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COACH K:
"BE AS TOUGH AS
YOUR MOTHERS"
PAGE 15

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

WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT BOŻEGO NARODZENIA

Newsmark

LIBERALS KEEP CONTROL IN BIG CITIES. Poland's ruling conservative Law and Justice (PiS) won the most seats (254) in the country's 16 regional assemblies, while the opposition liberal Citizens Coalition obtained 194 and the rural-based Polish People's Party – only 70.

Law and Justice appeals to those in poor and rural communities where its generous social policies, anti-immigrant sentiment, skepticism of the European Union, and message of national pride steeped in conservative values resonate most. Its lost ground in the more liberal, pro-European electorate, major cities including Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Gdansk, Lodz, and other in urban areas.

Commentators say the difference will be reflected in next year's parliamentary elections.

TO COMPLY WITH EU COURT ORDER. Poland's Conservative government has indicated it will comply with a European Union's Court of Justice (ECJ) order to suspend the forced retirement of Supreme Court judges at age 65. That was part of a reform designed to rid Poland's courts of communist-era judges, some of whom had sent Solidarity activists to prison under the Soviet-backed regime. By failing to comply with the ruling, Warsaw could run the risk of losing its vote in the EU and seeing its financial aid slashed.

MASSIVE MILITARY DRILLS HELD. Large-scale military drills involving thousands of troops got underway in Poland in November. The Anakonda-18 drills are the largest military exercises in the country this year, bringing together troops from Poland and nine other NATO member states. Soldiers are practicing defense tasks, such as recognition of and response to hybrid threats, public broadcaster Polish Radio's IAR news agency has reported.

About 12,500 troops are training across Poland. Another 5,000 are conducting drills in neighboring Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

The Anakonda exercises are held every two years. This year's drills will run until December 6.

WINKOWSKI IS TOP BRITISH YOUNG CHEF. Kuba Winkowski, head chef at the Fathered Nest Inn in south-central England's Cotswold district, has been named Britain's "Young Chef of the Year." After receiving a financial-management degree in Poland, he went to England to pursue a life-long dream of becoming a chef.

"The main reason I wanted to become a chef was a love for food and eating," said Winkowski, who did internships at Buckingham Palace and the British Embassy in Paris.

COMPENSATION DUE. Workers, including Poles, who cleared rubble following the 9/11 terrorist stack on America were not informed about the health risks involved, Polish news site onet.pl reported recently. Working in the toxic environment caused cancer as well as gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases. Workers who contracted cancer may be entitled to up to \$250,000 while others could receive up to \$90,000 in compensation, the portal said, adding that further compensation could be paid out if they were unable to work as a result of their illness.

Thousands of Poles have already been compensated, but American lawyers are searching for others who may be unaware that they are entitled to compensation.

AMBASSADOR OPPOSES VISA REQUIREMENT. Georgette Mosbacher, America's ambassador to Warsaw, told news portal onet.pl making visa-free U.S. travel possible for Poles was one of her priorities as ambassador. But Mosbacher was expressing her own private opinion which has no bearing on the existing visa requirement. To qualify, a country's visa application refusal rate would have to fall below America's 3% threshold, a U.S. consul said earlier this year. According to the U.S. State Department, American consulates in Warsaw and Kraków last year rejected 5.9% of visa applications submitted by Poles, while in 2016 they rejected a record-low 5.37%.



Forgotten Christmas Decorations

What Was In Poland Before The Christmas Tree

by Staś Kmieć

Today, we cannot imagine Christmas without a Christmas tree. The most beautiful examples stand in shopping malls, in city squares and in the homes of many "traditionalists" – who visit with their cherished ornaments each year. Huge, full of glittering decorations and lights, today this custom reminds us early on about the upcoming holidays, and of course Christmas shopping – for it is under the tree that we find gifts on Christmas Day. However, this is not a native tradition of Poland. So what was in Polish homes before the Christmas tree appeared?

Last year, American media and the internet

see "Forgotten Christmas Decorations," page 3

Chicago Airport Tower Dedicated to Aviation Safety Advocate Roman Pucinski

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The City of Chicago named the O'Hare Ground Control Tower in honor of Roman C. Pucinski in a ceremony held at the airport. It is O'Hare's oldest tower, located next to the O'Hare Hilton. The dedication began with welcoming remarks by Jamie

see "Pucinski," page 8



Judge Pucinski in front of O'Hare Airport tower named in honor of her father and late congressman.

Centennial Marked with Parades, Ceremonies

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Despite opposition attempts to ban or disrupt it, a parade of a quarter-of-a-million Poles waved Polish flags as they marched through the streets of Warsaw to mark the 100th anniversary of their country's re-emergence. Thousands of Polish families, young marrieds with babies, war veterans, high school and university students, boy and girl scouts, ordinary Poles full of patriotic pride joyfully celebrated this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Warsaw Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz banned the march, but a court order overturned her decision. President Andrzej Duda saved the day by proclaiming the parade an official state event and putting the government in charge.

Poland's Secret Service turned back some 400 potential trouble-makers. Although major media reports focused on antagonists (someone burned a European Union flag and a few nationalist banners appeared), the vast flowing sea of Polish flag-waving humanity hardly noticed such marginal goings-on.

THE WORLD JOINS CELEBRATION. Among the shared observances world-

wide was the reading of the first diplomatic letter issued in independent Poland 100 years ago. In the letter, statesman Józef Piłsudski — who is considered the father of Poland's independence — said he was the chief commander of Poland's armed forces and that he wanted "to notify governments and countries about the existence of an independent Polish state."



The letter was sent on November 16, 1918, to the president of the United States and to the governments of Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and Germany.

People from those same countries read the letter on November 11, 2018, exactly 100 years since Piłsudski arrived in Warsaw after being held prisoner in Germany.

Other centennial observances included recognition from the Vatican. A letter from Pope Francis was read during Masses in Poland.


Celebrations were held in Belarus, where politicians, businessmen, artists and members of the local Polish community gathered for a party at the National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Minsk.

The Polish embassy in Beijing marked Poland's centennial with a concert of music by Paderewski and Fryderyk Chopin.

London held two concerts, one at Royal Festival Hall, the other at Royal Albert Hall, both marking the Polish anniversary. The first event featured music by Krzysztof Penderecki and patriotic Polish pieces. The concert at Royal Albert Hall, entitled "Sto Lat" ("One hundred years), saw patriotic and folk music intertwined with that of Paderewski and Chopin.

Chicago saw 1,918 people take part in a 10-kilometre run. The city, which hosts the largest Polish population outside of Poland, also saw Masses and concerts celebrating Independence Day. Anniversary events were held across American Polonia, including dinners, performances by Polish dance groups, concerts, and exhibits.


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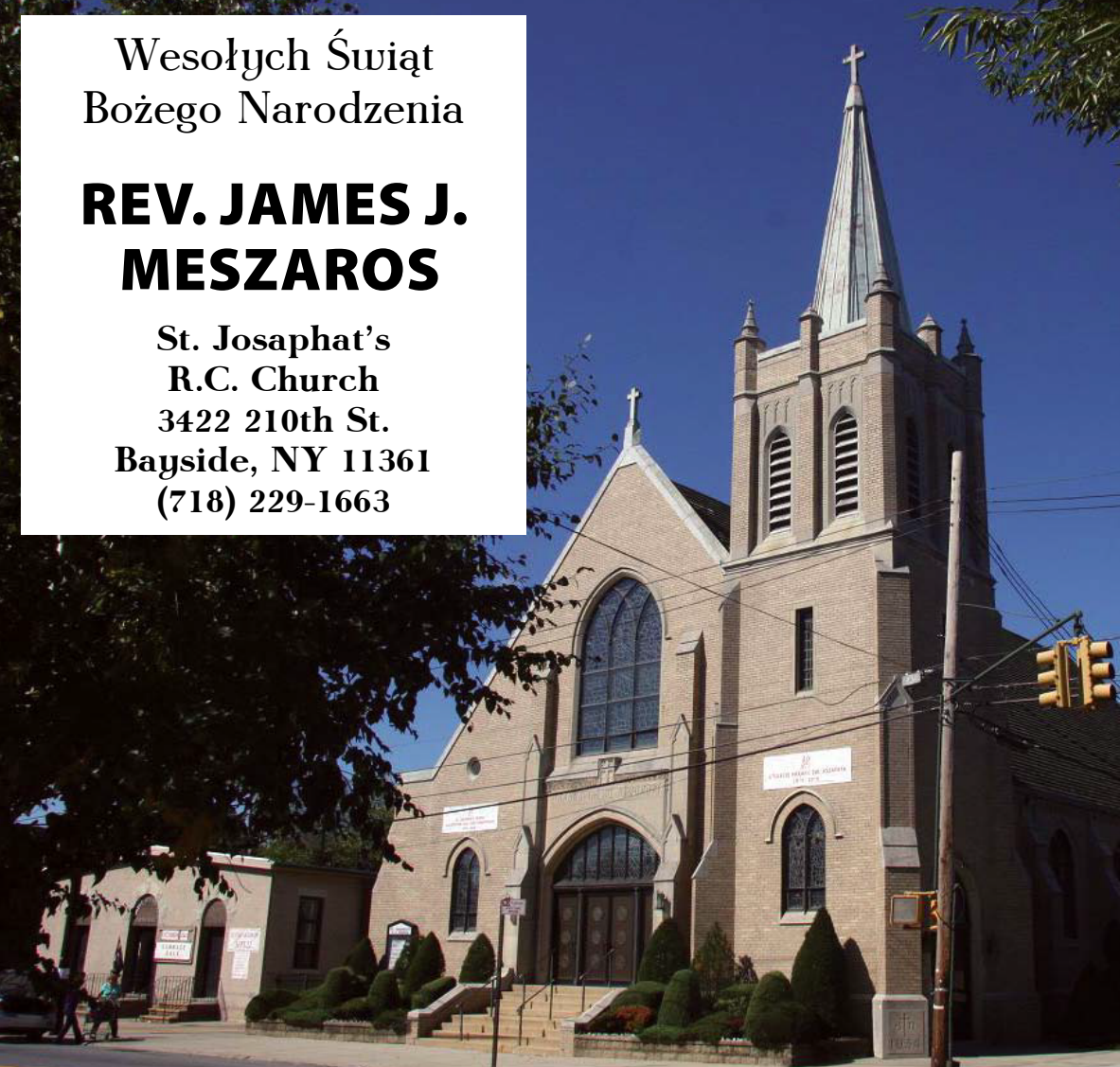
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Christmas Message

Birth of Jesus Brings Light to Earth's Darkness

Echoes from the past ring true today

Eighty-seven years ago, Fr. Justin Figas, OFM Conv., shared this message with his listeners on the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*:

"Let us turn back the pages of history to two thousand years ago. We will see a bleak, sad and painful image. This is the time that the prophet decried 'darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples.' The whole world succumbed to a pagan darkness, faith in the true God disappeared, and nations bowed down before gods and goddesses created by the darkened minds of the pagan wise men."

This holds true today as well: the pedophile scandal plaguing the Roman Catholic Church; unimagined polarity between Democrats and Republicans; and the murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh are but a few examples.

"Truly darkness was over the earth," said Fr. Justin, "and the earth walked in the shadows! Here and there, however, there were noble souls, such as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle who tried to raise the people from the darkness and above the level of depravity and immorality they had sunk into; but to no avail."

It was, according to Fr. Justin, a "time when darkness ruled the world, it was a cold and repulsive night."

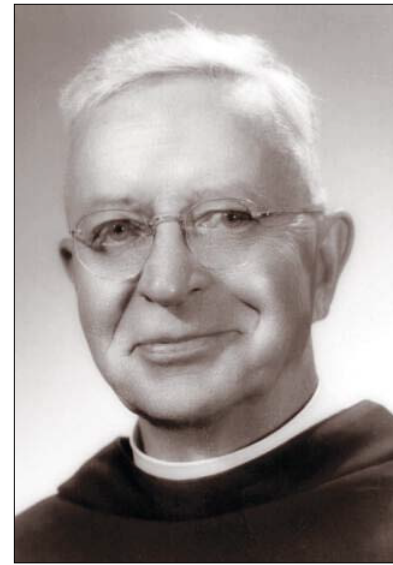
But, as he points out, "during such a night two thousand years ago in tiny Bethlehem, a miracle happened ... an incomprehensible and amazing miracle. A child, the Son of God and our Savior, was born."

Fr. Justin urged his listeners to follow him "in spirit towards that destitute stable ... in which lies the Savior and Teacher of nations, Supreme Wisdom and Preacher of God's Teaching, hidden in the form of a helpless child."

It is there, "He will say to us: 'My beloved people, I am the Lord your God; I am the Creator of heaven and earth, and in spite of this I am not only your friend, but also your

brother. I come to you, taking on a human body with all its weaknesses; I will suffer with you as I have already suffered here in the stable among cattle. Love for you has compelled me to leave the heavens, to come to the earth. This same love will nail me to the cross! I beg you only to love me, to listen to me and to want to follow my example!"

"Our times," said Fr. Justin "are



"Our times," said Fr. Justin "are similar to the time before the coming of Our Savior."

similar to the time before the coming of Our Savior. Darkness reigns; strange rules and vicious theories are proclaimed. Human minds go astray and claim to look for the truth, but instead spread errors and untruths. Faith in the real God is disappearing, and lack of faith and paganism spread far and wide. The deterioration of customs, breaking not only the laws of God but also natural laws under the cover of progress, and false education excites and enslaves human minds. Two thousand years ago decadence, exploitation, power and violence reigned. A child, a woman, a laborer, the sick and the poor were all condemned to a sad, difficult and painful fate.

"Today decadence is called the freedom of speech and deed! Today the exploitation of male and female

workers is practiced the world over. Power and violence sit on their thrones. Two thousand years ago, children were thrown away onto the street or garbage piles to die of hunger; today already in their mothers' wombs they are poisoned or murdered other ways. Two thousand years ago a pagan philosopher and wise man wrote: "A laborer does not deserve to be called a citizen, as he has no nobility of disposition and is no different from slaves." And today? Merciless employers earn colossal fortunes not only thanks to the sweat but even the blood of laborers. They are treated without mercy or justice. A poor laborer is treated as a tool for the employer's own personal goals and benefit!"

"What is the cure for all of this evil which has taken over the world?" asked Fr. Justin. He quoted Pope Pius XI, who wrote: "may society [...] return to our loving Savior!" Or as Pope Leon XII wrote: "It will at length be possible that our many wounds be healed and all justice spring forth again with the hope of restored authority; that the splendors of peace be renewed, and swords and arms drop from the hand when all men shall acknowledge the empire of Christ and willingly obey His word."

In a few weeks the whole world will celebrate the remembrance of the coming of the Savior – may the whole world wish to quickly return to the Savior – may all the nations unanimously sing: "Glory to God in the highest" and angelic choirs sing "and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased!" to the tired and pained world!

On the eve of Christmas, Polish families exchange Christmas wafers and give each other their best wishes! Today, the staff of the Polish American Journal would like to do the same. In spirit, we exchange wafers with you, your families, and friends. A merry, happy blessed Christmas to all.

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

REV. MSGR. ANDREW L. SZAROLETA, KCHS

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Forgotten Christmas Decorations

continued from cover

wondered if 2017 was the year when Christmas was turned upside down, as an Old-World Polish tradition came into the forefront in a different way. In Poland, there has been a renaissance in some circles to rediscover the long-forgotten art of folk ornaments, and the creation of decorations from *oplatek* wafers has been experiencing a revival, as well ... and what was old is now new again.

THE ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people during winter. In the same manner that we decorate our homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient people hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. It was believed that evergreens would keep away evil spirits, and illness.

The tradition of dressing a Christmas tree came to us from Alsace, the historical region and former region in northeastern France on the Rhine River plain. Bordering Germany and Switzerland, it has alternated between German and French control over the centuries and reflects a mix of those cultures.

A well-established tradition in Alsace for over 5 centuries, it was in the town of Sélestat, on the 21st December 1521 that a decorated Christmas tree was mentioned for the first time in history. The records reference four schillings, which were given to forest rangers to watch over trees on Christmas Day in order to protect its woods from being ruined by the locals who wished to decorate their Christmas tree. The inhabitants of Sélestat adorned the whole tree – which was hung from the ceiling – starting a new custom called “sapin de Noël” or “arbre de Noël,” that would continue throughout the centuries.

Displaying upside down may date back to the 7th century. Legend has it that Boniface, a Benedictine monk, used the triangular shape of a fir tree to explain the Holy Trinity to pagans in Germany. The shape also recalled that of Jesus’s crucifixion, and the tradition continued in Central and Eastern Europe into the 12th century.

Ethnographers distinguished three Christmas decorations on the basis of their attributed meanings, which are considered to be the predecessor of the “Christmas tree,” as we now know it. *Podłaźniczka* and *Światy* are indigenous Polish ornaments, while *Pająki* are a decoration found all over the world, even in traditional cultures of America and Australia.

Old Slavic customs survived in the symbolism of holidays or rituals. The church fought against the old pagan customs, but they were very strongly rooted and often transformed into customs associated with Catholic holidays.

“DIDUCH” – KEEPING OUR ANCESTORS NEAR. During pagan times, it was believed that the winter solstice is a special time when the boundaries between the worlds of the living and the dead, *sacrum* and *profanum*, between the village and the forest, and even between the village and the cemetery are blurred.

In the village, it was an old-fashioned custom to decorate the houses with cereal sheaves of wheat, rye, barley and oats for Christmas time. *Diduch* (also known as *Dziad*) was an early decoration – literally meaning “grandfather.” In the

East Slavic tradition, it was the first grains mowed during the harvest season. During the Christmas season (in pagan times during the Feast of *Gody*), it was set up in the eastern corner of the room, standing upward; other times it is placed in each of the four corners of the room. Over time, it was decorated – mostly with apples, nuts and dried

ornamentation and feathers.

Perhaps the most elaborate and effective decoration, it has the largest number of various forms, shapes and structural differences. There are *pająki* reminiscent of a chandelier, canopy or star. Their shape depends on the region and is influenced by church and local artistic industry.

The straw had to come from the



Last year, social and news media was abuzz about upside-down trees, with some calling it a politically correct war on Christian traditions. A spirited dialogue about this old-form decoration arose on a Polish cultural Facebook site, calling it “not Catholic,” “sacrilegious” and “non-Polish.” Above: A *podłaźniczka* on display in an 18th-century cottage at Poland’s Radom Village Museum.

flowers. Symbolically, it would guarantee a good harvest in the next season and invoke a watchful spirit to protect against evil powers.

