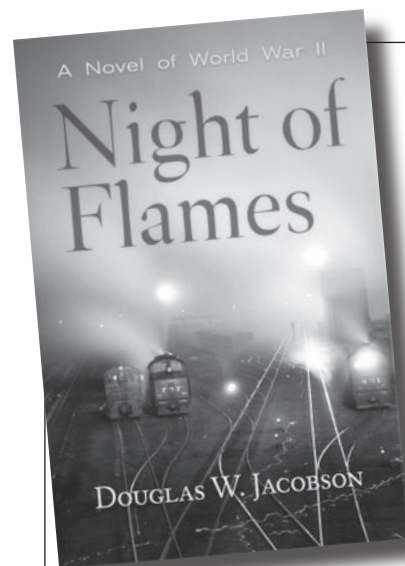


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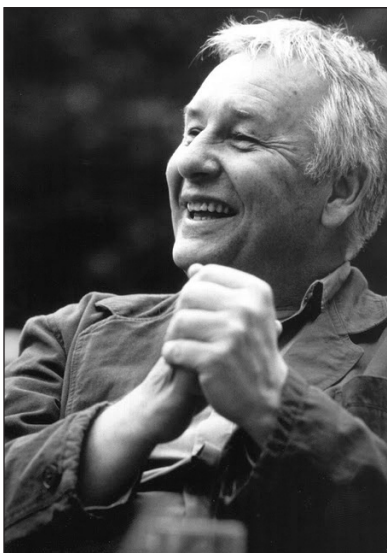
Górecki, World-famous Composer, Dead at 76

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Polish culture suffered a major blow with the recent passing of Henryk Mikołaj Górecki, one of the world's unique composers of classical contemporary music. He died in a heart clinic in his native Katowice area of complications stemming from a lung infection just weeks ahead of his 77th birthday.

Górecki's music career spanned more than half a century and combined academic work at various levels of education with extensive composing. He began teaching 11-year-olds in the early 1950s and by the mid-70s had become professor of composition and subsequently rector of Katowice's State Higher School of Music.

He was viewed as a tough teacher by his music students to whom he tried to impart his total involvement in and love of music. "If you cannot live without music, then write. But if you can live without music for



two or three days, then don't bother to compose anything. You'll be better off spending the time with a girl or a beer," he was known to say. Never an opportunist, businessman or active promoter of his career,

Górecki composed only when he felt inspired. "If you have nothing to say, don't write music," was another of his familiar sayings.

Among Górecki's first compositions was his 1952 adaptation of "Świtezianka," a ballad by 19th-century romantic bard Adam Mickiewicz. It came during the height of socialist realism, a Stalinist cultural trend that tolerated little more than proletarian and folk motifs. It wasn't until the post-Stalinist thaw of the late 1950s that his creativity began to evolve in an avant-garde direction and reflected the musical technique known as serialism.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Górecki's music progressively moved away from his earlier radical modernism towards a more traditional, romantic mode of expression. He developed a hallmark monumental style which clearly reflected Polish historic and religious themes. That change was viewed as

a slap in the face and betrayal by the then predominant avant-garde establishment.

Górecki left a rich musical legacy that included symphonies, concertos, sonatas, cantatas, arias, psalms, mazurkas, lullabies and folk songs. His 1972 "Copernican Symphony," commissioned by New York's Kościuszko Foundation, helped introduce the Polish composer to a wider international audience. In 1979 he composed "Beatus Vir" (Blessed Man) in honor of Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr.

Other works reflecting Polish themes included "Song of the Katyń Families" and "Miserere" which recalled the violence suffered by Poland's Solidarity movement at the hands of the communist regime. But he was best known internationally for his 1976 "Symphony (No. 3) of Sorrowful Songs," which included Holocaust motifs. Following its 1992 re-release in the United States,

it sold more than a million copies and reached the top of America's classical music charts.

Two days before his death, the ailing Górecki was visited by another musical giant, composer Krzysztof Penderecki. The two men discussed plans for Penderecki to direct Górecki's "Beatus Vir" on their 80th birthday in 2013. The work had been commissioned by Kraków Archbishop Karol Wojtyła to mark the 900th anniversary of the Saint Stanislaus' martyrdom.

