

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

ESTABLISHED 1911

DECEMBER 2016 • VOL. 105, NO. 12 | \$2.00

www.polamjournal.com



MEMORIES OF A POLISH CHRISTMAS PAGE 24

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

A PILLOW FOR BABY JESUS • CORDIALS TO CHASE THE CHILL AWAY • ARE YOU READY FOR ŚWIĘTY MIKOŁAJ? CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY DURING WORLD WAR II • DOCUMENTING IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS MEMORIES WINTER BEVERAGES OF POLAND • WIGILIA DESSERT MENU • KOLĘDY, PASTORAŁKI, AND CAROLS WITH THE PSAA

## Newsmark

**WARAW WILL FOCUS ON SECURITY.** Warsaw will focus on security in its first talks with new U.S. President Donald Trump, said Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski after learning the result of the U.S. presidential election.

Poland wants to talk about "implementation of allied decisions from July, to be absolutely sure that there will not be any hesitation, as happened eight years ago when President Barack Obama put the missile defense shield on hold," Waszczykowski said.

"We will want to get confirmation from the Americans that allied decisions will be implemented," Waszczykowski told private broadcaster TVN 24.

At a Warsaw summit in July, NATO states decided to deploy four rotating battalions of about 1,000 soldiers each to the alliance's eastern flank, including to Poland, amid fears of potential Russian aggression.

In addition, the United States announced that an armored brigade would be sent to Poland.

**NATO ON HIGHER ALERT.** NATO will place hundreds of thousands of troops on a higher state of alert amid fears of Russian aggression, according to *The Times*. The British daily reported that Sir Adam Thomson, Britain's outgoing ambassador to NATO, said he believes the aim is to speed up the response time of up to 300,000 troops to around two months.

A force of this size could currently take up to half a year to deploy, the paper said.

"We have seen a more assertive Russia implementing a substantial military build-up over many years; tripling defense spending since 2000 in real terms; developing new military capabilities; exercising their forces and using military force against neighbors," said NATO Chief Jens Stoltenberg.

In addition, the United States announced that an armored brigade would be sent to Central and Eastern Europe. The brigade will be deployed in Poland in February, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said. With the election of Donald Trump, Warsaw is awaiting confirmation of the U.S. pledge. (See related story on page 5).

**VATICAN AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENT MEET.** Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Vatican's new ambassador to Poland, has presented his credentials to President Andrzej Duda.

Senior presidential aide Krzysztof Szczerski told the Polish Press Agency that during the meeting the president and the Vatican diplomat, officially known as a papal nuncio, looked back at key religious events of the year. These included celebrations of the 1050th anniversary of Polish Christianity and a visit by Pope Francis for World Youth Days in Kraków, southern Poland.

Archbishop Pennacchio has described the goal of his mission as nuncio as continued cooperation between the Holy See and Poland in the spirit of mutual respect.

He told the Polish president that Pope Francis has fond memories of his time in Poland.

**LAUNCH SATELLITE.** An innovative satellite designed by Warsaw students with the aim of cutting down on space debris will be launched in December next year.

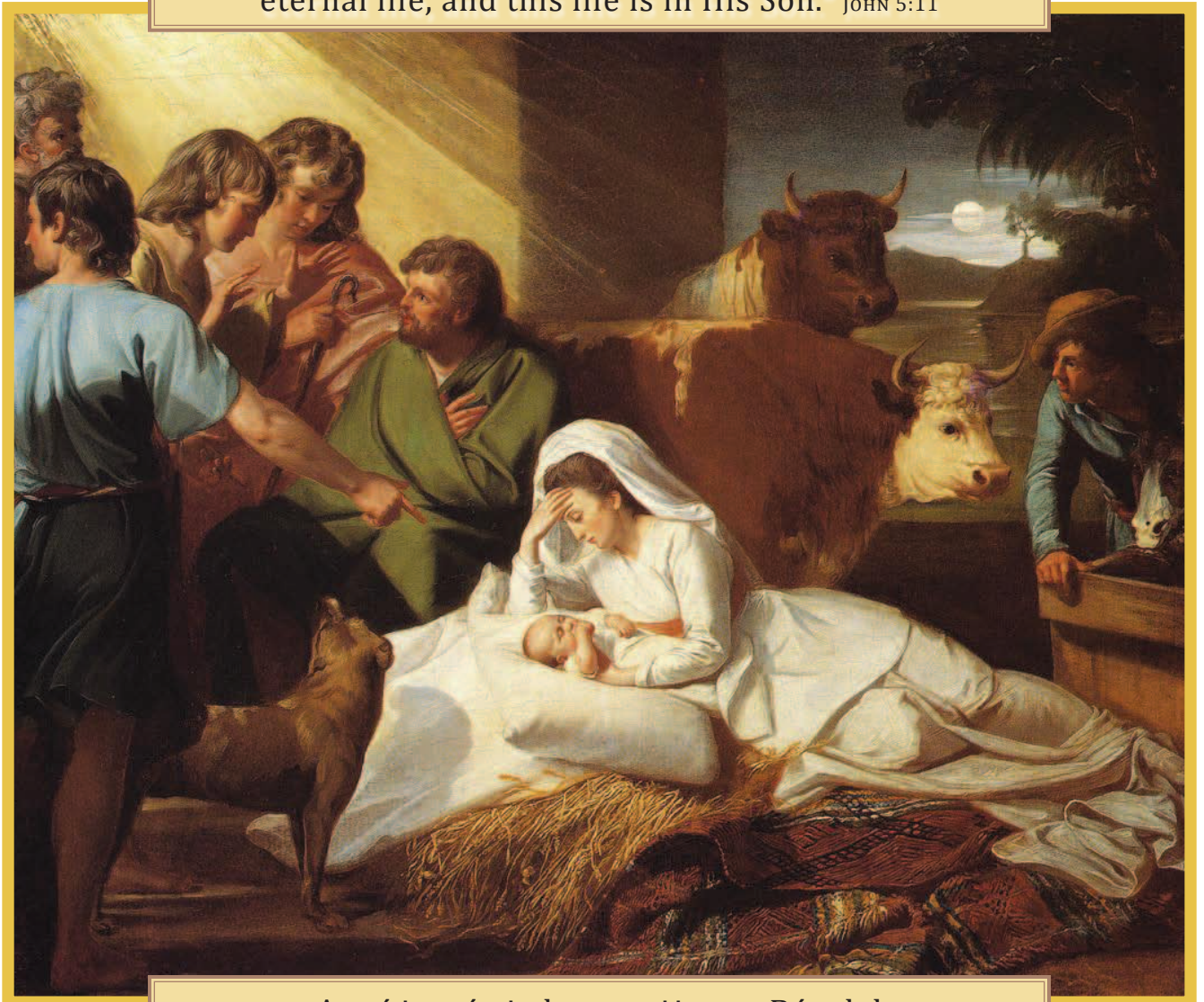
Warsaw University of Technology has signed a contract for the launch of its PW-Sat2 satellite from Vandenberg AFB in California. The satellite will be equipped with a so-called deorbitation sail system, akin to a drag parachute. The mechanism will be released after the satellite completes its mission.

By increasing drag, the sail slows the satellite, causing it to descend to earth and burn up in the atmosphere, rather than remaining in orbit and becoming another piece of junk floating around the planet.

"This is our innovative idea to fight against space debris. We will be testing its efficiency," said Inna Uwarowa, who coordinates the project.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

"And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." JOHN 5:11



THE NATIVITY. JOHN COPLEY. 1777

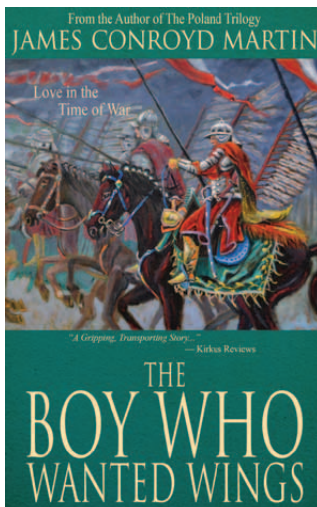
A toć jest świadectwo, iż nam Bóg dał żywot wieczny; a ten żywot jest w Synu jego.

## WESOLYCH ŚWIĄT

### Martin Releases Novel on the Polish Hussars

Just in Time For Christmas

James Conroyd Martin, author of *The Poland Trilogy*, has penned *The Boy Who Wanted Wings*, a novel featuring the Polish winged hussars at the Battle of Vienna in 1683. *Kirkus Reviews* has called it "a gripping transporting story of self-determination set against fate."



**THE STORY.** Aleksy, a dark-complexioned Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family,

holds in his heart the wish is to become a Polish hussar, a lancer who carries into battle a device attached to his back that holds dozens of eagle feathers. As a Tatar and as a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of the noble who owns the land that his parents work, he falls hopelessly in love. But even though she returns his love, race and

See "The Boy ..., " page 4

### The Magic of Christmas

by Angelika Lenartowicz

Christmas Eve is a specific day of the year, and at the same time one in which the daily affairs of our civilization give way to a special fairy-tale atmosphere of divinity and magic.

The place surrounded by the most magic is, of course, the Christmas table. To this very day, we believe the food we avoid at the Christmas table will deny us pleasure

in the upcoming year. Breads and pastries baked from flour and cereal grains ensure our prosperity. Carp or other types of fish are supposed to give us the strength, endurance, energy, and provide us with a long life. Cabbage bodes us a rebirth of nature and life in spring and harvest in the coming year. Peas protects us from diseases and infections, and guarantee good health for the whole year.

Mushrooms are a symbol. See "The Magic," page 5



Folklore says fish, a wigilia staple, gives us strength, and a long life.



**PAJ BOOKSTORE**  
**IMPORTS**

TO ORDER BY MAIL  
**Use form on page 16**  
for items on this page, and pages 14, 15, and 16

TO ORDER BY PHONE  
**(800) 422-1275 • (716) 312-8088**  
MON.-FRI., 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

TO ORDER ON LINE:  
**polamjournal.com**  
SECURE SERVER

**Ornaments**



**7.8 inch Cracovian Crèche Hand Blown Glass Ornament**  
Hand-blown and hand decorated in exquisite detail by Polish artisans.

Every ornament is a collector's item inspired by Cracow's architecture and traditions.  
#570501 - \$139.95



**Set of 20 pieces & Wicker Basket**  
Ornaments measure approx. 2.4". Wicker Basket measures 7.9" L x 7.9" W x 1.6" H  
#660127 - \$22.95



**4 inch Lowicz Folk Art Hand Blown Glass Ball Ornament**

This gorgeous design is inspired by the art of Wycinanki (Polish Paper Cutting), where vibrantly colored paper is cut to create masterful motifs of the imagination.  
#570520 - \$29.95



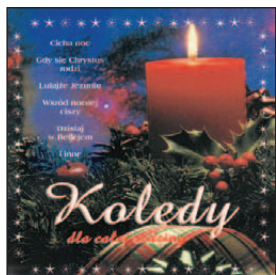
**Set of 6 Straw Reindeer**  
Ornaments measure approx. 2.4" Tall. Based on traditional Polish folk designs.  
#660126 - \$14.95



**2017 Poland Wall Calendar**

This calendar includes some of the most beautiful, scenic photographs of Poland we've ever seen. And, at a full 12" x 12", you can truly appreciate Poland's sights from home. Other calendar features include: Weekdays & Months in Polish & English, Polish and US Holidays, and Male & Female Polish Name Days (called imieniny in Polish). Quantities are Limited, so order your's today!  
#CP17 - \$14.95

**Christmas Music on CD**



**Carols for the Entire Family**  
16 traditional carols performed by the Merlin Studio Singers.  
58 minutes, 15 seconds.  
#GMBR019 - \$19.95



**The Only Night Like That Carols**  
14 carols performed by contemporary Polish soloist artists: Urszula Sipińska, Krzysztof Krawczyk, & more!  
#GM5550032 - \$19.95



**Carols Close to the Heart**  
16 traditional carols performed by Jerzy Polomski and Irena Santor  
45 minutes, 59 seconds.  
#GM5550052 - \$19.95



**Białe Świąta - White Snow Christmas**  
15 traditional carols performed by the musical group "The White Snow"  
50 minutes, 49 seconds.  
#GMBR019 - \$19.95

**Christmas Shirts**



**"Wesołych Świąt" in Red**  
#9283USS Small - XLarge \$19.95  
2XL \$21.95  
3XL \$22.95



**"Cracovian Crèche" in Navy**  
#9255USS Small - XLarge \$19.95  
2XL \$21.95  
3XL \$22.95



**"Lullabye Jesus" in White**  
#9284USS Small - XLarge \$19.95  
2XL \$21.95  
3XL \$22.95

**Butter Molds**

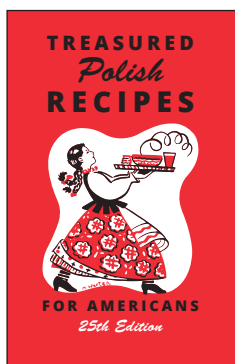


**Foldable Christmas Square**  
This beautiful mold features popular Christmas motifs on each side: a Christmas tree, a shooting star, a candle with holly, and a fish.  
Measures 2.7" L x 2.7" W x 2.8" H  
#KOR110 - \$49.95

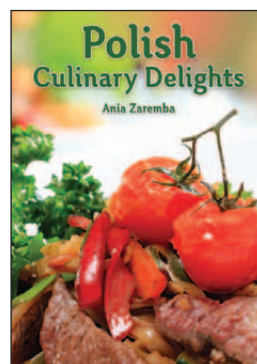


**Osełka Butter Mold**  
Measures 5.0" L x 3.0" W x 1.25" H  
#KOR109 - \$29.95

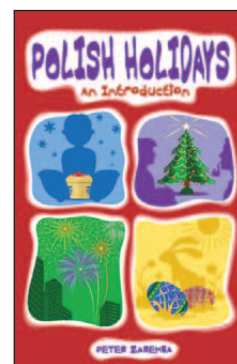
**Books**



**Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans, 25th Edition**  
First published in 1948, this was the first ever complete book of Polish cookery in the English language. A *Must Own* for any lover of Polish cuisine! Hardcover. 5.7" x 8.8, 170 pages. English.  
#BK2364 - \$19.95



**Polish Culinary Delights**  
This traditional cookbook includes more than 175 recipes, everything from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare favorite Polish dishes. SoftCover. 6.5" x 9.25", 224 pages. English.  
#BK2572 - \$24.95



**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 many Polish Holidays. SoftCover. 8.5" x 5.5", 28 pages. English.  
#BK2573 - \$9.95



**Poland: Proud History, Great Future**

This bilingual Polish/English book presents Polish history and information about contemporary Poland, accompanied by an enormous wealth of pictures, which are both typical and topical for Poland. They also show the dynamic energy and spirit of entrepreneurship displayed in building the new Poland - a country so often and so severely tested with the events of the past, but that still looks with optimism toward the future. With 300 full color pictures this hardcover volume will be a great information source and coffee table decoration.

Publishing House: SIGMA International Ltd,

Warsaw 1996, 2nd Edition  
Hardcover book measuring approx. 10.25" x 14" x 1.0"  
272 pages, 300 color photographs  
Bilingual Polish / English Language Version  
BK2185 - \$39.95



**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.



**Cards with 3-D pop-up pictures, Set of 4**  
#PCS703 - \$14.95



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



**POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL**

*Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuance of Polish American Culture*  
ESTABLISHED 1911

IGNATIUS HAJDUK • Founder 1911-1920  
JOHN DENDE • Publisher 1920-1944  
HENRY J. DENDE • Publisher 1944-1983

USPS 437-220 / ISSN 0032-2792

Published monthly in for editions (Buffalo, Polish Beneficial Association, National, and Digital editions) by:  
**PANAGRAPHICS, INC.**  
P.O. BOX 271  
N. BOSTON, NY 14110-0271  
(800) 422-1275  
(716) 312-8088  
info@polamjournal.com  
www.polamjournal.com

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, N.Y. AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to:  
**POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL**  
P.O. BOX 198  
BOWMANVILLE, NY 14026-0198

**Editor in Chief** Mark A. Kohan  
editor@polamjournal.com  
**Associate Editors** Benjamin Fiore, S.J., Mary E. Lanham, Michael Pietruszka, Stas Kmiec, Steve Litwin, Thomas Tarapacki  
**Contributing Editors** John J. Bukowczyk, Thad Cooke, John Grondelski, Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab, James Pula, John Radzilowski  
**BUREAUS.** Binghamton Steve Litwin; Chicago Geraldine Balut Coleman, Toledo Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk; Warsaw Robert Strybel; Washington Richard Poremski  
**Columnists** Mary Ann Marko, Regina McIntyre, Martin Nowak, Jennifer Pijanowski, Ed Poniewaz, Stephen Szabados, Greg Witul, John Ziobrowski  
**Newscleppers** Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Dvornicky, Anthony Guyda, C. Kanabrodzki, Henry J. Kensicki, Walter Piatek, John Yesh  
**Agents** Robert Czubakowski  
**Proofreader** Larry Trojak  
**Circulation Manager** Kathy Bruno  
**Advertising** Kathy Bruno

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE PAJ CALL**  
**1 (800) 422-1275**  
**Regular rate:**  
\$12.50 per column inch  
**Non-profit rate:**  
\$10.00 per column inch

The Polish American Journal does not assume responsibility for advertisements beyond the cost of the advertisement itself. We are responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of an advertisement. Advertisers are advised to check their advertisement immediately upon publication and report at once any errors. Claims for error adjustment must be made immediately after an advertisement is published.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

	Regular Mail	First Class
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		
1-year	\$22.00	\$35.00
2-year	\$41.00	\$67.00
3-year	\$57.00	\$96.00
<b>FOREIGN (except Canada)</b>		
1-year	\$28.00	\$46.00
2-year	\$52.00	\$89.00
3-year	\$75.00	\$132.00
<b>CANADA</b>		
1-year	NA	\$46.00
2-year	NA	\$89.00
3-year	NA	\$132.00

**DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION.** Same rate as "United States Regular Mail Rate." E-mailed on mailing date.

**DISCOUNTS.** For non-profit and organization subscription discounts, call 1 (800) 422-1275.

**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR CLERGY, ELECTED OFFICIALS.** To keep elected officials abreast of issues affecting the Polish American community, the Polish American Journal will provide free PDF editions of the newspaper to state- and nationally-elected officials and government agencies representing Polish American communities. To have your representative placed on this list, please send his or her name, address, and email address to info@polamjournal.com.

The diocesan offices of Roman Catholic, Polish National Catholic, and other faiths within Polish American communities may also request a free PDF subscription at the above email address.

**REFUNDS and CANCELLATIONS.** Request for subscription cancellations must be made by calling (800) 422-1275. Refunds will be prorated based on one-half of the remaining subscription balance plus a \$5.00 cancellation fee. There is no charge for transferring remaining subscription balances to new or existing accounts.

**JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan**

**May a bright star always shine over your home!**

It is hard to believe that 2016 is near its end. I know you hear that all the time, but it is really hard to believe, considering I have paperwork from 2015 I have not put away yet.

Still, all the stress and fuss of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year's pale in comparison to the joy the holidays bring. From the beginning of October to Christmas is haymaking time at the PAJ, and it is not uncommon have 60+ hour workweeks. Phone calls and emails from subscribers, advertisers, and customers increase tenfold this time of the year, and the strain does put everyone on edge.

That, thank God, is offset by the fact that kolędy season here starts shortly after the pumpkins are carved, graphics for the December edition are done weeks before Thanksgiving, and there is nothing better than learning something new about a Polish Christmas while preparing copy for Christmas paper. The enchantment of the season makes it the best time of the year.

**WE THANK** our subscribers, advertisers, and sponsors who make the PAJ a possibility, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. It is no secret that many third- and fourth-generation Polish Americans have little or no interest in their roots. We are blessed by those of you who do — folks who understand the sacrifices their ancestors made to give their children and their children better lives in the New World. It is you who understand the importance of honoring traditions and customs. Nowhere is this more evident than at Christmastime. Simple acts, like the sharing of opłatek at the wigilia table, are direct links to relatives who did the same things centuries ago. That, to me, is truly miraculous.

And with the passing of parents, grandparents, and older relatives, the act becomes more precious each year. I consider it my responsibility to break bread with the descendants of deceased relatives, and I am sure you feel the same way, too. I never knew my great-grandparents, but I feel a direct connection to them — and their great-grandparents — when I share the Christmas wafer with my family.

On behalf of the staff of the PAJ, I share wishes for good health and wealth with every one of you.

*Niech zawsze nad naszym domem świeci złota gwiazda!  
May a bright star always shine over your home!*

**FILE SHARING.** We received several telephone calls and emails from paid subscribers, upset that friends and relations, were receiving free PDF editions of the *Polish American Journal*. When we checked the names against our paid subscription list, we discovered those emailing the bootlegged editions were not paid subscribers.

We have avoided — at great length — password protecting the digital editions of the PAJ. We accept that newspapers, both printed and digital, do have a substantial pass-along rate. We also accept, from time to time, that people will share articles or recipes. However, buying one subscription and sharing it with five or more people every month takes money out of the PAJ's till. If you share the paper with family or friends, please ask them to subscribe.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Two things keep newspapers afloat: subscribers and advertisers. We ask you to please consider buying gift subscriptions for family and/or friends.

We have an easy-to-use form on the back cover.

We also are very happy to send your group or organization back issues of the PAJ. Whether you need ten or 100, just call or email our office, and we will ship them to you, free of charge. Most recently, the Alliance College Alumni Association placed the paper, along with a subscription form, in the groups' reunion welcome package. Many folks remembered the PAJ from years ago, and resubscribed.

You can also help the PAJ by telling Polish businesses you frequent about the newspaper. We want these businesses to grow by offering them national exposure. Even if a business considers itself local, it is good to let other know about it. We ask all businesses, clubs, and organizations to consider patron advertising. Patron ads (such as greetings at Christmas and Easter) underline the good will shared by Polish communities across the United States and Canada.

Your kind words on our behalf will go a long way in keeping the PAJ alive for years to come.

**PAJF SCHOLARSHIP.** Next month, we will begin accepting applications for the Polish American Journal Foundation's first scholarship for journalism and arts students. Applications will be available for downloading from the PAJ's website in January. Until December 31 of this year, all donations to the PAJF will be earmarked for its annual scholarship. Please consider donating to this great cause. For more information, see the ad on the bottom of page 7.

The PAJF is a 503c non-profit organization. Donations made by December 31 are eligible for 2016 tax credits.


**ALMANAC**

**f** Follow us on Facebook, and on the web, too, at: www.polamjournal.com

**December Grudzień**

*Mroźny grudzień, wiele śniegu, żyzny roczek będzie w biegu. Cold December, lots of snow, a fruitful year is in tow.*

1925. Signing of the **Locarno Treaties**, in which the First World War Western European Allied powers and the new states of Central and Eastern Europe sought to secure the post-war territorial settlement, and return normalizing relations with defeated Germany.
1854. About 800 Polish settlers arrive in Galveston, Texas after a nine-week voyage.
- ST. BARBARA**
1867. Birth of **Josef Pilsudski**, Polish military leader, victor at the Battle of the Vistula, and post-World War I leader of a free Poland.
- ST. NICHOLAS** (Stw. Mikolaj)  
*Today is traditionally reserved for gift-giving in Poland.*
1941. Chelmino extermination camp opened in Nazi-occupied Poland.
1949. **Johnny Lujack** of the Chicago Bears passed for 468 yards and six touchdowns in a 52-21 rout of the Chicago Cardinals.
1981. In Poland **Gen. Jaruzelski** imposed martial law, effective at midnight, restricting civil rights and suspending operation of the independent trade union Solidarity in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement.
1570. Signing of the **Treaty of Stettin** concludes the Northern Seven Years' War
1970. Government price hikes in Poland spark bloody labor protests on the Coast, Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin. To this day no one is certain how many people were killed.
1575. Election of **Stefan Batory** (1533-1586), considered one of the greatest of the elected Kings of Poland. Batory was Voivode of Transylvania (1571-76), Prince of Transylvania (1576-86), from 1576 Queen Anna Jagiellon's husband and jure uxoris King of Poland.
1852. Birth of Polish Jewish scientist **A.A. Michelson**, 1907 Nobel Prize winner in Physics..
- ST. THOMAS**  
1898. In Paris, **Marie, 31**, and **Pierre Curie** discover radium.
1922. **Stanisław Wojciechowski** elected the second President of the Republic of Poland following the assassination of Gabriel Narutowicz. He was ousted by the May Coup d'État of 1926.
- ST. JOHN KANTY (CANTIUS)**, 1473. 2005. **Lech Kaczyński** becomes president of Poland.
- DZIEŃ WIGILIJNY**  
1798. Birth of **Adam Mickiewicz** ("Pan Tadeusz"), considered Poland's greatest poet.
- BOŻE NARODZENIE**  
1076. Coronation of **Bolesław II the Bold**
- ST. STEPHEN**  
1587. Coronation of **Sigismund III Waza**
- 1050th anniversary of **Polish Christianity**.
1994. Consecration of **Bishop John W. Yanta, D.D.**, at **Panna Maria**, the first Polish American Texan given this honor.
- ST. SYLVESTER**  
*Zdrowie wasze w gardło nasze!  
Here's to your health and our throats*



*Wesołych Świąt  
Bożego Narodzenia  
i Szczęśliwego  
Nowego Roku 2017!  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!*

**POLISH BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION**  
**POLSKIE STOWARZYSZENIE KASY**

*A Fraternal Life Insurance Association  
Low Cost Life Insurance for the Entire Family Ages 0 - 95  
Fraternal Activities for Members*

2595 Orthodox Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19137-1695  
Tel: (215) 535-2626 • Fax: (215) 535-1069

**www.polishbeneficialassoc.com**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**  
Rev. Fr. Joseph Zingaro..... National Chaplain  
Samuel Sbraccia ..... President  
Elizabeth Wagner..... Administrative Secretary  
Christine Kaszupski..... Vice-President  
Phyllis Rooney..... Treasurer  
Dr. Joan Lambert ..... Medical Examiner

**DIRECTORS**  
Walter Drejerski • Marianne Stone • Angelina Wagner  
Joseph Jankowski • Walter Gasiewski

**THE ONLY  
POLISH FRATERNAL  
DOMICILED IN  
PHILADELPHIA  
1899 — 2016  
117 YEARS OF  
SERVICE**

This paper mailed on or before **December 1, 2016**. The January 2017 edition will be mailed on or before **December 29, 2016**



Wesołych Świąt!  
Merry Christmas to All!  
from the

**FRIARS and STAFF of the  
FATHER JUSTIN ROSARY  
HOUR**

P.O. Box 454 Athol Springs, NY 14010  
www.rosaryhour.net



May God Bless Us All during this Year of Mercy  
**REV. CANON PHILIP S. MAJKA**  
4597 Ravensworth Rd., #5, Annandale, VA 22003  
Call (703) 403-3723

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
Wesołych Świąt!**  
FROM THE  
**ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS**



**REV. MSGR. THOMAS C. MACHALSKI, JR.**  
CHANCELLOR-RECTOR

SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS SEMINARY  
ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY  
THE POLISH MISSION



3535 COMMERCE RD.  
ORCHARD LAKE, MI 48324  
248-682-1885

[www.orchardlakeschools.com](http://www.orchardlakeschools.com)

## The Boy Who Wanted Wings

*continued from cover*  
class differences make this quest as impossible as that of becoming a hussar. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

**THE BACKGROUND.** On the eve of September 11, 1683, a massive Muslim Ottoman horde was besieging the gates of the imperial city of Vienna and had been doing so since the previous July. Now, however, they were just hours from capturing this capital of the Holy Roman Empire. The Turks' intent was to bring Islam to all of Europe, and this city was seen by East and West alike as the gateway. With the window of time closing for Vienna, the walls were about to be breached on September 12 when the vastly outnumbered Christian coalition, led by Polish King Jan III Sobieski and his legendary winged hussars, descended Kahlenberg Mountain to engage the Turks in an attempt to lift the siege. As crucial and consequential as the 1066 Battle of Hastings, the ensuing battle changed the course of European history.

