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“YEAR OF KOŚCIUSZKO”
COMES TO AN END
PAGE 24

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

Dziś w mieście Dawida narodził się wam Zbawiciel, którym jest Mesjasz, Pan. A to będzie znakiem dla was: Znajdziecie Niemowlę, owinięte w pieluszki i leżące w żłobie. I nagle przyłączyło się do anioła mnóstwo zastępów niebieskich, które wielbiły Boga słowami: Chwała Bogu na wysokościach, a na ziemi pokój ludziom Jego upodobania. (Łukasz 2:11-14)

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:11-14)

Newsmark

POLISH TREE TO GRACE ST. PETER'S SQUARE. A 28-meter (92 foot) tall spruce is Poland's gift to the Vatican this year, continuing a tradition pioneered by the late Polish Pontiff, now St. John Paul II. He introduced the custom in 1982, and each year the tree set up in St Peter's square is donated by a different country. This year, is the second time since 1997 that the Christmas tree is coming from Poland. The decorated spruce along with a life-sized nativity scene will remain in St Peter's Square until January 7, the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, which ends the liturgical season of Christmas.



INSPECTION REVEALS CAUSE OF CHOPIN'S DEATH. In what might have appeared to be a secret ritual under the cover of night, a group of Polish genetic and forensic experts were permitted to inspect the heart of Poland's world-renowned composer, Fryderyk Chopin (inset, left). The crystal vessel containing the heart immersed in a brown

liquid, probably cognac, was removed from a stone pillar at Warsaw's Holy Cross Basilica, where it has been enshrined. The heart — visually inspected and photographed — was not removed from its container. The examination suggested the cause of Chopin's death was probably pericarditis, inflammation of tissue surrounding the heart, a likely complication of tuberculosis. Earlier, emphysema and cystic fibrosis had been suspected. Before he died in Paris in 1849 at the age of 39, Chopin asked that his heart be sent his sister in then-Russian-occupied Poland. It was smuggled past Russian officials to his native land. The inspection occurred in 2014 but details of the procedure have resurfaced recently. The experts recommended that the heart should not be re-inspected until 2064.

... AND STAY HOME. White nationalist Richard Spencer abandoned plans to speak in Poland after the Polish Foreign Ministry informed him he wasn't welcome. The 39-year-old leader of the “alt-right” movement, which includes white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan, had planned to address an extreme rightist seminar to mark Polish Independence Day. Soon after Spencer's plans came to light, the Polish Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying: “As a country which was one of the biggest victims of Nazism, we believe the views voiced by Spencer are in conflict with the legal order of the Republic of Poland. In our opinion, Spencer's controversial activities and the proclamation of slogans referring to Nazism do not correspond to the character and seriousness of Polish Independence Day commemorations.”

SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE'S LEGACY EXAMINED. An international meeting in Warsaw studied the legacy of two-time Nobel Prize winner Marie Skłodowska-Curie during 150th anniversary of her birth. The conference was organized by the Medical University of Warsaw, the University of Warsaw, and the Warsaw University of technology.

Skłodowska-Curie devised the term “radioactivity” and discovered two elements, radium and polonium. She was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize (in Physics), and upon winning the Prize in Chemistry, became the first person ever to win the Nobel twice.

A number of events were held earlier this year honoring the legacy of the Polish-born scientist, the youngest of five children of Władysław and Bronisława Skłodowska. These included lectures, academic conferences, exhibitions and the premiere of a movie about her life and work.

LET US BRING JOY INTO YOUR HOME

Panie gospodarzu,
pani gospodyni;
kolędnicy idź
otwórz cię prosimy.
Chcemy kolędować
i serca radować:
Hej kolęda! kolęda!

Kolędnicy (carolers) ask the host and hostess to open the door of their home so they can bring happiness with their music. This playful carol, based on the melody of “Hej, w dzień narodzenia Syna jedynego,” has been popular in Polish American circles since the 1950s.



ILLUSTRATION BASED ON 1938 POSTCARD “TRADYJCJE ŚWIĄTECZNE ZESPÓŁ GRAJKÓW,” “TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROL BAND.”

Wigilia Uncovered

Lesser-known and Obscure Dishes of Poland

by Staś Kmiec

In the traditional Polish household, *Wigilia* is the most important meal of the year. Although the meal is meatless (Advent – the season of penance continues until midnight), there is no shortage of unique and festive dishes.

The great diversity in Polish traditions is the result of the geographical conditions and history of the regions, as well as the influence of neighboring countries and foreigners settling in Poland. Each region has its own distinct traditions, beliefs and ceremonies, as well as its own dialect, cuisine, architecture and folk attire. Poland's folklore has as many hues as a Łowicz costume – this cultural richness is envied by other nations.

Poland's culinary tradition is extremely varied and each region serves dishes virtually unknown in other parts of the country. This fact is no different when it comes to the Christmas Eve dinner. Each region has its own *Wigilia* specialties – some are variations of well-known dishes, others are original and quite rare, and are proof of the richness of Polish heritage.

Real Polish cuisine is aromatic –

with lots of herbs and spices. Decades of wars and Communism with the shortage of resources in the past, drastically changed some of the recipes for a prolonged period of time – presenting a blander taste. Polish cuisine is now experiencing a “golden age” with many recipes being properly reconstructed. Herbs and spices most typical for the Polish Christmas would be: black pepper, cinnamon, cumin, garlic, juniper, marjoram, mint, parsley, sage, sorrel and thyme.

For centuries, Poland was at the intersection of trade routes. Merchants came to trade bringing among other items: cloth, rice, and many spices, as well. Sitting at the table with their Polish partners, they shared methods to prepare food. Due to this exchange, Old Polish cuisine was very rich in exotic flavors that complemented native dishes. Poland has been a country of many nations for centuries, and these traces were left behind in the kitchen.

Wigilia dishes are relatively light and eaten in small portions – going for the meaning and variety, rather than the quantity of food. The dishes vary a lot between the many regions of Poland, each having its own courses that often don't occur in the other regions. Describing all of them would actually make a whole book, but generally they are prepared from similar ingredients, and there are many common types of recipes.

Over the years, I have written

See “*Wigilia Uncovered*, page 5”



WIGILIA PERFECTION. The meatless Christmas Eve meal is central to the Polish Christmas celebration. Left, *Kulebiak*, a filled pie baked in a pastry shell from eastern Poland, is one of many lesser-known traditional regional dishes served this day.

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POLISH CHRISTMAS LORE. It was said that at the stroke of midnight Christmas Eve, the water in wells would turn to wine. But there was a catch: only those who had never sinned could taste it. That certainly excluded the rough-and-tumble farm hands, and other unsavory types, who would have loved to sample the miraculous tittle.



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- The Pauline Fathers -

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błogosławi Wam i obdarza zdrowiem.

- Ojcowie Paulini -

Gloria in excelsis Deo

2017 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.

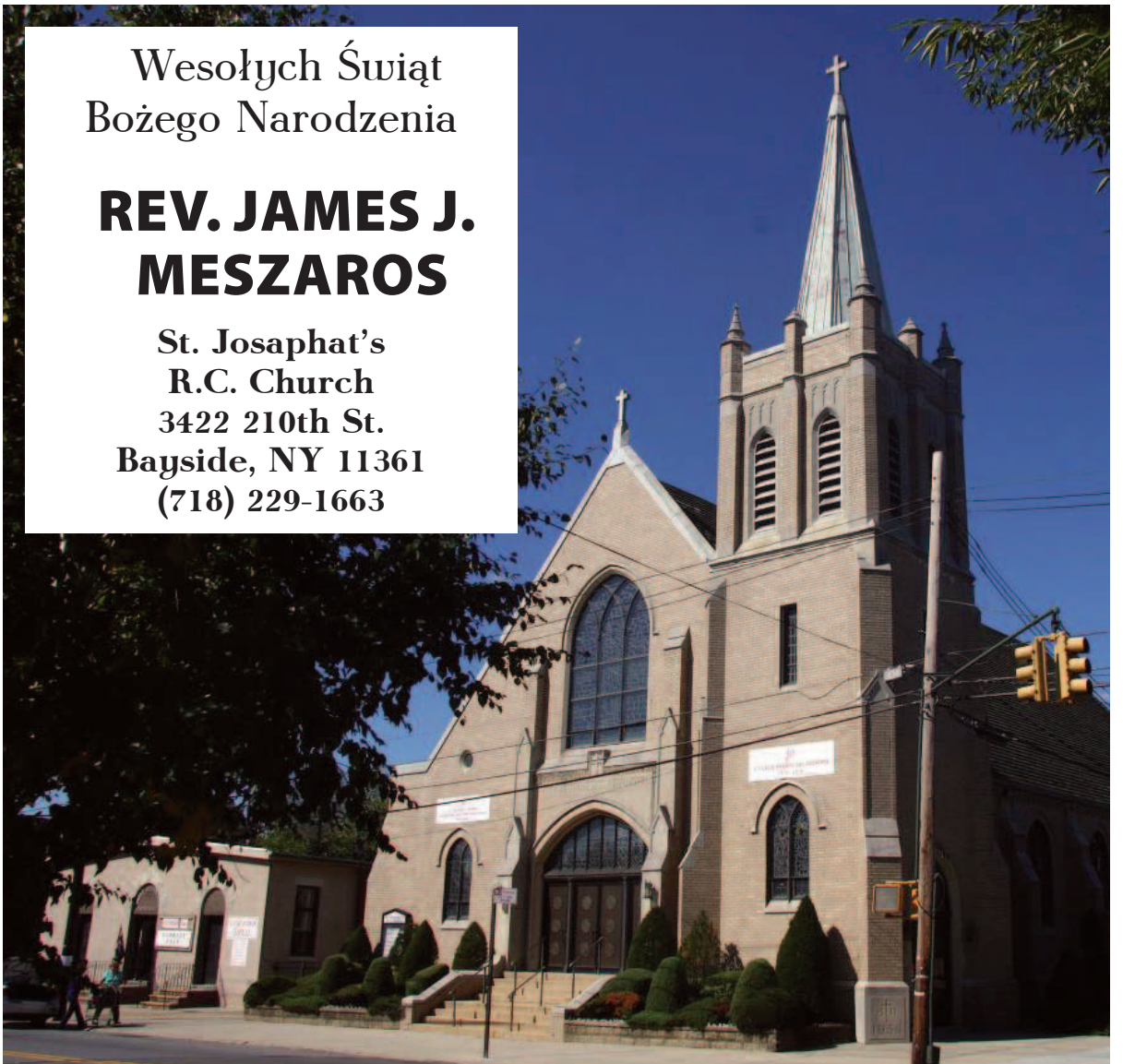
Dec. 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE: Holy Hour at 4:00pm. Vigil Mass at 5:00pm.

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Polish Christmas Lore

by Robert Strybel

Polish Christmas lore includes various customs, beliefs and practices which were largely the same but differed in minor points from region to region and village to village, and individual families often added some unique routines of their own. But for centuries, Wigilia (Christmas Eve) has been the focus of the celebration, and the opłatek or Christmas wafer – its central symbolic artifact. Exceptions included parts of Pomerania (Kashubia) and Mazuria – regions that had been under Protestant German rule for ages. Now the opłatek custom is also widely practiced in those areas as well.

ACCORDING TO ONE FOLK BELIEF, if the first visitor entering a home on Wigilia was a male, that was said to bring good luck, but a female visitor foretold misfortune. In the olden days, it was customary for family members to wash in a bucket of cold water brought from the nearby stream to which a silver coin or two had been added, as that was said to ensure robust health all year long.

The “the all-year-long” theme ran through many other practices. Children were told to be especially well-behaved on Wigilia, for that is how they would be all year. And if a child should have to be spanked on Christmas Eve for misbehaving, that was what was in store for him or her all year long. Grown-ups too were on their best behavior, refrained from arguments and settled

whatever debts they owed someone in the hope of being debt-free in the year to come.

CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER or “wieczera wigilijna” was no ordinary supper. It was not even a typical festive meal of the kind served at weddings, on namedays or even Easter morning. Everything about it was special, unique and highly symbolic. It could begin only after the first star of the evening had appeared in the sky.

Traditionally meatless, it featured the gifts of farm, field, forest and river: pasta, grains, dairy products, fish, vegetables, fruits, nuts and poppy. Courses were ordinarily brought in one by one and the family’s best crockery were used.

WELL INTO THE 20TH CENTURY, many poor peasants ate the food from common serving bowls with wooden spoons. For quite some time this tradition was also observed in many better-to-do homes, where there was no shortage of china and cutlery, to emphasize a sense of community. Until the meal was over, nobody was allowed to set their spoon on the table – it had to be held the whole time. Except for the housewife serving the food, no one was allowed to leave the table until the meal was over.

Everybody was also expected to taste at least a small sample of everything on the table and not to leave anything uneaten on their plate. To do so was said to foretell missing out on various good things in the year ahead.

Welcome a Guest, Welcome God

by Mark Kohan

The Polish proverb “Gość w dom, Bóg w dom” (A guest in the home is God in the home) is never truer than during the holiday season. As friends and family visit our homes during these festive times, they bring with them the spirit and joy of the season.

This, then, is a perfect time of the year to introduce your non-Polish friends to the wonder and beauty of Polish Christmas traditions and customs. Whether it is through a formal gathering you arrange or by simply explaining to those who drop by, some of the practices you and your family share during the holidays, you will be pleasantly surprised at the reception you receive.

You may want to have friends over on Christmas Eve to enjoy the wigilia meal. If they have children, make them part of the celebration. Traditionally, the youngest child of the household is responsible for the sighting of the first star, but this is really something in which all the children can be involved. When the light of heaven appears, it is time to begin the wigilia.

The Christmas Eve dinner begins with a prayer, the sharing of the blessed opłatek—the Holy wafer—and exchanging wishes. The sharing and breaking of the wafer is the most important ceremony of the evening, and perhaps the most important of all Polish traditions. As the opłatek is passed, not only are wishes for good health and prosperity exchanged, but all trespasses of the year are forgiven. This is a wonderful tradition to share with your guests. They, in turn, may begin this custom in their home, much like practice of blessing Easter baskets has spread from the Polish community to other ethnic groups. You may want to tell your non-Polish guests that the opłatek custom dates back to ancient Poland, and it is the one

tradition that both Poles and Polish Americans alike share. It is your connection with those in your family who have passed before you, and it is your connection with all those who will follow you.

Next, explain what each food is and why it is being served. And don’t feel obligated to cook up something special for your non-Polish friends. As more and more Americans become conscientious about their health, they will no doubt welcome a meatless meal. Also, remember to set an extra place at the table, as it is tradition that Jesus joins us in re-past, sometimes in spirit as an unexpected guest.

If your non-Polish guests have decided to join you for the Midnight Mass, *Pasterka*, you may want take advantage of the time between dinner and church to treat them to some kolędy and pastorałki, Polish Christmas carols. If you do not have

any kolędy recordings, they are available from any of the many fine advertisers in the Polish American Journal.

Remember: “Gość w dom, Bóg w dom.” Bring God into your home by inviting friends and family alike to share in the beautiful traditions of a Polish Christmas.

WELL WISHES. The staff of the *Polish American Journal* would like to send wishes for a blessed and merry Christmas to all of our readers and advertisers. Your support enables us to keep alive the traditions and beliefs of our shared heritage, not only at Christmastime, but throughout the year. Because we consider each and every one you part of the PAJ family, we symbolically break the opłatek with you, and ask that God may bless you with health, wealth and happiness. *Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!*

Merry Christmas
Wesołych Świąt!

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and the peace of His Love at Christmas
and all throughout the New Year!

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to the Christmas edition, and
I enjoy every issue of the
Journal. Thanks!

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Merry Christmas to Our Family and Friends

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Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i
Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku 2018!

MICHALINA CAHILL

Phippsburg, Maine

Some thoughts
about mother-
hood, perhaps our
greatest gift.

This Christ-
mas, we celebrate
the 97th birthday
for Pauline Kibler
Morley, born of
Agnes Krolak
Kibler in Morris
Run, Pa. She remains the hub of our families, spawned
by her five children: Leona, Barbara, Richard, Raymond,
and Evelyn. Being blessed by having a mother for over 70
years remains our blessing, for we experience mothering
to this day. Getting a lecture on life and living is common
almost daily. How great it is! No doubt, Pauline stays true
to motherhood as being the most wonderful accomplish-
ment in life. She reminds us that mothering continues
life everlasting. Mothering makes a difference.

The black and white picture of Pauline was taken by
her nephew, Jef-
frey Stoudt. Jeffrey
captured a solemn
look, reminding us
of the heritage of
Polish people dedi-
cated to survival,
persistence, pride,
and serious deter-
mination. A second
picture of Pauline
sends us a toast to motherhood and the best to a great
New Year.

Pauline was born January 5, 1921 — A blessing for a
New Year ahead.

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Joyous Holiday

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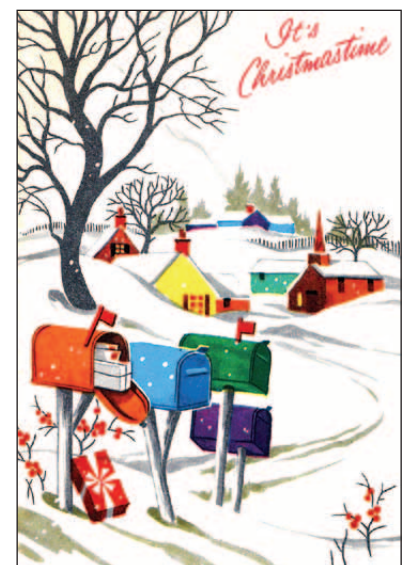
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and the

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Chicago



Merry Christmas
to all the
Waksmunskis
near and far!



Wigilia Uncovered

 continued from cover

on almost every aspect of a Polish Christmas. In “The Taste of Wigilia” article for PAJ’s Christmas issue several years ago, I documented well-known dishes and hinted about only some of the not-so-popular ones. This opened a continued interest in seeking out regional dishes that were obscure or lesser-known. For me, it was like unraveling a mystery, with small clues leading to the final reveal.

The knowledge was not readily available. Cookbooks (in Polish and English) were generally useless; as most were devoted to standard recipes or gourmet cuisine. I scored hundreds of ethnographic and folklore books and materials for bits of information to guide me through my search. I edited down my findings to a suitable article length, but now have uncovered enough information for an entire book.

As a “guilty pleasure,” I am a member of some internet Facebook groups focusing on Poland and the Polonia experience. I decided to place a post on four of them, including PAJ’s site asking: “What do you serve for Wigilia?” Responses were generally minimal or did not support the focus of this piece. Two correspondences did catch my eye on the “Polish Culture, Food and Traditions” site.

Krystyna Konwisorz from Calgary, Alberta in Canada hails from Tychy, south of Katowice. She chimed in about her regional *Makówki* tradition. She prepares the poppyseed bread pudding dish two days before Christmas Eve. “It tastes better when the flavors have time to combine and set.”

Originally from the Prokocim area of Kraków, Ania (Wincencik) Lee now lives in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. She makes the regional *Grochówka* thick pea soup; soaks the yellow peas overnight and uses a traditional *olej rzepakowy* (rapeseed oil) during the process for a mildly nutty flavor.

Each household has a different set of food traditions for *Wigilia* ac-

ording to Poland’s regional variations, marital circumstances, and family status, but each has a unique inheritance to hold on to, maintain and revere. Our traditions are what we grew up with and vary from family to family, village, region and a particular Polonia abroad upbringing.

Most Poles and Polonia abroad celebrate Christmas Eve with a similar standard menu. Only the soup category may be in conflict with *Barszcz Polski* being *czzerwony* (red) *barszcz* or *Wigilijny barszcz biały* (white).

My family has always celebrated *Wigilia*, but from childhood as an inquisitive first generation Polish-American, I was eager to discover the extreme details of my heritage ... this continues to this day. Each year our Christmas is more elaborate, but always Polish! More recently, at least one new dish, not part of our regional background is introduced: *Kutia*, *Kulebiak*, *Ryba w szarym sosie* (fish in plum sauce), and others.

I have now discovered a treasure trove of delights with unusual names and have more to add to our *Wigilia* menu.

REGIONAL WIGILIA DISHES

KASZUBY AND POMORZE. At one time Christmas Eve in these northern areas on the Baltic coast was quite modest. Some households only served one dish and it was *Pluci* – potatoes wrapped in salted herring. Fish dishes now dominate the table, with the herring *Śledz po Kaszubsku* in a sauce of tomato, onions, plums, cloves and allspice – topped with raisins being popular. Next to red *barszcz*, a fish soup or *Zupa brukwiowa* (rutabaga) is served, as well as *pierogi* with fish stuffing.

Sieja is an indigenous whitefish that lives in some Polish lakes, most notably the region’s Lake Łebsko. In the north of Poland, it is more popular than carp, which was introduced much later. It is fried and served with a mushroom sauce.

Brzad is a fruit soup made from a mix of dried apples, pears, prunes, apricots, peaches and cherries – thickened with flour and cream and served over *kluski* noodles or potatoes. Meaning “fruit from the orchard,” the origin of the word can be traced back to Slavic translations of the Bible.

Among the different cakes are: *Drożdźówka Kaszubska* – a raisin yeast cake with a crumble topping; a spit-fire *sękacz* cake called *Balmkuch*; and *Miodny Kuch* – a cake with honey, grated carrots and nuts, topped with chocolate or marmalade.