Originally, *Diduch* was associated primarily with the cult of ancestors. Meaning as much as “grandfather,” it was placed near the table, so that the deceased ancestors would be able to feast with their family. For 12 nights it was kept at home until the end of the festivities of the Bountiful (after Epiphany), the grains were extracted and ritually burned. Looking at today’s liturgical calendar, one can say that *Diduch* stood in the room approximately from Christmas Eve to Three Kings Day.

A SPIDER’S CHANDELIER. Before decorated trees made an appearance, in the rural confines of the Old Poland, there were mobiles (*pająki*) suspended from the ceiling. The word means “spiders,” as they resemble the delicate, intricate design of a web. The mobile was originally made of the best grains from the harvest; later it was made of straw reeds decorated with paper

last harvesting sheaf that had been brought home and laid in a corner where it had been year-round. Over time, this straw took on an increasingly decorative form, until *pająki* were developed.

In the traditional meaning, the Polish *pająki* were working similarly to the “dream catchers” known from the Native American cultures. Intricate designs were created to maintain the vegetative cycle and ensure fertility the following year. An extremely important element was a cross made of straw placed in a central place. Its meaning, however, is not related to the Christian religion, but to the pagan custom of enchanting crops in the fields and protecting them from evil. It is also a form of protection against evil spirits, diseases and witches.

GREEN AT THE CEILING – THE FIR TREE ENTERS THE HOME. Originating in pre-Christian times, the antecedent and ancient Polish custom was to hang the topmost part of a spruce tree upside down from the ceiling rafters, resembling a *pająk*-chandelier, and to then deco-

rate doorways and walls with separate boughs from the remainder of the tree. Sermon texts dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries referred to this use of the tree as a pagan rite. Unable to halt the growing trend, the church then reinterpreted the tree as a “paradise tree,” thus adopting the custom into church ceremony.

Referred to as *podłaźniczka* or *podłaźnik* (from *pod łazem/pod łasem*), it was also known as *jutka*, *sad rajski* (orchard paradise), *Boże drzewko* (God’s tree or divine tree), or *wiecha* (wisp) in the south and *gaj* (grove) in the central regions, the first trees were adorned in a minimalistic manner with apples, walnuts and unblessed round communion hosts. *Podłaźnik* is a term for a young man carrying an evergreen branch, who wishes people good luck at Christmas and New Year.

In pre-Christian tradition, an evergreen tree was considered a symbol of life and rebirth, continuity and fertility. Similarly, the ornaments hanged on it had their meaning. The apples were a reminder of Adam and Eve’s fall of grace, and wafer hosts reminded them of faith. Temptation and redemption – side by side in a perfect décor. The nut was closely related to erotic life – connecting marriage and bringing love. Later interpretations were that apples also symbolized vegetation, health and beauty, in the Christian meaning – the “heavenly tree of knowledge” or the “tree of life,” and nuts would bring prosperity, wisdom, patience, abundance; and strength.

Podłaźniczki are a regional tradition, because it occurred mainly in the southern part of today’s Poland. The range included Śląsk, Kraków, Sącz, Pogórze, Rzeszów and Podhale, reaching all the way to the San River.

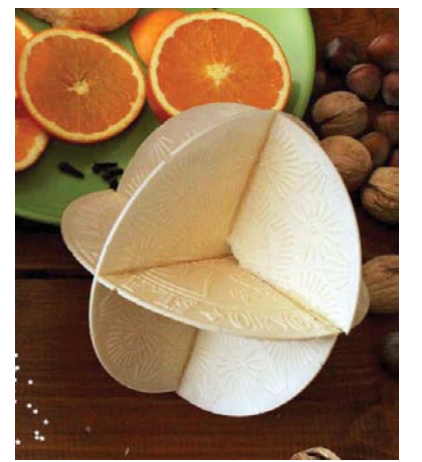
All the decorations would be prepared long before Christmas – but according to the tradition they could not be hanged in the house sooner than on the day of *Wigilia* (Christmas Vigil) – December 24th or else they would bring bad luck to the household as a sign of excessive haste. The decorations could stay even into February, as the custom was only to remove them before Ash Wednesday. Both the *podłaźniczka* and the *pająk* should be prepared fresh each year and burned before the next autumn.

Ornamentation made by hand and from everyday items evolved to include creations of colored tis-

sue, paper, shiny foil wrappers, ribbons, straw, and decorated egg shells. They were often illuminated by *stoczki* (thin wax candles or in the form of a ball). Strings of peas or garland chains (*łańcuchy*) of paper, wood carvings or alternating straw with tissue paper fans would cascade along the edges – giving a chandelier effect. The *łańcuchy* were originally a symbol of the biblical serpent, but later of family ties. During the partitions it became a national representation of oppression and was called the “captivity chain.”

As a symbol of the miracle of birth, blown eggs became a popular decoration. Drained of its contents, the eggs become the base for pitchers, doves, roosters, and angels. Candles would protect against darkness and evil and were a link to the “other world.” Fruit, gingerbread, honey-spice *pierniki* cookies, and wrapped candies were particular attractions for the children.

Documentation from the early 19th century indicates that in villages, blossoming twigs of apple, cherry or hazel trees also functioned as *podłaźniczki*. Caroling with a



Światy (world spheres) or *Wilijki* made from *oplatek* wafers appeared in Poland in the 19th century and actually only in Poland. In no other country, are wafer ornaments to be found as Christmas decorations.

podłaźniczka was also practiced in southern Poland. In Kraków, it was called *sad* (orchard) and was a form of courtship. When a boy was interested in a girl, would visit her home, break an apple from the “orchard” and eat the apple. The girl’s consent meant that they were moving towards marriage.

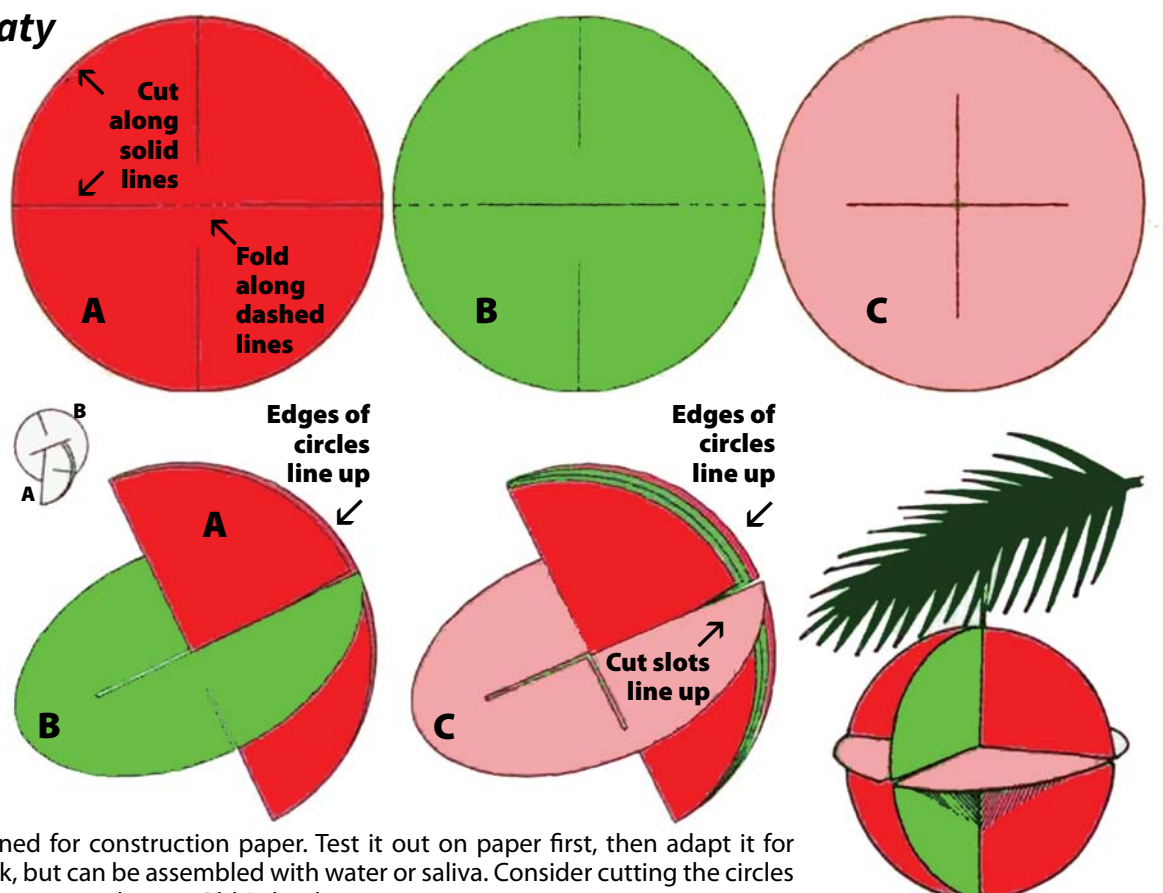
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Making Your Own Światy

MATERIALS. oplatek wafer, styrofoam plate or construction paper; scissors, needle and thread

INSTRUCTIONS

1. On paper, trace circles A, B and C, including the cut lines – to make a tracing pattern as a guide.
2. Cut the circles out of water, styrofoam, or construction paper. Each circle can be a different color. Cut along the indicated cut lines.
3. Fold circle A in half and insert through the center slot of circle B. Unfold circle A.
4. Fold circles A and B, so that the cut slots line up. Insert the two folded circles through circle C.
5. Gently unfold the circles and “lock” them into place as they make a ball. To make a hanging loop, bring a needle and thread through the edge of one of the circles.



Note: These instructions were designed for construction paper. Test it out on paper first, then adapt it for wafer or styrofoam. Oplatek will break, but can be assembled with water or saliva. Consider cutting the circles in halves and quarters and assembling, as was done in Old Poland.

Almanac

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December  Grudzień

W dzień Bożego narodzenia radość wszystkiego stworzenia: ptaszki do szopy zlatują, Jezusowi przyspiewują, przyspiewują.

*Christmas morning,
All of creation rejoice!
Birds flock to the stable,
to serenade the newborn Child.
— Polish hymn and carol from
Carmelite Hymnal of 1767.*

- 1 1873. Founding of the **Polish Roman Catholic Union**.
- 3 1899. Founding of the **Polish Beneficial Association**, Philadelphia.
1854. About 800 Polish settlers arrive in Galveston, Texas after a nine-week voyage.
- 4 **ST. BARBARA**
- 5 1867. Birth of **Josef Pilsudski**, post-World War I leader of a free Poland.
- 6 **ST. NICHOLAS**
- 7 1279. Death of **Bolesław V the Chaste**
- 8 **Lech Walesa** elected president of Poland.
- 11 1949. **Johnny Lujack** of the Chicago Bears passed for 468 yards and six touchdowns in a 52-21 rout of the Chicago Cardinals.
- 12 1981. Martial Law enacted, restricting civil rights and suspending Solidarity union.
- 14 1980. NATO warns Soviets to stay out of the internal affairs of Poland.
- 15 1575. Election of **Stefan Batory**, considered one of the greatest elected kings of Poland.
- 16 1922. Assassination of free Poland's first president **Gabriel Narutowicz**.
- 18 1929. Birth of **Cardinal Jozef Glemp**.
- 19 1852. Birth of Polish Jewish scientist **A.A. Michelson**, 1907 Nobel Prize winner in Physics..
- 21 **ST. THOMAS**
1898. **Marie**, 31, and **Pierre Curie**, Polish and French chemists, discover radium.
- 22 1922. **Stanisław Wojciechowski** elected the second President of the Republic of Poland.
- 23 **ST. JOHN KANTY (CANTIUS)**, 1473. 1925. Founding of the **Kosciuszko Foundation**.
- 24 **DZIEŃ WIGILIJNY**
1854. About 100 families from Upper Silesia arrive in **Panna Maria, Texas** to establish the first permanent Polish settlement in the United States. Fr. Leopold Moczygomba holds Midnight Mass under a large oak tree that still stands today.
- 25 **BOŻE NARODZENIE**
- According to Polish tradition, the 12 days of Christmas predict the weather for next 12 months.*
1025. Coronation of **Mieszko II Lambert**
1745. Prussia and Austria signed the Treaty of Dresden. This gave much of Silesia to the Prussians.
- 26 **ST. STEPHEN**
- Na Święty Szczepan, każdy sobie pan.
On St. Stephen's Day,
everyone is master.*
1655. Swedes withdraw from Poland.
- 27 1587. Coronation of **Sigismund III Waza**
- 30 1994. Consecration of **Bishop John W. Yanta, D.D.**, at Panna Maria.
- 31 **ST. SYLVESTER**
- Please do not drink and drive.

This and That About a Polish Christmas

by Kaya Mirecka Ploss

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

Many Christmas carols speak about the Star of Bethlehem. Every Crèche is decorated with a star that supposedly appeared over Bethlehem, which guided the Three Kings, also known as the Magi. In Polish folklore, the star guided Polish shepherds to Bethlehem.

Was there really a star of Bethlehem, or is it only a nice little fairy tale? Was there really a celestial event that lured the Magi to Bethlehem? Was there a star bright and shiny that frightened King Herod to the point that he ordered young children killed to eliminate a newborn prince. For centuries, theologians, astronomers, and scientists have speculated on the Star of Bethlehem. For centuries they have tried to identify that celestial event that signaled the birth of the Messiah.

TODAY'S CHRISTMAS SCENE as we know it came rather late to the United States. Almost every Christmas tradition was introduced to this country by a different group of immigrants.

German immigrants in Lancaster, Pennsylvania first used a Christmas tree in this country in 1822. Mistletoe came from England, poinsettias from France. **Bohemians** who settled in Bethabara and Salem, North Carolina and Bethlehem in Pennsylvania have introduced the Christmas wreath and the practice of decorating doors and windows. The Bohemians also brought the Christmas cookie, though it was a German invention. The first Christmas cookies were baked in Nuremberg, Germany, but the second country in Europe where traditional Christmas cookies were baked with

honey and exotic spices is **Poland**. The nuns of the St. Katherine order in Torun baked them. The convent no longer exists, but Torun is still the place where most of the Christmas cookies in Poland are produced. In memory of the St. Katherine nuns, we call the cookies from Torun Katarzynki.

A MULTIBILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS. There was one Christmas event that has evolved into a multi-billion dollar tradition. In 1843 in London, England, Sir Henry Cole introduced the first Christmas card. It proved to be an instant sensation. Surprisingly, it took thirty years for the tradition to arrive in America, when a printer from **Silesia**, Louis Prang, introduced Christmas card to America. It proved to be an enormous and immediate success. Today, we can't imagine not receiving even one Christmas card with the words "Merry Christmas," or "Wesołych Świąt" blazing across the top.

THE ANGELS CHOIR. According to the St. Luke's Gospel, the first Christmas song was sung by angels. "Glory to God in the highest and on Earth Peace, goodwill towards Men," was the major refrain.

Many composers have since set those words, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," to Christmas music, yet every generation has produced its own style. These range from the religious exaltation of Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" to the tinsel-like and tuneful "White Christmas," by Irving Berlin. "Joy to the World" is one of the three oldest Christmas carols known in the United States. The other two are "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." All three of those carols came

from England. The first American Christmas carol was written by a Bostonian, Edmund H. Sears. The music was composed by Richard S. Willies. The carol is called "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." Some carols are religious, others are secular, and a few fall somewhere in between. Scholars divide them into four categories: Nativity, Annunciation, Epiphany, and Shepherds carols.

A POLONAISE BECOMES A CAROL. Every country has a beloved Christmas carol. The French have "Pour Bien Chanter Noel." The English sing about the "Good King Wenceslav." We in Poland have a carol that was first composed as a coronation Polonaise for King Władysław Waza in 1632. Two hundred and forty years later, the poet Franciszek Karpiński wrote the words to that Polonaise and it became known as "Bog Sie Rodzi, Moc Truchleje."

THERE IS ONLY ONE Christmas carol that is known throughout the world. It was composed high up in the Austrian Alps in 1818 by a village organist, Franz Gruber. Words to it were written by the village priest, Father Joseph Mohr. Neither one of them has written or composed anything before or since. Both died without knowing that their hastily written carol would be sung in every language the world over. The song? "Stille Nacht," known in Polish as "Cicha Noc," and in English as "Silent Night." Holy Night...

Hanna Kaya Mirecka Ploss, is a past present of the American Council Polish Culture, and a member and former officer of Washington, D.C.'s Polish American Arts Association.

Forgotten Christmas Decorations

continued from previous page

In villages, the custom survived until the 1920s and in some remote areas until World War II.

WORLD SPHERES FROM WAFERS. Round wafer hosts were hung as ornamentation early on, but *Świąty* (world spheres) or *Wilijki* made from *oplatek* wafers appeared in Poland in the 19th century and actually only in Poland. In no other country, are wafer ornaments to be found as Christmas decorations.

Oplatek was baked at churches and monasteries. Unleavened wheat dough was poured in specially prepared forms with Christmas motifs. The priest, organist or altar servers brought them around to the houses, extending good wishes, and receiving specialties or donations for the church in return. The custom of spreading wafers was a sign of sharing bread with the whole parish community. They symbolized reconciliation and brotherly love, and it was the popularity of these wafers that gave root to the idea of making colorful ornaments out of them.

Oplateki are generally white, but sometimes were colored (pink, green and yellow) with natural dyes such as beet juice. The "worlds" were made of these colorful and white wafers. Cut circles crossed each other to form spherical figures intricately folded and secured in place with natural glue – saliva, but you could use water. Similar to *pajaki*, "worlds" were hung on crossed sticks, so that they formed a chandelier and hung loosely from the ceiling, or above the table. They were supposed to protect against evil, and ensure happiness and prosperity in the coming year. It is a

forgotten ornament that is now experiencing a new interest in Poland. They can still be seen in ethnographic museums, where instructional classes are given in this folk art. While hanging, the family often prayed *Aniol Pański* (*Angelus*), *Ojciec Nasz* (Our Father) or *Zdrowaś Mario* (Hail Mary).

Today, *oplatki* have a rectangular shape rather than a circle, but can be carefully cut to shape.

Świąty symbolized power over the earth and the sky, which is related to pre-Christian beliefs in the power of the winter solstice. According to the researchers of folk culture, inspiration for them were the paintings and sculptures of Christ holding in his hand, a golden globe symbolizing the earth with the cross as a sign of divine power at the top.

In literature, the ornaments are mentioned in the work of Juliusz Słowacki, Henryk Sienkiewicz, and Władysław Reymont. Reymont paid particular attention to the "worlds" describing their beauty of form, their location in the interior, and the occasion of their display. Sienkiewicz wrote about the ornaments from the wafers in the novel *Potop* (The Deluge), and in a poetic novel in 10 songs.

Over time, simple forms with wafer — crosses, stars, suns, triangles, and crescents grew into large spatial compositions.