Was it a coincidence that Al-Qaeda chose September 11, 2001, for their attack on New York and Washington? Or had the battle of Vienna—as seminal in human history as the 1066 Battle of Hastings—inspired a symbolic message that the time had come to resume the struggle of 1683?

**THE HUSSARS.** The Polish Hussars were the most unique and elite components of cavalry in the

Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from the sixteenth century into the eighteenth century. The typical unit of "winged" hussars consisted of heavily-armed lancers each of whom carried vertical devices bearing feathers, either attached to the saddle or on a backplate.

*"The Turks' intent was to bring Islam to all of Europe ..."*

Beginning with the Battle of Lubiszew in 1577, the hussars fought in many battles leading up to the Battle of Vienna in 1683 and beyond. They were victorious in nearly all of them despite sometimes facing overwhelming odds. Theories abound regarding the purpose of the wings. Some believe the sight and sound of the wings frightened both the enemies and their horses. Certainly, with King Jan Sobieski's string of victories, just the knowledge that the hussars were descending the Kahlenberg ridge must have spiked intense fear in the hearts of the Ottoman Turks.

**REVIEWS.** "A poor archer in medieval Poland takes aim at the love of his life in this epic novel from Martin. The anxious Aleksy Gazdecki, a young farmhand, embodies the ethnic and political tensions of Europe during the reign of the Ottoman Empire ... The believability of this novel, which is sprinkled with period-specific details, is never in question. Martin sets the stage so tidily that the plight of Aleksy and Krystyna, who desire to move be-

yond the social classes that keep them, apart, transcends the historical moment. Underneath the story of the sweethearts' labyrinthine struggle lingers the question of what it means to fight for one's country but against one's relatives—a situation in which Aleksy, as a Tatar, finds himself ... A gripping, transporting story of self-determination set against fate."

— Kirkus Reviews

"Amidst class and religious warfare, this alternately romantic and brutal love story is also a reminder that the struggle between Christianity and Islam is a great deal older than 2001. Culminating in the re-creation of the Siege of Vienna in 1683, this is a meticulously researched and convincingly written tale of love's triumph that will surprise historical fiction readers with its little known historical backdrop. The main characters struggle with loyalties to family, race, and country as they come to understand that no fear or evil is unchangeable."

— Leonard Kniffel,  
Director, Polish American  
Librarians Association

**WHERE TO BUY IT.** The novel—in paperback or hardcover—is available through the PAJ Bookstore (see page 16 in this month's edition) and at online bookstores. Ask your bookstore or librarian to order it for you. The e-book is available at Amazon.com.

Contact the author at JConMartin@gmail.com, www.JamesCMartin.com, Facebook, Goodreads, or Twitter.

Radosnych Świąt  
Bożego Narodzenia

**FR. WALTER  
RAKOCZY**



146 RIVIERA DRIVE  
MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360  
(219) 406-4345

Chwała na  
wysokości Bogu!



**KS. KANONIK  
GERALD J. BORAWSKI**  
ST. MARY OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
CATHEDRAL  
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

Pójdźmy wszyscy do stajenki  
Let us hasten to the stable  
Bóg się rodzi  
Christ is born today!



**REV. CARL A. URBAN**  
Schenectady, New York

**Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia**



**MOST REVEREND RICHARD J. MALONE**  
AND THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

**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 Częstochowy  
- Duchowej Stolicy Polonii.*

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

- Ojcowie Paulini -

**2016 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

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

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

**Dec. 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE:** Holy Hour at 4:00pm. Vigil Mass at 5:00pm.

**THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA**  
654 Ferry Road • PO Box 2049 • Doylestown, PA 18901  
Tel: 215-345-0600 • Email: [info@czestochowa.us](mailto:info@czestochowa.us) • [www.czestochowa.us](http://www.czestochowa.us)



# The Magic of Christmas

*continued from cover*

bol of our contact with the world of the dead, which indisputably is one aspect of our lives. Poppy seed augurs prosperity in our wallets and fertility in the family. Honey will provide us with kindness, favors the supernatural, and will sweeten our daily lives. When we eat honey in the morning of Christmas Eve, it guarantees us an abundance of food in our pantries throughout the year. An apple eaten during the Christmas Eve supper protects us from pain, and will help us in matters of love. Nuts bring love, will give us a rich portfolio, and will protect us from or alleviate a toothache.

Apart from meals consumed during supper, food plays an important role as an ornament on and around the Christmas table.

**COLORFUL.** Here are some things to consider when decorating:

- The wigilia tablecloth is always white — a sign of purity, glory, and light. It expresses the festive mood and joy.
- Green located at the table — in the form of a reed or a Christmas tree in the house — is a symbol and harbinger of hope and fertility.
- Red Christmas decorations are a symbol of love, youth and strength. They put off demons and protect against injury and dangers.
- Yellow is the symbol of light and majesty. This color symbolizes the dignity, glory and power.

**THE VIGIL MEAL.** The number of people at your wigilia table depends on what region of Poland your family is from. In early times, however, an odd number portended misfortune. It is important to leave an empty setting at the table for any unexpected guest. This reflects the Polish belief “Gość w dom, Bóg w dom.” (“A guest in the house is God

in the house).

During the Christmas Eve supper, do not get up from the table before the meal is completed. It is said that those who broke the rule were to wander aimlessly throughout the upcoming year, and may not be present to celebrate the next Christmas Eve.

The most important symbol of Christmas Eve is, of course, the wafer. It is a mark and symbol of the early Christian sacrificial loaves,



Although most associate mistletoe (jemiola) with English and ancient Druid traditions, it has a strong sacred and magical significance in Poland as well.

which were placed on the altar. We break bread at wigilia with the hope that it will give us prosperity and happiness, and protect us from evil throughout the next year. Sharing the wafer teaches us to share everything — even the last piece of bread — and forgive even the greatest wrongs and injuries by releasing them into oblivion.

**OTHER FOLKLORE.** On this special day, do not cry or argue because sorrow and discord will last until next Christmas Eve.

Illness or injury on Christmas Eve was a bad omen, as it predicted poor health throughout the year.

A sneeze, however, bodes good health for the whole year.

Who first crossed a home’s threshold predicted fortunes for the

upcoming year. If it was a man, it was an auspicious omen. The opposite if a woman was the first.

The repair, mending, or sewing of clothes on Christmas Eve meant those items would tear or rip before next Christmas Eve.

You are not allowed to make loud noise from Midnight Mass throughout the day, so as not to wake the infant.

On Christmas Eve, animals received the gift of human speech. Legend says this became possible so they, too, may share the Good News of the Christ’s birth.

A Christmas tree is a symbol of the biblical tree of knowledge, of good and evil. In ancient times, the tree protected the property and its inhabitants from evil spirits and charms. Also, it was believed that, because the Christmas tree is round, it created an invisible ring of protection around the house. Today, dressing the Christmas tree is a symbol of the rebirth of life, prosperity, and fertility — the more toys and ornaments on the tree, the richer the year.

**ANCIENT ROOTS.** Many of the wonders and miracles of Christmas believed by our ancestors have Pagan roots. The magic of mistletoe is one of them.

Although most associate mistletoe (jemiola) with English and ancient Druid traditions, it has a strong sacred and magical significance in Poland as well. Shrouded in legends, the plant is believed to be a mediator between heaven and earth. To this day, known and practiced is the custom of kissing under the mistletoe. It presents a favored and friendly atmosphere in the house, symbolizing sincerity and warmth. Mistletoe defended the home against dishonest people, and attracted nice and sincere guests. The leaves of mistletoe added to animal feed provided the host with fertility in cattle, milk production in cows, and horses with speed and power.

**WINTER IS COMING.** In the folk tradition, the winter was a time when ghosts would visit. On Christmas Eve, the spirits of ancestors would visit relatives. The souls were to be offered food, which is why there was a place for them at the at the Wigilia dinner. An outdoor bonfire or yule log provided warmth to frozen ghosts. During *Gody*, (originally a time to honor with Winter solstice but today known as *Godne Święta*, the 12 days of Christmas), a person had to clap their hands before sitting at the table to avoid surprising a soul who might be resting there. It was for this reason the remains of the Wigilia dinner were left on the table.

These were festivals linked to the cult of the dead, and the advent of the New Year symbolized the rebirth of the sun. Until 431 A.D., Christmas was celebrated on January 6. From that time on, the church tried to give this period the Christian dimension by replacing pagan deities with saints, and replacing ancient rituals with Christian ones. While successful in supplanting most, the roots of these practices are still widely known today.

Wesołych Świąt!

## POLISH AMERICAN PULASKI ASSOCIATION

Ernie Stetz, President  
4616 Darlington Rd.  
Holiday, FL 34692  
(727) 934-0900

**Polka Dancing**  
Sundays 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Na okazja wielki Świąt Bożego Narodzenia życzymy Państwu Polskich zdrowia, miłość, i pokój oraz wszystko najlepszego w nowym roku 2017!

## GREATER HAZLETON POLONAISE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2275  
Hazleton, PA 18201  
Thomas Kopetskie, President

Merry Christmas  
Wesołych Świąt



## CHOPIN SINGING SOCIETY

Founded 1899

Dedicated to the promulgation of Polish music and song



## Jutzenka Singing Society #226 PSAA

Female Chorus of South Brooklyn, New York  
Proudly fostering Polish Culture through song,  
cordially invite you to come and sing with them.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

For information, call

Frances X. Gates, Honorary President (917)-913-3133,  
Barbara R. Blyskal, President (718) 720-6089, or  
Izabella Kobus-Salkin, Choral Director (917) 288-9261

## Polish Singers Alliance of America's District Seven Choruses

Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

CHOPIN #182 (Passaic, NJ) • JUTZENKA #226 (S. Brooklyn, NY)  
OGINSKI #283 (Hempstead, NY) • ARIA #303 (Wallington, NJ)  
POLONIA-PADEREWSKI #287 & 311  
(New Britain, CT)



Yaga Chudy  
District 7 President

MARCELLA SEMBRICH-KOCHANSKA FEMALE CHORUS #321 (Philadelphia, PA)  
HEJNAL #323 (Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY)  
ADAM MICKIEWICZ PLC JC #22 (Philadelphia, PA)

Janusz Sporek  
District Choral Director

### Górką Pieśń Polska!

Come and hear the choruses present their **Annual Christmas/ New Year Concert** at the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wallington, N.J. after the 12:30 p.m. Polish Mass **Sunday, January 22, 2017**

visit: [www.polishsingersalliance.org](http://www.polishsingersalliance.org)  
For details call (201) 681-7980

## PAJ SUBSCRIPTION FORM

### NEW SUBSCRIBER

Fill out form. If **gift subscription**, please fill out address of recipient.

### RENEWAL

Please include address label from paper

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Enter new address below. Please include address label from paper.

KEEP OUR POLISH HERITAGE ALIVE!  
SUBSCRIBE TO THE PAJ TODAY!

- 1 YEAR—\$22.00
- 2 YEARS—\$41.00
- 3 YEARS—\$57.00

### PAYMENT ENCLOSED

PLEASE BILL ME Your subscription will not begin until your check clears.

CHARGE TO MY:  VISA  AMEX  
 MASTERCARD  DISCOVER

**FOREIGN and CANADIAN RATES:**  
See prices printed on page 2. For library, institution, and bulk rates, please call 1 (800) 422-1275

CARD NO.

EXP. DATE

CS CODE

NAME

NO. STREET

APT. NO.

CITY, STATE, ZIP

**DIGITAL EDITION.** To receive the PAJ as an Adobe PDF file, please initial here \_\_\_\_\_  
Print your e-mail address below. This replaces your print edition.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

**MOVING? Please note the Post Office will NOT FORWARD SECOND-CLASS MAIL. If you move, you must notify our office.**

### THREE EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE!

**MAIL TO:** PAJ SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT  
P.O. BOX 198, BOWMANVILLE, NY 14026-0198

**CALL:** 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088  
M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. EST

**ON LINE:** [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com)  
SECURE SERVER (Amex, Disc., MC, Visa, and PayPal)

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia  
wszystko Polaków!

## Polish and Proud RAYMOND BULWICZ

19 White Cap Way  
Brick, NJ 08723  
(732) 864-9222



Górką Pieśń Polska!

## CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION of the POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA

Mary Lou T. Wyrobek, President — Central Administration  
Adrienne Kusmierczyk, President District IX  
Izabella Kobus Salkin, General Choral Director

**FESTIVAL OF CAROLS**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016 • 3:30 p.m.  
ST. STANISLAUS B&M R.C. CHURCH  
123 Townsend St, Buffalo, NY 14212



## VIEWPOINT

## Putin: The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

The election of Donald Trump to the White House has Poles — and the rest of the world — worried. Much of the anxiety is due to Trump's lack of experience in world politics.

Poland's worry is its reliance on NATO (and ultimately, the United States) to protect it from Russian aggression — Moscow's march on Crimea is still fresh in the minds of many Poles. As such, Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski is waiting for word from the president-elect that security guarantees made earlier this year will be honored.

Following a congratulatory message from Vladimir Putin to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, the Russian president released a statement saying his country is ready to try to "restore a dialogue with Warsaw."

One has to think, giving the timing of his overture to Warsaw, Putin is seeking Trump's permission to do business his way.

The Kremlin is not happy about plans for NATO troops and missile bases on its Western border. Nor is

it pleased with Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party arguing to maintain EU sanctions against Russia. By invading Ukraine, Moscow pretty much asked for NATO's plan.

"Poland's stance is clear: sanctions should be maintained," Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło said earlier this year. "Russia is an aggressor, it is carrying out military operations against Ukraine, alongside running activities aimed to provoke other countries."

Another sore point in Polish-Russian relations is the failure of Russia to return the wreckage of the Polish presidential plane which crashed in western Russia in 2010, killing all 96 people on board, including President Lech Kaczyński.

In his message to Trump on the official Kremlin website, Putin said he "hopes to work together to lift Russian-U.S. relations out of the current crisis, resolve issues on the international agenda, [and] look for effective responses to global security challenges."

He added he "is confident that Moscow and Washington can estab-

lish a constructive dialogue based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, and genuine consideration for each other's positions."

Putin is either running scared, or is hoping Trump looks the other way when (or if) Russia antagonizes former Soviet-controlled states. We will pick the latter.

Moscow did accept accreditation from the new Polish Ambassador in Russia, Włodzimierz Marciniak. In doing so, Putin said restoration of political dialogue with Poland is only possible on the basis of mutual respect and pragmatism.

"We are ready to do everything to achieve this goal," Putin said.

We hope Trump subscribes to reason with regard to Poland, NATO, and Russia. To date, his interviewees for the Secretary of Defense have been with hawks.

When all is said and done, Poland is a U.S. ally, and a NATO partner. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is proof Putin is not comfortable with his neighbors. That is not, and should not be, his neighbors' problem.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
to All Polonia  
from the  
**GENERAL PULASKI  
MEMORIAL PARADE  
COMMITTEE, INC.**

[www.pulaskiparade.org](http://www.pulaskiparade.org)

Wesołych Świąt  
Bożego Narodzenia!  
**HENRY & BARBARA  
SZWAK**  
409 Maple Ave.  
Audubon NJ 08106

Wesołych Świąt  
Szcześliwego  
Nowego Roku  
**MICHAEL & MARIE  
MICHALIK**  
Shenandoah, PA 17976  
(570) 462-9858



**MARIE CURIE  
PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
Danuta Siemińska — President

**BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

For information about MSCPWA or the  
Anthony & Josephine Chmura Memorial Scholarship  
Visit our Website at [www.curiewomen.org](http://www.curiewomen.org)

Wishing Polonia a Merry Christmas  
and a Wonderful New Year 2017!

**PULASKI ASSOCIATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESSMEN**

519 Leonard St., Brooklyn, NY 11222  
[www.pulaskiassociation.com](http://www.pulaskiassociation.com)

Christmas Greetings  
and Best Wishes!

**HELEN. M. PATER**  
AGENT  
POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE

For information, call  
(516) 568-0367

Wishing all  
Christmas Blessings  
with  
Health and Happiness  
in the New Year 2017

**BARBARA AND  
EDDIE BLYSKAL**  
Staten Island, New York



Wesołych Świąt  
Bożego Narodzenia  
i Szcześliwego Nowego Roku

**GOLDEN  
LION  
JEWELRY**

P.O. Box 199  
Port Reading, NJ 07064  
(908) 862-1927  
[www.goldenlionjewelry.com](http://www.goldenlionjewelry.com)

Lorraine Lisowicz, Gary, Marc,  
and Eric Sohaya

**COUNCIL 84  
POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE**

South Brooklyn, New York

## ACROSS THE GLOBE

**TO BUY DRONES.** Poland's Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz said his country plans to buy thousands of drones "so that we will be able to defend ourselves against every threat."

Macierewicz said the drones would be used by Poland's planned new territorial defense forces as well as other military units.

He was speaking in Zielonka, near Warsaw, where he attended a show with drones at the Military Institute of Armaments Technology.

Macierewicz did not specify how many of the machines the defense ministry would buy.

**NEW HELICOPTERS NEXT YEAR.** The Armed Forces of Poland will receive their first special-operations helicopters by next year, the defense ministry said.

Talks are currently being conducted with three potential partners. Beata Perkowska, the deputy head of the Operational Center within the defense ministry, said that the present government will spend a fifth of total defense spending on modernizing the army, including purchasing new weapons and equipment.

"In previous years, this commitment was not met," Perkowska said.

She added that the previous government coalition in Poland "made yearly adjustments to the budget in order to justify the impossibility of equipping the Polish army with modern weapons."

**MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIANS DISCUSSED.** The plight of Christians targeted by Islamic extremists in the Middle East was the main topic of a conference held in the southern Polish city of Krakow, Nov. 5, 2016.

The conference, called the 2nd European Congress for the Protection of Persecuted Christians, was held as an initiative by Polish Euro-deputy Ryszard Legutko and international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need.

According to Legutko, Christians in the Middle East need humanitarian, financial and legal assistance as well as political action based on instruments such as the UN Security Council.

Specifically, the conference debated the situation of Christians in refugee camps in the Middle East. According to Legutko, the situation of Christians in such camps is difficult and often dramatic because they are afraid to admit to their Christian faith because that "immediately puts them at risk."

Conference participants included representatives from organizations working to protect the rights of Christians, including Alliance Defending Freedom International, Christian Concern, and the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Archbishop of Krakow, officially opened the conference, which was held under the

auspices of Poland's President Andrzej Duda. (PAP)

**AMAZON EXPANDING IN POLAND.** E-commerce giant Amazon plans to open a fourth logistics center in Poland, with work on it expected to be completed next August, Polish website onet.pl has reported.

Amazon, the world's largest internet-based retailer, announced the new logistics center is a response to increased demand for its services from Poland and Europe, onet.pl said.

A Polish-language version of Amazon's German site was launched this past October.

According to onet.pl, the new 720,000 square foot logistics center, worth over \$100 million (USD), will be built in Kołbaskowo, north-west Poland, and will employ 1,000 people.

Since 2014 Amazon has invested in three logistics centers and two offices in Poland, which employ 5,500 people on a permanent basis.

Negative demographic trends continue in Poland as none of the programs directed at increasing the country's birth rate have reversed the downward trend. Programs such as longer parental leave and birth benefits have done nothing to reverse the downward birth rate. The negative trends continue to prevail in Poland in spite of the fact that the number of births increased in the country in the first three quarters of the year. If the downward trend of the birth rate continues, the number of Poles will decline from the current 38.4 million to 34 million.

**CANAL WILL BYPASS RUSSIAN**

**WATERS.** Poland announced plans to build a canal in order to avoid ships having to pass through Russian waters. Currently all sea traffic from the Polish port of Elblag has to pass through Russian-controlled waters in order to reach the Baltic Sea. The construction of the canal is slated to start in 2018 and be completed by 2022. It will pass through a narrow strip of land separating the Vistula Lagoon in north-east Poland and the Baltic Sea. The location of the canal is renowned for being a popular tourist destination where Poles enjoy the tranquility of the long, sandy beaches and sailing as well.

The Polish government maintains that security concerns and the need to avoid dependency on Russia surpass any tourist or environmental fears about the construction of the canal.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski, leader of Poland's Law and Justice Party deems unacceptable the fact that NATO's and the European Union's eastern border is wholly controlled by Russia and emphasizes Poland's need to show Russia that "...we are a sovereign country. This is for political-military interests."

## SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

### Will the United States Defend Poland?

Dear Editor,

I am deeply worried and in disbelief that Poland would, yet again, trust the United States or the British to ensure their safety with the placement of armed defense systems, employed by NATO, on the border of Poland adjacent to the Russian border.

Poland takes a terrible risk. Do the Polish people truly believe that one U.S. or British soldier will be

sent to their defense? Has it ever been the case? When has the United States defended Poland? Do we not learn? Do we entrust another generation to the horrors of a war that is bound to be fought on Polish soil? As the great Polish pianist, Krystian Zimerman, said to an audience while on tour in the United States, "Get your hands off my country!"

Cynthia Zavatski  
Via email



AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

**Kolędy, Pastoralki, and Traditional Carols Featured at Polish Singers Alliance of America Christmas and Holiday Concerts**

**DISTRICT VII**

**Dec. 4, 2016.** Polonia-Paderewski Mixed Chorus #287 presents "Koncert Kolęd" at Most Holy Trinity Church in Wallingford, Conn. 3:00 p.m. For details, call Bozena Madej, (860) 675-1761.

**Dec. 4, 2016.** Chopin Male Chorus #182 – "Annual Christmas Concert" at the Polish-American Cultural Center (Polish People's Home), 1-3 Monroe Street, Passaic, NJ at 3:00 p.m. For info call Arthur Sroka, (973) 916-0788.

**Dec. 6, 2016.** Polonia-Paderewski #287. "Koncert Kolęd" at Msgr. Bojnowski Home, 50 Pulaski St., New Britain, Conn. 6:00 p.m.

**Dec. 6, 2016.** Polonia-Paderewski #287. "Koncert Kolęd" at St. Lucian Home 532 Burritt St., New Britain, Conn. For info call Bozena Madej, (860) 675-1761.

**Dec. 11, 2016.** Aria Mixed Chorus #303. Oplatek and Christmas

Concert. 2:00 p.m. Cracovia Manor, 196 Main Ave., Wallington, N.J. For details call Ewa Karcz, (973) 980-9326.

**Dec. 11, 2016.** Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus #321 Christmas Concert at Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, featuring students of the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School. 2:30 pm; light reception to follow. For information call Deborah Majka, (215) 627-1391.

**Dec. 24, 2016.** Polonia-Paderewski #287. Sing-along prior to and during Midnight Mass (Pastorka). Holy Cross Church in New Britain, Conn. For details, call Bozena Madej, (860) 675-1761.

**Jan. 8, 2017.** Jutrzenka Female Chorus #226 sing during 11:00 am Polish Mass, followed immediately by its Annual Christmas Concert at Our Lady of Czestochowa / St. Casimir Church, 183 25th Street,

Brooklyn, N.Y. At 2:00 p.m., the group will attend the parish oplatek in the lower school hall. If you wish to come and/or join them, for details and/or reservations, call Barbara R. Blyskal at (718) 720-6089.

**Jan. 22, 2017.** PSAA's District 7 Choruses gather to present their Annual Christmas/Winter Concert at the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wallington, N.J. 12:30 p.m. Mass immediately followed concert. Guest groups and individuals will provide an interesting and varied musical afternoon. Concert is free of charge; Free-will donations will be gladly accepted. For specifics, call District President Yaga Chudy, (201) 681-7980.

**DISTRICT IX**

**Dec. 4, 2016.** Festival of Carols. 3:30 p.m. at St. Stanislaus B& M R.C., Church, 123 Townsend St, Buffalo, N.Y.

**ILLINOIS**

**CHICAGO** — On Dec. 4, 2016. The **Lira Singers, Dancers & Symphony** will present "50 Years of Polish Carols, Song & Dance" at 3:00 p.m. in Chicago's Orchestra Hall, 220 S. Michigan Ave. Music of Polish master composers, as well as Polish and American carols, folk songs and dances. The event will be narrated in English. Call Lira at (773) 508-7040 or (800) 547-5472, or visit [www.liraensemble.org](http://www.liraensemble.org).

**NEW JERSEY**

**CLARK** — On Dec. 3, 2016. the **Polish University Club** will hold

its Annual Mass and Wigilia Dinner at the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway. Mass at 6:00 p.m.; a wigilia dinner will follow with complimentary wine, beer and soda, desserts, coffee, and tea. Contact: Wojtek Welenc at (973) 316-5914; [voytekwo@optonline.net](mailto:voytekwo@optonline.net).

**GARFIELD** — The **88th Scholarship Ball** of the Polish University Club of New Jersey will be held Sat., Jan. 21, 2017 at the Royal Manor, 454 Midland Ave. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 with dinner, dancing, and entertainment to follow and an open bar until 10:00 p.m. Over 500

scholarships have been awarded to college students of Polish heritage through the efforts of the University Club. For information about the ball, contact Carolyn Hamming at (732) 494-7100; [hammingc80@gmail.com](mailto:hammingc80@gmail.com).

**NEW YORK**

**NEW YORK** — Meet Swiety Mikolaj / Santa Claus, Sat. Dec. 3 at at **The Kosciuszko Foundation**, 15 East 65th Street, New York, NY 10065. There will be singing traditional Christmas Carols with Halina Kalita and making traditional Polish Christmas ornaments with the Pol-

Honors for Swit



On Wed., Oct. 12, the 17th Annual Los Angeles Polish Film Festival held its gala. The event was held at the Egyptian Theatre on Hollywood Blvd. Loretta Swit, best known for her character Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan on the TV series M.A.S.H, received the first Artist of Polish Heritage Achievement Award.

A second generation Polish American, Swit's parents were Lester Boleslaw Swit and Nell Aniela Kaszak. Her grandparents came from Warsaw, Gdansk, and Zakopane.

Pictured above are escort Joseph Rej, Jr., Swit, and founder and president of the Los Angeles Polish Film Festival Wladek Juszkiewicz.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**PHILADELPHIA** — **Christmas Gala.** Sat., Dec. 3, 2016, sponsored by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Chapter of Kosciuszko Foundation, and Jagiellonian Law Society. Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill. 6:00 p.m. cocktails; 7:00 p.m. dinner, oplatek, caroling, silent auction and dancing. For tickets call Jean Joka at (215) 483-0193 or [jeanjoka@gmail.com](mailto:jeanjoka@gmail.com), or Marie Hejnosz at (215) 487-0221 or [hejnoszm@gmail.com](mailto:hejnoszm@gmail.com).