For his life-long contributions to Polish culture, Henryk Mikołaj Górecki was awarded Poland's highest distinction, the Order of the White Eagle. Since his illness made it impossible for him to attend the presentation ceremony at Warsaw's Presidential Palace, the medal was presented to him in his hospital room by Poland's First Lady, Madam Anna Komorowska. He died three weeks later.

"Bishop of Poletown" Mourned

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

Remembered for his 36-year love affair with Detroit's Eastside historic St. Hyacinth Church, its parishioners and his Polish heritage, **Reverend Francis Skalski**, passed away on October 20, 2010. "St. Hyacinth (Parish) was his wife," commented Msgr. Stanley Milewski, Chancellor Emeritus of the Orchard Lake Schools.

Affectionately known as the "Bishop of Poletown," Father Skalski was a great friend of the Detroit area's Polish and Polish American community and a staunch supporter of *Solidarnosc*. "The Boss" promoted a family atmosphere within the parish and fostered religious, ethnic and Polish pride. But most importantly, he was the heart and soul of St. Hyacinth Parish, loved by his parishioners, and a true shepherd and spiritual leader. His homilies reflected messages about family, tradition and heritage. He was instrumental in stabilizing the McDougal-Frederick-Farnsworth Avenues area, the St. Hyacinth neighborhood, where a portion of Detroit's Polish American community, adjacent to Hamtramck, was destroyed by the 1982 construction of a General Motors Cadillac auto plant. With 1,500 homes, 144 businesses, 16 churches, one school and one hospital demolished and 3,500 people relocated, Detroit's Poletown disappeared, except in Michigan Supreme Court cases. Father Skalski tried to preserve the little of Poletown that was left.

Rev. Skalski, 81, a native Detroit, was born on November 21, 1928 on Detroit's Southwest side, attended St. Mary's Preparatory and College in Orchard Lake and St. John's Province Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan, and was ordained a priest on June 2, 1956. Father Skalski served as an Associate Pastor of St. Florian in Hamtramck, St. John Cantius in Detroit, St. Ladislaus in Hamtramck and Our Lady Queen of Heaven in Detroit. In 1971, he became pastor of St. Hyacinth. It is also to his credit that Saint Hyacinth retained its Polish background.

Most of the parishioners moved out of the blighted area, but remained parishioners even though they made that weekly trek to Saint Hyacinth to attend Mass and its special events. This was evident as over 300 filled St. Hyacinth Church to bid a fond farewell to the "Bishop of Poletown" on Monday, October 25. Parishioners, Father's family, friends, Adam Cardinal Maida, Bishop John C. Reiss and a multitude of fellow priests filled the church for his funeral Mass. Rev. Francis Skalski is survived by a brother, a sister and many loving nieces, nephews, as well as grand nieces and nephews.

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The Woman Who Helped Thousands

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

Polish Chicago radio personality and founder of the *Zdrowie Plus* (Health Plus), a cancer support foundation, succumbed to breast cancer at the age of 47. **Malgorzata Kiesz**, a woman whose personality sparked and who tirelessly helped thousands of Polish-speaking women and their families as they struggled with cancer, died on October 22, after a 12-year battle with breast cancer.

She was born in Strachowice, Poland and held a master's degree in building technology and organization from Kielce University of Technology. In 1990, "Malgosia" emigrated to the United States with her husband, Andrzej—and only \$250 between them. She worked as a travel agent, managed a health and beauty store on Chicago's Northwest side, and ran a vitamin store. But in 1992, Mrs. Kiesz and her husband became hosts of a popular Polish-language radio program, "Sami Swoi." They were heard every weekday morning in the metro-Chicago area on WPNA-1490 AM, a radio station operated by the Polish National Alliance, and on WNDZ-750 AM out of Portage, Indiana.