COUNTROVERSY OVER AN UPSIDE-DOWN TREE. Met with wonderment by some and disdain from others, the upside-down Christmas tree experienced much commentary on the internet and *Twitter* last year. Some were quick to comment — calling the craze impractical or even

disrespectful; others were quick to point out that the idea isn't exactly new, and in fact, these elevated evergreens actually go way back.

All this prompted me to finally make a *podłaźniczka* for *Wigilia* at my parents' home. My father helped to find a suitable tree from the back of the yard and devise the method to suspend it. Despite it being in full view, everyone seemed to hit their heads on it, and it was absolutely glorious in its elegant simplicity.

Artificial upside-down trees are now on sale everywhere from Walmart to Target to Home Depot to Wayfair. Most are in stands, with a few that can be hung or attached to the upper corner of a room.

Beyond its novelty, an upside-down tree has some definite advantages:

1. Hanging from the ceiling, it looks spectacular
2. It's a European tradition dating back to the 15th Century
3. Your ornaments will actually be visible — bringing more bulbs to eye level
4. The trees are safer for pets and children, who will be prevented from swiping or chewing at low-hanging ornaments
5. You save floor space and there will be more room for a bigger pile of presents.

Who could ever complain about that?

So, it turns out that an upside-down Christmas tree is not sacrilegious at all. In fact, it holds the same special meaning as an upright one. Between past traditions, myth, legend and childhood memories, the Christmas tree is for most of us the symbol of a holiday that brings together family — young and old.

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The **January 2019** edition will be mailed on or before **December 28, 2018**

Religion

Letters to the Editor

Cross Ordered removed from John Paul II Monument

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

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 Szydlo** 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.

CATHOLIC FUNERALS DENIED FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES.

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 that this 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

of have a Catholic burial if they died without showing signs of repentance.

BLUE ARMY VOLUNTEERS REMEMBERED. On the 100th anniversary of the departure of 147 volunteers from Detroit on October 15 to join Haller's Blue Army to fight in World War I for the freedom of Poland, a Mass was offered at St. Josaphat's Church in mid-town Detroit.

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. Fr. Doran noted "These three saints in particular encountered modernity with the full force of Christian love, sometimes in confrontation but also in invitation." He went on to note: "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 jailed 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 LATTO... 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. He 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 Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Williamsville, N.Y., on receiving the Venerable Nelson Baker Award for his work as advocate for young people and for devoting his time and attention to caring for and supporting youth in their faith journeys. Buffalo's Auxiliary Bishop **Edward Grosz** presented the award at the Youth Ministry Awards Banquet.

The "Spirit of St. Nicholas"

Dear Editor:

Earlier this year — thanks to the generosity of our donors to the annual "Spirit of St. Nicholas" charitable fundraiser — the disadvantaged children in Jaroslaw received a go-cart, swings, and a small riding car, on which the children spent many hours of fun.

They were also able to attend a trip to the zoo to see how many animals live in the wild, and also learn of nature.

Additionally, the director of the Children's Therapeutic Regional Learning Center in Jaroslaw was able to purchase clothes and shoes for the children.

Sr. **Agnieszka Konepelska** wrote that "the wonderful people who help to provide these gifts for the special children are remembered in our daily prayers for their special intentions."

The collective funds from our annual fundraiser also made a contribution possible to

provide Christmas gifts for some underprivileged children with minor disabilities (along with some adults.) They come from a poor parish (St. Florian's) in Stalowa Wola, in Poland. The pastor, Fr. **Marian Balicki**, dresses up as St. Nicholas, and hands out the gifts to the excitement of the community.

If you would like to make this Christmas special for these children, please make your check payable to: The Polish Heritage Fest Charity Fund. On the memo line write: "Spirit of St. Nicholas" or "Special Children with Special needs."

Mail to: The PHF Charity Fund, c/o Christine Jozwiak, PO Box 115, Springville, NY 14141-0115.

On behalf of these children and the Sisters who care for them, thank you for your continued support!

Christine Jozwiak
Springville, New York

Modlitwy

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Happenings: Chicago Style

Chopin Theatre Celebrates 100 Years

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

To mark the 100th anniversary of Wicker Park's Chopin Theatre in Chicago's Polish Triangle, owners of the Chopin Theatre, Lela Headd Dyrkacz and Zygmunt Dyrkacz, hosted a celebration on October 29. The event included artist talks, a dance party, and conversations with former and current Wicker Park arts organization leaders, along with the book release of "Around Chopin Theatre: Century in Pictures & Stories."

"We are excited to celebrate 100 years of the Chopin Theatre in the neighborhood," said Zygmunt. "We believe in transformative abilities of art and how art influences the environment through civility and experiences. Chopin Theatre is a platform from which others can tell their stories and the centennial celebration is a time to share the stories of Wicker Park's transformative years."

"We are so proud of being a part of Wicker Park during such an important time in Chicago's history," said Lela. "This 100-year celebration shows the power one building can have in keeping a community



Owners of the Chopin Theatre, Zygmunt Dyrkacz and Lela Headd Dyrkacz.

feeling like a community. We want to make sure we have that space for people to come together and connect in a real way."

Lela and Zygmunt started the celebration by holding activities in the downstairs Pregnant Buffalo Lounge. The "Made in Wicker Park" panel discussion involved leaders of arts organizations, Around the Coyote, Bop Shop, Chicago Latino Theater, and Guild Complex, who reflected on their former venues in Wicker Park, and what it would take for them to stay in Chicago. Daniel Theiler, award-winning German architect, discussed his vision for a fictitious luxury golf club in the large socialist housing complex in the former East Berlin.

The celebration continued with a complimentary reception, dinner, and dance party. It also included a reception in the theatre's Main Stage

for all the artists, technicians, and supporters of Chopin Theatre which featured a viewing of the anniversary photo album, "Around Chopin Theatre: A Century in Pictures & Stories." All of this was followed by a 100th anniversary champagne toast and the dance party with live bands and DJs.

The event was supported in part by the Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce (WPB SSA#33), Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, and Chopin Theatre Productions.

In 1990, Dyrkacz purchased the vacant 1918 historic Chopin Nickelodeon Theatre. Over the years, along with his wife Lela Headd, he continued to renovate the renamed Chopin Theatre. Zygmunt is still renovating the theatre with limited resources while making this unique venue available to many young Chicago theater companies, and presenting as many as 500 artistic events annually. He also continues to work enthusiastically to promote many sophisticated and challenging Polish and Central European cultural events.

PAA HONORS KOBIELA. Another Chicago event celebrating Polish American Heritage Month, the Polish American Association's (PAA) annual Chairman's Brunch was held at the Nicholas Board of Trustees Suite of the Art Institute of Chicago on October 26. This year, the PAA honored **Dorota Kobiela**, an internationally renowned artist for

her outstanding contributions to the arts. She is the co-writer and director of the Academy Award nominated "Loving Vincent." The evening prior to the brunch, guests travelled to downtown Chicago's Mesirow Financial Conference Center to meet Kobiela and the film's producer, Sean Bobbit, to view a private screening of the film, and to participate in a question and answer session led by Chicago film critic, **Zbigniew Banaś**.

An international team of 125 painters created "Loving Vincent" over the course of six years. The film is composed of 65,000 frames of oil paintings on canvas done in the style of Vincent Van Gogh. Visually stunning, it earned more than 50 award nominations, including the Oscar nomination for Best Animated Film and has won 18 other awards.

Helping to make the evening a success were Mesirow Financial, Montrose Food Mart & Deli, Oak Mill Bakery, Argus Brewery, and photographer **Julia Graczyk**.

PASO CELEBRATES POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE. On October 21, the **Paderewski Symphony Orchestra (PASO)** presented a gala concert to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence. Chicago's Symphony Center, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, was filled with Polish music enthusiasts and Poland admirers to hear musical artists from Chicago and Poland.

The *Przeboje Niepodległej (Songs of Freedom)* concert traced the history of an Independent Poland through her most beloved songs. The program included ballads and songs of the Polish legions, cavalry, and insurgents that are filled with optimism and hope, yet wistful and nostalgic, as well as songs of the Post-War Era, including patriotic and protest songs, such as *Strange Is This World (Dziwny jest ten świat)* and the iconic hymn of *Solidarność: Let Poland Be Poland (Żeby Polska była Polską)*.

The program continued with crowd-pleasing Polish music spanning several generations, from the tangos of the 1930s, songs from popular movies, dance tunes of the 1960s, and rock hits of the 1970s and 1980s, all the way to contemporary and timeless compositions, including *Long Live the Ball (Niech żyje bal)* and *You Will Return (Powrócisz tu)*.

Video projections were prepared and provided by photographer **Dariusz Lachowski** which related the music to the historical context.

Performers included the PASO under the direction of conductor, **Wojciech Niewrzol** and guest conductor from Poland, **Janusz Stokłosa**. Featured vocalists included **TRE VOICI**, renowned Polish tenors, **Mikołaj Adamczak**, **Miłosz Galaj**, and **Voytek Soko**; soprano **Mirosława Sojka Topór**; and pop vocalists, **Mariola Napieralska** from Poland, **Karolina Baran**, and **Jan Król**. The Children's Choir of the **Paderewski Academy of Music**, the **Wieniawski String Quartet** from Poland, and the **WICI Dance Theater** added to the musical celebration. PASO Director **Barbara Bilszta** (in Polish), and music and theater critic **Zbigniew Banaś** (in English), hosted the bilingual program.

The concert, which ended with a long-standing ovation, was made possible by the sponsorship of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska, the Polish National Alliance, the Copernicus Foundation, the Illinois Council of Performing Arts, the City of Chicago, the Dr. Jadwiga Roguska-Kyts Foundation, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, the Paderewski Orchestra Fundraising Committee, the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division, Oak Mill Bakery, and Shop and Save grocery stores. Media partners were *Dziennik Związkowy* and Radio WPNA 103.1 FM.

Merry Christmas • *Wesołych Świąt*

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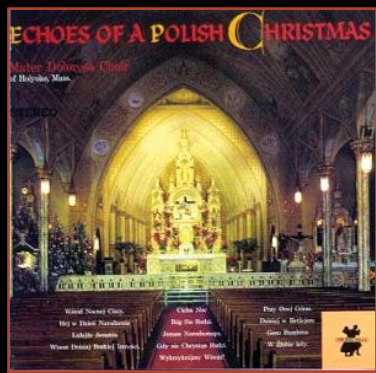




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Books in Brief

150 Clear and Easy-to-follow Recipes

by Mary E. Lanham

WILD HONEY & RYE
Modern Polish Recipes
by Ren Behan
Interlink Books, 2017, 208 pgs.

Starting with sweet and savory breakfasts and ending with desserts, fruit liqueurs, and flavored vodkas, Behan covers the gamut of both traditional and new original recipes inspired by flavors of modern Polish food. *Wild Honey & Rye* contains over 150 clear and easy-to-follow recipes.

Dishes such as the *fruit soufflé omelet* and the Italian take on *bigos* are interspersed with the more conventional recipes of forest mushroom soup, cucumber and dill salad, and, of course, *pierogi*. Behan devotes several pages to these little filled pockets of dough. Buckwheat, bacon, and curd cheese; strawberries, honey, and pistachios; and cheese and potatoes are a few variants. For dessert she includes instructions on making Polish fudge ice cream, caramel and cherry cheesecake, and Polish spiced Christmas cookies.

Many recipes are paired with



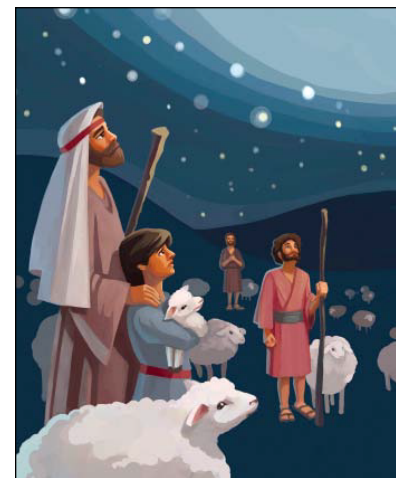
her beautifully-styled vibrant photos that seem to pop from the page. Each entry is headed by the name in English followed by its Polish translation and is accompanied by a short introduction that explains the history or inspiration for the food.

Behan provides a helpful list of what a traditional Polish pantry contains. Key ingredients such as horseradish, anise, dill, and marjoram are mentioned as an explanation of the dishes for which they are commonly used. A brief history of the significance of honey in Poland is also included.

Wild Honey & Rye: Modern Polish Recipes by Ren Behan is the perfect addition to your cookbook collection.

Ren Behan was born and raised in Manchester, England to Polish parents. Behan's mother was an avid cook and passed her love of food to her daughter. Behan went on to earn her law degree but food remained

a constant through her career. She took courses in food journalism, food styling, and cooking. One of her assignments for one of her classes was to start a food blog, and so in 2010, her other career in food writing began. Behan blogged as a hobby for a couple of years before she was approached for freelance commissions and brand collaborations. This enabled her to write online feature columns for other publications. Behan continues to write for both print and online publications. She has contributed to Great British Chefs, JamieOliver.Com, and Food 52.com among others. *Wild Honey & Rye* is her first book.



Merry Christmas to
my relatives in
Philadelphia, Chicago,
and the United States

**ANTHONY C.
PAKULA**
Westland, Michigan

Wesołych Świąt
Bożego Narodzenia
i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku

**JANE SHUBACK
& FAMILY**

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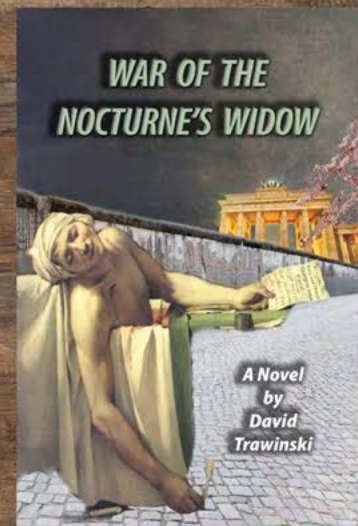
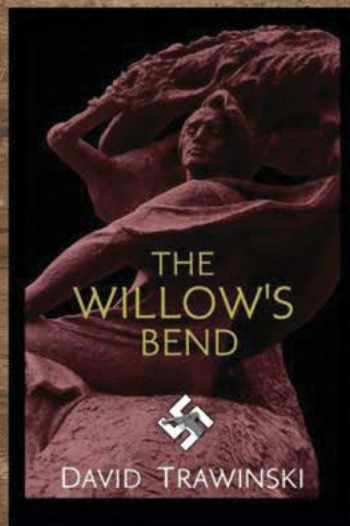
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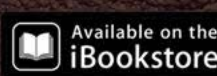
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Pucinski: chief proponent of “black box” flight recorders

continued from cover

Rhee, Commissioner of Chicago's Department of Aviation and an invocation by Rev. Jason Torba, pastor of St. Ferdinand Church. After the singing of the National Anthem, Patrick O'Connor, 40th Ward Alderman, and Edward Burke, 14th Ward Alderman, spoke briefly. The Honorable Aurelia Pucinski, a judge of the Illinois Appellate Court, spoke of her father's contribution to aviation and to Polonia.

The late Roman Pucinski, a U.S.

congressman and Chicago alderman, served the City of Chicago for 32 years. His congressional and aldermanic districts included O'Hare.

Pucinski is recognized as the chief proponent of regulations requiring “black box” flight recorders in all commercial aircraft. In recognition of his landmark efforts to improve safety in aviation, this control tower, designed by internationally acclaimed architect I. M. Pei, was dedicated in Pucinski's honor.

During World War II, Pucinski served as a bombardier/navigator

out of Saipan, participating in 48 bombing raids over Japan, including 16 over Tokyo. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with Clusters.

After the war, Pucinski returned home, graduated from John Marshall Law School, and worked as a newspaper reporter at the *Chicago Sun Times* before dedicating his life to public service. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1959-1973 and as a Chicago alderman from 1973-1991.

He was not only a leader in Chicago, but also a leader in the Polish American community. When the U.S. Congress established the Select Committee on the Katyn Massacre, it named Pucinski the bilingual chief investigator. It was his investigative research that provided conclusive documentation the Soviets, not the Nazis, were responsible for this unspeakable crime.

Pucinski's contribution to aircraft safety is the installation of the “black boxes,” which include recorders that collect and record data from aircraft sensors and are designed to survive an accident. There are two types of recorders: the Flight Date Recorders and the Cockpit Voice Recorders. All commercial aircraft that carry more than 20 passengers are required to have both types of recorders.

Although they are commonly called “black boxes,” the flight recorders are now painted a bright international orange for visibility. Additionally, they have reflective strips and the words “Flight Recorder – Do Not Open” in English on one side and in French on the reverse side.

On most airplanes, flight recorders are located at the back of the aircraft, on a shelf above the ceiling. This location best protects them from damage. Modern flight recorders use solid-state digital memory chips, which use very little power and can record almost infinite data.



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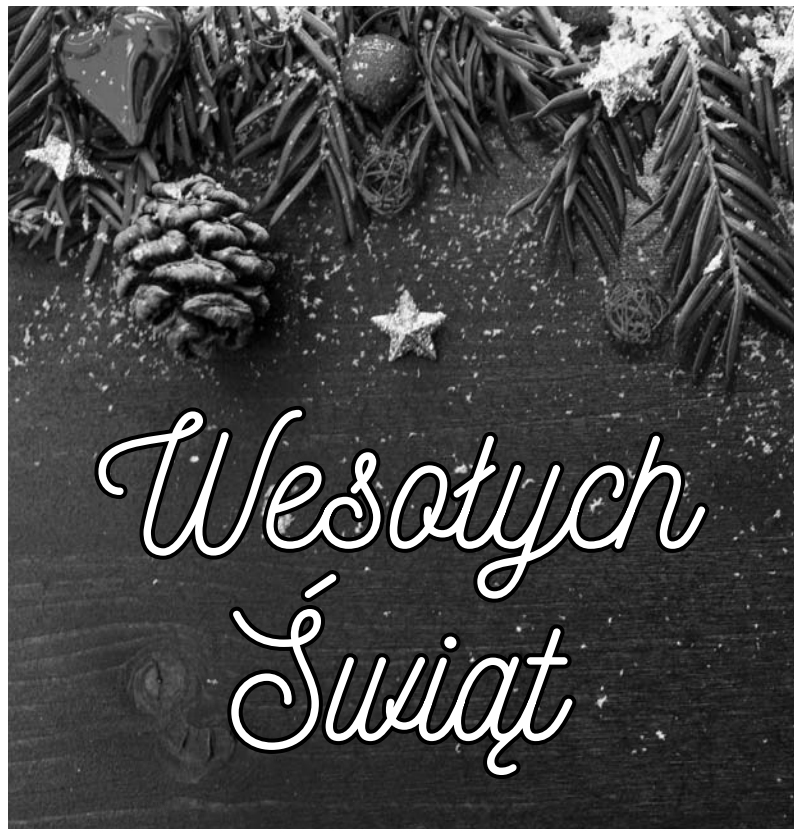
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

Grant will Help Cover Expenses of Pulaski Parade

by Michael Pietruzka

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The **General Pulaski Association** recently received a \$20,000 grant from the County of Erie to cover expenses for the 2018 Pulaski Parade. The group also announced that **Victoria Florczak** was named Countess Pulaski and **Sophie Liebzeit** became Princess Pulaski for 2018 ... The historic **Echo Club** building in Niagara Falls is for sale. The asking price is \$999,999 ... Rochester resident **Ryszard Kuczowski** was recently awarded the Cross of Freedom and Solidarity by the Polish government for his role in Poland's Solidarnosc movement ... The **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** in Mississauga, Ontario presented Maria Nowotarska, Agata Pilitowska and Krzysztof Jasinski in "Nie Bog See Kochac." Nov. 2nd.

