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WIGILIA PEASANT STYLE
PAGE 6

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



NEWSMARK

COUNCIL TO MEET AT YALE. The American Polish Advisory Council will hold its annual conference at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., December 7.

Entitled "Poland's Emerging Role in Shaping Global Security & the U.S.-Polish Partnership," the half day conference will focus on Poland's role in addressing new security challenges including the conflict in Ukraine as well as how the strategic relationship between Poland and the United States has enabled both nations to effectively address common threats. The Council will also present a report on its efforts to include Poland in the U.S. Visa Waiver program, an issue on which it has lobbied extensively.

The APAC, headquartered in Washington, D.C., has held previous conferences and political workshops in Washington and the Chicago area.

Keynote speakers include Poland's Ambassador to the United Nations and national security expert Boguslaw Winid, and Poland's Defense Attaché in Washington Brigadier General Jaroslaw Srozyk.

Preregistration is required and can be completed at www.apacouncil.info.

EXTRADITION WRANGLE. The United States has requested Roman Polanski's arrest to await possible extradition proceedings. The Polish film director fled the United States in 1977 while awaiting trial over the alleged rape of a thirteen-year-old girl. Since that time, Polanski has lived in France, Switzerland and, has recently stated that he may be residing soon in Poland.

Rafal Trzaskowski, Poland's deputy head of the Polish foreign Ministry said the U.S. attorney is "very determined" to prosecute Polanski.

The film director remains the subject of an international search warrant and is wanted by Interpol. Swiss authorities refused to extradite Polanski in 2010.

A representative of Poland's Attorney General's office said Polanski is free to move around the country for now, and added that if a formal request for extradition is received from the U.S. authorities, it will be referred to the Krakow prosecutor.

Statutory rape is also a crime in Poland, but Poland's statute of limitations means he could no longer face trial. It is unlikely therefore, that Poland's court would agree to extradite Polanski.

GRATITUDE FOR DIGITAL REPOSITORY. The Polish town of Slubice will erect a statue honoring Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, which provides free information to anyone with access to a computer.

Poland is Wikipedia's 12th largest user, currently providing over a million articles.

The statue will be constructed of a laminate having the appearance of brass, and will consist of four figures holding up the Wikipedia symbol.

Piotr Luczynski, the deputy mayor of the town of 18,000 near the German border, said the monument would be "a tribute to an entire community working selflessly for the benefit of others." He hopes the statue becomes a tourist attraction that reflects the town's ideals and aspirations.

NEW TREATMENT BRINGS HOPE, CONTROVERSY. A Polish man who was paralyzed from the chest down after a knife attack several years ago is now able to get around using a walker and has recovered some sensation in his legs after receiving a novel nerve-regeneration treatment, according to a new report that has generated both hope and controversy.

"It is premature at best, and at worst inappropriate, to draw any conclusions from a single patient," said Dr. Mark H. Tuszynski, director of the translational neuroscience unit at the medical school of the University of California, San Diego.

That patient — identified as Darek Fidyka, 40 — is the first to recover feeling and mobility after getting the therapy, which involves injections of cultured cells at the site of the injury and tissue grafts, the report said.

Christ the King is Born



O COME LET US ADORE HIM. A nativity scene takes its inspiration from the accounts of the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Luke's narrative describes an angel announcing the birth of Jesus to shepherds, who then visit the humble site where Jesus is found lying in a manger, a trough for cattle feed. Although there is no scriptural basis for their presence, the Three Kings and the angels are often displayed in a nativity scene with the Holy Family and the shepherds.

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 at Greccio, Italy, to place the emphasis of Christmas upon the worship of Christ, rather than upon secular materialism and gift giving.

While common in most Catholic homes, the manger display is especially near and dear to the hearts of Poles. This one, photographed by Marian Dzwiniel, was on display last year at at one of the Polish minority churches in Vilnius (Wilno), Lithuania, where Poles and their descendants maintain the Christmas traditions of their native homeland, decades after the city became part of Lithuania. For more on Christmas in the Vilnius region, see page 10.

Zielinski Named Bishop, Will Head Fairbanks Diocese



FAIRBANKS, Alaska (KNOM) — Pope Francis has named a new bishop for the Fairbanks diocese, appointing a new leader for the 46 parishes and roughly 18,000 Catholics in northern Alaska.

Pope Francis asked Chad Zielinski an active military chaplain at Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks, to lead the nation's northernmost diocese. Zielinski was ordained a priest in Gaylord, Michigan, in 1996. He was an active duty Air Force serviceman for four years, and has served as a military chaplain for several years, including assignments in Iraq and Afghanistan. He moved into his current position in 2012.

Settlement Reach in Wielinski Suit Against Continental

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The family of Douglas Wielinski, who died when Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed into his Clarence Center home the night of Feb. 12, 2009, reached a settlement in New York State Supreme Court before it went to trial.

Karen Wielinski and her daughters sued the airlines for the wrongful death of her 61-year-old husband, his pain, and suffering; and for the family's injuries, pain, and suffering.

Wielinski, 63, and her youngest daughter, Jill Hohl, 27, were at home the night of the crash but were able to escape. Karen Wielinski suffered a broken collarbone, and Hohl escaped with minor injuries.

Another daughter, Kimberly Lipiarz, who lived at home — was at her boyfriend's at the time of the crash. Two other daughters — Lori Tiede and Jessica Krill — did not live at home.

The Wielinskis' lawsuit was the first of the more than 40 filed by the families of the 49 other crash victims who were on the plane. The other suits also ended in confidential settlements. Wielinski's suit against Colgan Air; its parent, Pinnacle Airlines; and Continental, was the only one to go the trial.

Hej Kolęda! An East Baltimore Tradition



MAKING LOTS OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC. Musicians, mainly from various Baltimore area polka bands, are shown banded together belting out Polish kolędy, along with the usual Christmas carol music during the annual promenading event in 2013.

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE — It's always on the Eve of Christmas Eve. They come from near and far — even from the close border areas of neighboring states — every year to Baltimore on December 23rd to participate in the annual tradition of Polish kolędy and English Christmas caroling. Why December 23rd? Because some old-timers here said that this particular day was remembered as a treasured Christmas

custom for family, friends and neighbors in their villages of eastern Poland. The tradition here was begun in 1971 by the Polish National Alliance (PNA) — Council 21, and now organized, promoted and funded by the Polish Community Association of Maryland.

On the big day, at 7:00 p.m., the Polonia, Polish groups, and other eager participants congregate at the Polish Home *See "Hej Kolęda," page 8*

PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

VIEWPOINT / Rev. Charles Jan DiMascola

“God is With Us”

I remember reading about a lecture given at Harvard by a visiting Polish professor. The report focused on a question asked by a student and the response given by the professor. The student, at the question and answer period asked, “What is the purpose of existence?” The professor answered the question in a very odd way. He pulled out his wallet and then from his wallet he pulled out a small round mirror about the size of a half dollar.

Then he told this story. He was only about five or six when the Nazis invaded Poland. He was in Warsaw during the bombing and the terrible days of occupation almost to the end of the war.

A few days after the occupation of Warsaw he witnessed members of the Polish Underground attack a motorcycle squadron and blow them up. After the skir-

ish, he found a piece of broken mirror. There being very little to play with in those days, he took the mirror and slowly ground the rough edges on bricks and stones that littered the bombed out city, until the mirror was round and the edges smooth.

In those dark and dangerous days, he would play with that mirror. It became a game for him to reflect the light into the dark corners of his surroundings. Sometimes he would amuse himself for hours trying to coax the sun of the candlelight into some almost inaccessible dark corner. To his childish mind it was his way of pushing back the darkness and cruelty of the war.

After he explained that childhood game he said, “That is the purpose of existence! To reflect the light of the sun into the dark corners of the world!” And he added, “What I really mean is that the purpose of existence is to reflect the light of the Son of God into the dark corners of the world!”

I liked that explanation because that is why Jesus came to Bethlehem as a little child: to tell us how to bring light into the dark corners of the world. He came as a little child to show us a gentler, kinder and more loving way of life. He could have come as a mighty king and conqueror, but He came as a baby. He could have come and forced obedience, instead he came

humble and small to show us that love and kindness can conquer ... that love is stronger than hate and that gentleness is more effective than force! He came to show us how to make a dark and cold world warm and bright!

The Polish professor taught a marvelous Christmas message. Jesus, who is Love... is the light that you and I must reflect to change ourselves! We are the mirrors that must reflect the Son of God and make His light and love, His gentleness and warmth, His goodness and laughter, His openness and healing! That is the meaning of life and the meaning of Christmas! Reflect His light!

❖ ❖ ❖
The Rev. Charles Jan DiMascola, a man with “an Italian name but a Polish heart,” is pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Turners Falls, Massachusetts.



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December ❄️ Grudzień

*Wesołych Świąt bez zmartwień,
Z barszczem, z grzybami,
i karpkiem.*

- 1 1939. Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler orders the deportation of Polish Jews.
- 3 1857. Birth of Joseph Conrad.
- 4 **ST. BARBARA**
*Niechaj każdy pamięta, jaka Barbara, takie święta.
Let everyone remember: as (the weather on) St. Barbara's Day, so the holidays.*
- 5 1925. Death of Nobel laureate Władysław S. Reymont.
- 6 **ST. NICHOLAS**
Today is traditionally reserved for gift-giving in Poland.
- 7 1279. Death of Bolesław V the Chaste
- 8 1990. Shippard electrician and Solidarity Trade Union leader Lech Walesa elected president of Poland.
- 12 1501. Coronation of Alexander I.
- 13 1570. Signing of the Treaty of Stettin concludes the Northern Seven Years' War
- 15 1575. Election of Stefan Batory (1533–1586). Batory was Voivode of Transylvania (1571–76), Prince of Transylvania (1576–86), and from 1576 Queen Anna Jagiellon's husband and *jure uxoris* King of Poland. Many historians consider him to be one of the greatest of the elected Kings.
- 16 1922. Death by assassination of Poland's first president Gabriel Narutowicz.
- 18 1929. Birth of Archbishop of Warsaw (1981–2006) Cardinal Józef Glemp.
- 21 **ST. THOMAS**
*Winszujemy Święty Tomy,
żeby nie był żaden ślepy ani chromy.
Wishing you,
on St. Thomas Day,
that no one be blind or ill.*
- 22 1959. Death of actress **Gilda Grey** (Maryanna Michalska), popular actress of the 1920s.
- 23 **ST. JOHN KANTY**
- 24 **DZIEŃ WIGILIJNY**
*Na szczęście, na zdrowie ze świętą Wiliją
Health and good fortune this Vigil!*
1854. About 100 families from Upper Silesia arrive in Panna Maria, Texas with Fr. Leopold Moczygemba to establish the first permanent Polish settlement in the United States.
- 25 **BOŻE NARODZENIE**
1076. Coronation of Bolesław II the Bold
- 26 **ST. STEPHEN**
1655. Swedes withdraw from Poland.
- 27 **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**
1918. Powstanie Wielkopolskie (Greater Poland Insurrection) begins.
- 30 1977. President Jimmy Carter visits Poland.
- 31 **ST. SYLVESTER**
*Niech już wystrzela korki szampana,
A ty baw się świetnie do białego rana!
Let the champagne corks become airborne,
and you will play 'til early morn!*
1989. The People's Republic of Poland becomes the Republic of Poland.



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FORUM / Robert Strybel

Examining Our Heritage Can Help us Understand the True Meaning of Christmas

To today's merchandising establishment and to the masses that have fallen for its hard-sell propaganda, Christmas has largely degenerated into one, long, high-powered, sales promotion. Its main purpose is to earn maximum profits by getting people to squander hard-earned money on many things nobody really needs. To many American kids these days – those of Polish extraction included – Christmas has become mainly about “getting presents from Santa.”

To the adult half of the population it often centers on shopping, home-decorating, and partying. In many homes, the main attraction is that mad rush to the tree on Christmas morning. Later in the day it's the big Christ-

mas dinner, which is often little more than a re-run of Thanksgiving. When the table is cleared away, many stay glued to the TV, or play cards or computer games. In many cases, there truly is “no room at the inn” for the One whose birthday was the reason for the celebration in the first place.

Fortunately, our Polish heritage can come to the rescue. Polish-style Christmas has remained close to the roots. It is more symbolic, meaningful and beautiful than all the commercial hoopla. It centers on Wigilia (Christmas Eve), the single most important day of the year. Maybe this is the year to give all the electronic gadgetry a rest and relearn how to enjoy the pleasures of Christmas in the com-

pany of loved ones.

Why not suggest singing kolędy together, recall old legends, telling stories, and sharing your childhood Christmas recollections with members of the younger generation? Being extra kind to others on Christmas Eve, the first star of the evening, hay under the tablecloth, the extra place-setting at table, sharing opłatek, the odd number of often once-a-year meatless dishes, Pasterka (Midnight Mass) at a Polish parish – that is what it's all about.

These slower-paced, more symbolic and people-friendly traditions may be a refreshing change of pace from the aggressive style Christmas being peddled by the powers out after our wallets and credit cards.

The extent to which traditional Polish customs are revived and the actual form they take is something everyone must decide for himself. Some customs can actually be incorporated into our families' existing holiday routines. Others – especially those requiring costumes, props and special talents – can best be re-enacted in auditoriums at opłatek-dinners and other community affairs. But all of them can be recalled, talked about and shared in the family circle, especially with the inquisitive younger folk who are just starting to learn about the world. Make sure you also have some input, so that Hollywood, TV, rock stars and the Internet are not their only source of inspiration.

Merry Christmas

*May the Infant Jesus,
the promised Messiah,
enlighten you with
His grace and love.*

*We wish you and your
loved ones a truly blessed,
peaceful and grace-filled
Christmas.*

- The Pauline Fathers -



Wesołych Świąt

*Przesyłamy Wam jak
najserdeczniejsze życzenia
z Amerykańskiej Częstochowej
- Duchowej Stolicy Polonii.*

*Niech Boże Dziecię Jezus
Chrystus błogosławi Wam
i obdarza zdrowiem.*

- Ojcowie Paulini -

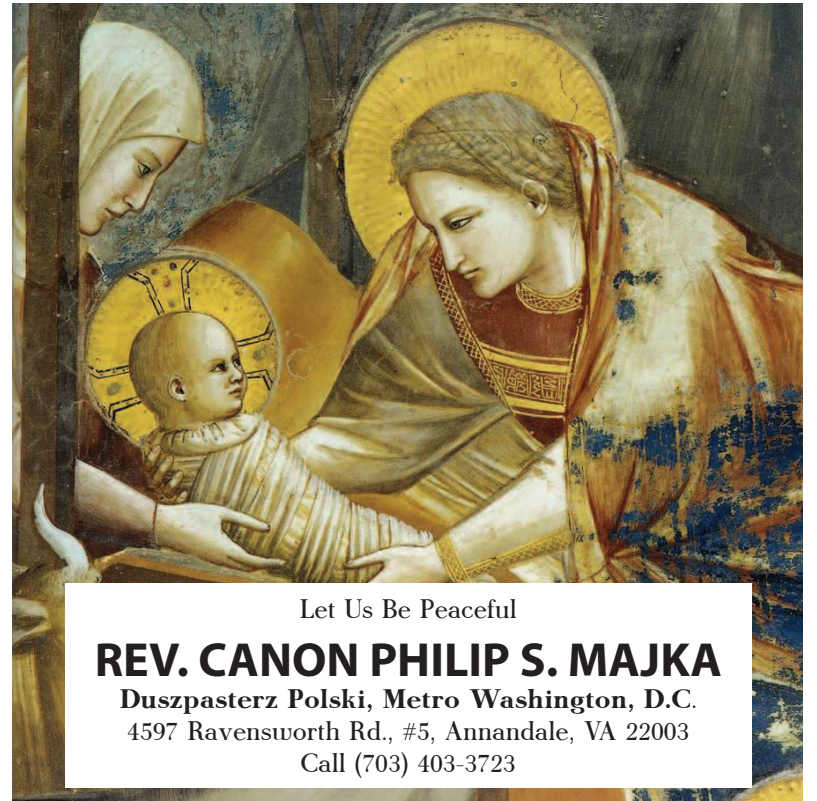
2014 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Dec. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE: Vigil Mass at 5:00pm in English. Midnight Mass in Polish. Procession to manger. Sharing of the Christmas wafer (Opłatek) after Mass in Cafeteria.

Dec. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY: Masses in Polish at 8am, 10am & 12:30pm; in English at 9am, 11am, 2:30pm & 5pm.

Dec. 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE: Holy Hour after 5:00pm Vigil Mass.

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The Oplatek Wigilia Ritual

The traditional oplatek (Christmas wafer) ritual at the Christmas Eve (Wigilia) table usually involves three steps. For those new to the practice, here they are:

PRAYER

- Our Father
• Hail Mary
• Glory Be to the Father
• The Apostles' Creed

READING OF SCRIPTURE ON THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

- (pick one):
• Luke 2: 1-20 (The Journey to Bethlehem, the Birth of Christ, the Visit of the Shepherds)
• Matthew 2: 1-18 (The Visit of the Magi and the Flight into Egypt)
• John 3:16-21 (Why Jesus Came into the World)

EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS

While traditions vary on the distribution, everyone receives a wafer or at least part of one, and goes up to every other person present. In some families, a plate filled several smaller pieces is passed; in others, the eldest member or head of household shares with each family. Follow your family tradition.

The person presents the wafer, from which the other then breaks a piece off, and each exchanges prayerful wishes for the best in the new year, with special attention to and expression of what that person might need, e.g., success in studies, a good marriage, help in their difficulties, as well as words of forgiveness if there is something between the persons.

DID YOU KNOW?

The sharing of oplatek (Christmas wafer) is Poland's most widely practiced Christmas custom, cultivated by more than 95% of all Polish families.

Oplatek is also known in Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine and Belarus - countries within the Polish sphere of cultural influence. It is also popular among Polish Americans and in Polonian communities world-wide.

Traditionally, the Christmas Eve supper does not begin until the evening's first star appears in the sky. Small children were usually given the task of standing in the window and watching for the star. Once spotted, the oplatek-sharing can begin. Only after all guests share the wafer can the Vigil meal begin.

Lapsus Calami. In last month's PAJ, the name of author and historian Thomas Hollowak was misspelled.

Chrystus się rodzi, nas oswobodził! Christ our Savior, our Redeemer, is born!



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ANTHONY C. PAKULA

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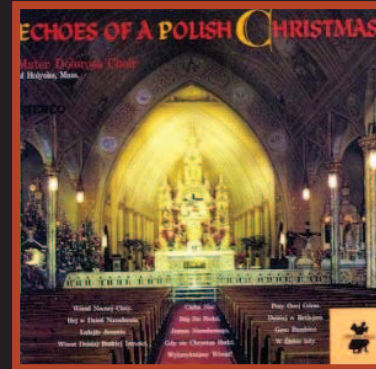
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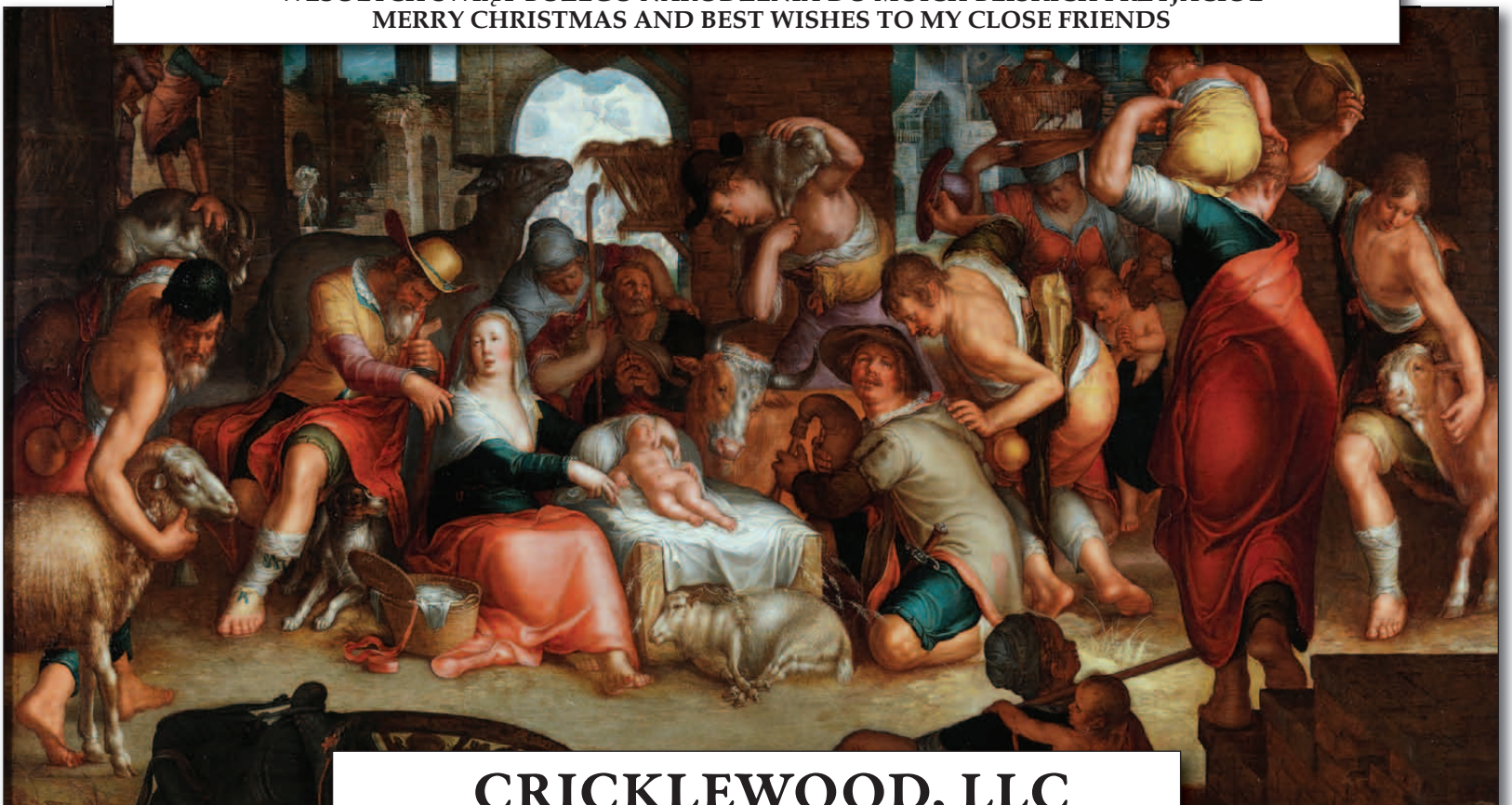
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Some of the PIASA's activities include: serving as a liaison between American and Polish academic circles; publishing *The Polish Review*; operating The Alfred Jurzykowski Memorial Library and Archives; organizing annual scholarly conferences; as well as organizing lectures, symposia, author evenings, and diverse cultural/scholarly exhibits.