All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.

ish Scouting Folk Craft Instructors. Tickets: \$10 children; \$20 adults accompanied by child. Seating is limited, first come, first served. More information: Bernadette O'Keefe [@bokyy@aol.com](mailto:@bokyy@aol.com)

**VESTAL** — The **Broome County Kopernik Society** will hold its Annual Wigilia Dinner, Dec. 11, 2016, at the Polish Community Center, 347 Prospect St. in Binghamton, N.Y. For reservations call Rita Bilsky Yeates at (607) 797-2935 or 761-4054. The Broome County Kopernik Society also operates the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center in Vestal.

**Polish American Journal Foundation Scholarship Fund Needs Your Generosity**

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

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

**ELIGIBILITY**

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

**Factors for Consideration in Order of Importance:**

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



**The complete application package can be downloaded from the PAJF's website, which has a link at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com).**

**WE ASK OUR READERS FOR SUPPORT**

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

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

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

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

gap with its Scholarship Fund.

For the 2017-18 academic year, we are offering two \$1500 scholarships. Over time, we hope to increase the number of scholarships offered each year, and ultimately, the prize amount.

**MEMBERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS**

Membership in the PAJF is open to all. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. The success of the fund depends on renewed membership in the PAJF, and additional funds ear-

marked solely for scholarships.

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 draw upon more than 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and

community.

**For more information, or to make a donation, call, write or email:**

**PAJF 2017-18 Scholarship  
P.O. Box 198  
Bowmansville, NY 14026-0198  
[editor@polamjournal.com](mailto:editor@polamjournal.com)  
(716) 312-8088  
(800) 422-1275**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

- Friend of the PAJF Any amount up to \$49.99
- Individual .....\$50.00
- Family.....\$100.00
- Sustaining.....\$250.00
- Patron.....\$500.00
- Benefactor .....\$1,000.00
- Chairman's Circle .....\$2,500.00 or more

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

APT. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT**

- USPS First Class Mail
- E-mail (please print E-mail address below)

Please  do  do not include my name on your Annual Report to Donors.

Donations of \$50.00 or more entitle the member for a courtesy subscription to the Polish American Journal. If you wish to give this as a gift, please provide recipient's name and address on a separate piece of paper.

**Complete and return to:  
THE POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION  
P.O. BOX 198, BOWMANVILLE, NY 14026**



## POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

308 WALNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106  
(215) 922-1700

When You're in Philadelphia's Historic District, Visit The Polish American Cultural Center Museum Exhibit Hall

Featuring Polish History and Culture

OPEN 10:00 a.m. TO 4:00 p.m. • FREE ADMISSION

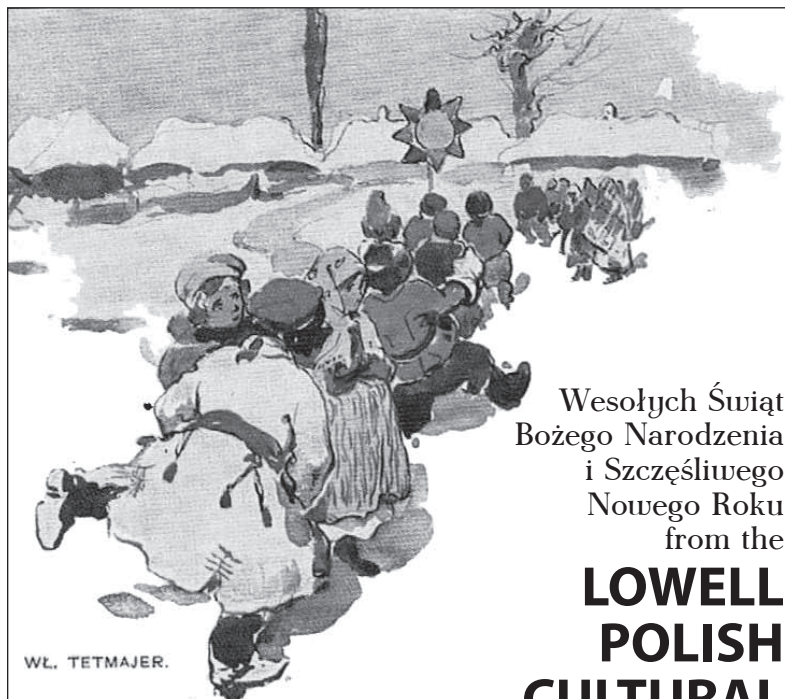
January through April • Monday to Friday

May through December • Monday to Saturday

Gift Shop is Open During Regular Exhibit Hall Hours

Closed on Holidays

Visit Us on the Internet: [www.polishamericancenter.org](http://www.polishamericancenter.org)



WL. TETMAJER.

Wesołych Świąt  
Bożego Narodzenia  
i Szczęśliwego  
Nowego Roku  
from the  
**LOWELL  
POLISH  
CULTURAL  
COMMITTEE**  
Lowell, Massachusetts

## BOOKS IN BRIEF/ Mary Lanham

### Divided Poles in a Divided Nation

#### SONS OF THE WHITE EAGLE IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR:

*Divided Poles in a Divided Nation*  
By Mark F. Bielski  
Casemate Publishers,  
2016, 312 pps.

1950 Lawrence Road  
Havertown PA 19083  
(610) 853-9131

[casematepublishers.com](http://casematepublishers.com)

Walk around the American Civil War section of your library and one could think that every aspect of the war has been covered. You will find specialized books on *South Carolina Women in the Confederacy*, *Civil War Veterans of the Tonawandas*, *N.Y. and Biographical Sketches of Confederate Participants in the Battle of Picacho Pass, April 15, 1862*. So it is only fitting that Mark Bielski has added to the field a Polish perspective of the War Between the States with his *Sons of the White Eagle in the American Civil War*.

This thoroughly researched text with photos, maps, historical documents, an impressive bibliography and index, offers nine personal portraits of Poles who fought for the North, the South, and in one case both. Ranging from Union General Wladimir Krzyzanowski, to Confederate Colonel Valery Sulakowski, and rebel turned Federal Sergeant Peter Kiofbassa, Bielski dissects the Poles historical view of freedom, how others view them, and they viewed themselves, through the lens of the Polish heroes of the American Revolution, and how the actions in Europe affected their motivations.

A prime example of this is Ludwik Zychlinski. A career military man with fighting experience in Europe, he hoped serving the Union would teach him tactics he could take back to use as a Polish freedom fighter. To explain the rationale of how Poles could fight in the defense of slavery, Bielski dissects the life of Gaspar Tochman, the organizer of the famous Confederate *Polish Brigade*. Tochman, a Virginia lawyer, found justification for succession in the U.S. Constitution and saw parallels between the actions of the U.S. Federal Government and Russian Empire's partition of Poland.

Although Bielski is an academic, *Sons of the White Eagle in the American Civil War* is not a difficult

read. Basic knowledge of Polish and U.S. history is all that is needed for this informative and enjoyable book. It is the perfect accompaniment to James Pula's *The History of a German-Polish Civil War Brigade* and biography of General Wladimir Krzyzanowski. It fits perfectly into a Polish American library or a general Civil War collection.

*Sons of the White Eagle in the American Civil War: Divided Poles in a Divided Nation* is available through Casemate Publishers, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Personalized and signed copies can be purchased through the author's website, [markbielski.com](http://markbielski.com)

**About the author:** Mark Bielski is a director at Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours and the Ambrose Institute in New Orleans. He has a Ph.D. in History from the University of Birmingham (England), with a Masters in English from Georgetown and Bachelors from Tulane University. His career has involved academics, history, and journalism and is a member of both the American Historical Association and the Society for Military History.

#### THE NOBILITY OF POLAND

*Landowners of Poland*  
*a Personal View*

By Xavier Jon Puslowski  
Createspace, 2011, 597 pps.  
[Createspace.com](http://Createspace.com)

When he was growing up, Xavier Puslowski was surrounded by stories, those in films and in books. But the stories that fascinated him the most were the ones that were told by family friends and relatives. These stories about the past sparked his love of history. In *The Nobility of Poland*, Puslowski narrates his ancestral stories and uses them as a starting point to examine the lives of the upper classes and landowners in Poland before World War II.

*The Nobility of Poland* begins with the mysterious murder of a Polish noble, Prince Ladislas Drucki-Lubecki in 1914. The remainder of the book is divided up into roughly two sections. The earlier chapters give us the history of Poland up until the late nineteenth century. The last chapter of this hefty tome focuses on the twentieth century culminating with the outbreak of the

Second World War. The middle section focuses on the way of life for Polish aristocrats such as titles, etiquette, protocol, and code of honor. Many rules of etiquette for courtiers continued until the early twentieth century Puslowski describes what fate could befall an Eastern European noble for refusing to duel.

"In 1902, a caller arrived at the home of American writer Mark Twain bearing a letter of introduction from Elizabeth, Queen of Rumania ... one of the few royals with literary credentials. As was explained in the letter ... the caller was a Madame Hartwig, an American singer who had married a highly placed Rumanian. Madam Hartwig's husband had refused on principle to take part in 'an affair of honor.' Consequently, his friends and business acquaintances had shunned him. He was now an exile and financially ruined. The Queen asked Twain if he could find a suitable position for the couple."

In this extremely well-researched volume of Poland's history Puslowski succeeds in his goal in portraying the Polish aristocracy, the *szlachta*, as well-rounded and fleshed out historical figures. *The Nobility of Poland: Landowners of Poland a Personal View* by Xavier Jon Puslowski is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

**About the author:** Born in Warsaw, Poland, Xavier Jon Puslowski has been a construction worker, a chef's assistant, and a postman. After serving in the Army he taught at Howard University. Puslowski was also an economic analyst with the U.S. Department of Energy for several years.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

**THE OPŁATEK-SHARING RITUAL** on Christmas Eve is Poland's most beloved holiday tradition and remains quite popular across Polish America and may actually be spreading through the inspiration of the many opłatek-dinners held across Polonia.

**IN POLAND, POPULAR WIGILIA DISHES**, all meatless, include mushroom or clear beetroot barszcz, pickled herring and fried fish, sauerkraut with mushrooms and/or yellow peas, pierogi and sweet dishes containing poppyseeds, nuts, honey and dried fruits.

## Polish Falcons Final Expense Insurance Plan

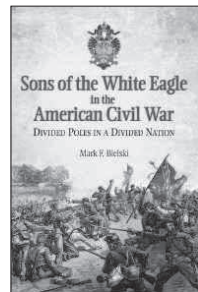
Give Your Family the Gift of Greater Financial Security

What are the Advantages of the PFA Final Expense Plan?

- \$5,000 face amount of Insurance
- Simplified underwriting
- NO medical exam
- Affordable rates
- Lifetime Coverage that will not expire (as long as your premiums are paid)
- Issue ages 50-80

Contact John Denning for your customized quote at 800.535.2071 or [jdenning@polishfalcons.org](mailto:jdenning@polishfalcons.org).

**Wesołych Świąt!**



*Sons of the White Eagle in the American Civil War*  
Mark F. Bielski



Merry Christmas  
from  
©CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

MAY THE MAGIC OF  
THE SEASON  
FILL YOUR  
HEART AND HOME

BEST WISHES,  
THE FAMILY OF KORCZAK & RUTH ZIOLKOWSKI



Between Hill City & Custer • SD Hwy 16/385 • (605) 673-4681 • [crazyhorsememorial.org](http://crazyhorsememorial.org)



**POLONIA PLACES**

GREGORY L. WITUL

**St. Barbara R.C. Church**

551 Ridge Road  
Lackawanna, New York  
Status: Lost



Gracefully lit trees adorned the altar for the church's last Christmas, 2007.

Wesołych Świąt! Christmas is here and pews across Christendom will be packed as relatives gather and attend services at the family church. It's the time of year when children can sit in the same spot for Mass as their parents, grandparents, and even great grandparents. Sadly, for the children of St. Barbara's in Lackawanna, New York, that physical connection with their Polish American ancestors is not possible, as this Christmas will almost be the ninth anniversary of the parish's closing and the sixth anniversary of its demolition.

The call of work brought Poles to the eastern shores of Lake Erie as Lackawanna Steel needed strong-bodied men to work its plant in the

town of West Seneca. Some came from Buffalo, others from Scranton, Pa., and even more from Poland. As more Poles settled in the area, Polish Masses started to be held in the homes of the community's leaders. In 1903 the 250 Polish families residing near the Limestone Hill neighborhood appealed to the bishop of Buffalo to give them their own parish. Seeing that there were more than enough parishioners to support a church, the bishop agreed and sent Father Peter Szulc to organize St. Barbara's.

St. Barbara's saw some major changes at the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. The first major change happened in 1909 when the western part of West Seneca broke away from the town and formed the city of Lackawanna, taking St. Barbara's with it. The second was the formation of St. Hyacinth's parish which was carved out of St. Barbara's territory. Since the numbers of families registered was more than St. Barbara's could handle, and many parishioners had to face dangerous conditions walking to the church, St. Hyacinth's relieved the population pressure and was a safe walk for many living near the steel plant.

It would be under the tenure of Father Francis Radziszewski that St. Barbara would see its greatest change, a new church. In 1929, Polish American architect Joseph E. Fronczak was hired and designed a streamlined, Art Deco-inspired brick edifice. The architectural highlights included a 150-foot bell tower and space for a massive stained glass window above the entrance of the church. To decorate the building and fill the windows with stained glass, Fronczak brought on his friend, artist Joseph C. Mazur. Working with Radziszewski and Fronczak, Mazur installed a number of stained glass panels that focused on Polish religious, including Bl. Bronislaw, Bl. Wincenty Kadłubek, and Piotr Skarga. Above the main altar, Mazur painted an elaborate rendition of the Assumption of Mary using his wife Stefa as the model. It took nearly two years to complete, but on November 1, 1931 the new church was dedicated.

For over 70 years the new church would see the joys as parishioners married and the sorrows of parishioners' families at their funeral Masses. Despite the declining Polish population of Lackawanna, St. Barbara's was a fiscally-sound parish, so it came as a bit of a surprise when the church was selected to be merged and closed. The final Mass at St. Barbara's was held on the evening of January 13, 2008. Mournful parishioners and friends packed the church for the solemn event.

Following the Mass, a number of proposed uses for the building were floated, including making it into Lackawanna's new city hall, but they all fell through. Seeing no other alternatives, the building was mostly gutted and on March 21, 2011 demolition on St. Barbara's commenced. The building resisted but by the end of the week, St. Barbara's was no more. Now all that sits at 551 Ridge Road is an empty lot, ready and waiting for re-development.

St. Barbara's in Lackawanna, N.Y. was designed by Joseph E. Fronczak. The church was dedicated in 1931.



The last żłobek and decorations to grace St. Barbara's altar.

With the parish established, Father Szulc began raising funds to construct a combination church and school building. On September 4, 1904, Poles from across Western New York traveled to Lackawanna for the laying of the cornerstone of the new building. By the end of the next year the church was complete and children began attending the school.

Father Garstka took over the parish in 1906 while the growth of industry along the shore brought more families to the area. Soon St. Barbara's school was overflowing with pupils. Buildings were purchased and refurbished to serve as an annex for the school, but enrollment continued to increase and more would have to be done.

Radosnych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia pomysłnego Nowego Roku

**POLISH AMERICAN CITIZENS CLUB**  
Camden County, N.J.

Pełnych radości, pokoju i szczęścia Świąt Bożego Narodzenia oraz wszelkiej pomysłności w nadchodzącym Nowym Roku  
**WALLY PIATEK**  
Berlin, New Jersey



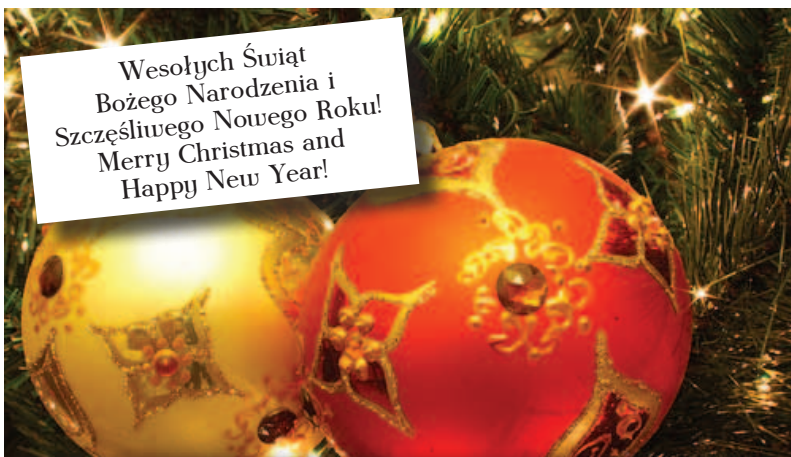
Merry Christmas Wesołych Świąt  
**CLEVELAND SOCIETY OF POLES**

**Dennis Galicki**  
President  
dennisgalicki@gmail.com

**Carol Stafinski**  
Vice-President  
stafinskarol@yahoo.com

**Allan Szufłada**  
Treasurer  
aldi333@aol.com

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**THE UNION OF POLES IN AMERICA**  
DISTRICT 17 • POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE



9999 GRANGER ROAD  
Garfield Heights, OH 44125  
The Oldest Polish American Fraternal Organization in the State of Ohio  
**FOUNDED IN 1894**



**American Council for Polish Culture**



Please visit [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org) for information about our \$5,000 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies, \$2,000 Summer Studies in Poland Scholarships, \$3,000 Skalny Scholarships for Polish Studies, \$2,000 Sembrich Vocal Award, Wachtel Literary Competition, Grants supporting our Affiliate's cultural programs, and our popular Exhibit at the Annual National Conference for the Social Studies.

**We love supporting students - the future of Polonia!**

**JOIN US!** Individual membership is only \$10/year. Polish cultural groups are invited to join us as Affiliate or Supporting organizations. For information, please contact Florence Langridge, 860-521-4034, flolangridge@sbcglobal.net



**President Tom Payne 1st VP Robert Synakowski**  
**2nd VP Alicia L. Dutka Treasurer Judi Tompkins**  
**Recording Secretary Marcia Lewandowski**

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku

**We wish all of Polonia a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



Wesołych Świąt!

**EDWIN & MILDRED SOWA**

Chicopee, Massachusetts





Wesołych Świąt  
Bożego Narodzenia  
i Szczęśliwego  
Nowego Roku



## JANE SHUBACK & FAMILY

Middletown, New York

Wesołych Świąt  
i Szczęśliwego  
Nowego Roku!



## THE POLISH PEDDLER

Chet and Virginia Luty  
Medina, Ohio

CHRISTMAS LORE / Rev. Charles Jan DiMascola

## A Pillow for Baby Jesus

Long ago in Poland — in ancient Krakow — there lived an old widow named Helena. On the morning of Christmas Eve she went to the Dominican Church to watch the priests put up the Christmas creche. She saw Father Jacek put the beautiful statue



ŚW. JACEK. Helena's "little pillows" fell under his patronage. When Helena went

in the manger and she noticed that the baby Jesus had no pillow. She told the priest that baby Jesus should have a pillow and that the hay was too scratchy.

But Father Jacek said the monastery had no money for a pillow and that the Holy Family was very poor and that is most likely the way Mary placed the little baby Jesus. All Helena could say was "I don't think so!"

When Helena went

home all she could think about was baby Jesus lying on that scratchy and rough hay. The more she thought about it the angrier she became.

"What does Father Jacek know about how a mother would prepare for a baby? She said to herself. "Of course Mary had a pillow for the baby Jesus!" She answered herself.

She decided that she had to make supper and got out the fixing to make homemade kluski (noodles) with cabbage. But as she was rolling out the dough she became angrier and angrier that the poor baby Jesus had no pillow, and her kluski got bigger and bigger until she realized that she wasn't really making the delicate noodles she had planned.

Then she had an idea: she would make little pillows from the dough and stuff them with cabbage!

After she had done that she decided that maybe if she stuffed the pillows with blueberries they would be softer and have a wonderful fragrance of summer. So she made some little pillows stuffed with blueberries.

And then she thought: "if I stuffed the pillows with cheese, they would be ever so soft!" And so she stuffed some of her little pillows with cheese.

After she had boiled all her little pillows she took them to the Dominican church for baby Jesus. Father Jacek was praying at the crèche and when he saw the little pillows he became very excited.

"Oh thank you so much," said Father Jacek. "Here it is Christmas Eve and the monks have nothing for supper. How kind of you to think of us!"

Well, what could Helena say? She gave the little pillows to Father Jacek, thankful that she could help the poor monks who had given all their own food to the poor, but so sad that the Baby Jesus still had no pillow. She looked at the beautiful little statue and through her tears she was sure that she saw the baby Jesus smile and give her a little wink.

She knew that she had given the Baby Jesus a pillow after all. A soft and beautiful pillow: her heart filled with love and charity.

Nobody remembers little Helena today, even though she invented the little pillows that we call pierogi that everyone has at their Christmas Eve dinner. Father Jacek, on the other hand, later became the famous Św. Jacek (St. Hyacinth in English), one of the patron saints of Poland and interestingly enough, the patron saint of pierogi makers. (As if it were his idea!)

The moral to this story is that all of us are called to prepare the way for Jesus, not with a soft pillow but with a soft heart to comfort those who are lonely or sad, to take the time for someone who just needs to talk, to have compassion and patience on those who just need our time.

These are the presents that we can prepare for the Baby Jesus. Like Helena, our charity and kindness will make Him smile!

❖ ❖ ❖

Father Charles Jan DiMascola, the "Polish priest with the Italian name," is pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa parish in Turners Falls, Mass. He speaks Polish fluently, and shares Polish traditions and the true Catholic Faith with his congregation.

Dziękuję mama i tata!

**BASIA**

Wesołych Świąt!



**SOCHA, KOT  
AND PELCZARSKI  
FAMILIES**

We wish all our members, friends, donors and sponsors a  
Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year

The best gift one can receive is the smile on a child's face that was given a second chance to a normal and healthy life. Thank You for your support. — Doreen Patras Cramer, President

**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE**

177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066 / (732) 680-0680  
www.PolishChildrensHeartline.org / childshart@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE! **January 22, 2017**  
**ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE GALA**  
at the Polish Consulate, New York City  
for information, please call (732) 680-0680



**WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT BOŻEGO  
NARODZENIA  
DLA MOICH BLISKICH PRZYJACIOŁ  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES  
TO MY CLOSE FRIENDS**

**CRICKLEWOOD, LLC**  
KIRTLAND, OHIO • EUGENIUSZ J. TRELA • (440) 256-5024



## POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Dr. Kazimierz Braun Receives Commodore's Cross, Order of Polonia Restituta

BUFFALO, N.Y. — **Dr. Kazimierz Braun** of the State University of New York at Buffalo Theatre Department recently received the Commodore's Cross, Order of Polonia Restituta while in Poland to premiere his new play, "The Return of Norwid" ... The 2016 **Rochester Polish Film Festival** opened its Part II with the screening of Jerzy Skolimowski's "11 Minutes" at the Dryden Theatre, Nov. 2. The festival continued through Nov. 7 with the showing of Anne Fontaine's "The Innocents," Janusz Majewski's "Eccentrics, The Sunny Side of the Street," Janusz Zaorski's "Generations" and "Siberian Exile," Tomasz Magierski's "History in Moving Pictures: The Introduction of Christianity A.D. 965" and "303," Sławomir Grunberg's "Karski & The Lords of Humanity," and Mitja Okorn's "Planet Single."

The **Polish American Priests Association** held its Mass of Remembrance for Deceased Polish and Polish-American Clergy and Religious at St. John Gualbert's Church in Cheektowaga, Nov. 3rd. Buffalo **Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz** presented a diocesan decree making St. John Gualbert's Church a Shrine of Holy Relics of Saints during the Mass ... On November 5th, a special **Mass of Remembrance** was celebrated at the St. Adalbert Basilica in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District. The Villa Maria Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Ireneusz Lukaszewski, provided the music ... Also on the 5th, the Honky Express, Special Delivery, and Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble performed at the Fr. Justin Council Knights of Columbus's "**Polish Night at the Knights**" at the group's clubrooms in Cheektowaga.

The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress sponsored its third annual "**Zupapalooza Soup Festival**," Nov. 6th. The winners of the soup contest were: Golabki Soup (Golden Ladle - Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY), Krupnik Soup (Silver Ladle - Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School) and Potato Leek Soup (Bronze Ladle - WNY Division of the Polish American Congress). The Peoples' Choice was the Polish Saturday School's Krupnik Soup and the Polish Leg-



Braun

acy Project won the award for the Best Decorated Table. The General Pulaski Association's Princess Pulaski Emma Arent and Countess Pulaski Catherine Carroccia participated in the event.

The Delaware North Corporation has named **Ru's Pierogi** as the preferred pierogi provider at the Key-Bank Center, which is home of the Buffalo Sabres and Bandits.

The 8th **Toronto Polish Film Festival** was held at the Revue Cinema in the Roncesvalles neighborhood, Nov. 7-12. This year's films included "Generations" by Janusz Zaorski, "Kamper" by Łukasz Grzegorzek, "United States of Love" by Tomasz Wasilewski, "Jarocin. Rock for Freedom" by Marek Gajczak & Leszek Gnoiński, "The Red Spider" by Marcin Koszałka, "Karski & The Lords of Humanity" by Sławomir Grunberg, "The High Frontier" by Wojciech Kasperski, "Soul Doctor" by Mariusz Elert & Dorota Jagielska, "11 Minutes" by Jerzy Skolimowski, "Planet Single" by Mitja Okorn, "Golden Drops" by Daniel Zduńczyk, Marcin Męczkowski, "Chemo" by Bartosz Prokopowicz, and "The Last Family" by Jan P. Matuszyński. Polish Canadian songstress Anna Cyzon performed at the opening of the festival

**St. Stanislaus Church**, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia, celebrated a Polish Independence Day/Polish Soldiers Day Mass, Nov. 13. A Harvest Brunch and Basket Raffle were held in the parish hall after the Mass ... Also on

the 13th, the Canadian Polish Congress - Mississauga Branch marked "**Polish Remembrance Day**" at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, and the Canadian Polish Congress - Toronto Branch, did likewise at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church ... Buffalo State College history professor Joseph Golombek spoke on the "**Warsaw Ghetto Uprising**" at the November 15th meeting of the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society at the Niagara Falls Public Library.

The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** presented a two part program at its November 16th meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst: "From Black Rock to God: Memoirs of a Polish American Nun" by Sr. Ruth Penska, GNSH; and "Aleksander Janta and the Establishment of the Polish Room at UB" by Christine Nowak ... The members of the **Professional and Business Women of Polonia** heard Rick Falkowski, founder of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, at their November 17th meeting at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew.