Buffalo Mass Mob XXX took place at **St. Adalbert's Basilica** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District on the 3rd ... Also on the 3rd, Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga hosted its "4th Annual Rock 'n Polka Night" featuring performances by the **New Direction Band** and **Crash Cadillac** ... Nov. 4th, the **Canadian Polish Congress** and the **Consulate General** of the Republic of Poland in Toronto celebrated "The Centenary of Regaining Independence by Poland," including a flag raising at the Toronto City Hall, a parade through Toronto, Mass at St. Michael's Basilica, and a reception at the SPK Hall on Beverley Street ... Also on the 4th, the **Polish Legacy Project** and **Polish Genealogical Society** of NYS organized a "Polish Ancestors Day and All Souls Mass" celebrated by Rev. Czeslaw Krysa in the Resurrection Mausoleum of St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga.

On Nov. 5th, as part of a faculty exchange program between the Center for Polish Studies at Daemen College in Amherst and the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw, **Professor Grzegorz Kosciuszko** spoke on "Allen Ginsberg's Failed Exorcisms in Poland and the Soviet Union in 1965" at Daemen ... The **University of Toronto** continued its celebration of the centennial of Polish independence with a screening of Komasa's "Warsaw 44," Nov. 1st, the launch of the Tamara Trojanowska and Joanna Nizynska's new book "Being Poland: A History of Polish Culture After 1918" on the 13th, the screening of Pawlikowski's "Ida" on the 22nd, and a cultural workshop "Andrzejki, Katarzynski" ("St. Andrew and St. Katherine Eve"), Nov. 28th. The Robarts Library will house the "100th Anniversary of Poland's Regained Independence" exhibit until December 22nd ... Ekran's 10th Annual **Toronto Polish Film Festi-**

val screened Pawlikowski's "Cold War," Chajdas' "Nina," Sokolowski's "22 Chaser," Domalewski's "Silent Night," Palkowski's "Breaking the Limits," Delic's "Squadron 303," Smoczynska's "Fugue," Banaszewski and Dymek's "My Friend the Polish Girl," Kanda's "The Lake," Szumowska's "Mug," Nowacki's "On the Road," Lazarkiewicz's "Back Home," Kondratiuk's "A Cat and a Dog," Bajon's "The Butler," Kolski's "Pardon," Gonddek's "Deer Boy," Lewandowski's "Leave Me Not," Koterski's "7 Emotions," Debska's "Plan B," Priwiezenciew's "Leader," Ciok's "Forever a Pilot of the Spitfire," Grunberg's "Don't Cry When I am Gone," Panek's "Werewolf," Luft's "The Gorals - Highlanders of Carpathia" and Sikora's "Outsider" in Toronto and Mississauga in Mid-November.

St. Gabriel Parish in Elma hosted the **Association of Priests for Polish Affairs'** Annual Mass for Deceased Polish American Clergy and Religious, Nov. 7th ... Rochester's 2018 **Polish Film Festival Part Two** presented Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman's animated feature, "Two Vincent," at the Dryden Theatre at the George Eastman House, Nov. 6th. Other films screened during this portion of the festival included Zamecka's "Communion," Pawlikowski's "Cold War," Delic's "303 Squadron, A True Story," Bajon's "The Butler," Palkowski's "Breaking the Limits," Smarowski's "Clergy," Domalewski's "Silent Night" and Holland's "Spoor," each presented at the Little Theatre in Downtown Rochester ... The Hamilton Branch of the **Canadian Polish Congress** hosted an opening ceremony for its celebration of Poland's Centennial at the Hamilton City Hall on the 7th, and the "Jour-

ney Through Poland's History - 100 Years of Independence" exhibit at the Art Gallery of Hamilton starting on the 10th ... Also on the 10th, the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre hosted "Szalowa Zabawa" featuring Jack Silski and "Impress."

A special Mass and concert marking **Veterans Day** and the **100th Anniversary of Poland's Rebirth** was celebrated at Assumption Church in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood, Nov. 11th. The Chopin Singing Society performed at this event, which was co-sponsored by the **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College ... Also on the 11th, the **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** marked Poland's independence centennial with "Droga Do Niepodleglej" featuring the Novi Singers, Lechowia Polish-Canadian Dance Company, and the Toronto Sinfonietta under the direction of Maciej Jaskiewicz; and a Commemorative Mass marking the Polish Centennial and Veterans' Day was celebrated at St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia ... Nov. 13th, violinist **Leila Josefowicz** performed as part of the Kilbourn Concert Series at Rochester's Eastman Theatre ... Polish composer Piotr Rubik presented "Piotr Rubik - Moja Historia" featuring Marta Moszczynska, Michal Gasz, Agnieszka Przekupien and Marcin Januszkiewicz in the St. Stanislaus Parish Social Center on Buffalo's East Side, Nov. 14th and in St. Maksymilian Kolbe Church in Mississauga on the 16th.

Pomost International presented Jim Ciulis of the Polish Genealogical Society of NYS on "The Search Begins" at its Nov. 15th meeting in Amherst ... The John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre presented a "**Tribute to Nalepa**" featuring "Old Breakout" and Ania Cyzon

on the 16th ... The **St. Catharines Canadian Polish Society** held its 90th Anniversary Dinner Dance, featuring the music of Atlantis, on the 17th ... Also on the 17th, the **Polish Cadets of Buffalo** and the Professional & Business Women of Polonia co-sponsored "STO LAT! 100 Years of Poland Regaining Independence" featuring an address by Joseph Macielag, and music by the Buffalo Touch; and the Potts Banquet Hall hosted "Talkin Turkey Polka Dance" featuring The Knewz and Polish Pride ... Also on the 17th, Buffalo State College professor **Dr. Martin Ederer** gave a presentation on the Mayer stained glass windows and the "Disputa" painting at Corpus Christi Church in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District.

The **Bartosz Hadala Trio** performed the "Music of Chopin" in a home concert on Council Ring Road in Mississauga, Nov. 18th ... **Andrzej Golebiowski** addressed the topic "Sculptor Louis F. Dlugosz" at the Lackawanna Historical Society meeting on the 19th ... On the 20th, the **Polish Arts Club** of Buffalo presented Roger Puchalski on Jaroslaw Radomski's "The Magnificent 100" at the Harlem Road Community Center ... Local Pol-Am artist **Tanya Zabinski's** "Around the Seasons" exhibit opened at the Meibohm Fine Arts Gallery in East Aurora on the 24th ... Also on the 24th, Special Delivery performed at the Buffalo Distilling Company's **Krupnik Release Party**, and the Polka Country Musicians and West of the Mark played at the **4th Annual Polka vs. Country Party** at the Cove in Depew ... **Andrzejki** celebrations were held at the Capitol Banquet Centre, St. Mary's United Church of Christ, Livandia Banquet Hall, and the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Nov. 24; and will be held in the ZPwK Hall in Toronto, Polish Hall in Burlington, St. Maximilian

Kolbe Church and Symposium Cafe in Mississauga and the ZNPwK Hall in Etobicoke, December 1.

UPCOMING. On Dec. 1st, the **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY will hold its Annual Installation and Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew. The group's officers for the upcoming year will be David Gorski (president), Marty Bochinski (vice president), Mike Stack (second vice president), Jerry Imiola (third vice president), Darryl Borawski (secretary), Andy Kozakiewicz (treasurer), Paul Manno (financial secretary) and William Glendinning (sergeant-at-arms) ... The **Chopin Singing Society** will hold its "Wigilia" at the Millennium Hotel on the 1st as well ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** will host its Annual "Wigilia" Dinner at St. John Fisher College, Dec. 8th ... Also on the 8th, the **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** will become a "Winter Wonderland" filled with the music of Karolina Ingleton, Ilona Anna Kowalik, Ewa Drzyzga, Anna Adamczewska Niewulis, Lukasz Wolski, Wojtek Stec, the Bartosz Hadala Band, Chor Cantabile and Studio Merlot ... Dariusz Terefenko will be performing a concert of **Polish Film Music** at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance in Rochester, Dec. 9th as part of the Skalny Concert Series ... The **Polish Arts Club** of Buffalo will hold its Annual Meeting and a presentation on the literary works of Pope John Paul II at the Harlem Road Community Center on the 12th; and its Wigilia featuring Pol-Am soprano Brittany Mruczek at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca, Dec. 16th. ... **Tom Dudzick's** new play, "Christmas Over the Tavern," featuring the popular Pazinski family, will continue at MusicalFare at Daemen College in Amherst until December 16th.

A teraz, żegnajcie, wszyscy.



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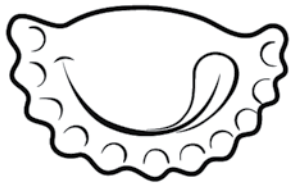
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Minnesota Voice

Krakow Couple aims to Rekindle John Paul II's Legacy, with a Minnesota Focal Point

by Mark Dillon

A First Class Relic of Saint John Paul II will soon have a permanent home at Minnesota's largest Polish parish thanks to a family in Krakow and the parish's pastor.

Corinne MacDonald and Fr. Spencer Howe met when they studied in Rome several years ago. Fr. Howe would go on to lead Holy Cross Catholic Church in Minneapolis, while MacDonald and her husband, Joseph, founded the JP2Project, a study abroad program in Krakow that features classes at the Pontifical University of Saint John Paul II.

To promote the JP2Project, the MacDonalds returned to the United States on Aug. 26 and have since toured two dozen parishes and shrines from Pennsylvania to California. They brought with them the relic — a bit of cloth containing the pope's blood from one of the pope's hospital visits.

GIFT FROM CARDINAL DZIWIWISZ. It is a gift from Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, archbishop emeritus of Kraków an adviser and friend of John Paul II, who initially lent the couple the relic for veneration in the United States and to help promote the project's mission.

Fr. Howe asked if Holy Cross, the last of the relic's 15 initial tour stops, could become the relic's final destination. The parish is affiliated with an adjacent 120-student St. John Paul II Catholic School (kindergarten to 8th grade). Dziwisz agreed, and on Oct. 22, St. John Paul II's Feast Day, the relic came to Minnesota.

"We hope Holy Cross becomes a place of pilgrimage," Fr. Howe said. A Lutheran convert to Catholicism, Fr. Howe said John Paul's teachings, writings and perspectives offer universal appeal across faiths and generations.

"One does not have to be Polish or even Catholic" to admire the life

of John Paul II or see the value of the pope's message for today's world, Fr. Howe added. Of his own heritage, Fr. Howe says on Holy Cross' website: "I am something of a concoction of Flemish, Cuban, English and Irish ingredients."

The MacDonalds, an American couple in their 30s with two daughters ages one and three, moved to Poland from Florida in the winter of 2017-2018 to create a program designed to immerse young adults from the United States in the life and values of Karol Wojtyła, with pilgrimages to his birthplace in Wadowice and Czestochowa.

Attending the World Youth Day in Krakow in July 2016 proved to be a life-changing experience that generated the idea, said Joseph MacDonald. The couple afterward incorporated a 501(c)3 non-profit to gather resources, and put their secular careers on hold.

THE FAMILY'S JOURNEY has reinforced their faith as they reach out to young Catholics of multiple ethnic and national backgrounds. At Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas on Oct. 16, Joseph said some 350 students lined up until 11:00 p.m. to venerate the relic.

"We have been amazed at the fire that we have encountered among students," Joseph said. "We ourselves are not Polish but want to bring John Paul II's message of love to a new generation. I was in high school when he died."

MacDonald was reached in Colorado last month as he was bringing the relic to an evening veneration service near Denver co-sponsored



The MacDonald family with Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz as he gives them a relic of John Paul II.

by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, a nationwide faith outreach group.

The tour's overall popularity has exceeded expectations, he said, and in late October and November additional stops were scheduled in the western United States, including several in California. Stops have also included:

- St. Joseph Catholic Church, Orlando, Fla.
- Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, N.C.
- Christendom College in Front Royal, Virg.,
- The Catholic University of America
- The National Saint John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C.;
- Villanova University

Joseph says he is looking to get back to Poland in the new year after a vacation and a final stop in Minnesota in a few weeks to return the relic. The JP2 project's first full semester begins February 7 in Krakow in English with 15 students.

A summer program is also scheduled, with a goal of expanding the overall project to 30 students. For information, see www.JP2Project.org.

Holy Cross Church marked its 90th anniversary of consecration in September, and was designed by Krakow-born architect Victor Cordella. A large portrait of John Paul II painted in Poland is above the oratory to the right of the main altar.

While pope, John Paul II made seven visits to the United States. But the closest he ever got to Minnesota was Des Moines, Iowa and Chicago in October 1979. In the United States the Archdiocese of Chicago and the National Shrine of Saint John Paul II in Washington also have first class relics (physical remains) of the saint for permanent public veneration. Last year a vial of John Paul II's blood housed in an open-book style reliquary toured the United States, and attracted hundreds to veneration services at parishes in Minnesota.

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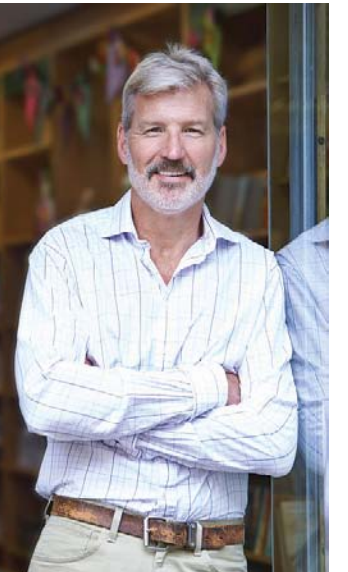
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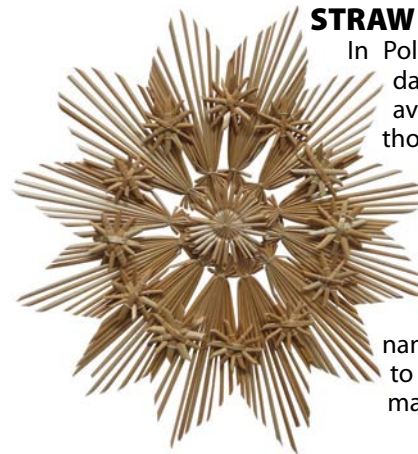
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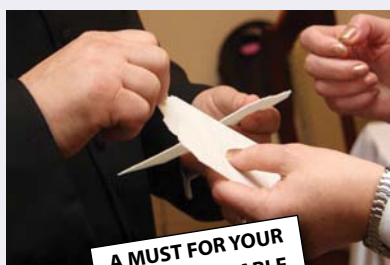
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Practice the ancient Polish custom of sharing the Christmas wafer with family and guests. Many people place a piece of opiatek—a thin wafer, made of flour and water—in each Christmas cards to family members and friends.

Each Polish Christmas Wafer is embossed with religious scene.

IF ORDERING OPŁATEK ONLY, SHIPPING CHARGE IS \$4.00. SEE FORM ON PAGE 14

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



A MUST FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE

SMALL (2 x 3 1/2 in.) individual wafer in glassine envelope Item 1-500 **5/\$5.00**

LARGE (6 1/4 x 3 1/2 in.) Three white and one pink opiateki, with decorative envelope depicting wigilia with history on back Item 1-501p **4/\$5.00**

FREE WESOLYCH ŚWIAT / MERRY CHRISTMAS STICKERS WITH ALL ORDERS

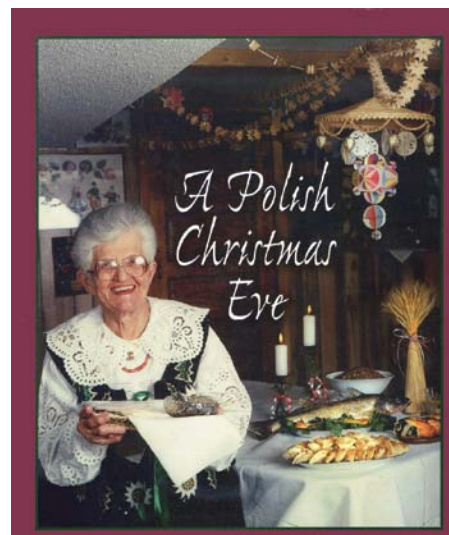
For over 25 years, the Polish American Journal has sold these colorful stickers to benefit Catholic Orphanage in Bialoleka, Poland. The PAJ Press Fund will donate \$1.00 for each sheet mailed this Christmas season to the home near Warsaw. (You may purchase additional sheets of 20 decorative stickers/stamps at \$5.00 per sheet).



A POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE

Traditions and Recipes, Decorations and Song by Rev. Czesław Michał Krysa, S.L.D.

Everything you need to know about a traditional Polish Christmas, from the Christmas Eve Vigil Supper to the kulig by one of the world's top scholars on Polish holiday traditions, Bi-lingual carols with musical notation, Wafer sharing messages, heritage photos, ornaments, and ritual decorations, the origins of Wigilia, poetry, literature, etc.



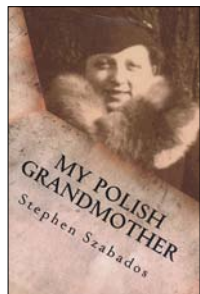
Traditions and Recipes, Decorations and Song by Rev. Czesław Michał Krysa

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. Item 2-648 / **\$26.95**

GENEALOGY BOOKS

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER:

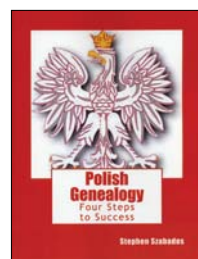


From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose Garden in America by Stephen Szabados **\$14.95 / Item 2-218 61 pp., b&w photos 2015**

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

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

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

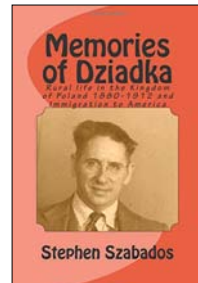


POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success by Stephen Szabados **\$19.95 / Item 2-668 164 pp., pb.** This book is

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

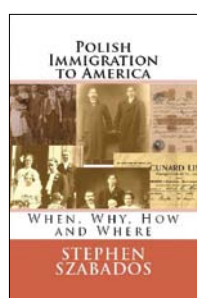
book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.