Please note that our next multidisciplinary conference, the 73 Annual PIASA Meeting will be held in Toronto, Canada, June 11-13, 2015. For further information regarding registration, flight and hotel discounts please see our website www.piasa.org

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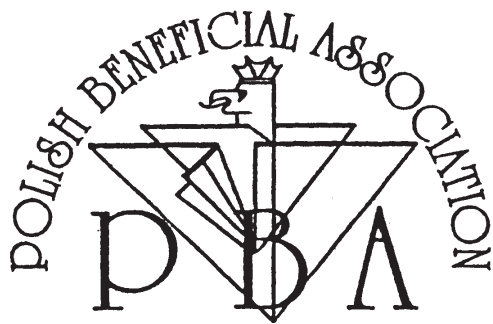
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Wigilia Peasant Style

*Nobel Prize winner's
Christmas glimpses*

by Robert Strybel

Christmas, the commemoration of Jesus' humble birth in a stable some two millennia ago, is experienced at many different levels. To Poles it has long been a religious experience, permeated by national and family traditions. The classic literary depiction of the Old Country Christmas of our Polish immigrant ancestors was created by self-taught Polish author Władysław Reymont who won the 1924 Nobel Literary Prize for his novel "Chłopi" ("The Peasants").

One of the best descriptive passages in Reymont's novel showing the life of Poland's peasantry throughout the four seasons of the year is devoted to Wigilia, the single most sacred and significant occasion for Polish people the world over. For Reymont's narration to make any sense, a basic knowledge of the characters is required.

The main hero was widower Maciej Boryna, an elderly, wealthy peasant who recently married the young, beautiful but none-too-faithful Jagna. Her mother is Dominikowa, Józka is Boryna's teenaged daughter from his previous marriage and Pietrek and Witek are farmhands. Roch is the somewhat shadowy figure of a former Polish freedom-fighter and fugitive being pursued by the Russian occupation forces. Jagustynka is an impoverished, old woman who has nowhere to spend Wigilia.

"Every peasant cottage got a good airing-out and everything was cleaned and scrubbed; sand was sprinkled all about and the fireplace was whitewashed," Reymont wrote. "Bread and holiday cakes were baked and herring were cleaned. The snow in front of the threshold was sprinkled with fresh evergreen needles. And



WIGILIA WUBOGIEJ CHACIE. (Christmas Eve in the cottage). Illustration of Christmas wafer sharing, from the magazine "Kłosy," 1878.

so it was at the Boryna home. Józka was snipping out colored paper cut-outs with which to decorate the cottage, and Jagna and her mother baked bread and holiday cake rolls...

"In the evening, a sheaf of grain was placed in the corner of the room, a bleached white cloth was spread over the table with hay laid beneath it, and the first star was watched for through the windows. When Roch announced it was time, they all sat on the long bench. Boryna was the first to sit down, then Dominikowa and her four children. Roch sat at center, then the farmhands Pietrek and Witek and next to him – Józka. Jagna sat down only

briefly because she kept bringing food to the table. Boryna took the oplatek, made the Sign of the Cross over it, divided it amongst those present and all ate it with great reverence."

Reymont continued: "On the table there first appeared tart beetroot soup, cooked with mushrooms and whole potatoes. Next came the herring, dipped in flour and fried in hempseed oil, followed by sauerkraut and mushrooms, also flavored with oil. At the end came a true treat – buckwheat pancakes made with honey and fried in poppyseed oil. And all this they munched down with plain rye bread, because yeast-raised loaves and cake rolls – containing as they do milk and butter – would have been out of place on the Wigilia fastday. Also invited was impoverished old Jagustynka whose own children had not invited her. After supper Roch read aloud excerpts from the Bible pertaining to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Next, Dominikowa suggested they all go to the cowshed, where Jagna divided up the livestock which had been present at Jesus' birth. Later they all went to Midnight Mass."

Fasting today is not as stringent as in the 19th century in which Reymont's novel is set. There is also no mention of Christmas presents – those didn't come about in Poland's countryside until well into the 20th century. But the general scheme of things has persisted. The first star, the hay, white table-cloth, oplatek, meatless courses and Midnight Mass are the things Polish people mainly associate with Christmas to this day.



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CHRISTMAS STORIES / Prof. Jerzy Gałkowski

Christmas in Poland During and After World War II

Christmas in Wartime

I remember him being dressed in a winter coat tied with a wire (which was very suspicious to me) and sounding like my uncle, but I dared not say anything.

The holidays were on the calendar but not in my memories, for two reasons. One was because I was too small to remember them, the other was because they had been preceded by tragedy. It was 1939, and I was two. Poland had fallen a few months earlier, attacked from two sides by two military powers. We lived in a small town in southern Wielkopolska [Great Poland], right near the border with then-German Wrocław. My father worked for the post office and just before the War broke out was armed ... just in case. Families of government workers like ours were told that, in the event of the danger of war, we were to evacuate to the county seat and await removal to central Poland. War approached so, on the signal, my mom went obediently with me to Rawicz where, of course, there was no removal.

"Go, they'll catch up to you."

So she went with a whole group of refugees, carrying a sick me on her back. It's better not to imagine what she went through. Happily—if one can speak of luck—she met her brother/my godfather, along the way. He was in the artillery, so he took us part of the way on an artillery vehicle carrying ammunition. Dad stayed at the post office but nothing came of their defense, because a couple of people with pistols could not stop tank columns driving through the town, where they didn't even stop.

Dad therefore followed in my mom's footsteps where, strangely, they met. They later went home but didn't stay there for long because, on December 13 at 4:00 a.m. the Gestapo came for us. With a previously prepared letter in their hands, they escorted local Germans in. I can therefore say that I had two such December 13s in my life, because later there was Jaruzelski's War, as we call martial law imposed December 13, 1981.

OUR TENDER GERMAN neighbors gave my family fifteen minutes to get dressed (taking my mom's fur in which she had dressed, because the temperature was -40°) and, along with a couple dozen people from our little town (the local administration, government workers, doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, etc.) and a few hundred from the surrounding area, packed us all into cattle wagons and took us a few hundred kilometers east, to the so-called General Government, someplace around Rzeszów. Wielkopolska was incorporated into the German Reich and thus so dangerous an element as the Polish intelligentsia had to be thrown out! My grandmother hid me and perhaps because of that I am alive, because travel in such train cars in bitter cold without food or drink for several days, followed by everybody being thrown out in an open field would have been a difficult experience.

Eventually, following various adventures, my teenage aunt brought me and my younger cousin, who was similarly situated, back to my parents. Thus we survived physically, but the psychological wounds didn't heal for years. But that is another story.

The earliest wartime Christmas that I remember was in Kraków. I don't know the date, but it was sometime in the middle of the War. It has stuck in my mind because of the presents: such is the memory of a child. Wigilia took place according to Wielkopolska ritual, hence presents came not from St. Nicholas but Gwiazdor [the figure who distributes Christmas presents in the areas that had been part of the Prussian Partition—ed.] I

remember him being dressed in a winter coat tied with a wire (which was very suspicious to me) and sounding like my uncle, but I dared not say anything.

The first two Christmases that stick in my mind I remember from the presents I received. The first was a mechanical toy—a bellboy who pushed a heavy trunk and then jumped atop it. Beautiful! I also remember the orange, perhaps not so much as a present as part of the Wigilia menu. My cousin (who was raised with me) and I got one orange to share. It was gotten from some German soldier who came from Greece and wanted to make some money. The adults were pleased that they could give the children such a delicacy. Then, for many years even after the War, I never saw another orange. At the time, I didn't like its taste: it was dried out and I couldn't understand the adults' fascination, which they likewise expected from me.

I remember no other dishes except the fried fish (where did they find it?) and some horrible grits, but we sang carols for a long time, because my family was very musical. There was a beautifully decorated Christmas tree with prewar decorations, because our relatives had lived in Kraków for many years. The windows were tightly sealed with black shades so that the "Allied enemies" (what enemies? They were our friends, maybe even our relatives, but the police enforced the blackout strictly) could not see Kraków from the air. The traditional Polish Pasterka took place, of course, in the afternoon due to curfew. Such was life at the time, such were the holidays.

Christmas After the War

These are mysteries the human mind cannot penetrate but which go to the core of man, giving endless possibilities to reflect on God, human fate, and their interrelationship.

When you get older, it's harder to remember what happened yesterday as opposed to what took place in childhood. That's well and good, because the mind readily stores happy memories while discarding the bad ones. That's why I remember better the Christmases right after the War than the ones later on.

After our wartime sojourns, we returned to our little family town in Wielkopolska near Wrocław, to which we later moved. Part of our family, however, stayed in the town: grandmother, grandfather, some of my mother's brothers, cousins. Thus, we spent Christmas mostly at the grandparents', which was especially happy because many other aunts, uncles, and cousins spread throughout Poland would gather there. It was cramped, loud, and happy. But first things first.

The Christmas season really began in my home in early December, because that's when mom baked her magical *pierniki*. At first, they were hard as rocks, but those that were stored in a big metal box for Christmas (if they survived till then) were soft but still crunchy.

In the week before Christmas, typically on Sunday, a box full of Christmas ornaments was brought down from the attic and everybody sat down at the largest table. The ornaments all had to be inspected, broken ones mended and new ones made. It was hard to call that work: it was rather a happy game, full

of stories and memories (and we had lots of them after the War). Everybody readily made chains out of colored and crepe paper, hay, and other items. Some made them simple; others, endowed with an artistic spirit, did more refined work. Little figures were made from shells and wire and painted gold. Angels arose from hay and cotton. There were many different stars and colorful chains. And we had to be sure there were enough glass ornaments left, because they most often broke.



AFTER THE BUSTLE of December 24, evening at last fell, as the children watched for the first star. First came prayer, then reading of an appropriate excerpt from Scripture. Following this was the sharing of *opłatek* and greetings, followed by the traditional twelve dishes.

The foods changed, depending on whom in the family had the deciding voice that year—family members lived in and had husbands and wives from different parts of Poland, so there were lots of traditions. The only unchanging items were herring, fried carp, and cabbage with mushrooms. There was no problem with carp because there was a huge fish pond nearby, established already in the Middle Ages by some monks. Even the war and, later, socialism didn't manage to destroy the fish. There were lots different kinds there, all tasty, but grandma wouldn't tolerate any changes: carp. After the appetizers and soup came the tray with fried fish. There were several soups and they changed annually. My bane was sweet soup (made from *pierniki*) but, happily, it was rarely made. There had to be ground poppy seed with raisins, *kompot* from dried fruit, and pastries like poppy seed rolls and *pierniki*. Fruit and nuts followed. Chocolate treats were rare, if they appeared at all, because obtaining them was difficult. Other products, produced locally, were easier to get because the area was agricultural.

Something more about the *opłatek*. During our exchange of greetings, we broke a beautiful white *opłatek*. There were also colored *opłatki* (pink, green) for the animals, which the area farmers shared with the cattle, horses, chickens, and dogs. My dog had been brought from Kraków, where he had wandered from house to house which the fleeing Germans had abandoned. He ate all kinds of *opłatki*. The children went around midnight to listen to the animals, who spoke at that hour with human voices, but I never managed to hear them.

AFTER SUPPER, we sang *kolędy* and *pastorałki*, the former hymns of a theological and doctrinal character, the latter folk songs with references to a given area and its customs but always connected to the birth of Jesus. Singing was long, because my family was musical. At that time, presents were also distributed, which is what most pleased the children. Carols, called *Gwiazdorzy*, used to visit houses on Christmas Eve to distribute presents, but

that custom quickly disappeared, because their behavior could be tough, especially towards the girls.

At midnight, we went to Midnight Mass (Pasterka) in the church on the other side of the square. Quiet, aided by the hiss of the gas lamps, the crunch of snow falling in big flakes and making a deep carpet, the trees capped in white—a magical time. Because there was no electricity in the town, gas provided lighting and heating. The church was illumined by hundreds of candles.

The parish church (because there was an older one, at the cemetery) had been built in the early 20th century and paid for by the local aristocracy. Because of that fact, the best artists in Poland had been invited to decorate it. The walls were covered from top to bottom in frescoes of the *Młoda Polska* style (usually extended angels in prayerful positions), executed by artists like Wyśpiński, Styka, and Falat. A huge picture of St. Isidore the Farmer, also by Falat, was on the side wall of the nave, obviously because of the agricultural nature of the place. The stained glass windows, full of stunning colors, were by Mehoffer. (Similar windows by that artist supposedly exist only in the largest churches of Switzerland, e.g., St. Nicholas Cathedral in Fribourg).

Just entering the church on that magical and holy night lifted the soul to heavenly heights. One has to be mature to grasp that beauty. And then there was the organ, blasting out carols sung wholeheartedly by everybody there, expressing the mystery of God's encounter with earth, the Creator with the creature. There is a carol full of the paradoxes of that encounter:

*Bóg się rodzi, moc truchleje,
Pan niebiosów obnażony.
Ogień krzepnie, blask ciemnieje,
Ma granice Nieskończony.*

*Wzgardzony, okryty chwałą,
Śmiertelny król nad wiekami,
A Słowo ciałem się stało
I mieszkało między nami.*

These are mysteries the human mind cannot penetrate but which go to the core of man, giving endless possibilities to reflect on God, human fate, and their interrelationship. The poet who wrote those words was certainly a great theologian, an intellectual full of faith.

The children could still admire the *crèche* with its figures of actual height. After Mass, everybody extended greetings to everybody else. Then, some returned home to receive guests while others went to visit family and friends. Once again there were carols and exchange of greetings. One could now eat meat, because the fast was over. Everyone loved each other. It was hoped that such love might suffice for a long time. In any event, the thread of hate was broken, something was reborn in us, something started anew.

How much of these are the memories of youth, how much the reflections of age, I know not.

Prof. Jerzy Gałkowski (b. 1937) is emeritus professor of philosophy in the Chair of Ethics at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, and a student of St. John Paul II. Wojtyła had presided in 1964 at his marriage to Maria Braun-Gałkowska, emeritus professor of psychology at the Catholic University of Lublin.



Christmas in the Shadow of Martial Law

by Aleksander Lasik

Back in 1981, I was an assistant professor at the provincial Higher School of Education in Bydgoszcz. Common opinion held that we were a “red school,” i.e., Communist-leaning. Despite that, already back in September 1980 a group was organized to form our own Solidarity cell. That fact was a denial of the standard viewpoint about our school’s ideological character.

Along with the imposition of martial law, a catastrophe befell us on Sunday, December 13, 1981. At the time, I was living in a neighboring town, not in Bydgoszcz. We gathered spontaneously on Monday (after all, the telephones were all disconnected) at the school. It was important for us to get a count of just how many of us hadn’t been interned. Many were already behind the camp wires, arrested on the basis of previously prepared lists. Luckily, only one of our colleagues and one of the female students from the Independent Student Union had been arrested. We decided quickly to gather financial help for them and to link up with previously met contacts from other Solidarity locals. Each of us was to decide individually what we would do, the only logical solution given our limited numbers. Now we know that we were not then an object of interest to the Communist security services. As a cell, we were just too small. The repression primarily affected the Mikołaj Kopernik University in Toruń, where several of our colleagues had been arrested and a commission, which threw people out of work, was established.

During the so-called “Solidarity Carnival” period of 1980-81, one could see that people also joined the union out of religious motives. Over the years, it became evident that the majority of us had married in the Church, perhaps not publicly, perhaps quietly, in small parishes where priests known to us didn’t even publish the banns, and who demanded only the documentation needed for a wedding. That’s how it was with me. (State employees, like professors, who married in the Church could be dismissed—ed.)

My father-in-law, also a teacher, was actively involved in Solidarity and later in the Solidarity underground in nearby Nakło-nad-Notecią, being hidden during the latter phase by various clergy.

All this happened hardly two weeks before Christmas. This all impacted our preparations. There was literally nothing available in the stores. Our thoughts were focused on tomorrow and on those suffering repression.

Christmas 1981 took place on the surface. Today it’s worth recalling that from a culinary perspective, the holidays had been prepared weeks ahead of time by collecting ration cards for the necessary products. Luckily, my late father was an enthusiastic hunter.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, the “Polish” government graciously allowed the celebration of Midnight Mass. The lyrics and music of the carols built up our spirits, but this time we could not forget a second Polish hymn, which we sang regularly at Mass in 1980-81: “Boże coś Polskę.” Its last verse — “Ojczyznę wolną racz nam wrócić Panie” (“O Lord, give us back a free home-

land”) —thundered the loudest with a unity of voices. Here and there, congregants also raised their hands with the famous “V” symbol. People went home after church in total silence. It struck me then: in earlier times, during the Partitions or the brutal and criminal occupation and terror to which Poland was subject, did Poles feel the same way as tonight? Without that special Christmas in 1981, there are lots of events in Polish history that I would not understand properly even today. That holiday helped me to understand the sense behind our Uprisings and our resistance, the sacrifices we bore, as well as the unity of Poles to maintain hope for an independent country.

Aleksander Lasik is a sociologist and professor of history in what is now the Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland. His expertise is in Nazi concentration camps and the SS.



Hej Kołęda!

continued from cover

Club, 512 S. Broadway, to form up. The musicians — with accordions, trumpets, saxophones, guitars, drums, etc., mount-up on a pickup truck’s sound-trailer, or stroll along behind it. Song booklets with Polish and English carols are distributed to all. Then the cheerful procession — with music playing and everyone singing — merrily winds its way through the old Polish neighborhoods, escorted by traffic police.

An average of 300 carolers gleefully shows up every year; that number can balloon either way, depending on the weather. Stops are made along the zigzagged two- to three-mile route at key locations/landmarks: Polish churches (open and closed); at Polish businesses (where “refreshments” are provided to the adults); and at homes of personages. One such stop used to be serenading U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski outside of her residence when she lived in Fells Point.

With a tip of the hat to “old country” nostalgia: During the earlier years of the kołędy happening wagons bedded with straw and drawn by ponies were used by the musicians, elderly and children. These

rustic conveyances were operated by street hucksters known locally as “a-rabers,” who all used to sing-song their various offerings, mainly produce, to the public. Once ubiquitous to the streets of old Baltimore, they are now very rarely seen or heard anymore. And one particular year it was so bitterly cold and blustery that the wagon ponies had to be sheltered in the hallway of the PNA building during the post-kołędy reception there.

Fast Forward: Today, when the revelers go full circle and arrive back at the Polish Home they are graciously treated to Polish food, beer and deserts all compliments of host Polish Community Association of Maryland in the large upstairs hall kindly provided by the Home. In short order, the polka band fires up and everyone dances the rest of the night away, with an ear cocked for Christmas knocking on the door.

So come one, come all to Hej Kołędy! in Baltimore. What better way to prepare for Christmas Eve (Wigilia) and Christmas Day (Boże Narodzenie) with family and friends than by participating in this beautiful and grand Polish tradition.



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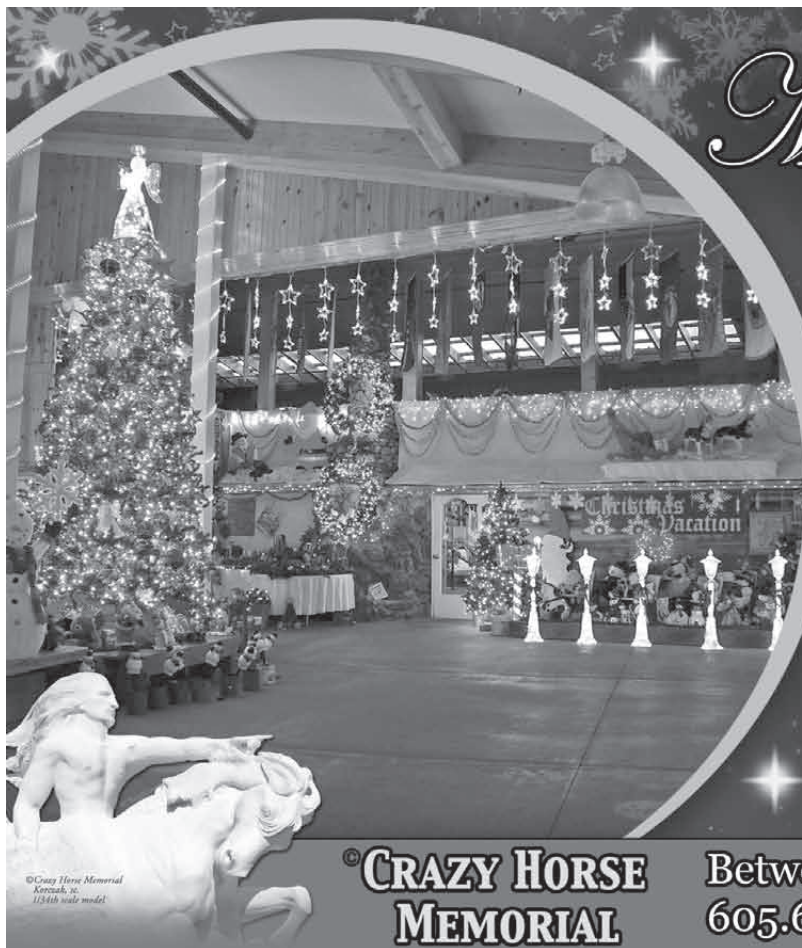
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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Easiest Polish Wigilia

Preparing a big Wigilia spread for just a few people may not make much sense. But families of only two or even those living alone may want to relive old times on this special night of the year. The following hints, including considerable "outsourcing," may be the answer.