But her life changed in 1998, when, at the age of 35, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Devastated with this diagnosis, having limited English-language speaking skills and no health insurance, she began treatment at Chicago's Stroger Hospital. It was there that she met many other Polish-speaking cancer patients. In 2000, realizing from her experience and those of other Polish-speaking women that cultural, language and financial barriers limited proper diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, Mrs. Kiesz established the not-for-profit *Zdrowie Plus* Foundation. Using her radio show as a forum and her perky journalistic talents, Margaret did something that was rarely, if ever, openly discussed in the Polish-speaking community: she spoke about breast cancer. During her radio program, she began to educate women on the importance of early detection of breast cancer and encouraged women to get mammograms. Malgosia advertised the *Zdrowie Plus* Foundation health fairs throughout Chicago and its suburbs. These health fairs not only educated women about breast cancer, but helped them receive breast exams. She enlisted the help of Stroger Hospital's head of oncology, Dr. Elizabeth Marcus, to lead informational group sessions.

But Mrs. Kiesz went beyond the



Malgorzata Kiesz

health fairs. She spent countless hours personally driving breast cancer patients to their appointments, translating for them, and holding their hand as they went through frightening medical procedures. Her last health fair was held on October 3 at St. Hyacinth's Basilica on Chicago's Northwest Side. Nineteen days before she passed away and unable to attend this health fair, she organized and coordinated it from her bed. In 2007, the late President Lech Kaczynski awarded Kiesz the Knight's Cross, one of Poland's highest honors at a ceremony in Chicago. Her funeral Mass was held on October 30 at St. Constance Church. Her ashes were flown to Poland and buried in her family plot. Malgorzata is survived by her husband, Andrzej, a daughter, Ola, a brother and a sister.

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REVIEW / Staś Kmieć

A Nod to the Past with a Look to the Future

Mira Zimińska-Sygietyńska, 200th anniversary and co-founder of *Mazowsze* once said "There are three stars of *Mazowsze*: the dancers, the singers and the costumes." The famed Polish company did not disappoint with a vivacious performance on November 14th at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, which opened their current North American tour. An extension of that assessment would include the memorable compositions based on folk tunes by Tadeusz Sygietyński and the masterful choreography – the majority of which is by Witold Zapala.

The formula of *Mazowsze* has changed little over the years and familiar favorites are always a "welcome friend" – worth waiting for, such as Elwira Kamińska's *Krakowiak* masterpiece, the romance and lift of Zbigniew Kiliński's *Kujawiak* and the epic scope of Zapala's *Mazur*.

The current program includes three new selections. The remainder is drawn from the company's vast repertoire, although in some cases in an abbreviated form. There is the same richness of style; the technical prowess of the performers has evolved over the years.

As the program presented was *Christmas in Warsaw*, many of the folk melodies that *Mazowsze* is known for were missing. In their place were majestically performed *koledy* carols.

The new costumes for *Songs from Raciborz* were presented as a cross-section of the area, including maidens attired in a white-embroidered loose jacket (*kaftan* – "jakla") with rich brocade aprons and *galanda* head-wreaths. The married woman's representation included the head kerchief (*chustka* – "purpurka") and characteristic beads adorned with a cross (*korale z krzyżkiem*). The songs were gentle and pleasant to the ear.

Chopin's *Rondo à la Krakowiak* paid homage to the famed artist's

200th anniversary and to the rich tradition of Polish folk-style ballets. The 50-year old stylized ballet costumes were found in the wardrobe's archive. They had been intended for a U.S. Tour when the company was to present a representation of the classic 19th century Polish ballet *We-sele w Ojcowie*. A delicate pastoral scene with Romantic era gestures and *épaulement* sets the stage with a scarecrow (*Strach na wróble*) in the background; a lively procession of *Krakowiacy* enters and the *cwil* sliding step and *holubiec* clicks match the temperament of the composition.

Visually stunning, *Życzenie* G-dur op. 74 (the Maiden's Wish) also by Chopin, was exquisitely staged, and costumed in period attire.