MEMORIES OF DZIADKA



Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America / by Stephen Szabados **\$14.95 Item 2-670 pb. 134 pp.**

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



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

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



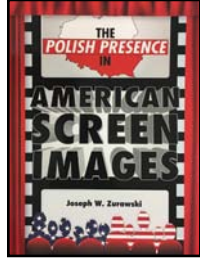
FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS by Stephen Szabados **Item 2-653 / 210 pp., pb. \$19.95**

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

PAJ BOOKSTORE BOOKS

POLONIA

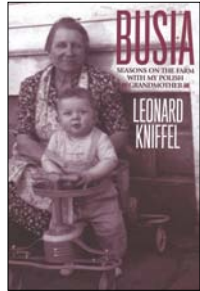
NEW! THE POLISH PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SCREEN IMAGES



by Joseph W. Zurawski
\$29.95
Item 2-682
Softcover, 355 pp., 6" x 9"; 2018
The most complete, objective and accurate analysis of the presentation of Polish Americans and their heritage as viewed on movie theaters and on television screens in America since 1894.

Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America.

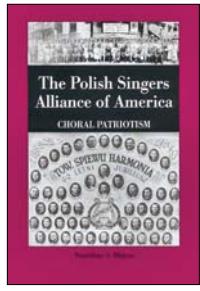
BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER



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

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

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

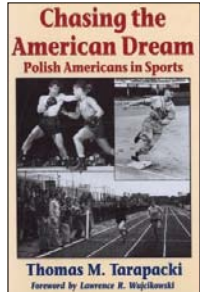


by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
\$22.50
Boydell & Brewer, 2005. 396 pp., Ill. 6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

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

CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM



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

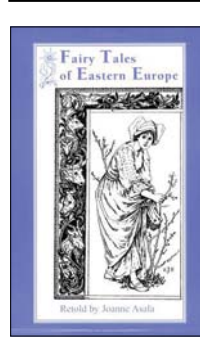
"Chasing the American Dream" provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unprecedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations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

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swimming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as

Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the *Polish American Journal*.

FOLKLORE

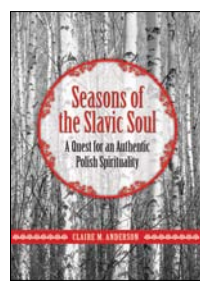


FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE
Retold by Joanne Asala
\$12.95
Item 2-636
6 x 9 inches
157 pp., pb.

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

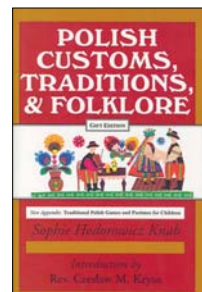
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of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

SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A QUEST FOR AN AUTHENTIC POLISH SPIRITUALITY



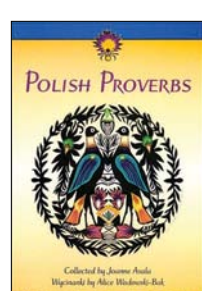
by Claire M. Anderson
Item 1-675
\$14.95
ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

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



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

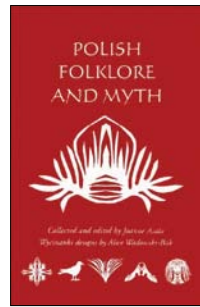
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs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

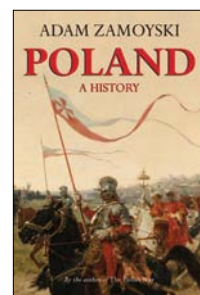
feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



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

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

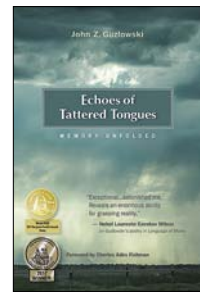
HISTORY



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

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

WORLD WAR II

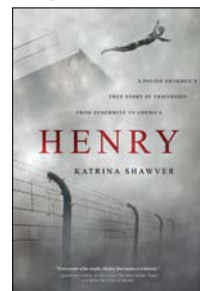


ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES
by John Guzowski
\$21.95
Item 2-667
hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches
200 pp.
Aquila Polonica /

Language: English

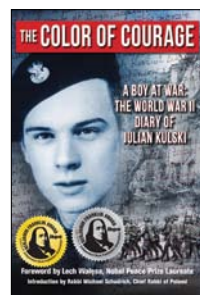
Guzowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war in these straightforward, gut-wrenching narrative lyric poems. These snapshots of Nazi German rule illustrate that hardship didn't end with German surrender; the aftershocks radiated through successive generations. "Guzowski's simple language highlights the violence without offering any comment or consolation." — *Publishers Weekly*.

HENRY. A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to America



by Katrina Shawver
\$19.95
Item 2-678
Koehler Books, 2017
pb., 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches
324 pp.
\$19.95

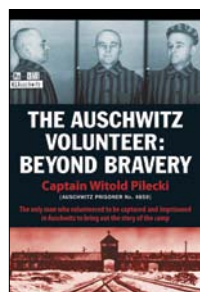
When Katrina Shawver met the eighty-five-year-old Henry Zguda, he possessed an exceptional memory, a surprising cache of original documents and photos, and a knack for meeting the right people at the right time. He relates in his own voice a life as a champion swimmer, interrupted by three years imprisoned in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Henry's path of resiliency and power of connection are as relevant today as they were in World War II.



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

"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the 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

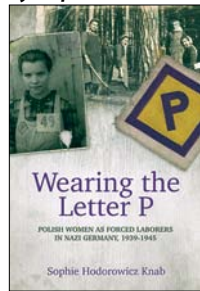


by Witold Pilecki
\$34.95
Item 2-673
Aquila Polonica
Publ., 2014
460 pp., pb. / 6x9 in.

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."

WEARING THE LETTER "P"

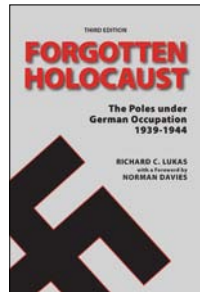
Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945



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.

FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition

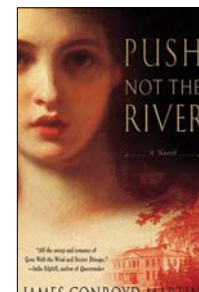


\$19.95
Item 2-647
358 PP. PB.

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.

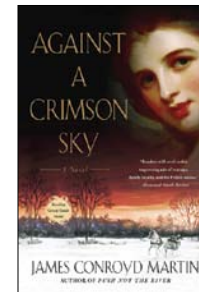
MARTIN TRILOGY

PUSH NOT THE RIVER
Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin



\$15.95
Item 2-609
Hussar Quill Press. 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
Book 2 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin
\$15.95
Item 2-610

St. Martin's Press
369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide
"You don't have to read *Push Not the River* to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where *Push Not the River* leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.

THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY
Book 3 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin



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

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

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.

FROM PADEREWSKI TO

PENDERECKI
The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151

Lulu Pub. 2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"
Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music.

PAJ BOOKSTORE
CHRISTMAS GIFTS

TO ORDER BY MAIL: Use form on page 14 and for all items on pages 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17
TO ORDER BY PHONE, CALL: (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088. MON.-FRI., 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
TO ORDER ON LINE: www.polamjournal.com

Polish Apparel



Polish American Baseball Cap
Available in sizes S-M or L-XL, and colors Navy, Black, Red and Royal Blue
#8206CAP - \$19.95



Poland Flag Cap
Available in sizes S-M or L-XL, and colors Navy, Black, Red and Royal Blue
#8207CAP - \$19.95



Highly Detailed Embroidered Eagle

Embroidered Eagle - Adult Apron
Show off your Polish Pride with this ready to wear White Eagle embroidered apron. Ultra Club 2 Pocket 28" long Apron: 9 oz. 65% cotton twill, 35% polyester
#8204APR - \$24.95



Na zdrowie! Navy Adult Tee
Available in sizes S M, L, XL, XXL and 3XL.
#9316USS Nvy - Small to XL - \$19.95
XXL - \$21.95, 3XL - \$22.95



Edelweiss Wool Socks
Adult size. Fits approx. women's shoe size 7 - 10. These socks are hand wove by artisans in Poland. Because of that he ones you receive may be slightly different than what is shown.
A. #700161 - Gray - \$14.95
B. #700162 - Cream - \$14.95

Polish Christmas



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



Ornament Cards
Set of 4 Christmas cards each adorned with a usable ornament.
#PCS705 - \$11.95

Ornaments



Wycinanki, Roosters Folk Art Ornament
This gorgeous design is inspired by the art of Polish Paper Cutting),
#570525 - 4" - \$29.95



Kashubian Folk Art Egg Ornaments
Each blown glass egg ornament showcases Kashubian motifs of colorfully stylized flowers.
A. #570528 - 5.5" Tall - \$39.95
B. #570527 - 4" Tall - \$29.95



48 Pieces Set, Silver Finish
Straw Ornaments measure approx: 2.4"
#660123 - \$34.95



20 Piece Set with Basket
Straw Ornaments measure approx: 2.4".
#660127 - \$22.95

Gifts Ideas



Traditional Polish Pottery 12oz Mug
#WZ054 - \$18.95



Unique Polish Pottery 12oz Mug
#WZ053 - \$31.95



Artistic Polish Pottery 12oz Mug
#WZ055 - \$28.95



Educational Wooden Puzzle - Fantastical Butterfly
Recommended age: 3 years and up
Measures approx. 10.5" x 7.5" x 0.6"
Imported from Poland
#700198 - \$16.95



Educational Wooden Puzzle - Backhoe
Recommended age: 3 years and up
Measures approx. 1.5" x 9.5" x 0.6"
Imported from Poland
#700199 - \$15.95

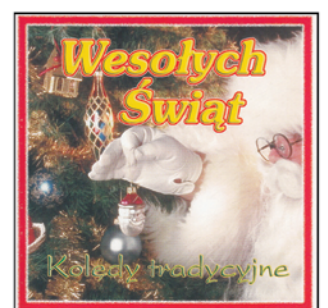
Christmas Carols on CD



Biale Swieta
15 Christmas carols performed by the musical group "The White Snow".
Songs Include: Przybieżeli Do Betlejem, Bóg się Rodzi, Jezus Malusieńki, Mizerna Cicha, Gdy Śliczna Panna, Lulajże Jezuniu & more.
#GM5550062 - \$19.95



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, & more!
#GM5550032 - \$19.95



Piech & Sinski- Wesołych Świąt koledy tradycyjne
12 Traditional Polish Christmas Carols performed by Anna Piech & Włodzimierz Siński. Songs Include: Anioł pasterzom mówi, & more.
#NSM011 - \$19.95

KITCHEN TOWELS

\$10.00 each plus \$5.95 s&h. NEW SIZE! These machine-embroidered, 100% cotton are bigger and better: 15" x 31"! A great gift any time of the year! Useful and attractive.



FOREVER POLISH
Item 2-210



POLISH BBQ
Item 2-211



BLESS THIS POLISH HOUSE
Item 2-213



WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT
Item 2-270



POLISH DRINKING TEAM
Item 2-275



POLISH KITCHEN
Item 2-281

POLISH-ENGLISH CARDS

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Sports

Be as Tough as Your Mothers

by Tom Tarapacki

As Duke basketball head coach Mike Krzyzewski welcomed a loaded recruiting class to Durham this summer, he allowed ESPN to film a new all-access series called Earn Everything in the off-season. One clip from the show posted to YouTube shows one of Coach K's speeches to his young team at practice delivering the message: "Be as tough as your mom."

Coach K told his team: "Don't be tired. Don't be tired. My mother — God bless her — I never saw my mom sick. In other words, when I grew up, I woke up every day and my mom was there. I took it for granted. She's never tired — or she never showed it. Be as tough as your mothers. They show up all the time, alright, and we need to show up all the time. Be as tough as your mothers."

Coach K's mother, Emily was the daughter of Polish immigrant Josef Pituch, who worked in the coal mines in Waltersburg, Pennsylvania before moving his family to Chicago. That's where Emily Pituch met her future husband, William Krzyzewski. She never attended high school and her husband only went for a couple of years. Bill worked mostly as an elevator operator, while Emily took care of their two sons, Bill and Mike, and scrubbed floors at night in the Chicago Athletic Club. Coach's father died in 1969, and his mother died in 1996.

Krzyzewski, now 71, has kept his mother's memory alive through the Emily Krzyzewski Family Life Center. Located near the Duke University campus in Durham, N.C., its mission is to inspire students to achieve.



The Modzelewski brothers (l. to r.): Ed, Gene, and Dick.

MODZELEWSKI PASSES. Dick Modzelewski, a college and pro football great of the 1950s and 60s who played in eight NFL championship games, died at his home in Eastlake, Ohio at 87.

Richard Blair Modzelewski was born on Feb. 16, 1931, in West Natrona, Pa., where his Polish immigrant father, Joseph, was a coal miner, and his mother, Martha (Gosciak) Modzelewski, was a homemaker. At the University of Maryland he won the 1952 Outland Trophy as college football's best interior lineman. Dick was a junior on an unbeaten Maryland team that upset previously undefeated Tennessee, 28-13, in the 1952 Sugar Bowl.

Dick's two brothers were also outstanding football players. Older brother Ed, Maryland's All-American fullback, was voted the Sugar Bowl's MVP in 1952. He later played on the Browns' 1955 N.F.L. championship team. Younger brother Gene played tackle at New Mexico State. Gene was drafted by the Browns in 1966 but entered the



Mike Krzyzewski's mom Emily visits the future Duke basketball head coach at West Point.

Army and served in Vietnam, never playing in the NFL. Ed and Gene predeceased Dick.

Dick became known as "Little Mo" when he was a 175-pound lineman on his western Pennsylvania high school team with his 200-lb. brother Ed, who became "Big Mo." In the pros, Ed, a fullback with the Steelers and Browns, was outweighed by Dick, 260 to 215.

Dick played 14 seasons (1953-1966) in the NFL, including for six conference winners and two championship teams — the 1956 New York Giants and the 1964 Cleveland Browns — and the 1964 Pro Bowl. Drafted by the Redskins, he also played for the Steelers before going to New York. When he was traded to the Browns in 1964 he was expected to be a back-up. However, due to an injury, he became a starting tackle next to Jim Kanicki. Dick's leadership helped the Browns beat Johnny Unitas and the Baltimore Colts, 27-0.

In New York Little Mo helped raise the profile of defensive players. He was a member of the Giants' famed "Fearsome Foursome" — with Jim Katcavage, Rosey Grier and Andy Robustelli — the first NFL defensive line to be celebrated as a unit. They were widely recognized figures during the team's glory years of the late 1950s and early '60s. Modzelewski was once described by Gay Talese in The New York Times as "260 pounds of tough tenderloin with shoulders so broad that he often has to pass through doors sideways."

Dick was also remembered for his part in the ground-breaking TV documentary that focused on a teammate, called "The Violent World of Sam Huff." The behind-the-scenes film featured, among other things, Modzelewski teaching his teammates how to sing "Oj Dana, Dana" and "Polska Kielbasa" polka.

When Dick retired after 14 seasons in the NFL he had played in a league-record 180 consecutive games. Little Mo later was defensive coach for 22 years with the Browns, Giants, Bengals, Packers, and Lions. His Cincinnati squad played in the 1981 Super Bowl and was ranked No. 1 defensively in the 1983 season. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1986.

Games athlete and one of the best in the world, announced that he'd be leaving his day job to begin training as an athlete full-time for the 2019 Reebok CrossFit Games season. After his 2013 college graduation, Fikowski has worked as an accountant for five years in British Columbia.

Fikowski is referred to as "The Professor," as he's one of the most calculated and analytical competitors CrossFit has ever seen. The 6-2, 217-lb. athlete, now 27, has been moving closer to the top of the podium at the CrossFit Games with a fourth, second, and fourth place finish respectively since 2016. He's been able to achieve those top five finishes while he's worked full-time.

Brent grew up in Alberta, and both of his parents were health-conscious. He was an outstanding

dominated the postseason, Dombrowski joined Pat Gillick, John Schuerholz, and Theo Epstein as the only executives to build World Series champions in both leagues. The first two are in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Boston had a good roster when he took over in 2015, but Dombrowski gets credit for building on that with some key moves. In particular for this season, his trade deadline acquisitions of Nathan Eovaldi and Steve Pearce — the series MVP — were crucial. "Dealing Dave" is known for trading prospects, but he kept some prospects who turned out to be big contributors, including Rafael Devers and Andrew Benintendi.

But don't expect Dave to rest on his laurels. He's hoping for a repeat championship, something no team has done since the Yankees won three in a row from 1998-2000. The Sox have the talent to do it again, but there are hard decisions to be made.

GETTING A POLISH BOXING HISTORY LESSON. Champion British boxer David Haye visited Poland to pay tribute to Polish boxing legends **Feliks Stamm** and **Tadeusz Pietrzykowski**. Haye was invited by the Polish National Foundation, a group that promotes Poland abroad.

Haye's visit allowed him to learn about Stamm and Pietrzykowski. Stamm was a prominent boxing coach and is considered the father of Polish boxing. As a trainer, he participated in the Olympic Games seven times from 1936 to 1968. He also led Poland 14 times in the European Championship tournaments. Pietrzykowski, who was trained by Stamm, was one of the first prisoners at the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II. While there, he gained fame by boxing in exchange for bread which he shared with his fellow prisoners.

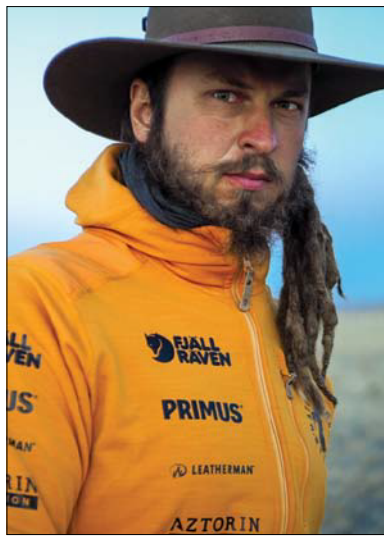
As part of the trip, Haye visited Stamm's grave, the Warsaw Rising museum and the Legia sports club's boxing section. He competed from 2002 to 2018, and held multiple world heavyweight and cruiserweight titles.

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Fikowski: One of the best CrossFit Games athletes in the world.



Waligóra. Completed a solo trek through the the Gobi Desert.