ŚLĄSK. The Christmas table in this southwestern region was always very richly set. The traditional soup was *Siemieniotka* (also known as *siemionka* or *konopiotka/konopiotka*). The consumption of this hemp-based soup was said to be magical, and every housewife had her own secret recipe. It was once cherished for its unique taste and health benefits – hemp (*konopia*) was used as a folk medicine. Today this dish is almost forgotten. To make the soup, hemp seeds are rinsed, cooked for a very long time and pounded to extract the milk, then cooked again with milk and butter. The soup is served with buckwheat, millet or roasted barley groats. *Garus* is a fruit soup of apple, pear and plum flavored with flour and sour cream.

The Śląsk region (as well as Wielkopolska and some areas in the East) delight in *Zupa Migdałowa*

Makówki

Sweet Poppy seed Bread Pudding from Śląsk

Prepare 1-2 days in advance and refrigerate to allow ingredients to set and flavors to combine

- 2 cups poppy seeds, ground
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 8 tablespoons honey
- 3 ounces rum
- 6 ounces Amaretto
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 cup raisins (pre-soaked in a little rum)
- 1/4 cup walnuts, chopped
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds
- 1 loaf *chalka* bread or raisin bread (sliced 3/4 inch thick) or bread rolls, croissants, dry biscuits
- 2 ounces chocolate, shaved (bitter sweet)
- 1 tablespoon sliced almonds
- whipped cream (optional)

Note: It is sometimes difficult to find ground poppy seeds; you can place poppy seeds in a coffee filter; pour boiling water over them twice to soften; and grind in a food processor or coffee grinder.

1. In a large pot over medium heat bring the milk, cream and butter almost to a boil.
2. While constantly stirring with a wooden spoon, add honey, rum, amaretto, cinnamon, raisins, walnuts, and almonds.
3. Reduce heat to medium low and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Turn heat off; add ground poppy seed, stir twice and let the mixture sit 10-15 minutes (*it is important to have the heat off, because the poppy seeds will become bitter if heated too much*). Mixture will slightly thicken.
5. In a large glass bowl alternate layers of poppy seed mixture and the bread slices, starting with a ladle of the poppy seed mixture and ending with poppy seed mixture. There should be 3 – 4 bread layers
6. Cover the top with chocolate shavings and almond slices. Cover and put in the fridge overnight.

It can be served out of the bowl like a trifle. It will be fairly firm, so you have the option to turn it over onto a plate and serve as a holiday pudding by slicing it. It can be served with whipped cream. It will stay, if refrigerated, for at least a week.



Makówki, a poppy seed-based dessert from the southwestern Śląsk region is one of many lesser-known traditional regional dishes served this day.

(almond soup). Almonds are considered a symbol of new life and hope. “Tables were set with hay, covered with a cloth like snow, and on the table in huge silver bowls – almond soup,” recalled nineteenth-century writer and publisher Alexander Jełowicki. The dish is made from milk, bitter and sweet almonds and raisins and served with thick rice (see recipe).

Moczka (also known as *bryja*) has two versions – as an appetizer or as a dessert. The main ingredient is gingerbread which is soaked (*moczyć* means “to soak”) in water, beer or stock. The less-common savory version uses parsnip as a main ingredient; in the sweet version – soaked in dark beer, dried fruit and nuts are added, along with cocoa.

Also well-known are *Śląskie Pierniki* (gingerbreads), made in elaborate wooden molds, and *Bytomskie Kamyki* (pebbles) – a sweet honey gingerbread pastry filled with marmalade and topped with almonds. Ślązacy also bake special *Zozworki* ginger biscuits. In Lower Śląsk, a fruit *kisiel* gelatin called *Suszynina* is made with boiled dried fruit spiced with cinnamon and cloves and thickened with potato starch. The original version was a jelly made from oats.

Makówki, a bread pudding is the most popular Christmas dessert in this region: Pieces of bread layered in a bowl with either poppy seeds mixed with honey or *bakalie* (a common Polish name for nuts and various types of dried fruit) in between (see recipe).

Drożdźówki (poppy seed yeast buns) are baked for Christmas; when they dry out, they’re soaked with milk and covered with pieces of gingerbread to be served for New Year’s as a dessert called *Śliszki*.

PODLASIE, LUBELSZCZYŻNA and the EASTERN BORDERLANDS. Due to its location, these regions are characterized by cultural influences from the Eastern borderlands. It is a region of dif-

ferent cultures: Polish, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Tatars and Jewish. The region’s great wealth of nature is the basis of dishes that utilize grains, mushrooms and gifts of the forest. *Kutia Kresowa*, a mix of wheat, *peczak* (pearled barley) with honey, raisins, poppy seeds and nuts still reigns over the eastern regions. The dish found its way into Lower Śląsk and Western Pomorze on account of post-War resettlement in this area from eastern territories seized by the Soviet Union.

Kulebiak is a pastry pie with a filling of kapusta, mushrooms, onions, nuts seasoned with bay leaves, or it can be made with a filling of salmon, hard-boiled eggs, dill and rice or *kasza*. The pastry shell, usually of brioche or puff pastry is sometimes decorated with fancy designs and served with a *bechamel* or white sauce. A mushroom-vegetable based soup called *Grzybula* is served over *galuszki* noodles.

In addition, *Kisiel Owsiany* (an oatmeal gelatin pudding) is served, as well as Podlaskie *Warrenki* filled dumplings, *kluski z makiem* and *Racuchy*, a raised yeast pancake, fried in linseed oil and sprinkled with powdered sugar. Due to the strict fast of the day, *racuchy* is prepared without added milk and eggs.

Honey is often spread over the *oplatek* wafer, as it is done in the Podhale Mountains. For dessert there is *Lamaniec*, a layered poppyseed cake; the conical buttermilk cake – *Sękacz*; *Makowiec Ejszeryszek*; and a longitudinal cake with nuts and white icing.

Residents of the Lublin region follow forgotten traditions. The Jews living in Lublin and the surrounding towns once had an influence on Christmas Eve dishes. *Karp w Galarecie* (carp “meatballs” in gelatin) and smoked carp are served in the festive menu. Old culinary cooking made use of the Jewish fish dishes. *Karp po Żydowsku* and *Szczupak* (carp and pike Jewish style).

The savory *Piróg Bilgorajski*,

utilizes *kasza*; these are cakes and are in no way similar to *pierogi*. A *Galicyjska Strucla*, a yeast bread filled with poppy seeds, cheese and cinnamon, marmalade or marzipan is one of the desserts.



Rwaki, potato dumplings from Mazowsze.

MAZOWSZE. The main dish in much of this central region is *Kłosy* noodles with poppy seeds. The longer and thicker the noodles, the better, as they symbolized the wheat yield for the next year. *Rwaki* are dumplings made of boiled potatoes, flour and eggs. Parts of the dough are torn by hand (*rwać* means “to tear”) and rolled out to form an oblong spindle. They are served buttered, with cabbage and mushrooms, or in a sweet version with poppy seeds. Cranberry or oatmeal *kisiel* is popular.

Fafernuchy is a cookie or biscuit with a peppery flavor and a noticeable hint of honey and cinnamon. The name probably comes from *pfefferkuchen* (meaning pepper cake), which was popular in the Middle Ages in Western Europe. In Kurpie, the original recipe had only five ingredients: carrots, flour, sugar, baking powder and pepper. Today, there is the addition of honey and vanilla sugar.

continued on page 6

Więcka

Old Polish soup from Pałuki



From the collection of the noted ethnographer Oskar Kolberg, is this soup, also known as *Więcka* or *Windłocha*. It is a reconstruction of an 1850 recipe.

Salty version

a handful of dried swede / rutabaga root
4 cups of water
3-4 teaspoons of flour
pinch of salt, sugar
Sweeter version
milk
pepper
vinegar or cabbage juice

1. Place dried swede/rutabaga in hot water for 10 min
2. Strain, place the Swede remnants into a pan of 4 cups of boiling water and cook until soft.
3. Add the flour to the boiling soup and stir in the remaining ingredients, cook 1-2 minutes, season with sugar. In the second version, season with milk, vinegar or cabbage juice and pepper.

Wigilia Uncovered

continued from page 5

PODHALE, PIENINY AND THE MOUNTAINS.

The festive culinary tradition of the southern Polish mountain regions is rich and refers to the highland culture. Throughout the day of Christmas Eve, a strict fast was observed, which included not only the ban on eating meat, but also milk, butter and sweet foods.

In Podhale, noodles called *Rzezańce* or *Haluski* are made of the same dough used for *pierogi*, boiled, and served in *polewka* butter-milk soup. There is also *Kwaśnica*, a fermented cabbage soup.

Kolatanka is a dish made with cooked barley groats mixed with swede/rutabaga and honey. Swede – a vegetable now rarely eaten was often considered as animal feed. It was once a popular and inexpensive ingredient. Another traditional dish is *Kłota* – a boiled cabbage with potatoes dish. *Buraczany Barszcz z Fasolką* is a beetroot soup with white beans.

Moskale are thick potato pancakes that are baked on a plate, and served with crushed *bryndza* cheese and melted butter. *Bukty* are regional thick potato noodles, like *kopytka*.

In Pieniny, there is *Barszcz na Ziolach* – a soup of salted beets and a concoction of herbs: caraway, basil, marjoram and bay leaves, and *Juha* – a cabbage and mushroom soup served over potatoes.

A typical highland custom is dipping the *oplatek* wafers in honey, before the Christmas ritual of “breaking.”

MAŁOPOLSKA. In the south, fish is sometimes harder to acquire, so *Wigilia* in the southern regions has less of a fish influence and is based on potatoes, cabbage and what

might seem surprising to people from other regions – beans.

Fizoly ze Śliwkami – a creamy white bean and dried prune stew is a known dish. Now known as *fasola*, beans were once called *fizioły*, and the name has stuck for this dish. For the recipe, big white beans are cooked with wonderful smoked prunes, rosemary and honey.

Krupy is the regional name for groats used by the Lachy Sądeckie – an ethnic group living in the Sącz region in the very south of Poland. For *Wigilia*, groats are served with yellow split peas, and can also be served with mushrooms or with prunes. Along with beans and peas, they were widely accessible even to the least wealthy, and were also a symbol of fertility and abundance.

Siuspaj (or *siusaj*), a dense massed dish from Tarnów is prepared from barley groats cooked with dried fruit and sweetened with sugar and honey. It is often served with sweet milk to pour over or drink.

RZESZOWSZCZYZNA, PODKARPACIE. There is no doubt dishes in this southeastern region are based of various types of groats. Of course, there is the traditional *kapusta z grochem* (cabbage with yellow peas), *Wigilijny barszcz biały* and *pierogi*, but there is also *Pamula* – a unique sweet and salty plum soup with a topping of caramelized onions and potatoes.

Postnica is similar to the better-known *kutia*. Barley groats are cooked with dried fruit such as apples, pears, prunes and raisins, then sweetened with a little bit of honey or sugar. The name comes from a word crucial to Polish Christmas Eve — *post*, which means “fast.”

Zupa Migdalowa

Almond Soup

This traditional soup is enjoyed either at the beginning of the meal or after the fish entree. Today, it is the least popular *Wigilia* soup, although it does have many enthusiasts among the children.

4 cups milk
3 cups ground almonds (or use Almond Flour that is just almonds)
1 cup cooked rice
1 teaspoon almond extract
3/4 cup raisins or currants
1 tablespoon sugar
egg yolks (optional)

1. Bring milk to a simmer in a large pot.
2. Add the ground almonds, cook gently on low heat for 15 minutes stirring often, until it thickens. Add milk if too thick.
3. Mix together the rice, almond extract, currants or raisins and sugar.
4. Place a heaping tablespoon of the rice mixture into the base of each bowl.
5. Ladle the soup into bowls. If preferred, sprinkle with cinnamon and place a raw egg yolk on top of each serving and serve immediately. (the egg cooks in the hot soup)

Note: you may find that the dried fruit gives the soup enough sweetness, in which case omit the sugar.



Three different groats – barley, millet and buckwheat offer a nutty, earthy flavor to balance the palate. This reflects the old rural traditions of the past that once dominated this time-honored occurrence. In the ever-changing modern times, it is an important homage to the simple tastes that are in many ways the root of this seasonal custom.

Golabki in a meatless form — made of rice, *kasza*, barley, or potato and mushrooms, then topped with a creamy mushroom sauce is a dish that some families enjoy.

Wigilijne Jagły (*kasza jaglana ze śliwkami*) is a formed molded dish containing millet groats, cardamom, ginger, orange and lemon peel and honey. There is also the slightly sweet *Piróg-Ryżowiec* a rice with

curd-cheese cake.

WIELKOPOLSKA. In time, the culinary traditions of this western region became richer. Red *barszcz* soup is standard, but it is sometimes cooked with mushrooms and pickles. Carp is prepared in a gingerbread sauce, and the area is well-known for its variety of gingerbread *piernik* cakes and cookies. The poppyseed bread pudding *makówki* (described earlier) is known in Wielkopolska under the name *Makielki*. Sometimes the bread is replaced with layers of *kluski* noodles.

Dried swede is the base of a Christmas soup called *Wiedka* (also known as *więcka* or *windlocha*), characteristic of the historical re-

gion of Pałuki (see recipe). Other dishes include: *Śledź w zalewie wiśiowej* (herring in a cherry sauce), *Barszcz Rybny* (fish soup) and *Bulki z makiem* (poppyseed buns)

There is much more to consider that was left off the list of lesser-known and obscure dishes: *ciurba-ciorba*, *ciastuchy*, *chamula*, *gryczanek*, *gryczek*, *gruca*, *hopka*, *kisielica*, *klóta*, *knysza*, *kwasa*, *kruchalce*, *muzika*, *oladki*, *plięnce*, *prośniaki*, *prażucha*, *sądak-sandacz*, *szupenia*, *szolodusze*, *ta-tarczuch*, *zwar*, *zuwka*, Old-Polish, manor recipes and more.

Wesłych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia. Zapraszamy do wigilijnego stołu!

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Christmas in Greenpoint

by Krysia Gutt

The author, a Greenpoint native, has always been involved in Polonia including her PolAm parish, New York's Kościuszko Foundation, and Matusz Polish Dance Circle. A few years ago she moved to Rochester, N.Y., where he has shared her childhood Yuletide memories with the local Polish heritage group.

Allow me to tell you what Christmas was like when I was growing up in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, one of the largest Polish communities in America.

My fondest memory was making tree decorations with my father. My favorite was the walnut shell ornament. Tatuś would carefully crack the nut open and scoop out the nutmeat for later eating or baking. We would paint the shells gold, silver or copper, then insert a string for hanging and glue the halves back together.

We also made paper garlands, blown eggshell ornaments, *pajęki* (mobiles), *gwiazdy*, and *wycinanki*. Tatko was a talented artist, so the ornaments were always magical. Little did I know back then that we made ornaments because we couldn't afford to buy them. This was shortly after the war. Tatko had been an officer on Polish and American ships. Engineers had an easier time getting work on land but there wasn't much work for navigators. But to me it was a wonderful time to spend with my parents.

Christmas Eve, of course, we went to Babcia's house. There we would gather with the rest of the family for the traditional meal with aunts, uncles, cousins, Babcia's sister; and Dziadzio, of course. We began the dinner, as always, with the breaking of *oplatek*. In those

days, the parish organist would deliver *oplatek* to the home before Christmas. Sadly, that tradition has long disappeared so now we get our *oplatek* at the butcher shop or the Polish deli.

Then we had *śledź* (herring) in sour cream with a hot potato, which at a young age I refused to eat. Now I devour it in many forms. We had clear *barszcz* but with *kluski* (egg noodles), not *uszka* (mushroom-filled dumplings). Perhaps it was a Kujawy tradition. Many years later, when I started cooking, we made *uszka*. Then fried fish, *groch z kapustą* (cabbage with peas), and sautéed Polish mushrooms. The sweet dishes included *kluski z makiem* (noodles with poppy seeds), *ryż z jabłkami* (apples with rice), *kompot z suszu* (fruit compote), and my favorite, *pierogi* with sweet cheese.

Then, with great anticipation, we awaited the appearance of *Gwiazdorz* (Santa). No one thought twice when Ciocia Domicja excused herself from the table. Of course, all through dinner, the French doors to the living room would be closed and strictly off limits to everyone. When it was time, we would gather in a line, from youngest to oldest, and watch for *Gwiazdorz*. And there he would be! Waving to us and suddenly disappearing. Only then

would we be allowed to go into the living room and dive into the gaily wrapped gifts.

While *Gwiazdorz* is not traditionally Polish, our family knew that we were American kids and would have to interact with our classmates. So we observed *Święty Mikołaj* (St. Nicholas), but modestly, either at home or at a celebration arranged by my father's Polish officers' club or the Polish Youth Organization.

After *Wigilia* dinner, I went home with my parents because we lived a distance away, in the Irish sector. Besides, my parents didn't believe in keeping children up late. My cousins went home with their fathers while their mothers, soloists in the choir, went to *Pasterka* (Midnight Mass). As I got older, we still didn't attend *Pasterka* because the *Siostry Nazaretanki* at Szkoła Św. Stanisława Kostki made sure that we all attended the 9:00 a.m. children's Mass. But when I turned 16, I and joined my cousin and aunts in the choir for *Pasterka*. I had no fear walking home after Mass because the streets were filled with people going home as well.

Christmas Day was more subdued. After Mass, we would listen to *kolędy* and have dinner. I knew the songs not only from home, but in those days, all

the school children would gather in the school auditorium on Friday afternoons where the organist would teach us all the Polish hymns. This had me at a disadvantage in high school because I didn't know any non-Polish hymns, except for *Tantum Ergo* and *O Salutaris* – in Latin! My mother also taught *kolędy* at Krakowianki and *Górale* in preparation for the Christmas show.

The next celebration was New Year's Eve. It was the only night I was allowed to stay up until midnight. Despite money being tight, we always managed to have champagne (not Dom Perignon, to be sure, but something more modest) and caviar (not Beluga! Red had to do). At the stroke of 12, I was given a taste of champagne after indulging in the *kanapki* (h'orderves) Mamusia made. Even now that I'm alone, I still do this on New Year's Eve.

After the New Year came the preparation for the house “bo ksiądz przyjdzie po kolędzie.” Every parishioner had a visit from a priest who would bless the house and write the letters K+M+B (initials for each of the Magi) followed by the year, on the door in blessed chalk.

I had always taken Christmas for granted; it was something we just simply did. What I didn't know until I was older was how brave a woman Babcia was.



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We wish all the readers Merry Christmas and Blessings in the New Year

Religion

Funerals Denied for Same-Sex Couples

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Vicar General James Bartylla of the RC Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin, issued guidelines denying Catholic burials to unrepentant persons in same-sex marriages on the grounds it might cause scandal and confuse Catholics, perhaps even being an occasion of sin for them or weakening their commitment to teachings of the Catholic Church in regards to sacred doctrine and natural law.

Madison's Bishop Robert Morlino has come under sharp criticism and ridicule from LGBT advocates for the policy. Springfield, Illinois' Bishop Thomas Paprocki experienced a similar backlash when he released guidelines stating that those in same-sex marriages should not receive communion or have a Catholic burial if they died without showing signs of repentance.

CROSS ORDERED REMOVED FROM JOHN PAUL II MONUMENT. A French court has ordered the removal of a cross from the memorial to St. John Paul II in Ploërmel, a medieval town in Brittany. A fixture in the town since 2006, it was ruled in violation of France's 1905 statute forbidding religious monuments or symbols in any public place that is not a museum, cemetery, or place of worship.

In addition the town must pay a fine to the National Federation of Free Thought, the humanist organization that led the fight against the memorial.

The monument, argues the mayor, has not disturbed the locals and is a tourist asset.

Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło called the order a kind of anti-European totalitarianism. To save the monument from "censorship" she proposed moving it to Poland with the permission of local authorities and the French government. The mayor of the town proposed selling the plot of land to private investors where it would no longer be on public land and subject to public authorities.

BODY-BUILDING PRIEST BECOMES SOCIAL MEDIA STAR. Father Artur Kaproń, 42, has become a Polish social media star collecting loads of likes after posting photos of the body-building events he has attended online.

But the local bishop has received complaints from some parishioners, especially older ladies, who were turned off by the sight of the priest's bare, muscle-bound torso. He was

called in by the Bishop of Legnica and apologized to those who had taken offense, but told reporters he was not barred from engaging in his hobby.

Father Artur, the pastor of St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish in the southwestern village of Sieczkowo, won fourth place in Polish Junior and Veterans Body-Building and Fitness Championships.

HALLER'S BLUE ARMY VOLUNTEERS REMEMBERED. A Mass was offered at St. Josaphat's Church in midtown Detroit on the 100th anniversary of the departure of 147 volunteers from that city on October 15, 1917 to join Haller's Blue Army to fight in World War I for the freedom of Poland.

MALL CHAPEL HOUSES RELICS OF POLISH SAINTS. Fr. James Doran, O.M.V. is the director of the Catholic chapel in Boston's Prudential Center Mall, in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. At a Mass celebrated by Boston's archbishop Sean Cardinal O'Malley, relics of **St. Faustina Kowalska, St. John Paul II, and St. Maximilian Kolbe** were formally installed.

"These three saints in particular encountered modernity with the full force of Christian love, sometimes in confrontation but also in invitation," said Fr. Doran, who added "The mall is a place where encounter and exchange happens, not just of material goods but personal goods even more importantly."