Mazowsze has entertained us for years, and despite a fresh artistic interpretation of village life, it is often regarded as a living cultural archive and a relic of the past. It has a complicated legacy to contend with and



Soloist Magdalena Zalipska (foreground) and Magdalena Wacowska twirl in the *Krakowiak*, a staple of the *Mazowsze* repertoire.

today it strives to balance its "nod to the past" with a "look forward to the future." Long live *Mazowsze*!

An extended review appears on www.PAJtoday.blogspot.com.

Follow *Mazowsze* on www.MazowszeOnTour.blogspot.com.

Farewell for Polish American Newspaper

by Jim Rygelski

BALDWIN, Long Island, N.Y. — After 51 continuous years of publication – uninterrupted even by the founding editor's two major surgeries, two strokes and pneumonia – *The Polish American World* has ceased publication.

The newspaper closed Oct. 29, a spokesman for the newspaper, based in Baldwin, told the *P.A.J.*

Founding editor Thomas Poster told the *New York Times* in October that he was shutting down because

"It is simply an economic fiasco ... so we have to close." Poster told the *Times* that the \$1,500 weekly cost of producing the newspaper wasn't being covered by the \$25 subscription price and whatever advertising he was able to sell. "I've been practically begging for ads," the *Times* quoted him as saying.

The English-language weekly specialized in local news of Polonia but also reprinted articles on Poland from other publications. *The Polish American World* once had a circulation of 4,000 but was down to about 1,000 recently, Poster told the *Times*. Still, he acknowledged feeling "guilty" at having to shut down publication.

Poster told the *Times* he founded *The Polish American World* in February 1959 after reading "one too many slights against Polish people in the society editor's column of the *Greenpoint Weekly Star*. Poster was referring to a newspaper that covered an area in northern Brooklyn.

A longtime newspaperman, Poster wrote for several newspapers, including the *New York Daily News* for more than two decades, before retiring in 1993.

He wrote many of *The Polish American World's* articles himself. Following the hallowed newspaper concept that names make news, he included as many names of local Poles as he could and encouraged his writers to do the same.

The Polish American World also vigorously defended Poles and Polonia against those who slighted it – be it a Long Island, N.Y., hospital classifying kielbasa as unhealthy or traffic reporters who couldn't properly pronounce the name of the Kosciuszko Bridge. (Even the *Times* article gave a mispronunciation, listing it as "Kos-CHUS-ko" instead of "Kos-CHOOSH-ko.")

Poster told the *Times* he was uninterested in continuing *The Polish American World* as an online-only publication.

Church Officials: Polish Parish Must go "For the Good of All"

MINNEAPOLIS — On November 9, officials of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis met with 250 Holy Cross Church members to attempt to convince them that Holy Cross should be closed by merger with another parish. The 124-year-old parish is the heart of the Polish community in the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The closing is part of the Archdiocese's "Strategic Plan" that foresees elimination of over 20 parishes.

Meeting participants pressed the Archdiocese's representatives for a justification of why Holy Cross should be closed. Officials admitted that the parish is in good shape in terms of finances, physical plant and membership. They justified that elimination of Holy Cross on the basis of the Archdiocese's "overcapacity" in churches; several times repeating that Holy Cross must go "for the good of all." Participants' requests for a

detailed explanation of how destroying a strong parish would serve the commonweal went unanswered.

One Polish immigrant cited one of the Church's, and "Strategic Plan's," priorities of serving immigrants as a reason to keep Holy Cross open. She added, "Well, I am one of those immigrants." A Polish community leader emphasized that a shortage of priests could not be a factor: a priest from Poland staffs the Holy Cross Polish Ministry and the St. Paul Seminary has a near record number of seminarians.

Holy Cross is the oldest Polish parish in Minneapolis and the only parish in Minnesota with a regular Polish Mass. In 1996, archdiocesan officials attempted to eliminate the parish's Polish ministry. They backed down in the face of determined opposition from Minnesota's Polish community.