CHRISTMAS WAFER (oplatek). An absolute Wigilia "must" is sharing the oplatek with loved ones. Those spending the occasion alone may break off and eat a piece while thinking of and maybe saying a little prayer for those who have gone on to their reward.

HERRING (śledzie). Serve store-bought herring just as they come in the jar. Choose marinated, creamed or in oil as per preference. Serve with rye bread or boiled potatoes as desired.

EASIEST BEETROOT BARSZCZ (najłatwiejszy czysty barszcz). The Polish deli, grocery or import shop near you may stock Polish brands (Hortex, Krakus, Fortuna) of heat-and-eat clear beetroot barszcz that comes in a carton like juice. It may be "doctored up" to taste with a little garlic powder, dry red wine, lemon juice or marjoram if desired, but many feel it is just right as it comes.

EASIEST MUSHROOM SOUP (najłatwiejsza zupa grzybowa). Your nearest Polish deli stocks excellent imported Polish mushroom soup in cartons of the heat & eat

variety. Serve over cooked store-bought egg noodles.

STORE-BOUGHT PIEROGI (kupne pierogi): Fresh and frozen pierogi, now more widely available than ever before, are the ideal solution for small families, couples and singles. Recommended for Wigilia are the sauerkraut & mushroom cheese & potato and potato & onion varieties.

STEWED FRUIT COMPOTE (kompot z suszu). Place 1 pkg mixed dried fruit in bowl. Add 2 cloves and a small piece of cinnamon bark and drench with boiling water to cover by 1 inch. Cover and let stand until cooled to room temp. If all the liquid has been absorbed, add 1-2 c cool, pre-boiled water. Refrigerate over night. Serve in desserts dishes for Wigilia.

CHRISTMAS CAKES (ciasta świąteczne). Polish delis and bakeries stock all the typical cakes traditionally served at Christmas. These include makowiec (poppysseed roll), piernik (gingerbread), keks (fruitcake) and babka (raised egg-bread).

CHRISTMAS CONFECTIONS (słodycze świąteczne). Polish groceries, delis, bakers and import shops stock delicious sweets from Poland. Among the most popular are: Śliwki w czekoladzie (chocolate-covered plums), Krówki (Polish fudge), Ptasia Mleczko (chocolate-covered marshmallow chiffon) and Pierniczki w Czekoladzie (choco-

late-covered gingerbread cookies).

Readers living in areas where Polish-style delicacies and other products are hard to find can check out:

SweetPoland.com. You will find here: Polish kielbasa, hams and many other traditional cold cuts. Offers a variety of pierogi. Polish candies and sweets including Wedel chocolates. Polish bread and cakes, wild mushrooms, relishes, soups and many other delights of the Old Country.

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Homemade Krupnik to Chase the Chills Away

St. Casimir's parish in Buffalo, N.Y., holds several fundraising events throughout the year. Among the most popular are pastor Rev. Czesław Michal Krysa's classes for holiday cordials.

Based on an old Krysa family specialty, his *krupnik* (honey cordial) recipe is generations old, and has been "perfected over the years," says Fr. Krysa.

First published in his book *A Polish Christmas Eve*, this holiday treat will chase away the chills, warm your heart, and the hearts of your guests.

To learn more about St. Casimir's Parish, visit its Facebook page.

You can order *A Polish Christmas Eve* from the Polish American Journal on line or by calling (800) 422-1275.



FR. KRYSA

HONEY CORDIAL - KRUPNIK *Krysa Family Recipe*

- 2 cups buckwheat or wild flower honey
- ½ cup water
- 3 tablespoons bitters*
- 1 lemon rind, pith removed, sliced into thin strips
- 1 vanilla bean
- ½ nutmeg or 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 6 whole cloves or 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 3 cinnamon sticks or 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 5 juniper berries
- 2 quarts 100 proof vodka

Break cinnamon sticks and vanilla bean into 2 to 3 pieces. Grind all whole spices (in a spice mill, hand held coffee grinder or food processor). Bring water (or prepared wormwood tea*) to a boil. Add honey, spices, bitters (if wormwood is not used) and bring to a boil. Add lemon rind. Let simmer for at least ½ hour. Remove from heat and cool. Strain cold mixture into a 2-gallon pot with a tight fitting cover. Bring to a boil and simmer. Bring vodka to a slow boil in a separate pot. After both the honey mixture and vodka are gently boiling, turn burner off and remove both mixtures from

stove. Away from the stove, carefully pour vodka into honey mixture (the mixture will foam violently). Immediately cover tightly. Cool to room temperature.

When at room temperature, pour mixture into gallon bottle and allow to settle for at least one week. Carefully pour off or siphon clear liquid into bottles, leaving the dregs (cloudy mixture of spices) behind. The dregs may be slowly filtered through a paper coffee filter folded into a cone and placed in a funnel. Filtering takes some time and the filters need to be changed each time more of the dregs are added.

Another way of creatively using the dregs is to add a tablespoon to freshly brewed coffee for a tasty Polish coffee treat!

* Bitters may be substituted with wormwood (piołun) herbal tea. Prepare the tea the night before by pouring ½ cup boiling water over 3 tablespoons of the herb. Let it brew overnight or until it cools to room temperature. Strain. Discard herbs and use wormwood tea for making the initial mixture of honey and spices. Wormwood is available at specialty spice/health food stores.

This Christmas, may we rejoice in the One who was born to be our Savior, and Jesus is the one. Merry Christmas from

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PLACE YOUR ORDERS TODAY FOR CHRISTMAS — THEY WILL LOVE IT!

Christmas in the Vilnius Region

by Andrej Askelowic

Photographs by Marian Dzwiniel

Vilnius (Wilno) is a multinational, multicultural city, in which Poles, Jews, Lithuanians, and other nationalities have lived for centuries. Amidst that multicultural diversity, many traditions intermixed. The traditions of Christmas are very beautiful, and the wait for that holiday provides an amazing atmosphere.

The people of Vilnius and the surrounding region begin their wait for Christmas already in November, when they gather at the Shrine of Our Lady of Ostrabrama for the annual patronal feast of Our Lady of Divine Mercy. The Feast of Christ the King, which ends the Church's liturgical year, is also a great local celebration.

The Lithuanian name for Wigilia — kuczios — probably derives from kutia, an extremely sweet dish made with wheat, poppy seed, honey, nuts, and raisins and very popular in the East.

Advent is a joyful waiting for the birth of Christ. Slowly, Vilnius starts changing; the streets and squares become even more beautiful with Christmas signs and ornaments. Commerce, too, plays a role in the wait for Christmas. Store windows are decked with Christmas trees and garlands. The city begins to light up. The city's main Christmas tree is erected in the Ss. Stanislaw and Wladyslaw Square in front of the Cathedral. Christmas trees are also put up on City Hall Square and in various Vilnius neighborhoods. The Vilnius Television Tower is transformed with garlands, from its visible point at 165 meters all the way up to its antenna at 326 meters (about 1000 feet).

The spiritual side of the holiday is, of course, the most important, something to which priests of the Archdiocese of Vilnius attend. There is the beautiful tradition of Roraty Masses, which are celebrated at dawn, to the praise of Our Lady. (Unfortunately, not all the churches of Vilnius cultivate that tradition but the Dominicans in Vilnius pay special attention to it.) In the Church of Ss. Philip & James, for example, the People of God participate in this devotion, holding lighted Marian candles (roratki) in their hands. The Dominican friars invite them afterwards to breakfast.

Advent candles, symbolizing the coming of Christ, are lit every Sunday in Vilnius's churches. That tradition has also been imported by various Polish schools in the Vilnius region, e.g., the Polish St. Stanislaw Kostka Gymnasium in Podbrzezcie and the Polish Multifunctional

School in Wesołowki.

Crèches are set up in Vilnius churches in December. Each is unique. A particularly beautiful one is at the Church of Ss. Peter & Paul, the pearl of the Vilnius Baroque style, whose crèche figures are movable. An original manger scene is at the Bernadine Church of Ss. Francis and Bernard, where live animals (usually donkeys and sheep) are found to the delight of all, especially children. The central crèche, with its life-size figures, is on Cathedral Square.

Charitable activities are another beautiful aspect of the Christmas preparatory period. Special telephone numbers are established to receive calls and SMS messages, the money going to the needy. "Caritas" candles are sold in churches, where food products are also collected.

Missions and retreats occur in Vilnius churches throughout Advent to prepare people spiritually for Christ's coming. Oplatek social dinners are organized in anticipation of Christmas. The biggest such gatherings are those at the Union of Poles

and decorate their rooms. The lady of the house prepares the Wigilia table.

Wigilia is the most anticipated supper of the year. The Lithuanian name for Wigilia — kuczios — probably derives from kutia, an extremely sweet dish made with wheat, poppy seed, honey, nuts, and raisins and very popular in the East. Kutia is not, however, the most characteristic holiday dish in Lithuania today.

THE WIGILIA SUPPER is unique. Only here are found śliżyki (*kuczios* in Lithuanian) — small, baked leavened cakes with poppy seed, a sign of prosperity. It is served with "poppy seed milk," known in the Vilnius region as *podsyta* or simply "sweet water." It consists of shredded poppy seed on which honey and water are poured.

In contrast to the Wigilia supper in Poland, in the Vilnius region no soup is served. In lieu of soup red (from cranberries) or white (from oats) kisiel is served. In some homes, the kisiel is so thick one does



OPLATKI are central to the Christmas celebration.

in Lithuania, organized at the Polish Cultural Home in Vilnius, and the one at the Ethnographic Museum in Niemenczyn for residents of the Vilnius region. And don't forget the Polish schools!

Nativity plays, carol singing, and sharing the oplatek occur in all the Polish schools. Fr. Marek Gładki, pastor of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Podbrzezcie and of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Jęczmieniszki takes part in eight such gatherings! We also recall the assistance from our fellow Poles in Poland for the Polish minority in Vilnius. Caravans full of presents and other assistance for Vilnius children arrive throughout the season.

Christmas Eve (Wigilia) is beautiful. December 24 is a strict fast day, but there's no time to eat anyway because everybody's so busy getting ready for the Feast!

Christmas is the biggest family feast in the Vilnius region. People clean their houses thoroughly, put up their Christmas trees (choinki)



A CHRISTMAS TRAIN makes it way through the streets of Vilnius, welcomed by young and old alike.



STÓŁ WIGILIJNY. With the exception of soup, the Christmas Eve table in Lithuania is set almost the same as in every Polish and Polish home — rich in fish, pierogi, mushrooms, grains, and other meatless dishes.

remain on the plate for those who have gone home to the Lord. Vilnius oplatki are pretty, baked by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Catherine's Abbey in Vilnius's Zwierzyniec District. Images of Our Lady of Ostrabrama frequently adorn them. One place at table is empty, set aside for travelers. It is left there after the supper is cleared, because at night the angels and the souls of the faithful departed "sit" at it.

In contrast to the Wigilia supper in Poland, in the Vilnius region no soup is served. In lieu of soup red (from cranberries) or white (from oats) kisiel is served.

PREDICTING THE FUTURE is an important element of Christmas Eve. It is said they can foretell, for example, what next year's weather and harvest will be like. A most

and strong winds, a bounty of nuts.

The traditional Wigilia evening ends with the exchange of presents, singing of carols, and going to Midnight Mass (Pasterka).

Numerous beautiful and colorful events and activities are organized during Christmastide. A Christmas train travels through Vilnius's Old Town, Christmas trees appear in squares, and a big skating rink is formed at City Hall Square.

It should be added that Orthodox Christians live alongside Catholics in Vilnius. Following the Julian Calendar, they observe Christmas on January 6, when the faithful gather for soczelnik (Wigilia) at the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. That church is famous because, near its iconostasis (the wall of images enclosing the altar), lie under glass the remains of three Orthodox saints — Eustachy, John, and Antonij — whose bodies are 667 years old. They were martyred by pagans in Lithuania in 1347.

The Vilnius region — with its tra-



"Ears" (left), a pierogi-type dough filled with mushrooms (pierożki drożdżowe), and miniature cakes of dough (ślizyki, right), are a distinctive and integral part of the Christmas table in Lithuania. The śliżyki (*kuczios* in Lithuanian), are small, baked leavened cakes with poppy seed, a sign of prosperity.

not drink it; it is eaten with a spoon. Of course, there can be no lack of kompot, made from dried fruit.

Wigilia is unimaginable without pierogi: mushroom, poppy seed, or uszki. Everybody loves them. They are made from raised dough, stuffed with shredded poppy seed and honey or sugar or with mushrooms that are ground and fried with onions. Sometimes, apple jam or soft cheese with raisins are also used as a stuffing. Pierogi are fried in oil. Below is a recipe for mushroom pierogi — of course, every woman has her own recipe, often passed down for generations.

THE NUMBER OF DISHES should be an even number and no less than twelve, symbolizing the months of the year. They are served atop a white tablecloth, beneath which is some hay, to symbolize the manger in which Christ was born. Caritas candles are lit. The main place at table is occupied by the oplatek which, after prayer and reading of the Gospel of the Nativity, is broken and shared together with greetings by all present. One or more oplatki

popular tradition to this day is taking some hay from beneath the tablecloth. An even number of blades denotes quick marriages. Long and even blades foretell long life without need. Broken blades augur a lack of success. Young women listen for the barking of dogs because, from the direction from which it comes will also come their suitors. A starry heaven denotes fertile crops

conditions, with children going house to house caroling, with the smell of Christmas dishes, with the crunch of snow — is beautiful at Christmastime. Many Poles — usually those who were forced to abandon their native place — recall Christmas with nostalgia in our city. But we are all joined by Polish language ... and Polish carols.

LITHUANIAN MUSHROOM PIEROGI

Dough:
3 oz. yeast
½ glass milk
14 oz. flour
Water (enough so that dough does not cling to one's fingers or dishes)

Filling:
Poppy seed
Dried mushrooms
Onions
Salt
Pepper
Oil for frying

Pour boiling water (best at night) on the mushrooms, then wash and cook. Add milk and fried, chopped onions, salt, and pepper. Prepare dough: dissolve about 3 ounces of yeast in warm water and let stand for a while to allow it to wade. Add poppy seed and water. Let dough stand in a warm place to rise, then take portions of it, roll it out, and make circular portions using a glass. Place a spoonful of filling in the center of each, then fold up with ends with your fingers and fry in hot oil.

SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Support the Polish American String Band

Dear Editor:

Since 1933, the Polish American String Band (PASB) has been a vital part of the Polish community. We are very proud of our roots. We are also proud of providing entertainment at many social and charitable functions, grand openings, and all types of community celebrations including our special bond with St. Adalbert's Parish.

For the first seventy-six years, we have rented our meeting and rehearsal space, whether it be the Polish American Association Club, the Polish Eagles Sports Club or the Columbia Social Club. Our dream has always been to own and operate our own clubhouse with a commitment and pledge to remain in and proudly represent the people of Port Richmond and Polonia.

In 2009 part of that dream was realized as we purchased an unmaintained property at Westmoreland and Salmon Streets. Using much of our own members' labor, we have tried to make the PASB club an asset to the neighborhood. We have renovated the outside structure to blend in with and reflect the care and maintenance that our neighbors put into their homes. We've opened our doors to the community to use for civic meetings. Our neighbors are utilizing our facility for various functions at a very reasonable fee in comparison to other local venues.

We are now in the final stages of our internal renovations. We are asking businesses, organizations and individuals to be part of our permanent foundation by purchasing a customized commemorative tile to be displayed on a prominent wall in our club in perpetuity.

The wording of your tile may be in Polish or English. It should be noted that PASB is a 501(c)(3) not-

for-profit organization. As such, your purchase is tax-deductible. Whether you use the tile as an advertisement, in memory of a loved one, or just as a sign of support for PASB, you will help to ensure that the Polish American String Band represents Polonia proudly. When you purchase a tile, you will receive an acknowledgement of the tile purchase, notification of tax deductible amount, and an invitation to the Grand Unveiling of the completed mural of tiles.

To donate, visit our website at www.polarengraving.com/polishamericanstringband, or call me at (267) 608-7969.

Walter Wojcik
PASB Tile Campaign
Philadelphia

RULING OPENS DOORS. Shalom, I thought your readers might enjoy reading about the advance of religious pluralism in Poland.

In a historic expression of support for religious freedom in Poland, a Polish appeals court rejected the attempt of the Orthodox religious establishment to deregister three existing Progressive Jewish communities (and an additional five in formation), and impose a legal requirement that only the Orthodox establishment can approve any other Jewish group that is seeking to organize themselves as a religious community in Poland.

On October 14, 2014 a three-member panel of the Polish Supreme Administrative Court instructed lower courts to reverse their decisions on technical issues that would have led to the deregistration of all Progressive Communities in Poland, and abridged the right of Jews to independently organize, worship, and develop alternatives to

the Orthodox monopoly.

Progressive Judaism in Poland is a continuation of the diverse non-Orthodox Jewish communities that formed as early as 1803 in Poland and numbered over forty synagogues and some 200,000 members before World War II.

One of the largest synagogues in all of Europe was a Reform congregation in Lodz.

Progressive Judaism in Poland historically expressed a diverse range of Jewish non-Orthodox views roughly equivalent to the Reform and Conservative movements in America.

Rabbi Allen Maller
Culver City, California

FAMILY TRADITION CONTINUES. Today (October 30) would have been my father's 98th birthday. He was Edward Dende, the son of John Dende, the founder of the Polish American Journal.

I just wanted to thank you for keeping this paper alive. It is a great avenue for the Polish people, and a testimony of what hard work can do. The efforts of my father's family

are still continued through your hard work and efforts. You even kindly remember the beginning of the paper on your website.

The PAJ reminds me of a saying I heard that I try to live every day: "You can't know where you're going unless you know where you've been." May God Bless you and the paper with continued success.

Conrad Dende
Detroit

A FITTING TRIBUTE. The first weekend of November, Chicago Polonia celebrated one of its most venerated families, and the establishment they have operated for the past fifty years: The Machays and Polonia Banquets.

Entering the doors on Saturday just blew me away. The hall was overflowing with people. Every table was filled, the dance floor was filled, and they were six deep at the bar. Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push provided the evening's entertainment. The band was spectacular, and people lined the stage front and packed the dance floor. Gomulka gave them an hour overtime, which

everyone enjoyed

Marge Machay and family provided a delicious dinner of Polish sausage and sauerkraut, along with stuffed cabbage and the famous Polonia dumplings.

Sunday was no different, with music alternating between Tony B & New Phase, and The Music Company. Both bands were outstanding, and the crowds were just as wild as on Saturday. This was a fitting tribute from the Polish community to the Machay Family for all their hard work sponsoring and promoting polka music for five decades.

It was great to see the old pictures of the Machay's Polonia Grove in the many albums and posters. What memories it brought back! It was good to renew those friendships of years gone by. It was equally nice to see folks we haven't seen for all those years.

Thank you Marge Machay and family for all those great memories, and we hope you have another 50 years of success.

Rich "Polka Suds" Cerajewski
Chicago



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We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, the PAJF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

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

OUR INITIATIVE

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



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

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Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return.

"KEEP ALIVE THIS HERITAGE"

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

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

We would be happy to discuss all the various options available to you so that you can make a donation in a way that corresponds exactly to your own personal situation.

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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 your donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND:
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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Religious Pressure Continues in Crimea

Two Catholic priests have been forced into exile, one, a Dominican who was expelled after he refused to collaborate with the Russian government. Visas are not being permitted for Polish priests to work with Roman Catholics in Crimea, recently seized from Ukraine and occupied by Russia. **Bishop Bronislaw Bernacki** admits "We can't actually prepare for the future now; we don't know what will come next."

Also under pressure is the Greek Catholic community facing increasing hostility from the Russian Orthodox leadership in Moscow caricaturing the Greek Catholics as a traitorous church seeking to undermine Russian Orthodoxy.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyiv Patriarchate, also has suffered the loss of six of its 15 parishes. The bishop's home was burned down.

This church was formed in 1995 to separate from the influence of Moscow. A parallel church exists and experiences no persecution since it is fully aligned with Moscow. Muslims too, specifically ethnic Tartars continue to suffer persecution, with young Muslims disappearing, tortured and killed, and homes and mosques raided on the pretext of searching for forbidden religious books.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ... Sr. Mary Crescenta Zalewski, CSSF, celebrating her 100th birthday at the Heart of Mary Convent in Cheektowaga, NY. She taught primary school for 56 years in Syracuse, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Ogdensburg, N.Y. and Erie, Pa., and Canada. She then worked as a remedial reading teacher in Syracuse before moving to the provincial house in Cheektowaga.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Fr. Richard Jędrzejewski, pastor of Assumption Church in Black Rock, Buffalo, N.Y., celebrating 40 years as a priest.

STO LAT TO ... Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph on their installation in the leadership team: **Sr. Ann Marie Hudzina, Sr. Marcia Ann Fiutko, Sr. Sharon Goodremote, Sr. Mi-**

chael Marie Jordan, Sr. Judith Elaine Salzman ... Rev. Lukasz Kopala, ordained along Thomas Mahoney and Daniel Obeifun as transitional deacons for service in the RC Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y.

SECRETARY VISITS NATIONAL SHRINE. Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki of Lviv, Ukraine, found that the exhibit of St. John Paul II's life at the national shrine in Washington, D.C. brought back memories of the years that he served a St. John Paul II's private secretary from 1996-2005. He noted that he encourages young people from the United States to visit the shrine to "learn about the teaching of John Paul II ... Walking through the different galleries, you can learn a lot about him as a person and about what he's done, what his accomplishments were and all the aspects of his papacy." He commented on the significance of the former pope's canonization by explaining "As John Paul II once said, 'Saints are not there to cherish them, but to follow them' ... From John Paul II what we can learn is this responsibility for our own vocation and realization of this vocation for what we do and who we are." Bishop Mokrzycki recalled the pope's nighttime ritual. "By the end of each day, around 10:30 P.M., he would go to the chapel, he would pray for a short period of time, then he would go back to his bedroom ... (and) dim the lights ... He would open the window and then he would bless the world."

POSSIBLE MIRACLE IN KNOXVILLE. Knoxville, Tenn. **Bishop Richard F. Stika** has begun the process on inquiry into a miracle attributed to Fr. Isaac Hecker, a Paulist Father who died in 1988. His cause for sainthood was opened in 2008.