WHAT A WALK! Matusz Waligóra successfully completed his 58-day solo trek through the Mongolian part of the Gobi Desert, according to *Polish Radio*. The 31-year-old hiked a total of 1,785 kilometers, or over 1109 miles. He pulled behind him a specially designed cart loaded with trekking equipment, tent, water and food supplies.

Almost two months earlier Waligóra set off from Bulgan, located in western Mongolia near the border with China. To reach the desert part of the Gobi he had to go through the passes of the mountains of the Altai. He braved extreme heat during the days and temperatures as low as 10 degrees below zero at night. The Wrocław native also encountered sandstorms, equipment problems and health issues along the way. He is now the first man who crossed the Mongolian part of the largest desert of Asia alone.

HE QUIT HIS DAY JOB. Brent Fikowski, Canada's best CrossFit

swimmer as well as competing in various other sports. In college he was a top volleyball player, and started training for CrossFit to get ready for that sport. Eventually he began competing in CrossFit events, surprising himself with how well he did.

Interestingly, Brent eats pig heart at least twice a week. As he started eating better quality meats, he realized how expensive it was. Instead, he bought some items that were drastically cheaper — tongue, liver, kidney, heart. He talked to his nutritionist who said that some of those are actually better for you because they have very high macronutrient values. "At the end of the day, I'd rather the whole animal be eaten than see parts thrown out," Brent said. "And someone's got to eat it, so why not me?"

DOMBROWSKI DOES IT AGAIN. Dave Dombrowski put together the 1997 World Series champion Florida Marlins and now, 21 years later at age 62, is back on top of the sport with the Boston Red Sox. By putting together a 108-win team that



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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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Forced Labor in the Third Reich

The Personal Account of a Polish Slave Laborer

Katherine Graczyk was captured by the SS and shipped to Germany. She shared her story with author Catherine Hamilton

by Catherine Hamilton

Part III

One Christmas Eve, while I was still hiding at the German farm that took in runaway Polish slaves, the farmer's wife sat me down at their family table. *Were they going to send me away?* No, I was invited to have dinner with them. I couldn't believe it! But it was true.

They had covered the windows with tarps. The farmer checked to make sure nobody was outside. It was against the law for the Germans to eat with the Polish slave-labor workers. But they ate Christmas Eve dinner with me anyway. They gave me a Christmas present, too. It was just a rubber apron. That's all they could afford. I was moved to tears, knowing the risks they were taking; they could have gone to prison for such acts of kindness.

A few days after Christmas, an SS officer came to the farm and told the farmer I was a runaway. I was dragged out of the house and beaten and shoved into a small Nazi police truck. The brutal journey ended at the women's prison in Berlin, where I was jailed on the fifth floor. I was the property of the Nazis. However far I walked, whatever dangerous or safe places I found, I was always surrounded by the informers and blackmailing Nazi loyalists.

One night that first week, after they locked the cell, I saw something that looked like a burning Christmas tree drop past the little tiny window up near the ceiling. An explosion hit the administration building just across the courtyard. My cellmates and I saw flames, and more explosions followed. Allied bombs were hitting the prison compound. For those of us trapped inside, that night seemed like an eternity.

The next day, all we could see was black smoke. It was a miracle we didn't get hit. The buildings all around us had burned; the smoldering skeleton-of-a-prison was a haunting monument to Hitler.

I didn't make any friends at the Berlin prison. Nobody wanted to talk. We were afraid to say anything because there were informants inside the prison. Trucks came every day, hauling more and more prisoners out of the compound; it was to be completely evacuated. After one week in Berlin, I was shoved onto another truck.

The truck was jammed so tightly with prisoners that I could only stand on one foot. When we un-

loaded at the Berlin station, I saw that it, too, was on fire, and nearly destroyed by the bombing raids of the previous night. "Get going! Go! Go!" a guard shouted, thrusting a gun in my face. I wasn't moving fast enough and another guard pushed me. I caught myself and kept going. Plank-like boards stretched across the openings blasted in the corridor flooring by the bombs. A board one foot wide by twelve feet long was my only support? I would have to walk across that wobbly plank with the fire raging down below me?

I was the last one in my row. Just as I stepped onto the plank, another guard shoved me. I pushed the girl in front of me, she pushed the girl in front of her, and we fell like dominos. The fire raged below me as I tumbled toward it, stopped by the twelve inch wide piece of wood, the makeshift bridge. Another miracle. Not one of us fell into the fire.

On the relocation trains, we arrived at the second compound where I was to be imprisoned. A woman guard marched me into the prison block and forced me into a small isolation cell. She locked me up and forgot me. It was dark and something was biting me—some kind of insect. I banged on the door. Hours passed. I banged and shouted until it seemed the entire night had passed. Nobody came. Sometime before morning, a policewoman opened the door and said, "What are you doing here?"

"I was locked up here," I said. "Why did you lock me up in there? I'm not a murderer! The bugs are biting me! I didn't shoot anybody! I didn't kill anybody! I'm not a criminal!" I was screaming and crying at the same time.

"You weren't supposed to be in there. That cell has to be disinfected," the guard said. She put me in another cell with eighteen other women. The cell was only meant to hold one person. When I lay down on the floor, my feet touched one wall and my head touched the other. There were no beds. We had four blankets, two for the floor, and two for covers. But nobody was covered and nobody was sleeping on the blanket because there were eighteen of us, packed like sardines in a tiny tin. The newest girl had to sleep by the slop bucket. That's where I slept for the first several days.

Those of us who weren't sterilized were forced to take a pill with the morning coffee. It stopped my period. I worked at the military compound scrubbing floors. It was early in the spring of 1944, and I remember it rained non-stop. The officers walked in and out of the building, and I had to follow them with my bucket and brush and clean up the mud that fell from their boots.

One night we had to clean a bun-

ker after an air raid. The bunker was very long. We had to empty the basins, clean them, and refill them with fresh water for the next day. It was hot. I remember the sweat running down my cheekbones. Even the dirty water in the basin was warm. I had to carry the water out by the bucketful and dump it in the street. The strange thing was, it was March, but it had snowed the day before and there was still snow on the ground. Underground it seemed hot, but outside it was freezing.

The next day I came down with a high fever. I couldn't even get up. So, I told the guard I couldn't go to work. "I need a doctor," I said. She left me and I just lay down and put the four blankets on top of myself. But during the day in prison nobody could sit down in the cell, much less lie down; you had to stand or you would be sent to isolation—or worse. When the guard made rounds, "I will try to stand up," I told myself.

The other prisoners said, "Quick get up. The guard is coming." But I couldn't get up.

continued next month

Catherine Hamilton, a freelance writer in Beaverton, Oregon, recorded Katherine Graczyk's story during a series of interviews. Hamilton was honored to write the first-person account of these experiences; she and Katherine Graczyk are cousins. Part of Katherine's story was published in the anthology Forgotten Survivors, edited by Dr. Richard Lukas.

Pro-Polish Programming Earns BPO Executive Director Honorary Membership in PSAA



Daniel Hart was cited for increasing Polish presence in programming.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish Singers Alliance of America presented an Honorary Membership to Daniel Hart, executive director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at the Polish American Congress Brunch, which preceded the Philharmonic's presentation of the *Paderewski's Poland* Concert on Sunday, October 28, 2018.

PSAA President Mary Lou Wyrobek cited his many achievements in leading the Orchestra toward engagement with the Polish community.

In his 14-year tenure with the BPO, audiences, educational outreach and the endowment have all increased. Wyrobek noted the inclusion of Polish conductors such as Michal Nesterowicz, Pawel Przytock, Krzysztof Penderecki, and the conductor of that day's concert, Piotr Sulkowski and pianist performances by Igor Lipinski, Konrad Skolarski, and Sunday's soloist, Lukasz Krupinski.

The Orchestra's Polish Masterworks CDs, its *Nazdrowie Poland* Concert, including a reception with the Polish Arts Club, all point to a dedication to the performance and dissemination of Polish composers and music, mirroring the mission of the Polish Singers Alliance.

The highlight of the engagement with the Polish community culminated in the Orchestra's acceptance of the invitation to attend the 2018 Beethoven Easter Festival in Poland, founded by Elzbieta Penderecka. The success of its numerous performances in Poland point to its high artistic quality.

Hart, in his acceptance speech, noted that BPO Conductor JoAnn Falletta and he — as well as some members of the orchestra — point to the Poland concert tour as the highlight of their careers.

The Polish community is appreciative of these many efforts by Hart, and the Polish Singers Alliance of America is privileged to have him join the ranks of their Honorary Members, which include Ignacy Paderewski, Henryk Gorecki, Krzysztof and Elzbieta Penderecki, and the recently-inducted JoAnn Falletta.

Gary Bienkowski, president of the Chopin Singing Society and vice president of the Polish Singers Alliance was on hand to offer a token of appreciation to BPO board member Cindy Abbott Letro as a reprise of the presentation made at the October 14th Chopin Concert at St. Stanislaus Church, where Falletta and the BPO were honored.

Falletta also received an Honorary Membership to the Polish Singers Alliance at the Chopin concert.

Polish Christmas Tree Ornaments

How to Make Ruchomy

© Basia Frackiewicz

A Christmas tree ornament: "ruchomy" a mini-mobile [roo-HAW-mih]

pink or red

light green

yellow

knot

knot

Cut out and unfold a shape. Sew the two pieces together along the fold line. Start sewing at the bottom. Leave a loop at the top. Carefully press open.

Niechaj każdy pamięta, jaka Barbara, takie święta.
Let us all remember: as (the weather on) St. Barbara (December 4), so the holidays.

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Planning Ahead: Three or More-course Wigilia Supper

by Robert Strybel

continued from last month

Traditionally the five-course Wigilia supper was once the most modest spread, laid out even in the poorest of homes. Seven, nine and 11-course suppers were standard in better-to-do households, and in some parts of Poland a 12-course meal was typical. However, many Polish-American households nowadays comprise only one or two members and do not do much cooking anymore, so even a three-course supper may be quite a challenge to some. If you feel up to more, there is nothing to stop you from expanding the following groups of courses to include dishes from any of the other combinations given below.

5 CLEAR MUSHROOM SOUP (*czysta zupa grzybowa*). Wash well, drain and dice 6 oz. fresh portobello mushrooms, simmer with a small chopped onion in 2 T. butter 10-15 min. or until fully cooked. Place in pot, add 6 c. water and 1 mushroom bouillon cube and simmer covered 10 min. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a dash of vinegar. Garnish with a little fresh chopped parsley, if desired, and serve over cooked egg noodles or lasagna cut into 1" squares.

FRIED FISH (*ryba smażona*). Wash and dry 2-3 lbs very fresh or thawed fish fillets (pike, carp, walleye, lake perch, catfish, bass, cod, hake, pollock, haddock, etc.), sprinkle with lemon juice, intersperse with onion slices, salt well and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. Rinse and pat dry, salt & pepper, dust with paprika, dredge in flour, shaking off excess, fry on both sides in hot oil until golden brown on the outside

and fully cooked on the inside.

HORSERADISH SAUCE (*sos chrzanowy*). Fork-blend 2/3 c mayonnaise, 1/3 c sour cream and 1-2 heaping T prepared horseradish. Season to taste with lemon juice, sugar and a pinch of salt and serve with fried fish.

NOODLES & PLUM BUTTER (*kluski z powidłami*). Cook a package of egg noodles in lightly salted water until tender (a while longer than the Italian-style "al dente" time given on the package!). Drain, turn out onto serving platter, dot with butter and spoon some powidła (imported Polish plum butter) over it.

6 FISH POLONAISE (*ryba po polsku*). In 4 c vegetable stock containing 2 T cider vinegar cook 2 lbs lake perch fillets (or similar) until done (only a few min). Carefully transfer cooked fillets with slotted spoon to platter and keep warm in oven. In saucepan melt 3 T butter and switch off heat. Add 4-5 finely-chopped hard-cooked eggs and toss to coat evenly with butter. Add 2-3 T fresh finely-chopped dill and salt & pepper generously. Toss to blend ingredients. Sprinkle fish with lemon juice and cover with hard-boiled-egg topping.

GROATS & MUSHROOMS (*kasza z grzybami*). Slice thin 1 lb washed and dried fresh portobello mushrooms. In large skillet sauté 1 finely-chopped onion in 2-3 T butter or margarine until tender and golden. Add the mushrooms, toss with spatula to coat all over, add 3 T water, cover tightly, reduce heat and simmer until cooked (15-20 min or so), stirring occasionally. Salt & pepper. Fork-blend 2/3 c sour cream with 1 T flour, stir into mushrooms and



WARSAW FRUIT CAKE *keks warszawski*. Beat 5 eggs with 1-3/4 c confectioner's sugar until creamy. Cream 3/4 c butter with 1 t vanilla extract until light and fluffy, then beat in 1/4 c milk and 1/2 t salt. Sift 1-1/2 c flour with 2 t baking powder, add to butter mixture and mix well. Fold in egg mixture and another 1-1/2 c flour. In cornstarch-filled plastic bag, place 1 c chopped prunes and figs, 1/2 c raisins and 3/4 c chopped walnuts and shake to coat thoroughly. Fold into dough and mix to distribute evenly. Transfer dough to well-greased, bread-crumbsprinkled loaf pan(s) and bake in preheated 350° about 50 min. *Optional*: May be glazed or drizzled with powder sugar icing.

simmer on low 2-3 min. Garnish with chopped fresh dill and/or parsley (optional). Serve over cooked buckwheat groats, boiled potatoes, noodles or rice. Variation: This dish will be even tastier if made with 2 oz or more rehydrated and cooked dried Polish bolete mushrooms.

POLISH HONEY-SPICE CAKE (*piernik*). In a large bowl, mix a scant c sugar with 2 t ginger, 1 t cinnamon, 1/2 t pepper, 1/2 cloves and 1/2 nutmeg or allspice (all spices ground). Stir in 4 slightly beaten eggs, 1/2 c milk, 1/4 c salad oil and 1 t baking soda. Bring 1 c honey to boil in saucepan, set aside to cool

slightly and then stir into other ingredients along with 4 c flour. Mix by hand with wooden spoon about 10 min, then cover with cloth and let dough rest 1 hr. Transfer dough, which should not exceed a height of 2 inches, to lightly buttered baking pans and bake in preheated 325° oven about 75 min or until pick inserted at center comes out clean. Serve as is, dusted with confectioner's sugar or glazed, as preferred.

7 CHRISTMAS EVE RYMEAL SOUP (*żurek wigilijny*). Soak 4-5 dried Bolete mushrooms several hrs or overnight in 2 c water and cook in same wa-

ter until tender. Slice or dice cooked mushrooms and add together with mushroom stock to 3 c vegetable stock. In it cook 2-3 diced potatoes. When potatoes are fully cooked, add 1 c liquid rye sour (*żur*) or to taste, bring to boil. and remove from heat. Fork-blend 1/2 - 3/4 c sour cream with 1 T flour until smooth and stir 1 c hot soup into mixture, 1 T at a time so sour cream doesn't curdle. Slowly stir in sour-cream mixture into soup and heat gently several min but do not boil, stirring constantly. Season with salt, pepper and several pinches marjoram.

MUSHROOM GOŁĄBK (*gołąbki z grzybami*). In 3 T butter, margarine or oil sauté 12 oz fresh wild or store-bought portobello mushrooms (washed and diced) with 2 med chopped onions. Combine with 3 - 3-1/2 c preferably slightly undercooked rice, barley or buckwheat groats, cooked with 1 mushroom cube. Add 1 raw egg and mix to blend ingredients. Salt & pepper to taste and (optional) garnish with 1 T chopped fresh parsley. Spread pre-wilted cabbage leaves with mixture, tuck in side and roll up as usual. Arrange snugly in no more than 2 layers in roasting pan or casserole drench with 3 c vegetable stock and bake in preheated 350° oven at least 2 hrs. Serve drenched with mushroom sauce (made by combining and bringing to boil 3 c water, 1 mushroom bouillon cube and 1 can cream of mushroom soup; after switching off heat, stir in a heaping T sour cream).

WARSAW FRUIT CAKE (*keks warszawski / see recipe above*).

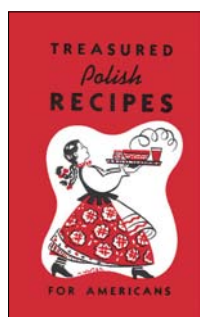
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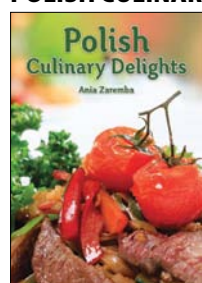


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English language
version with U.S.
measurements
475 Recipes

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

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

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

POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS

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

Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the

usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family (grandma, grandpa, uncle, etc.).

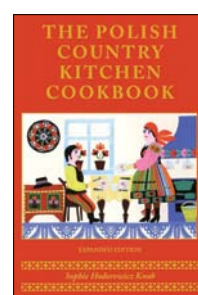
More than 175 recipes, from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare such traditional Polish favorites as pierogi, blintzes, sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, bigos, horseradish sauce, paczki, angel wings, mazurka cakes and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

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES

by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski
\$8.95
Item 2-678

5.5 x 3.5 inches / 160 pp., spiral bound

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



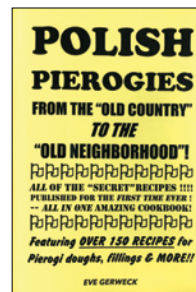
POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
by Sophie Knab
\$19.95
Item 2-632. 337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to

the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

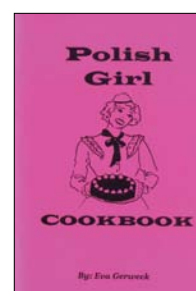
The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

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



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

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



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

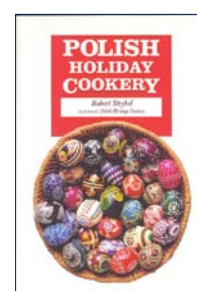
Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pas-

tries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.



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

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



POLISH 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

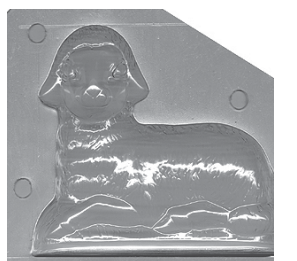
incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

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.

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The Pondering Pole

Sometimes Dreams do Come True

by Ed Poniewaz

I recently had the pleasure to spend time with **Grzegorz "Greg" Koltuniak**, who was a leader in the Solidarity movement opposing the Communist authorities and Soviet domination of his native Poland in the 1980s.

He said he likes the current political and social situation in Poland, as well as the current prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki.

Koltuniak and I — along with a wide variety of the Saint Louis Polonia — celebrated Polish Independence Day at the Polonez Ball held at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel, November 3, 2018. By my estimate there were at least ten Polish organizations or representatives present at this event. I am not going to list any of them for fear of leaving one out.