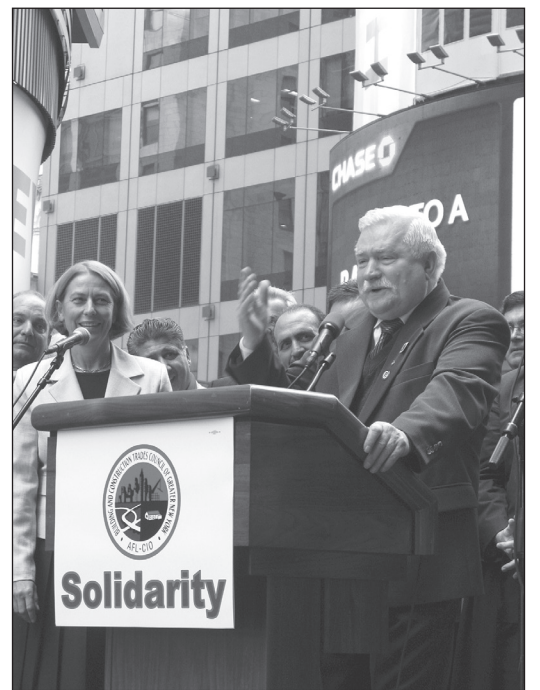
Wałęsa Joins Solidarity Rally in NYC

Former Polish President and Leader of Solidarity Movement **Lech Wałęsa** addressed thousands of members of the New York City Building and Construction Trades in New York City's Times Square for union solidarity during his recent visit to the United States. The rally closed down 6 blocks of NYC traffic.

Wałęsa, the shipyard electrician who fought for labor rights and ultimately helped topple Soviet-style totalitarianism in Poland, became the country's first democratically elected president from 1990-95.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner headlined the rally sponsored by the umbrella group representing more than 100,000 workers citywide. The rally highlighted Wałęsa's experience in leading the solidarity movement that defeated Communist rule and how solidarity among union members and working men and women can fight exploitation and rebuild America's middle class.

— Staś Kmieć



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Atlas Bank Lends Helping Hand

STATEN ISLAND — Atlas Bank is providing office space and has established a relationship with a nonprofit organization POMOC that is expanding the administration of social services for individuals residing in the borough of Staten Island. The goal of the program is to provide services that encourage and enable low-income individuals to achieve maximum self-sufficiency and independence.

POMOC was established in 1980 by a group of second generation Polish immigrants concerned about the poor living conditions of some of their fellow residents. For over 30 years POMOC has been helping individuals with public benefit entitlements, managed healthcare assistance, legal immigration services, senior services, emergency food assistance, housing assistance, employment assistance, ESL instruction and civics classes.

The name POMOC is an acronym describing its ethnic origin, more importantly POMOC means "help" in Polish, a word easily identifiable by the large Eastern European immigrant popula-

tion residing in the greater New York City area. On July 1, 2010 POMOC received the New York City Council Immigrant Opportunities Initiative grant in part by New York City Council Member James S. Oddo from the 50th District. Currently the organization's funding sources include governmental agencies at both State and City level, as well as corporate and private donors. The organization has an office inside the Atlas Bank Staten Island Branch location. Anyone who is interested in finding out more information may stop by any branch office location, or call the bank during business hours.

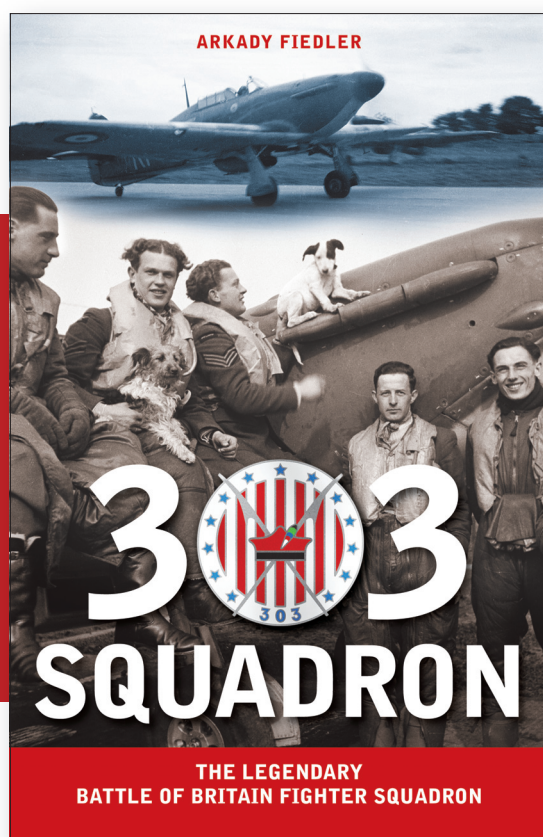
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Atlas Bank traces its New York origins back to 1900. Established by a group of Polish immigrants, the bank is celebrating 110 years of service for Brooklyn and current expansion to Staten Island. Questions about products and services can be answered by calling (718) 768-4800 or by visiting www.atlasbank.com.