BISHOP ZUBIK'S CHURCH CLOSINGS CHALLENGED. After the RC Diocese of Pittsburgh announced the closing of three churches in parish mergers, parishioners from the former St. Anthony Parish in Monongahela filed a formal petition with the Vatican seeking to reopen the church building.

Bishop Zubik closed the church after the councils of the new parish (merged with Transfiguration Parish) could not give a recommendation for the buildings. Bishop Zubik chose Transfiguration because of its central location and better physical condition. The petitioners claim that they could raise the funds necessary for the maintenance of St. Anthony's.

GAY TEACHER FIRED AT CATHOLIC HS. After nine years as a chemistry teacher and volleyball coach at Marian HS in Madison Heights, Mich., **Barbara Webb**, who is gay, said that she was fired when she became pregnant. She has been with her partner, **Kristen Lasecki**, for 5½ years. The school's president, **Sr. Lenore Pochelski**, confirmed that Webb's employment ended but declined to comment on that or her work as a teacher, citing confidentiality of personnel matters.

Webb noted that her pregnancy was "nontraditional" and appears to be what mattered to school officials.

The Marian HS mission is to endure an education in a Christian environment built on "strong academic curriculum, which will enable young women to value human diversity and live responsible lives of leadership and action based on Gospel values." Webb stated that she was trying to call attention to issues of social justice.

POLAND CONDEMNS SYNAGOGUE SLAUGHTER. Poland's foreign ministry has condemned the killings of four rabbis by two Palestinian assailants in Jerusalem on November 18.

"Poland condemns all acts of violence which could permanently block the Middle East peace talks," a statement released by the ministry affirmed.

"We call on the Palestinian side ... to refrain from further attacks."

Two young Palestinian men entered the house of worship, carrying guns and meat cleavers.

Of the four murdered rabbis, three had joint U.S. citizenship, and one had dual British citizenship.

Police stormed the synagogue, and the two assailants were shot dead. One officer died later from injuries sustained in the clash.

Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said that Israel would "settle the score with every terrorist," adding that "we are in a battle over Jerusalem, our eternal capital."

Poland has appealed for restraint on both sides.

"We trust that both parties in the conflict will make all necessary efforts to deescalate violence," Poland's foreign ministry stressed.

— *Polskie Radio*



Gora Piesn
Polska!

A Blessed and Joyous Holiday Season
and a Year of Happiness
and Peace to All
Wesołych Świąt
Bożego Narodzenia!

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MODLITWY

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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. With loving thanks, A.D.

ST. JUDE NOVENA. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A.D.

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. With loving thanks, W.S.L.

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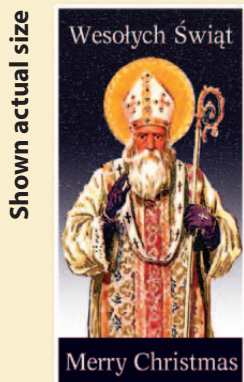


Hand-decorated Birchwood Polish Easter Egg **\$5.95 each**
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Description / explanation of each tradition depicted printed on back of card



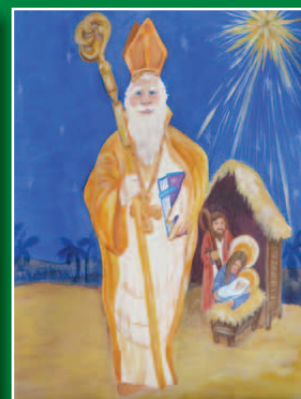
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CARD 306
Goral and his dog beneath the Christmas Star



CARD 307
Holy Family and Angel



CARD 308
Sw. Mikolaj at Manager



CARD 309
Angel blessing Wigilia



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CARD 301



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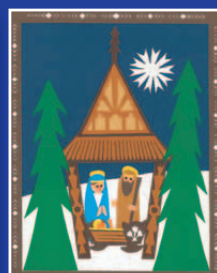
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300 pp., sc., illustrated, 8.25 x 10.75. **\$26.95**

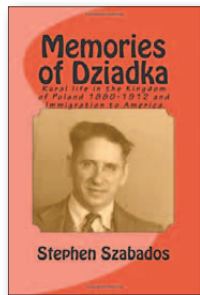
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POLISH / ENGLISH CHRISTMAS WORDS MOLD. \$8.95

12-coin mold. Each coin is 1-inch across x 1/4" deep. Includes Polish and English for: Merry Christmas, Christmas Eve, St. Nicholas, Christmas Tree, Manger, Star, Midnight Mass, Wafer, Christmas Play, and more!

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Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America

by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95
pb. 134 pp.
6 x 9 inches

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



HITLER'S FURIES
German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields
\$21.95
288 pp., hc.

Wendy Lower's stunning account of the role of German women on the

World War II Nazi eastern front powerfully revises history, proving that we have ignored the reality of women's participation in the Holocaust, including as brutal killers. The long-held picture of German women holding down the home front during the war, as loyal wives and cheerleaders for the Führer, pales in comparison to Lower's incisive case for the massive complicity, and worse, of the 500,000 young German women she places, for the first time, directly in the killing fields of the expanding Reich.

"A fascinating look into how women played roles in the Nazi Holocaust, this study reminds us that women's moral agency can serve good—and evil." *John Grondelski, Polish American Journal, January 2014.*

LAROUSSE POCKET POLISH-ENGLISH/ENGLISH-POLISH DICTIONARY

by Larousse
Published at \$6.95
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$5.50
608 pp., pb.

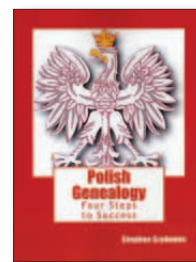
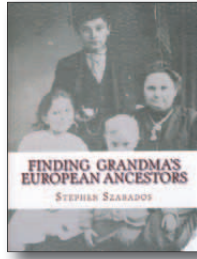
For anyone speaking, reading, or studying, the Larousse Pocket Dictionary is the ideal dictionary for everyday use. With its handy, portable, paperback format, great price and clear, easy-to-use layout it's filled with up-to-date vocabulary in all subject areas.

55,000 words and phrases and more than 80,000 translations; hundreds of usage examples; abbrevia-

tions, acronyms, and proper nouns.

FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS
by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95
128 pp., pb.

This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The author uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample documents, current websites and books that will be useful for your genealogical search. Even if you are not a beginner, this book will give you helpful tips that may be the one you need to locate that missing relative.

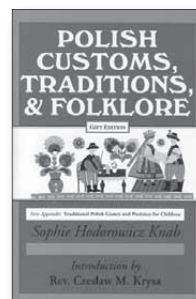


POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95
164 pp., pb.

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

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

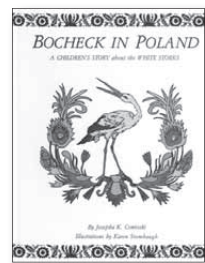
A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative" ... "fresh, different,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



POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, & FOLKLORE
\$16.95
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
340 pp., pb.
Hippocrene Books

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wi-

gilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, name-day celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.

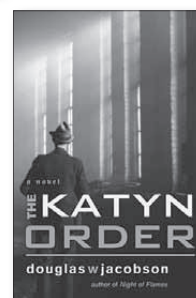
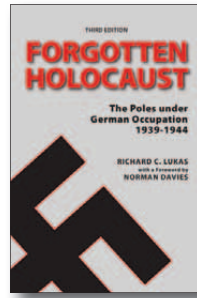


BOCEK IN POLAND
\$11.95
54 pp., *Polonie Publishing*

A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.

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

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.



THE KATYN ORDER
by Douglas W. Jacobson
\$24.95
384 pp., hc.,
McBooks Press

American Adam Nowak has been dropped into Poland by British intelligence as an assassin and Resistance fighter. During the Warsaw Uprising he meets Natalia, a covert operative who has lost everything. Amid the Allied power struggle left by Germany's defeat, Adam and Natalia join in a desperate hunt for the 1940 Soviet order authorizing the murders of 20,000 Polish army officers and civilians.

BY WAY OF HISTORY: A Soldier's Passage from Peace to War, Glory to Despair
by Lt. Col. J. Bokota, tr. by Stan Bokota
\$13.95, 174 pp.
Spiral bound, pb.



An eyewitness account of World War I and World War II events, last cavalry charges and the defeat of the Red Horse Army at Komarow in 1920, the battle of Bzura and Warszawa in 1939; the AK struggles, finally description of the moral and physical destruction of Poland by the Soviet regime in the years 1945-70. The events so well described, although interesting, are not as fascinating as the man himself, who comes through in these recollections.

TREASURED POLISH SONGS WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
\$24.95
350 pp., hc
Polonie Publ.

A magnificent collection of Polish songs with musical scores for voice and piano accompaniment. Included are folk songs, lullabies, religious, art songs and ballads, solo and quartet arrangements and more. Enhanced with colorful Wertén illustrations, the book features authentic Polish lyrics with beautiful English translations. Ideal for both musician and appreciative listener alike.

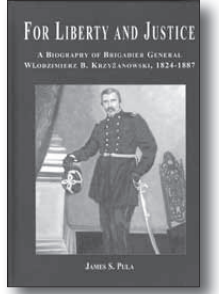


BE NOT AFRAID
by Heather Kirk
\$19.95
Borealis Press,
276 pp., pb.

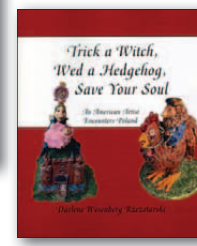
Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read,

well-written book? *Be Not Afraid* is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It killed no one.

FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE: A Biography of Brig. Gen. Włodzimierz B. Krzyzanowski, 1824-1887
\$29.95
by James Pula.
335 pp. plus introduction. 112 illustrations, hc. 1978, 2010



This lavishly illustrated biography of a major Polish American figure of the 19th century, tells the story of a Polish revolutionary exiled to America where he rises from private to general during the Civil War.



TRICK A WITCH, WED A HEDGEHOG, SAVE YOUR SOUL: An American Artist Encounters Poland
by Darlene

Wesenberg Rzezotarski. Wecker Press, 2012. 88 pp., pb. \$19.95

After the fall of Communism, Rzezotarski's husband had an amazing first meeting with Polish cousins, introducing the couple to the rich world of Polish and familial history, so intertwined as to become a microcosm. Rzezotarski brings an outsider's appreciation and an artist's intuition through tales of family, of national identity, and of the enchanted world of fairy tale and myth. Profusely illustrated in color.

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BY FLORENCE WASKIELEWICZ CLOWES

POLISH FOLK LEGENDS — \$14.95
Infinity Pub., 2010, 208 pp., pb.

Forty legends collected in Poland or researched in many books and periodicals, including Poland's first written history by Muenster in 895 that states King Popiel reigned in Polonia 246 years before Christ.

OLD SECRETS NEVER DIE — A Bashia Gordon Mystery — \$8.95 / with Lois J. Blackburn Infinity Publishing, 2007, 220 pp., pb.

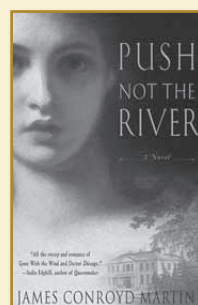
Bashia Gordon, semi-retired interior decorator and amateur sleuth, is at it again. When she learns her friend Connecticut State Trooper Mark Jankowski, is investigating the death of one of her clients, Gladys Goodell, her curiosity takes over. Soon a mummified baby is found in the old Goodell home. None of the Goodell sisters ever married. Whose baby could this be?

BONES IN THE BACKYARD — A Bashia Gordon Mystery — \$8.95 with Lois J. Blackburn Infinity Publishing / 2001, 198 pp., pb.

In the quiet corner of northeastern Connecticut, semi-retired interior decorator, Bashia Gordon, turns amateur sleuth when she and her Peace Corps friend, Dottie Weeks, uncover a fragmented skeleton in a septic tank. How did it get there? Who is it? Could the bones be the wealthy eccentric who disappeared years ago?

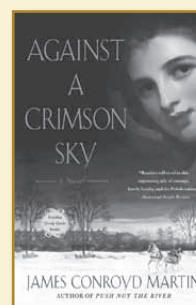
A HISTORY OF POLISH AMERICANS IN PITTSFIELD, MASS., 1862-1945
\$8.95 Palmetto Press 2004. 152 pp., 5.5" x 8.25," photographs, pb.

Using church records, organization brochures and oral histories, the author has compiled a valued history of the Polish community in Pittsfield, originally formed when nineteenth and twentieth century Polish immigrants came to the area seeking work in the wool mills.

JAMES MARTIN TRILOGY

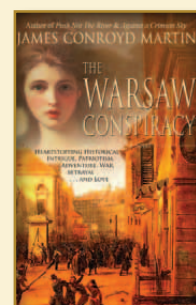
PUSH NOT THE RIVER
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press. 496 pp., pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



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

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



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

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

PAJ BOOKSTORE TRILOGY PACKAGE. Purchase all three of James Conroyd Martin's award-winning novels in a package and save almost \$10.00!

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- right) 5 1/2" x 4 1/4" with envelope with Polish and English greeting inside

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- D. Highlander Female - #570512
- E. Lowicz Male - #570513
- F. Lowicz Female - #570514
- G. Kashubian Male - #570515
- H. Kashubian Female - #570516

Great Gift Ideas

Featured Item!

Poland Coat-of-Arms Brass Door Knocker

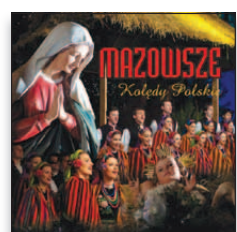
As the focal point of the entry way, the first thing a guest of your house will see is your front door. What better way to demonstrate your Polish household heritage, and welcome your guests, than with an attractively crafted brass doorknocker of the National Coat of Arms of Poland? Made in limited quantities, this ornately detailed functional brass doorknocker is hand-molded with precision by an accomplished metal smith.

Includes a reversible brass plate that has the Polish greeting "Witamy" on one side, and "Welcome" on the other so you can decide for yourself which greeting you want to display on your brass doorknocker.

Measures 4.25" W. x 10" H.
Mounting screws are included.
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Christmas Carols on CD



Mazowsze Ensemble on CD- Kolędy Polskie
19 of the most well known Christmas Carols performed by

Poland's most popular folk music group
Songs include: *Bóg się rodzi, Gdy się Chrystus rodzi, Wśród nocnej ciszy, Pójdźmy wszyscy do stajenki, Jezus malusieńki, Dzisiaj w Betlejem, & more.*
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Harfa Mens Choir - Najpiękniejsze Kolędy Polskie
These 18 Polish Christmas songs were performed

by the Harfa Men's Choir directed by Jan Węcowski. Recorded in the PWSM Concert Hall in Warsaw, February 1997.
Songs include: *Wśród nocnej ciszy, Dzisiaj w Betlejem, Gdy się Chrystus rodzi, & more*
#MTJ10046 - \$19.95



Bayer Full - Ida Swieta, The Holidays Are Coming
9 Polish Carols performed by the Bayer Full group. Songs

include: *Świąteczny remix, Idą Święta, Wspaniała matka, Zimowa miłość, & more*
#GM16021 - \$19.95

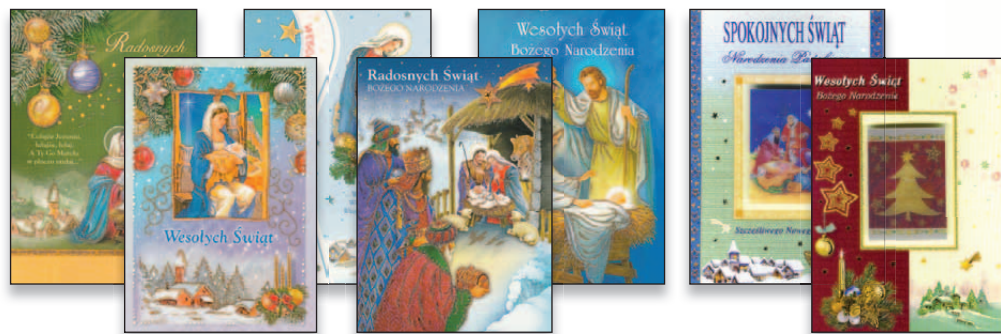


Piech & Sinski - Wesolych Swiat koledy tradycyjne
12 Traditional Polish Christmas Carols performed

by Anna Piech & Włodzimierz Siński.
Songs Include: *Anioł pasterzom mówił, Cicha noc & more.*
#NSM011 - \$19.95

Christmas Greeting Cards

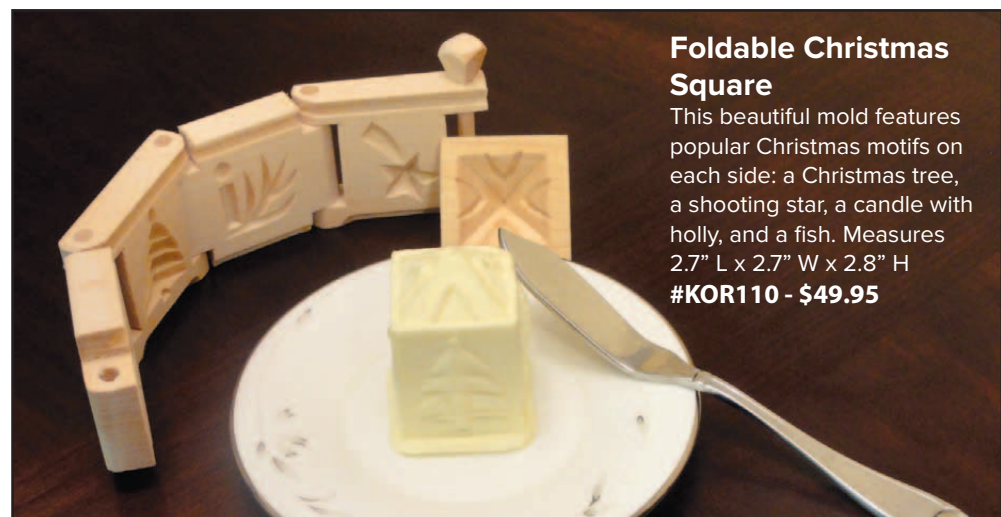
Each set of cards displays a Polish sentiment on the inside. Designs vary, so you may not get exactly what is shown. Envelopes included.



Religious Christmas Cards, Set of 5
Cards Measure: 4.7" x 6.5"
#PCS722 - \$13.95

Cards with 3-D pop-up pictures, Set of 2
#PCS703 - \$11.95

Christmas Butter Mold



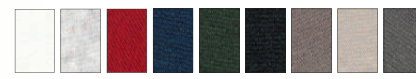
Foldable Christmas Square
This beautiful mold features popular Christmas motifs on each side: a Christmas tree, a shooting star, a candle with holly, and a fish. Measures 2.7" L x 2.7" W x 2.8" H
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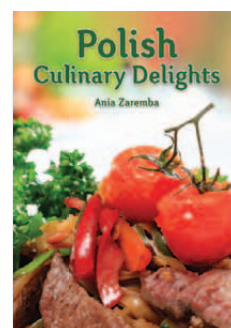
white, ash, red, navy, green, black, brown, sand, charcoal

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Small - XL: \$19.95
XXL: \$21.95
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Cookbook - Polish Culinary Delights

By Ania Zaremba
Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American

kitchen. Besides finding the usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family. Soft Cover. Measures 6.5" x 9.25". 224 pages. English Language version.
#BK2572 - \$24.95

Polish Eagle Spatula

This heavy-duty stainless steel grilling utensil, features a laser-cut image of the national emblem of Poland. It also has a bottle opener at the top of the hard maple wooden handle and the Polish word "Smaczne" in the center. 18.5" x 4" x 1". Made in the USA
#SP100 - \$29.95



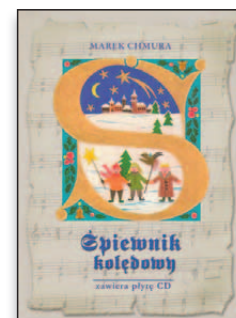
Christmas Books



Polish Holidays: An Introduction

This handy introductory guide to Polish holidays provides factual information in an easy to digest packet. Contained within is information, recipes, and/or songs for the Harvest Festival,

All Saints' Day, St. Nicholas' Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve, Three Kings, Carnival, Fat Thursday, and Easter. Soft Cover. 8.5" x 5.5", 28 pages. English.
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Songs include: *Wśród nocnej ciszy, Dzisiaj w Betlejem, Gdy się Chrystus rodzi, W żłobie leży, Anioł pasterzom mówił, Bracia patrzcie jeno, Hej, w dzień Narodzenia, & more.*
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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

“Forbidden Art” at PMA

CHICAGO — On October 19, 2014, well over 100 guests attended The Polish Museum of America (PMA) opening of perhaps its most significant exhibit, *Forbidden Art*, an exhibition featuring reproductions of World War II concentration camp art.



(l. to r.): Maria Ciesla, Robert Rusiecki, Jan Krawiec, Stanley Łyskanowski, and Małgorzata Kot.



Maria Hiszpańska, *Women with Wheelbarrows, Ravensbrück, 1943*.



Kazimierz Tyimiński, *A Diary of a Prisoner, Buchenwald, 1943-45*.

Małgorzata Kot, PMA managing director, and **Maria Ciesla**, president of the PMA, welcomed guests and remarks were given by the Honorable **Robert Rusiecki**, Poland's deputy consul general in Chicago; **Joseph A. Drobot, Jr.**, PMA chairman of the board and president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; and **Marcin Chumięcki**, director of The Polish Mission of Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan.

This exhibit was conceived by **Piotr Cywiński**, director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, and **Marcin Chumięcki**. **Elżbieta Cajzer**, head of the Auschwitz-Birkenau collections department, created and organized it. The exhibit offers the viewer 20 drawings, paintings, and sculptures created by Jewish and Christian concentration camp prisoners of the Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buchenwald, and Ravensbrück con-

centration camps.