MARTYR'S CASSOCK AND GRANDMOTHER'S DRESS. Fr. Nicolas Konrad and cantor Volodymyr Pryjma, both Greek Catholics in western Ukraine, were on their way to visit a sick parishioner in June 26, 1941 when Soviet secret police caught them, took them to the woods, and shot them to death. They were beatified by **St. John Paul II** in June, 2001.

Dr. George Isajiw, grandson of the slain priest, and his sister examined a dress their grandmother always wore. It had bullet holes covered over by pockets. They realized that the dress was her husband's repurposed cassock that she wore until her death in 1955.

Blessed Nicholas Konrad is the patron of students and his cause for canonization is promoted by many at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. There are pilgrimages to the site of his execution and his cassock, well-preserved by Antoina his wife, is now a holy relic of his martyrdom.

ABORTION CENTERS: MODERN-DAY CALVARY. Fr. Fidelis Moscinski, a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, was arrested at an abortion center in Virginia. He entered the facility on a Red Rose Rescue, modeled after the pro-life rescue activity of Canadian activist Mary Wagner, who repeatedly entered Toronto abortion centers and offered red roses to mothers waiting the have their children aborted. Moscinski said, "I was convinced I had a moral obligation to participate in this rescue ... to give a public and prayerful witness to the sanctity of life."

STO LAT TO... Fr. Mark Wolski of the RC Diocese of Buffalo on receiving the *Curé of Ars* Award in recognition of his work in fostering vocations and priestly ministry. Fr. Wolski celebrates his 50th year of priesthood this year ... **Fr. Richard "Duke" Zajac** chaplain of Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y. on being honored for 35 years of service to the Perinatal Bereavement Network and for his reception of the LOVE award for living out the values of compassion, justice, reverence and excellence. He also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Christ the King Seminary Alumni Association ... **Fr. Jerome Kopec**, pastor of Ss. Peter & Paul in Williamsville, N.Y., on receiving the Venerable Nelson Baker Award for his work as an advocate for young people and for devoting his time and attention to caring for and supporting youth in their faith journeys. Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz presented the award at the Youth Ministry Awards Banquet.

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Poland's Independence March – The True Story

No Nazis, but a noisy minority of ultra-rightists and soccer hooligans

Most of the 60,000 marchers were ordinary, decent hard-working Poles

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — "60,000 Nazis marched on Warsaw," wrote Jesse Lehrlich, Hillary Clinton's former spokesman, on Twitter, and he was wrong on two counts. That throng of people did not march "on" Warsaw from outlying cities, because the parade started and ended in Poland's capital. Were there any Nazis among the marchers? Rather unlikely! So where did Lehrlich get his skewed information from? He simply glanced through liberal-left-stream media reports which spoke of "fascists" and "far-rightists" and kicked it up a notch.

Most of the 60,000 marchers were ordinary, decent hard-working Poles, good Catholics, young marrieds with children, middle-aged and elderly, including war veterans proudly displaying their national colors and celebrating the 99th anniversary of Poland's rebirth. But today's media reporters, news photographers and cameramen know that showing an ordinary peaceful march is boring and uninteresting.

So the coverage zeroed in on a small minority of masked marchers, with no more than a few dozen controversial banners calling for such things as a "White Europe" and an "Islamic Holocaust." There were also a few flags of the prewar ultra-right groups All-Poland Youth and the National Radical Camp. There was quite a number of red flares and torches which cast an eerie glow over nocturnal Warsaw. Enhanced with horror-mongering narrations about neo-Nazis and Fascists, that indeed could have reminded some of the menacing torchlight parades of yesteryear.

Most of the controversial marchers were not ideological nationalists. Support for Poland's tiny National Movement (Ruch Narodowy=RN) has never even reached 1%, much below the 5% threshold needed to win parliamentary seats. The young toughs were mainly "kibole," members of an informal subculture of stadium hooligans who regularly engage in punch-ups with the fans of rival teams during and after soccer matches. RN operatives had no trouble winning the support of the none-too-brainy macho-thugs in mass events such as the Independence March.

Years ago, the now-ruling conservative Law and Justice Party (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość=PiS) made the mistake of befriending the

stadium subculture as a political tactic, because the then-ruling liberals opposed them. But that loud, brash, and unpredictable minority had effectively hijacked the November 11 march. Law and Justice withdrew from the march several years ago, but problems continues. Bringing flares and firecrackers to mass events and hiding behind masks are against the law, but the police were under orders not to provoke the marchers. If they had tried to restrain the "kibols," the resultant backlash would have really given the Western media something to write about.

As it is — ever since a government espousing conservative values came to power two years ago — liberal-leftist elites have had a field day attacking Poland. The issues are secondary, because Poland already has two strikes against it, according to extreme liberal values. First, Poland is proud of its heritage and current love for God, country, marriage, and family, ethics not in-line with most of Europe's acceptance of patchwork families, recreational drugs, abortion-on-demand, same-sex marriage, gender-neutral public toilets, and other "progressive" causes. Second, because Poland fears for the safety of its own, is has taken a stance against the Europe Union's call to imprudently accept immigrants — many of which from known terrorist states — without proper vetting.

Polish President Andrzej Duda does not share those anti-values, but he did sharply condemn the Independence Day excesses. "The joy of those who came to celebrate a magnificent event was marred by people displaying irresponsible placards. There is no room in our country for xenophobia, pathological nationalism or anti-Semitism." He hoped next year's 100th anniversary of Poland's re-emergence would be an event all Poles could rally around and celebrate in unity and with dignity. But achieving that goal in so politically polarized a country may prove to be a daunting — if not impossible — task.

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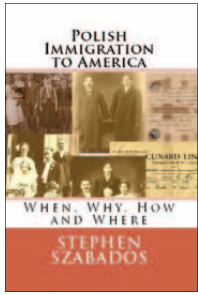
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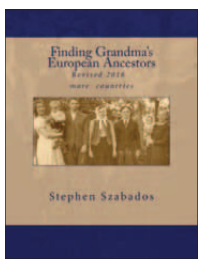
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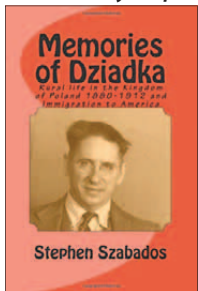
When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully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



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Genealogy

Christmas – A Great Time to Add to your Family History

by Stephen M. Szabados

The Christmas season is approaching, and it is an important time of celebration for our Polish family. It can also be an exciting time to add to our family history research. Christmas is a special time to bring our family together. We seem to transport our minds to a better place by enjoying the festive celebrations surrounding Christmas activities.

HAVE YOU SAVED your Christmas memories in your family history?

We spent Christmas at my grandparent's house and it was an Americanized version with glass bulbs, tinsel, and plastic garland. As a small child it seemed magical, but my grandmother described a much different picture of how her family celebrated Christmas in their small rural village in Poland. She told me her family decorated their Christmas tree 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.

My grandmother told me her family began their celebration on Christmas Eve with a huge feast that started with the breaking of the Christmas wafer and a meal that included cheese, various *pierogi*, fish, mushroom soup with noodles, herring, boiled potatoes, dumplings, and poppy seed cake. After supper, they sang carols and then attended midnight mass. Christmas Day was spent at home with the family and enjoying Christmas carols sung by family members and from troupes of young people traveling between the nearby villages.

DID YOUR GRANDPARENTS share their early Christmas memories with you? Are their stories similar to my grandmother's memories? What are your memories of Christmas? Did your family gather on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? What foods were served? What was your favorite *pierogi* filling? What salads and soups were

served? Was ham on your grandmother's table or did she serve a traditional fish recipe? What were the desserts? If you do not write down these memories, who will?

Your Christmas memories are a magical portion of your family history. Capture them while they are fresh in your mind. Show your brothers, sisters, and cousins photos from past Christmas days and the stories will flow. Record or write down what is said. Those words will be an extraordinary gift to your grandchildren and great-grandchildren when they read your family history. Honor your Polish grandparents and capture their memories. Their lives are important building blocks for our roots in America. Celebrate with their Christmas traditions and remember to enjoy the spirit of Christmas every day.

Wesołych Świąt!



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

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ing \$13 for each additional surname you wish 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.

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Almanac

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December ❄️ Grudzień

Z okazji Świąt Bożego Narodzenia, życzę wszelkich łask Bożych, pogodnych, zdrowych Świąt i pomyślności w życiu osobistym.

May the graces of God be with you this Christmas, Health, wealth, and prosperity and all good wishes.

- 1 1945. Premier of Stanisław Moniuszko opera "Verbun Nobile," in Warsaw.
- 3 1899. Founding of the Polish Beneficial Association, Philadelphia.
- 4 **ST. BARBARA**
Niechaj każdy pamięta, jaka Barbara, takie święta. Let everyone remember: as (the weather on) St. Barbara's Day, so the holidays.
- 5 1925. Death of Nobel laureate Władysław S. Reymont.
- 6 **ST. NICHOLAS** (Św. Mikołaj). Today is traditionally reserved for gift-giving in Poland.
1914. German troops overrun Łódź.
- 7 Poland and West Germany sign Oder-Niese Polish border pact. 1279. Death of Bolesław V the Chaste
- 8 1990. Shipyard electrician and Solidarity Trade Union leader Lech Wałęsa elected president of Poland.
- 11 1779. Birth of Alexander Zakrzewski (d. 1863), Polish-American lithographer who drew one of the first plans of San Francisco.
- 13 1570. Signing of the Treaty of Stettin concludes the Northern Seven Years' War
- 15 1575. Election of Stefan Batory (1533-1586). Batory was Voivode of Transylvania (1571-76), Prince of Transylvania (1576-86), from 1576 Queen Anna Jagiellon's husband and *jure uxoris* King of Poland. Many historians consider him to be one of the greatest of the elected Kings of Poland.
- 18 1929. Birth of Cardinal Jozef Glemp.
- 19 1852. Birth of Polish Jewish scientist A.A. Michelson, 1907 Nobel Prize winner in Physics..
- 20 1982. Death of Chopin advocate and pianist Arthur Rubinstein.
- 21 **ST. THOMAS**
1898. In Paris, Marie, 31, and Pierre Curie discover radium.
- 22 1959. Death of actress Gilda Grey (Maryanna Michalska), popular actress of the 1920s.
- 23 **ST. JOHN KANTY (CANTIUS)**, 1473. 1937. Birth of first Polish American astronaut, Karol Bobko.
- 24 **DZIEŃ WIGILIJNY**
Na szczęście, na zdrowie ze świętą Wiliją! Health and good fortune this Vigil!
- 25 **BOŻE NARODZENIE**
1025. Coronation of Mieszko II Lambert
- 26 **ST. STEPHEN**
1655. Swedes withdraw from Poland.
- 27 **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**
1587. Coronation of Sigismund III Waza
- 29 1966. Celebration of the Polish Millennium of Christianity.
- 30 1994. Consecration of Bishop John W. Yanta, D.D., at Panna Maria. He is the first Polish American Texan given this honor.
- 31 **ST. SYLVESTER**
1989. The People's Republic of Poland becomes the Republic of Poland.

Christmas greetings from our family and staff.
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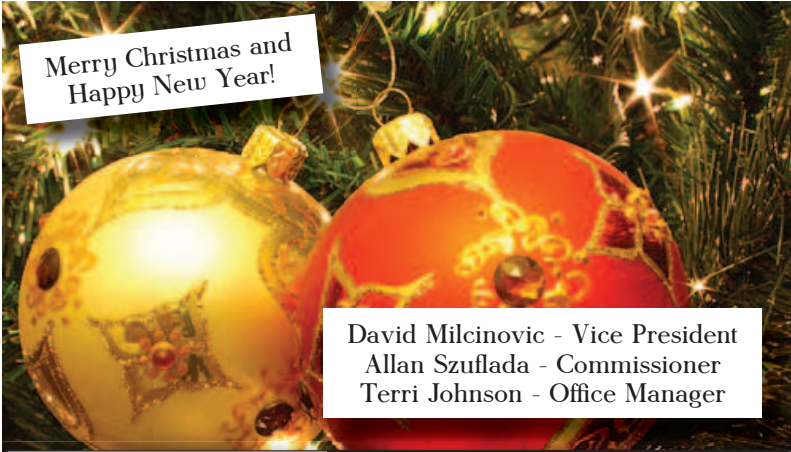
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POLISH CHRISTMAS LORE. After the Christmas Eve supper was over, it was common to gather up the table scraps together with any bits of leftover oplatek, the grain scattered on the table, and the hay from beneath the table-cloth, and take it to feed the livestock. Pink or colored wafers were given to the animals of the home. The straw strewn about the cottage floor was tied into roping and used to wrap the fruit trees to ensure a good crop.



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Piast Institute Demands Apology for SNL's Racist Characterization of Poles

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, president of the Piast Institute, issued a demand to NBC and *Saturday Night Live* to retract the insulting, racist remarks about Polish Americans made in a recent SNL skit and to offer an apology to the Polish American community for it.

SNL's recent skit mocking Sarah Huckabee Sanders contained gratuitous remarks about someone being as a "Polack as dumb as a box of rocks."

This ugly insult, uttered without context, was obviously a search for cheap laughs when creativity fails. It sought to pander to one of America's remaining respectable bigotries. It goes without saying that a similar remark about women, African Americans, Hispanics, gays or other group would have raised howls of public outrage. That it did not raise outrage, shows how far we as a society that purports to acute sensitivity about bigotry and racism, still have to go.

It is customary in such replies to recount the role of Polish Americans in building America, serving with honors in its wars and contributing to the commonwealth. That record speaks for itself and we do not have to justify our right to be equal citizens of the United States. The issue is larger: every person, every group in our nation-indeed in our world-deserves to be treated with dignity and not held up to public mockery, insult and debasement.

The Polish community deserves to receive a public apology from NBC and SNL for this utterly ignorant characterization. The American public needs to recognize that racist remarks such as these are an affront to our national ideals and a rupture of public civility no matter about whom they are made.

Contact Dr. Radzilowski at info@piastinstitute.org.

For more information on the Piast Institute: www.piastinstitute.org.

The Peasant-style Wigilia of our Ancestors

A Nobel Prize-winner's Account
by Robert Strybel

Polish author Władysław Reymont, who won the 1924 Nobel Literary Prize for his novel "Chłopi" ("The Peasants"), included a scene of a Polish peasant Wigilia of the late 19th and early 20th century.

That period coincided with the arrival in America of several million Polish immigrants to whom most of today's PolAms trace their ancestry. Chances are this could have been the way your immigrant ancestors celebrated the Christmas Eve repast in the Old Country.

But for Reymont's story to make any sense, a basic knowledge of the characters is required. The main hero was widower Maciej Boryna, an elderly, wealthy peasant who recently married the young, beautiful but none-too-faithful Jagna. Her mother is Dominikowa, Józka is Boryna's teenaged daughter from his previous marriage and Pietrek and Witek are farmhands. Roch is the somewhat shadowy figure of a fugitive Polish insurrectionist being pursued by the Russian occupation forces. Jagustynka is an old woman who has nowhere to spend Wigilia. Reymont wrote:

"Every peasant cottage got a good airing-out and everything was

cleaned and scrubbed; sand was sprinkled all about and the fireplace was whitewashed, Bread and holiday cakes were baked and herring were cleaned. The snow in front of the threshold was sprinkled with fresh evergreen needles. And so it was at the Boryna home. Józka was snipping out colored paper cut-outs with which to decorate the cottage, and Jagna and her mother baked bread and holiday cake rolls...



Reymont

"In the evening, a sheaf of grain was placed in the corner of the room, a bleached white cloth was spread over the table with hay laid beneath it, and the first star was watched for through the windows. When Roch announced it was time, they all sat on the long bench. Boryna was the first to sit down, then Dominikowa and her four children. Roch sat at center, then the farmhands Pietrek and Witek and next to him — Józka. Jagna sat down only briefly because she kept bringing food to the table. Boryna took the opłatek, made the Sign of the Cross over it, divided it amongst those present and all ate it with great reverence."

"On the table there first ap-

Speak Up

Former Prisoner Points Out Inaccuracies

Dear Editor,

I am writing you to advise you of some inaccuracies within the article "Archaeologists Unearth Mass Grave at Nazi Death Camp" (November 2017. Vol. 106, No. 11)

I was a prisoner at Gross Rosen in 1944.

Although there were some Jewish prisoners, the prisoners were mostly Polish Catholics at Gross Rosen.

The prisoner numbers (mine was 17818) were not on metal plates, but directly sewn on the tops and pants of each prisoner's "uniform."

Gross Rosen was not liberated

by the Soviets. At the time the Soviets were approaching Germany, all prisoners of Gross Rosen and sub-camps were transferred to Dora and eventually Bergen-Belsen. All that was left at Gross Rosen when the Soviets arrived were bodies and those unable to walk.

I was liberated at Bergen-Belsen by British and Canadian forces on April 15, 1945.

Victor Bik
Via email

LAPSUS CALAMI. The answer to question 13 in last month's "Test Your Polonia IQ" was incorrect. Zbigniew Kazimierz Brzezinski was President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser.

Christmas Words You Should Know

by Robert Strybel

Aniol: pronounced: "ah-nyow," the Polish word for angel, a figure who recurs throughout the season in Christmas carols, nativity plays and holiday decorations.

Barszcz: pronounced: "barshch," a clear beetroot soup made with vegetable and mushrooms stock usually including "uszka" (bite-sized mushroom-filled dumplings), traditionally served at the wigilia (Christmas Eve) supper.

Boże narodzenie: pronounced: "baw-zeh nah-raw-dzeh-nyeh," literally God's birth or divine birth, this is the standard Polish word for Christmas.

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

Kołęda: pronounced: "kaw-len-dah," Christmas carol, traditional songs honoring the Nativity, populated by angels, shepherds and their flocks as well as the Three Kings,

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

Fasting today is not as stringent as in the times in which Reymont's novel is set. Also, there is no mention of Christmas presents — those didn't come about in Poland's countryside until well into the 20th century. But the general scheme of things has persisted. The first star, the hay, white table-cloth, opłatek, meatless courses and midnight mass are the very same things Polish people mainly associate with Christmas to this day.

Blejwas Chair at CCSU Christmas Concert

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies will hold its annual Christmas Concert, Sun., Dec. 17, 2017, 3:00 p.m. at Welte Hall Auditorium of Central Connecticut State University.

The concert program includes: *Polonaise* from opera "Onegin" (Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky); *Rapsodia litewska, Op.11* (Karłowicz, Mieczysław); Dances and songs staged and performed by Zespół Pieśni i Tańca Polanie; and Polish Christmas carols.

Admission is free and the public is cordially invited. Refreshments will be served.

For additional information please contact jacquesm@ccsu.edu or 860 832-3010. Public parking is available in the parking garages on campus.

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American Polonia

MICHIGAN

Majewski Re-elected to 4th Term

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Mayor **Karen Majewski** was re-elected for her fourth term, getting 61% of the vote to defeat challenger Councilman Mohammed Hassan.

The three Hamtramck city council candidates she endorsed — incumbents Andrea Karpinski, Ian Perrotta, and new candidate Fadel Al-Marsoumi — also won, adding to her victory in the diverse city of 22,000.

“This is fantastic,” Majewski, 62, told the Detroit Free Press. “I’m really gratified and pleased that Hamtramck residents placed their confidence in me for another term. I’m especially excited about the council members who won this time. I’m looking forward to working with them. We’re going to have a great council, with a lot of positive movement for Hamtramck.”

Majewski’s vote margin was bigger than four years ago, when she

defeated her opponent by just 98 votes.

Hassan, 51, an immigrant from Bangladesh, would have been the first mayor of Hamtramck who is Muslim. Majewski’s win means that Hamtramck will continue to have a Polish American mayor. The city’s mayors have always been of Polish descent since it first started electing mayors in 1922.

In 2013, Majewski defeated Abdul Algazali, an immigrant from Yemen who also was Muslim. Hassan sought to unite the Yemeni and Bangladeshi Muslim communities, who together make up more than half of the population, this year Majewski appeared to get votes from Yemeni Muslims.

NEW YORK

Rusk Re-elected to Friendship Foundation

BUFFALO, N.Y. — At its recent annual meeting, the Friendship Foundation elected its new officers and board.

To serve one-year terms are:

Brian D. Rusk, president; Michael J. Billoni, first vice president; Stan Coleman, second vice president; Frank Barone, treasurer; Ruth Barone, secretary; Jack Guastaferrro, executive director; and directors Dorothy Merrill, Hon. Lynn Mil-lane, Jeffrey Lapides, Sigrid Pech-enik, and Tom Wilcox.

The Friendship Foundation, Inc. assists the Restoration Society, Inc. in its programmatic efforts, provides education about mental health and psychiatric conditions and advocates for the rights of individuals with psychiatric conditions.

Rusk is an International Public Relations Consultant.

PENNSYLVANIA

Karuzela Kolędy Concert

PITTSBURGH — The **Karuzela Chorus** will present a Christmas Concert of traditional Polish kolędy, Sat., Jan. 6, 2018 after the 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 3058 Brereton St. in Pittsburgh’s Polish Hill neighborhood.

The Karuzela Chorus is a volunteer choir that sings in the Polish language for cultural events in the Pittsburgh area. In addition to the performance cited above, the chorus can be heard performing at the Polish Day Festival at the Shrine Center in September, the annual Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Częstochowa at St. Paul’s Cathedral in August, and the PolishFest celebration in November at the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning.