On November 19-20, Zespół Gitary Niepokalanej, Rev. Elio Dennis Lopez Paredes, Dorota Osinska and Młodzi Wykonawcy performed at the 27th Festival of **Polish Religious Song** at the Pope John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... Buffalo **Bishop Richard Malone** celebrated the 1050th anniversary of Poland's Christianity with a Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Downtown Buffalo, Nov. 20th ... **St. John Kanty Parish** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District began its 125th anniversary celebration with a Mass, Nov. 20th

The Consul General of the Republic of Poland presented **Dr. Florian Smie** and his recent work, "Dotykanie Świata" at the consulate on the 22nd ... Polish Canadians in Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener, Mississauga and Scarborough, Ontario celebrated "**Andrzejki**," Nov. 26th as well ... On the 27th, "Biały Orzeł," "Cracovia," "Harnasie," "Lechovia," "Radosc-Joy" and "Zrodlo" performed at the Polish Credit Union **Folklore Festival** at the Pope John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga.

**UPCOMING.** The Buffalo Chamber Players will host "**An Evening with Krzysztof Penderecki**" at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo on December 1st ... On December 3rd and 4th, revered Polish composer and conductor Penderecki will lead the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in a program featuring the Maestro's Concerto for Violin and Cello, featuring violinist Dennis Kim and cellist Roman Mekinulov; Beethoven's "Overture to Creatures of Prometheus" and Dvorak's "Symphony No. 7."

Buffalo's Historic **Broadway Market** will hold its "Kick-Off to Christmas" with New Direction; and the **Polka Variety Social Club** will host its Christmas Party with Special Delivery at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW in Cheektowaga, on December 3rd ... The **Chopin Singing Society** will hold its Wigilia, Dec. 3, at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

The **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and Western New York** will install its new officers: David Gorski (pres.), Marty Bochinski (v.p.), Mike Stack (2nd v.p.), Jerry Imiola (3rd v.p.), Darryl Borawski (sec.), Andy Kozakiewicz (treas.), Paul Manno (fin. sec.) and William Glendinning (sgt.-at-arms) at its Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew, Dec. 3 ... The annual "**Festival of Polish Christmas Song**," featuring the choirs of District IX of the Polish Singers Alliance of America, will be held at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District on December 4th.

Also on the 4th, **St. John Kanty Parish** will continue its 125th anniversary celebration with a Mass featuring music by the **Ludowa Nuta** Polish Canadian Folk Choir from Hamilton, Ontario; and the **Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society** will celebrate its "Wigilia" at Koban's Restaurant in Niagara Falls ... The **General Pulaski Association** will hold its Christmas Party at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cheektowaga, Dec. 5. Members are reminded to bring a stuffed animal for Child and Adolescent Treatment Services.

Also on the 5th, the **Professional & Businessmen's Association** will hold its Man-of-the-Year/Election/

Christmas Party at the Pierce Arrow Museum in Downtown Buffalo ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** will hold its Wigilia in Kearney Hall at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, December 10 ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will hold its Wigilia at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca on December 11th ... The Buffalo Concertina All Stars will perform at the "Koledy Night" to be held at Potts Deli in Cheektowaga, Dec. 23.

The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** will hold its Christmas Party at the Polish Cadets Hall in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood on the 28th ... The **Millennium Hotel** in Cheektowaga will host its 5th Annual Polka New Year's Eve Celebration featuring the Buffalo Concertina All Stars and Honky Express on December 31st.

❖ ❖ ❖

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia szczęśliwego Nowego Roku 2017! Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all in 2017!

❖ ❖ ❖

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 2017 issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!  
Bożego Narodzenia  
i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku

### POLISH UNION OF AMERICA

745 Center Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
(716) 677-0220



Wesołych Świąt  
Bożego Narodzenia  
i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku

### GENERAL PULASKI ASSOCIATION OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER

Buffalo, New York



Wesołych Świąt  
Bożego Narodzenia i  
Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!

**DAVID FRAN CZYK**  
Fillmore District Councilman  
Buffalo, New York



Merry Christmas!  
**PROFESSIONAL &  
BUSINESSMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**

Happily serving the community for over 50 years  
(716) 839-4900

Wishing All a Merry Christmas

Congressman  
**BRIAN HIGGINS**  
26th-New York



"Over . . . 56 Years of Quality Service"

# Besroi

ROOFING & SIDING  
**684-0355**

Roofing • Siding  
Gutters • Trim Overhang  
Vinyl Replacement Windows  
Maintenance Free Decks & Railings

**MICHAEL C. HOINSKI**  
5434 Genesee St., PO Box  
202 Bowmansville, NY 14026

**716-684-0355**  
**FAX: 716-684-0751**



RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Latin Mass Returns to St. Joseph Oratory in Detroit

Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron has announced that the first Traditional Latin Mass will be held at **St. Joseph Oratory**, the new name for the St. Joseph Church site in Detroit. St. Joseph is part of **Mother of Divine Mercy**, which includes **Sweetest Heart of Mary** and **St. Josaphat churches**. The Oratory is entrusted to the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, which will offer an English mass on Saturdays. The Institute operates parishes at a dozen other U.S. churches and aims to revitalize and restore historic churches. The Institute was founded in Gabon, Africa, in 1990 and has a women's community, the Sisters Adorers of the Royal Heart of Jesus, and a lay group, the Society of the Sacred Heart.

**DONOR TO CATHOLIC EXTENSION.** **Catherine Gadarowski**, 92, a retired teacher and daughter of Polish immigrants has included Catholic extension in her will. She grew up in Willimantic, Conn., and worked in her father's bakery until her parish priest urged her to go to the College of New Rochelle, where she received a scholarship. She retired in 1985 after a career as a high school math teacher. She helped found St. Mary's Clothing Bank helping the poor in Bethel, Conn., and in Kentucky, Virginia, Alabama, and Mississippi.

"I like helping sisters and priests working in economically depressed areas. It's a good reminder that not everyone in America is wealthy," she said

**RULING AGAINST PLANNED PARENTHOOD SECRECY.** **Tom Brejcha**, president and chief counsel of Thomas More Society, represented David Daleiden in a case regarding the public taxpayer-funded university's experiments on aborted babies' organs and tissue. Planned Parenthood employees, abortionists and other personnel were involved, all anonymously, in the experimentation. At the University of Washington. U.S. District Judge James Robart ruled that the plaintiffs failed to "explain how their constitutional claims had met the standard" necessary to preserve their anonymity because the court lacked jurisdiction. He dismissed the case.

Daleiden and Brejcha declared that full disclosure is necessary in this matter of paramount public importance: whether and to what extent federal research money, to the extent of many hundreds of millions of dollars, has been misused to fund an immensely profitable and illegal market for the harvesting and sale of aborted babies' body parts.

**HOLOCAUST MONUMENT UNVEILED.** A monument was unveiled

in Suwalki, in northeast Poland, on the site of a synagogue destroyed by the communist government in 1956 after being heavily damaged during the Nazi German occupation. Its inscription reads, "In the memory of some 5,500 pre-war Jewish residents of Suwalki murdered during World War II as a result of the policy of extermination of the German occupier."

Local Christian organizations were involved in the project to build the monument.

The Great Synagogue was built in 1821 and Jews accounted for about one-third of the population of Suwalki before their deportation and murder by the Nazis.

**STO LAT TO ... Rev. Mr. Szymon Galazyn** of the diocese of Brooklyn who, together with 15 others, was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Nicholas Di Marzio. Deacon Galazyn will serve St. Anselm's Church in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

**Deacon Gregory Zoltowski** on being appointed by Albany Bishop Scharfenberfer to serve at St. Gabriel's parish in Rotterdam and St. Madeleine Sophie parish in Schenectady. Deacon Zoltowski is also a professor at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

**Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn Witold Mroziowski** on being



**HIGHLANDER GUESTS.** A Veterans Day Mass and pancake breakfast was held Nov. 6th at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, located in the Miller neighborhood of Gary, Ind. The Orawa Polish Highlander Orchestra from Chicago enhanced the Mass with their beautiful music and performed "Sto lat" in recognition of the birthday of parish administrator Bishop Emeritus Dale Melczek. The musicians also entertained the crowd during the breakfast.

awarded the 2016 Jan Karski Humanitarian Award by Polish Consul General Urszula Gacek. Bishop Mroziowski was honored for his fostering the Catholic faith and way of life and greater understanding between cultures and religions. **Sigmund Rolat**, philanthropist, humanitarian and holocaust survivor was also awarded for bringing international attention to the horrors of World War II and for founding the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. **Rita Cosby**, TV news anchor

and radio talk show host, also was honored for bringing attention to local, national and international issues and for promoting understanding between cultures.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... St. Mary of Czestochowa Church** in Eynon, Pa. on its 100th anniversary. RC Diocese of Scranton's Bishop Bambera had been pastor of St. Mary's. The parish is now part of Christ the King Parish in Archibald, Pa.

## Once Shuttered St. Casimir's Celebrates 125th Anniversary

CLEVELAND — The weekend of October 16, 2016 was a big one for Cleveland's Polonia, as the once-closed St. Casimir's R.C. Church on Sowinski Ave. observed its 125th anniversary.

To celebrate the parish's 1891 founding, Fr. Eric Orzech, pastor of both St. Casimir and St. Stanislaus churches, invited the Most Reverend Andrzej Wypych, the Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, to be the Celebrant and Homilist at the Sunday 11:30 a.m. Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving.

The bishop stayed at St. Stanislaus, and celebrated the Saturday Vigil Mass, there, which was followed by a reception in the parish's Social Hall. The next day, Sunday, the focus turned to St. Casimir's 125th Anniversary.

St. Casimir was closed along with other Catholic churches in the diocese. But parishioners of the church dedicated to the Blessed Mother (Our Lady of Czestochowa) would not surrender. Their effort gained strength when one member said the Virgin appeared to him in a dream and said "Do not leave me." For the next 139 weeks, prayer vigils were held in front of the closed church no matter the weather. Their devotion was rewarded with the re-opening of their church, setting an example for other churches to follow.

As the people entered St. Casimir for the anniversary celebration, they saw beautiful flowers, ribbons, and red and white banners. Mass began with a large procession consisting of veterans, children (of the Sienkiewicz Language School and Piast Dancers) and parents in the vibrant colors of Polish regional dress, followed by the altar servers and the clergy. The choir sang an ancient Latin hymn, "Te Deum Laudamus" ("We Praise You, Lord") in the Polish language.

The children carried a significant banner for St. Casimir. It depicted the Divine Mercy of Jesus with the words, "I Trust in Jesus." When St. Casimir was closed, this banner



St. Casimir's altar.

was displayed during the 139 street prayer vigils.

Bishop Wypych, the main celebrant, delivered a very meaningful homily concerning the importance of the family and what they can contribute to the faith in their everyday lives. At a pause in the Mass, two representatives of the parish — Ela Zysko and John Niedzialek — gave greetings and thanks in Polish and English to the parish, to Bishop Andrzej and to Father Orzech for the commitments to St. Casimir. The

ancient Polish custom of presenting bread and salt to Bishop Andrzej was done by the children in Polish dress.

The Mass fittingly ended with the Recessional Hymns of "Boze cos Polske" and "Holy God, we Praise Thy Name."

After Mass, a gala Anniversary Banquet took place in the newly renovated social hall with Bishop Wypych thanking everyone for their hard work and faith.

— *Joseph Feckanin*

### MODLITWY

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

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. J.K.

## "Spirit of St. Nicholas" Continues Work to Help Disabled Children

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The "Spirit of St. Nicholas" is the annual fund drive that provides Christmas gifts for children with disabilities in Jaroslaw, Poland. Last winter, the drive received a CD of photos taken when the children were given their Christmas gifts, provided by funds from our donors, for new clothing and school supplies.

In a letter to Christine Jozwiak, chair of the fundraiser in the United States, the director of the special education center expressed his gratitude. "As every year, your gifts bring smiles of joy and happiness to the faces of our children. We are thankful to know that there are people who understand the fate of these children with disabilities. We wish all of you heartfelt blessings in your personal and charitable activities. May your kind attitude of sharing be an example to others. May God bless all of you!"

The Spirit of St. Nicholas drive is managed by the Polish Heritage Festival Charitable Fund, which said 100% of every donation goes to this charitable effort. The Fund, a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization, underwrites the administrative costs such as postage and supplies, etc.

To donate, please make checks payable to the: Polish Heritage Festival Charitable Fund. On the "memo" line of the check write, "Spirit of St. Nicholas." Mail it to:



Members of Jaroslaw's Lions Club, President Halina Chudzik and Krzysztof Sikora, with one of the center's young patients. The Lions facilitate requests for and donations to the center between the United States and Poland.

PHF Charitable Fund, c/o Christine Jozwiak, PO Box 115, Springville, NY 14141-0115.

### POLISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR

- Official documents, letters, e-mails, etc.
- Reasonable rates.
- Fast, reliable service by e-mail or regular mail.
- Translation to from other languages available as well.
- Over 40 years experience working with genealogists, attorneys, businesses, film makers, government, medical professionals, etc.

**ANDY GOLEBIOWSKI**  
109 Rosemead Lane  
Cheektowaga, NY 14227  
(716) 892-5975  
andywbuffalo@yahoo.com



POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Wigilia Dessert Menu

Here are some of the best-known desserts of Polish Wigilia, Christmas Eve supper – the most important family meal of the year. Some recipes have been simplified somewhat and adapted to today's more convenient ingredients and less labor-intensive procedures.

**GRAIN & POPPYSEED DESSERT (kutia/kucja).** Prepare 2 c bulgur wheat according to pkg directions. Leave wheat in pot until cooled to room temp. Stir in about 3/4 c poppyseed filling (more or less to taste). Optional: 1/4 - 1/2 c ground or chopped almonds or walnuts may be added. Variations: Kutia can also be prepared using cooked rice or barley in place of the wheat.

**RICE & FRUIT DESSERT (ryż z owocami).** Transfer 4 c hot cooked rice to serving platter, dot with butter and top with fruit topping of choice: stewed fruit (above), canned cherry or apple-pie filling, strawberry or cherry preserves or powidla (Polish imported) plum butter. *Variation:* Cooked barley may be substituted for the rice.

**CHRISTMAS DRIED-FRUIT COMPOTE (kompot wigilijny).** Soak 12 - 16 oz pkg mixed dry fruit, 3 - 4 dried figs, 4-5 pitted dates and 1/2 c raisins in water to cover 2 hrs. Add a little water if all has been absorbed and cook about 20 min on med-low heat from the time boiling begins. Optional: 1 small sliced lemon (which has been scrubbed well before being sliced) and a pinch of cinnamon may be added before cooking. Chill and serve in dessert bowls. *Note:* Christmas Eve compote may be made with prunes alone or prunes & raisins or prunes & figs. It may also be expanded into the traditional 12-fruit compote (said to symbolize the 12 Apostles or the 12 days of Christmas) by adding other fruit not contained in the dried-fruit mixture such as dried cherries and currants as well as fresh orange wedges. of choice: preserves, jam, plum butter, fruit syrup or canned apple or cherry pie filling.

**HOLIDAY HONEYSPICE CAKE (piernik świąteczny).** Beat 2 eggs with 1 stick + 1 T butter and 1 c sugar. Stir in 1/2 c honey and 2 T cocoa.

Separately, mix 2 c flour with 1-1/2 t baking soda, 1/2 t ginger, 1/4 t cinnamon, 1/4 t cloves, 1/4 t nutmeg, 1/4 t pepper and 1/4 allspice (all spices ground). In batches gradually add dry mixture to moist mixture, finally stirring in 1/2 sour cream. Mix well. Transfer to buttered, bread-crumbsprinkled loaf pan. Bake in preheated 350° oven about 60 min. When cool, cut in half lengthwise, spread bottom half with powidla (plum butter), replace top half and ice cake with chocolate glaze. Garnish with chopped walnuts.

**PLUM CAKES (kolaczki z powidlami).** Combine 1 package dry active yeast, 1 c flour, 1/4 c sugar and 1 c warm milk in bowl, cover with tea towel and let rise. Separately beat 2 eggs with 1/2 melted butter and 1/2 t salt. When yeast mixture has doubled in bulk, stir in butter-egg mixture and blend together well. Gradually stir in 2 more c flour, mixing constantly. Knead on floured bread-board app. 10 min or until dough is smooth and elastic. Transfer to buttered bowl and let rise about 1 hr or until doubled. Pluck off plum-sized pieces of dough, roll between palms snowball-fashion and flatten balls into roughly 2" diameter patties. Brush each with melted butter, place on greased baking sheet and allow to rise 30 min. Make depression at center of each cake and deposit a spoonful of thick powidla (Polish plum butter) therein. Bake 13-15 min in preheated 75° oven. When cool, dust with confectioner's sugar.

**CHOCOLATE-COVERED PLUMS (śliwki w czekoladzie).** Line your kitchen counter with a piece of paper slightly larger than your drying rack. In top part of double boiler melt 2 bars of milk or dark chocolate (as preferred). Impale 12 tender, pitted California prunes on skewer one by one and dip in melted chocolate. Hold it up briefly over the melted chocolate for any drippings to drip back into double boiler. Place on rack and repeat until all prunes are used up. This is something the kids will enjoy making and eating!

**POPPYSEED COOKIES (ciasteczka makowe).** Cut 1/4 lb butter into 2-3/4 c flour with pastry blender or two knives. Add 2/3 c confec-

tioner's sugar, 2 t baking powder, 2 slightly beaten eggs, 3 T sour cream and 3 T poppyseeds and knead dough until easy to handle. Refrigerate for at least 30 min. Roll out dough 1/4" thick and cut into desired shapes (circles, crescents, diamonds, etc.). Bake 10 minutes in preheated oven at 375° or until edges begin to brown.

**TEA-FLAVORED FRUITCAKE (keks herbaciany).** In bowl combine 1-1/4 c mixed dried fruit (chopped figs, candied orange rind, pitted prunes and dates – all coarsely chopped) and whole raisins. Add 1/4 c chopped walnuts, 1 slightly heaped c sugar and drench with 1 c cold strong tea, cover and let stand overnight. Next day, sprinkle slightly heaped 1-1/2 c flour with 2 t baking powder. To tea & fruit mixture stir in the flour and 2 beaten eggs and beat to blend ingredients. Transfer batter to buttered narrow loaf pans, dot top with butter and bake about 50 min in preheated, slow (about 330°) oven.



Chruściki

**ANGELWING PASTRIES (faworki, chruściki).** Beat together 3 eggs yolks, 1/3 c sour cream, 2 T softened butter, 1/2 t vanilla and 3 T 100 proof vodka or brandy (cognac). Gradually add 2 c flour, mixing well to blend. Knead dough about 15 min, beating it at intervals with a heavy wooden rolling pin. Place in bowl, cover with clean dish towel and set aside to rest in cool place 1 hr. Roll dough out thin, cut into 2"x6" strips, make a slit in the middle of each strip and pull one end through to form a bow. Fry in hot oil, shortening or lard on both sides to a light golden brown and remove to paper towel. Dust with confectioner's sugar. Usually limited to Mardi Gras in Poland, in Polonia this is a year-round favorite!

## Poppyseed Roll a Christmas Classic



**MAKOWIEC (poppyseed roll).** Mash 1-3/4 small cakes yeast with 1 T sugar and 2/3 c warm milk. Stir in 1/3 c flour, cover and let rise in a warm place. After about an hr beat 2 egg yolks with 1/2 c sugar until creamy and add to yeast mixture together with 2-2/3 c flour and 1 whole egg. Work ingredients into a dough. Work in 4 T melted butter and knead until smooth and silky. Set aside in warm place to rise. When doubled in bulk, divide dough in two and roll out each piece 1/4" thick. Spread dough sheets with poppyseed filling (above) leaving a 3/4" margin round the edges. Roll up and place in baking pan(s) to rise. Bake in preheated 390° oven about 50 min. Dust with confectioner's sugar or glaze with white icing. *Optional:* Soft icing may be sprinkled with dry poppyseeds, or chopped almonds, or walnuts.

## Winter Favorites to Chase the Chill Away

**HOT HONEY-SPICE CORDIAL (krupnik staropolski).** In saucepan combine 1 c honey, 1 t vanilla extract, and 1/8 t each: ground cinnamon, cloves, ginger, allspice and pepper and 1/2 t lemon zest. Bring to gentle boil, stirring frequently, and simmer until honey just begins to brown. Remove from heat, cover and let stand 10 min. Stir in 3 c 100 proof vodka, cover and let stand 10 min for flavors to blend. Heat briefly without boiling. Strain through cotton or cheesecloth-lined funnel into serving decanter. Serve hot in shot glasses.

100 proof vodka. Seal, shake and store in dark place, shaking every week or so. Filter through cotton-filled funnel as above.

**GLOW WINE (grzaniec).** Peel and slice 1 lemon and 1 small orange, place in saucepan, add 1 qt dry red wine, 1/2 c confectioner's sugar, a dozen cloves, several grating of nutmeg and 1/2 t cinnamon, stir and heat but do not boil. Switch off heat and (optional) add 1/2 c brandy (imported French or Christian brothers). Strain and serve hot.

**SPICED BEER (piwo grzane korzenne).** In pot combine 1 qt beer, 3 T sugar, fruit syrup or honey (more or less to taste) and a pinch each of ground cinnamon, cloves, ginger and pepper. Heat to just below boiling, stirring to dissolve sugar (if used), and serve immediately.

**CHERRY CORDIAL (wiśniówka):** It's best to pay a little extra for pure cherry syrup at a gourmet shop rather than the imitation or cherry-flavored stuff they sell in supermarkets. Pour 1-1/2 c cherry syrup into a sterilized quart jar and fill up with

Try a little  
**TENDERNESS**<sup>®</sup>

— and save 77% on world-famous Omaha Steaks —

Perfect Gifts GUARANTEED

Get our world-famous, exquisitely tender Omaha Steaks<sup>®</sup> Filet Mignons, Top Sirloins, and more. 100% guaranteed and delivered right to their door, save 77% when you order the Family Gourmet Feast.

The Family Gourmet Feast

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 2 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 (3 oz.) Kielbasa Sausages
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 12 oz. pkg. All-Beef Meatballs
- 4 (3 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet (.33 oz.)
- 44240VFP

Reg. \$215.90 | Now Only **\$49.99**

Plus, 4 more Kielbasa Sausages FREE!

Limit 2 pkgs. at this price. Your 4 free sausages will be sent to each shipping address that includes the Family Gourmet Feast 44240. Standard S&H will be added per address. Not valid with other offers. All product, prices and sales are subject to Omaha Steaks, Inc. Terms of Use and Pricing Policy. Visit omahasteaks.com/terms-of-use/OSI Expires 1/31/17.

1-800-419-0532 ask for 44240VFP | www.OmahaSteaks.com/enjoy71

**The Perfect Gift for Christmas — Order Now!**

**Sterling Silver Polish Eagle Bead for your Pandora Bracelet**

SHOWN LARGER THAN ACTUAL SIZE  
**\$35.00 each\***

Call (908) 862-1927 for credit card orders or make check payable to "Golden Lion Jewelry" and mail to address below.

Specify Sterling Silver or Sterling Silver with 14KT gold plating

CT, NJ, NY, & PA please add sales tax  
\*FREE shipping to continental U.S. only

**GOLDEN LION JEWELRY**  
P.O. Box 199  
Port Reading, NJ 07064  
www.goldenlionjewelry.com

Discover Wonders of  
**POLAND**

Choose from over 50 tour departures from May to October

Family Reunions • Pilgrimages  
Independent tours • Unique Cultural Tours  
Airline tickets • Hotel & car reservations  
Tours to the Baltics and Central Europe

Visit our website:  
[www.pattours.com](http://www.pattours.com)

For brochures call:  
**1-800-388-0988**  
e-mail: [info@pattours.com](mailto:info@pattours.com)

Specializing in travel to Poland for over 45 years

**SOKOLOWSKI'S**

Our Hours are:  
**Lunch**  
M-F 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
**Fri. Night Dinners**  
5:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Sat. Night Dinners**  
4:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Lounge open 'til 1:00 a.m. on Fri. and Sat.**

**Cleveland's Premier Polish American Restaurant**  
Now in our 91st year in Business

**(216) 771-9236**  
[www.sokolowskis.com](http://www.sokolowskis.com)

Featured on the Travel & Food Network



**PAJ BOOKSTORE KITCHEN** TO ORDER BY MAIL Use form on page 16 for all items on this page, and 14, 15, and 16 TO ORDER BY PHONE (800) 422-1275 • (716) 312-8088 MON.-FRI., 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. TO ORDER ON LINE: polamjournal.com SECURE SERVER

**COOKBOOKS**

**NEW FOR 2016! AUTHENTIC POLISH COOKING** by Marianna Dworak \$15.99 Item 2-677 ISBN: 9781620870914 7.5x7.5 in., 176 pp., p.b.

Polish cuisine is hearty and filling, and though some may think the Polish diet is all meat and potatoes, that is far from the truth. With its rich soups, innumerable salads and side dishes, tasty fish and vegetarian meals, colorful and delectable desserts, and yes, meat and potato fare, this cuisine consists of a wide variety of dishes incorporating a broad selection of cultural and regional influences that will have you licking your lips.

Organized by course, this cookbook features more than one hundred recipes, including beet soup, cucumber salad, potato pancakes, Hunter's Stew, pork and rice stuffed cabbage leaves, traditional "babka" cake, and of course, pierogi! Numerous recipes for veal, chicken, kielbasa sausage, pork, and beef dishes make this a great and thorough cookbook that is a fantastic addition to any kitchen.

With easy-to-follow instructions for simple as well as more intricate dishes, a section on traditional holiday meals, estimated cooking times, and suggestions for healthy ingredient substitutions, this cookbook will teach anyone how to cook delicious Polish food. For those wishing to re-create their grandmother's favorite recipe, or those wanting to experience a new cuisine, Authentic Polish Cooking will bring a bit of Eastern Europe to your home.

**PLEASING POLISH RECIPES** by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95 Item 2-678 ISBN: 9780941016636 5-1/2 x 3-1/2 inches 160 pp., spiral bound

This cookbook features a great variety of flavorful regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, Polish hunter's stew, stuffed baked turkey, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazarukas.

Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

**PIEROGI LOVE** New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food By Casey Barber \$19.95 Hc; 128 pp. / 8.3 x 8.1 inches Full color photographs

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

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good. Food. Stories.

**POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES** \$16.95 by Laura and Peter Zeranski 2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth Designed for the modern

kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

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

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazarukas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

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

*Polish Holiday Cookery* acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

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

**POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK** by Sophie Knab \$19.95 337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

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

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

**THE ART OF POLISH COOKING** By Alina Zeranska Pub. at \$22.95 PAJ Bookstore Price: \$15.95 Ethnic / Polish 384 pp. 8 1/4 x 5 1/2 12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg. Reissued by Pelican Publ.,

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

**POLISH PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood** \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

**THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK: Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond** — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

**POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK** \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 44 pp., sc.

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

**POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK** \$10.00 by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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

**EASTER BUTTERLAMB MOLD**

**EASTER BUTTERLAMB** Easy to use. To make with butter, simply coat the mold with vegetable oil (spray type works best), press in softened butter, clamp halves together, place and refrigerator until hardened and you're done. For chocolate, just pour and let harden. It's that easy. We've even had customers make butter lamb soap using this form! Clean with dish soap and warm water.