From over 2,000 pieces of such artwork, these 20 were chosen to show, not only the horrors of concentration camp life, but also the emotional and idealized visions of the prisoners. In some cases, the art was, perhaps, a way for prisoners to hold onto their sanity and their humanity. The names of seven of the artists are unknown, for, as concentration camp prisoners, producing art could put their lives in jeopardy. Some of the artists whose identities are known include **Franciszek Jaźwiecki**, **Halina Olomucka**, **Kazimierz Tyimiński**, **Maria Hiszpańska**, **Zofia Stępień**, and **Josef Sapcaru**. Because the originals are very fragile, the drawings and paintings in this exhibit are reproductions. However, the three-dimensional works are originals.

Just to be able to collect art supplies was a miracle in itself, since art materials were virtually nonexistent. Some artists were able to get paper from “good kommandos.” Cigarette papers were used. In one case, an artist used a sharpened nail to carve a statue.

Honored guests at the opening were **Jan F. Krawiec**, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald concentration camp survivor, former editor-in-chief of the Polish Daily News, *Dziennik Zwiazkowy*, and a frequent speaker at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Educational Center; **Stanley (Stanislaw) Łyskanowski**, Auschwitz and Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp survivor and retired electronic engineer; **Jacek Nowakowski**, former managing director of the PMA and senior curator for research and acquisitions at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; and **Vincent Slatt**, reference librarian of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

For the past three years, this exhibit has been touring the United States. It has been exhibited at The Polish Mission, Wayne State University (Detroit), Northeastern Illinois University, Temple Beth Sholom (Las Vegas), Park East Synagogue (Manhattan, New York), the



PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED (l. to r.): Theresa Sinkowski, Barbara Ciepiela, Mary Anselmo, Lucie Bucki, Maria Chudzinski (seated), Maria Ciesla, Shirley Dudzinski, and Lucille Gutowski.

Eisenhower Presidential Museum (Abilene, Kansas), and the University of Wisconsin (Madison). The exhibit remains at the PMA until January 11, 2015. From then, it will most likely move to the United Nations in New York.

75 YEARS OF SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY PERMANENTLY ARCHIVED. This past October 5, the **Legion of Young Polish Women (Legion Młodych Polek) (LYPW)** celebrated its 75th anniversary of philanthropy and service to the Polish community in the United States and abroad, and was officially inaugurated into Loyola University Chicago's Women and Leadership Archives (WLA). The Legion's historical materials are the second largest collection in the WLA. This celebration was held on the top floor of Loyola University Chicago's Klarchek Information Commons Building overlooking Lake Michigan.

Established in 1994, the WLA collects, preserves, and provides materials of enduring value to researchers studying women's contributions to society. The WLA possesses the records of many women's organizations, mainly from Chicago and the Midwest. Now, the philanthropic and social history of the Legion of Young Polish Women has been added to its collection.

A recent exhibit traced the Legion of Young Polish Women's history through three thematic sections that explore the Legion's founding and early years (1939-1950), the organization's activities and causes, and its iconic events. Using audio and video interviews, the fourth and final section explores how the Legion has continued to remain a vital part of Chicago's Polish American community and what the Legion means to its members.

Historian **Laura Pearce** created the exhibit with support and additional assistance from **Kahlee Leingang**, a graduate student in Public History and Library Science

at North Carolina State University. The Legion of Young Polish Women and the University Libraries of Loyola University Chicago provided funding.

The Legion was thrilled and excited to have its history made available for all to visit and to be linked to the WLA via www.lib.luc.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/show/lypw.

The LYPW also reminded everyone that the 2015 White and Red Ball will be held on March 7, 2015, at the Chicago Hilton, with Bogdan Chmielewski, president of the Polish & Slavic

Federal Credit Union, as its master of ceremonies.

PMA ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS. On October 29, 2014, The Polish Museum of America held its 2015 board elections. Elected to the following offices were: president-**Richard Owsiany**, vice-presidents-**Andy Pawlowski** and **Paul Odrobina**, treasurer-**Maria Ciesla**, and recording secretary-**Victoria Grnacki**. New board members include **John J. Chitkowski**, **Robert Groszek**, and **James Robaczewski**. All will take office on January 28, 2015.

LYPW'S NEW OFFICERS. Congratulations are in order for the 2014 - 2015 officers of the Legion of Young Polish Women. At its annual meeting on October 21, the following Legion members were elected: president-**Mary Anselmo**, 1st vice president-**Bożenna Haszłakiewicz**, 2nd vice president-**Kathy Boyle**, treasurer-**Kathy Lesny**, recording secretary-**Kinga Rzyńska**, financial secretary-**Ann Nannini**, English corresponding secretary-**Cathy Domagalski**, Polish corresponding secretary-**Ewa Inglot**, historian-**Christina Jasinski**, and directors-**Maria Smiezek** and **Marianne Kobos Kozelka**.



NEW LEGION LEADERSHIP. (l. to r.): Maria Sniegzek, Ewa Inglot, Kathy Boyle, Mary Sandra Anselmo, Bożenna Haszłakiewicz, Kinga Rzyńska, Cathy Domagalski, Christina Jasinski, Kathy Lesny, Marianne Kobos Kozelka, and Theresa Sinkowski, Nomination Chair.

Ministry Hosts Innovation Week

LOS ANGELES — On Nov. 16-21, 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the Polish-American Innovation Week (PAIW). The event was organized in cooperation with a group of Polish institutional partners (Ministry of Science and Higher Education, National Research and Development Center, Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, Polish Patent Office, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of

Environment).

The project is aimed at sharing Polish achievements and innovations in the area of information technology, clean tech, financial services, life science and health.

The conference was one of the first events organized under the Polish-US Innovation Program that Polish and U.S. governments signed in June 2014 to foster R&D cooperation between the two countries.

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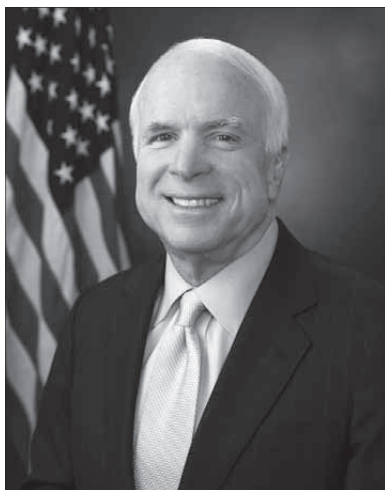


Senator McCain Receives Spirit of Jan Karski Award

NEW YORK — The Jan Karski Educational Foundation chose **Senator John McCain** (right) as the 2014 recipient of the Spirit of Jan Karski Award.

This award — the foundation's highest honor — is presented annually to an individual who has distinguished himself in defending human rights, speaking out against aggression, and on behalf of the integrity of ethnic and religious groups and sovereign nations.

“The Board of Directors of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation voted unanimously to honor Senator McCain for his courageous leadership and willingness to speak truth to power about international acts of aggression,” said Andrzej



Rojek, chairman of the board of directors of the Foundation. “This award recognizes Senator Mc-

McCain's leadership and lifetime of achievements on behalf of humanity — in the spirit of Jan Karski.”

The award was presented November 20 at the annual foundation gala event at the Polish Consulate in New York City.

The mission of the Foundation is to instill in the people of the United States — and especially its youth — the values of leadership, courage, integrity and humanitarian action, as exemplified by the life of Jan Karski.

Previous award recipients have included Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Polish Consul General in New York Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Polish Americans Fare Well in New York Elections

BUFFALO, N.Y. — WNY's Polonia was rather successful in the November 4 elections. WNY native **Kathy Hochul**, wife of U.S. Attorney **William Hochul**, was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York. **Donna Siwek** and **Paul Wojtaszek** were elected to 14 year terms in the NYS Supreme Court in the Eighth Judicial District. Cheektowaga Council Member **Angela Wozniak** was successful in her run for the 143rd District NYS Assembly seat. Erie County Family Court Judge **Margaret Szczur** was re-elected for another term.

On the local level, **Christine Adamczyk** was elected to the Cheektowaga Town Council and former Erie County Executive **Dennis Gorski** was successful in his bid to sit on the Cheektowaga Town Justice Court. **John Jendrowski** was elected to the Newstead Town Council and **Edmund Maziarz, Jr.** took the Town of Pendleton Justice Court seat.

POLONIA TIDBITS. The General Pulaski Association held its Pulaski Pageant recently at the Creekside Banquet Facility in

Cheektowaga. **Cassidie Pasek** was selected as Princess Pulaski, and **Maya Karmilowicz** will serve as Countess Pulaski ... **Polish films** filled the screens of theaters across WNY and Southern Ontario as part of the Polish Film Festivals held in Buffalo by the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College, Rochester by the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester, and Toronto by Ekran during November ... The Polish Legacy Project of Buffalo, Corpus Christi Choir and Polish Genealogical Society of NYS marked "**Polish Ancestors' Day**" at St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga with a Mass celebrated by Rev. Czeslaw Krysa, Nov. 1 ... Also on the 1st, the **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** performed part of Mickiewicz's "Forefathers' Eve," a celebration of "Dzien Zaduszny," at its Historic Polonia District clubrooms; and St. Casimir Parish in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood held a "Wypominki" (Remembrance Roll Call).

The **Chopin Singing Society's** 115th annual concert, entitled "The Best of Polish Music and Song,"

took place at St. Casimir Church, Nov. 2. A dinner dance at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga followed the concert ... The **Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre** of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto observed "Holocaust Education Week" with a variety of events from November 2 through 9. The events included the exhibition "The World Knew: Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity" ... On the 3rd, the **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** presented "Rock-n-Roll and the Cold War in Central and Eastern Europe" by Dr. Tamas Stark and Zbigniew Granat at Nazareth College.

The **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies of the University of Rochester presented Professor Andrzej Mania, Vice-Rector of the Jagiellonian University, on "European Security from the Polish Perspective in 2014" as part of its Watson Seminar Series, Nov. 4 ... The **Association of Priests for Polish Affairs** held its annual Mass for Deceased Polish Clergy and Religious at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy in Buffalo, Nov. 5 ... Nov. 6, **Agata Trzebuchowska**, the lead actress in the film, "Ida," and **Dr. Michal Oleszczyk**, film

critic and director of the Film Festival in Gdynia, were interviewed on Rochester's Fox affiliate Channel 7 as part of the Rochester Polish Film Festival ... Also on the 6th, the newly reconstructed cupola was returned to the top of the north tower of Buffalo's **Corpus Christi Church** ... WNY Polish veterans marked **Polish Independence Day** at St. Stanislaus Church, Nov. 8.

The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress hosted its 1st Annual "**Zupapalooza: Polish Soup Festival**" at the Pvt. Leonard VFW Post in Cheektowaga.

UPCOMING. Our **Lady of Czestochowa Parish** in North Tonawanda will host its 25th annual "Wigilia," and the **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and WNY** will hold its Christmas Party and Installation of Officers at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew, Dec. 6 ... The **Chopin Singing Society** "Wigilia" will take place at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, and the Polka Variety Social Club Christmas Party will be held on the 6th as well ... District IX of the **Polish Singers Alliance of America** will hold its "Annual Festival of Carols" at St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of

WNY's Polonia in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, Dec. 7th ... The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** will hold its Christmas Party and Elections at Rizotto Ristorante in Williamsville, Dec. 8th ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will vote on bylaw changes at its Annual Meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst, Dec. 10th ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** will hold its "Wigilia" in the Cleary Auditorium of St. John Fisher College, and the Buffalo Polka Boosters will hold their Christmas Party, Dec. 13th ... Forgotten Buffalo will offer its "**Polish Tavern Christmas**" tour, Dec. 19th and 20th ... The **Syracuse Polish Home's** "Oplatek" is scheduled for December 29th ... The Polka Country Musicians and Special Delivery will perform at the "**Polka New Year's Eve at the Millennium Hotel**" in Cheektowaga on the 31st of December ... The "God is Born, Bog Sie Rodzi" Christmas concert featuring the Novi Singers, Our Lady of Sorrows Choir and Maciej Jaskiewicz's Toronto Sinfonietta will take place at Toronto's **Our Lady of Sorrows Church**, January 4 ... The **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** (BPO) is sponsoring an eight day VIP tour of Warsaw and Krakow with Maestro JoAnn Falletta and BPO First French Horn Jacek Muzyk during May of 2015. More information is available from the website bop.org.

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



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- A home without a security system is 3 times more likely to be burglarized.³
- 85% of Police Officials surveyed believe home alarms deter burglary attempts.⁴

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 National Crime Report http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109 2. http://fbi.gov/ucr/2009/content/pub/press/vdbpocr 3. FBI, 2008 National Crime Report http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109 4. http://www.beyondidentity.com/home-security-statistics.html

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POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

The Destruction of Kalisz

In any area in which a war is fought the civilian population suffers greatly. Such was the case with the Polish people during World War One. Hundreds of miles of the Eastern Front ran through the Polish provinces of belligerents Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary and at least ten million Poles lived in areas directly in the path of the conflict.

Typically, civilians evacuate their homes ahead of an advancing army or hunker down hoping to survive the onslaught. The invaders, either purposely or as a result of "collateral damage," cause great loss of civilian lives and property. Food and other goods are often stolen and buildings damaged.

Retreating armies often force civilian evacuations ahead of them, take all the civilian property they can carry, then destroy what they cannot take, to include homes, vehicles, crops, even churches. This is so they cannot be used by the advancing army. Both rural areas and cities suffer.

The Eastern Front battles that were fought on Polish territory occurred mainly in three areas. In the north, Russia and Germany fought in East Prussia and Russian Lithuania. East Prussia was almost exclusively German, but in Lithuania, long part of the old Polish Commonwealth, Poles lived in the cities, especially Wilno (Vilnius), where they were a majority. The area to the immediate south of East Prussia was heavily Polish and was affected by the battles.



THE MARKET ON MARIAŃSKA STREET in Kalisz, following devastation by the Germans.

Farther south in eastern Galicia, Austria's Polish province, Russia invaded and took the Polish cities of Lwów and Przemyśl, then later were chased back out.

In the center, Germany was determined to invade and capture Russian Poland, officially called the Congress Kingdom of Poland, and which included the major Polish cities of Łódź and Warsaw.

AT THE START OF THE WAR, Kalisz was a Polish city of 65,000 in the Russian partition of Poland. It was a rail center very near the borders of Germany and Austria-Hungary and as such was a prime target for those countries. Indeed, just after the war began, on August 2 Germany crossed the border and seized Kalisz, which had been deserted by

Russian forces.

For the next two weeks the city was subject to horrible events. In short, civilians were chased from their homes, shot in the streets, their homes burned down, and rabbis and priests held hostage. Most of Kalisz was shelled and burned by the Germans.

When the Germans first entered the city, the residents and city officials greeted them with friendly gestures. Ethnic Poles within the German ranks even sought out and engaged residents in conversation. But within a few hours the Germans began drinking, breaking into homes and shops and stealing and mistreating people. By the next day the soldiers began to bombard the city center. Though the Germans claimed they were first fired on

by civilians, no such proof exists. Rather, the incident apparently began with drunken German soldiers wildly firing off their weapons.

ORDERED TO DESTROY. The commanding officer ordered retaliatory attacks against the civilian population and soldiers began raking buildings with rifle fire and dragging residents out into the streets, beating and killing some of them. The mayor and other officials were forced to lie face down on the pavement with pistols to their heads. Doctors were prohibited from treating the injured. In certain instances Jews, thirty percent of the population, were singled out, but the devastation knew no ethnic bounds. Panicked residents fled the city despite German threats to shoot anyone attempting to leave.

On August 7, with the city center still smoldering, a spooked horse startled some soldiers into firing their weapons wildly. The situation quickly deteriorated into a repeat of the brutality of August 3. City Hall was burned down and the entire center of the Kalisz was set aflame. Thousands of residents fled the city and mass arrests were made. Many men were shipped off to a POW camp in Germany. Those residents who later returned found their homes and stores looted if they stood at all. The pillaging and arson continued by the German troops until August 22 when the commander finally imposed order.

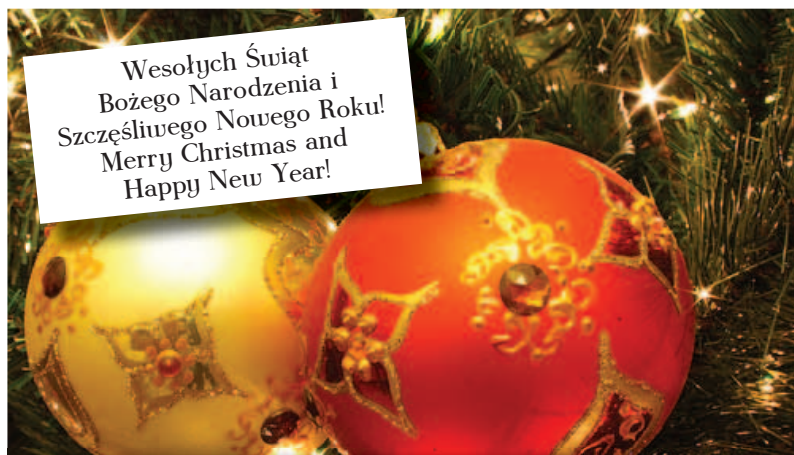
The destruction of Kalisz was one of the signal atrocities of the war. Ninety-five percent of the city

was destroyed and its population reduced to 5,000 as the residents scattered. The number of civilian deaths is undetermined but accounts seem to indicate several hundred.

Just like Kalisz, Częstochowa was abandoned by the Russians and the Germans entered the city on the same day, August 3. Some drunken German soldiers fired at one another, civilians were blamed and a few executed in retaliation. But unlike Kalisz, there was no wholesale violence. The Germans closed factories and "urged" men to go to Germany for work. Some 20,000 ultimately took up the "offer."

Jasna Góra monastery's chapel holding the Black Madonna painting suffered some damage and the icon itself may have been slightly damaged. After accusations that the Germans were misbehaving at Jasna Góra, in 1915 the monastery was put under control of their Austrian allies who were Catholic and more respectful toward it. That same year Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany visited the shrine. He fancied himself a devout Christian and donated a large sum to the restoration and preservation of the painting.

Conditions in Częstochowa deteriorated as the German occupation continued and just as in other cities captured by them, the population suffered from a lack of services, unemployment, and food and fuel shortages. Hunger, disease and poverty became widespread due in large part to the Germans conscripting most goods for the war effort and the German economy itself.



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POLONIA PLACES / Greg Witul

St. Hedwig, Trenton, N.J.

St. Hedwig R.C. Church
872 Brunswick Ave
Trenton, New Jersey
Status: Open

There is nothing more beautiful than a historic Polish church during a Midnight Mass. With the Christmas decorations, a slight chill in the air and standing room only, it is one of the few times that many Polish-Americans celebrate the traditions of their ancestors. A fine example of these magnificent parishes is St. Hedwig Roman Catholic Church in Trenton, N.J., and the unique circumstance of the church's founding.

Poles started arriving in Trenton in the latter half of the 1800s. By the turn of the century, they had established two Roman Catholic parishes — Holy Cross in the Chambersburg neighborhood and St. Stanislaus in South Trenton. In early 1900, a delegation of Poles, which settled in the Top Road area of northern Trenton, approached Bishop McFaul about starting their own church. The reasoning behind the plea was the distance the faithful had to travel for Mass and the safety of the children who had to walk to school. When the Bishop turned down the plea, many of the families in the area banded together and on November 1, 1900

formed the Casimir Pulaski Society. The Society existed for one reason: to establish and maintain a Polish school in northern Trenton. Within a year a location was secured, a school house was erected, Ms. Helen Klaniecki was hired as a teacher, and by September of 1903, 72 children were enrolled. With the success of the school another committee appealed to the Bishop about establishing a Polish parish in north Trenton. With the evidence of a strong community that could support a parish, the Bishop agreed to the application and on July 16, 1904 St. Hedwig was established.

With the establishment of the parish, the Polish school became a church on Sundays with Father John Supinski as pastor. Within the first year Supinski acquired land for his parish and oversaw the construction of a combination church/school building. In the following years the parish saw steady growth; a gallery had to be added to the church for additional seating, Felician Sisters took over teaching at school, and a cemetery was established. In 1915 Rev. Julian Zelinski was transferred to the parish. When the experienced priest looked around, he saw a



school overflowing with children, Masses with standing room only and the need for a parish hall. For seven years Zelinski raised funds and laid the ground work for his building projects. In 1922, the priest hired architect George C. Dietrich and construction of a new school began. When the school with rooms to serve as a parish hall, Zelinski began working with Dietrich on his next project, a new church.

For his new building, Father Julian envisioned a cruciform brick church with soaring towers, stained glass by Joseph Mazur, and seating for over 1,000 parishioners. Sadly the priest would never see his church completed. On Nov. 25, 1924 Fr. Zelinski perished in a car accident. The contractors quickly installed plank flooring, an altar was built, and Fr. Zelinski's funeral was conducted in the half-finished church.

After the building was finished, the parish of St. Hedwig continued to thrive. Today the parish still holds onto its Polish roots. It is now overseen by Rev. Dr. Jacek W. Labinski and Polish Masses are offered every Sunday at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m., while this year's Midnight Mass will be performed in both Polish and English. Wesołych Świąt



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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Poland Shocks the World

Poland recently shocked Germany —and the soccer world — by defeating World Cup champion Germany 2-0 in a European Championship qualifier in Warsaw. It was Poland's first win over Germany in 19 tries over 81 years.

Arkadiusz Milik scored with Poland's first shot on goal in the 51st minute, heading **Lukasz Piszczek's** floated cross to the empty net after Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer missed it. **Robert Lewandowski** then set up Sebastian Mila to score inside the far post in the 88th. The best shot for Germany came when Polish-born **Lukas Podolski** hit the crossbar in the 80th.

Poland handed Germany its first defeat after 18 competitive games, and its first loss in qualifying after 33 matches since a 3-0 loss at home to the Czech Republic in October 2007. While Germany won the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, Poland didn't even qualify. Michal Pol of the Polish sports daily *Przegląd Sportowy* wrote that Poland's win was "a miracle, something that shouldn't happen according to nature, physics and Murphy's law." *Gazeta Polska*, a nationalist daily, referred to the Battle of Grunwald (or First Battle of Tannenberg) in 1410, when Polish-led forces crushed the Teutonic knights.

Germany maintained its number one FIFA ranking despite the loss, though Poland moved up from 70th to 44th in the world.