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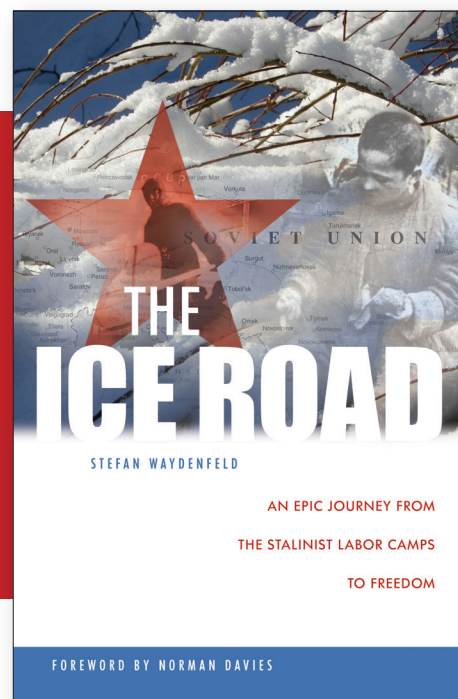
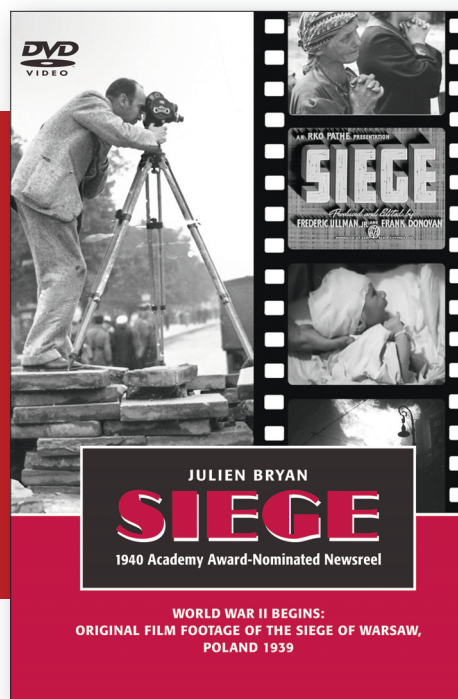
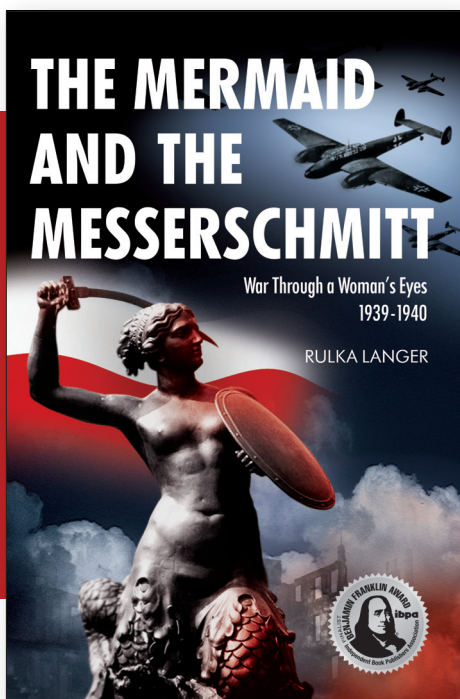
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