The Karuzela Chorus is always welcoming new members. If you are interested in participating with this group or know someone interested, please contact the director, Dr. Neil Stahurski, at DrStahurski@comcast.net, or by phone at (412) 732-2566.

Knowledge of the Polish language is not required.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Five Members of Congress Visit U.S. Troops in Poland

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Jeb Hensarling (Texas) led a bipartisan group of four members of Congress on an official Congressional delegation to Poland, October 21-22. The delegation visited U.S. troops at the U.S. 4th Infantry Division Headquarters in Poznan, where U.S. Major General John Gronski

and U.S. Embassy personnel briefed the delegation. Gen. Gronski is a Polish American from Pennsylvania. The delegation shared lunch with U.S. troops at Base 33 in Powidz, located not far from Wrzesnia, the site of a famous school strike in 1901 by Polish school children protesting Germanization.

The delegation also paid homage to victims of German genocide with a visit to the former German concentration camp at Fort VII in Poznan. The Members of Congress lit candles in a hallowed wall that was used for execution of Polish prisoners and not far from the first German gas chamber.

In addition to Congressman Hensarling, Congresswoman Carloyn Maloney (N.Y.), Congressman Anthony Brown (Md.), Congressman Ted Budd (N.C.), and Congressman Alex Mooney (W.V.) participated in the delegation.

Looking for Young Pianists

WASHINGTON, D.C. — December 20, 2017 is the deadline for applications for the Kosciuszko Foundation’s **Chopin Competition for Young Pianists**, which will be held March 3-4, 2018.

The awards include performance opportunities in New York City, Washington D.C., and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

To apply, visit www.chopin-competitiondc.org, or write to the Kosciuszko Foundation at 2025 O Street NW, Washington, DC 20036; tel: (202) 785-2320

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Historian’s Power Tour of Poland

MILWAUKEE — During a whirlwind tour of Poland, November 6-10, University of Wisconsin history professor **Neal Pease** presented 10 lectures on the past 100 years of Polish American relations. Speaking to audiences in Krakow, Lodz, and Warsaw, Pease stated that the American-Polish partnership has reached a level of cooperation unimaginable even 30 years ago.

The highlight of the lecture tour was an exclusive seminar for over 25 staff of the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, including American Ambassador Paul Jones. The U.S. Department of State financed Pease’s power tour in preparation for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining her inde-

pendence that will be celebrated in 2018.

Polish Fest Count Tops 35,000

MILWAUKEE — The 36th annual **Polish Fest** was held on June 15-17 on Milwaukee’s beautiful Summerfest grounds. This festival of music, dance, culture, entertainment and food was again a great success with over 35,000 in attendance. Polish Fest is sponsored by the Polish Heritage Alliance of Wisconsin, which operates the beautiful Polish Center of Wisconsin, opened in 2000, in the nearby City of Franklin.

Throughout the year, Milwaukee and Wisconsin Polish American organizations, including the Polish American Congress; Polanki, the Polish Women’s Cultural Club of Milwaukee; the Polish Heritage Club in Madison; the Polish Heritage Alliance of Wisconsin; and the Polish National Alliance joined to organize more than a dozen lectures, pictorial exhibits and public manifestations around the state that recalled General Thaddeus Kosciuszko’s life, values, and achievements.

PAC Honors Four at Banquet

MILWAUKEE — On Sunday November 5, 2017 the Wisconsin Polish American Congress held its 20th annual Polish Independence Day banquet, an event that also honors Veterans Day. Four outstanding community activists in Wisconsin were honored at this event: **Alex Durtka**, president of the International Institute of Wisconsin; **Malgosia Daugherty** of Green Bay, a leader of the Polish Heritage Society of Northeast Wisconsin; **Neil Dziadulewicz**, a long-time leader in the internationally renowned Syrena Polish Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee; and **Beverly Krass**, a long-time leader in the work to create the annual Polish Fest and the Polish Center of Wisconsin.

Speaking at this year’s event was the Hon. Piotr Janicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago.

Over the past twenty years, the PAC has recognized more than ninety outstanding individuals for their many contributions to our community at this banquet.



The Polish American Journal is giving away a \$100.00 shopping spree at its on-line bookstore. Winners will be able to pick from English-language books on a variety of subjects, Polish Christmas wafers, aprons, towels, ornaments, and more.

Purchase is not necessary to win (Just send your email address to the PAJ at info@palamjournal.com. You MUST put “Shopping Spree” in the subject line. It is that easy!) Additionally, any who purchase a new 1-year subscription for themselves or as a gift between November 1, 2017 and December 15, 2017 will automatically be entered into the contestant pool. The winner will be drawn at random and notified, Dec. 18, in time for Christmas shopping.

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Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada Honored In Kraków

NEW YORK — Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, professor emeritus of history, New Jersey City University, past president and executive director of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America and co-editor of “The Tatra Eagle/Tatrzański Orzeł,” participated in the V Congress of Polish Learned Societies in the World, which was held in Kraków, Poland, October 17- 21.

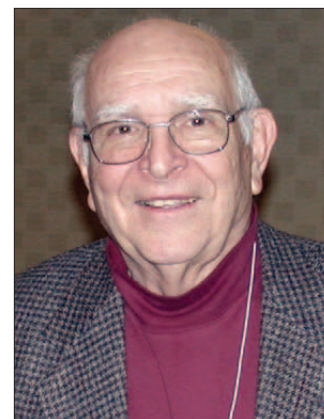
This impressive Congress organized by the Polish Academy of Arts & Sciences (Polska Akademia Umiejętności-PAU) attracted 71 delegates from fifteen countries of all six continents representing ten learned societies. “Polish Intellectuals in the World” was the theme of the Congress. The delegates, scholars and scientists, together with over a hundred Polish colleagues from the Academy and from Polish universities discussed and assessed the progress being made to preserve and enrich the Polish cultural and intellectual heritage outside of Poland during five days.

Dr. Gromada, who last year was elected foreign member of the Kraków academy, was invited to present a lecture for the opening session that focused on Polish family histories. His lecture was entitled “The Gromada Family in America: Values and Principles of Activism.” The other lectures focused on the “Giertych Family in Great Britain,” “The Zaleski Family in France,”

and the “Lanckoroński Family in Austria.” Following the formal opening of the Congress by Professor Andrzej Białas, president of the Academy, the “Honoris Gratia” medal was awarded to Dr. Gromada by Jacek Majchrowski, president of the Royal City of Kraków in recognition of his lifetime efforts to advance knowledge about Poland’s humanistic and scientific heritage in America.

To honor the memory of Zbigniew Brzezinski, a seminar was held during the Congress led by the Vice President of the Academy, Prof. Andrzej Borowski, with the participation of former Polish ambassador to United States, Ryszard Schnepf. Among the Polish American presenters at the Congress were Dr. Grażyna J. Kozaczka, Dr. Iwona Drąg Korga, Dr. Andrzej S. Nowak, Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, Dr. Ewa Barczyk, and Dr. Czesław Karowski.

The coordinator of the Congress was Prof. Zygmunt Kolenda who together with a professional, cordial, staff assured a fruitful, productive and memorable event. Before the Congress on October 12, Dr. Gromada made a presentation on the “Future of Polonia, the Polish American Community” at a seminar of the Academy’s Commission on the Study of the Polish Diaspora. He is a member of this commission.



Gromada

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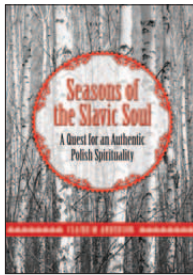
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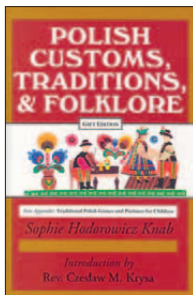
Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world. An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.

SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality



by Claire M. Anderson
Item 1-675
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ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

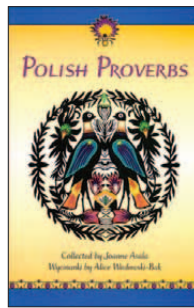
What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire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



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

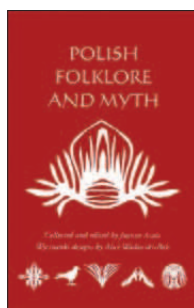
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs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

rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



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

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



POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH
by Joanne Asala
\$12.95
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118 pp., pb.

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

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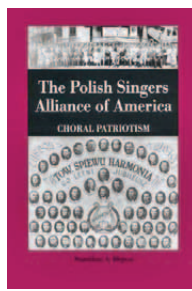


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CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998

by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
\$22.50



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

This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century. "A superb treatment of the formation and expansion of the oldest Polish-American cultural organization in North America." — Frances Gates

FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI

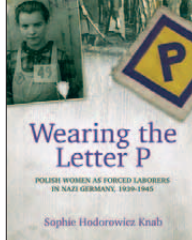


The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Publishing
2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

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

WEARING THE LETTER "P"

Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945



by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
\$19.95
Item 2-642
pb. 304 pages
6 x 9 inches

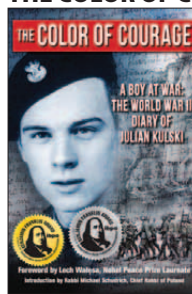
An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation,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



TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND
by Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz
\$19.95
Item 2-604
183 pp., pb.

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.

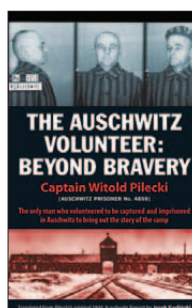
THE COLOR OF COURAGE



by Julian E. Kulski
\$19.95
Item 2-674
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012
496 pp., 6"x9", pb.

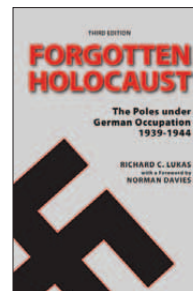
"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER



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

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."



FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition
\$19.95
Item 2-647
358 pp. pb.

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



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

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



THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS
by James Conroyd Martin
Author of "Don't Push the River"
\$14.95
paperback / Item 2-612 pb
\$25.95 hardcover / Item 2-612 hc

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

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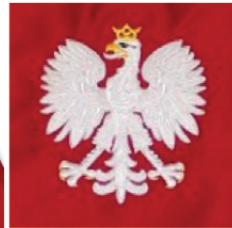
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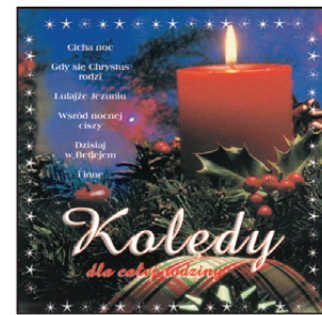
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Songs Include: Przybieżeli Do Betlejem, Bóg Się Rodzi, Jezus Malusieńki, Mizerna Cicha, Gdy śliczna Panna, Lulajże Jezuniu & more.
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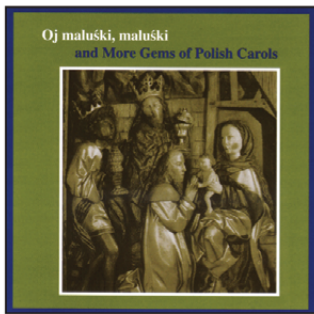
Jedyna Taka Noc

Extraordinary Christmas Carols performed by contemporary Polish soloist artists: Urszula Sipińska, Krzysztof Krawczyk, and Krystyna Giżowska!
Songs Include: Bóg się rodzi, Dzisiaj w Betlejem, W żłobie leży & more!
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Traditional Polish Christmas Carols performed by the Merlin Studio Singers.
Songs Include: Lulajże Jezuniu, W żłobie leży & more!
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Oj Maluski, maluski & More Gems of Polish Carols

16 Polish Carols performed in Polish and in English. Booklet of bilingual song lyrics included.
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Piech & Sinski - Wesołych Świąt koledy tradycyjne

12 Traditional Polish Christmas Carols performed by Anna Piech & Włodzimierz Siński.
Songs Include: Anioł pasterzom mówił, Cicha noc & more.
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Michał Bajor & Groniec Katarzyna - W Dzień Bożego Narodzenia

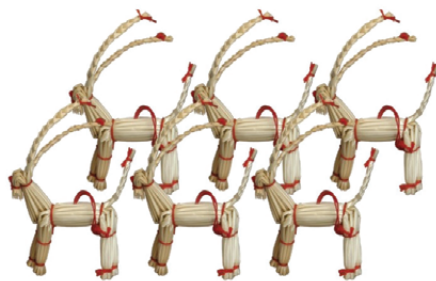
18 beautiful renditions of Polish holiday classics; with 14 by Michał Bajor, 2 by Katarzyna Groniec and 2 sung as a duet.
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Traditional Straw Ornaments



Straw Tree Topper

Measures 7" Diameter x 9.8" Tall
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Set of 6 Straw Reindeer

Each is approximately 2.4" H.
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20 Piece Set with Basket

Ornaments measure approx: 2.4". Wicker Basket measures 7.9" L x 7.9" W x 1.6" H
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Ornaments measure 2" H - 2.3" H.
#660103 - \$29.95



Set of 18 Pieces, Blue Finish

Ornaments measure approx: 4.3"
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Ornaments measure approx: 2.4"
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Resin statue - 7.75" H.
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Immaculate Heart

Resin statue measures 8" H.
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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.



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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**



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ORNAMENTS



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Designed to hang 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.

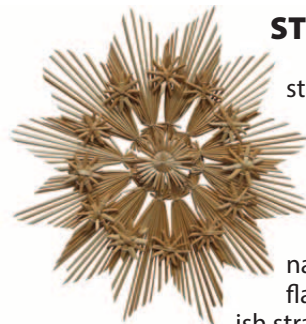
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HANDPAINTED WOOD EGG

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!
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STRAW STAR

In Poland, making ornaments with straw dates back to the time when the only available materials for decorations were those that were found on the farm. During the beginning of the Christmas season, village folk would decorate homes using straw, paper, yarn, and cloth ornaments. This 12-sided, 11-inch star/snowflake ornament is based on traditional Polish straw ornaments held together by string. In order to offer at an affordable price, these are manufactured in China.

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A POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE

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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**



KOLEŚY 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**

Wesolych Świąt / Merry Christmas Mail and Card Sticker

Proceeds to benefit Catholic Orphanage in Białoleka, 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).



POLISH-ENGLISH CARDS

CUSTOM CHRISTMAS CARDS. A beautiful way to say "Merry Christmas" in Polish! Designed exclusively for the Polish American Journal by renown folk artists Carla Hazard Tomaszewski (cards 310-315), Stacey Olexy (cards 305-309), Doris Sikorsky (cards 301-304), Basia Frackiewicz (cards 201-206) and Daniel Haskin (cards 101 and 103), these 4¼" x 5½" full-color cards—with greetings in both Polish and English—will brighten up everyone's home. Envelopes included.

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. These prices only apply to wafers purchased with cards.

1-9 wafers: \$.90 each — 10-49 wafers: \$.85 each — 50 or more: \$.70 each

These are the small (2" x 3.5" inch) wafers individually wrapped in a wax-paper envelope. No addition shipping charge for wafers purchased with cards.

CHRISTMAS CARD SUPER SALE!

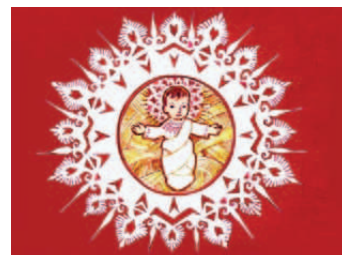
ALL CARDS 50¢ each
10-pack - \$4.00
50 or more - 30¢ each
Mix or match



CARD 302



CARD 306



CARD 313



CARD 314



CARD 102



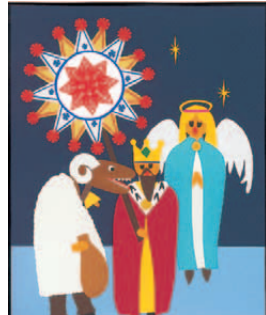
CARD 103



CARD 201



CARD 202



CARD 205



CARD 301



CARD 304



CARD 307



CARD 312



CARD 315



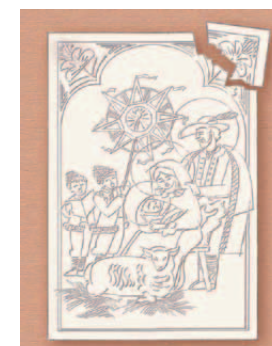
CARD 308



CARD 309



CARD 310



CARD 311

Polish Chef

Traditional Wigilia Sweets

by Robert Strybel

POPPYSEED FILLING. (masa makowa). Although not a dish in itself, this filling is used in a number of typical sweet Christmas Eve dishes. In pot combine 3 c poppyseed with plenty of cold water and swish around with hand. Pour off any impurities that float up. Drench with cold water again and drain through fine sieve. Place poppyseeds in pot, scald with boiling water to cover and simmer on low until poppyseeds disintegrate between fingers (about 40 min). Drain in fine sieve, pressing out moisture. Pass through fine strainer of meat-grinder twice or through special poppyseed-grinder once. Or process them in food-processor several min. until puréed. In saucepan melt 3/2 T butter, add poppyseeds, 1 c sugar, 1/2 t grated lemon zest, 3 T honey and 1/3 c plumped raisins and simmer 15 min. or so, stirring frequently. About 1/4 t vanilla extract and/or several drops of almond extract may be added. NOTE: As an alternative

to making it from scratch, canned poppyseed filling is commercially available.

NOODLES & POPPYSEEDS (kluski z makiem). Cook 1 lb pkg of wide or medium-wide egg noodles in lightly salted water until tender. Usually they should be cooked a little longer than the “al dente” directions on package. Dot hot, freshly-drained noodles with a little butter and stir in 1 c or more home-made or canned poppyseed filling. Toss gently to evenly distribute. May be served warm, room temp or chilled. Some like to pour a little coffee cream over their portions. Canned poppyseed pastry filling may be used instead.

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: canned cherry- or apple-pie filling, strawberry or cherry preserves or powidla (Polish imported) plum butter.

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 święteczny). 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-crumb-sprinkled 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. Gar-

nish with chopped walnuts.

PLUM CAKES (kolaczyki 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.

PAJ BOOKSTORE KITCHEN TO ORDER BY MAIL Use form on page 13 TO ORDER BY PHONE (800) 422-1275 • (716) 312-8088 TO ORDER ON LINE: polamjournal.com

POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY Published at \$16.95. **WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: \$9.95** by Robert Strybel Item 2-644 248 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 Item 2-632 337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish

THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK

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

POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES \$16.95 by Laura and Peter Zeranski Item 2-656

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 Item 2-654 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.

AUTHENTIC POLISH COOKING by Marianna Dworak



Regular price: \$15.99 **WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: \$7.95** Item 2-677. 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.

PLEASEING POLISH RECIPES by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95



Item 2-678 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.

“STO LAT” BIRTHDAY CARD

CARD 402 — “Sto lat” (“Happy Birthday — May you live 100 years”) **75¢ each**

10-pack: \$6.00 **50+: 50¢ each** 4 1/4” x 5 1/2” Full color design with poppy, “Sto lat” lyrics in Polish and English, and role

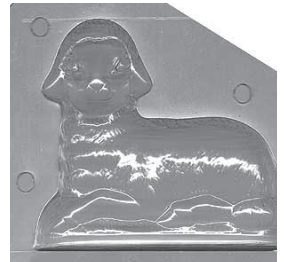


of poppy in Polish culture. Inside left blank for personalization. Printed on glossy stock. Envelopes included.

SHIPPING (CARDS ONLY)
1-10 cards..... \$3.50
11-20 cards \$4.50
21 or more..... \$5.95

BUTTER LAMB MOLD

EASTER BUTTER LAMB 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**
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5” width by 4” tall — **\$7.95**
\$4.00 S&H ON ALL MOLDS
\$1.00 each additional mold

POLISH PIEROGI
A collection of “secret” recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerwecki. Fillings, toppings, and a variety of dough recipes as well.

POLISH PIEROGIES FROM THE “OLD COUNTRY” TO THE “OLD NEIGHBORHOOD” ALL OF THE “SECRET” RECIPES!!! PLUS MORE ON THE VERY FIRST PAGE!!! — ALL IN ONE AMAZING COOKBOOK! Featuring OVER 150 RECIPES for Pierogi doughs, fillings & MORE!!!
\$10.00 Item 2-303 48 pp., sc.

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!

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				I LOVE KISZKA 2-283	I LOVE PIEROGI 2-210	POLISH KITCHEN 2-281	

The Pondering Pole

Christmas Musing and Giving, Giving and Musing

by Edward Poniewaz

- First, here's what I *wanted* for Christmas:
- Take a bus trip to Chicago;
- Visit the Polish Museum of America (the Paderewski Room is new and it has a Kosciuszko exhibit);
- Eat at the U Gazdy ("At the Gas Station") Polish restaurant;
- Attend Mass at Holy Trinity Church;
- Shop at the KD market in Schaumburg, Illinois (Chicago suburb)
- See a performance by Highlander dancers and singers.

Those wishes were granted last month, and it was an absolutely perfect *podroz* (journey). Consider this a ready-made itinerary if you are not from Chicago (or even if you are). I highly recommend you do some or all of these. You will love it.

Our beautiful Polish Christmas has a number of interesting and unique facets to it. One of them is the idea of leaving an extra plate at the table and the reasons vary, from the "unexpected guest" to celebrate the tradition of hospitality and inclusion, to "symbolically left at the table for the Baby Jesus." I've thought about it many times. The idea is a great one and whether real as for the unexpected visitor or symbolically for the Baby Jesus, it is perhaps the best way to express the adage, "the reason for the season."