Small (#1-600) 3-1/2" width by 3" tall — \$4.95 Large (#1-601) 5" width by 4" tall — \$7.95

\$4.00 S&H ON ALL MOLDS \$1.00 each additional mold

**APRONS**

**\$20.00 each plus \$5.95 s&h** Proclaim your Polish heritage with this lovely restaurant-style apron. 100% Cotton, with two generous pockets. Quality red cloth with machine-embroidered lettering and design. One size fits all!



**HANDTOWELS**

**\$9.50 each plus \$5.95 s&h** Hanging towels. Machine embroidered designs. Useful and attractive. Red with white towel (cloth may vary).



**DOG BANDANA**

**\$10.00 each plus \$5.95 s&h** Ever wonder "Who stole the kiszka? We found out: the dog did! Embroidered text on black bandana with paw prints. Specify S, M, or L when ordering.

**"STO LAT" BIRTHDAY CARD and "JAK SIĘ MASZ" BLANK NOTE CARD** — Designed by Poppfield Press



**CARD 402 — "Sto lat."** ("Happy Birthday — May you live 100 years") 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" Full color design with poppy, "Sto lat" lyrics in Polish and English, and role of poppy in Polish culture. Inside left blank for personalization. Printed on 4-1/4 x 5-1/2 glossy stock.

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

SHIPPING (IF ORDERING CARDS ONLY)

1-10 cards	\$3.50
11-20 cards	\$4.50
21 or more	\$5.95



**CARD 403 — "Jak się Masz?"** 5 1/2" x 4 1/4" "Jak się masz?" — This good-natured Polish expression of greeting and expression of good will can be heard when friends, neighbors, and family meet. From "How have you been" and "How's everything?" to "How do you do?" a lot of questions are packed into these three little words.

Full color design with "dziewięćsił" (Alpine Everlasting Thistle Flower), the card comes with a blank inside for personalization. Printed on 4-1/4 x 5-1/2 glossy stock. Ideal "Money Card" for gifts, etc.

ENVELOPES INCLUDED



**PAJ BOOKSTORE**  
**CHRISTMAS**

TO ORDER BY MAIL  
**Use form on page 16**  
for all items on pages 2, 14, 15, and 16

TO ORDER BY PHONE  
**(800) 422-1275 • (716) 312-8088**  
MON.-FRI., 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

TO ORDER ON LINE:  
**polamjournal.com**  
SECURE SERVER

**OPŁATEK Polish Christmas Wafers**

**KEEP THIS BEAUTIFUL TRADITION ALIVE IN YOUR FAMILY!**

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



**A MUST FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE**

**SMALL** (2 x 3½ in.) individual wafer w/glassine envelope **5/\$5.00**



**LARGE** (6¼ x 3½ in.) Three white and one pink opłatki, with decorative envelope (shown above) depicting wigilia with history on back **4/\$5.00**

**IF ORDERING OPŁATEK ONLY, SHIPPING CHARGE IS \$3.00. SEE FORM ON PAGE 14**

Learn more about this tradition from our website: **polamjournal.com** Follow Library Holidays link to the Christmas listings

**3-D BRASS POLISH EAGLE ORNAMENT**



Designed to hand flat in a window or twisted into a 3-dimensional ornament as shown, it can be twisted many times if care is taken to reverse the twists when closing. **\$7.95 each** Made in the United States. Item 1-1501 3 1/2" high x 3" wide

**HANDPAINTED WOOD EASTER EGG ORNAMENT**



Hand-decorated Birchwood Polish Easter Egg **\$5.95 each** Imported from Poland Styles vary. Will not ship identical eggs if buying more than one. A great stocking-stuffer! Item 1-1502



Shown actual size

**Wesolych Swiat / Merry Christmas Mail Sticker**

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

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

**KOLEĐY & CAROLS ON CLASSICAL GUITAR CD**



Produced by the **Polanie Society — \$7.95**

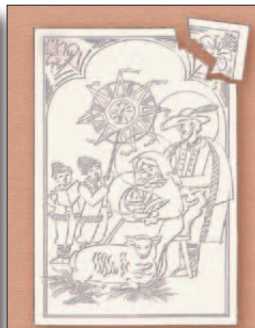
- Cicha Noc
- Dzisiaj w Betlejem
- Do Szopy Hej Pasterze
- Gdy się Chrystus rodzi
- Lulajże Jezuniu
- Gdy Sliczna Panna
- Hej w dzień narodzenia
- Wśród nocnej ciszy
- Pójdźmy wszyscy do stajenki
- Oj Maluski
- Przybieżeli do Betlejem
- We Three Kings
- What Child is This?
- O Come Emmanuel
- The First Noel
- Joy to the World

**POLISH-ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CARDS**

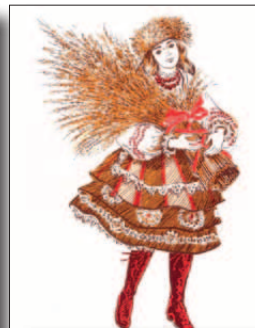
Cards designed for the PAJ by Poppyfield Press  
**75¢ each / 10-pack \$6.00 / 50 or more 50¢ each**



**CARD 310**  
**KRAKOWSKA SZOPKA**



**CARD 311**  
**OPŁATEK SKETCH CHRISTMAS WAFER**



**CARD 312**  
**CHRISTMAS LOWANICZKA**



**CARD 315**  
**HOLY FAMILY**



**CARD 313**  
**BABY JESUS ON HAY**

**ENVELOPES INCLUDED WITH ALL CARDS!**  
**NEW for 2016!**  
**SAVE \$**



**CARD 314**  
**GORAL MUSICIANS**

**Polish Christmas Wafers for your Cards**

In Poland and in Polish communities across the United States and Canada, Poles place a small piece of the Christmas wafer (opłatek) in Christmas cards they mail to loved ones across the miles. To help keep this tradition alive, you can purchase wafers at a discounted price with the purchase of your Christmas cards.

1-9 wafers: \$.90 each — 10-49 wafers: \$.85 each — 50 or more: \$.80 each

**FREE SHIPPING OF WAFERS WITH CARD PURCHASES**

These are the small (2" x 3.5" inch) wafers individually wrapped in a wax-paper envelope.

**SAVE BIG ON OUR ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS CARDS! (BELOW)**

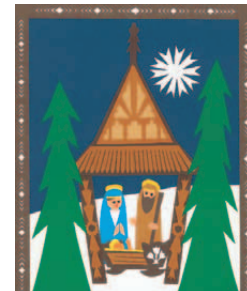
**50¢ each • 10-pack - \$4.00 • 50 or more - 30¢ each**



**CARD 102**



**CARD 103**



**CARD 201**



**CARD 302**



**CARD 202**



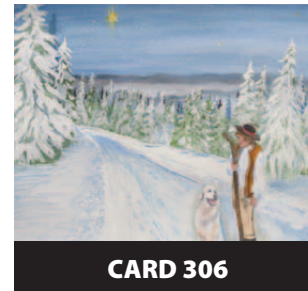
**CARD 205**



**CARD 304**



**CARD 305**



**CARD 306**

Don't forget Christmas wafers in your cards for friends and family across the miles.

**SAVE \$\$ WITH THESE PACKAGES**

**CARD ASSORTMENT 1**

Two each card numbers 102, 103, 201, 202, 205, 301, 302, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, and 309.

**(30 cards total) plus extras \$9.95 + \$5.00 s&h** (\$19.00 WITH S&H IF PURCHASED SEPARATELY)

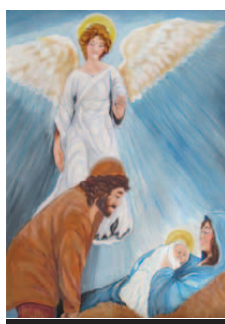
**CARD ASSORTMENT 2**

Four each of card numbers 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, and 315

**(24 cards total) \$11.95 + \$5.00 s&h** (\$20.00 WITH S&H IF PURCHASED SEPARATELY)



**CARD 301**



**CARD 307**



**CARD 308**



**CARD 309**

**KOLEĐY SING-ALONG BOOK**

With Music and Lyrics in Polish and English  
Published by the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour

Sing-along to 37 of the most popular Polish Christmas Carols. This 90-page spiral-bound book contains the words and music plus English translations. Published in 2003, the book also contains a message from the Rosary Hour director, an explanation (in Polish and English) of Polish Carols by the late Msgr. John R. Gabalski of St. Stanislaus Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., plus Pope John Paul II words about the importance of koledy to the Polish nation. Published at \$7.00, available now for only **\$5.00**

**POLISH VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CDs**

**VOL. I or II — \$12.00 each**



PREVIEW SAMPLES ON OUR WEBSITE

**MORE BOOKS AND GIFT ITEMS ON PAGES 2, 14, AND 16**

**A POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE**

**A POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE Traditions and Recipes, Decorations and Song** by Rev. Czesław Michał Krysa, S.L.D.

Everything you need for Wigilia or Christmas Eve Vigil Supper! Bi-lingual carols with musical notation, Wafer sharing messages, heritage photos, ornaments, and ritual decorations, the origins of Wigilia, poetry, literature, etc. This book is a quick and easy reference, step-by-step guide and international collection of folklore, stories, recipes, carols and decorations with never before published photos and black and white illustrations, glossary, pronunciation guide, and a regional map of Poland. This is a wonderful book and a must for every Polish-American family.



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







## SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szyłowski

## Are Your Ready for Święty Mikołaj?

Christmas Eve is the most celebrated holiday in Poland. There, one did not eat until after the first star appeared — the star that announced the birth of Christ.

Many customs and rites that add romance and idealism were — and still are — practiced this day.

The Christmas Eve dinner is the center of the observance. There was a custom of setting the table for more people than there were in a household, in memory those of who died. The supper is lighted by candles, and is set on a white tablecloth, under which is placed a hay or straw in memory of the Christ Child's birth. The head of the household divides the Christmas wafer, which is shared with the family and friends present at the table. Traditionally, there is an uneven number of meatless dishes served. These include *barszcz*, herring, pike with horse-radish sauce, baked sauerkraut with yellow peas, fish with lemon rings, compote dried fruit and pastries, coffee, nuts, and candies.

**IN THE RURAL AREAS**, people share often a colored *oplatek* with the farm animals. Tradition has it that they have the gift of speech on this night. City residents share the wafer with pets, or put food on windowsills for birds.

In many rural areas, lighted Christmas trees were often hung from the ceiling, decorated with handmade toys, nuts, apples, and candy. Christmas carols are sung as everyone gathers around the tree. In many households the tree is adorned with small candles. Under the tree are gifts, reminders of the gifts brought to Christ by the Magi.

The Midnight Mass, the *pasterka* (Shepherds' Mass), is both solemn and joyous, as folks call out greetings to friends and neighbors on this traditionally bitter cold night.

Christmas Day is a time to visit family. Children gather in small groups to go caroling. Some carry a cardboard *szopka* (Nativity scene), often in the form of tableaux.

In some rural areas of Poland, December 25 is dedicated to young bachelors. These young men practice singing carols, and then go from house to house, where young ladies reside.



An antique postcard from Poland shows St. Nicholas, an angel, and the devil, on their way to quiz children on December 6.

The day after Christmas is St. Stephen's Day, a holiday known as *drugie święto*, and no one goes to work. On this day, people visit friends or stop by for a visit. Throughout Poland, peasants once threw grain at one another to bring a good harvest. Members of the family were also showered with grain, as were animals in the stable. Another important custom for this day is the conclusion of work agreements, farm hands are either rehired for another year, or leave to seek employment elsewhere. They are beholden to no one for the day, and thus the proverb — "Na Święty Szczepan, każdy sobie pan" ("On St. Stephen's Day, everyone is master").

St. Sylvester's Eve, December 31, is a time for foretelling. According to folklore, predictions are made on everything from weddings to funerals.

**CUSTOM.** December 6, the Feast of St. Nicholas (Święty Mikołaj), is when many European children receive gifts. In Poland, Mikołaj visits the homes of families dressed in his bishop's robes. When he visits children, he gives them a gift, often asking them to recite a prayer or story about the birth of Christ.

**MUSEUM CORNER.** The Polish American Museum of Long Island celebrated Veterans' Day with a lecture and exhibit on the military career of American ace pilot, Colonel Francis Gabreski. The museum recently acquired photos, medals and correspondence which will be on display until December.

Also on display are many artifacts including Polish crystal, wood carvings, and paintings to mention just some of the exhibits.

The museum is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and staffed by volunteers only.

For additional information pertaining to the museum, please call (516) 883-6542.

**THANK YOU!** As host of *Polka and Oberek Time* on WRHU for the past 29 years, I wish to thank listeners who contributed to our annual radio marathon. Over \$3,500 was raised.

WRHU is a non-commercial radio station and listener support is appreciated. Please remember to support all stations that support polka music.

## TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## Off and Running

The Polish Cultural Center of Toledo moved one step closer to reality on Friday, September 23, 2016. On that night, a fund raising dinner took place at the Premier Banquet Hall in Toledo. Over 100 people attended this event, where \$20,000 was raised.

Buehrer Group Architecture and Engineering Inc.'s Ed Glowacki unveiled preliminary renderings of the Center. Although no location has yet been selected, the plan is to include a chapel, genealogy library, hall, community room, and meeting rooms. The idea is to have a central gathering place that Poles from all over Toledo can utilize, serving a purpose that was in the past filled by Polish churches and fraternal organizations.

Gene Bak, executive director of the Polish Cultural Center in Cleveland, offered suggestions for Toledo's Polish Cultural Center. Attendees included the Polish Cultural Center Advisory Board, with chairman Tom Waniewski, also Matt Zaleski and wife Betty Osenbaugh-Zaleski, Gayle and Jack Sparagowski, and Tom Sorosiak. Others in attendance included Ruth Koons and Jacqueline Konwinski of the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society, Tom Jesionowski of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Russ Pawlowski, Norman Beczyn-

ski, John and Sheryl Bibish, Janet Gawle and Nick Wichowski, Judy Fegley, Wade Kapszukiewicz; Jeremy and Allison Pryba, Fritz Schoen, Mark Sobczak, Jordan Waniewski Stoll and husband Joe Stoll, Dirk and Julie Van Heyst, Terry and Kathy Wachowiak, Richard and Shelley Walinski, and Kimberly and Carl Waniewski.

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Sandy Drabik Collins, Northwest Ohio Building Trades, First Insurance Group and John Payak III, First Federal Bank of the Midwest — Defiance, the Polish-American Community of Toledo, and Jeep Federal Credit Union were major sponsors of this event.

As noted on its website, the Polish Cultural Center is a joint effort by the Polish American Community of Toledo (PACT), the Toledo Poznan Alliance (TPA), the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society (TPGS), the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), and other Polish Americans interested in seeing the Center become a reality. The Board has worked hard for the past few years, networking, holding events, and creating marketing materials to promote their efforts. This was their most successful fundraiser to date.

Congrats to the team! They are off and running!

## Calling All Singers

WALLINGTON, N.J. — Now is the time to join a local Polish Singers Alliance of America's member chorus in order to enhance and strengthen their soprano, alto, tenor and bass sections so they may continue to share their love of Polish Culture through song to appreciative audiences, be they in churches, nursing homes or at civic venues.

2017 expects to be a grand year of celebrations for all member choruses of District 7. In 1917 PSAA's District 7 was established, gather-

ing choruses of downstate New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. That being so, they now celebrate 100 years as a district with a kick-off at their Annual District 7 Christmas Concert to be held on January 22, 2017 at the Parish of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Wallington, N.J. immediately after the noontime Mass.

Throughout the year, choruses will be presenting concerts and events in their locales and cordially invite new members to join and get to know how choral music enriches

their lives.

The choruses eagerly are looking forward to traveling to Philadelphia and participating in PSAA's 51st International Convention under the auspices of the Seventh District hosted by Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus #321 of Philadelphia, May 25-28, 2017.

For specifics, visit [www.polishsingersalliance.org](http://www.polishsingersalliance.org) or call District president, Yaga Chudy at (201) 681-7980.

**The Kosciuszko Foundation**

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year 2017!*

The KF awards fellowships and grants to graduate students, scholars, scientists, and artists.

For upcoming events, scholarship eligibility, study abroad programs, rentals, or to establish a fund in your name please visit

[www.theKF.org](http://www.theKF.org) or call (212) 734 - 2130.

Your kind donations keep our Scholarship and Cultural Programs running.

The Kosciuszko Foundation, 15 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065



## HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS

## Dinner and Gala Held at Embassy in Washington, D.C.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Embassy of the Republic of Poland arranged a dinner and gala event, in celebration of Polish American Heritage Month, Oct. 12, 2016.

The evening's host was Slawomir Zagorski, Ph.D., first counselor and head of the Public Affairs, Science, Education and Technology Section. Co-sponsor of the evening's cultural rendezvous was The International Club of D.C., led by its president, Sanjaya Hettihewa.

The audience of more than 100 was delighted with the various instrumental and vocal presentations of the artists performing solo, as a duet, and as the namesake trio. Compositions by Fryderyk Chopin, Mikolaj Gorecki, Grazyna

Bacewicz, Ignacy Paderewski, with various lyrics by Adam Mickiewicz, Bodhan Zaleski, and Adam Asnyk all contributed to the musical celebration of Polish culture on this evening.

Additionally, "Piosenka litewska" ("Lithuanian Song") was also presented in fraternal recognition of the historic Polish-Lithuanian Union, and its subsequent Commonwealth, spanning the 410 years of 1385-1795.

As per the program guide: The age gap between Ewa and Maria is big enough to say that there are three generations represented on stage: the mother at the piano, the elder daughter – vocals and piano, and the younger playing the piano, cello and saxophone.

Guests in the Blue Salon of the Embassy were treated to their performances in various configurations and different instrumental combinations. And since there are not many original compositions for a trio, the band chose adaptations and arrangements of the selected works. Masterpieces and Romanticism are the core of their repertoire.

The Multi Trio performance did not disappoint. The artists all excelled in their various music and voice disciplines proving to be a most unique, talented and entertaining familial enterprise that is worthy of its glowing critical accolades, both in Poland and when touring abroad.



Performing in the Blue Salon of the Polish Embassy are cellist Maria Leszczynska, soprano Ewa Leszczynska, with their mother — renowned pianist Ewa Poblocka, founder of the Multi Trio.

## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Cook County Court Clerk Hosts Celebration at Daley Center



(l. to r.): Brown, Ciesla, Mary Anselmo, and Zgrzębski

CHICAGO — **Dorothy Brown**, clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, hosted the first Polish American Heritage Celebration at the Richard J. Daley Center in downtown Chicago on October 25. Approximately 200 attendees were present when Ms. Brown honored three individuals and two organizations for their contributions to Chicago Polonia.

The program began with the raising the Polish flag in the outdoor Daley Plaza. Then, in the East Lobby of the Daley Center, **Sergiusz Zgrzębski**, anchor and reporter for Polvision TV, welcomed the guests. **Joseph Drobot Jr.**, president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, sang the national anthems of Poland and the USA. **Piotr Janicki**, consul general of the Republic of Poland, and Ms. Brown provided welcoming remarks. This was followed by the presentation of awards by Ms. Brown.

Honored were **Maria Bronny Ciesla**, president emeritus of the Polish Museum of America, (Community Contributor Award); **Sophia Kolatek**, owner of Kolatek's Bakery, who has financially helped organizations that support women who are victims of domestic abuse, (Philanthropic Award); and **Frank Spula**, president of the Polish American Congress and the Polish National Alliance, (Leadership Award). The two organizations honored were **Dar Secra** (Gift from the Heart Foundation), which cares for physically-challenged children from abroad,

(Humanitarian Award); and the **Advocates Society**, an association of Polish American attorneys, (Civic Award).

**Matt Sidor**, president of the Advocates Society, accepted the Civic Award on behalf of the Advocates Society, and **Dar Secra** directors, **Izabela Rybak**, **Anna Piotrowski**, and **Grażyna Maneykowski**, accepted the Humanitarian Award. A reception followed to honor the distinguished guests.

## "FLAVOR OF POLAND" ON PBS.

Concurrent with Polish American Heritage Month, Chicago's WTTW, PBS Channel 11, featured "Flavor of Poland," a newly produced program series showcasing Poland and Polish cuisine. The first episode of this 13-part series was shown at various times on October 28-30. Coming episodes will be aired in 2017, joining other popular culinary programs on public television. However, "Flavor of Poland" will be the first program in American television history that will concentrate specifically on Poland and its cuisine.



Aleksandra August

Each part will focus on a different region of Poland while exploring its history, traditions and local foods and customs. The series host, **Aleksandra August**, will recreate one or two of the region's dishes, step-by-step, in the studio kitchen.

August is a Polish American actress, born in Poland, but raised in Los Angeles. As host of this series, she will explore and share Poland's rich cuisine with all Americans.

Polish and American filmmakers of the Independent Film Factory, based in Chicago, have produced this cooking show in English. Initially, it will be broadcast on local public television in Chicago, but may eventually be viewed around the country on American Public Television. "Flavor of Poland" will join popular PBS shows, such as "Lidia's Italy in America," the Mexican-oriented, "One Plate at a Time" with Rick Bayless, "New Scandinavian Cooking," and Martin Yan's "Hidden China." Each episode of "Flavor of Poland" will bring Americans new ideas of Polish cuisine from different regions and diverse locales of Poland, showing that there is more to Polish cooking than *pierogi*, *golabki*, and *kolaczki*!

Viewers in the Chicago area should check their local television listings for the times that "Flavor of Poland" episodes will be broadcast.

## POLISH ARTS CLUB HOLDS SOIRÉE.

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago held its Fall General Membership meeting on October 22 at Lutnia, an upscale Polish restaurant on Chicago's Northwest Side. Members enjoyed a wonderful light Polish-style luncheon, followed by a brief meeting led by **H. Anne "Happy" Oerke**, president of the Polish Arts Club.

The concluding highlight of the afternoon was a recital of classical Polish music presented by **Jaroslav Golembowski**, pianist and composer, and **Marlena Dzis**, soprano. Golembowski played Chopin's Mazurek, Opus 33, No.1, Chopin's Mazurek, Opus 33, No.2, and the first-time performance of his own composition, *Blues w deszczowym mieście* (Wet City Blues). Ms. Dzis sang Chopin's and Pauline Vardot-Garcia's rarely-heard *Aime-Moi* Mazurek, Opus 33, No. 2, and Chopin's *Życzenie*, along with Stanisław Moniuszko's *Prząśniczka* and *Polna Różyczka*, and the aria, *Chacun le Sait, Chacun le Dit*, from Gaetano Donizetti's comic opera, "Daughter of the Regiment."



Golembowski and Dzis.

President Oerke reminded the membership that the Polish Arts Club will hold its annual Christmas luncheon on December 10 at the Park Ridge Country Club, Park Ridge, Illinois. Anyone interested in attending this gala event should contact the club's executive secretary, Renee Okonek at (630) 918-8503.



Józefowicz, Urbańska, and Szaflarska

"POLITA" THE MUSICAL. Chicago's Polish community had a rare opportunity to attend a bit of innovative Polish/Polish American theatrical culture. A special Polish-language performance of the Warsaw Studio Buffo's musical production of "Polita," hosted by the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra was staged in the Copernicus Center's historical Gateway Theater, October 15 and 16.

"Polita" delivered one of the Chicago Polish community's most creative artistic events of 2016. With

its cast of 30 and a production staff of 15, the musical was a unique presentation in a stereoscopic "virtual reality" technique, with attendees using "virtual reality 3D" glasses.

The play tells the touching and true story of Polish diva, **Apolonia Chalupec**, professionally known as **Pola Negri**, the first European film star to be invited to Hollywood. It presents the story of the talented Polish actress, who, through hard work, dancing skills, and expertise in the art of acting, became an American diva.

Chicago native, 9-year-old, **Zosia Szaflarska**, a member of Chicago actress Agata Paleczny's Little Star Workshop, (*Warsztato Teatralne*) portrayed the role of a young Apolonia Chalupec. Polish actress, **Natasha Urbańska**, performed the role of the adult Pola. An audience of over 2,000 attended the two days of performances.

Along with the actors, Studio Buffo used digital technology to enhance the 1920s and 1930s stage settings. **Janusz Stokłosa** prepared the virtual reality scenery in 3D imaging and provided live music.

**Janusz Józefowicz** served as the musical's director and choreographer. **Agata Miklaszewska** wrote the libretto, music, and musical arrangements. Apolonia Chalupec was born in 1897 in Lipno, Poland, and died on August 1, 1987 in San Antonio, Texas. As Pola Negri, she left the largest portion of her estate to St. Mary's University in San Antonio and bequeathed a significant portion of the Polish nuns of the Seraphic Order.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FAMILY KOLEĐY (CAROL SINGING)** usually followed the wigilia meal. The eldest householder would bring out the family *kantyczka* (hymnal), but even without it nearly everyone knew at least two stanzas of a dozen favorite carols.

**FORTUNE-TELLING GAMES** were once very popular and meant to predict the marital prospects of a household's eligible girls. Pulling a ripe, golden blade of hay from under the tablecloth indicated a rapid marriage, a green one meant the girl would still have to wait a while and a dry and withered strand foretold lifelong spinsterhood.

**GIFTS ARE EXCHANGED ON CHRISTMAS EVE**, according to Polish tradition, not the following morning. That, too, enhances the significance of this occasion which combines the season's main themes.


**FARM ANIMALS SPEAKING IN HUMAN VOICES** at the stroke of midnight was one of the many folk-beliefs surrounding Wigilia. Unfortunately, no-one has ever heard them. It was explained (with a grain of salt) whosoever hears the animals speaking will not live to see another Christmas

**WELL-WATER TURNING TO WINE AT MIDNIGHT** was another bit of popular Wigilia lore. The catch was that only those who had never sinned could taste it.

**SHEPHERDS' MASS AT MIDNIGHT**, known as *Pasterka*, marks the culmination of the most solemn and festive family celebration of the year. The church decorated for the occasion, the nativity tableau, parishioners in their holiday best and the beautiful kolędy make this event a memorable once-a-year experience.

**EVERYTHING OF IMPORTANCE** takes place on Christmas Eve. Families and friends visit and socialize on the two days of Christmas — Christmas Day and St. Stephen's Day (December 26, also a public holiday in Poland) — but they lack the unique symbolism, solemnity and "magic" of Wigilia.  
— Robert Strybel

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year*



from  
**Polish Roman Catholic  
Union of America**  
*The oldest Polish Catholic Fraternal  
organization in the United States*

**Offering it's members:**

- Low cost life insurance plans and Annuities
- Low interest mortgages
- College education financial aid and scholarships
- Polish language and dance schools
- Social and sporting events

984 N. Milwaukee Ave.,  
Chicago, IL 60642  
1-800-772-8632  
<http://www.prcua.org>

**SALT LAMPS ETC.**  
5274 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086 • (716) 564-9286

**SALT LAMPS FROM POLAND**  
clean and ionize air for your health and well-being.  
Laboratory tested for ionization and quality.