The Polonez Ball is a special event every year, but this year it was even more so. The connection between the 100th anniversary and the remarkable transformation of the Polish nation are noteworthy. After 100 years, Poland is now a secure and stable place for the people living there and for those of us in the diaspora, it is now a comfortable place to go home to. The economy, the government, and the living conditions for the Polish people are good and getting better.

For example, the GDP (Gross Domestic Product: the amount of goods and services produced in an economy) for Poland is around 600 billion, good enough — according to *Statistics Times* — to rank as the 22nd largest economy in the world. This is just one indicator, though an important one that is strong for citizens, good for those interacting and doing business with the Poles, and conducive for attracting visitors and tourists.

IT IS THE END OF THE YEAR. Thanksgiving is just behind us and soon we will celebrate Christmas. It is a good time for reflection, and — whether you are a Pole



Jane and Greg Poniewaz in Krakow this past October. This was their first venture to Poland.

from Poland who lived through wars and oppression, or a Pole from the United States vicariously experiencing an ancestral homeland far away — it is a breath of fresh air for Poland to be a free and independent part of the world community. It isn't a dream anymore and we have so much to be thankful for.

TRAVEL NOTES. My brother Greg and sister-in-law Jane visited Prague and Krakow this past October. This was their first venture to Poland, and I could not wait to hear their impressions of the "new" Poland. It is always good to get feedback on anything and here are a few sentences about their trip. You might notice how well it mirrors the theme leading off this Pondering Pole column:

"When we flew from Prague to Krakow, we weren't sure what to expect — probably more of a dour, Eastern European or Russian sort of culture and experience. We were pleasantly surprised."

"From the moment our cheerful driver, who spoke no English, greeted us at the airport and drove us to our little hotel in Old Town, we experienced only smiling, welcoming, helpful people."

"The lovely ladies working reception at the Wit Stwosz Hotel were always friendly and jumped to make arrangements for us. Even the waiters we encountered at restaurants showed good humor and a desire to please."

"Having just flown from Prague, a beautiful old city, we immediately noticed how incredibly clean Krakow was. During our time in Old Town and touring historical sites, I never saw one piece of trash! Prague was a wonderful city but graffiti covered buildings everywhere. Not in Krakow! The Poles we met were very proud of their lovely old city. We noticed a remarkable respect for Krakow and pride of its history from everyone we talked to.

They were delighted with so many other parts of the trip and offered comments about the square, the buildings, the food, and seeing the salt mines. I had a boss once who said, "I don't want to visit any place where they don't want me to be there." Based on what Greg and Jane experienced I think the Polish people want you there. I can't wait to go myself again!

I ENJOYED RECEIVING EMAILS from Dr. Frank Nice and Dr. Susan J. Gromacki. Thank you for the information about Neal Diamond and Britt Slabinski. Thanks to Greg and Janie for their impressions of Poland. Finally, my personal *dziękuję bardzo* to Greg Koltuniak and his wife Grace for their courage and sacrifice in the cause of freedom and for the betterment of their country. They are two of many heroes living among us.

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

Polish Chef

continued from previous page

marinated herring and discard onions and spices. Dice herring and place in salad bowl. Add 2 c cold, cooked diced potatoes, 2 peeled, diced cooking apples, 2 chopped onions, 2 chopped dill pickles and 1 t. chopped fresh parsley. Toss gently and fold in sauce: fork-blend 1½ c. mayonnaise with ½ c. sour cream and 1-2 T. brown prepared mustard. Chill at least 2 hrs before serving. Optional: for a gourmet twist add 1 heaping t. capers.

CHEESE & POTATO-FILLED PIEROGI. (*pierogi z kartoflami i serem.*, "ruskie"): For pierogi dough, sift 2½ c. flour onto board, sprinkle with ½ t salt, deposit whole egg and 1 T salad oil at center and blend ingredients. Add about ½ c. water a little at a time, working the dough constantly to absorb it. Knead dough until smooth, roll it into a ball and let it rest beneath a warm inverted bowl 10 min. Meanwhile, prepare the filling: cook 1 lb potatoes in lightly salted water until tender. Drain and cool. Add ½ lb crumbed farmer cheese and mash together with the potatoes until mixture is uniform. (If you like, you can whirl ½ lb dried cottage cheese in food-processor to a fine powder and use it instead of the farmer cheese.) In 2 T oil lightly brown 2 chopped onions and add to mixture. Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. Roll out dough thin on floured board, cut into rounds with glass or biscuit-cutter, place a spoonful of filling at center of each round, fold in half, pinch edges together to seal. Cook in batches in a large pot of boiling salted water. Cooking time is roughly 10 min, but test one for doneness just to be sure. Serve with melted butter, sour cream or butter-fried bread crumbs (Polonaise topping). Note: If you can't make them from scratch, use store-bought pierogi.

CRANBERRY JELLY DESSERT (*kisiel żurawinowy*): In pot combine 2 c raw cranberries, 2 cloves and 1 c water, bring to boil and cook until the skins of the cranberries pop. Discard cloves. With wooden pestle or spoon force cranberries through metal sieve (a plastic one may melt!), using rubber spatula to scrape scrapings from bottom of sieve into a clean pot. Add 1 c sugar and a pinch of cinnamon (optional) and simmer until sugar dissolves. Dissolve 3 T + 1 t potato starch (or cornstarch) in 1 c cold water and add to cranberries. Simmer a few min, stirring constantly, and transfer to bowl, cover and let stand until cooled to room temp. Serve at room temp or chilled, topped with super-easy vanilla sauce: beat 2 T instant vanilla-pudding mix powder (more or less) with ¾ c cold milk to get a nice, pourable sauce.

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

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and the entire Polish community a peaceful and joyful Christmas
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If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$14 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and onomastician (name researcher): Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Each order includes a genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information please contact: resarch60@gmail.com.



THE ŚLEPOWRON COAT OF ARMS was shared by the noble lines of nearly 1,000 families including: Barański, Bujno, Chrzanowski, Chudol, Dąbrowski, Dobrowolski, Górski, Komorowski, Kozłowski, Żak Kuźma, Lewandowski, Szymański, and Żukowski.

Genealogy
Our Christmas Traditions and Memories

by Stephen M. Szabados

Wesołych Świąt!

Preparations for the Christmas season have started in my house and saving the memories for my grandchildren is very important and will be a wonderful present for them in the future.

Celebrating holidays and special events gave the Polish people an overall rhythm to their lives during the year and most Polish immigrants tried to continue this in their new homes. Memories of these traditions and celebrations should be a vital part of our family histories.

Have you begun to save your Christmas memories? With the Christmas season approaching, it is time to renew your commitment to preserve your family heritage. Christmas is an exceptional time to bring our family together. We seem to transport our minds to a better place by enjoying the festive celebrations surrounding Christmas activities. We all love Christmas because of its magical atmosphere.

It is a rare time, when people forget all their problems and try to be together. Christmas helps people transform themselves from the cold dark realities of winter into a better mind by enjoying the festive celebrations surrounding 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 cook a traditional fish recipe? What were the desserts?

Keep honoring your Polish grandparents and celebrate with their Christmas traditions. Their lives are major building blocks for our roots in America. Celebrate with their Christmas traditions and remember to enjoy the spirit of Christmas every day.

If you do not write down these memories, who will?
❖ ❖ ❖
Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, author, and speaker.

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MOST IMPORTANT MEAL. Wigilia is a certain spirit, a frame of mind, and to Poles and Polish-minded people everywhere – the single most important meal of the year. The festive supper cannot begin until the evening's first star appears in the sky. And youngsters try to be extra good and not be scolded, because "how you are on Christmas Eve, you will be the whole year."

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More Awards for Author Shawver



Katrina and husband Rick Shawver

front of a crowd of 190 people. This is one of their highest awards and is rarely awarded to someone who is not Polish.

In addition to numerous awards for "Henry," most recently Shawver received the 2018 "Arizona Authors Association Literary" first place award for Published Nonfiction.

The book is a true story of how Henry Zguda, a Polish Catholic competitive swimmer, survives Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps by his wits, humor, luck, and friends.

Katrina Shawver is an experienced writer, blogger, speaker, and author. She spent fifteen years researching World War I, Poland, Auschwitz, and the Holocaust. She began her writing career more than twenty years ago by writing hundreds of newspaper columns for the *Arizona Republic*.

For more information visit katrinashawver.com, where she blogs regularly.

VIRGINIA BEACH, Virg. — Author Katrina Shawver continues to garner awards for her award-winning book "Henry: A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to America" (Köehler Books, November 2017).

In October, the Polish American Congress Arizona Division awarded Shawver the 2018 Polish Heritage Award for "her contribution to the documentation of the suffering inflicted on Polish People during the Holocaust."

The award was presented at the 44th Annual Polish Heritage Ball held in Phoenix in

Spook Ln. 5:00-10:00 p.m. Price includes buffet and show. Info (610) 373-3982.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Dec. 8. **Polish Christmas Open House**, Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut St. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Snacks, refreshments; magic show at 12:15 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. visit by Sw. Mikolaj and singing of koledy. Everyone is invited. Free Admission. Info call (215) 922-1700.

MANAYUNK — Sun., Dec. 9. Polish American Heritage Association of Manayunk-Roxborough **Traditional Wigilia Dinner**, St. Josaphat Church Hall, 124 Cotton St. 3:00 p.m.; doors open 2:00 p.m. Info call Helen Cyzio (215) 482-3040.

ERIE — The **Alliance College Alumni Association**, through its 501(c)(3) Foundation (ACAAF), is honored to announce the selection of Ray Kman as the recipient of its annual \$1,500 scholarship.

A freshman attending University of Notre Dame, Kman is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in electrical engineering.

Kman has joined numerous clubs and is already an active member in the First Year Engineering Council, responsible for planning various events for his fellow Notre Dame engineers.

A native of Richfield, Ohio, Kman continues to pursue his interests of hydroponics and sustainability by staying involved with the local community through various workshops.

Post-graduation, he plans to pursue a career within the field of engineering and continue his education in order to earn an MBA.

Kman is the son of Edward and Namie, and has an incredible family history with the college. His great grandfather, grandfather and two great uncles are all Alliance College graduates.

To learn more about the Alliance Alumni Foundation, contact Richard Day, ACAAF President, at (330) 858-3712; email rjd44282@hotmail.com.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The **Polish American Arts Association of Washington** invites all to the An-

nual Wigilia, Sun., Dec. 9, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. at The Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I St. NW.

In addition to a traditional Christmas Eve dinner and the sharing of opłatek with friends and family, an artistic program will be held with kolędy singing with performances by David Cook, Sw. Mikolaj and singing of koledy. Everyone is invited. Free Admission. Info call (215) 922-1700.

For information, visit www.paaa.us; email paaanewsletter@gmail.com, or call (703) 356-5198.

The Kosciuszko Foundation in Washington invites you to be a part of its **Annual Dinner & Dance Gala**, Sat., Dec. 1, 7:00-11:00 p.m. The

evening will be a tribute to the "100th Anniversary of Poland Regaining its Independence" and will honor actress Loretta Swit with music, dances and accessories from the 1920s.

Swit is the recipient of the 2018 Kosciuszko Foundation "Pioneer" award. A well-known American actress of Polish descent, equally versatile at comedy and drama, Swit is best known for her portrayal of Major Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan on M*A*S*H* (1972), for which she won two Emmy Awards. Swit was nominated for four Golden Globes, is a winner of 1980 and 1982 Primetime Emmy Awards, 1983 People's Choice Award, 1991 Sarah Siddons Award, and 2009 Impact Award.

The event will be held at The State Room at The Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. Tickets are \$185.00 per person. R.S.V.P. (202) 785 2320 or email: kfde@thekf.org.

The Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation will present **"Koledy - Christmas Celebration,"** Sun., Dec. 16, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. All are invited to join to sing together favorite Polish and English carols and to share a traditional Polish Christmas meal. Tickets are \$20 for KF members, \$25 general admission.

To R.S.V.P., contact bbernhardt@thekf.org or call Basia at (202) 785-2320.

FLORIDA

TAMPA BAY — American Institute of Polish Culture in Tampa Bay is celebrating **Mikolajki / St. Nicholas Day**, Thur., Dec. 6, 2018, 6:30-10:00 p.m. at Kozuba & Sons Distillery, 1960 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg.

Tickets are \$40 each, which includes two drinks and Polish tastings of Kozuba's premium craft spirits (vodka, whiskey, cordials) wine, beer, or water.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.aipctampabay.org.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK — Applications for the Kosciuszko Foundation **Teaching English in Poland 2019** are now available.

Developed and conducted by The Kosciuszko Foundation since 1991, the Teaching English in Poland Program offers a truly unique and mutually beneficial educational opportunity for its Polish and American participants. Its purpose is to provide Polish students (upper elementary

through high school) with instruction and practice in conversational English within an American cultural context at summer camps throughout Poland. The program also enables numerous American teachers and students the opportunity to become acquainted with the people, history, language, culture, and educational system of Poland.

Application deadline is February 1, 2019.

2019 Camp Sites include: Arts Enriched English Language Camp in Załęcze Wielkie; English Language-American Culture Camp in Kraków (elementary); Krynica Zdrój; Mińsk Mazowiecki; Załęcze Wielkie; Olsztynek

All applicants must be energetic, responsible, flexible, courteous, and have good health.

Polish ancestry and knowledge of the Polish language are not prerequisites.

For more information, visit theKF.org.

PENNSYLVANIA

READING — Thurs., Dec. 6. **Christmas with Alex Meixner**, Liederkrantz, 143

American Polonia at a Glance

American Council for Polish Culture



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



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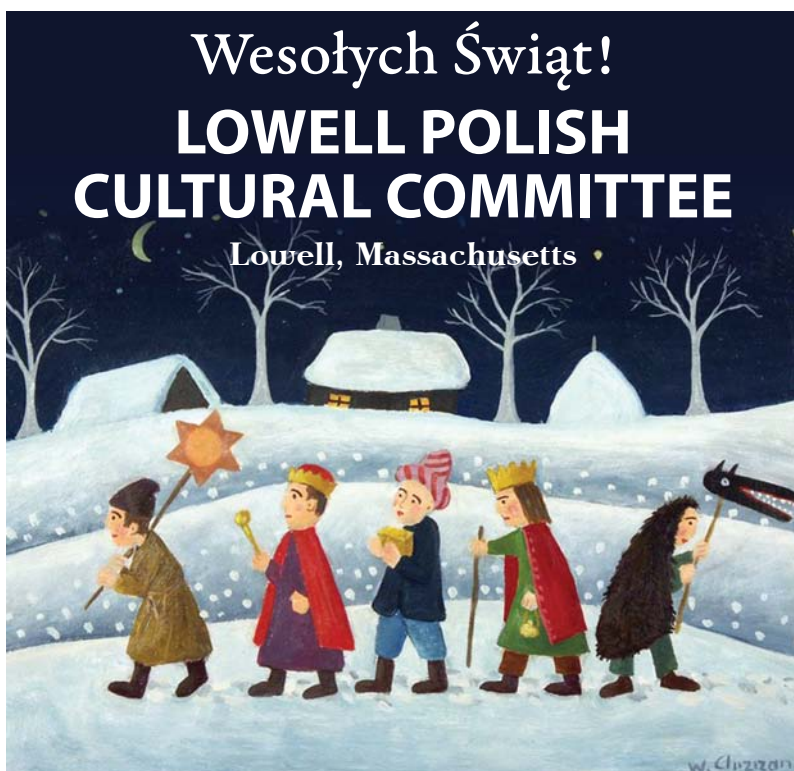
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by Gregory L. Witul

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524 W. Historic Mitchell St. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Status: Open

For this Christmas, my family will be visiting my cousin and her new husband in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Since we will only be thirty minutes from downtown Milwaukee, we will be attending this year's midnight Mass at one of Polonia's most historic churches, St. Stanislaus in Milwaukee's near south side.

With the guns of the American Civil War still ringing in their ears, a small group of Poles met in March of 1866 in hopes of establishing their own Catholic church. Low on funds and only making meager wages as fisherman on Jones Island, Anthony Kochanek offered up his gold pocket watch as a raffle prize with the proceeds going to start the new parish. About thirty families purchased tickets for a total of \$ 2 5 0 and with this money the Polish parish was born.

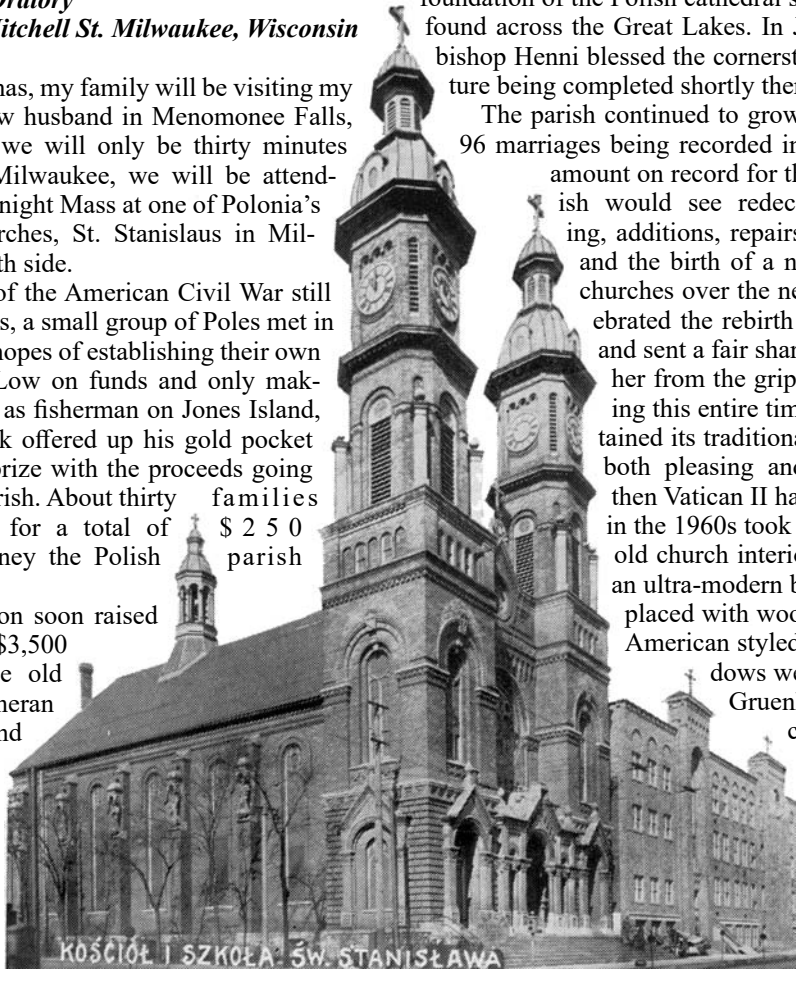
The congregation soon raised an additional \$3,500 and purchased the old St. Stephen Lutheran Church at 5th and Mineral dedicating it to St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr. With its opening, St. Stanislaus became the third Polish parish in America and the first in an urban setting. Father Theodore Weglikowski would be the first rector of the parish, but soon gave way to Father Jaster, Father Henni and Father Rodowicz. During this time, the parish opened a school with the School Sisters of Notre Dame taking up the teaching responsibilities.