The extra place setting is in the realm of expressing charity, extending a helping hand, and giving of oneself. Christmas is the time

for giving. There are statistics on what demographic groups give more financially, in goods, or services. Church goers give more than non-Church goers. Red state voters are more generous in charitable giving than Blue states. Are Polish people more inclined to give selflessly than other ethnic groups? I could not find any statistics but the culture leads one to believe that they do; a guest in the home is God in the home, and so on. My own policy for charity is first to help those in the family (so as not to be a burden on the larger society) and then to give outside of the family so others are not a burden on society or to make society better. Others can be schools, hospitals, social aid organizations, and it also includes a wide variety of Polish entities and organizations.

One example of Polish giving is the Polish American Association (<https://www.polish.org>), "a human service agency" founded in 1922 to serve "the diverse needs of the Polish community." They provide a wide array of resources such as "education, employment, immigration, social, and supportive services" to the Polish community and "to others." "To others" is significant, I think, because it is in the true spirit of charity by giving to the "unexpected guest." Hopefully we will hold this thought in our hearts this year when we celebrate our beautiful Polish Christmas.

POLISH OR NOT? What is it about a place that has produced an incredible amount of successful, creative, important, and famous people? The place I am talking about is

Brooklyn, New York. Check any list of those born or who lived a significant portion of their life in Brooklyn with the creds just mentioned and you will be amazed. Any of those Polish? Hardly any, but Andy Harris, born **Andrew Peter Harris** is worth noting. He is currently the only Republican member of Maryland's congressional delegation and his father Zoltan was born in Hungary and his mother Irene was born in Poland. By the way, Andy — a very impressive guy — is also a physician.

I mentioned seeing a group of Goral singers and dancers on my trip to Chicago. Besides the strolling musicians serenading the crowd, the real treat was the performance by the young mountaineer boys and girls. These kids are as young as (guessing) six or seven years old. The boys, accompanied by two of the girls, shuffled to a two-foot tree stump where the boy leapt onto it, did the highlander jig, and then leapt high and with flourish off the stump. It brought a tear to my eye seeing these young kids, all born in the United States, singing and dancing their Goral hearts out. I noticed some of the boys did not have hats. They are expensive, but if you want to help buy a hat or two, this website should have information about the group or regarding donations - <http://www.tatrafoundation.org/>.

I'd like to make one more appeal to see if someone knows whether the following folks are Polish or not? Put on your researcher cap for me or let me know if you have formal proof or even anecdotal evidence of their ethnicity.

Juliette Brindak, the multi-millionaire

founder of Miss O and Friends (missoand-friends.com).

Linzie Janis, reporter for ABC News.

Lori Grenier, inventor, entrepreneur, and a member of Shark Tank grew up in the North Chicago suburbs.

Annette Kowalski, business partner and advisor to former public television painter Bob Ross, and the author of *The Joy of Painting Flowers*.

Paula Klimak, the "Iconic Beauty" of 1972.

Smolak Farms in North Andover, Massachusetts.

Dave Hlubek, former lead guitarist and founding member of the rock group Molly Hatchet.

Dziękuję bardzo to Robert Ogrodnik, former Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland, for arranging the visits to the locations and booking the accommodations for the Chicago tour and to Wojciech Golik for being our stellar tour leader. What a great trip!! Part of the reason the Highlander children did such a great job is due to their instructor Marek Ogorek. *Dziękuję bardzo* and keep up the good work Marek!

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

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

International

UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES ARE OBSTRUCTING the work of Polish experts searching for the remains of Polish victims of wartime atrocities. Foremost amongst them is the Wolyń Massacre in which 100,000 Poles were slaughtered by rampaging Ukrainian nationalists.

According to Ukrainian officials, the exhumation was halted in response to the dismantling of a monument honoring the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in SE Poland. The Wolyń Massacre is a sensitive

subject in the two nations' historical memory, because Poles regard the UPA as a genocidal, terrorist force, whilst Ukrainians see its members as freedom-fighters struggling for their country's independence.

The Polish Foreign Ministry has said Ukrainian officials, who glorify the murders and march in pro-UPA torchlight parades, would not be welcome in Poland.

POLAND'S PRIME MINISTER IS THE 31ST most influential woman

in the world and the tenth most influential woman in politics, according to a new ranking by *Forbes* magazine.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel topped *Forbes'* list, followed by British Prime Minister Theresa May and philanthropist Melinda Gates, founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, while in 15th position Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen was the third-highest ranked politician.

Polish Prime Minister Beata

Szydło was also outranked by U.S. first daughter Ivanka Trump, who took 19th position, media mogul Oprah Winfrey (21st), and Queen Elizabeth II, who ranked 26th and, at 91, was the oldest woman on the list. Behind Szydło were Myanmar's *de facto* leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who ranked 33rd, Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic (39th), Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg (46th), U.S. politician Hillary Clinton (65th), Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite

(68th), and Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid (78th). (Radio Poland).

THANKS TO CAREFUL MANAGEMENT, LOT Polish Airlines, the Polish national carrier, is now turning a profit and expanding its flights to include destinations in Latin America and Asia. Throughout the winter season, LOT will fly to Panama and Brazil. Until the end of March 2018, LOT is offering charter flights to Mexico, Cuba, Vietnam, and Thailand.

PLEASE HELP US HELP OUR OWN COMMUNITY. JOIN THE...
Polish American Journal Foundation

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

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

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

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Minnesota Voice

Recalling a Century of Service to America, Poland, and Medicine

by Mark Dillon

When Thomas Gratzek learned that his older brother would get the family farm in Florian, Minn., and he would not need to help run it, he took his pitchfork and joyfully plunged it into a pile of manure. Gratzek then moved to Chicago to go to medical school, the family legend goes.

Not staying down on the farm a few years before World War I made all the difference for a young man who would go on to motivate dozens of Polish Americans to fight for the cause of Poland's freedom as the St. Paul regional recruiting director for the Polish Army in France.

Gratzek would also become a physician in St. Paul and captain in the U.S. Army's American Expeditionary Force, serving at Base Hospital #113 near the French coast, where he would help U.S. servicemen recover from the Spanish Flu epidemic in late 1918.

A century later, his son, Dr. Jack Gratzek, 86, took time with his two sons, James and Thomas, at James' home in Edina, Minn. in late October to reflect on the elder Thomas' life. Jack is a retired professor of veterinary medicine.

"We still have his (military field) canteen that says Savenay, France," says the younger Thomas Gratzek.

Dr. Thomas Gratzek returned to Minnesota to take charge of Recruiting Station #27, a bungalow on Arcade Street that also served as the Polish American Club in St. Paul



Thomas Gratzek

and later, a union meeting hall for 3M Company workers.

In 1917, an estimated 450 Minnesotans signed up for what would be known as Haller's Army from St. Paul, Minneapolis, St. Cloud and Duluth. More than 200 were from the Twin Cities. After sendoff ceremonies at Holy Cross parish in Minneapolis and St. Casimir's parish in St. Paul in November and December, the soldiers mustered at Stevens Point, Wisc., and trained in Canada. Then they shipped off to France.

"On 16 Dec. 1917 at 7:45am, the first transport of volunteers numbering 19 left Minneapolis to the camp at Niagara Falls, Canada. Each volunteer received a watch as a gift and, afterwards, to the sounds of music,

a procession of several hundred set out for the train station," recalled Fryderyk Janda, director of Recruiting Station #20 in Minneapolis, at a veterans' reunion in Cleveland in 1937. His speech, given in Polish, was translated into English in 2004 by researcher John Radzilowski for *Polish-American Studies*.

With his recruiting mission complete, Capt. Gratzek would stay in America almost another year at the Niagara-on-the-Lake training camp and also serve at Army medical facilities in the U.S. He would help fight the spread of flu, which first arrived at Fort Riley, Kansas in March 1918.

The flu would result in more global fatalities than battlefield casualties from the war, an estimated 50 million people, according to a 1991 report by medical researchers KD Patterson & GF Pyle. By the time Dr. Gratzek got to Europe, the disease was a pandemic that would kill 675,000 people in the United States, including the mother of his future daughter-in-law, Kathleen Gratzek, Jack's wife.

Dr. Gratzek's steamship, the *SS Empress of Russia*, left port from North America the day after the war ended — Nov. 12, 1918. At Saveney, the battle against the flu as well as the effects of the war was in full swing, military medical records show. Base Hospital #113 had more than 1,000 beds.

"He spoke both Polish and German. At the hospital, he learned French," Jack Gratzek said.



Dr. Jack Gratzek, son James, and Jack's wife, Kathleen.

The French hospital was also a treatment center for mental illness related to combat, injuries that today would be considered post-traumatic stress syndrome. Several hundred cases a month were coming through the hospital at the time Dr. Gratzek was there. A total of 6,019 patients were admitted there through March 1, 1919.

When Dr. Gratzek returned home in 1919, he built a civilian medical practice, and after World War II partnered with his son-in-law, Dr. Robert Emmons. Jack recalled that his father would make house calls and accept payment for services in chickens and eggs from rural Minnesotans.

The Gratzek family would also serve America in the Second World War. Dr. Gratzek's son and Jack's brother, Lt. Thomas Gratzek, died at the Battle of Midway. A U.S. Marine

Corps pilot stationed on the island, his Dauntless SBD dive bomber went down in flames in the Pacific encountering the Japanese aircraft carrier fleet approaching the island 75 years ago, on June 4, 1942.

"I remember a Marine officer coming to our home," Jack said sitting on a couch petting the family's tan dachshund mix dog, Sully. "When she heard the news she started to fall, but I caught her in time" Jack recalled. The website marines.togetherweserved.com provides an account of Lt. Gratzek's heroism.

In the spring of 1939, prior to his son Thomas joining the Marines, Jack said Dr. Gratzek and then his college-age son had an opportunity to visit their family in Poland, adding "they could see what was coming." In the 1870s, Dr. Gratzek's father, John, had immigrated to Minnesota.

Spotlight on Long Island

Christmas Traditions Across the Globe

by Barbara Szydłowski

In **Czechoslovakia**, animals always grabbed the Christmas Eve spotlight. The practice stemmed from an ancient belief that the manger animals were the most giving of the creatures involved in the Christ-child's birth. In fact, they were blessed with magical powers that reveal themselves each Christmas Eve. Still a custom in Czechoslovakia, animals are fed exceptionally well and given extra tender loving care on that night. Sometimes, even barnyard animals are allowed to stay in the house.

In **Denmark**, the dinner is held at midnight on Christmas Eve and everyone looks forward to dessert. A rice pudding graced with a single almond is served, and whoever gets the almond is said to have good fortune for the next year. Children leave the rice pudding or milk for *Julemanden* (Santa) and the *Juul Nisse* (elves) who dwell in the attic of their home.

In **Iraq** on Christmas Eve, a bonfire of thorn bush is lit outdoors. Everyone sings to encourage the fire to burn. The fire that burns to ashes denotes good luck in the coming year. When the fire goes out, each person takes a turn making a wish and then jumps over the ashes three times.

However in **Ireland**, on Christmas Eve, the Irish put a candle in the window to help light the way of Mary and Joseph, and any other travelers who might happen by. They also place bread and milk on the table and leave their doors unlocked to accommodate those in time of need. Most of the Irish fun is had on St. Stephen's Day (December 26) when children mimic the ancient custom of hunting the

wren. They go door to door with a toy wren on a stick, sing a song and ask for treats.

SUPERSTITIONS. Feeding a sprig of mistletoe to the first cow to bear a calf in the New Year ensures future fertility for both the cow and calf. In some parts of **Britain**, it is believed that if ivy leaves are fed to each cow after milking but before noon on Christmas morning, the devil is forced to stay away from the herd and its keepers for the next twelve months.

OMENS. On Christmas Eve in **England**, it is a common practice for unmarried girls to knock on the hen house door. She will be married within the next twelve months if a rooster answers her by crowing. While in **Poland**, it is believed that unmarried women can ensure a quick marriage if they grind poppy seeds on Christmas Eve. In **Northern Europe**, some unmarried girls arrange three buckets of water in their bedrooms, then pin three sprigs of holly to their nightgowns before retiring. Supposedly, they are awakened by three loud shouts, boisterous chuckles, followed by the apparition of their future husbands. If the buckets are rearranged there will be a marriage proposal with no problems, if not, the future husband may not be a willing partner.

CUSTOM. The **Polish** word for Christmas Carol is kolęda and it comes from the Latin word "calendae" meaning the first day of the month. Kolędy are mostly anonymous having been created by Poles dating back to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. While the kolędy did start out as hymns to be sung

during Mass they found their way out of churches where they took on a life of their own.

Polish folk melodies and tunes can be heard in many kolędy. Many kolędy are regional and not as well-known as the more traditional ones sung in homes. Poland has a larger canon of Christmas carols than any other Christian nation.

Carolers walking from house to house between Christmas and the Feast of Epiphany, carrying a star on a pole and a Nativity scene, are called kolednicy. They usually wear folk costumes or dress up as angels, shepherds, kings and sometimes as the devil. They enact Nativity plays often with a humorous touch, along with the singing of carols.

The most beloved kolędy include "Gdy się Chrystus rodzi," "Lulajże Jezuniu," and "Przybieżeli do Betlejem."

TRADITION. December 6 is the day St. Nicholas visits the world's children and leaves them treats. In Poland, St. Nicholas has been delivering gifts to the younger children sometime appearing in schools, department stores or homes. The idea of an American Santa Claus originated with St. Nicholas, who was born in Asia Minor in 280 A.D. In honor of St. Nicholas, December 6 became the traditional day in Europe for the exchange of Christmas gifts and the beginning of the holiday season. **Dutch** immigrants brought to the United States their version of gift-giving known as Sinter Klass. Americans unaccustomed to the Dutch pronunciation, changed this into Santa Claus, a symbol of Christmas.

Toledo Polonia

Echoes of Poland Ensemble Concludes 50th Year with Gala

by Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

To conclude its golden anniversary, the Echoes of Poland celebrated in style on Saturday, October 14 at the Radisson Hotel/University of Toledo Medical College with a gala banquet. The event drew to a close a months-long celebration of a half century in existence, a celebration which started with the 50th Anniversary concert held this past June.

The evening began with a walk down a memory lane of sorts, as guests were treated to a hallway of costumes from each region of Poland that Echoes has represented over the decades in song and dance. Each costume was on display along with pictures and a brief explanation of its region's origins. As guests walked up to the registration table, they were greeted by current members of Echoes and then directed to a photo-booth area for a complimentary picture that was printed and mounted on the spot.

To open the event, Gala chairperson and 25-year member Robert Szczublewski addressed the gathering crowd, and talked about how Paulina Ortyl, the founder of Echoes of Poland, asked him to take the lead in organizing the event. Rob expressed a bit of nervousness at agreeing to host, then thanked some of many people who helped to make the Gala a success.

And what an overwhelming success it was! From the moment we stepped into the room, until the moment we left, the care and planning were evident. After a cocktail hour, guests were seated and treated to a sumptuous Polish-flavored dinner. A table replete with Polish pastries

plus two anniversary cakes topped off the meal portion of the evening.

After dinner, guests were treated to the music of John Gora and Gorale. Throughout the music sets, tributes were presented by long-time Echoes member Rob Wiercinski, as well as PRCUA National Director Tom Jesionowski. Both paid tribute to the hard work of Paulina and the support of her husband Ray. An especially beautiful tribute came about when dozens of former members joined current members on the dance floor for the Polonaise.

Around the ballroom, displays graced the walls. Among the displays were hundreds of photographs from the entire 50 year history of the group, statues and trophies from dance festivals in the United States and Poland. A memories wall, in honor of each member of Echoes that had passed away, included a photograph and a small tribute.

Other highlights of the evening included the sale of print copies of a hand-drawn picture of Echoes done by a local artist, and the gift of a complimentary engraved glass for each guest.

Paulina and Ray were surprised with the gift of a cruise from the members of the group as the evening was drawing to a close. In an interview published in the anniversary book, Paulina said that her goal was "to teach and present the dances, songs, costumes authentically and correctly, and to promote and preserve Polish folk culture."

Paulina's goal was certainly met, as evidenced by the outpouring of love and gratitude on October 14th. Congratulations Paulina Ortyl, and here's to 50 more years of the Echoes of Poland.

Books in Brief

Buffalo and the Presidents, and The Christmas Miracle

by Mary E. Lanham

BUFFALO AND THE PRESIDENTS
An Account of the Presidents' Connections to the Queen City, Including Their Visits to the Area
by Martin S. Nowak

American History Press 2017, 346 pgs.

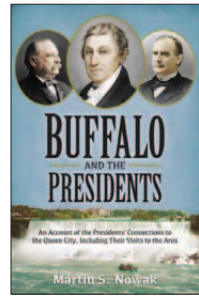
In his book, *Buffalo and the Presidents*, Martin Nowak examines the history of Buffalo and the U.S. presidents that affected the Queen City and, in turn, how it and its citizens impacted the lives of the presidents.

Arranged chronologically, the author explores not only the lives of Grover Cleveland and Millard Fillmore and what happened at the Pan-American Exposition, but also Theodore Roosevelt's several trips to the Western New York city. The excerpt below about Teddy Roosevelt's visit before he was president, exemplifies Nowak's vivid descriptions of past events.

"Now popularly referred to as Colonel Roosevelt, he arrived at the Exchange Street

Station at 4:30 on the afternoon of October 25. Long before his train rolled in thousands of people occupied places around the depot. Dressed in gray overcoat and suit and Rough Rider hat, Roosevelt was escorted out a side entrance as mighty cheers arose from the people, who not only surrounded the station, but shouted from a departing train, the tops of box cars, rooftops, windows, and a nearby bridge."

Buffalo and the Presidents is not rooted in the distant past however; the author also touches upon former President Gerald Ford's talk at the University at Buffalo in 1988 and President Obama chowing down at Duff's Famous Chicken Wings in Cheektowaga in 2010. Through meticulous research from resources such as newspaper articles, personal diaries, correspondence, books, and websites,



Nowak skillfully pieced together this unique take on Buffalo's history. *Buffalo and the Presidents* would be perfect for anyone looking to round out their presidential history and/or Buffalo history collection.

Originally from Buffalo, N.Y., Martin S. Nowak attended Alfred State University and served in the U.S. Army. He has written the 2010 book, *The White House in Mourning*, which covers the deaths and funerals of the eight presidents who died in office. Nowak is also the author of numerous articles and is a member of the Association for a Buffalo Presidential Center and the American Historical Association.

THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE IN KOLENDY
by Helen Gwozdz Miller
WestBow Press 2017, 80 pgs.

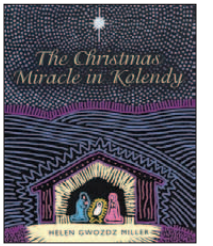
Just in time for holidays is *The Christmas Miracle in Kolendy* by Helen Gwozdz Miller. Miller's book is a nativity play written and produced in 1989. It contains music score, lyrics, actions, as well as readings from the New

Jerusalem Bible. Most of the songs can be sung in both Polish and English and a few are only in Polish. Miller explains that the play can be performed by English speakers and also Polish-speakers who are learning English.

She also provides some helpful direction in performing the play such as the number of people needed, props to use, and suggestions for costumes.

If you receive this book too late to put on a play this holiday season you can also use *The Christmas Miracle in Kolendy* as a guide for Christmas caroling in your neighborhood.

Helen Gwozdz Miller graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Massachusetts and earned her BA in Mathematics from Elms College in Chicopee. She is now retired from the field of IT and currently lives with her husband in Clinton Township, N.J.



New Books

THE INVERTED MASK

By Izzy Doroski
\$14.99

Pb. 452 pages

Published by Existence

Wave Media, 2014

5.5 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Polish American author Izzy Doroski was inspired to write his science fiction novel by his 30 years spent at the Brookhaven National Laboratory located on Long Island, N.Y. Much of the story embodies the science and location of that National Laboratory and also features an attractive Polish psychiatrist and a missing top physicist. The story delves into the realms of the multiverse and nefarious activities that had taken place at the fictitious laboratory decades ago. Mystery, suspense, action and romance await you as read the story.

Doroski was born and raised in New York, on eastern Long Island. After receiving his BS in biology at State University of New York at Cortland, he attained certification as a wastewater treatment operator. His early employment included a job as a research scientist in neurophysiology and working for a municipality in the field of wastewater treatment. For most of his career, Doroski worked at an environmental regulatory agency as a senior environmental health scientist, protecting public health through environmental regulation enforcement.

Throughout his thirty-four-year career, his profession took him to many fascinating locations, including several nuclear reactors, energy storage and production facilities, and chemical manufacturing plants. He also participated in emergency response situations.

Some of the inspiration for this book comes from the full year Doroski spent stationed at a well-known national laboratory, monitoring a radiation leak from their onsite nuclear facility.

CHASING THE WINTER'S WIND

by David Trawinski

Outskirts Press, 2017

6x9 pb. and hc.

Historical fiction / thriller

Available from <https://davidtrawinski.com>

Stanley Wisniewski, the retired CIA agent, has committed an act of rebellion against the CIA in the streets of Warsaw. His former mentor, CIA Deputy Director of Operations Jack Trelis is putting together a team to capture the aged spy before he escapes Poland. He brings in Stanley's own protégé, Diane "The

Huntress" Sterling to hunt her retired friend.