Joyce (716) 860-0828 • [divineintent@roadrunner.com](mailto:divineintent@roadrunner.com)  
Arlene (716) 649-3188 • [PAJadlady@aol.com](mailto:PAJadlady@aol.com)

*Merry Christmas!*



Join **Polish National Alliance** today!  
[pna-znp.org](http://pna-znp.org) / 1.800.621.3723



*PNA is the largest Polish – American fraternal benefit society offering life insurance and annuities. Founded in 1880, we operate solely for the benefit of our most valuable asset – our members.*



*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 2017.

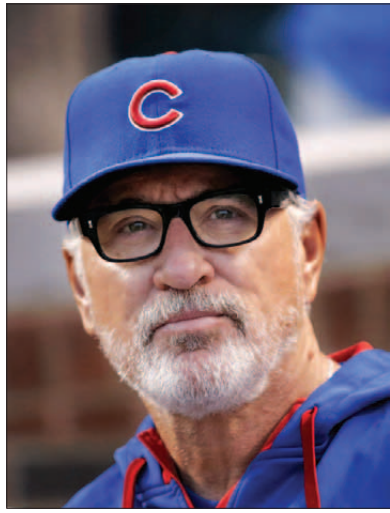


1.855.PSFCU.4U (1.855.773.2848)  
[www.psfcu.com](http://www.psfcu.com)



## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Maddon is a Champion



About five million people gathered in Chicago in what manager **Joe Maddon** (above) called “Cubstock 2016” to celebrate the Chicago Cubs’ first World Series title since 1908. A master of motivation, Maddon led his young Cubbies back from a 3-1 deficit to win Game 7 in Cleveland.

One of the interesting side stories was the effort of Maddon’s 83-year-old mother, Albina, to get to Game 3, the first World Series game at Wrigley since 1945. She had hoped to arrive from Pennsylvania in plenty of time, but a fire aboard another flight caused extensive delays at O’Hare airport. That pushed her flight back seven hours, taking off about 90 minutes before first pitch. Fortunately, Maddon was able to get Chicago police to meet her at O’Hare and escort her to the game, getting her there in the second inning.

“First of all, they had to tell her she’s not being arrested,” Maddon said. “Beanie, being from Hazleton, Polish Catholic, she would have imagined the worst first. They always do.”

“She’s doing well,” Maddon added. “But my, God, she’s 83. I’m pretty proud of her. She’s there till midnight after the game. I see her in the parking lot for the first time. Gets back at 1 o’clock, whatever, after going all day, and then she’s going to be here (Saturday night). ... Those tough Polish ladies, man. ... They’re awesome. They can really clean. They can cook, and she’s the best mom ever.”

Maddon is the son of an Italian father, Joe Sr., who died in 2002. (Joe Sr.’s father dropped the last three letters in his surname of Maddonini so he could pass for Irish and get a job in the mines). Joe’s mother is Polish, the former Albina “Beanie” Klocek. His mother worked at the Third Base Luncheonette restaurant in Hazleton for decades before she retired last year. One of Maddon’s cousins, Dave Mishinski, still owns the place.

Some were critical of some of the unconventional Maddon’s risky managerial moves, ignoring the fact that they certainly worked out. As Cubs GM Jed Hoyer put it: “Joe is a world champion manager for the first time and he’s going to be in the Hall of Fame someday. I think he’s deserving of both.”

**“JOANNA CHAMPION” DEFENDS TITLE.** Joanna Jedrzejczak survived a fierce fourth-round attack from fellow Pole **Karolina Kowalkiewicz** to retain the UFC women’s strawweight title at Madison Square Garden on a unanimous decision.

Afterwards Joanna said that, “Polish girls are the toughest in the world. Karolina was very tough. I am the best in the world and I continued to prove that tonight. I will be champion for a long time.”

For her part, Kowalkiewicz said she wanted another shot at the champ. “I’ll beat her next time. Rematch in Poland.”



Rocky Graziano (left) and Tony Zale.

**MAN OF STEEL.** There are some new books that might make a great Christmas gift for your favorite sports fan. One is *Tony Zale: The Man of Steel* by Thad Zale and Clay Moyle. If all you know about **Tony**

**Zale** are his middleweight championship fights against Rocky Graziano in 1940s, this book will be a revelation for you. Thad Zale, his nephew, tells the story of the son of Polish immigrants who became a world champion despite great personal struggles. When Tony was two years old he was very sick, and his father went out on a bicycle to pick up some medicine. On the way back he was hit by a car and killed. For many years Tony felt responsible for his father’s death, and became a shy and withdrawn young boy. It was only by entering the boxing ring — encouraged by his older brothers — that he emerged from his shyness.

He was born Antoni Zaleski, but he and his brothers started using Zale after they started getting attention for their successes in the ring. Their parish priest at St. Hedwig’s in Gary, Indiana delivered a sermon, obviously aimed at the Zaleski Clan, urging young men to “stop fighting and getting your names in the paper.” After that, they all used the name Zale to hide their boxing exploits.

Tony went on to win the middleweight crown, and is best remembered for his three epic battles with Graziano — Tony won two of them.

After his incredible boxing career had ended, Tony suffered through a bitter divorce and a botched investments that wiped him out financially. He bounced back and became head coach of the Chicago Catholic Youth Organization and Chicago Parks Department boxing programs. Known for his clean-living, Tony stayed in great shape after leaving the ring. A kind, soft-spoken man who was widely respected, Zale died in 1997 at the age of 82.

The book does a great job telling Tony’s story, and is packed with over 400 photos. A portion of its proceeds will fund a scholarship in the name of Tony Zale through the Polish National Alliance.

Another recent book of interest is Wayne Gretzky’s new *99: Stories of the Game* written with Kirstie McLellan Day. Hockey’s greatest player has written an interesting and passionate collection of memories and stories about hockey that is garnering some great reviews.

Also getting great reviews is Jeff

Pearlman’s biography, *Gunslinger: The Remarkable, Improbable, Iconic Life of Brett Favre*. Don Majkowski was the established starting quarterback in Green Bay when Favre was traded there from Atlanta. “Majik” was the son of a Buffalo firefighter who led the Packers back to glory with style and flair. In 1992 he tore a ligament in his ankle in the third game of the year and was replaced by Favre. Favre won that game, and went on to start at quarterback in every Packers game for the next 16 years.



**MAD ANTHONY.** You know him as rock bassist **Michael Anthony** (above), but he was born **Michael Anthony Sobolewski** just over 62 years ago. But before he rose to fame with the hard rock band Van Halen and the rock supergroup Chickenfoot, Michael was a top baseball prospect.

The second of five children born to a Chicago family, Michael started his musical training in the second grade, playing the trumpet in the school band. In the mid-1960s the family moved to Arcadia, California where he continued with music while pursuing athletics. He competed on the Dana Junior High School track team in the long jump and was a very good baseball catcher. However, his love of music — and rock and roll — took over. While studying music at Pasadena City College he exchanged his trumpet for the electric bass. He met Eddie Van Halen on campus, and was eventually asked to join the band which would later become known as Van Halen. The rest, as they say, is rock and roll history.

In addition to his musical endeavors, Anthony now has a website named “Mad Anthony Cafe” that sells a number of signature products including hot sauce, BBQ sauce, and hot mustard.

**RETROACTIVE GOLD.** The incredible Polish hammer thrower **Anita Włodarczyk** is one of ten

athletes nominated by the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) for the title of the Best Woman Athlete of the Year. Włodarczyk, 31, won gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics, beating her own world record with an 82.29-meter toss.

However, since Rio, Włodarczyk has won another Olympic gold. That’s because Russian hammer thrower Tatyana Lysenko was stripped of her gold medal from the 2012 London Olympics. After retesting of stored doping samples

the Russian, who won gold in the hammer throw four years ago, was disqualified for doping. Włodarczyk, who finished second, was retroactively given the medal.

**PERKOSKI’S NOTEBOOK.** Seattle’s **Mark Glowinski**, a Scran-

ton Pa. native out of West Virginia, has been solid at left guard for the Seahawks ... New England signed former Buffalo Bill rookie full-back **Glenn Gronkowski** to their practice squad ... Patriots tight end **Rob Gronkowski** set a Patriots TD record with the 69th of his career against the team he grew up cheering for, the Buffalo Bills ... Houston Texans tight end **C.J. Fiedorowicz** was his team’s second leading receiver halfway through the season ... After a disappointing 2-2 draw with Kazakhstan in their first match in the World Cup qualifications, Poland beat Denmark 3-2 with **Robert Lewandowski** scoring a hat trick. Poland then defeated Armenia 2-1, as the winning goal was scored by Lewandowski in the last minute of extra time ... **Stephane Antiga**, a 40-year-old native of France, will not have his contract as coach of the Polish men’s national volleyball team renewed following Poland’s disappointing 3-0 quarter-final loss to the United States in Rio ... Denver Broncos coach **Gary Kubiak** came back after missing his team’s game against San Diego following hospitalization for “a complex migraine condition that caused extreme fatigue and body weakness.” ... **Michael Bisping** defended his title against Dan Henderson at UFC 204 ... **Zbigniew Boniek** has been re-elected to head Poland’s football association (PZPN) for a second consecutive four-year term.

## STERLING SILVER JEWELRY



ALL SHOWN  
ACTUAL SIZE

ALL ITEMS ARE STERLING SILVER • ALL THESE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE IN 14 KT. GOLD • PLEASE CONTACT US FOR PRICING

## DESCRIPTION

A. Polish Princess.....	\$7.00
B. #1 Babcia (Script).....	\$8.00
C. #1 Babcia (Block).....	\$8.00
D. Small Eagle.....	\$12.00
E. Medium Eagle.....	\$14.00
F. Large Eagle.....	\$15.00
G. Large Heavy Eagle.....	\$35.00
H. Extra Heavy Eagle.....	\$40.00
I. #1 Mamusia (Block).....	\$12.00
J. #1 Tatus (Block).....	\$12.00
K. #1 Ciocia (Block).....	\$12.00
Tie Tacks of D, E, .....	\$19.00/\$21.00
Tie Tacks of F, G, .....	\$22.00/\$42.00

## GOLDEN LION JEWELRY

P.O. BOX 199

PORT READING, NJ 07064

(908) 862-1927

info@goldenlionjewelry.com

- Add \$5.00 S&H
- Prices subject to change
- Allow 10-14 days for delivery.
- If not satisfied, return for refund within 15 days.
- NJ, NY, CT, and PA residents must add appropriate sales tax.

Merry Christmas

**PETER KOSAK**

Vernon, Connecticut



Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

**REGINA WNUKOWSKI**

Philadelphia





THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY



**POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE** (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 31st year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

RESISTANCE / Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

## Underground Class

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

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

Father Lipinski was at his usual post after mass on Sunday. His greeting to Bednarek seemed warmer than usual. Michal had sought him out for a brief consultation after his meeting with Kaminski, which had left him with a gray feeling of guilt.

"You seem to be dealing with your recent irritation, Michal."

"Yes, Father." Was the priest picking at a scab?

"Ah, Leona, we have only three more Fridays for Stations of the Cross. I am expecting to see you there," he issued a knowing look, "mention it to your friends."

Leona beamed a smile and kissed his hand. "Thank you Father, I'll be there."

**AFTER BREAKFAST**, Leona and Irena lingered over coffee and Kaminski's Journal. Michal had gone into his study to work on a client's books.

"Irena, I have arranged to conduct class in the church basement. The arrangement is temporary, at best, only three weeks, but it's a start and Lipinski may come up with a more permanent schedule."

"What a relief. I'd much rather complete your course in a class, with other students. What about other classes?" She quickly identified the class that held her interest. "A friend of mine is looking for classes in Architecture. So far there doesn't seem to be one."

"Just now, I cannot speak to any other classes that Father might be willing to accommodate."

They heard the phone ring in Michal's study. A muffled initial greeting, and then a louder tone climaxed by a ringing off.

Irena looked to her mother, who merely shrugged her shoulders.

Michal entered the room in a somewhat agitated mood. "I'm sorry I ever bumped into Kaminski. He's made an appointment to see me at my office."

"Why should this disturb you, Michal? I thought he was a friend of yours."

"He's not coming to see me in friendship, Leona!"

"Tata, you're unusually upset about this. It may just be a meeting to discuss a legal issue. He's involved in so many projects."

Michal stormed out of the room. "I know what issue it is he wants to discuss, and it is definitely not legal."

**AFTER MASS ON MONDAY**, Leona invited Father Lipinski to breakfast with her at the Center Café, where they served the good black market coffee. He eagerly agreed.

Magda served the coffee and asked Lipinski for a blessing, before she took their order.

Leona reached across the table and touched the priest's hand. "Thank you, Father. I wasn't sure you'd come through for me."

"Well, you have the northwest corner of the basement for these next three Fridays."

"Thank you, Father, I never expected this much support."

"After Lent, we shall launch a study of Revelations on Wednesday evenings." He lowered his head, but not before she caught the conspiratorial smile on his face. "The northwest corner, of course, will be available to you."

Michal arrived at his office on Napoleon Square precisely at eight o'clock. Kaminski was waiting at the door.

"Good morning, Michal." He handed him

the latest 'BI', the daily Information Bulletin of the Home Army, which was refused.

"What is this urgency, Zygmunt? I am unable to give legal advice to conspirators."

Michal turned the key in the latch and opened the door. Kaminski was right behind him.

The journalist boldly took a seat, while Bednarek hovered over him, visibly annoyed. Kaminski drew a notepad from the pocket in his vest and read his notes aloud. "The Polish Communist Party is boasting of its recent diversionary action. A team of them were involved in a botched operation yesterday. One of them threw a hand-grenade into a window of the Nectar, where some German soldiers sat drinking beer." He looked up at Michal, who displayed mild interest in the story. He replaced the notepad in his pocket. "The comics never consider the consequences of their disruptive tactics. The gendarme rushed to the scene and randomly shot at the citizens in the street."

Kaminski looked up at Michal and presented a large grin. "Have I caught your attention, Michal?"

The attorney bristled. "Look here, Zygmunt, I have a good deal of work ahead of me for the day."

"I'll catch you at lunch one day. Meanwhile, here are some items of interest to not only you, but to all good Poles."

He dropped the Information Bulletin on the desk and saw himself out the door.

Michal glanced at the first page, and then filed it in the wastebasket. Michal Bednarek had no time for underground intrigue.

*Continued next month*

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

## Wax Poll



**THE POLONIA WAX MUSEUM** in Krakow, Poland, organized an event, which allowed Polish citizens to vote in the U.S. election, based on their figures of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

Clinton won with 79.9 percent votes.

The Museum said it decided to run the contest to gauge the social and political moods among the Poles. There were a number of foreign tourists taking part in the vote. Those interviewed said they consider Trump a game changer in global politics, and thus a threat to stabilized European democracies against Russian aggression.

**POLES KEEP THEIR CHRISTMAS TREES** up till Three King (Jan. 6) but carols continue to be sung at church and public Christmas displays stay up until Candlemas (Feb. 2). Everything now gets put away for another year. But by then just round the corner are the traditional harbingers of Easter: Pączki Day and Ash Wednesday (R.S.)

SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

## Our Pets in Kazakhstan

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

**PART XVIII.** Our piglet, which we called "Piutka," became a very cute pet. She had her own sleeping corner in our room, which we covered with hay and separated from the rest of us. Piutka was a clean animal, she never used her corner as a restroom. In the evening she had a habit of jumping to our beds and we played with her. She could be very playful, but when we ordered her to go to sleep, she was humbly retreating to her corner. Still, at night she often came back to us and slept there, her hooves up, hugging to one of the children.

Once we went to pick up wild raspberries at the steppe and we left Piutka at home. When we came home, she was not there. We were looking all over the village, calling, asking but nobody saw her. Children were crying, I and Marysia

were very worried and then ... in the evening when we were making beds we found our Piutka sleeping between pillows. She was still asleep, not happy and squealing that we woke her up.

At the beginning of summer, when children have already started summer vacations, Tereska decided that she would like to grind wheat for bread. She went to the village and came back home with the news that one of the local people had several small black puppies. He was planning to kill them since he needed leather for hand gloves. Tereska told us firmly that she really wants to have one puppy, especially since he had five puppies, but he needed only four for the gloves. She was crying and crying begging us to allow her to have one. We saw that we cannot change her mind, so Marysia took one of our linen rags which we still had from Poland and went with both children to bring the puppy. They came back excited with rosy cheeks and brought a black silk ball. We called a puppy "Psootka," from a word *psotny*, which means "mischievous."

So, we had one more mouth to feed. Psootka soon got used to our rules. She was never pushy, asking for more food than we could give her, she was happy enough to eat

what she had in her bowl. She grew up to be a nice black dog, with white spots on paws that looked like white socks, on the neck, and also a white spot on the end of a tail. She loved us a lot. Once she came home with a white muzzle, then she did it again and again so we stopped wondering. Our Psootka was a thief and a pest. She knew that we have limited food sources, so she was wandering around the village looking for a milk pot. When nobody was at the home she was able to sneak to the foyer where landladies kept milk. She was removing the cover from the pot and drank the whole upper layer, the best one — cream.

She had a good life, we sometimes wish we could do what she could. Her fur was shiny and slightly wavy. Jedrek was claiming that she has a permanent hair treatment. I know I should not spend that much time to describe our animals, but their lives were so mingled with ours that it is impossible not to mention them.

Since June 1942 Poles were more picked on and less liked where we were. We realized that since there are almost no men and older teenagers among us, just women and children, we need to work even harder and be more careful. From April until October I worked in

kolkhoz. When we had a free day, I and Marysia, were making sure that we have enough food and fuel to keep us going through the next winter. We carried wood from the forest for winter fuel. We brought wheat and potatoes which we were able to buy in exchange for something else. One day we came back home and saw Tereska crying. She admitted that she wanted to clean our personal lingerie really well, so she decided to cook it with lye. But she cooked it too well, so when she was trying to take it out from the kettle pot, only glued shapeless mass was left. She used too much lye, so we lost almost all underwear which we had left. We knew that she wanted to help us, so we did not punish her. We did not have any lingerie left in our suitcases. Gladly, we still had about forty handkerchiefs, which my husband brought from one of his business travel to Switzerland. These handkerchiefs were really a gift from heaven, since there was a demand for them here in Kazakhstan. Since there was not sufficient number of boys, especially since seventeen years old were taken to a military service, when a girl wanted to marry a boy she had to give him a kerchief. Our handkerchiefs were so popular that girls from villages far away were coming. We were given

two kilograms of wheat grain in exchange for one handkerchief.

Our young Polish boys also wanted to become soldiers ... more about it in the next segment.

*Continued next month*

— Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us)

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

**Support Polish Culture**

Please enroll me as an individual member in the American Council for Polish Culture! Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly publication *Polish Heritage*.

\_\_\_ \$10 One Year Membership  
\_\_\_ \$18 Two Year Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: ACPC, c/o Florence Langridge, Membership Chair, 78 Meadow Lane, West Hartford, CT 06107



# Christmas in Germany During World War II

*Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from the soon-to-be-released Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany 1939-1945 by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab. (Hippocrene Books. 2016)*

In those difficult, monotonous days full of homesickness, the most difficult to manage were the holidays, especially Christmas. For Christian Poles, the single most important holy day of the year is Christmas Eve, the birth of Christ. It is an evening when families and friends gather together to eat a special supper called *Wigilia* and to share an unleavened wafer called *oplatek*. It is a time, not just to be together, but to bond together with heartfelt words of love. The *oplatek* is such a symbol of family solidarity that, in the absence of a family member on that night, to let them know that they are thought of and not forgotten, it is sent to them in the mail. During those impossibly difficult war years, families in Poland made every attempt to send a piece of the wafer to their loved ones scattered throughout Europe in forced labor and in concentration camps. If it never reached them, the prisoners, inmates and forced laborers took whatever piece of bread they managed to scrimp and save and shared that among themselves.

**Anna.** I remember the first Christmas. On *Wigilia*, on Christmas Eve, I cried from the morning on. In my thoughts I was at home in Jaroszew, in my quiet Mazovian village. I moved around as if in a dream ... after supper which was a regular supper, after washing the dishes we arranged ourselves in my room one of the saddest Christmas Eves. We had *oplatek*, a few candies of our own making and a piece of *piernik* (gingerbread) sent from home. We couldn't utter a word. Not one of us could take control of the moment. In that quiet silence we sat for a long, long time. That *Wigilia* I haven't forgotten to this day.

Christmas in the camps was noted in the diary of **Julia**

**Gawrylkiewicz-Kodelska** (taken for forced labor after the Warsaw Uprising): December 24, 1944. The entire week they have been cutting back on our rations ... we are told that on Christmas Eve we will not receive supper ... we decided that in spite of everything we will have *Wigilia*. One of us obtained some beets, someone else a cabbage, potato and onion ... we prepared our supper. Everything would have been alright, without sadness and tears, if it weren't for those first moments of gathering around the *Wigilia* table. After the first few words of "Wśród Nocnej Ciszy" ("In the Silence of the Night") all the voices broke and instead of song, there were only sobs. The buried hurt spilled over in a stream of tears. There wasn't one among us who hadn't lost someone close in Warsaw.

Far from home, missing family, lacking food, the women made valiant attempts to re-create their Christmases from back home as best they could, often assisted by other Poles.

**Kazimiera K.** And then it was the holidays (December 1944). Christmas. Poor, sad, hungry. And the boys gave us a wonderful unexpected surprise. One of the boys brought us a Christmas tree. The first and only one the entire time we were there. There wasn't anything to decorate it with so a ribbon ... one of the girls made a few stars. We were overjoyed.

Nothing about their situation, however, was remotely normal and the day didn't end the way it did back home with the singing of carols and church bells calling the faithful to midnight mass to celebrate the birth of Christ.

**Aniela Bojko.** Our first Christmas in the foreign country is imprinted forever in my memory. On Christmas Eve we rushed back from work. We decorated our room with branches of spruce. On the branches we hung some candy and apples sent from Poland. From old boxes we made decorations for the branches. On the table were pieces of old bread, some lard, a few apples



Female prisoners shivering in the cold at Birkenau.

and a piece of broken *oplatek*. When the first star showed in the heavens and it came time to share the wafer, none of us had the nerve to be the first to approach the table and take the wafer to share with our friends who shared our misery. In the corners of the large room you could hear sobbing and sniffing. Finally, one of our group, *Stefka Walusek* from Rzeszów asked:

What should we sing? Maybe "Serdeczna Matko" [the much-loved Polish hymn to the Blessed Mother; in the powerful lyrics, the Polish people call on her to look down on her crying people, to save them from homelessness?]. We joined together and sang. Only after the song and in the midst of deepest silence did we begin sharing the *oplatek* and began reminiscing about those closest to us, our friends and family back home.

Neighboring next to us in a smaller room there lived a group of Ukrainian girls from some kind of

subversive organization. They had certain freedoms and liberties on par with the German citizens. They could participate in entertainments such as movies, radio and didn't have a curfew. They heard our song and ran over to report that the girls from Reiterheim were singing 'Boże, coś Polskę. We had barely laid down to sleep when we were woken by the loud tramping of men's feet. It was the police. Drunk, they entered the room hollering: Raus!

Shaking from cold and fear, only in our underclothes, we formed two rows. They counted us and then loudly began questioning us: "Who was singing the song?" Out of fear we didn't know what song he was talking about. When they drove us out into the yard where we had to stand barefoot on the ground we finally figured out what this was all about. One of my friends says to me: "Aniela, tell them that we were not singing any patriotic songs, but only to the Blessed Mother." I was

deathly afraid but with difficulty was able to mutter: "Das ist aber Herzliche Mutter." After this clarification the oldest policeman thought a little and in the end directed that we each receive two clouts and hollered: Raus zum Bett! (To bed!)

That was our first Christmas Eve in exile. I can't forget it and often at my Christmas Eve table I recall this story to my children.

Christmas is a time for celebration, for closeness to family and friends, for peace and contentment. That is what we wish for ourselves and for others. As we share the *oplatek* this Christmas Eve let us always keep in mind the importance of our traditions, to hold them close to our hearts and practice them wherever we are, whatever our circumstances.

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!

## FOOTNOTES

**Anna:** From Koziello-Poklewski and Łukasiewicz, ed. *Ze Znakiem P. Relacje i wspomnienia z robót przymusowych w Prusach Wschodnich w latach II wojny światowej*. Ośrodek Badań Naukowych im. Wojciecha Kętrzyńskiego w Olsztynie. Olsztyn 1985

**Julia Gawrylkiewicz-Kodelska:** From Dylński, Ryszard, ed. *Z Litera "P" Polacy na Robotach przymusowych w hitlerowskiej Rzeszy 1939-1945*. Wspomnienie. Wydawnictwo Poznańskie. Poznań. 1976

**Kazimiera K:** From "Forced Labor 1939-1945" online archive, za209

**Aniela Bojko:** From Bigorajska, Zofia and Pietruczuk-Kurkiewicz, Władysława ed. *Gdy Byliśmy Litera P. Wspomnienia wywiezionych na przymusowe roboty do III Rzeszy*. Ludowa Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza Warszawa 1968

## PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

# Cultivating a "Cultural" Inheritance

We all know that Santa Claus is Polish because he wears red and white.

When I sit on Santa's lap this year, I will have two wishes. The first is that a very wealthy Polish person will take an active interest in our Polish American people and become involved financially with a variety of institutions and organizations to help in their ability to function and continue their mission. Santa has most likely heard this wish many times in the past.

I'm surprised this hasn't happened already though. For instance, where I went to high school, a family donated \$25 million dollars for an arts center. One million to twenty five bona fide Polish causes or initiatives would go a long way. I'll even take one million to ten Polish causes. Which ones? Well, for starters the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Lira Ensemble, or the *Polish American Journal* have histories, accomplishments, and are current vital contributors to supporting and promoting Polonia. There are many others.

That one, in a way, ties in with the next wish. It was prompted in part by an article written by Don Eggleston, the system vice president for mission integration for SSM Health, St. Louis, Missouri, titled "Cultivating an Inheritance." The word cultivate is very appropriate in this context and Don was talking about giving an inheritance that is not monetary but rather a part of someone or something that is meaningful and enriching in an emotional or psychological way to remember the giver. In the case of SSM Health, the thing passed is the "mission," the ministry of caring for and heal-

ing the sick and to "continue courageously for the love of God." He began with an example of how this happened in his family.

When my own father was dying several years ago, he elected to give his children and grandchildren personal possessions by which we could remember him ... I received my dad's shaving brush and mug and his shoeshine kit. I placed the brush and mug on top of the mirror in the bathroom, and I put the shoeshine kit to use when needed. When I shine my shoes, my dad certainly comes to mind.

For the holiday season this year, do some cultivating of your own. Work the ground and plant a seed and give your kids or grandkids a gift that is a cultural inheritance of your Polish past. It might be the wedding picture of mom or dad or better yet, *dziadzia* or *babci* on their wedding day. Someone showed me a plaque of the beautiful Polish saying "Gosc w Dom, Bóg w Dom" (a guest in the home is God in the home) handed down to him by his father. He has it hanging in his home. Pictures, plaques, an article of clothing, a costume, a dish, a prayer book, a CD of folk songs, a CD of favorite polka tunes, a book, whatever has a Polish mark on it that reminds them of who they are and where they came from. I suspect it will be worth more to them than another doll or toy dump truck or a candy cane from Santa.