Poland won despite having had just four shots and allowing 22 attempts on their own goal. Polish goalkeeper **Wojciech Szczesny** was named "Man of the Match." However, *Rzeczpospolita*, the Polish national daily newspaper, said that the day's best player was 26-year-old Robert Lewandowski, "himself showing what to do, which others followed." "Lewa," a striker who plays for Bayern Munich, is considered Poland's best player and one of the few with any international experience.

In its next match against Scotland, Poland pulled out a 2-2 draw when Milik scored in the 76th minute. Polish coach **Adam Nawalka** wanted a win but was glad to see his team even the score. "We are satisfied with a point considering we were one goal down. It is good that we managed to recover," Nawalka said.

Poland is in Group D (with Germany, Scotland, Ireland, Georgia and Gibraltar) in the qualifying competition for UEFA Euro 2016. Play will continue through November 2015 to determine the 23 teams to join France, who has an automatic qualification as host of the 2016 European championship.

Interestingly, it was just the latest in a number of key Polish sports victories over Germany of late. Polish teams this year defeated the German national team in basketball, handball and volleyball. Poles went on to win the world championship in volleyball.

GETTING BETTER. Sports in Poland seem to be on the upswing, and not just in soccer and volleyball. Poland also did unexpectedly well at the winter Olympics, as well as in some of the cycling world's elite



Goalkeeper **WOJCIECH SZCZESNY** was named "Man of the Match" events.

According to the economist.com, those sports successes are reflective of Poland's broader economic and political advancements over the last 25 years. "In 1989 Poland was a bankrupt, hyper-inflationary, communist basket case occupied by Soviet troops." It stated. "It is now one of Europe's most successful economies, after more than two decades without a recession, and a member of NATO." It quoted Marcin Piatkowski, a World Bank economist, as stating: "Poland is going through its best time ever in history, a new Golden Age. Wins in sports are symbolic of this remarkable success."

The strong economy and domestic political stability seem to be paying international dividends, such as former Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk becoming president of the European Council. "Despite being buffeted by the war in Ukraine and the Russian embargo in the east and the slowing Euro zone in the west, Poland's economy is expected to grow by about 3% this year. The IMF, meanwhile, cut its prediction for this year's German growth to only 1.4%."

Still, Poland is significantly poorer than Germany; the Polish gross domestic product in current dollars is less than a third of the Germans'. Poland's challenge, said economist.com, includes investing more in innovation, reducing red tape and improving its universities. However, those challenges are not dampening the excitement Poles feel about their recent athletic achievements.

MADDON TO CHICAGO. In an effort to break its 106-year championship drought, the Chicago Cubs gave **Joe Maddon** a five-year, \$25 million deal to manage the team. The former Tampa manager, Maddon quickly gave Chicagoland a taste of his unique persona at his initial press conference, offering to buy a round for everyone in attendance. "The Hazelton way," Maddon said, referring to his Pennsylvania hometown.

The 60-year-old son of an Italian father, Joe (who shortened the family name from Maddonini), and a Polish mother, Albina (Beanie) Klocek, Maddon grew up in an apartment over his father's plumbing shop. His mother is still a waitress at the Third Base Luncheonette restaurant in Hazelton.

While with the Rays, Maddon



MADDON

created "Thanksmas," a charity that provides free meals and gifts between Thanksgiving and Christmas in the Tampa area. Every Thanksmas, Maddon prepared a traditional Italian/Polish holiday feast — with pierogi and meatballs — for hundreds of the needy.

An unconventional manager as well as a charismatic personality, Maddon is considered a little crazy by some. His response? "You have to have a little bit of crazy to be successful," Maddon said. "I want crazy in the clubhouse every day. You need to be crazy to be great."



COMING HOME. Alan Trammell (above) has returned to the Detroit Tigers, where he was an All-Star shortstop, a World Series MVP, a coach and their manager. Tram has been named special assistant to Tigers' president, general manager and chief executive officer **Dave Dombrowski**,

The Tigers announced that the 1998 inductee into the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame will assist with on-field duties at both the major and minor-league levels.

Trammell, 56, was a six-time All-Star who played for the Tigers



DOMBROWSKI

from 1977-1996. He was the team's hitting coach in 1999 and managed the Tigers from 2003-2005.

Dombrowski had dismissed Trammell as manager following a 71-91 record in 2005, a season which capped a dreary three years, but he continued to have a friendly relationship with him.

Trammell had a chance to remain with the team as a special assistant in 2006, but opted to sit out the season. In 2007, he was hired as the Chicago Cubs' bench coach, then became the bench coach in 2010 for the Arizona Diamondbacks under manager Kirk Gibson, his longtime friend and teammate.

BACK IN THE NFL. The three Polish American NFL head coaches who were fired last season are all doing well in their assistant positions. Former Houston head coach **Gary Kubiak**, now the offensive coordinator of the Baltimore Ravens, has been called a "godsend" for Ravens QB Joe Flacco by si.com. Despite suffering an on-field mini-stroke last year, Kubiak's health has been good. The Pittsburgh offensive line has made remarkable progress under new line coach **Mike Munchak**, former head coach of the Tennessee Titans. The Steelers have improved their rushing and pass protection significantly. **Rob Chudzinski**, fired as head coach of the Cleveland Browns after just one season, was hired to be Colts' head coach Chuck Pagano's special assistant. Despite the rather vague job title, according to Indianapolis media Chud has been a valuable asset on both sides of the ball.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Danish-born tennis star **Caroline Wozniacki** ran her first marathon, finishing the NYC Marathon in just under 3 hours, 27 minutes ... Patriots TE **Rob Gronkowski** caught his 50th touchdown pass in his 59th career game. That tied him with Randy Moss for the second fastest player in history to hit that mark (Lance Alworth did it in 54 games) ... **Denny Biodrowski**, a son of Polish immigrants who played guard for the Kansas City Chiefs from 1963 to 1967, died recently at 74 ... **Norbert "Nobby" Wirkowski**, a Chicago native who quarterbacked the Toronto Argonauts to the 1952 Grey Cup, died at 88 ... Even though 37-year-old catcher **A.J. Pierzynski** was left off the Division Series roster and had caught just nine innings since Aug. 30, he started at catcher in place of injured Yadier Molina for the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 3

of the NLCS against the San Francisco Giants ... In Jacksonville's first victory of 2014 over Cleveland they lost middle linebacker **Paul Posluszny** for the season with a torn pectoral muscle. He was the Jaguars' leading tackler (69) and has recorded at least 110 tackles every season from 2008 to 2013.

LOOKING BACK: 1964. Fifty years ago —back in 1964—Cleveland and Buffalo were at the top of the pro football world. In a pair of upsets, the Browns won the NFL crown while the Bills captured the championship of the rival AFL.

The day after Christmas, 1964, the Bills hosted the high-powered San Diego Chargers. As expected the Chargers jumped to an early 7-0 lead. It was all Buffalo after that, as the Bills stout defense dominated. Buffalo scored on short runs by Wray Carlton and Jack Kemp, and a pair of field goals by Pete Gogolak. Cookie Gilchrist rushed for 122 yards.

The Bills roster included All AFL defensive lineman **Tom Sestak**. Sestak, a 2007 inductee into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame, anchored Buffalo's stalwart defense. Others included the versatile **Ed Rutkowski** and center **Walt Cudzik**. **John Mazur** coached the offense. **Eddie Abramowski** was the Bills' trainer.

The following day the Cleveland Browns won the NFL title in Cleveland Municipal Stadium, shutting down the Baltimore Colts, 27-0. The Browns rugged defense stopped Johnny Unitas, Lenny Moore and the rest of the Colts' offense. After a scoreless first half, Frank Ryan passed to Gary Collins for three touchdowns, and Lou "the Toe" Groza added two field goals. Jim Brown rushed for 124 yards. Cleveland's defense was led by their great tackle, **Dick Modzelewski**. **Jim Kanicki**, a second-year defensive tackle, had a breakout game against All-Pro Jim Parker. **Jim Ninowski** was the backup QB, and **Stan Sczurek** was a reserve linebacker. **Dick Szymanski** started at center for the Colts, and **Lou (Majka) Michaels** played defensive end. The Browns were coached by Blanton Collier who had replaced the Paul Brown the previous season. His staff included linebackers coach **Ed Uliniski**, who spent over 30 years as a Browns' player and coach.

Fans from both cities wondered who would win a Cleveland-Buffalo matchup, but a NFL-AFL "Super Bowl" was still a couple of years away. The AFL title was the first major sports championship for Buffalo. The Bills won again the following year, but not since then. Cleveland made it to the NFL championship game the following season, but lost to Green Bay. Cleveland has not won a major title in any pro sports since winning that NFL title in 1964.

POLONIAN INK. I'm looking for athletes who have Polish-themed tattoos. If you know of any, please email me at ttarapacki@gmail.com. Also, if you have any other items of interest for this column, please send them as well.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Oral History – Fact or Fiction?

Your family's oral history may involve stories of the immigration of the family to America or it may be as simple as saving a family recipe. The information we obtain through conversations with relatives must be taken at face value. But remember that memories often fade and facts get confused with other facts. Some of the information may not seem accurate but remember that some parts are probably true. You should include the entire story in the family history and add your concerns. You or future researchers should try to sort out your concerns and resolve the problem.

To identify what is fact or fiction in our family stories can be a true challenge of our researching skills. Sometimes confirmation can be found in easily located documents such as birth or marriage records, but many times written documentation is very hard to find. Also, hearing the story from multiple people may not be proof because they may have all heard the story from the same source.

Trying to find the details of my father's military service proved difficult for me because his records were destroyed in a 1973 fire at the Military Service Records Center. I started with what he told me while he was alive and added to it the information from his youngest brother. However, the discharge papers that I was able to obtain contradicted some of this information. Combing through family

photo albums yielded pictures of him in uniform and gave me clues of the various airfields where he was stationed before his discharge. I also found information on unit morning reports that listed some of his activities and medical problems. Although my research has not given me the complete picture of his military service, it has identified some parts of the oral history that may be fiction. Also my search is not over because I continue to identify sources of information that may give me the details to fill in more of missing pieces.

It takes practice to recognize what parts of oral history should be believed, but in most cases all portions of the stories should be researched to confirm their validity. The fictional parts should be included in your family story along with an explanation of why it is fictional.

Remember that we may never find the complete story because some information simply isn't available. Also be patient and research the facts thoroughly. Writing our family history sometimes requires us to take things with a grain of salt until they can be verified.

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

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



COBBLESTONED STREETS OF OLD TOWN. Warsaw. May 19, 1976.

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

What Does Your Last Name Mean?

Have you ever wondered what your Polish last name means? Many started out as toponymic nicknames to indicate the locality someone called home. The original **Kozłowski** came from Kozłowo (Buckton), **Lipiński** was from Lipiny (Lindenville) and the first **Zaleski** hailed from Zalesie (Overwood). Some of them made their way into the ranks of the szlachta (gentry) and received coats of arms to prove it.

For a custom-researched surname analysis explaining what

your Polish last name means, how it came about, how many people use it, where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with it, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland. Included with the analysis will be a useful genealogical contact chart which can help you track down your family records in Poland and possibly even turn up long-lost relations.

For more information contact: research60@gmail.com

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POLISH CAN BE FUN! / Robert Strybel

Kto co robi? - Who Does What?

The last time, you were asked to write 10 simple sentences using the various family members provided. Was that too tough an assignment? Of course, it all depends on how much Polish you already know or are able to recall. People who knew some Polish back in the day but haven't used it in years often say it starts coming back to them when they're exposed to the language again. What about you?

How many of the following sentences can you understand? First read each sentence through, preferably out loud, see how much of it you understand and then check that against the translation provided at the bottom of the column.

NOTE. In daily colloquial speech it would be more common to refer to matka as mama, ojciec as tata, dziadek as dziadzio and ciotka as ciocia. (These are the Polish equivalents of mum, dad, grandpa and auntie).

1. Mama była wczoraj w Filadelfii, a dzisiaj będzie w Nowym Jorku.
2. Dziadzio w kuchni czyta gazetę, naturalnie "PolAm Journal."
3. Mój zięć nigdy nie ma czasu, ciągle jest zajęty.
4. Wujek Adam to brat mojej mamy. Mieszka w Cheektowaga.
5. Tata cały dzień siedzi i pisze na komputerze.
6. Siostra pracuje w biurze, a brat jest dentystą.
7. Co robisz? - Oglądam telewizję, ale nie ma nic ciekawego.
8. Mój kuzyn Tomek ma dużą aptekę i jest bardzo bogaty.
9. Jutro bratowa ma nam ugotować obiad. Bardzo dobrze gotuje.
10. Ciocia Wanda ma piękne, nowe auto - Forda Fiesta.

How many could you understand right off the bat? Did some of them give you only a rough idea at first, and then come into sharper focus after you had re-read them? Were there any that were totally incomprehensible? Whatever the case, here are the translations:

1. Mum was in Philadelphia yesterday and today she'll be in New York.
2. Grandpa is reading a newspaper in the kitchen - naturally the "Polish American Journal."
3. My son-in-law never has any time, he's always busy.
4. Uncle Adam is my mum's brother. He lives in Cheektowaga.
5. All day long dad sits and types on the computer.
6. My sister works in an office, and my brother is a dentist.
7. What are you doing? - I'm watching TV but there's nothing interesting.
8. My cousin Tom has a big pharmacy and is very wealthy.
9. Tomorrow my sister-in-law is going to cook our dinner. She's a very good cook.
10. Aunt Wanda has a cute, new, little car - a Ford Fiesta.

For next time, write down any Polish words, phrases, greetings, etc. that you recall from before you started reading this column - the typical kind of family and Polish neighborhood things.

WORDS OF WISDOM
Co nagle, to po diable!

READER INPUT is most appreciated. If you have any questions, remarks or suggestions, please feel free to email them to: strybel@interia.pl

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

Perfect for the Budding Genealogist

POLISH ROOTS
By Rosemary A. Chorzempa
Genealogical Publishing
Co., Inc, 2014, 270 pps.

Are you interested in investigating your Polish heritage but are not sure how to get started? *Polish Roots* is the book for you. *Polish Roots* originally written in 1993 by Rosemary Chorzempa is now in its second edition with many additions including tips on how to research using online resources and a list of helpful books that were published after 1993.

Chorzempa writes in an uncomplicated way that is perfect for both the beginner and intermediate genealogists. She begins the book with information that she unearthed about her own great-grandfather, a Polish peasant farmer. She gathered information about him and his family using his death certificate, various church records, passenger lists, city directories, U.S. Census records, police blotters, among other sources. From these resources she

was able to piece together his biography, including when and where he was born, where he moved to, who he married, and his children's names and dates of birth. Chorzempa explains that anyone can learn these types of things about their family history.

Among the diverse resources she suggests in Part One are Polish genealogical societies in America, a list and description of research libraries with Polish materials in America and Canada, cemetery records, church records, funeral home records, obituaries, church anniversary books, U.S. Census records, and your own relatives.

In Part Two: Research in Poland, Rosemary gives a brief summary of Poland's complex history. She covers different regions such as Podhale, Podlasie, and Kashubia. She also describes the other ethnic groups in Poland, social classes, and heraldry. Chorzempa suggests using historical maps, geographical dictionaries, church and civil records. She also has a guide on writing let-

ters in Polish to Poland to obtain records and common Polish words in vital records. Part Two also contains lists of common Polish, Ukrainian, and German names with their English equivalents.

In Part Three, Chorzempa describes how to use online genealogical sources in both America and Poland such as government websites, subscription websites, military records, and ships' passenger lists.

Polish Roots is not only great for beginner and intermediate genealogists; it's also a must-have for experts and organizations concerned with Polish genealogy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Rosemary Chorzempa has been a genealogist for almost 50 years. She has researched her own family tree back to the 1700s and has been awarded a medal by the Polish Genealogical Society of America for her contributions to Polish genealogy. Chorzempa's other books include *My Family Tree Workbook* and *Design Your Own Coat-of-Arms*.

NEW BOOKS

Learning About Polonia from One of its Most Important Scholars

MY YEARS IN AND OUT OF "THE IVORY TOWER"
Chronological Review of Noteworthy Events and Deeds with Selected Public Statements
By Thaddeus V. Gromada
ISBN 978-0-9849187-2-0
\$14.95
236 pages

This book is a chronological review of the career of Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Professor Emeritus of Eastern European History at New Jersey City University and past president and executive director of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA). Gromada traces in detail his record of activities and achievements since 1959 as a scholar, teacher, administrator, organizer of academic and cultural events and activist. As an advocate he promoted the improvement of history/social studies instruction in our schools, championed cultural pluralism and inter-ethnic cooperation in our society, advanced knowledge about Poland's history, culture and the contributions of the Polish American group (Polonia); also encouraged scholarly and cultural exchanges between Poland and the United States. The book also contains a collection of selected statements and articles by Gromada which reflect his concerns and the issues he encountered. They include: "Poland and Eastern Europe in the Secondary Schools of New Jersey," "The Mythical Melting Pot: The Place of Ethnic and Immigrant Studies in the School Curriculum," "PIASA During the Cold War," "Polish Americans and Poland; Past and Present," "My Reminiscences of Pope John Paul II," "Collapse of the Berlin Wall: A Polish Perspective," and many others.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Thaddeus V. Gromada received his MA and Ph.D. in East Central European History from Fordham University under the mentorship of the Polish historian Oskar Halecki. Currently he is Professor Emeritus of European History at New Jersey City University, where he organized Multi-Ethnic and Immigrant Studies, which included Polish studies.

Gromada is author, editor, contributor of several books dealing with Polish foreign policy in the interwar period, Polish-Czech-Slovak relations, American immigration and ethnic history and Polish high-

lander folk culture as well as author of numerous articles in scholarly journals. Governor Thomas H. Kean appointed Gromada chairman of his Commission on Eastern European History which in 1989 issued an acclaimed report on the status of East European studies in the secondary schools of New Jersey. He also served as consultant to the Federal Department of Education, National Education Association, Smithsonian Institution, New Jersey Department of Higher Education, Polish American Congress, as well as educational consultant on the production of the educational film *The Immigrant Experience* and to PBS television on the production of a documentary *The Polish Americans*. Gromada had a long association with the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America, where he served as executive director (1991-2011) and president (2008-2011). He also served in various capacities at the Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish American Historical Association (PAHA), Polish American Congress, and the Polish Tatra Highlanders Alliance.

In 1984 he was awarded the "Haiman Medal" by PAHA and the "Distinguished Service Award" in 2000 by the American Council for Polish Culture and the "Commander's Cross of Merit" from the president of Poland in Kraków. A native of Passaic, New Jersey he now lives with his wife Theresa in Bermuda Run, North Carolina.

The book is available from Tatra Eagle Press, 31 Madison Ave. Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604; (336) 940-5656 or (201) 288-3815 or email tgromada@mindspring.com. Add \$3.00 for postage. Make checks payable to "Tatra Eagle Press."

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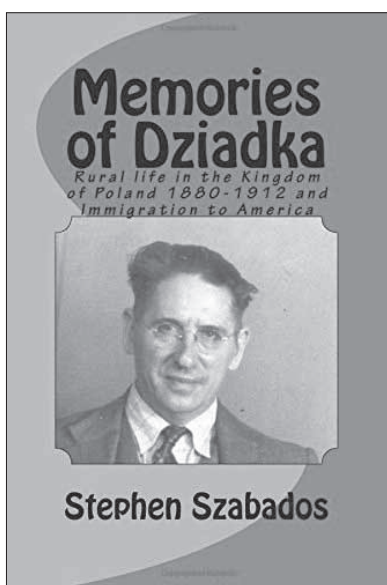
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New Book Explains Life in the Russian Partition

CHICAGO — Genealogist and author Steve Szabados has written a new book about the life of a Polish immigrant from the Russian partition of Poland.

"Memories of Dziadka" describes the area where Szabados' grandfather was born, lists many facts and activities of his early life in rural Polish Russia, and describes the customs and traditions that his family celebrated as he grew to manhood.

Other topics include the possible reasons for his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; his trek across Poland and Germany to the port of Bremerhaven, and his experience in the port and his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; his arrival in America and the process for admittance to the United States after leaving the ship. There is also a chapter on the details of his life in



America.

"I wanted to put some of the interesting stories that I had of Polish

immigrants together in one place to make it easy for other people to read and understand their hardships," said Szabados, who has written five print and several digital books on genealogy and history. "My hope in writing this book is to share the information about the daily lives of the Polish people living in the rural areas of Poland. I used my grandfather as the central figure in this book but this is not his biography."

Szabados said his grandfather was not a person whose accomplishments would be in history books, but his life "is an example of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s."

❖ ❖ ❖
The book is \$14.95 plus \$5.95 shipping, and will be available from the Polish American Journal Bookstore (800) 422-1275; www.polamjournal.com.

Lost Zeromski Manuscript Unearthed

WARSAW — A lost manuscript of a novel by revered Polish author Stefan Zeromski has been revealed to public. Since many of the author's manuscripts were destroyed during World War II, the discovery of a copy of *The Faithful River* (*Wierna Rzeka*) has delighted the literary world.

Zeromski (1864-1925) has been called "the conscience of Polish literature." The January Uprising of 1863 against Tsarist Russia is the subject of *The Faithful River*. The novel has been adapted for the movie screen three times. The most recent was in 1983 in which Olgierd Lukaszewicz played the leading role of a wounded Polish insurgent. The history of the novel's whereabouts and ultimate discovery is a noteworthy and fascinating one.

The writer's daughter Monika Zeromska had combed Warsaw looking for her father's manuscripts following the war. She managed to find some, including remnants of a copy of *The Faithful River*. However, as Zeromska recounted in her memoir, the manuscript was so destroyed by the Warsaw Rising, that she decided to burn what remained of it. However, it has now emerged that Father Jozef Niedziela, a Polish clergyman and collector from the Silesia region, owned another copy.

The priest was arrested by the Germans in World War II, and died at the Dachau Nazi death camp, July 8, 1942.

The manuscript survived, and found its way to an auction House in Warsaw, where it was recently sold to an unnamed buyer.

The novel has been adapted for the silver screen three times.