As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that Stanley holds information that Jack Trelis wishes never to reach the light of day. He adds the mysterious special forces operative to Diane's team, with the intent to silence Stanley once he is located by Diane's team.

On the run, Stanley recalls his years establishing a network within communist Poland to support the emerging Solidarity movement that will ultimately bring down the Soviet Union. Stanley recruits the lovely Agnieszka Danuska, wife of Communist Poland's Economic Minister, into his network. Finally, the secret source "Syrenka" from Gdansk is added, providing a direct link to the Solidarity Movement.

Historical themes explored include the 1940 Katyn Massacre of 22,000 Polish Military Officers; the suppressive Soviet handling of the 1970 Baltic food and work condition protests; the triumphant 1980 Gdansk shipyard strike and the communist Polish response of martial law; and the joyous repudiation of communism in the 1989 elections.

The story is set in Poland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and France. The climatic closing scenes take place in and around Paris' Pere Lachaise cemetery in the shadow of Frederic Chopin's tomb.

Author David Trawinski is a retired Aerospace executive who fuses his love of history, travel and storytelling in his historically themed

novels. His stories are set in worldwide locales he has visited. His themes center upon the struggles of good vs. evil and man's overcoming repression by his fellow man.

The third novel in this series, "War of the Nocturne's Widow," is in development with and expected publication in 2018.

POLAND: A PORTRAIT OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH ITS FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS
\$24.00 hc.; \$15 sc. Volume discounts are available.

Available from Polish American Arts Association
c/o Cecilia Glembocki
911 Saddleback Ct.
McLean, VA 22102
polandchildrensbook@gmail.com

Poland: A Portrait of the Country Through its Festivals and Traditions is a children's book project, sponsored by the Polish American Arts Association of Washington, D.C. The first edition, published in 2015, met with a very positive response and is sold out. Thanks to continued support from the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Poland, as well as generous donations from the Kosciuszko Foundation, other organizations, and individual donors, a second, expanded edition of the book has been published.

The purpose of the book remains the same: to provide a resource for children, their teachers and parents to help them learn about the customs and traditions of Poland. The new edition, available in hard and soft cover, has a larger page format,

upgraded binding, and additional 20 pages with more stories, crafts, recipes and songs: all reflecting the essential character of Poland.

"Our goal is to get the books distributed to various libraries, Polish schools and organizations across the country," said co-author Carla Tomaszewski. "If your group is interested in acquiring copies of the book for your own use or to donate to a school or library, please let us know and we will arrange to send them. Your tax-deductible contributions will enable us to distribute more copies."

THE LOST BOY (A CHRISTMAS STORY)

Self-published by the author,
Vincent J. Sachar, 2017

126 pp., 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

\$6.95 print; \$2.99 eBook

Available from Amazon.com

Fourteen years ago, Stanley Kovalski quit on life and moved to an isolated cabin in the mountains of Montana. Among all else, he left his two children behind in the world of which he would no longer be a part. *The Lost Boy (A Christmas Story)* is a heartwarming holiday tale written by Vincent Sachar. This novella is the seventh book published by Vincent Sachar, a retired attorney. Upon retiring, Vince and his wife, Gwen, explored areas of Florida and relocated to Milton at the end of last year.

The story begins on a day when Stan is driving away from a visit with his physician having learned that life itself was now quitting on

him. The closer he gets to his secluded home, the more he is leaving the glitter and displays of the Christmas season behind. Years ago, Stan started treating Christmas as any other day or season.

On the way home, in the early stages of a major winter snowstorm, Stan spots a young boy walking alone out from the woods. He takes the young eight-year-old child to his cabin to provide warmth, shelter, food, and safety, until he can bring the boy to the proper authorities to assure his safe return.

The young boy seems to know more about Stan than he possibly should. As they remain trapped for a few days at Stan's cabin, the child begins to impact Stan's life and reintroduce him to the spirit of Christmas in a way that Stan never would have imagined.

The Lost Boy (A Christmas Story) will bring tears to your eyes, a smile to your face, and help usher the magic of Christmas into your own heart. Stanley Kovalski stopped to rescue a young boy unaware that the child may well have been sent to rescue Stan.

This novella will make a perfect gift or stocking stuffer for family, friends, and co-workers. Priced at \$6.95 (or \$2.99 for an eBook), *The Lost Boy (A Christmas Story)* may be purchased online at Amazon and other well-known book websites. Autographed copies may be acquired at discounted prices directly from the author's website at www.vincentsachar.com.

Want to Read Some Good Polish Based Historical Fiction?

Try The Novels of David Trawinski
visit <https://davidtrawinski.com>

also available on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com

IZZY DOROSKI

THE INVERTED MASK

IZZY DOROSKI

THE INVERTED MASK

The Inverted Mask is a bold new science fiction book by Polish American author Izzy Doroski. Mystery, Suspense, Action and Romance. The story involves an attractive Polish psychiatrist who always remembers her Polish heritage and a missing top physicist who disappeared from a National Laboratory. The Inverted Mask explores the realms of perception, consciousness, reality and good and evil. "The world that we see and feel is just an illusion and doesn't exist at all at least the way we think it does."

AVAILABLE ON amazon.com

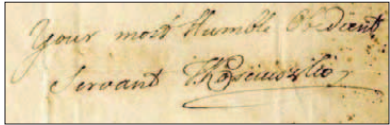
WWW.THEINVERTEDMASK.COM

Happenings: Chicago Style

PMA celebrates Kościuszko

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — October 15, 2017, marked the 200th anniversary of the death of General Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817). With UNESCO declaring 2017 the Year of Kościuszko, memorials and celebrations honoring Kościuszko were held throughout the United States and Poland. In Chicago, The Polish Museum of America (PMA) hosted a special event in which the Museum's Archives presented for public viewing an extensive collection of more than 90 original, handwritten, and signed letters by Kościuszko, President Thomas Jefferson, American Revolution generals, and other notables of the time, along with periodicals and a wide assortment of lithograph portraits of the American and Polish hero.



Kosciuszko's signature.

The Museum was overwhelmed with almost 250 guests filling its Great Hall. **Richard Owsiany**, PMA president; **Malgorzata Kot**, PMA managing director; and **Joseph Drobot**, chairman, thanked the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago for its support, Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for awarding a grant for the digitization of the Kościuszko letters in preparation for this commemorative exhibition, and Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for sponsoring the conservation of 60 graphic prints which were displayed during in the exhibition.

Speakers who made this celebration memorable were Robert **Ogrodnik**, president of Polonus



Loyola Academy's Polish Club.

Polish Philatelic Society; **Dr. James Pula**, professor of history, Purdue University Northwest; and **Halina Misterka**, Kościuszko Exhibit curator. **Andrzej Krukowski**, Polish actor portrayed Kościuszko in a short dramatic presentation. Guests also had the opportunity to view Alex Storozynski's documentary film, "Kościuszko: a Man Ahead of His Time."

This commemorative exhibition will be available for viewing at the PMA until March 11, 2018.

POLISH ARTS CLUB MEET. To celebrate Polish American Heritage Month, 30 members of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC) attended the Club's Fall general meeting and luncheon on October 28 at Lutnia Polish Restaurant on Chicago's Northwest Side. The meeting started off with a "Meet the Author" presentation by **Elżbieta Dudkowska**, author of "Starting Over in a New Country." The novel tells the tale of a young Polish couple, Yoanna and Michal, their immigration to America, and their determination to

adjust and succeed in an unknown land. The couple faced the familiar obstacles of language barrier, housing, and general life lessons, while, at the same time, not forgetting their Polish roots, customs, and history. Portions of the novel were based on Elżbieta's personal immigrant experiences.

Elżbieta is herself a Polish immigrant and an American citizen. Prior to her 1981 arrival to Chicago, she was a graduate of Krakow's Jagiellonian University with a master's degree in Polish Philology. She has taught in both Poland and the United States. After attending Chicago's Wright College fiction writing program, she began writing her novel. The almost four-year effort was, as she said, enhanced with the assistance from a suburban Chicago writers' group, the Schaumburg Scribes.

After Ms. Dudkowska's remarks, PACC president, **Anne "Happy" Oerke**, presented a brief summary of the Club's past year's accomplishments and gave a brief preview of upcoming events. She announced



The new Board of the Legion of Polish Women.

that the PACC's Christmas Luncheon and Raffle will take place, Dec. 10 at the Lone Tree Manor in Niles, Illinois, and the PACC's 81st Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture will be held at The Polish Museum of America from March 18 to May 6, 2018.

LOYOLA ACADEMY CELEBRATES POLISH MASS. Among the many high schools in the Chicago suburbs, it is rare to find a student Polish Club. So, it is wonderful to hear that there are students and parents at Loyola Academy, a Jesuit college preparatory high school in Wilmette, Illinois, who sincerely wish to celebrate Polish culture, customs, and traditions.

On November 5th, 40 guests, including some members of the Loyola Academy's Polish Club, attended bilingual Sunday Mass celebrated by Father Stanisław Czarniecki, S. J., moderator of Loyola Academy's Polish Club and faculty member of the school's Campus Ministry Department. The Mass was a post All Souls Day memorial.

Polish Club student-members participated in the bi-lingual readings of the Mass. Sebastian Partyka, the Polish Club president and violinist, and Nicolette Tukiendorf, a junior and the pianist, performed. This was followed by a Polish-style luncheon in the school's Student Center.

LYPW'S NEW BOARD. On October 14, the Legion of Young Polish Women held its 87th annual election of officers. The new board for 2017-2018 consists of president, Barbara I. Ciepiela; first vice president, Donna Nowak; second vice president, Geraldine Balut Coleman; recording secretary, Mirosława Link; English corresponding secretary, Marianne Kozelka; Polish corresponding secretary, Anna Wytrzymalski; financial secretary, Mary Seitzinger; treasurer, Elizabeth Cioromski; historian, Katarzyna Mossakowski; director, Anna Nannini; and director (Technology), Kathy Lesny Evans. The Legion will hold its 79th Annual White and Red Ball at the Hilton Chicago on March 3, 2018.

Chicago Polonians You Should Know

Teodozja "Teo" Przybyłowska Musiałowicz

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

The world is filled with brilliant, courageous, talented individuals, including many Polish Americans, who have made their mark by exceeding expectations, defying the odds, or making outstanding use of their talents. History is filled with those who became famous, but there are also those who have led simple lives and contributed as unsung heroes. With this in mind, we begin a series on "Chicago Polonians You Should Know" with **Teodozja "Teo" Przybyłowska Musiałowicz**.

In September 1939, 18-year-old **Teodozja "Teo" Przybyłowska**, a native of the small village of Kiwerce, in the Wołyń district of Poland, was living happily with her parents, Władysław and Maria, along with siblings Jerzy, Robert, Wanda, and Stefan.

One evening in April 1940, there was a loud knock on the door. It was the Soviet secret police. The family was ordered to get ready for a journey to a "better place." Her father was arrested by the Soviets and would eventually be killed. After a nine-day train trip with no heat, very little food, perhaps a watered down soup, the Soviets transported Teodozja, her siblings, and their mother to Siberia to begin two years of forced labor under deplorable conditions. Lack of food, inhumane labor conditions, severe weather, unsanitary housing, and inadequate clothing were the realities of the so-



Teodozja and son Robert

called "better place" that was Siberia.

While in Siberia, Poles learned that Polish General Władysław Sikorski and Soviet leader Josef Stalin had agreed to form a Polish for the fight against Germany. In 1942, the Przybyłowska family hoped that somehow they would be able to join this newly formed Polish army. Finally the day came when Poles were able to leave, some by truck, some on foot, some by escaping. Emaciated, wrapped in rags or makeshift bandages, they left in any way they could.

Teo, along with nine other Poles, traveled for three months, some-

times being forced into other Soviet labor camps, where they were given very physically demanding jobs. One day they made a decision to escape by jumping onto a train that would lead them to Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Their hope was to reach Polish Army jurisdiction.

It was at a Polish outpost that the group found refuge. Once they reached Turkmenistan, they were able to join the nearly 44,000 Polish soldiers and many Siberian-held civilian refugees in forming the Second Polish Army under General Anders.

It took them nearly six months to receive British Army protection. Eventually, they were then sent to Persia (present-day Iran). Once there, they were required to relinquish all personal belongings and clothing which, for hygiene and health reasons, were all burned. Once with General Władysław Anders and the Polish Second Army, Teodozja made a decision to become a military nurse. Intensive nursing education along with day-to-day practice followed until her training was complete. She helped to first set up tent hospitals, and eventually a hospital building that would house 2,000 beds.

The Polish Army, medical staff with supplies, and Teodozja fol-



Nurses Treating Wounded Soldiers, May 1944. Casamassina, Italy, in the hospital that treated wounded Polish Army soldiers from the Battle of Monte Cassino. Teodozja is at the right.

lowed General Anders to Palestine, then to Egypt, and finally to Italy. It was in Palestine that she met Polish Army Lieutenant Bogusław Musiałowicz, an artillery commander, whom she would later marry. In Italy during the early part of 1944 she again served as a nurse in an army hospital.

By the end of April 1944, the Second Polish Army Corps had established its headquarters in Casamassina. A few days later, the Third Battle of Monte Cassino, perhaps the fiercest battle of World War II, began. Teo's main task, to ease the pain of the severely wounded of Monte Cassino, was understandably heartbreaking for her.

In 1945, in Bologna Italy, Teodozja married Bogusław and they remained in Italy until after the war. After the demobilization of the Second Polish Army Corps, the Musiałowiczels moved to Scotland, then to England.

In 1951, they immigrated to the United States with their son Robert, becoming U.S. citizens in the late 1950s. Once the Musiałowicz family settled in Chicago, Teodozja secured a professional nursing license and spent more than 30 years as a nurse.

Today, Teodozja, 96, is the last surviving nursing member of the heroic Second Army Polish Corps.

Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

Polish Cinema Abounds

by Michael Pietruszka

The 2017 **Toronto Polish Film Festival's** screenings included Maria Sadowska's "The Art of Loving," Renata Kolacz's "Cierpkapuram - The Story of a Friendship, and People on the Sea, Work and Prayer," Diana Skaya and Liliana Komorowska's "To My Father," Ryszard Bugajski's "Blindness," Pawel Tarasiewicz and Katia Priwieziencew's "Hel," Monika Melen's "By Stanley For Stanley," Kasia Adamik's "Amok," Maciej Zak's "Convoy," Jerzy Zielinski's "The King of Life," Mateusz Rakowicz's "Romantic," Kasia Adamik and Agnieszka Holland's "Sporo," Michal Kwiecinski's "Bodo," Maciej Sobieszczanski's "The Reconciliation," Konrad Lecki's "Cursed," George Rethy's "Sister Elizabeth," Joanna Kos-Krause's "Birds are Singing in Kigali," Jan Kidawa-Blonski's "Stars," Dorota Kobiela and High Welchman's "Loving Vincent," Urszula Antoniak's "Beyond Words" and Tadeusz Jaworski's "Selling Out" at the Revue Theatre in Toronto's Roncesvalles neighborhood. The festival lasted from Nov. 6-12.

On Nov. 12, the **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College presented Polish director Jan Kidawa-Blonski with the screening of his film, "Stars."

Part Two of the **Rochester Polish Film Festival** opened, Nov. 7th with a screening of Andrzej Wajda's "Afterimage" at the Dryden Theatre. Other films presented during the festival's five-day run included Michal Rosa's "The Happiness of the World," Jan Kidawa-Blonski's "Stars," Jan P. Matuszynski's "The Last Family," Maria Sadowska's "The Art of Love: The Story of Michalina Wislocka," Wojtek Smar-

zowski's "Wolyn," Anu Radha and Sumit Osmand Shaw's "A Little Poland in India," and Marie Nolle's "Marie Curie, The Courage of Knowledge."

Toronto's **Brentwood Library** presented Krzysztof Krauze's "Loj Nikifor," Nov. 15, and will show Michal Szerbic's "Sprawiedliwy," Dec. 13, as part of its Polish Film Night 2017 Series.

POLONIA TIDBITS. The General Pulaski Association recently chose **Genevieve Miceli** to serve as Princess Pulaski, and **Pearl Brown** to serve as Countess Pulaski for the coming year ... Polish pianist **Konrad Skolarski** performed works by Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Liszt in at Kleinhans Music Hall, Nov. 1 ... The **Niagara Historical Society Museum** in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario is presenting an exhibit "Camp Kosciuszko: The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917 - 1919" from November 1, 2017 through November 15, 2018 ... An **All Souls Day Commemoration** was held in the St. Stanislaus Mausoleum in Cheektowaga, and the Villa Maria Chorale performed at a Mass of Remembrance in St. Adalbert's Basilica on Buffalo's East Side, Nov. 4th ... Also on the 4th, **Marian Poczobutt** spoke on "Ignacy Jan Paderewski: Artist and Statesman" at the Hazard Branch Library in Syracuse in honor of the Centennial of the I.J. Paderewski Choir of the Sacred Heart Cathedral ... Polish pianist **Konrad Skolarski** performed "Chopin's Piano" featuring Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in Kleinhans Music Hall on the 4th and 5th.

The Polish American Congress, WNY Division, Inc. hosted its 4th **Zupapalooza Polish Soup Festival** at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW in

Cheektowaga, Nov. 5. The winning soups were: First Place - Wigilia Creamed Mushroom Soup (**Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities, Inc.**), Second Place - Polish Chicken Soup (**Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School**), Third Place - Bean Soup (**Polonia Trail**). Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities Inc. also won the People's Choice Award and Best Decorated Table Award ... **Polish Independence Day and Polish Veterans Day** was marked, Nov. 11th ... On the 11th, "As Long As We Live" ("Poki My Zyjemy"), a program of Polish classical and patriotic music was performed by the Toronto Sinfonietta, Novi Singers, Karolina Podolak, Janusz Borowiec, and Anna Kolosowski at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario in celebration of Poland's independence and the opening of the "Camp Kosciuszko. The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917-1919" exhibit at the Niagara Historical Society and Museum.

St. Stanislaus Parish, hosted a Harvest Brunch and Basket Raffle, Nov. 12th ... Bialy Orzel, Lechowia, Polonez, Radosc-Joy, Tetry and Zdrolo folk ensembles performed at the Second Polish Credit Union **Folklore Festival** at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... On the 15th, **Danuta Nycz-Nakamura** addressed the November meeting of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo on "Tadeusz Kosciuszko and His Legacy" at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst ... **Polish Falcons of America Nest 6** held its general meeting at its Cheektowaga clubrooms on the 15th.

Patricia Ann Filipiak spoke on "To Poland and Back for Family" as part of the Black Rock Historical Society's 2017 Fall Speaker Series at the group's Niagara Street loca-

tion, Nov. 16th ... The Professional and Business Women of Polonia heard **Christopher Brown** speak on the "History of Kleinhans Music Hall" at their November 16th meeting ... On the 18th, the **Kalina Singing Society** performed in "Christ Be My Light" at Corpus Christi Church in Buffalo ... On Nov. 19th, **St. John Kanty Parish** closed its 125th Anniversary Celebration with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone, and a dinner dance featuring Rare Vintage at the Millennium Hotel.

Wanda Slawinska addressed the election meeting of the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society on "Birds in Polish Culture" at the Niagara Falls Public Library, Nov. 21st ... **Andrzejki** celebrations were held at the Livadia Banquet Hall and the Capital Banquet Centre in Mississauga, and the ZHRwK Banquet Hall and ZNP Hall in Toronto on the 25th ... The 28th **Festival of Polish Religious Song** took place at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Nov. 25th and 26th ...

UPCOMING. The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY will hold its Annual Christmas Party and Installation Dinner at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew, Dec. 2. **David Gorski** (president), **Marty Bochinski** (vice-president), **Mike Stack** (2nd vice-president), **Jerry Imiola** (3rd vice-president), **Darryl Borawski** (secretary), **Andy Kozakiewicz** (treasurer), Paul Manno (financial secretary) and **William Glendinning** (sergeant-at-arms) will be installed as the organization's officers for 2018 ... Also on the 2nd, the **Chopin Singing Society** will hold its Wigilia at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga ... On December 3rd, the **Polish Singers Alliance of American District IX** will present its Annual Festival of Polish Christmas Song at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District ... Also on the 3rd, the **Skalny Center** for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester will present cellist Natasha Farny and pianist Anne Kissel performing the works of Grazyna Bacewicz, Fryderyk Chopin, Witold Szalonek and Alex-

ander Tansman in the Third Presbyterian Church Chapel in Rochester ... The **General Pulaski Association** will host its Annual Christmas Party at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cheektowaga on the 4th. The event will benefit Child and Adolescent Treatment Services.

On Dec. 8th, the **Meadowvale Theatre** in Mississauga will present "Winter Wonderland" featuring the Bartosz Hadal Band, Wojtek Stec, Kaja Cyganik, Ilona Anna Kowalik, Anna Adamczewska Niewulis, Karolina Podolak, Anna Wojcik, Kinga Mitrowska, the Quo Vadis Choir and Camerata Troupe ... On December 9th, the **Lira Singers, Dancers and Chamber Players** will perform "A Polish Holiday: Carols, Song and Dance" at the SUNYab Center for the Arts ... The **Syracuse Polish Home** will host its "Traditional Polish Wigilia" at its clubrooms on Park Avenue, Dec. 10 ... The **Polish Arts Club** of Buffalo will hold its Annual Meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst, Dec. 13th, and will host its Wigilia Celebration at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca on the 17th ... The **Polish Genealogical Society** of NYS will hold its Holiday Polish Dinner at the Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga on the 14th ... On December 30th, the **Polish Heritage Dancers** of WNY will perform in "A Polish Christmas in the Village" at the Lancaster Opera House. That place will present a production of **Tom Dudzick's** "Over the Tavern" from January 12th through the 21st ... The **Polish Arts Club** of Buffalo will hold its Installation and Scholarship Luncheon at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca, Jan. 14 ... On Jan. 28th, **Jennie Smith**, the daughter of **Irena Gut-Opdyke**, will speak on the "Righteous Among the Nations" at Canisius College ... The Syracuse Polish Home is planning a trip to Poland featuring visits to Krakow, Auschwitz, Zakopane, Gdansk, Malbork and Torun from June 30-July 12, 2018.