**POLISH OR NOT? Brad Goreski**, originally from Canada and a dapper and handsome fellow is a fashion expert and co-host on the show *Fashion Police*. Even without Joan Rivers it is still fun to watch. Brad's

father is Polish.

**Chuck Zukowski** is not insulted to be called a nut. You can read more about him at UFONUT.com. He is a UFO phenomenon investigator and is a proponent of the idea of the 37th Parallel theory which is a "highway" across America where the majority of UFO sightings have been made. He has appeared in a number of UFO televised programs on the 37th Parallel and other topics. Chuck's name and face are Polish but is he Polish or not?

**Pola Negri** is known as the Polish silent movie star but Theda Bara, real name Theodosia Burr Goodman, known as one of the first "sex symbols" of the silent film era, has a Polish connection as well. According to *Wikipedia*, her father "was a prosperous Jewish tailor born in Poland." While the silent female actresses all tend to look alike, Pola and Theda have a very close resemblance. Polish cousins?

**Wesołych Świąt** to all of the Polish American Journal subscribers and readers and especially to the fans of the Pondering Pole. I do appreciate the feedback, assistance, and nice comments I receive. I hope you have a joy filled and peaceful Christmas. May all of your wishes come true.

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

## SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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: **Laura Andres**, Bethlehem, Pa.; **Thomas Funka**, Grove City, Pa.; **Helen Gancarz**, Free Soil, Mich.; **Virginia Millar**, Port Orange, Fla.; **Richard and Pearl Wilgosz**, Hollywood, Fla.; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; and two **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

### MAIL TO: PAJ PRESS FUND

### POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

P.O. BOX 271, NORTH BOSTON, NY 14110-0271

I want to make sure the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL continues its service to American Polonia. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please [ ] include [ ] do not include my name in your list of contributors.



## Important Christmas Memories for your Family Histories

Celebrating holidays are important to the lives of our Polish families. In Poland, the calendar of holidays set the rhythm for activities during the year and Christmas was a favorite because it was a magical time. The festive activities surrounding Christmas helped brighten the atmosphere from the dark days of the winter. Family, relatives, friends, neighbors, and complete strangers seem to become kind, friendly and generous.

### How did your Polish family celebrate Christmas?

Do you remember the decorations on the Christmas tree at your grandparent's house? Did you help make homemade decorations of paper and foil or did your family splurge and buy the colorful glass ornaments? Did you place silver tinsel and colorful garland on the tree?

My early memories of Christmas at my grandparent's house were the Americanized version with glass bulbs, tinsel, and plastic garland. It seemed magical when I was little, but my grandmother described a

much different picture of how her family celebrated Christmas in their small rural village in Poland.

She told me that her grandfather had hung the tree from the ceiling and the family decorated it with walnuts wrapped in silver and gold foil, bright red apples, gingerbread in fancy shapes, and chains made of glossy colored paper. A manger was set up near the tree. She and her brothers and sisters had made many of the decorations, but the manger and some of the foil decorations had been made by other generations and saved over the years.

I remember attending midnight mass on Christmas Eve and afterward being shuttled off to bed with a promise that Santa would only come after I was asleep. Morning brought cheer with the opening of presents with my parents and grandparents and then a large breakfast.

My grandmother's memories of Christmas in Poland were similar but more festive. Their celebration began on Christmas Eve with a huge feast that started with the breaking of the opłatek or Christmas wafer.

After each person at the table broke off and ate a piece of the wafer, the meal began with traditional dishes which included cheese, sauerkraut *pieroży*, fish, mushroom soup with noodles, herring, boiled potatoes, dumplings, and poppy seed cake. After supper, my grandmother enjoyed singing carols with her family and listening to Christmas stories. The evening's festivities ended with the family blowing out the candles and then traveling to their nearby church to attend midnight mass. Christmas Day was spent at home with the family and enjoying Christmas carols sung by traveling troupes of young people.

### What are your memories of Christmas?

Did your family gather on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Did your grandparents describe their Polish Christmas celebrations? Are their stories similar to my grandmother's memories? What foods were served? What was your favorite *pieroży* filling? Did you have a cucumber salad (*Mizeria*)? Did you

have a mushroom or chicken soup? Was ham on your grandmother's table or did she serve a more traditional fish recipe? What were the desserts?

### Your memories of Christmas are important to your family history; write them down and save them for your grandchildren.

Your Christmas memories will make your family history come alive. Capture them while they are fresh in your mind. Ask your brothers, sisters, and cousins for their memories and capture them too! Keep honoring your Polish grandparents and celebrate with their Christmas traditions.

Wesołych Świąt!



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

## Tell Me What You Celebrate

### conclusion

Some time ago we highlighted some of the holidays celebrated in Poland. Here are the year's remaining festive occasions:.

**WIELKANOC (Easter).** The early-morning *Rezurekcja* (Mass of Resurrection) is preceded by a procession that thrice encircles the church. After mass Poles enjoy an Easter breakfast or brunch called *Święcone* (Hallowfare). The traditional greetings is "Wesołego Alleluja" or the more secular version. "Wesołych Świąt!"

- Po czterdziestodniowym poście święcone szczególnie smakuje.
- After 40 days of fasting Easter breakfast really tastes good.

**LANY PONIEDZIAŁEK (Wet Easter Monday).** Traditionally boys would be on the prowl from early morning trying to catch girls off guard and drench them from head to toe. Now it has turned into a free-for-all.

- W Lany Poniedziałek wszyscy się polewają krzyżąc śmigus-dyngus.
- On Drenching Monday everybody drenches everybody else crying out *śmigus-dyngus*.

**ŚWIĘTO TRZECIEGO MAJA (Third of May Polish Constitution Day).** Commemorates Europe's first modern constitution promulgated

on May 3rd, 1791. It is celebrated with patriotic assemblies, concerts and military parades.

- Trzeciego Maja idziemy na mszę, a potem na Grób Nieznanego Żołnierza.
- On May 3rd we attend mass and then go to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

**BOŻE CIAŁO (Corpus Christi).** This was a legal holiday in Poland even during the communist period. It is celebrated with outdoor Eucharistic processions held in every single parish. Major processions are held in Warsaw, Kraków and other large cities.

- Procesja Bożego Ciała przechodzi obok naszego domu.
- The Corpus Christi procession goes by our house.

**NOC ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA (St. John's Eve – June 23).** The shortest night and longest day of the year were once celebrated by boys jumping over bonfires and girls floating candle-lit wreaths down the river.

- W świętojanki pleciemy i puszczaemy wianki.
- On St John's Eve we weave and float wreaths.

**ŚWIĘTO WOJSKA POLSKIEGO (Polish Army Day – August 15).** Commemorates the 1920 defeat of the Soviet invaders at the gates of Warsaw; this legal holiday coin-

cides with the ...

### ŚWIĘTO WNBIEBOWSTĄPIENIA (Feast of the Assumption).

- W tym dniu święcimy ziola w kościele a potem oglądamy paradę wojskową.
- On this day we have herbs blessed in church and later watch a military parade.

**WSZYSTKICH ŚWIĘTYCH (All Saints Day – November 1).** Poles honor their dearly departed on this legal holiday by the visiting cemeteries and have masses said for the repose of their soul.

- Na grobach naszych bliskich składamy kwiaty, zapalamy znicze i odmawiamy modlitwy.
- At the graves of our loved ones we place flowers, light votive lamps and say prayers.

### ŚWIĘTO NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI (Independence Day – November 11).

This date, coinciding with the end of World War I, commemorates Poland's re-emergence after 123 years of foreign occupation. Military parades, wreath-layings and historical re-enactments take place.

- 11 listopada telewizja nadaje filmy dokumentalne i fabularne o treści historycznej.
- On November 11th, documentaries and movies with historical themes are shown on TV.

**DZIEŃ ŚWIĘTEGO MIKOŁAJA (St Nicholas Day – Dec. 6).** When they wake up, kids find sweets under their pillows and toys and treats in their shoes.

- Święty Mikołaj przyniósł Jasiowi czekoladkę i misia.
- St. Nick brought Johnny a chocolate bar and teddy bear.

**BOŻE NARODZENIE (Christmas – Dec. 24-26).** Both the 25th and 26th are legal holidays, and the 24th, *Wigilia*, is the single most family occasion of the year.

- W Wigilię dzielimy się opłatkiem i wzajemnie życzymy sobie zdrowia, szczęścia i wszystkiego najlepszego.
- On Christmas Eve we share the wafer and wish each other health, happiness and all the best.

**NEW FROM THE POLISH ARCHIVES.** The National Digital Archives recently updated a list of newly added scans (more than 600,000). A huge part of these documents will be very useful for genealogists. Here are some of the most interesting collections:

Records from state archives from Łódź and Piotrków Trybunalski.

There is also a 19th century list of persons living in the cities of: Piotrków, Wolborz, Szydłów, Radomsko, Gosławice, and Uszczyn.

Another valuable source of information may be records from the nearly one hundred villages situated on the territory of the present Wielkopolska province. These records were provided by the state archives from Kalisz and Poznan.

For a listing of new documents available online (in Polish) go to:

[http://www.nac.gov.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/import\\_9\\_2016\\_v2.pdf](http://www.nac.gov.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/import_9_2016_v2.pdf)


**DNA'S NEW MIRACLE.** Most people who register with DNA databases are looking for information about their ethnic origins or exploring distant branches of the family tree. But the rapidly expanding databases have also had an unintended consequence: They are helping people find biological parents whose identities had long been mysteries.

So reports Tara Bahrapour in the *Washington Post*.

The implications are wide-reaching. For adoptees, birthparents, children of single mothers with unknown fathers, and fathers unaware that they had a child, the answers to lifelong questions or the revelations of closely guarded secrets may now pop up in inboxes without warning.

"The technology can raise privacy concerns and lead to emotional complications," said Bahrapour. "Some adoptees have found biological relatives when they didn't set out to." To read more of this story go to: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/>

**TWELVE OR AN ODD NUMBER OF COURSES ON WIGILIA?** It varies from family to family. As a result of post-war population shifts, both versions are now found across the land.




**THE GENEALOGY ASSISTANT**  
A FAMILY HISTORY DETECTIVE

General genealogy with specialties in Polish & French-Canadian research

**Tim Firkowski**  
Professional Genealogist

(603) 748-0577 tim@thegenealogyassistant.com  
TheGenealogyAssistant.com

  
member  
Association of Professional Genealogists

## OBITUARIES

### Former Southfield Treasurer Roman Gronkowski

Roman J. Gronkowski, former treasurer of the City of Southfield, Mich., passed away Sept. 28 in Palm Springs, Calif., surrounded by his wife and children. He was 79-years-old.

Gronkowski was born on February 17, 1937 in Hamtramck, Mich. Throughout his life, he was extremely proud of his Polish heritage. After attending high school at St. Mary's in Orchard Lake, and graduating from the University of Detroit, Gronkowski moved to the City of Southfield in his early 20s working

as an investment counselor. He began his career in Southfield politics in 1967. After serving two years as a councilman, Gronkowski made a successful run for city treasurer. For 36 years until 2005, he won every campaign he entered, and remained the incumbent in his position until his retirement, making him the longest serving treasurer in Southfield's history. Under his leadership, business boomed, the skyline changed and the city flourished.

The next year, Gronkowski and his wife Judy moved to Palm

Springs to enjoy the warmer weather and to be closer to his children. Despite suffering serious health issues, Gronkowski remained optimistic and he continued to enjoy the simple things in life. He never lost his sense of humor or his will to live.

Gronkowski enjoyed golf, reading, and spending time with his wife at their summer cottage in Leamington, Ontario.

Donations in his memory may be made to: [www.thecapuchins.org/donate](http://www.thecapuchins.org/donate).

### This Christmas: A gift of Polish Heritage?

A concise, several-page custom-researched analysis of the meaning and origin of a Polish surname will make an unusual and memorable Polish-flavored Christmas gift for a loved one (or yourself). It will explain what the name means, how it originated, how many people share it, where they are from and whether a noble coat of arms accompanies it. If one is found, its image and the story behind it will be provided.

If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$13 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also be able to check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves, or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives, thanks to a helpful genealogical contact sheet included with each order.

For more information please contact [resarch60@gmail.com](mailto:resarch60@gmail.com)





## Nowa Luta to Help St. John Kanty Celebrate its 125th Anniversary



At 10:30 a.m. Mass on December 4, and as part of its 125th Anniversary Celebration, St. John Kanty Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., will host the well known Polish Canadian Folk Choir of Hamilton, Ludowa Nuta.

Following Mass, St. John Kanty will hold its Annual Bake Sale & Basket Raffle, which will offer Christmas cookies and placek. The raffle will have over 50 baskets with items and gift certificates from local merchants. A lunch will be available featuring Alice's Famous BBQ burgers, chili, and other treats, which can be enjoyed at the church, or available for takeout. Ludowa Nuta will also sing during the sale and lunch.

The goal of Ludowa Nuta, said director Vick Dudalski, is to promote Polish folk music. Its colorful, traditional costumes are all made in Poland, and the chorus is accompanied by a typical Góralaska Kapela which includes violins, double bass, koza, and trombita.

## Barcikowski Appointed the First Honorary Consul of Poland in Hartford, Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn. — Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski signed a decision No. 102 on September 12, 2016 on the establishment of the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Hartford and on October 4, 2016 appointed Darek Barcikowski as the Honorary Consul of Poland in Hartford.

As the Honorary Consul, Barcikowski will serve for the development of friendly relations and economic, cultural and scientific cooperation between the Republic of Poland and the United States of America and will be responsible for Polish citizens staying in his consular district by helping them and protecting their rights and as well as representing the rights and interests of the Republic of Poland in his consular district.

Barcikowski is the founder and managing partner of White Eagle Media where for over 13 years and he has served as publisher of a series of Polish language newspapers published throughout the country. He has been a lifelong advocate for Polish - American involvement in civic affairs and public service. In 2008, Barcikowski launched the 'Polonia Votes' project with a mission to get one million Polish Americans to the polls during the Presidential Elections.



Barcikowski serves as Executive Director of the American Polish Advisory Council, a Washington, DC based non-profit representing political interests of the Polish American community and chairs a task force charged with admitting Poland to the Visa Waiver Program. Barcikowski was the main organizer of a conference at Yale University in December of 2014 entitled: Poland's Emerging Role in Shaping Global Security and the US-Polish Partnership, which featured prominent Polish American scholars, politicians, military experts and diplomats.

He has served on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club, Salem Main Streets, the Salem Education Foundation and the Rotary Club as well as the Polish American Communication Initiative National Advisory Council and the Polish American Council at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in New York.

Barcikowski is a frequent lecturer on U.S.-Polish relations and Polish American political engagement.

## GROWING UP POLISH AMERICAN

# Memories of a Polish Christmas

by Josephine Kaszuba Locke

Christmas Eve is approaching. I feel a quickening of my pulse, and revisit in memory the holidays of my childhood, where I'm enchanted and excited as I await the arrival of my siblings and their families. We celebrate in my parents' home in West Rutland, Vermont. In addition to Mama Kamylla, and Tata Czeslaw, there are five sisters and five brothers, their spouses, children, and me, the youngest sibling. We sit around a beautifully crafted, long dining room table, awaiting Mama's cooking.

I was too young then to recall when three of my brothers (Joseph, Stanley, and Alexander) were recruits in World War II, and only recollect their pictures, dressed in U.S. Army uniforms on the mantle in the dining room. So, I must guess that they weren't around the table during my first Christmases. In later years, my youngest brother Valentine enlisted in the U.S. Air Force.

The sharing of *oplatek* is at the essence of Polish Christmas Eve celebrations, a centuries old Christian tradition. It is the same wafer used for Communion during the Holy Mass, except this *oplatek* is unbleached. Wafers were traditionally made with the flour and water dough poured on one side of a rectangular iron. The other half is closed over, and the iron is held over a fire until the wafer is baked. In my hometown, the *oplatek* was made by the parish's Felician Sisters. The white, rectangular shapes were embossed with Holy Christmas scenes. At the vigil meal (*wigilia*), each family member would approach the others to break off a piece of wafer, and wish each other "wesołych świąt," Polish for "Merry Christmas!"

**I VIVIDLY RECALL** the room and table settings, lively conversations, and playing with nieces and nephews. I was more like a big sister than an aunt, since they were not too far from me in age. Some siblings came from Michigan or New York. Some lived in town or elsewhere in Vermont. Some were only up the avenue, or a mile or two from the

homestead. I remember mama's hair in pin curls, and my sisters' — Mary, Julia, Theresa, and Helen — too, in preparation to attend Midnight Mass later that evening.

A large assortment of traditional food always included fish (generally cod in our home), potatoes, a compote made of dried fruits in a sauce, and home baked and Christmas breads from the Rozmus Bakery, the Polish bakery a short walking distance away. For days before Christmas, the aromatic odors of baking dough delighted the neighborhood. The meal also included a delicacy of cooked yellow peas, dry yet moist, and raisins, nuts, and a sauce rolled in a pastry.

After dining, we gathered around the *podlaznik* (Christmas tree), decorated with decades worth of fragile ornaments, overlaid with icicles and tinsel, and colorful strands of tree lights, and placed by the same window each year. The eldest sibling (Chet) usually provided a tree cut down from some rural lot. I recall

climbing the (very) high ladder to reach the top, working downwards to decorate the fragrant evergreen, after Tata nailed the tree to its crisscross, wood pedestal. A sibling or two would choose to be Santa to distribute the gifts. Children who came from a distance were not concerned about Santa's deliveries on Christmas Day morning, as they knew that gifts would be waiting when they arrived back home.

The joviality of gift unwrapping aside, we bundled up in our holiday finery to attend the Vigil (High) Mass, also known as *Wigilia*. The word is derived from the Latin word *vigilare* (to watch).

**ENTERING THE CHURCH**, we immediately smelled the fragrance of incense. A large manger display awaited the placement of the porcelain Christ child, announcing His birthday at midnight. Polish and Latin Christmas hymns and *kolędy* (carols) were sung by parishioners, accompanied by the choir high up in the back of the church loft, in joyful tune with the resounding, melodious organ, its pipes rising to the ceiling, wafting triumphantly through the church, enfolding heart, mind, and soul. We sang "Cicha Noc," ("Silent Night"), and my favorite *kolęda*, a lullaby to Jesus, "Lulajże Jezuniu."

When I was growing up, the Mass was celebrated in Latin as each parishioner followed the priest with their own missals. The Gospel and the sermon were delivered in the Polish language. Later, each parishioner approached the altar railings to receive Holy Communion. After Mass, we tromped out into the

snow-laden ground, and fresh crisp, very early morning air that was cold enough to pinch your nose, and make you glad of that extra scarf around your neck, especially when walking home after the service. Later that morning, the home awakened to Christmas Day.



"Entering the church, we immediately smelled the fragrance of incense. A large manger display awaited the placement of the porcelain Christ child, announcing His birthday at midnight. Polish and Latin Christmas hymns and *kolędy* (carols) were sung by parishioners, accompanied by the choir ..."

**I CLOSE MY EYES**, my memories are vivid, but, understandably with the passage of time, some fade until one day an image comes in a dream. Sometimes the memories come from hearing a specific Christmas Carol or smelling the scent of fresh pine. I easily recall giving my parents simple gifts: An apron and perfume ("Evening in Paris") for mama; Old Spice cologne, White Owl cigars, or Prince Albert tobacco (in its red tin can) for tata. For our family, gift distribution did not dominate Christmas. Instead, the holiday was always about the togetherness of family, on a special, blessed holiday, and the many days in between.

There are many fine books I recommend for those who wish to explore the Polish heritage further. First, have a look at *Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore* by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab. This book is a rich reference to Polish traditions for holidays and everyday living. An appendix includes "Traditional Polish Games and Pastimes for Children." Inside, we learn the feast day of Św. Mikołaj (St. Nicholas) is December 6, even though Santa Claus delivers treasure to good boys and girls on the Eve of December 24th.

Since the time I wrote this piece over 10 years ago, some of my book recommendations have gone out of print. You may find some of them, however, on eBay or from on-line used book sellers. These include:

*The Glass Mountain: Twenty-Eight Ancient Polish Folktales and Fables* by W.S. Kuniczak, Pat Bargielski. This collection of traditional Polish tales, ideal for story-telling during holiday gatherings.

If you have little ones in the family, look for *It's Christmas Again* by Fr. Richard Lewandowski, Michael P. Riccards, and Kathryn H. Delisle. It's a heartwarming story of how a group of children (with help from barnyard animals) rediscover the meaning of Christmas.

Another favorite of mine is *Babci's Angel* by Richard P. Lewandowski and Kathryn H. Delisle. This is the dramatic tale of a boy and his brother who are touched by their grandmother's angel. It is a life-embracing children's story that shows the loving presence of guardian angels, especially during life's challenging moments.

### Dried Fruit Compote Kompot z Owocow Suszonych

1 lb. mixed dried fruit  
2 cups of water  
Grated rind and juice  
of 1 lemon  
6 whole cloves  
1 1/2 cups of sugar

Rinse and soak the fruit in 2 cups of water overnight. Add the sugar and heat till it dissolves. Add the lemon juice, rind and cloves. Refrigerate. May be served cold or at room temperature.

## Jurek-Park Slope Funeral Home, Inc.



- Newly Decorated Chapel Facilities
- Our 24-Hour Personal Services Are Available In All Communities
- At-Home Arrangements
- Insurance Claims Handled
- Social Security & Veteran's Benefits Promptly Expedited
- Monument Inscriptions Ascertained

728 4th Ave., Brooklyn, NY • (718) 768-4192

DORIS V. AMEN, LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR

## EVERGREEN FUNERAL HOME, INC.

131 NASSAU AVE., BROOKLYN, NY 11222  
(718) 383-8600

Leslie P. Rago Gigante, Director

COMPLETELY AIR-CONDITIONED  
AERATION FLOWER CONTROL SERVICES  
AVAILABLE IN ALL COMMUNITIES



Your "Greenpoint"  
Family Funeral Home  
**STOBIERSKI LUCAS  
GARDENVIEW  
FUNERAL HOME, LTD.**  
161 DRIGGS AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11222  
PHONE: (718) 383-7910  
FAX: (718) 383-2737



**Polkas! Free Catalog**

•CDs  
•DVDs

**Contact us today!**

**PolkaConnection.com**

Your connection to polka music from around the world.  
Call Toll Free (866) 901-6138

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

# Polka MAGAZINE

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## SPA Christmas Party at Lone Tree Manor

NILES, Ill. — The Senior Polka Association-North will present its Christmas Party. Sun., Dec. 18, at the Lone Tree Manor, 7730 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Entertainment will be provided by Jimmy Kilian & Honky Chicago. Doors open at 12:00 p.m. Dinner at 1:00. Music from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Cash bar.

Admission: \$38.00. Deadline for reservations is Dec. 12. Make checks payable to SPA North, and mail to Richard Kula, 1931 Newton Park Ridge, IL 60068. Tel. (847) 823-6358

Tickets will be held in your name and will be distributed along with table assignments when you arrive. Tickets can also be purchased at the SPA meeting Dec. 6 at The Lone Tree Manor.

## Polka Music Returns to Saturday Mornings on WMUA, Amherst

AMHERST, Mass. — After a nine-month absence, the *Early Bird Polka Show* with Mitch Moskal will return to WMUA-FM, 91.1, at the University of Massachusetts.

Beginning on Oct. 29, the show will air on Saturdays, 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. Helen Curtin's *Polka Celebration Show*, now on Sunday mornings, will move to Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon.

The lineup change comes after polka DJ Todd Zaganiacz moved his show to WHMP-AM, 1400, in Northampton. *Polka Carousel* with Todd and Sandy Zaganiacz airs on Sundays, 8:00 a.m. to noon. (Rival WARE-AM, 1250, also airs two polka shows on Sundays between 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.)

Moskal's long-running polka show had been dropped by WMUA during a controversial restructuring in January. UMass reduced its polka shows from four hours to two and total running time from 12 hours to four.

Moskal, who has hosted a soon-to-be-departing country music show for WMUA, said he was thrilled that the *Early Bird Polka Show* would again be heard on Saturdays, along with the move by Curtin.

"This is a go-go for everyone," Moskal said. "So many people have missed having it on Saturday mornings."

With polka programming on WHMP and WARE on Sundays, it means there is plenty of weekend polka music for area fans, he added.

## Midwest Polka Association Early Holiday Dance

MAPLEWOOD, Minn. — Get into the holiday spirit early!

Local favorites Doctor Kielbasa will provide a fun time at the Midwest Polka Association (MPA) Holiday Dance, Sat., Dec. 3, at the Maplewood Moose Lodge, 1946 English St., (corner of English St. and Frost Ave.).

The band will play for listening and dancing from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Share a piece of cake with several members who have December birthdays.

General admission is \$10 per person, \$8 per person for MPA members. For location and directions, call the Moose Lodge at (651) 776-2830.

For information on dance events, contact Danny Fabeck at dan.fabeck@gmail.com or call (763) 244-0152.

## Urbanczyk Among Concertina Hall Inductees

WAUSAU, Wisc. — Craig Ebel, Wenzel Fischer, LeRoy Flor, Johnny Helget, Leon Helget, Dale Plexa, Ron Urbanczyk, and Richard Dronowski were named members number 251 to 258 at the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame Induction, held October 29, 2016 in New Ulm, Minn.

The annual congress and hall of fame induction devoted to the traditional German instrument similar to an accordion — a concertina's buttons are pushed in the same direction as its bellows while an accordion's are pushed perpendicular — draws hundreds of concertina enthusiasts each year.

New Ulm's event at the Best Western Plus was no different, with more than 300 people showing up for a day of concertina music and history.

Tina Losleben, secretary of the Sleepy Eye Area Concertina Club hosting the event, said the group was excited to bring the Hall of Fame induction to New Ulm this year. She said people came from as far as New York and Virginia for the event.

Concertina musician Ron Urbanczyk, who drove from Buffalo, New York, was among the eight inductees to the hall. He plays in a Polish-style polka band as opposed to the German- or Czech-style groups, more common in Minnesota.

Another contrast he mentioned is how many people can play the concertina in the New Ulm area compared to New York. He said at one point he was one of just seven concertina players in Buffalo, whereas there are hundreds in Minnesota.



WCC Director Ken Yagielski and inductee Ron Urbanczyk.

"The immigrants that came over in the 1900s were the ones who brought the concertinas," he said of what led to the music's popularity in southern Minnesota.

The Hall of Fame induction, he said, was an honor worth making the long drive for. He said it was especially nice to be among fans of the music.

The World Concertina Congress was created in 1975 by a handful of chemnitzer concertina musicians and has grown over the years to include thousands of musicians and enthusiasts from around the world.

The Hall of Fame recognizes international, national, and regional chemnitzer concertina musicians. The majority of the Hall of Fame members are local musicians who have kept the instrument alive at its grassroots level.

Before the concertina, Urbanczyk played the accordion. His mother, he said, took him for lessons when he was five years old.

"In Buffalo, accordions were the instrument to play," said Urbanczyk. "Every family had an accordion player."

In 1966, he started playing in a combo called The Jolly Jesters. Since then, he has played in seven other bands, and has performed on accordion, bass, guitar — and concertina — at over 1800 performances in ten states, and twelve countries.