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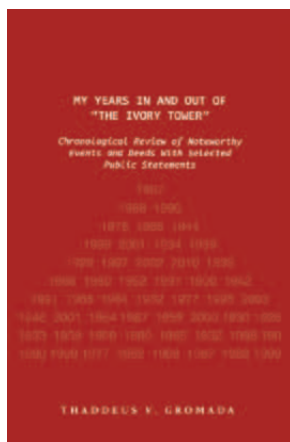
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BABY BOOM? Poland's birth-rate is on the rise, according to figures published by the Central Statistical Office. A total of 186,000 babies were born during the first half of 2014 — a figure that tops by 5500 the same period last year. The length of maternity leave offered to new parents may be helping the new figures.

NEW: MY YEARS IN AND OUT "THE IVORY TOWER"

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by Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Professor Emeritus of Eastern European History at New Jersey City University and past President and Executive Director of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA).



Dr. Gromada traces in detail his record of activities and achievements since 1959 as a scholar, teacher, administrator, organizer of academic and cultural events and activist. He promoted the improvement of history/social studies instruction in our schools, championed cultural pluralism and inter-ethnic cooperation in our society, advanced knowledge about Poland's history, culture and the contributions of the Polish American group (Polonia); and encouraged scholarly and cultural exchanges between Poland and the United States. Gromada is author, editor, contributor of several books dealing with Polish foreign policy in the interwar period, Polish-Czech-Slovak relations, American Immigration and Ethnic history and Polish Highlander folk culture as well as author of numerous articles in scholarly journals.

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OBITUARIES

Brigadier General Walter Jajko, USAF, Ret.

Longtime Institute of World Politics (IWP) professor Brigadier General Walter Jajko USAF, Ret., a statesman, strategist, and scholar, died after a long illness.

Born the first son of a Polish immigrant family, Jajko served his country in a distinguished 29-year career in the United States Air Force, as well as for over two decades as a civilian official at the highest levels of government. At IWP, he taught a course entitled "Military Strategy: An Overview of the Theorists of Warfare," which serves as a critical component of the school's programs in national security affairs.

Jajko graduated with honors from the University of Pennsylvania and later earned a graduate degree and certificate from the East European and Russian Institutes at Columbia University. He did additional post-graduate study at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. He was also a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

During Jajko's Air Force career, he served in fighter, reconnaissance, bomber, airlift, special operations, and intelligence units in Southeast Asia, North Africa, and elsewhere. His staff appointments included service as a strategic planner in the Concepts, Strategy, Doctrine Branch of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, HQ USAF; as a strategy analyst in the Directorate



of Soviet Affairs and a Warsaw Pact analyst in the Estimates Directorate, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, HQ USAF; as a long range planner for the Secretary of the Air Force; and as Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Programs and Resources, HQ USAF.

Following his retirement from active duty, Jajko served as Director of the Special Advisory Staff in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight (where he was in charge of oversight of all the intelligence services within the Department of Defense); as Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Support (where he served as the most senior

intelligence policy official in the DoD); and as Manager of a Presidential program. While occupying these positions, he was in charge of DoD covert action and DoD support of CIA covert action, wrote DoD's first public diplomacy doctrine, and rewrote DoD's psychological operations doctrine. He was one of the very rare officials to have worked at the nexus of military strategy, diplomacy, public diplomacy, strategic communications, counterpropaganda, psychological strategy, and political warfare.

Prior to his retirement from government service, Jajko was the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Fellow at IWP.

Jajko wrote and lectured on numerous topics related to such arts of statecraft as intelligence and counterintelligence, deception, covert action, psychological operations, and strategic surprise, as well as various topics on East Central Europe, including the Polish RAF fighter squadrons in the Battle of Britain and the Warsaw Uprising. He wrote and lectured on such strategic regions as the Balkans, Poland, Ukraine, and Russia, at such institutions as the National War College, the Joint Military Intelligence College, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Hoover Institution.

Most recently, he was the author of *Military Strategy: Thoughts Toward a Critique*.

Funeral arrangements are being planned for Arlington Cemetery in early 2015.

Sculptor Igor Mitoraj

PARIS — Sculptor Igor Mitoraj, recipient of the high Polish state distinction — the Commander's Cross of the Order of Reborn Poland — died in Paris. He was 70.

A graduate of the department of painting at the Fine Arts Academy in Kraków, Mitoraj continued his studies in Paris where he lived for many years, taking up sculpture as his primary field of artistic activity.

In 1983 he moved to the Tuscan coastal town of Pietrasanta, where he established a second home and a



Igor Mitoraj's sculpture "Eros Bendato" ("Eros Tied") at marketplace in Kraków.

studio.

Mitoraj used marble and bronze as his materials.

His sculptures can be found in many Italian cities, in Paris, London, Japan, the United States and Poland and include the bronze doors and a statue of John the Baptist for the Ba-

silica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Rome and the "Angelic Doors" for the Jesuit Church in Warsaw.

An exhibition of Mitoraj's work is currently on show close to the Leaning Tower in Pisa.

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Pronouncing the Polish Christmas Alphabet

by Robert Strybel

Since many readers have only a rudimentary knowledge of spoken Polish but cannot read it fluently, for their benefit in addition to listing the various customs, their pronunciation has also been provided.

ADWENT: Pronounced: "AHD-vent," Advent, the nearly four-week period of spiritual preparation for Christmas. It is the time to build a Christmas crib, welcome Święty Mikołaj, prepare home-made tree ornaments, light successive candles of the Advent Wreath, pray and mediate a bit more and think of the needy.

ANIOL: Pronounced: "AH-nyo," the Polish word for angel, a figure who recurs throughout the season in Christmas carols, nativity plays and holiday decorations.

ANIOLEK: Pronounced: "ah-NYO-wek," diminutive of "anioł" meaning little angel, the Christmas Eve gift-giver in some parts of Poland, St. Nick's helper in others and a favorite Christmas tree peak ornament.

BARSZCZ: Pronounced: "barshch," a clear beetroot soup made with vegetable and mushrooms stock usually including "uszka" (bite-sized mushroom-filled dumplings), traditionally served at the Wigilia supper.

BOŻE NARODZENIE: Pronounced: "BAW-zeh nah-raw-DZEH-nyeh," literally God's birth or divine birth, this is the standard Polish word for Christmas.

CHOINKA: Pronounced: "haw-EEN-kah," this can be any evergreen in general or a Christmas tree. The fir and spruce are preferred in Polish Christmas tradition. It is set up and trimmed on Dec. 24 and kept up till at least Jan. 6 or even Feb 2.

CHOINKA: Pronounced "haw-EEN-kah"; a secondary meaning of "choinka" is a Christmas party, not on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, usually organized for community residents, club members, employees and their families, etc.

GODNE ŚWIĘTA: Pronounced: "GAWD-neh SHFYEN-tah," an old-fashioned name for Christmas, especially the entire 12 days from Christmas Eve till the Three Kings.

GODY: Pronounced: "GAW-dih," same as "Godne Święta"; apart from Christmas, the term "Gody" has also been applied to other festive celebrations, e.g. "Złote Gody" = Golden Wedding Anniversary.

GWIAZDA BETLEJEMSKA: Pronounced: "GVYAHZ-dah bet-lay-EM-skah, the Star of Bethlehem, a name also given to the poinsettia (red Christmas flower).

GWIAZDKA: Pronounced: "GVYAST-kah," diminutive of "gwiazda," literally meaning little star, one of the names of Christmas in Polish.

JASEŁKA: Pronounced: "yah-SEW-kah," nativity play, usually staged by children who re-enact the story of shepherds going to Bethlehem to honor Baby Jesus.

JEDLINA: Pronounced: "yed-LEE-nah," natural evergreen branches, tucked behind pictures and mirrors, displayed in vases and elsewhere permeates the home with a genuine Christmassy scent.

KLUSKI Z MAKIEM: Pronounced: "KLOOSS-kee z MAK-kyem," noodles and poppyseeds — a typical sweet dish of the Wigilia supper.

KOLEDA: Pronounced: "kaw-LEN-dah," Christmas carol, traditional songs honoring the nativity, populated by angels, shepherds and their flocks as well as the Three

Kings, with the Holy Family as their centerpiece.

KOLEDNİK: Pronounced "kaw-LEND-neek, caroler; traditionally a caroler-masquerader dressed as a shepherd, King Herod, Death, Devil, Angel, Gypsy, Soldier, etc., forming part of a caroling party making house-to-house rounds.

KULIG: Pronounced: "KOO-leek," sleighing party with torch-lit horse-drawn sleighs and musicians for entertainment.

NOWY ROK: Pronounced: "NAW-vih RAWK," New Year's Day, Jan. 1, a time for visiting, feasting and celebrating.

OPŁATEK: Pronounced: "aw-PWAH-tek," this white unleavened wafer, imprinted with nativity motifs, is sometimes referred to as "angel bread" or "the bread of love".

The single most important artifact of Polish-style Christmas, it is traditionally it is broken and shared at the start of the Wigilia supper.

OPŁATEK: Pronounced: "aw-PWAH-tek," this is also the name of a Christmas get-together which involves breaking and sharing opłatek at church, work or some organization. Often carols are sung and light refreshments may be served, but usually not a full meal.

PASTERKA: Pronounced: "pah-STAIR-kah," Shepherd's Mass celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve.

PIERNIK: Pronounced: "PIERRE-neek," honey-spice cake, Polish gingerbread, one of Poland's typical Christmas cakes.

PIEROGI: Pronounced: "pierre-UGH-ee," filled dough pockets or dumplings, whose meatless versions are a typical Wigilia dish.

RYBA: Pronounced: "RIB-ah," fish, a Wigilia culinary mainstay including herring, fresh-water and sea species, fried, baked, poached and in aspic.

SIANO: Pronounced: "SHAH-naw," hay, a symbol of Christ's humble birth in a stable, is strewn on the table beneath the table-cloth and forms a bed on the plate or tray containing the opłatek.

SZOPKA: Pronounced: "SHAWP-ah," Christmas crib, Nativity set, sometimes a portable puppet theater carried by carolers house-to-house "SHAWP-kah."

ŚLEDZIE: Pronounced: "SH-LEDGE-eh," herring, one of the culinary "mists" on the Wigilia table served pickled, creamed, in oil, in salads, etc.

ŚWIĘTO TRZECH KRÓLI: Pronounced: "SHFYEN-taw TCHEKH KROO-lee," literally Feast of the Three Kings, the Epiphany (Jan. 6); chalk is blessed at church with which the formula K+M+B 2008 is inscribed over doorways in honor of the Magi.

ŚWIĘTY MIKOŁAJ: Pronounced: "SHFYEN-tih mee-KAW-why," St. Nicholas, the kindly bishop who visits kids on his feast-day (Dec. 6), quizzes them on their prayers and good deeds and rewards them with treats and toys.

WIECZERZA WIGILIJNA: Pronounced: "vyeh-CHEH-zhah vee-ghee-LEEY-nah," Christmas Eve supper, to Poles the single most important family meal of the year.

WIGILIA: Pronounced: "vee-GHEEL-yah," Christmas Eve, literally: the Vigil, to Poles the single most important day of the year.

WILIA: Pronounced: "VEEL-yah," an older name for Wigilia (see preceding entry).

ŻŁÓBEK: Pronounced: "ZH-WOO-bek," Christmas crib or Nativity set.

CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

New Novel by Olga Tokarczuk and the History of Polish Cabaret

A new epic novel by one of the most critically acclaimed authors of contemporary Polish literature — Olga Tokarczuk — is now in bookstores.

Almost a thousand pages with dozens of themes and characters, *Księgi Jakubowe (Jacob's Books)* impresses with literary panache, the multiplicity of levels and possible interpretations.

Tokarczuk, with great attention, shows the reality of the era, its architecture, clothing, scents. Among noble mansions, Catholic rectories and Jewish homes, she presents the image of the former Poland — a home for Christianity, Judaism and Islam. *Księgi Jakubowe* is also a reflection about history as such.

For those interested in lighter books, there is a new release by Izolda Kiec — a first biography of Polish cabaret.

From cabarets such as "Zielony Blonik" (The Green Balloon) to "Mumio," this book is a story of laughter, humor and irony. Beautifully illustrated, enriched with archival photographs, witty graphics, it will deliver a lot of fun while reading.

IDA AND TWO POLISH DOCUMENTARIES — OSCAR FAVORITES? Paweł Pawlikowski's *Ida* is among the favorites in this year's Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film.

Not only well-acted, but also a telling story of people grappling with a serious matter, *Ida* has all the features to please the Academy's members. According to a survey of film critics, *Ida* is a favorite in its category, with the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* critics call-

ing the movie — "a revelation of the European cinema."

Joanna by Aneta Kopacz and *Nasza klątwa (Our curse)* by Tomasz Sliwinski are among the eight documents with a chance to be the Best Short Documentary.

Dedicated to Joanna Salyga, the author of the blog "Chustka" who died of cancer in 2012, *Joanna* is one of the most award-winning Polish documentaries of the last year. The document is an intimate story about the simplest feelings of being here and now and living in the shadow of the disease. Whereas, *Nasza klątwa* is a director's personal statement of dealing with a very rare, incurable disease of the newborn child.

The complete list of submitted movies will be announced on January 15.

The 87th Academy Awards ceremony will take place on February 22, 2015.

131 TITLES OF POLISH AND WORLD CLASSICS IN WEB.

131 books from the 20th century are going to be soon available online, thanks to the project entitled "Udostępnianie piśmiennictwa" (Sharing literature).

The list includes, among others, "Diaries" by Witold Gombrowicz, "Solaris" by Stanislaw Lem, poetry by Wisława Szymborska, Czesław Miłosz and Stanislaw Mrozek's plays.

The first titles are likely to appear on the web yet this year. Instytut Książki allocated a budget of one million zloty for the project.

For the complete list of books visit: www.instytutksiazki.pl

Talking Polski

I was tryin' to find my way home, but all I heard was a drone.

Bouncing off a satellite; crushin' the last lone American night.

This is radio nowhere, is there anybody alive out there?

— from *Radio Nowhere* by Bruce Springsteen

Talk radio and talk television are big. There is news and news analysis, television entertainment magazines, social commentary, and political potpourri daily. We are inundated with it. If you are a junkie, it can overwhelm your rehab and resistance. For all the criticism of the shouting, debating, and fighting, we really are lucky to have so much information freely available. For me, TV and radio talk fits nicely into my regimen for keeping up on current affairs and it actually provides a good dose of relaxation and revelry. It is a drone, but I like it.

Since I have so many hours and so much intellectual stock invested in listening to and watching talk shows — and since everything I do morphs into an ethnic face — I am continually listening and watching for Polish participation in this great American phenomenon. If it is important and popular, I am hoping (or expecting) someone of the Polish or Slavic race to be part of it. In this case, I wish there were more skis, ichs, and wiczs. Here are a few names to start you wishing:

LAURA INGRAHAM. Former conservative talk show host and frequent contributing guest on many network political shows, Ingraham's mother is Polish. I once heard her talk about it and she indicated she was "proud" to be Polish. A graduate of Dartmouth College, a lawyer, and the author of many books, Ingraham is tough and outspoken.



MIKA BRZEZINSKI. Daughter of the former National Security Advisor and scholar Zbigniew Brzezinski and co-host of MSNBC's *Morning Joe*. She has authored a number of books and is generally left-leaning in her political views.



ADAM ANDRZEJEWSKI. Adam "Angie-f-ski" (yes, that was at least one translation found) appeared in a John Stossel feature about government "Overlords," politicians who demonstrate privilege by being excessive spenders of tax funds for themselves. (Some would call this stealing.) Besides owning a business, he is the founder of the government watchdog website www.openthebooks.com. Andrzejewski is a well-spoken individual and presents himself nicely on camera. Keep your eye on him. I hope he gets many more contributing guest (or better) opportunities in the future.



KATIE PAVLICH. Katie is a beau-



tiful Slavic but non-Polish young lady with personality and smarts to match. She appears frequently as a contributing guest analyst on

Hannity and *The Five*. She is a journalist and is the author of a couple books, all this before the ripe old age of 27. We need to clone Pavlich a thousand times across the American Eastern European spectrum.

ELIZABETH HASSELBECK. Nee Filarski (father), sat in the conservative seat alongside a whole lot of liberal chairs on *The View*. A feisty debater and a fighter for her beliefs in *The View* crowd, she has moved up to be a co-host on *Fox & Friends*. To her credit, Hasselbeck is a survivor. I hope we have her presence on television for a long time to come.



Again, I wish there were more Eastern Europeans in the game. Let me know if I have missed anyone.

MR. MIZZOU. Last year Missouri lost a favored son when **Stan Musial** went to the great Sportsman's Park in the sky.

This year, the Missouri Tiger football program lost its beloved coach, known affectionately as "Mr. Mizzou," with the loss of John Kadlec. I know John was Polish because he told me he was.

I was introduced to him during a visit to my high school after I had expressed interest in playing football for Mizzou. After he viewed my game films and we talked, he asked, "What kind of name is that?" "Yeah," he said, "I'm Polish too." It ended up all I was offered was a walk-on slip but that little exchange, small talk, and gentle manner made me like him.

Except for hearing him as a commentator on the Tiger broadcasts and an occasional interview, I did not know that much about him. Apparently my impression was multiplied a million times over by players, students, friends, and fans. Here is an excerpt from the Columbia, Missouri, *Daily Tribune* that speaks to his legacy:

"What you saw is what you got. Just a genuine good, good man."

Kadlec, who usually wore a smile, was a beloved figure in the state. He connected the Missouri

football eras from Don Faurot to Gary Pinkel. The St. Louis native was an all-conference lineman for Faurot in the 1940s; an assistant under Faurot, Frank Broyles, Dan Devine and Al Onofrio through the 1977 season; an athletic administrator at MU beginning in the 1980s; and the analyst for football radio broadcasts for 16 years beginning in 1995.

"He was an ambassador for the University of Missouri his whole life and certainly his last years," Pinkel (*Current Tiger coach Gary Pinkel*) said. "I was fortunate to be around him. He had a huge influence on all his players. Thousands of players, I've seen them at reunions, these guys just embrace him. I feel so fortunate and blessed to have a guy like that in my life. We're going to miss him dearly."

The testimonials about him are high and heartfelt and he will be missed. Whether he would have realized it or not and for all of the people John Kadlec helped, simply by his life and example he did so much on behalf of the Polish people. Dziękuję bardzo "Mr. Mizzou," and rest in peace.

FOR THE SECRET SANTA. Here is a fun gift for the outdoors person in your life, especially one with a Polish pedigree: The longtime cartoonist for the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine is Betty Chmelnik Grace (a Buffalo, New York girl for your information!) has a new book out, a collection of over 200 of her cartoons called *Outside Jokes*. \$8.75 and you can order it toll free (877) 521-8632 or visit the e-commerce site at mdcnatureshop.com.

POLISH OR NOT? Elise Stefanik, newly elected congresswomen from the 21st district in the state of New York. She is the youngest women elected to congress at 30 years old. Is Stefanik a Polish name?

Wesołych świąt to all *Polish American Journal* friends and subscribers. I truly hope you have a joyful, holy, family-oriented, and Polish-filled Christmas and holiday season.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, an answer to the question, a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139; email: alinabrig@yahoo.com. N.B. If you send email, reference the *Polish American Journal* or the *Pondering Pole* in the subject line. I will not open an email if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

British Poles Among Top Employed

LONDON — Polish people living in Britain are almost 20 per cent more likely to have a job than those born in the UK, a study of official figures shows.

New analysis of findings from the 2011 Census by the Office for National Statistics shows that Polish-born residents of England and Wales have the highest employment rate of any other group when analyzed by birth.

It also shows that migrants from EU countries have dramatically higher levels of employment than those from non-European

countries.

Overall, 81.2 per cent of working-age Polish born residents of England and Wales on census day were working, compared with only 69 per cent of their UK-born counterparts and only 59 per cent of those from outside the European Union.

Although employment levels among migrants were lower overall than the British born population (63.2 per cent), the ONS said overseas students largely accounted for the difference.

Website-maker, 14, Wins World Acclaim

VANCOUVER, B.C., Canada — He barely made it through high school and never attended college, but at 14, Matt Mickiewicz (inset, right) had already designed his first website (Webmaster-Resources.com). Two years later he teamed up with Australian Mark Harbottle to create an upgraded version called SitePoint. Not much into book-learning, as a teenager between classes he was clinching \$10,000 advertising deals. Through a SitePoint spin-off, in 2008 the young Pole raised \$35 million from a string



of Website companies and with Harbottle created Flippa.com, the world's largest online website marketplace. Born in Kraków, he has lived in Germany and currently resides in Vancouver, Canada. He has numerous "young entrepreneur of the year" titles to his name and frequently addresses conferences and seminars.

Toronto's Newest Pierogery

TORONTO — At Loaded Pierogi, a newly-opened open snack shop near Church and Front streets, all plates start with a base of traditional potato pierogi, either boiled or fried. But that's where tradition ends and innovation begins.

The Eastern European dumplings are piled high with all kinds of peculiar toppings, like lobster chunks and hollandaise sauce, or an entire confit duck leg with gravy.

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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

A Time for Giving

A Polka Christmas — what other kind of holiday would “The Polka Insider” have?

It's a time for giving and a time for sharing, and if the Insider could, he'd sneak into polka houses everywhere and leave special gifts under the trees of polka people.

So, here are The Polka Insider's gifts to the polka world:

- To **Happy Louie and Julie**: family, friends, joy and “Jabka.”
- To **Lenny Gomulka**: another pair of “Rose Colored Glasses.”
- To **Capt. Hrukus**: a permanent Hrukus Shrine.
- To **Frank Borzymowski**: the polka crooner award and another recording
- To the **Tunatones**: a paying gig.
- To **Big Stas**: a hat without an animal.
- To **Todd Zaganiacz**: fewer hours at work, and that “perfect” car.
- To **Jimmy Sturr**: a Sturr-rific performance always.
- To **Johnny Karas**: thanks for that trademark “Hey!”
- To the **Buffalo Concertina All-Stars**: a Squeezin' good time.
- To **Rich Benkowski**: a vocal.
- To the **Polka Jammer**: 36-hour days.
- To **Jim “Chainsaw” KucharSKI**: never-ending “thanks.”
- To **Polka Mooches**: a change in spending habits.