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 6th for the January 2018 issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

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

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


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Sports

Handing Out Christmas Presents to Sports Standouts

by Tom Tarapacki

With Christmas upon us, here is what we're hoping some of our favorite Polish and Polish American sports figures find under their trees in the coming year:

Alan Trammell — long-overdue induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame, now that he was included on the Hall's 10-person Modern Baseball ballot for 2018 after missing out on the writers' ballot for 15 years.

Joanna Jędrzejczyk — a quick rematch for the 30-year-old Pole who recently lost her UFC straw-weight title after 14 straight wins in the octagon.

Robert Lewandowski — a World Cup title for his Polish team in 2018, and recognition of "Lewa" as one of soccer's best.

Marcin Gortat — a continuation of his solid play for the Washington Wizards, as well as his sponsorship of his outstanding Polish Heritage Night celebrations.

Joe Pavelski — a return to form after an unusually slow start to the 2017-18 NHL season for the San Jose Shark.

Max Kepler — continued development for the Minnesota Twins right fielder, born in Germany of a Polish father and American mother, eventually joining Polish-born Moe Drabowsky on the list of best European-born major leaguers.

Sebastian Janikowski — a return to health and an opportunity to continue his remarkable 18-year pro placekicking career, if not with the Raiders then elsewhere in the NFL.

JJ Watt — a full and quick return from the broken leg suffered by the three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year, and more kudos for his fundraiser that brought in more than \$37 million for Hurricane Harvey relief effort.

Bryan Bulaga — a full recovery from season-ending surgery for the Green Bay Packer offensive lineman and the man he blocks for, QB Aaron Rodgers.

Daria Pajak — more championships for the young Polish bowler who captured her first PWBA title at



Pajak

the 2017 Greater Detroit Open

Gary Kubiak — a job as an NFL offensive coordinator where he can utilize his many talents while avoiding the stress-related health concerns that prematurely ended his head coaching career.

Kamil Stoch — similar success in ski jumping at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games to his double-gold effort at the Sochi Olympics.

JR Celski — an Olympic gold medal to add to the silver and bronze the American speed skater won at previous Olympics.

Rob Chudzinski — another shot at an NFL head coaching position for the offensive coordinator of the Indianapolis Colts, who has done a remarkable job this season following the loss of QB Andrew Luck.

Mike Krzyzewski — great health after knee replacement surgery, and a sixth Men's NCAA basketball championship for Coach K and his Duke Blue Devils.

Our Readers — many thanks for your loyalty! *Wesołych swiat!*

SUPER SUB. John Laskowski is remembered as one of college basketball's greatest sixth men. The lanky 6'6" guard played for Indiana University from 1971 to 1975, where he averaged 10.8 points and 3.8 rebounds per game in three seasons. He usually came off the bench,

earning the nickname "Super-Sub." The South Bend native scored in the 20s six times and in double figures 40 times. Laskowski helped the Hoosiers win three straight Big Ten titles and advance to the Final Four in 1973.

Afterwards John was drafted in the second round by the Chicago Bulls and played two seasons in the NBA, averaging 7.1 points and 2.4 rebounds. He then covered Indiana University basketball games for the Big Ten Network, and authored the 2003 book *Tales from the Hoosier Locker Room*. John later worked as a commercial real estate broker and as vice president of marketing for the Indiana alumni association. Just last year the 64-year-old Laskowski took on a new challenge, opening a Culver's Restaurant in Bloomington, Ind., with his son Scott.

POLISH-LITHUANIAN CONNECTION. Dick Butkus is remembered as one of the NFL's all-time great linebackers as a member of the



Scott and John Laskowski

Chicago Bears. Dick is Lithuanian, though he played a number of Polish American characters when he left football for acting. His TV roles included Ed Klawicki on *My Two Dads*, Coach Mike Katowinski on *Hang Time*, and Richard "Ski" Butowski on *Blue Thunder*.

There's another Polish connection for Butkus. In his biography, *Butkus: Flesh and Blood - How I Played the Game*, he wrote that his father, John, was born in Kaunas, Lithuania in 1893. John's father decided to leave because "the Russians were conducting a policy of ethnic cleansing and the Roman Catholics were the main targets." Dick wrote that his grandparents arranged for their children to escape across the southwestern border into Poland in 1903. The plan was for the grandparents to follow, and then together eventually make their way to America. John, his brother and sister made it to Poland where they waited "until one day they learned that their parents would never come out."

MIRACLE IN KATOWICE. According to *Bleacher Report*, **Wieslaw Jobczyk** was one of the greatest hockey players who never played in the NHL. He was also the central figure in a memorable upset of the powerful Soviet ice hockey team in Katowice that predated the famed "Miracle On Ice."

The 1976 World Ice Hockey Championships were held in Katowice, Poland, and the Poles faced the Soviets in the first game. The Russians had won their seven previous contests against Poland by a combined score of 98-10! Two months before Katowice, the Russians had destroyed all the competi-



SPIRIT OF KOSCIUSZKO. The Kosciuszko Foundation once again took part in the NYC Marathon. The KF joined the effort to welcome and support the more than 50,000 runners participating from all over the world. The goal was to "show Polish spirit in what we call a Polish Village." KF volunteers (above) brought "the Spirit of Kosciuszko" to the Marathon at the half way point Fluid Station in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Its effort, and the entire race, was a great success. The top Polish finisher was Wojciech Kopec, who was 37th at 2:29:47.

of the country's top defensemen in the 1950s ... former NHLer **James Wisniewski**, who missed a full year with ACL surgery, is now playing for the EC Kassel Huskies in Germany ... Poland's **Justyna Kaczkowska** won the individual 3K race at a track cycling World Cup competition in Pruszków ... **Michael Bisping**, called "The Count" because he is descended from Polish nobility, said he will come back after losing his middleweight title at UFC 217 ... Polish goalkeeper **Artur Boruc**, 37, recently played his record 65th (and final) game for the Polish team ... Poland's **Sebastian Karaś** has become the first person to swim across the Baltic Sea.

THEY SAID IT

"In the end Indiana, braced by a commodity Kentucky did not have—Polish power—carried the day 77-68."

— *The December 17, 1973 edition of Sports Illustrated, referring to Indiana's John Laskowski, who had three steals and hit his first eight shots in the second half of a big game against Kentucky.*

"Being the winningest player in the history of D-1 basketball secures him a prime position in the pantheon of all-time great Zags, but there was so much more to like about Przemek Karnowski besides the great basketball. Thousands of fan photos while always being polite and gracious, the beard, the Santa video, his parents flying 5,000 miles to sit in the Kennel, his booming laugh and his charm."

— *A recent article in www.slipperstillfits.com on Polish-born Gonzaga great Przemek Karnowski. "Shemmy" is now playing professionally in Spain.*

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Resistance

Black Week

by Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

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 Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER XXI. Kaminski's first notion was to check with Virski, but he had no idea where Virski went after the meeting. He would have to seek out Kumor, in K-Division, the intelligence and propaganda unit of the Home Army.

He arrived at the hideout and was allowed entrance. Once inside, he was totally ignored. Everyone in the building was focused on their specific task. He stood in a corner and observed the bustle.

He finally caught sight of Kumor rushing through the hall.

"Kumor, what's the latest on Grot?"

"The news has been transmitted to the government in London. Sikorski is still in the Middle East, inspecting the Polish Troops. The message has been directed to General Sosnkowski, to be relayed to the premier."

Kaminski jotted down the comments.

"That's all the information I can give you. You must leave, as we have much to do which is top security. Deputy Commander Komorowski is resuming command.

The first thing on the top security list was to disperse a recovery team to Spiska Street. They were accompanied by the carpenter who designed the secret niches and panels at the Spiska residence.

The Gestapo had already gone through the dwelling and had sealed the doors and windows. The team had no trouble breaking the seals. They went through the dwelling in a precise pattern that could have been choreographed. The Nazis had uncovered nothing; the items were well hidden. The team left the area as they had found it, re-sealed the door, and escaped through the garden.

The newspaper wrapped bundle, delivered by the liaison girl that morning, contained fifteen thousand American dollars.

A second team was involved in the rescue operation. Thanks to Jozef Lypka, they knew the exact location of their prisoner. The K-Division agent assigned the surveillance of Szucha Street, reported that a rescue operation was unnecessary; Rowecki had been removed from the premises and was enroute to Berlin.

On July 4, 1943, the loudspeakers, installed by the Nazi propaganda machine, blasted the streets of Warsaw:

"ACHTUNG! GENERAL WLADYSLAW SIKORSKI HAS BEEN KILLED IN A PLANE CRASH OVER GIBRALTOR"

Sikorski had fought along-side Marshal Pilsudski in the 1919-1920 war that defeated the Red Army; he was reputed to be a brilliant military strategist. Along with his combined authority as Premier and Commander in Chief of the exiled government, Sikorski wore a third hat; he was a skillful diplomat. He had somehow managed to cooperate with Stalin. He was well liked by the Allied Command-



Sikorski

ers, Roosevelt and Churchill, who considered him a forthright and flexible individual. Many newspapers across the western world hinted at possible assassination attempts. The German headlines heralded the end of the exiled government of Poland.

Michal Bednarek was summoned to a meeting of the Secret Court. K-Division had uncovered the individuals responsible for the arrest of Rowecki. Death warrants for the traitors had to be drafted and signed by the chief delegate.

The two judges, Butkowski and Matewski took their seats at the center of the table, flanked by Albert Pierski, the prosecuting attorney, and Bednarek who served as defense council. In the middle of the table, a bible and a crucifix set the stage for the inauspicious proceedings about to take place.

Pierski presented the evidence, "General Rowecki's betrayers were from his own ranks of the Home Army. A trio of double-agents had infiltrated his forces. Ludwig Kalkstein/Stolinski, code name 'Hanka' a twenty-three-year old man, was arrested by the Gestapo in 1942. During his internment, he was indoctrinated to the Nazi program." He handed the first document to Butkowski.

Pierski went on, "His wife, Blanka nee

Kaczorowska, code name 'Sroka', and his brother-in-law, Eugeniusz Swierczewski, code name 'Genes', were persuaded to follow his example."

Butkowski speculated, "Rowecki may not have been their only victim."

Pierski concluded, "We suspect that Kalkstein is still in Warsaw, but is being held in security by the Gestapo. His wife, Blanka, is hiding out in the home of her parents. She is quite pregnant. As yet, there is no information on Swierczewski."

The death warrants were typed by Pierski. The document was then signed by the officiating magistrates and sent by courier to the chief delegate for his signature.

A team of special agents from K-Division maintained an around the clock surveillance on the house at 74 Krochmalna Street, the residence of Swierczewski. He was seized the first time he dared to approach his home, and dragged to the basement.

The chief operative pronounced the sentence which he read from the official document, signed by the chief delegate. Swierczewski was hung from the rafters of his basement.

Kalkstein remained embedded in the security of the Nazi Administration.

Blanka Kalkstein avoided the death sentence due to her pregnant condition.

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."

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Sybiracy

Setting a Fish Net in Kazakstan's Lake

"Sybracy" (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 Kazakstan. 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 XXVI. In Spring 1944, Marysia went with two other local women to the kurgan to buy or exchange something for a fishing rope. This was still early in the year; roads were relatively dry, but the steppe and forests were full of water. Marysia was able to get the rope and a strong thread. During the night in one of the villages, she was awakened by whispering of accompanying women. They were plotting to kill her in one of the forests and take away the rope. Until the morning, she was unable to sleep. She decided to talk to the hostess of the house they were staying in and explain what happened. The hostess calmed her down saying that she would tell her husband about what happened and he would surely find an advice.

After breakfast, the host announced that he would be passing through our village and asking whether he would be able to stay in our house. He wished us a good travel and asked Marysia's companions to take care of her since he would learned what happened while visiting us later on. They certainly understood what he meant. Marysia, afraid of their intent, was following them behind the whole way. They all reached the village with no more problems.

An elderly lady made a net from the rope which Marysia brought to set for crucian. We paid her with

some wheat and potatoes. I asked one of the fisherman to use his boat. He was not very willing, but eventually he agreed. In the past, I saw how net is set in the lake for fish. But seeing and doing it alone is a big difference.

I prepared eight birch perches (poles) with pointed and sharp ends. The distance from the village to the lake was about 3 km (1.9 miles). Fishermen were setting the net early evening and taking it off at sun's dawn. After pulling the fishnets to the lake beach, I had to throw crucian to the buckets. The first fish catch was impressive since I caught the whole bucket of fish. We ate immediately a part of it. After removing the liver, we heddled the rest into the rope or wire and dried outside. Unfortunately, this was only a one time that I was able to borrow the boat.

Later, I had to swim alone with perches and net, poke it to the lake bottom, and distribute around the lake. Often the lake surface was covered with a thin ice. My cleavage was injured and blooded. It was

really a very hard job for one person. Besides, my swimming skills were limited. I was also worried that I may have a muscle cramp or a spasm that would not allow me to reach the surface. Psotka, our dog, was always accompanying me, but she was making me nervous with her barking and running along the beach. She was probably worrying about me. Every time I was able to catch some fish -- sometimes only for lunch and dinner, sometimes enough for drying. After two weeks, I had enough; I could not continue this everyday dangerous and strenuous work. I decided to borrow my fishing net to one of the fishermen. In return, he was giving us some fish each day. He was probably cheating us, but I had no other alternative. Thanks to that, I had a good sack of dry fish. We cooked it for a soup with potatoes and onion and this was our life.

continued next month

— Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polish-site.us

Growing Up Polish American

My Polish Pride is Alive!

by Barbara Betlejewski

Yes, I am proud to be of Polish origin! After a childhood tainted with "Polack" jokes, years never being "good enough," and decades spent feeling ashamed while hiding in the closet regarding my ethnic background, my Polish pride is now alive. I even discovered that many of my contemporaries of diverse ethnic origins had felt the same way. At 60 years of age, I've learned to dance the polka, a Czech dance later adopted by Polish-Americans, but not well known in Poland itself. In fact, I only heard one polka the entire time I was in Poland. This was by a street musician playing an accordion in Zakopane, a well-known ski resort in the mountains of southern Poland, not far from where some of my relatives live.

In the 1830s, the polka dance craze spread rapidly across Europe. First Lady Julia Tyler, wife of U.S. President John Tyler at that time, introduced it to America at the White House in the 1840s. The polka became so popular during this time that the name was attached to lots of things that had nothing to do with dancing, like hats, cakes, and hairstyles. The symmetrical dots on a brand-new fabric design were even called polka dots, a term still in use today.

I'm now practicing a piano arrangement of the "Beer Barrel Polka!" I've made *babka z rumem*, rum-flavored babka, better known to the world by its French name *baba au rhum*. I've learned to make *śliwka w czekoladzie* (plums in chocolate), and *szarlotka* (Polish apple squares). I still use my mother's recipe for *goląbki* (the classic Polish cabbage roll), with her homemade tomato sauce. I still make my grandmother's version of *makowiec* (poppyseed rolls). I discovered

kluski z makiem (egg noodles with poppyseeds), to be quite tasty and I really like *barszcz* (beet soup, with vegetables) on a cold day.

I'm studying the Polish language, which was outlawed during the years Poland was partitioned, using "teach yourself" books. And I'm learning a lot about Polish culture as a new subscriber to the *Polish American Journal*. From the time Poland (pole meaning "field") was settled by nomads who became farmers, to the largest Empire in Europe in the late 1600s, through the 123 years of partition (1795-1918), to the defeat of Communism led by a shipyard electrician, and the selection of a Polish Pope, Poland has continued to survive. Nothing could ever break the spirit of the Polish soul or adherence to heritage, customs and traditions. "Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła," the first verse of the Polish National Anthem, says "Poland has not yet perished," and now Poland is thriving. Polish life expectancy is about 77 years, only 1 year less than in the United States.

We are all children of the same creator, none better nor worse than another on some imagined ladder of worth. *Jestem pochodzenia polskiego i jestem z tego dumna*. I'm Polish and proud

Consider a Year-End Donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation

With the year's end upon us, we ask our readers to consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. It is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for the promotion of Polish American culture. Learn more by turning to page 17 in this month's edition.

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

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“Year of Kościuszko” Comes to an End

Embassy Holds Commemoration at Kościuszko Monument



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

WEST POINT'S KOSCIUSZKO SQUADRON. Members of the Kosciuszko Squadron from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point pose with Poland's Ambassador Piotr Wilczek at the base of the Kosciuszko Monument at the conclusion of the ceremonies.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On October 15, 2017, as the celebratory year marking the death of Kosciuszko draws to a close, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland's conducted a commemoration at the Kosciuszko Monument in Lafayette Square across from the White House. The main celebrants were Poland's Ambassador Piotr Wilczek, Lithuanian Ambassador Rolandas Krisciunas and Francis “Frank” Spula, president of the Polish National Alliance.

Inscribed on the pedestal of the monument are the words:

ERECTED BY THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF AMERICA AND PRESENTED TO THE UNITED STATES ON BEHALF OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CITIZENS MAY 11, 1910.

Also notably in attendance were cadets comprising the Kosciuszko Squadron from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

During the proceedings, the U.S. Army Brass Quintet provided musical interludes in addition to the playing of the Polish and American national anthems

after the Presentation of the Colors by U.S. Army soldiers in colonial uniforms. The 200th observance concluded with the laying of wreaths at the monument and an army bugle playing Taps.



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

The General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Monument in Lafayette Square across from the White House. It commemorates the revolutionary battles for freedom that Kosciuszko engaged in both for Poland and the United States.

Kościuszko: A Portrait of Love, Passion, and Patriotism

by Staś Kmieć

2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura Kościuszko (4 or 12 February 1746 – 15 October 1817), a military engineer and military leader in Poland, the leader of the Kościuszko Uprising against Russia and Prussia in 1794, and a key player in the American War of Independence. He is considered a national hero in Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and the United States.

Kościuszko is also renowned for being a ferocious critic of slavery and a promoter of equality and social justice. A man of great character and conviction, he stood up for oppressed people: European serfs, American slaves, Native American Indians, Jews, women, and all other disenfranchised groups.

conclusion

THE INSURRECTION AND FINAL CHAPTER. The first battle of the Insurrection at Raclawice, though a victory, did not settle the situation, as the road to Warsaw was still blocked; however, it had an immense moral impact for the rest of the uprising. It positively influenced the course of the revolution in the capitol.

Kościuszko's troops entered Kraków triumphantly on April 7, 1794. With them they brought 12 cannons they had captured.

April 17: Warsaw rises. The capitol is free after two days.

April 22: Wilno is under control; the military situation worsens.

June 2: in Szczekociny the Prussian army joins the fray and there is a series of defeats.

July 13: the commander's finest victory is his defense of Warsaw. The faithful scythe-bearing peasants trusted and esteemed Kościuszko, and fought in all his battles and skirmishes as they awaited the lifting of personal serfdom and the protection against the removal from the land on which they worked. Kościuszko wanted to raise the level of peasantry. He felt they were persecuted and taken advantage of. He expressed his beliefs by freeing his own serfs from servitude.

General Ferens led his troops to the right bank of the Wisła River. Defeat looms as the battle nears at Maciejowice on October 10, 1794. Kościuszko's forces are half that of the Russians and part of his regiment is scythe-bearing peasants. The battle of Maciejowice is fierce and bloody, and ends in total defeat of the Polish forces.

Kościuszko's horse foundered and fell together with its rider. The Cossacks with pikes surrounded him and he was hit in the head with a sword. Kościuszko lost consciousness and was robbed of everything valuable. Spotting Kościuszko, General Ferens ordered that he

be cared for. Seriously wounded, Kościuszko is taken to St. Petersburg, and imprisoned in a fortress. He spent over two years in captivity. During this time he attempted to commit suicide and was left close to death.

Kościuszko was freed by Czar Paul I after the death of his mother, Catherine II. He received 60,000 rubles from the Czar and signed a subservient oath in exchange for amnesty for 20,000 imprisoned soldiers. Kościuszko was lambasted, even insulted by some of his countrymen who did not want to understand the situation he found himself in. The Czar billed him for the services he had received and he was obliged to pledge never to return to Poland again.

On December 19, 1796, together with his adjutant and fellow prisoner Julian Niemcewicz, Kościuszko left

on a long journey via Stockholm and London back to America. They arrived in Philadelphia, where the city's residents greeted the national hero enthusiastically with a thirteen gun salute. He felt at home in the city, visited old friends and maintained a lively correspondence.

His longtime friend Thomas Jefferson visited him, and Kościuszko painted his portrait, and gave away his paintings as keepsakes. Before leaving for Europe, Kościuszko made Jefferson the executor of his will, in which he earmarks his entire fortune to buy Negroes out of slavery—a request that was not realized.