A 2011 inductee of Buffalo's Music Hall of Fame, Urbanczyk is best known as a tireless promoter of Polish style polka music.

— compiled from articles by Steve Litwin, and Brian Arola of the Mankato Free Press

## Visit Poland With Biskup and Gomulka

WARE, Mass. — Polka Hall of Famers Mitch Biskup and Lenny Gomulka invite travelers to join them for ten days in 2017 as they tour some of the best-known, best-loved sites in Southern Poland.



Biskup

tional. According to Gomulka, similar previous tours proved so popular that he and Biskup were compelled to do so again.

"We enjoy hosting trips like this and know Gomulka

that, for many, it is a chance to connect with the land of their grandparents or great grandparents," he said. "For this excursion, we've selected some truly iconic sites in the southern part of this picturesque country. Our activities will include two nights in the capital city of Warsaw; one night in Częstochowa, with a private tour of Jasna Góra, home to the sacred Black Madonna icon; three nights in Krakow with accommodations at the 5-Star rated Radisson Blu Hotel, located minutes away from the city's old town square; and three nights in the mountain city of Zakopane."

Additional activities include the opportunity to tour the salt mines at Wieliczka, visit Krakow's historic Wawel Castle, and experience the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp. One of the most popular features of past tours — rafting and singing down the Dunajec River while experiencing stunning views of Slovakia and the Tatra Mountains — is once again being offered.

The price for this ten-day excursion is \$3,695 per person and includes all airfares and taxes; first-class accommodations; daily breakfast (and most lunches and dinners); all entrance fees; sightseeing tours; all transfers between the airport and hotels; transportation via deluxe, air-conditioned motor coaches; and music, dancing, and entertainment daily.

"This is a great opportunity, both for those who have never experienced Poland before and for those who have, but want to re-live the special feeling a visit to this exceptional destination brings," said Gomulka. "We expect a full group and invite everyone who is interested to contact us — we know they will love it."

For more information, contact: Mitch Biskup: (617) 899-5895, email: m.biskup@comcast.net or Lenny Gomulka: (413) 374-7096, email: Lennygomulka@aol.com.

The tour, which takes place from September 18-28, 2017, offers departures from New York's JFK Airport, Chicago's O'Hare and Toronto's Pearson International.



## Musicians: Submit Your Bios to the Polka Musicians Database

What do Andy "Day" Dziagwa, Mitch Biskup, and Johnnie Bomba have in common? Can you name Happy Louie, Eddie Blazonczyk, or Ed Nowak's top recordings? How many of you remember what instruments were played by Don Lucki, Marion Lush, or Roman "Travers" Truskolaski?

This information, and data on over 700 other polka musicians, is listed in the Polka Musician Database, an extensive collection available on the internet.

The only such database of its kind, this project was developed by the Polish American Journal's Steve Litwin and Mark Kohan. It has become the definitive resource of polka musicians on the internet. With an objective to document, archive and recognize the musicians that have given us polka music throughout the years, the Polka Musician Database has become a reference source for the present and the future.

The PMDB began with a small collection of musi-

cians' biographical information obtained by mail and email. When canvassing began, less than 30 percent replied. Many bandleaders have sent in their personal information, yet ignored their sidemen, without whom there would not be a band.

Gene Mikrut, a Chicago musician was instrumental in collecting information on dozens of Chicago polka musicians and his assistance in making this musician database succeed was key to helping this project. Mikrut volunteered his services without being asked. It would be great if we had more like him in polka music.

If you have access to the internet and haven't visited the Polka Musician Database, go to the Polish American Journal site www.polamjournal.com, select "Polka News," and then "Polka Musician Database."

To obtain a data entry form for the Polka Musician Database, write: Steve Litwin, 39 Adams St, Binghamton, NY 13905 or email: pajpolka@verizon.net.

## East Meets West

PHOENIX — The Pulaski Club of Phoenix will present "East Meets West," when Michigan's Steve Drzewicki Band takes the trip to Arizona, Jan. 21-22, 2017.

Music each day will be from 2:00-6:00 p.m. \$12.00 admission at the door each day, (no advance tickets required). Children under 16 are admitted free.

On Fri., Jan. 20, there will be a "Meet and Greet" party at 6:00 p.m. with DJ "Nickelcity Dave."

Hotel reservations are available from the Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North, 1515 N. 44th, St. Phoenix; (602) 358-0908; www.hiphoenixsuits.com.

All events are No BYOB affairs. The Pulaski Club has a full bar available and the "Polish Kitchen" will be open.

The Pulaski Polish American Club is located at 4331 E. McDowell Rd. For information, call (602) 275-9329, or visit www.pulaskiclubaz.org.

## "TGIFriday" Show Makes Premier

HOBOKEN, N.Y. — A new live internet radio program has debuted on the Polka Jammer Network.

"TGIFriday," hosted by the husband and wife team of Mark and Cherie Trzepacz, had its first show on Fri., Nov. 4, and will broadcast live every Friday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. EST.

The Polka Jammer Network broadcasts polka music on the world wide web, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no charge or site registration required. Simply go to www.polkajammernetwork.org and follow the simple instructions on how to listen. During live broadcasts, listeners can join in on the fun through the Polka Jammer Chat Room and share lively discussions and fun banter with other Polka Jammer listeners as well as the on air IJ. Listeners will also be able to email the program at: TGIFjammer@gmail.com.



**POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski**

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

**DECEMBER 3**

- Special Delivery. Polka Variety Club Christmas Party. Leonard Post. Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 681-2797
- New Direction. Broadway Market. Buffalo, N.Y. 12-3. (716) 893-0705
- Dennis Polisky. PNI Club. Worcester, Mass. 5-9. (508) 361-2860
- Mike Surratt. White Rose Restaurant. York, Pa. 7-11. (716) 848-5369
- Li'l John ATM Band. Pizza Sienna. Greensburg, Pa. (724) 837-7750
- Jimmy Sturr. Paramount Theater. Middletown, N.Y. 3 p.m. (845) 346-4195

**DECEMBER 4**

- Henny Versa J's. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt, Pa. 2-6. (724) 861-5872
- Dynabrass. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- Joe Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Golden Tones. Pine View Acres. Pottsville, Pa. 2-6. (570) 628-3207
- Eddie Forman. PACC. Lyndhurst, N.J. 4-8. (201) 438-9723

**DECEMBER 8**

- Jimmy Sturr. Aqua Turf. Southington, Conn. 12-2. (860) 621-9335

**DECEMBER 10**

- Buffalo Touch. Buffalo Polka Boosters Christmas Party. Polish Falcons.

- Depew, N.Y. (716) 684-2373
- Mike Surratt. Club Fidelitas. Baltimore, Md. 1-5. (410) 446-8189

**DECEMBER 11**

- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
- Ray Jay. Slovenian Hall. Yukon, Pa. 2-6. (724) 722-9700
- Dennis Polisky. PCC. Albany, N.Y. 2:30-6:30. (518) 456-3995
- Eddie Forman. German Club. Pawtucket, RI. 2-6. (401) 723-3549

**DECEMBER 18**

- John Gora. St. Clement Banquet Center, Dearborn, Mich. 2:30-6:30. (734) 422-1901
- George Tarasek. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (579) 654-5504
- Polka Vagabonds. American Legion. Rossiter, Pa. 2-6. (814) 938-9891
- Dennis Polisky. St. Joe Polish Club. Colchester, Conn. 1-6. (860) 537-2550

**DECEMBER 31**

- Honky Express and Concertina All-stars. Millenium Hotel, Cheektowaga. Reservations: (800) 323-3331.
- Phocus. Potts. Rossler Plaza, Cheektowaga.

**JANUARY 1, 2017**

- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-7 (413) 567-1961.



Wesołych Świąt!  
Merry Christmas!

**STEVE & ADELE LITWIN**  
Binghamton, New York

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**POLKA AND OBEREK TIME WITH BASIA**

WRHU RADIO HOFSTRA 88.8 and WRHU.ORG  
SUNDAY 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Merry Christmas!  
**HUKUS HELLRAISERS**




Polka Music on your computer  
24 Hours a Day  
plus many LIVE and pre-recorded shows!

[www.polkajammernetwork.org](http://www.polkajammernetwork.org)

*Polka Dreams @ Sea 3*  
Apr 2 - 9, 2017  
Carnival Pride®  
Baltimore, MD to Grand Turk, Freeport & Half Moon Cay® - Bahamas

Buffalo Concertina All-Stars  
Special Guest Star Ray Jay Of The Carousels  
Polka Dreams All-Star Band

D.J. @ Sea: Kenny Litwin  
Star Band: Stacey Morris, Jimmy Weber  
Dave Morris, Mike Matousek, Joe Dipycatic  
Richie Zebrowski, Jeff Mleczo (if able)  
Helga Leonard  
A Dream Trip 4 U  
www.polka-cruise.com  
helga@adreamtrip4u.com  
724-234-2033

**CDS** COMPUTER DESIGN SOUNDS

with *D.J. Rob*

Music for Any Occasion  
WEDDINGS  
ANNIVERSARIES  
HOLIDAY PARTIES  
INSTALLATIONS  
RETIREMENTS

Call (716) 570-3611  
Visit us on Facebook!

**Polish New Castle Radio**



Streaming Polka Joy Across The World On The Fastest Growing Polka Network.

[www.PolishNewCastleRadio.com](http://www.PolishNewCastleRadio.com)

*Southern Tour of*  
**POLAND 2017**



with Mitch Biskup & Lenny Gomulka  
an unforgettable experience  
**Sept. 18- 28th**

Departing from New York, Chicago & Toronto

**WARSAW • KRAKOW CZESTOCHOWA • ZAKOPANE**

2 nights in Warsaw, 1 night in Czestochowa, 3 nights in Krakow, Wawel Castle, Salt Mines, Auschwitz 3 nights in Zakopane, Dunajec River, Gorale folklore.

For more information contact:  
Mitch Biskup  
617-899-5895  
m.biskup@comcast.net  
Lenn Gomulka  
413-374-7096  
lennygomulka@aol.com  
Ted Szymanski (716) 668-9101

- ★ One Price Includes All
- ★ Airfares and taxes included
- ★ First class accommodations
- ★ Breakfast daily, most lunches and dinners
- ★ All Entrance Fees
- ★ Sight Seeing Tours
- ★ All transfers between airport & hotels
- ★ Deluxe air-conditioned private coach
- ★ Music, dancing, entertainment daily
- ★ Spontaneous fun and surprises

All Inclusive Cost: **\$3695** per person

FREE CATALOG!

HEAR ALL THE POLKA STARS on **SUNSHINE**

SEND FOR A FREE CATALOG  
SUNSHINE  
PO BOX 652  
W. SENECA, NY 14224  
CDs \$12 each  
\$2.00 SHIPPING & HANDLING

**247PolkaHeaven.com**

OVER 40 SHOWS WEEKLY  
IF YOU'RE NOT LOGGED ON  
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO POLKA

[www.247PolkaHeaven.com](http://www.247PolkaHeaven.com)

Streaming Live at [www.Jazz901.org](http://www.Jazz901.org)



**The Polka Bandstand Show**  
hosted by Ray Serafin and Al Meilitis  
Since 1981  
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
**jazz90.1**  
take jazz further  
Rochester, NY.

**ROCKIN' POLKAS**  
with **MIKE & GEORGE PASIERB**  
**WXRL**  
**1300 AM**  
LANCASTER-BUFFALO  
SAT. 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
SUN. 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas!  
Wesołych Świąt!

**BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS**

Buffalo Polka Boosters promotes polka music and Polish culture in Western New York and beyond. We encourage new members and guests become a part of our organization. The club meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 8:00 -10:30 p.m. Each month there is a live polka band, beer, soft drinks, light snacks, dancing, fun, and an overall entertaining evening. Please join us at our next event! We love polka music!



[buffalopolkaboosters@gmail.com](mailto:buffalopolkaboosters@gmail.com)  
Visit Us on Facebook

Listen to the **BIG TONY POLKA SHOW**  
**WJL 1440 AM**  
Niagara Falls / Buffalo, NY  
SUNDAY EVENING  
5:00 p.m.

Send all promotional material to  
Tony Rozek  
78 Cochrane St.  
Buffalo, NY 14206

For advertising information, call  
(716) 824-6092  
[bigtonypolkashow@yahoo.com](mailto:bigtonypolkashow@yahoo.com)

**Drivetime Polkas**  
with "RONNIE D"  
WESTERN NEW YORK'S ONLY SEVEN-DAY-A-WEEK POLKA SHOW

[www.drivetimepolkas.com](http://www.drivetimepolkas.com)



**WXRL 1300AM**  
MONDAY-SATURDAY  
5:00-7:00 p.m.  
**WECK 1230AM**  
SUNDAYS  
8:00-11:00 a.m.

FOR INFORMATION or ADVERTISING RATES, CALL  
(716) 683-4357



DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

# Hats off the TBC and the Trzepacz

Polka music has been plentiful lately as there have been a number of events showcasing many different bands. Thanks to **Mark and Cherie Trzepacz**, **TBC Reunion** paid a visit to Potts Banquet hall for a vast and high-spirited crowd.

The Brass Connection reunion featured Frankie Liszka, Pete Dardzinski, Dave Walters, Steve Binkiewicz, Matt Rosinski and Buffalo's own Matt Lewandowski. Although they have played a few jobs this year, it has been years since these musicians have performed together regularly. You would not have known that they have been on a break, as they sounded exactly as they did when they played their Farewell dance in Cleveland over 10 years ago. The intuition of these musicians showcased the talent and deep commitment they have to continue playing polka music. Potts was filled with locals as well as many who had traveled quite a distance.

No one wanted to miss out on the rare opportunity to take in all of the much-loved hits from TBC. Jenny and Richie Kurdziel, who hold a special place in their heart for TBC, danced almost every song, not taking a single minute for granted. It is easy to understand their affinity, as The Brass Connection played their wedding reception fifteen years ago. Even many of our local musicians came out to support bringing this highly anticipated reunion band back to Buffalo. In true polka lover style, the crowd grew in front of the band as the night progressed. They played requests of their most popular songs as fans repeatedly yelled one more time.

Many of us are hopeful that the opportunity arises again to see this fantastic band and relive those TBC memories.



Bob and Adeline Wroblewski.



Ron and Kathy Urbanczyk with Carol and Casey Kliszak in New Ulm.



Delphine Reddien and Don Soyka.



Pat Mazur with Robin Pegg and Geri Chadwick (in Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton masks), and Chris Tanski at the Knights of Columbus.



Rochester's Linda Merwin, Mike Chipchak, and Marty Merwin had a great time at the TBC Reunion in Buffalo.

given for mingling among friends, before dinner was served family style to each table. Chicken, beef, homemade pierogi, vegetables, kapusta, and potatoes were piled high to share a meal with friends. The Polish Hall in Burlington still hand-makes each and every pierogi for their events and it is evident as you taste the delicate dough and filling.

A communal meal becomes magical as you get the opportunity to share culture, equality, and grace among those with whom you are seated. Magically, dessert appeared at the end of our delicious meal before the dancing began.

**John Gora & Korona** provided polka music, disco polo, and some rock tunes that started the evening off with high energy. Next Buffalo's own the Knewz took to the stage displaying their

show stopping polka talent. Guests took to a dance floor that was so crowded you had to devise a plan to get out there to join in the fun.

The diverse styles of dancing were a show in itself, as couples flaunted their dance moves. Couples glided aimlessly throughout the night regardless of the genre of music. The Goras put much love and effort into this event, taking the time to treat this as if they are hosting each person in their own home.

I cannot compliment them enough for a superb event which far surpassed my expectations.

**HONKY EXPRESS AT FR. JUSTIN'S.** Fr. Justin's Knights of Columbus welcomed **Special Delivery** and Cleveland's **Honky Express** as the headlining bands for their annu-

al Polish Night. The nominal ticket price included the two bands as well as a Polish sausage sandwich alongside noodle salad. This beautiful hall in Cheektowaga has hosted many polka dances over the years. However with attendance dropping and prices rising, they have only been holding this one event over the past several years.

Jim Brado spearheads this event in an effort to continue polka music at this venue. The two bands both provided stellar performances which kept the fans energized and dancing all evening. Special Delivery mixed up the sound with their diverse sets and melodic vocals of crowd favorites. Honky Express played those heartfelt polkas and obereks that kept polka fans singing along and jumping on the dance floor.

I am grateful to Jim and the Knights of Columbus for bringing yet another talented band to entertain us in Buffalo. Honky Express will also be featured at the Millennium Hotel this New Year's Eve alongside Buffalo Concertina All Star's with special guest Eddie Biegaj.

**NATIONAL POLKA MONTH.** You can join the **International Polka Association** as it celebrates National Polka Month in January. The 48th Annual Festival of Polka Bands will be held on January 15, 2017. Saturday, January 14th is the warm up dance for the big event featuring Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push. The pre-festival dance is held at Polonia Banquets 4604 S. Archer Ave Chicago, Ill. Sunday's main event will showcase nine top polka bands including Keith Stras & Polka Confetti, Music Company, Lenny Zielinski's D-Street Band, Freeze Dried, Genny O & the Windy City Brass, IPA Tribute Band, Polka Generations, and Tri-City Drive. The festival will take place at the Glendora House 10225 S. Harlem Rd. Chicago Ridge, Ill. You can visit [www.ipapolkas.com](http://www.ipapolkas.com) for more

information of this event.

Buffalo will host its IPA Festival of bands on January 28 at Potts Banquet Hall. More on that in next month's paper.

**BEST WISHES.** As the Christmas season is upon us, I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you during this blessed time. As you begin to prepare and celebrate,

I wish you joy, peace, love, and happiness in every aspect of your life. May the magic that is found at Christmastime continue to radiate in you and your families long after this holiday season is over. I am looking forward to the music, kindness, and expression of faith that dwell in all of us, especially during this magic time of year.



Gerry Barsukiewicz with Carol and Dick Klima

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!



Joan Klaich, Jes Snoko, and Steve Naperiala at the Polish Night, sponsored by the Fr. Justin Knights of Columbus in Cheektowaga.

**AN OUTSTANDING EVENT.**

**John and Diane Gora** host an annual dinner dance each fall in Burlington, Ontario. Typically I am out of town visiting family on that weekend, however, this year we decided to stay home and attend this event. Held on the Saturday before Halloween, this is a stellar event and we will never miss it again. The evening started with our arrival to the Polish Banquet Hall in Burlington, Ontario. A polka Mass was celebrated with John Gora providing the music and **Father Piotr Machnacki** as the celebrant. The uplifting music and worship initiated a feeling of fellowship as we began the evening.

After Mass had ended, each table was served bottles of wine to share and toast one another. Time was

**MILLENNIUM BUFFALO**  
5th Annual Polka

# New Year's Eve Celebration

Home of the Chopin Singing Society Dyngus Celebration

Featuring The Buffalo Concertina All Stars and from Cleveland, Ohio Judy Maddie and The Honky Express with Special Guest Star Appearance from Eddie Biegaj

Guest Room Accommodations  
Welcome Cocktail Hour  
7 Hour Open Bar  
Polish Dinner Buffet  
Champagne Toast at Midnight  
Polish Pajama Party in Twigs  
Lavish Polish Brunch Buffet New Year's Day

FROM \$199 PER COUPLE

Call today for Reservations  
800.323.3331  
2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, NY





## CALL US TODAY! Christmas 2016 Gift Subscription Sale

**Buy one gift subscription at regular price, get a second one at 25% off, and a third at 50% off!**

For the month of December 2016 only, buy 1 gift subscription at regular price (\$22.00 for 1 year), get a second 1-year gift subscription for \$16.50. Save even more by buying a third one for half price, only \$11.00. Can be applied to gift renewals if first gift is a new subscriber. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Expires December 31, 2016.

Clip this form from the paper today and mail with check or money order! It's that easy, or ...  
**PHONE IT IN!** call (Toll Free)  
**1 (800) 422-1275, M-F 8:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.**  
**(716) 312-8088**

- Visa, MC, AmEx, Discover, and PayPal accepted.
- Each person on your list will receive a copy of the December edition with a card announcing your gift of a POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL subscription.
- You can interest a friend, or a relative in Polish and Polish American affairs if you give them a subscription to the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL as a Christmas Gift!

### PLEASE ENTER THE FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS GIFTS:

<b>GIFT SUB</b> <b>1</b>	NAME
	ADDRESS
	CITY, STATE, ZIP
	MY GIFT CARD SHOULD READ:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is <b>\$22.00</b> for this gift subscription

<b>GIFT SUB</b> <b>2</b>	NAME
	ADDRESS
	CITY, STATE, ZIP
	MY GIFT CARD SHOULD READ:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is <b>\$38.50</b> (\$22.00 for gift subscription 1, and \$16.50 for this gift subscription).

<b>GIFT SUB</b> <b>3</b>	NAME
	ADDRESS
	CITY, STATE, ZIP
	MY GIFT CARD SHOULD READ:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is <b>\$49.50</b> (\$22.00 for gift subscription 1, \$16.50 for gift subscription 2, and \$11 for this gift subscription).

### TO BE FILLED OUT BY DONOR

- I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ in payment for the above gift subscriptions.  
 Check or Money Order Enclosed  
 Charge to my:  VISA  MASTERCARD  AMEX  DISCOVER

NAME	
ADDRESS	
ADDRESS 2	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
CARD NO.	
EXP. DATE	CSV CODE

**MAIL TO: POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL**  
**P.O. BOX 271, N. BOSTON, NY 14110**

## Winter Beverages of Poland

by Staś Kmieć

**PART II.** Poland has a history of warming throats and souls with regional specialty drinks that are the perfect remedy for a cold winter's day. During a *Kulig* sleigh ride or when the season chills you to the bone, indulging in a hot beverage such as warmed *Krupnik* (honey vodka) or a hot toddy of sorts was a guarantee to warm you from the inside out. When the effects of winter took their toll, there was always the home therapy of *Kogiel mogiel/ Gogl-Mogol* to ease a sore throat.

**KRUPNIK GOLD.** Poland has one of the largest collections of amber in the world – known as the “gold of the Baltics,” but a far more enticing “gold” can be found in a boozy drink that tastes like “heaven on fire.” A traditional holiday cordial, *Krupnik* is flavored with spices, herbs, and wild bees honey gathered in the forest. Dating from the 16th century, this represents a continuation of Poland's ancient mead tradition. With an outstanding bouquet of honey and spices, this Polish beverage is often sipped on Christmas Eve, after the *Wigilia* Christmas Eve dinner, or following *Pasterka* Midnight Mass.

Honey is the main ingredient used to add sweetness, as well as up to 50 different herbs. There are many versions and some recipes have been passed down through generations. *Krupnik* originated in the territories of present-day Belarus, which were at the time part of the larger Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Legend has it that the recipe was created by the Benedictine monks at a monastery in *Nieśwież*, founded by Mikołaj Krzysztof “Sierotka” Radziwiłł. It became popular among the *Szlachta* nobility, and there are numerous recipes preserved in countless diaries. *Krupnik* was also used as a common medicinal disinfectant by Polish soldiers during World War II.

The sweet, fragrant blend is almost too complex to describe. Sure there's honey, but depending on your personal choice or ingredients, there's so much more. The brand of the honey and the ratio of seasonings are key factors which determine the final taste. The layers of flavor are baffling, considering the modicum of effort involved – dump in a pot and cook, then let settle and mellow.

There are several imported brands available with some searching at liquor stores or Polish import establishments, but it far more fun and interesting to make your own batch and develop a personal recipe.

### Basic Recipe

- 1 cup wild flower, clover, or buckwheat honey
- 1 cup water
- 6 cloves
- 4 sticks cinnamon
- Small piece of nutmeg
- 1 vanilla bean pod
- Peel of 1/2 orange (do not grate)
- Peel of 1 lemon (do not grate)
- 2 1/4 cups pure Polish vodka (100 proof. You can substitute a lower proof vodka for a less strong version)

Additional optional ingredients in any combination: 2 juniper berries, 1 tablespoon dried rose hips, ginger, cardamom, allspice.

- Bring the honey and water to a boil and carefully remove all the foam.
- Add the cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla stick, and orange and lemon peel.
- Cover and simmer for 15 minutes.
- Remove from heat, cool for several minutes, and return to a boil again.
- Remove from heat and set aside for 30 minutes.
- Bring to a boil a third time, slowly add the vodka. *Caution: If cooking over open flame, be very careful, as vodka is flammable.*
- Strain through a fine muslin or filter paper into a bottle.
- Leave the bottle for a week in a cool dark place for the sediment to settle.
- Siphon off the clear liquid.
- Heat and serve, or serve chilled.

### KOGIEL-MOGIEL. Mother's remedy for a Cold.

First there's the crackling voice, next hoarseness, and then bleary eyes; followed by the running nose, shallow cough, and fever. The diagnosis hardly matters, for the cure in many Polish and Jewish homes has been the one that's been used for years: *Kogiel-Mogiel* – the comforting drink that is whipped up in the kitchen without a prescription from an egg, sugar, vanilla extract, and a splash or two from a bottle of the family brandy.

In a matter of minutes, the time it takes to beat its few ingredients into a yellow-white foam that has been heated to a temperature guaranteed to warm the innards, *Kogiel-Mogiel* is ready for sipping. The Polish women, who are as skillful at practicing medicine without a license

as they are at cooking perfect meals without benefit of Cordon Bleu, would scurry and fuss with the blankets, plump the pillows, and serve the brew that is in reality liquid custard, but in the Polish imagination has become synonymous with motherly care and concern.

Known as *Kogel mogel, Gogl-Mogol, Gogel-Mogel, Gogle-mogle*, or *Gogli-Mogli* in Yiddish, Jewish mothers from Eastern Europe did not have the exclusive

*Krupnik's* sweetness comes mainly from honey, as well as up to 50 different herbs.



rights of this remedy. The Poles knew as much about its healing properties as the Jews did and of its inebriating qualities even more. The drink came into the Polish culinary sphere long before it beguiled the Jews. Brought to Slavic lands by English traders and sailors during Elizabethan times it was called by its more potent rendition – “huckle-my-buff.”

It became popular in the interwar period and during the 1980's under Communism, when sweets were not readily available and extremely difficult to purchase.

Other terms are used more frequently now to describe this much beloved “Polish eggnog” – *flip, egg flip, creamed Anglaise, milk punch*, but in thousands of Polish homes throughout the world, none is as colorful and comforting as the one which in nonsense rhyme turns ordinary custard into a potent, curing restorative.

To use as a remedy for sore throat or hoarseness, add only a tablespoon of liquor. If the patient is a child, add liquor only at your discretion. To make a *Kogiel-Mogiel* punch, add up to one cup of rum, brandy, or cognac.

### Basic Recipe

- 4 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups hot milk
- Nutmeg to taste
- Rum, cognac, or brandy to taste
- Beat egg yolks with sugar until frothy and pale yellow.
- Stir in vanilla and slowly pour in very hot milk, beating constantly.
- Add liquor and mix well.
- Pour into mugs, sprinkle with nutmeg, and serve.

Na zdrowie! - Cheers!

*Winter Beverages of Poland – Part I* which was printed in the December 2015 PAJ issue can be found on the website [www.pajtoday.blogspot.com](http://www.pajtoday.blogspot.com).