- To **Polka Fans**: no Polka Mooches.
- To **Roman Travers and the Ampolaires**: thanks for “Idzie Lala.”
- To the **New Brass Express**: another “After Dark.”
- To the **International Polka Association**: continued success and promotional excellence.
- To **Johnny Wanderlich, Sr.**: a box filled with 500 live tapes.
- To **Matt and Vi Wasielewski**: endless thanks for endless hours devoted to polkas.
- To **The Boys**: may you forever be young.
- To **Rosalinda Polkadancer**: thanks for your patience and understanding.
- To **Rich Suckiel**: a never-ending supply of old polka vinyl.
- To **The Maestro's Men**: “thanks” for keeping the music of Ray Henry alive and vibrant.
- To **Mark Kohan**: longer deadlines, shorter phone calls, and more days with the rod and reel.
- To **Kenny Olowin**: a never-ending Red Room.
- To the **IPA Tribute Band**: thanks for music above and beyond.
- To the **Blazonczyk family**: thanks for the “Fireworks,” “Bel-Aire,” and being the very best in everything they do.
- To **concertina players**: happy squeezin'!

- To our **polka legends**: continued health and our deepest gratitude.
 - To **Molly B**: continued success
 - To all **Nickel City bands**: thanks for all the great polka music and memories.
 - To **Ted Kiewicz**: a cigar and a concertina.
 - ... and to **all polka people everywhere**, a holiday filled with joy, health, goodness, family and polkas.
- Wesołych Świąt i Bożego Narodzenia!

Checkalski a Hall of Famer

by Steve Litwin

Arnold “Arnie” Checkalski is a friend, musician, concertina player and now an inductee into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame. The youngest of six boys, his love for music began with the piano and later saxophone. Graduating with a music degree from Winona State College in Minnesota, Checkalski first picked up the concertina in 1955 and made music with it. It wasn't long before he was hooked on the concertina.

Checkalski went on to play in a number of bands and, from 1964-1972, led a trio and after that was with a polka band until 2000. He played with the Polka Pals and recorded two CDs, “Grampa's Having Fun” and “Concertina Polka Party.”

Checkalski retired in 1993 but has always remained connected to the music, performing and promoting the concertina. He approaches his music from the heart and has always given the listener a true variety.

A long-time friend, Checkalski and I have never met in person but have known each other for a decades via letters, phone calls and the internet. He truly is a Concertina Hall of Famer.

Promoter, Musician Tom Uzarski Dead

GRAND RAPIDS — Thomas James “Tom” Uzarski passed away unexpectedly, Nov., 18, 2014.

Uzarski was the proprietor of Tempo Printing, where he used his exceptional talents in promoting and supporting his love of polka music and Polish Heritage.

He performed on the tenor sax for over 45 years almost exclusively in the polka industry and is probably best remembered for his days with the Triple-Aires. Uzarski was always ready to pull out the sax and play along at numerous celebrations

throughout the years and any polka jam session that came up.

He was a member of the Polish Falcons Hall, Pulaski Days Committee, and Polish Heritage Society. Uzarski was also the founder of Polka and Pops in the Park.

A celebration of his life was held on Nov. 23.

Contributions in Uzarski's memory to Polish Heritage Society, P.O. Box 1844, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1844, or Pulaski Days Committee, www.pulaskidays.org.

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish, email it with a short description to: pajpolka@verizon.net.

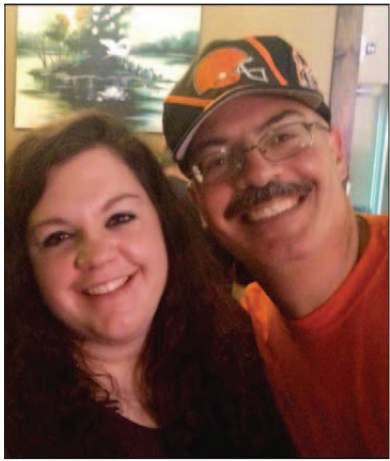


THEY ARE MISSED BY ALL (l. to r.): Jim Chronowski, Michigan musician and teacher; Johnny Libera, Massachusetts songwriter, whose material was recorded by the nation's best; and Rick Malkiewicz of the Canadian Fiddlestix, fiddler from a family of talented musicians.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

'Tis the Season

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Christmas lights, garland, and gift wrap surround us as we prepare for the holidays. Don't forget to take time for yourself and your family to reflect on the amazing blessings which we have all encountered during this year. As I look back, I am thankful for the love that I have been lucky enough to find in the most unlikely place, polka events. Spending time with friends, listening to kolędy and sharing traditions will be at the top of my holiday list this year. Don't forget to make a stop sometime this month at a polka event to hear some kolędy to get you in the holiday spirit. Although I did not grow up listening to it, it just doesn't seem like Christmas to me until I hear "Dzisiaj w Betlejem," "Lulajże Jezuniu," and "Cicha Noc." I wish all of you a blessed holiday season and may all of your wishes come true during this magical time of year.



LEIGHA and Marty Merwin

TOUCHDOWN! Buffalo Bills football couldn't hold a candle to the fun that we mustered up with **D Street Band** at Potts Banquet Hall. This lively entertaining band has become one of my favorites since seeing them at USPA Convention in May. The diverse musicianship of this band makes them an absolute dream to watch, dance, and hear. D Street is filled with determined members who are genuine, down to earth, and truly love the music they are playing. On a road trip heading back from Albany to Chicago, we were fortunate that they stopped in to entertain us on this Sunday afternoon. If you haven't heard the band, you should definitely pick up a CD or make it a point to catch them. **Leigha Merwin** joined her parents on their trip from Rochester to encounter her first true polka dance. She had such a great time that she will be spending New Year's Eve polka style this year. I am looking forward to seeing you again Leigha.

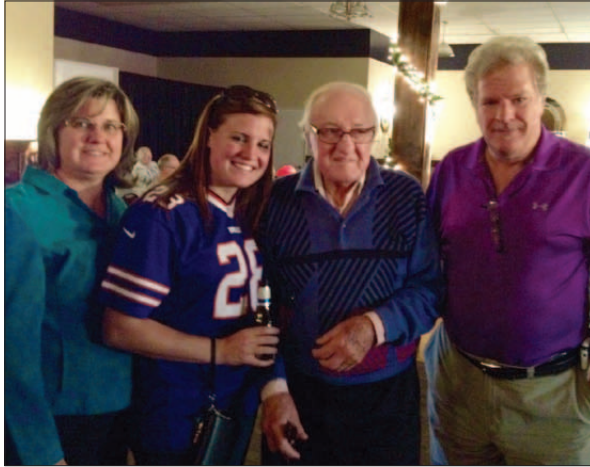
LEKKI LEGACY. I also got a chance to visit with **Patty and Gary Lekki** from Utica who were in Buffalo visiting their daughter **Ashley**. While chatting, a vivacious gentleman chimed in and I found out that he was Gary's 92-year-old father, who has quite an interesting story. **Ed-**

die Lekki played trumpet with the **Retzcek Orchestra** after returning from his service in World War II. Then in 1950 he began playing with **Wally Kapinos** before deciding to start his own band called the **Golden Trio**. In 1973 his son Gary was playing trumpet with the **Polka Pals**, following in his dad's musical footsteps. Once the Polka Pals disbanded, this father and son joined forces to begin their own band called the **Golden Eagles**. His band performed for 20 years at weddings, dances, and numerous polka weekends and even recorded an album entitled the *Golden Age of Polkas*. After his long stint of playing, Eddie decided to retire from polka music in 1988, but Gary kept the band alive changing their name to **The Eagles Polka Band**. Eddie still has spunk, a sense of humor, and the gift for telling stories that need to be preserved for future generations. According to Eddie, he still plays a mean harmonica and possesses a strong fondness for polkas. He never misses an opportunity to visit his granddaughter in Western New York. I am thankful for my chance to meet this enchanting gentleman and learn about his story thanks to the amazing Lekki family. I am honored that they took the time to talk with me and keep the notable history of polkas alive.

BOOSTERS' DOZYNKI. October marked a harvest celebration for Buffalo Polka Boosters where fun and delicious apple cider were served up to the members. **Eddie Guca & his Polish Canadians** provided the top notch entertainment for the evening. Eddie's voice filled the air commanding the attention of everyone in attendance. As I was steadfast working in the kitchen, I could not help but come out to watch the band as they belted out "Ej Mamusiu Moja." The beautiful harmonies in this song pull at my heartstrings every single time I hear it. Watching this band is witnessing seasoned musicians who insist on making every note count. After playing polkas, obereks, and waltzes the band decided to mix it up with a few rhumbas, disco, and classics. The crowd really enjoyed the multifaceted genres as the band performed to a jam-packed dance floor the entire night. Buffalo Polka Boosters feels very grateful that Eddie and his band have made performing for the club a worthwhile trip from Toronto for a few hours of great music.

An added bonus for the evening was the announcement that **Ron and Chris Cyrankowski** were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. What a wonderful example of love and dedication. Congratulations and best wishes.

DIANEAGAIN'S SHENANAGINS, AGAIN. Dianeagains has once



Patty, Ashley, Eddie, and Gary Lekki.



CHRIS and Ron Cyrankowski

again invited **Special Delivery** back to reinstate the polka Sundays after a summer break. After a beautiful fall day of apple picking, I stopped in to this corner tavern to enjoy an afternoon of music. It was no surprise that the bar was filled with patrons soaking up the music from this versatile group of musicians. Cheers and "sto lat" were being echoed throughout the bar room as **Barb Godlewski** was celebrating her birthday. Cake, best wishes and admiration were apparent as she was surrounded by loved ones including her husband **John**, sister **Sharon Goldyn**, and her sweet mom **Irene Wrobel**.

Soon after "Sto lat," was sung, a very special guest took the stage for an impromptu appearance. **Kyle Kohan**, who is a fixture on our local music scene, has been away from playing polkas for the better part of the past 10 years. It was a blessing to catch her playing a few songs with the band and she sounded spectacular. It was if she had never taken a break from playing alongside these fellow musicians, which include her husband Mark. The dance floor bustled as everyone enjoyed the added sound of Kyle on clarinet. If you have never been here, it is worth a stop for a carefree, laid back Sunday afternoon of music, laughter, and conversations. You never know what guest musicians may stop by and join the band for a few songs.

HALF WAY THERE. Polish Villa II has been hosting one of the lengthiest celebrations for Dyngus Day over the past few years, starting music at 11:00 a.m. and continuing



Denise and Rich Skorik (Buster the dog.)

until 4:00 a.m. It is always a sure stop on everyone's Dyngus Day excursion so why wait until next year to feel that spirit of Dyngus come alive. Ed and Rosie provided that vibe at the Halfway to Dyngus Day Party with the **Buffalo Touch**. Polish t-shirts and bottles of Zywiec filled the restaurant for an evening of frivolity and lovely music. **Carl Nowakowski**, who has not played much over the past several years, filled in with the band for an added enthusiastic flair to the band's typical repertoire. "Alice" as always was a big hit of the night, as attendees shouted for it on several occasions. Self-proclaimed "Buffalo Touch groupies" **Mike and Tammy Soich** were on hand with their customary innovative Touch t-shirts dancing every single song in unison. Their infectious spirit lights up any room with the love and affection they share for one another and polka music. My longtime friend **Marek Kutrowski** and his girlfriend **Tanya** were in town shopping from Oshawa, Canada, and just happened into the festivities looking for a bite to eat before heading home. Many laughs and good conversations were conjured up during the revelry of the night and kept many of us there long after the music had stopped.

CONGRATS! I have made many polka friends but I have to take a moment to congratulate one of my very closest friends. **Denise Finan** finally tied the knot to **Richard Skorik** in mid-October. Denise is the New York director for the USPA and has been a mainstay at polka events for most of her life. I wish her and Rich all the love, peace, and happiness in their new life as husband and wife. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Richard Skorik!

LEGEND FONDLY REMEMBERED. The name **Big Steve Krzeminski** rustles up fond memories

from anyone who knew him. Unfortunately, I never met Steve, however, his memory lives on through the family and friends of a man who was loved by so many. The smile on his face in any picture gives you the feeling that he was an authentic, good natured man who left the world better than he found it. It is hard for anyone to believe that on November 6, it had been 15 years since his untimely passing. His wife **Arlene** wrote a few words in remembrance of this anniversary which she would like to share with all of you.

Steve,
It's been 15 years since you passed. It broke my heart to lose you but you did not go alone. A part of me went with you that day God called you home. It's so lonely here without you, a million times I've cried. If love could have saved you Steve, you never would have died.

Love always,
Arlene and children

UPCOMING

- **Dec. 6** — Polka Variety Christmas Party, Krew Brothers. Call Bill Janish for info (716) 759-8194
- **Dec. 12** — New Direction, Kolędy Party for Response to Love Center. Millennium Hotel, Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. 2:00-6:00. Contact Ron for info (716) 896-9063.
- **Dec. 13** — Buffalo Polka Boosters Christmas Party. Music by Rare Vintage, members call Chris for info (716) 892-7977.
- **Dec. 14** — Special Delivery, Pre-Christmas Party. Dianeagains, 2460 Clinton St., Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30. Free.
- **Dec. 20** — Buffalo Touch, Kolędy at Arty's Bar. 508 Peckham St., Buffalo.
- **Dec. 23** — Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Kolędy Night. Details to be announced on band's Facebook page.
- **Dec. 31** — Polka New Year's Eve, Polka Country Musicians and Special Delivery. Millennium Hotel, Walden Ave Cheektowaga. Call 1 (800) 323-3331 for info.



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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Happy Holidays from Toledo!

I am happy to report that during the important heritage month of October, Toledo Polonia was witness to several well-attended events.

I have already talked about the kielbasa cook-off in a previous column. Well, the craving for good food was hard to quell, as a week later authentic Polish food was served again. **Saints Adalbert & Hedwig Parish** held a Polish Heritage Feast, October 12. The event included a full Polish meal with all of the trimmings, a variety of raffles and prizes, baked goods, a bar, and of course polka music, featuring the Czelusta Park All Stars. The weather always helps to bring out the crowd, and this day delivered. The parish hall was full as was the dance floor. The new parish priest, Father Jacob, though not of Polish heritage, was thrilled to see the parish community pull together for this event. It will be good to see more events like these get added to the calendar.

A MEMORABLE NIGHT. My readers know that I've been talking about a book called "American Originals," which was recently featured in a couple of articles in the Journal. To celebrate the publication of this book and a rock and roll anthology called "Can I get a Witness," the University of Toledo held its own kind of festival. On Friday, October 17, The Canaday Center at the UT library was the place where "A Little Bit Polka, A Little Bit Rock-n-Roll" took place. This was a free event for the community to celebrate these two books being recently published, and the growing list of local history books that UT has brought to press.

The author/photographer of "Can

I Get a Witness" is a local writer named John Rockwood, and his band Voodoo Libido played good old-fashioned rock and blues, while Toledo's own **Polka Zone** provided the Polish music, in alternating sets.

Guests could choose from between American cafe-style food and Polish cuisine, with cash-bar drinks to complement the meal

A highlight of the evening was when UT Press Director Barbara Floyd announced the grand prize winner to be none other than the niece of "American Originals" editor Timothy Borden, Emily Borden. The prize itself was one copy of every book on the UT list, which were also for sale at a special table at the entrance to the library. Thank you to all of my friends who honored me and the books by coming out to enjoy this affair. Now I guess it's time to work on Volume Two!

As president of **Toledo Area Polka Society**, I would like to welcome the new officers: Larry Holt, vice-president; Carol Holt, trea-

surer; Judy Kwiatkowski, secretary; Michael Marek, trustee; Alan Rutkowski, trustee, Kevin Kwiatkowski; membership committee chair; David Bezdziecki, promotions committee chair; and Tony Groch, sergeant-at-arms.

Stay tuned for further news about TAPS and unfolding events for the club. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

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OWL PICNIC COMMITTEE

we extend a most sincere "Thank You" to our volunteers, our vendors, our donors, benefactors, and supporters for making the Owl Picnic 2014 another success. Through selfless efforts of our committee, numerous contributors, and sacrifices of many, the Owl Picnic will be able to place a smile on the faces of those less fortunate.

Good Bless!

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year to All!**

Thanks for giving a hoot!

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We'll select an assortment of cards for you, but if you have a preference, just let us know. (Cards on show on page 13 of this month's paper).

Christmas is one of the best times of the year to be Polish, and a gift subscription to the PAJ is the best way to reintroduce family and friends to the many treasured customs and traditions of Poland.



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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD, Conn. — **Michael Guida**, whose family turned Guida's Dairy into one of the top milk producers in New England, was among those honored at this year's Immigrant Heritage Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony and Gala.

The Guidas were immigrants from Poland who started a dairy farm in Connecticut. It was Alexander S. Guida, Jr., and his brother Frank (two of 13 siblings) who built the business into a modern commercial dairy. They began with a single sales route started in 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression. Al Guida had dropped out of school after the sixth grade to go into business.

In 1947, the brothers acquired the Seibert Dairy, and later merged with Radway's Dairy of New London, Connecticut, in 1966. Radway's had been formed in 1918 by Guy F. Radway. An associated operation, Guida's Bay State Dairy Company was formed through the purchase of the Daylight Dairy and Deary Brothers, both of Massachusetts.

Guida's was one of the first to print pictures of missing children on its milk cartons.

By the time of Alexander Guida, Jr.'s, death in August 1990, Guida-Seibert Dairy Company had become New England's largest independent dairy, with revenues of \$100 million a year and a fleet of roughly 200 trucks. It employed 300 people, and today is owned by a national cooperative of dairy farmers based in Kansas City.

Also honored at the Nov. 8, gala, held at Central Connecticut State University Alumni Hall was industrialist and entrepreneur Michael Budney; world renowned pianist and educator Luiz De Moura Castro; and entrepreneur, philanthro-

pist, and community leader Harry Sitalides.

To learn more, visit immigrantheritage.org.

**JOINS PAJ
STAFF.
Kasia Romanowska**

— a journalist from Warsaw, has joined the *Polish American Journal* as a cultural news columnist. She is a reporter at the *Norwood News*, has published articles about Africa and New York, and is a co-writer of the guide of Rome. She lives in Brooklyn.



MINNESOTA

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS — Polish American Heritage Month was observed in Columbia Heights with various activities that also received cooperation from the City, its public library, and Immaculate Conception Church.

Mayor Gary Peterson read a Proclamation for Polish American Heritage Month at the Oct. 13 City Council meeting. The Proclamation was presented to Dolores Puente Strand, Sister City Inc. co-chair, who authored the statement. This has been a tradition in Columbia Heights for the past 15 years or more.

A group of members attended the play written by Pope St. John Paul II entitled "The Jeweler's Shop" at the Open Window Theatre in Minneapolis.

The Columbia Heights Public Library hosted a Polish Day October 4, which was highlighted by "Mosaica," an eight-piece Polish

band accompanied by a vocalist, who sang many of the Polish songs. Demonstrations and crafts emphasizing Polish heritage were offered for children and adults. A traditional poster display about Poland, its history, Polish kings, famous people, and more was on display in the library for the month.

Culminating these special events was a fundraiser held on October 26th at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights. All proceeds were designated for the Children's Hospital in Lomianki, Poland (Columbia Heights' Sister City), which has been the prime beneficiary of the CH Sister Cities' humanitarian projects for the past 20 years.

NEW JERSEY

TRENTON — The Polish Arts Club of Trenton will hold its **Wigilia**, Sun., Dec. 7 at Leonardo's II, 2021 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville, N.J., beginning at 2:00 p.m. The price is \$50.00 person, and includes beer, wine, appetizers, a specially-prepared Christmas dinner, kolędy, and sharing of *opłatek*. Reservations are required, and can be obtained by calling Linda Everett at (609) 588-5524.

PENNSYLVANIA

UNIONTOWN — The Polish Heritage Club will conduct its annual **Polish Christmas Eve dinner** (Wigilia), Fri., Dec. 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Polish Club Hall on S. Mount Vernon Ave. This year marks the twenty-fifth year for this treasured ethnic event, which attracts between 150 to 200 people.

Reservations are required. Please call Barbara Novsek at (724) 438-1036 to make yours.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Dec. 13 is the date for the **Polish Christmas Open House** at the Polish American Cultural Center Muse-

Gunshore Crowned the New Miss Polonaise

ERIE, Pa. — The East Side Federation of Polish American Societies sponsored its 50th Polonaise Ball, Sat., Nov. 1, 2014 at the Polish Falcons Club. The golden jubilee marked the crowning of the 2014-2015 Miss Polonaise, Marianna Gunshore.

Gunshore is the daughter of Paul and Angela Gunshore and the late Gregory Pianka. She is in her senior year at McDowell High school with career goal of attending college for engineering and international business.

Gunshore has been a National Honor Society member since her junior year, and has participated in IUP's Cook's Honor College and Penn State Behrends MCE/WISE summer programs.

She also is a McDowell Lacrosse player, who has played varsity since her sophomore year, helping her team win two district 10 championships. Gunshore was acknowledged as "Defense Player of the Year," and team captain in 2014.

She works at Kmart and is a proud member of St. Luke's parish, where she has volunteered as a religious education assistant and with the Knights of Columbus' annual Lenten fish fry.



Marianna Gunshore

She was escorted to the event by Anthony Jaskiewicz.

Also in attendance were many previous Ms. Polonaise queens, including the very first, Regina Jaworski, who won the title in 1966. Many members and supporters of the Federation also attended the event, with the 2014 contestants and their families.

To learn more about this year's queen, visit www.facebook.com/misspolonaise2014. To invite her to participate in your event, email Gunshore at misspolonaise2014@gmail.com.

UPCOMING

The Polish Falcons are having their **Wigilia Dinner**, Dec. 6 at the Sokol Club, 2912 E. Carson St. Pittsburgh, PA 15203 ... The **Lira** performing artists will be in Cleveland Dec. 7 at the Masonic Auditorium, 3:00 p.m. for their annual Christmas program. For ticket information, call (800) 547-5472 ... The **Lira** group will be in Chicago on Dec. 14, 3:00 p.m. at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park.

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union
wishes its Members, Friends, and the
entire Polish community a peaceful and
joyful Christmas and financial success in
the New Year 2015.