Kościuszko went to Paris, where he lived with an old friend, Piotr Zeltner. Polish immigrants were negotiating the creation of the Legions. He tried to become involved in these discussions, but despite signs of friendliness, he was not treated as a partner. Kościuszko decided to make General Dąbrowski the Legion commander. He showed his own road to freedom without France and Napoleon, whom he did not trust.

KOSCIUSZKO SPENT THE LAST TWO YEARS of his life in Switzerland in the town of Solothurn on the Aar River. He arrived in the autumn of 1815 and lived at 12 Garzelengasse Street with Franciszek Zeltner. He lived in two modest rooms. The aged and solitary Kościuszko befriended the Zeltners, and the residents of Solothurn liked and respected the commander. He was especially fond of Emily, the Zeltner's daughter, whom he taught history and drawing. In

his will he left a sizeable sum of money and his heart.

He died in solitude on October 15, 1817. After his death, a grave/monument was built in nearby Zuchwil. Kościuszko's death was important not only in Poland, but abroad as well. Commemorations were held in various European cities and a eulogy was read in Congress in the United States. Poles in all the an-



An oil on tin miniature portrait of an elderly Tadeusz Kosciuszko in Solothurn, Switzerland circa 1816. Artist unknown. National Museum in Warsaw.

nexed territories decided to pay homage to the hero of Raclawice.

On application by the Senate of the free city of Kraków, Czar Alexander agreed that the remains of Kościuszko could be brought and entombed in the cellars of Wawel Cathedral. A ceremonial funeral took place. Kościuszko was entombed in St. Leonard's crypt, next to Jan III Sobieski and Józef Poniatowski.

A burial mound to honor the national hero began construction on October 16, 1820 on St. Bronisława Hill. Urns of soil from the Raclawice, Maciejowice and United States battlefields were buried; the mound was completed on October 20, 1823.

After the death of Emily Zeltner, Kościuszko's heart was given to the museum in Rapperswil, and from there in 1927, when Poland was once again free to the Royal Castle in Warsaw. During the war it was hidden in the cellars of St. John's Cathedral. Recovered after the war, the urn with Kościuszko's heart returned to the Royal Castle.

The memory of Kościuszko remains to this day. One of his biographers wrote: “He appears as a character very close to us with his weaknesses and faults, but he remains as an example of the love of country. His fame and legend have lasted much longer than did his life.” His life's service was to the rebirth of Poland, and after his death he remains great today. Tadeusz Kościuszko became one of the immortal heroes of humanity.

Source material: *Jego Imię Polska*, Lucyna Smolińska and Mieczysław Sroka.

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Dance Time

The Most Wonderful of the Year

by Jennifer Pijanowski

The most wonderful time of the year is here again as our calendar's become packed with holiday parties, shopping, and enjoying family traditions. As I see 2018 approaching, I look forward to attending some new events and festivals while meeting even more polka friends. My fall season passed quickly with plentiful opportunities to enjoy lively polka music.

THE CLEVELAND POLKA ASSOCIATION celebrated its anniversary with the sounds of the **Buffalo Touch**. The crowd gathered at the Holy Spirit Party Center to dance and enjoy many of the tunes for which the Touch has become known in their 20-plus years as a band. Folks were treated to the reunion of **Ken Machelski** and guest accordion player **Joe Grenda**, who performed together decades ago in the Goral Boys. Joe meshed perfectly with the group, keeping folks dancing their way through this enjoyable Sunday afternoon affair.

I enjoyed catching up with long-time friends **Paul and Carol Kibelbek**, who I met when I attended my first Seven Springs Fall Polka Festival 20 years ago. I found it is indeed a small world as their close friends **Paul and Phyllis Majcher** were headed to Oglebay resort, in my home town of Wheeling, WV, the next morning to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Cleveland's affinity for polka music is alive and well in the many volunteers who work tirelessly to keep CPA a vibrant organization.

CLASSIX REUNION. Polka lovers know that the phrase "Hrukus Hellraisers" is synonymous with party time and their annual Halloween Polka Weekend was exactly that. The anticipation of **Jackie Libera & the Classix** taking the stage laid the groundwork for fans to make their plans months in advance to attend this event.

Folks from Canada, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Connecticut, and Ohio were present to witness the reunion of this talented group. Jackie's amazing voice, backed by the strong musicianship of the band, provided heartwarming memories for long-time fans of the Classix.

Since this was the first time I was to hear the band live, I prepared by watching hours' worth of videos and recordings before heading to Cohoes, N.Y. for the event. An impressive mix of music throughout the night made it hard to believe The Classix had been on a 20-plus year hiatus a band.

One of the highlights of the evening was Jackie's daughter **Jenna** taking the stage with her dad to perform a few songs. The pride and love from parents Jackie and Linda was evident as their beautiful daughter shined on stage showcasing her stunning voice. With regard to talent, the apple did not fall far from the Libera family tree — hear-

ing Jenna sing was a thrill.

On Sunday, fans got a chance to dance along to the enjoyable sounds of the **Piatkowski Brothers** featuring gifted drummer and vocalist **Larry Trojak**. Always a crowd favorite, fans got to hear many of their beloved Dynatones tunes. As an added bonus, the young group of polka artists **Polka Method** shared the stage with the **Piatkowski Brothers** and thrilled those in attendance. For those who made the trip, This Hellraisers Halloween celebration — and the hospitality of the Ukrainian American Citizens Club — was well worth it.



Joyce Czarnecki and Frank Merkosky.



Carol and Paul Kibelbek.



Jerry and Theresa Lewandowski having fun with Sandy and Dave Zwawa at the Hrukus Halloween Party.

HUNDREDS PACKED the beautiful banquet hall of the Knights of Columbus in Cheektowaga for Polish Knight featuring **The Buffalo Touch** and **The Knewz**. Two Buffalo bands shared the stage for an evening of fellowship and non-stop dancing. **Mike Nowakowski**, who took a month off after having surgery, returned to play a few songs with his bandmates. It was clear how much he has missed playing along with the Touch, and the crowd enjoyed seeing him back on stage. **Ted Szymanski** from Special Delivery has been superb helping the band out in Mike's absence. The sound of the two accordions brought a lively addition to the band and the large hall.

While fan favorite, The Knewz, brought their loyal younger following, they also

play the tunes that all ages truly enjoy. The vocals of **Jimmy Weber** are an added to bonus to this



Maryrose Rovatti, Annie Stec, and Olivia Piatkowski.



Paul and Phyllis Majcher.



Linda, Jenna, and Jackie Libera.

recording which will debut, Dec. 2 at a CD release party held at Potts Banquet Hall. Information on getting your copy of this must-have recording can be found on their website www.theknewz.com

SPECIAL GUEST. Special Delivery borrowed the talents of **Tom Picciano** from the Knewz for polka Sunday at Clinton Bar & Grill. This corner tavern provides the perfect environment for polka music and dancing. Special Delivery packed the CBG to capacity on a cold rainy night with polka lovers young and old. Playing polkas, obereks, romantic waltzes, and fan requests kept

Koledy Night, Dec. 9, 2017. It will be held at Independence Fire Hall 2, Cemetery Rd., Great Meadows, N.J. from 6:30-11:30 pm. Visit Lenny's website at www.chicagopush.com for additional details.

Buffalo Polka Boosters Christmas Party featuring **John Gora & Gorale** will celebrate the holiday polka season in Buffalo, Dec. 9, 2017 at Polish Falcons 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Tickets are \$35.00/members or \$45.00/non-members, admission includes cocktails, dinner, and dancing. Contact Chris for information at (716) 771-1076. Tickets are limited, so call right away to make your reservations.

New Direction will be playing your favorite polkas and spreading holiday cheer at the **Broadway Market** on Saturday December 16, 2017. The market is located at 999 Broadway in Buffalo and will be packed with vendors that will fill the air with delicious holiday fragrances to whet your appetite. Join Ron Urbanczyk and the guys from 12:00-3:00 for some lively music at this Buffalo landmark.

Afterwards, head over to Potts Banquet Hall at Clinton and Rossler Plaza in Cheektowaga for a **Górale Koledy and Christmas Party**. This event will include music by **Special Delivery** and a performance by **Ted Zdybal** and his Górale group, **Hyr**, from Toronto, Canada. Contact Ted at (716) 668-9101 for more information on this unique Christmas celebration.

New Year's Eve celebrations are definitely more jovial while enjoying polka music. There are several events to consider when deciding where to welcome in the New Year.

Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Honky Express and special guest **Eddie Biegaj** will be ringing in the New Year at Millennium Hotel in Buffalo. Rates start at \$199 per couple and include a seven-hour open bar, a Polish dinner buffet, overnight accommodations, breakfast buffet and more. Contact (716) 983-4815 for more information.

Polka music haven **Potts Banquet Hall** invites you and your friends to join **Phocus** as they celebrate on New Year's Eve. The evening includes prime rib, sea bass, or chicken cordon blue dinner, a six-hour open bar, hors d'oeuvres, hats, and noisemakers. Packages for this event are available starting at \$49.95 per person. Please contact Danny at (716) 826-6575 for more information.

And finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a blessed holiday season. As I reflect on this important time of the year, I will be thankful for the polka friends and family who have become so much a part of me. I never anticipated that my life would be so full of energetic, positive, fun loving friends who would complete my world. Enjoy this time spent with those whom you love, as this is indeed a magical time of year. Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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the night fun and interesting. Tommy, a true professional, blended with Special Delivery like he'd been with the band since day one.

It's unfortunate that bands have to "share" musicians like this, though. Western New York is bursting with musicians who no longer play steady with a band and it would be great to see some of them return for these kind of limited performances. Special Delivery plays one Sunday each month at Clinton Bar and Grill and it is an ideal way to keep warm as the weather (unfortunately) turns colder.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON. As the holiday season approaches, your season will not be complete without a healthy dose of koledy. Join Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push for a **Christmas Party** and

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3	Joe Tiberi		Musician	Pa.
4	Gene Wisnewski	1922 3/7/02	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Rockville, Conn.
4	Jack Beachly III		Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
6	Li'l Richard Towalski	1944 3/28/01	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Chicago
7	Alex Meixner		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Fla.
7	Seth Dzrewicki	1980	Polka D. J.	Mich.
8	Steve Coblis	1948-	Polka D. J. / Promoter	N.Y.
8	Rocco Naples	1986-	Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
9	Paul (Pookie) Kuharski	1926 6/11/08	Polka D. J. / Promoter	Dubois, Pa.
9	Bob Zielinski	1948 8/23/14	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Toledo, Ohio
10	Pan Franek Piotrowski	1955	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Mich.
11	Eddie Slomkowski		Polka D. J.	South Carolina
13	William Binkiewicz	1963	Bandleader / Musician	Ohio.
15	Darrell Weltin		Bandleader / Musician (New Brass Express)	Mich.
17	Frank Gibala	1943	Musician / Vocalist (Bell-Hops & Versa Js)	Pa..
17	Dennis Motyka	1950	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
18	Ray Budzilek, Jr.	1960	Musician (Drummer)	Cleveland
18	Michael Biela	1987	Polka D. J. / Promoter	Wheeling W.Virg. /Ohio
19	Johnny Bomba	1921	Bandleader / Musician	Chicago
19	Tom Goldyn	1955	Musician / Vocalist (Special Delivery)	Buffalo, N.Y.
20	Chet "Hoot" Filipiak	1929 11/1/14	Musician (Hi-Notes / Marion Lush Band)	Chicago.
23	Ken Bartkowiak		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Indiana
25	Kristine Piotrowski		Musician / Vocalist	Mich.
27	Alicia Yesenowski	1933 11/12/11	Polka D.J. / Promoter	Central City, Pa.
27	Helga Leonard		Polka Tour Guide	Pa.
27	Gary Rhamy		Recording Engineer / DJ	Youngstown
28	John Huchrowski	1927 9/3/16	Musician (Violin) / Vocalist	Pa.
28	Lynn Richnafsky		Polka DJ	Uniontown, Pa.
29	Judy Spitak	2/6/09	Polka Promoter / Columnist	Pa.

Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

2-5 (727) 868-9763

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to:
ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2

- Dennis Polisky. PNI Club. Worcester, Mass. 5-9. (508) 361-2860
- NuTones. New Orleans Party Center. Brecksville, Ohio. 6-12. (440) 526-3357
- ATM Band W/John Gora. Pizza Siena. Greensburg, Pa. (724) 837-7750
- Mike Surratt. White Rose. York, Pa. 7-11. (716) 848-5369
- DynaBrass. Roselawn Banquets. New York Mills, N.Y. 5-9 (315) 736-5030

DECEMBER 3

- Special Delivery. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca, N.Y. 5-8. (716) 768-3246
- DynaBrass. PACS. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- Jimmy Kilian. Lone Tree Manor. Niles, Ill. 1-4. (847) 588-2106
- Eddie Forman. Polish Cultural Foundation. Clark, N.J. 2-6 (732) 382-7197
- Northern Lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Sounds of The South. Polish Club. St. Pete, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PACS. Hudson, Fla.

DECEMBER 9

- John Gora. Polish Falcons. Depew, N.Y. (716) 684-2373
- George Tarasek. Monaghan Twp Fire Hall. Dillsburgh, Pa. 7-11. (717) 458-5286

DECEMBER 10

- Nickel City Express. Pulaski Club. Phoenix. Az. 3-6. (602) 275-9329
- Eddie Forman PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- Joe Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 472-1152
- Ray Jay. Slovenian Hall. Yukon, Pa. (724) 722-9700
- Northern Sounds. Polish Club. Belview, Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Jeanne Music. PACS Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

DECEMBER 16

- Koledy Sing-Along. Special Delivery and Ted Zdybal i Hyr, Gorale musicians from Toronto. Potts Banquet Hall. Buffalo, N.Y. (716) 668-9101
- New Direction Band. Broadway Market. Buffalo, N.Y. 12-3. (716) 893-0705

DECEMBER 17

- Dennis Polisky. St. Joseph Polish Society. Colchester, Conn. 1-6. (860)

537-2550

- Ray Jay. Roosevelt Hall. Mt. Pleasant, Pa. (724) 861-5872
- Mollie & Ted Squeezebox. VFW. Dearborn Heights, Mich. 2-6. (734) 422-1901
- Joe Oberaitis. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Jeannie Music. PACS. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
- Nu Soundz. Polish Club. St. Pete, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908

DECEMBER 31

- John Gora. Polish Hall. Burlington. Ont. (905) 639-3236
- Honky Express. Concertina All Stars. Eddie Biegaj. Millenium Hotel, Buffalo. (800) 323-3331.
- DynaBrass. Slovenian Hall. Yukon, Pa. 8:30-12:30. (724) 722-9700
- Oscar DJ. Polish Club. Belview, Fla. 8:30-12:30. (352) 245-9378
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 8:30-12:30 (386) 258-7059
- Jeannie Music. PACS. Hudson, Fla. Evening. (727) 868-9763

JANUARY 1, 2018

- Dennis Polisky / Eddie Forman. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-7. (413) 567-1961
- DynaBrass. K Pulaski Club. New Castle, Pa. 2-6. (724) 658-6221

10 Questions With ...

Ania Piowarczyk

1. What is your first memory of polka music?

I was familiar with the traditional Polish polkas from the age of 5, when I began taking music lessons. However, my first intro to "Polka Music" was when I first heard Eddie B while on a trip to Chicago.

2. What was the last book you read?

Believe it or not: *The Count of Monte Cristo!* I have read that novel several times!

3. What are your three favorite movies?

Fiddler on the Roof, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. There are others, but these I can watch over and over.

4. Spring, summer, fall, or winter?

Fall.

5. Besides polkas, what do you listen to?

Latin music and Gypsy music.

6. What historical figure would you like to spend a day with?

Cleopatra.

7. If shipwrecked on an island, what would you like an endless supply of?

Water.



Ania Piowarczyk's enthusiasm lights up an audience when she takes the stage. While known primarily as a vocalist, she is also an accomplished accordionist.

8. Where is your best place to relax?

In the bathtub!

9. What one thing — that no one knows about — are you afraid of?

Darkness.

10. What one thing about you would surprise polka fans?

That basically, I am quite a shy person — except when I am on stage!

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Polka Musicians: Share a little bit about yourself with your fans! Send your answers to these questions to: info@polamjournal.com. Responses are printed in the order received. Please provide photo.

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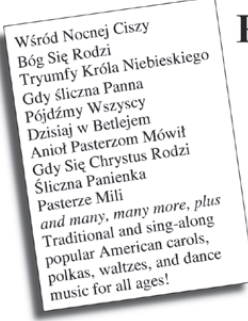
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Polonian Places

Spirits of Christmas Past

by Gregory L. Witul

WHITE EAGLE BREWING COMPANY
3757 South Racine Ave.
Chicago, Illinois
Status: Lost

There are some bare essentials that every Wigilia table has this time of year, mushroom soup, pierogi, sauerkraut, a fish dish, a basket of opłatki, and a bucket of beer on ice. Between microbreweries recreating old world flavors and the availability of imported beer from Poland, getting an Eastern European style beer has never been easier. But for a half century, if a Pole from Chicago wanted a taste of home there was only one place to go, the White Eagle Brewing Company in the city's Bridgeport neighborhood.

Poles had been living in Chicago for over 50 years when John, Francis, and Adam Czaja along with Bernard and Anna Maciejewski incorporated The White Eagle Brewery, Nov. 21, 1899. In January of the next year the company set up its plant in the rear of the Pulaski Hall on Ashland Ave. The Czaja and Maciejewski's ownership of the White Eagle would be short lived with a consortium of saloon owners taking over the enterprise by the end of 1901. In time the White Eagle would take over the Pulaski Hall and make it into a brewery-sponsored dancehall, which in 1907 would be severely damaged by fire along with the

brewery.

In 1909, both founders of the Illinois Brewing and Malting Company, Arnold Henn and Joseph Gabler passed away. The widows of the men had little interest in running a brewery and struck a deal with Leonard Rutkowski, president of the White Eagle Brewery, to sell their entire operation for \$25,000 cash and \$75,000 from a bond sale.

The White Eagle's new facility could handle 60,000 barrels a year and propelled the brand from a strong local brewer to a powerhouse in Chicago. To put their own signature on the property, they hired famed architect John S. Flizikowski to add a building to the campus.

With vastly more space, the brewery added a number of labels to their selection. Besides having popular styles of beer like their *Our Pride Pilsner*, *Bock Beer*, *Bavarian Style*, *Salvador*, and *Christmas Brew*, White Eagle also created some distinctly Polish labels including, *Chopin Malt*, *Piwo*,



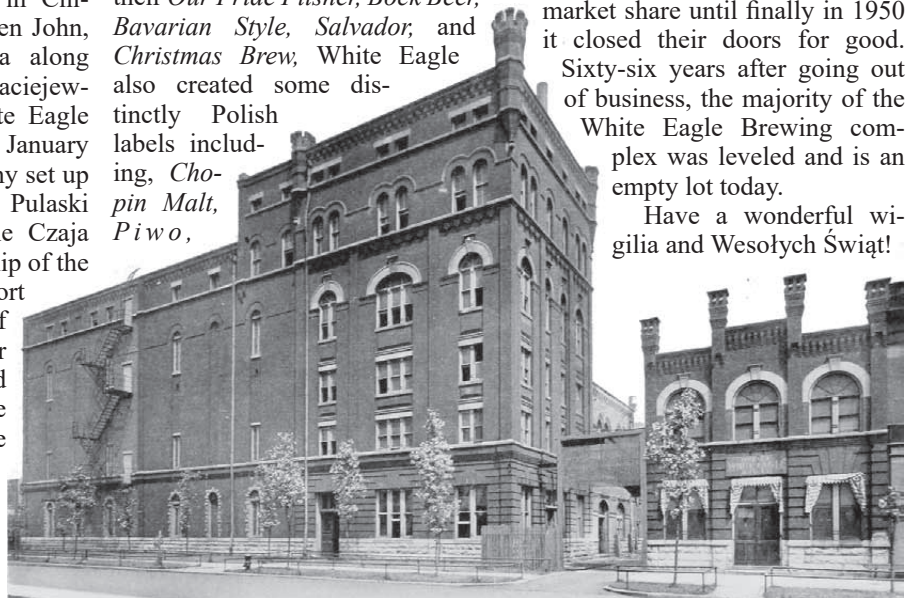
and the *White Eagle Lager*.

By 1917 the company had 140 saloonkeeper stockholders and the firm was valued at over a half a million dollars. While the advent of Prohibition shuttered many breweries, it had no effect on the White Eagle as they got into the bootlegging business. Despite being raided a few times and paying a number of fines, the White Eagle brewed all through Prohibition under the name Mid-West Products Co.

With the end of Prohibition, the White Eagle began brewing legally again and with the Second World War started targeting their beers to the Lithuanian community of Chicago. After the end of the war, Poles began to move out of the city and into surrounding communities. No longer able to appeal to the Poles as a single group, the White Eagle Brewing Company began to lose market share until finally in 1950 it closed their doors for good.

Sixty-six years after going out of business, the majority of the White Eagle Brewing complex was leveled and is an empty lot today.

Have a wonderful wigilia and Wesolych Świąt!



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Warren Woods Community Auditorium, Warren, MI
www.liraensemble.org - phone (800) 547-5472

Saturday, December 9, 2017 - 7:30pm
Center for the Arts, University at Buffalo
www.ubcfa.org/tickets - phone (877) 987-6487



*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 2018.



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