In less than seven years, the parish grew from 30 families to almost 400 and a new parish complex was needed. Poland-born architect Leonard A. Kowalski

(Schmidtner) was hired to draft the new church which included two spires, a large rose window, and a grandiose entrance. Kowalski's plans would become the foundation of the Polish cathedral style of architecture found across the Great Lakes. In July of 1873 Archbishop Henni blessed the cornerstone with the structure being completed shortly thereafter.

The parish continued to grow in the 1880s with 96 marriages being recorded in 1882, the highest amount on record for the church. The parish would see redecorations, remodeling, additions, repairs and new schools, and the birth of a number of daughter churches over the next 50 years. It celebrated the rebirth of Poland in 1918 and sent a fair share of its sons to free her from the grip of the Nazis. During this entire time the church maintained its traditional look and styling, both pleasing and reverent — and then Vatican II happened. A remodel in the 1960s took the nearly century-old church interior and made it into an ultra-modern box. Plaster was replaced with wood paneling and the American styled stained glass windows were changed out for Gruenke designs made of chunked glass broken with a hammer and sealed into place with epoxy.

This church would maintain this artistic expression as its neighborhood changed and the Poles gave way to Spanish-speaking Catholics. In 2007 the parish became home to Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Latin Mass community offering the "missa extraordinaria." And the next year the church became an Oratory of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. Under the direction of these priests, the church has been slowly demodernized and its original beauty can be enjoyed again, especially at the 11:00 p.m. High Mass on Christmas Eve.



Polka Fans to Help Mission of Mercy

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Polka music fans are asked to bring winter, holiday, and personal items to benefit St. Luke's Mission of Mercy to the annual Christmas Sing-Along, hosted by Buffalo's Special Delivery Band.

St. Luke's Mission of Mercy is an independent Mission in the Roman Catholic Tradition in the inner city of Buffalo, New York. It does not receive money from the government or the Diocese. Its ministry depends on donations to continue its service to the community.

Items needed by St. Luke's include:

Winter Needs: Medications: Pain relievers, cold and allergy medications, cough drops, etc. for both children and adults. (Please, no prescription drugs).

Everyday Needs: Clean and gently-used clothing, shoes and boots, linens, toys; candy; baby diapers; wipes and formula (Enfamil is preferred); toilet paper; paper towels; tissues and small-size personal hygiene products.

Code Blue Needs: Men's sweat-shirts, t-shirts, socks, blankets, and sheets.

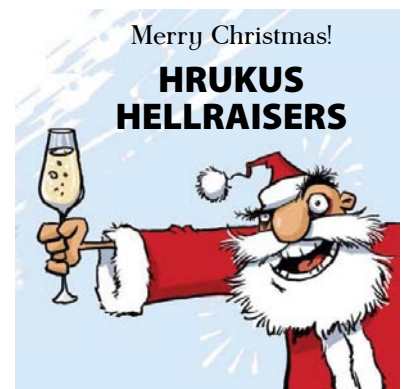
Donations: Checks (no cash, please) made out to "St. Luke's Mission Of Mercy" with "Holiday Food Baskets" in the reference line.

This year's Christmas Sing-Along will be held Saturday, December 15 at Pott's Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14206, from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.

For table reservations, call Ted Szymanski at (716) 688-9101.

To help St. Luke's Mission directly with a monetary donation, send check or money order to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, P.O. Box 448, Buffalo, NY 14215.

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TAX DEDUCTION. 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. Call (800) 422-1275 or visit www.polamjournal.com to learn more.

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SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donation to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **Ralph and Wanda Klims**, Rochester Hills, Mich.; **Rev. James J. Meszaros**, Bayside, N.Y.; **Freddie Turlo**, Winslow, Maine; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; and two **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

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Dance Time

A Winning Combination for Fans and Bands

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Corner bars with polka events seem to be popping up all over Western New York. **New Direction** recently played at the Firehouse in Cheektowaga on a Saturday evening. Free admission, drink and food specials throughout the night proved to be a winning

and specials for the polka crowd. This month's polka Sunday will be held a week early on December 9. The venue is located on Clinton St. near Harlem Rd. in Cheektowaga and typically draws a diverse crowd.

I am hopeful that polka fans continue to frequent these venues as often as possible so that business owners continue to book polka music. While free admission is great for music lovers, these sites can only continue to hire bands if it is financially feasible. The more music lovers come to support the owners, the longer polka music will be offered.

COSTUMED FUN.

Potts Banquet Hall was filled with ghosts and goblins as polka fans dressed for Halloween and came to enjoy an evening with the **Buffalo Touch**. Prizes were given for various costumes, including best couple, sexiest costume, and most original. Fans spent the evening dancing along to the delightful entertainment of The Touch playing polka favorites and a DJ to fill in on their breaks. Always happy to perform their most requested songs, fans anticipate singing and dancing to those favorites. Band members joined in the fun dressing for the occasion. Accordionist Mike Nowakowski's family was there in full force enjoying his performance. I was lucky enough to catch a quick photo of Mike donning a dachshund mask during the evening with pirate Tadj rocking right behind him. All that attended left with a smile on their face after a night of tricks and treats for all.

WHEN POLKA BUZZ, our local polka dance party show, started a few years ago, I thought it was go-

ing to be short-lived. The show tapings started off with slow audience participation and the bands being

Schriver at the *Polka Buzz* November taping showcasing Special Delivery. Linda was taking the op-

HOLY TOLEDO! Polka fans are buzzing with excitement at the return of **Holy Toledo Polka Days**.



Polka Buzz MC Ronnie D. and WXRL's Linda Lou at the November taping of the television show.

combination for this local watering hole. They will be returning again, so check out their website for upcoming dates. **New Direction** also appears monthly at the Polish Nook in Niagara Falls. This is a terrific venue and typically fills up very early, so make reservations if you plan to go there. Visit www.thenewdirectionband.com for up-to-the-minute news on where the band will be performing next.

Special Delivery has also secured monthly appearances at Buffalo Pizza & Ale House on Dingens St. in Cheektowaga, conveniently located right off the exit of the I-190. Free admission is also offered for this event and there are many bar and food specials to indulge in while you are there. The band plays in an adjacent room with plenty of seating and room to dance. Table service as well as walk up bar service makes this venue a no-brainer for a Sunday afternoon of polka fun.

Special Delivery will be performing there from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 16. Stop by after a long day of Christmas shopping and share in some holiday cheer. The band also has many events in the coming months including a Koledy Sing-Along on December 15th at Potts Banquet Hall. You can check out their schedule via their website www.thespecialdeliveryband.com.

Lastly, Clinton Bar and Grill has been hosting polka music on a monthly basis for that past few years. **The Buffalo Touch** is appearing on the third weekend of each month from 5:30-8:30 p.m. This local tavern also boasts free admission



Linda Merwin, Jan Dressler, and Mike Chipchak at the Clinton Bar & Grill.

paid with gift certificates from local restaurants.

Fast forward a few years and the cult following this show retains is tremendous. Hundreds of fans religiously arrive at Potts Banquet hall for the monthly taping and hit the dance floor song after song. Every band draws an incredible crowd consisting of more than just your average polka fan base. I have talked with many attendees who admit that they never danced the polka in their life until they decided to come to a live taping. The audience genuinely has an incredible time dancing and making their appearance on this local TV show. Western New York DJ turned TV host Ronnie D kiddingly jokes with audience members and showcases interviews with band members, local promoters, and Polish organizations in the area. Ronnie D, who hosts a weekly polka show called *Drive Time Polkas* at 5:00 p.m. daily on WXRL 1300 AM, is no stranger to polka fans.

WXRL has been a longtime supporter of polka music giving air time to many polka DJ's during its more than 50 years in business. The radio station is owned and operated by the musically gifted Schriver family. This family has been a well-respected staple of the WNY music scene since their father "Ramblin' Lou" Schriver began his radio career in 1946.

A dear friend of my family since before I even knew polkas existed, it was a delight to see **Linda Lou**



The Nowakowski family had a fun time at the Touch's Halloween Dance.

portunity to reach the thousands of viewers who tune into *Polka Buzz* to advertise some upcoming events for their radio station. Musicians and dancers who partake in monthly shows all admit that people frequently recognize them from the TV show. I don't think you can ask for better advertising for the polka genre. If you live outside the area, you can visit the WBBZ website or catch past episodes on YouTube.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING for New Year's plans, there are a few events happening in Western New York. Millennium Hotel's event features **John Gora & Gorale** and **Buffalo Concertina All Stars**. Pricing starts at \$229.99 per couple which includes an overnight stay, seven-hour open bar, Polish dinner buffet, champagne toast at midnight, as well as a breakfast buffet on New Year's Day morning. Music and dancing will take place from 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. You can contact the Millennium for further information or to make reservations at 1-800-323-3331.

Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga will also be hosting a New Year's event with music by **Phocus**. The evening includes a cocktail hour with *hors d'oeuvre*, delicious dinner, open bar, party hats, and midnight toast. For information and pricing, you can contact Potts Banquet Hall at (716) 826-6575. Pricing for the New Years at Potts begins at \$49.95 per person.

The festival is scheduled for April 5-7, 2019. Holy Toledo '19 will be held at the Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel, located at 444 N. Summit Street in Toledo.

The three-day polka festival will feature the some of the top polka bands in the industry, including the host band The DynaBrass, The Boys, The Beat, Polish Connection, John Gora & Gorale, Polka Country Musicians, FreezeDried, The Knewz, and Squeezebox featuring Ted Lange & Mollie B. The revival of this festival is so highly anticipated that the Renaissance, the host hotel, is already booked to capacity. But rest assured that you can still attend this wonderful spring time event. An additional block of rooms has been established for attendees at the Park Inn by Radisson, located at 101 North Summit St. This convenient hotel is just a five minute walk or complimentary shuttle bus ride. Rooms are available at the group rate of \$109.00/per night and reservations can be made by calling Park Inn by Radisson Reservation Line at (419) 241-3000 while utilizing the Holy Toledo Group Code is 1904HTPDRB.

A wait list has also been established for the Renaissance Hotel and additional information is available by contacting Joe Zalewski directly at (419) 351-5031 or via email at joez@holytoledopolkadays.com.

Merry Christmas wishes to all, and my best for a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year.



Rocky Kotas and family enjoying the music of Special Delivery at the Polka Buzz show recording.

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"Drive Time Polkas" features a wide variety of polka music, traffic reports, and information on polka dances and other social events in Western New York.

FOR INFORMATION or ADVERTISING RATES, CALL
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December Polka Birthdays

Birthdays courtesy of John Nalevanko, host of Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Live streaming at www.PA_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

NAME	BORN	DIED	KNOWN FOR	CITY, STATE
3 Joe Tiberi			Musician	Pa.
4 Gene Wisniewski	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 Coblisch	1948-		Polka D. J. / Promoter	N.Y.
8 Rocco Naples	1986-		Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
9 Paul (Pookie) Kuharski	1926	6/11/08	Polka DJ. / 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 Welton			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 DJ. / 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 Spatak		2/6/09	Polka Promoter / Columnist	Pa.

Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

DECEMBER 1

- Special Delivery Buffalo Pizza & Ale House Cheektowaga, N.Y. 5-8 (716) 240-9161
- Dennis Polisky PNI Club Worcester, Mass. 5-9 (508) 361-2860
- DynaBrass Roselawn Banquets New York Mills, N.Y. 2-6 (315) 736-5030
- John Gora New Orleans Party Ctr. Brecksville, Ohio. 6-12 (216) 403-9912
- Eddie Forman Polish Cultural Ctr. Clark, N.J. 2-6 (732) 382-7193
- Jimmy Sturr Paramount Theater Middletown, N.Y. 3-5 (800) 724-0727
- New Tones. Holy Spirit Ctr. Parma Ohio 3-7 (216) 496-0223
- Mike Surratt White Rose York, Pa. 7-11 (716) 848-5369
- New Direction Firehouse Sports Bar & Grill West Seneca, N.Y. 7-10 (716) 826-4259

DECEMBER 2

- DynaBrass. PACC Ludlow, Mass. 3-7 (413) 592-0367
- Swingmasters VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152

- Rich Bobinski Orch. Elks Middle-town, N.Y. 7-11 (845) 649-6328
- Eddie Forman Polish Cultural Ctr. Clark, N.J. 2-6 (732) 382-7197
- Jimmy Sturr Cadillac Ranch South-ington, Conn. 2-5 (800) 724-0727

DECEMBER 7

- Polka Family New Orleans Party Ctr. Brecksville, Ohio. (216) 496-0223

DECEMBER 8

- Eddie Forman / Lenny Gomulka In-dependence Fire Hall Great Mead-ow, N.J. 5-12 (908) 637-4133
- John Stevens Mohnaghan TWP Fire Hall Dillsburg, Pa. 5-9 (717) 458-5386
- Mike Surratt Fidelitas Club Balti-more, Md. 1-5 (410) 446-8189
- New Direction. Buffalo Polka Boost-ers Christmas Party. Polish Falcons Depew, N.Y. 7:30-11:30 (716) 771-1076

DECEMBER 9

- Jody Maddie. St. Mary's Parma, Ohio. 1-5 (216) 409-4254
- Joe Stanky VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152
- Eddie Forman PACC Ludlow, Mass. 3-7 (413) 592-0367

DECEMBER 15

- Special Delivery Pott's Banquet Hall Koledy Night Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 668-9101

DECEMBER 16

- Special Delivery Buffalo Pizza & Ale House Cheektowaga, N.Y. 5-8 (716) 240-9161
- John Stevens VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152
- Dennis Polisky St. Joe Polish Society. Colchester, Conn. 1-6 (860) 537-2550
- John Gora VFW Dearborn Heights, Mich. 2-6 (313) -274-4666

DECEMBER 16

- New Direction Broadway Market Buffalo, N.Y. 12-3 (716) 893-0705

DECEMBER 30

- Penna Villagers VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152

DECEMBER 31

- John Gora / Concertina All Stars Mil-lennium Hotel Cheektowaga, N.Y. (716) 681-2400
- DynaBrass Slovenien Hall Yukon, Pa. 8:30-2:30 (724) 722-9700

JANUARY 1, 2019

- Dennis Polisky / Eddie Forman PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-7 (413) 592-0367
- New Phaze / Music Company / Freeze Dried Glendora Banquets Chicago 1:30-6 (708) 425-3686
- DynaBrass K Pulaski Club New Cas-tle, Pa. 2-6 (724) 658-6221.

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2019 SPRING EVENTS

- **Tues. Jan. 1 New Year's Day "Pot Luck Polka Party"**
Nickelcity Dave DJ / Musicians Jam Session \$5.00 @ the door, 2 to 5 p.m.
- **Sun. Jan. 13th, Membership Meeting** 12:30,
DJ" Nickelcity Dave" 2 to 5 p.m.
- **New Generation Band (Wis.)**
Fri. Jan. 18th, Meet and Greet, DJ Nickelcity Dave 6 p.m. "FREE"
Sat. Jan. 19th, 6 to 10 p.m. & Sun. Jan. 20th, 2 to 6 p.m.
(admission \$12.00 at the door)
- **Buffalo Concertina All-Stars (Buffalo)**
Fri. Feb. 8th, Meet and Greet, DJ Nickelcity Dave 6 p.m. "FREE"
Sat. Feb. 9th, 6 to 10 p.m. & Sun. Feb. 10th, 2 to 6 p.m.
(admission \$12.00 at the door)
- **Sat. Feb. 16th, BAL WALENTYNKOWY / Valentine's Day Dance**
(non-polka) 7 p.m. -1am
Mary Kiselus (602) 526-7321 for info and tickets
- **Sun. Mar. 3rd, Membership Meeting** 12:30
"DJ "Nickelcity Dave" 2 to 5 p.m. .
- **John Gora & Gorale' (Canada)**
DZIEN SW. JOZEFA / St. Joseph's Day Celebration
Fri. Mar. 15th, Meet and Greet, DJ Nickelcity Dave 6 p.m. "FREE"
Sat. Mar. 16th, 6 to 10 p.m. & Sunday Mar. 17th, 2 - 6 p.m.
(Admission \$12.00 at the door, if your first name is Pat or Joe FREE)
- **Sun. Apr. 14th, "Easter Dinner Dance"**
Dinner 1 to 3 p.m. , Dance w/ Nickelcity express Band 3 to 6 p.m.
MEMBERS \$15.00, NON-MEMBERS \$20.00, KIDS 7-14- ½ price, Under 7
"FREE" / RESERVATIONS REQUESTED 602-909-4965, 602-275-9329
- **Mon. Apr. 22nd, DYNGUS DAY PARTY "Pot Luck Party"**
(bring your favorite dish to share) Nickelcity Express Band \$5.00 @ the door, 6 to 9 p.m.
- **SAT. Apr. 27th, ZABAWA WIOSENNA / Polonia Spring Ball**
(non-Polka Event) 7 p.m. - 2am
Mary Kiselus 602-526-7321 for info and tickets
- **Sun. May 5th, Membership Meeting** 12:30
"DJ "Nickelcity Dave" 2 to 5 p.m. .
- **Polish Woman Heritage Group of Az. Seminar (women only)** 7 p.m.
Thursday Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10 May 8

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WINTER NEEDS: Medications: Pain relievers, cold and allergy medications, cough drops, etc. for both children and adults. Please, no prescription drugs.

EVERYDAY NEEDS: Clean and gently-used clothing, shoes and boots, linens, toys; candy; baby diapers; wipes and formula (Enfamil is preferred); toilet paper; paper towels; tissues and small-size personal hygiene products.

CODE BLUE NEEDS: Men's sweatshirts, t-shirts, socks, blankets, and sheets.

DONATIONS: Checks (no cash, please) made out to "ST. LUKE'S MISSION OF MERCY" with "HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS" in the reference line.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

from

Polish Singers Alliance of America

www.polishsingersalliance.org

DISTRICT VII

Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus #321

30th ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT - KONCERT KOŁĘD SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

2:30p.m. at Associated Polish Home

9105 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114

Guest Chorus: Hejnal Singing Society, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Reception follows the concert

Call Debbie Majka for details. (215) 627-1391



KOŁĘDY JANUARY 20, 2019

Holy Rosary Church

6 Wall Street, Passaic, NJ 07055

12:30 p.m. Mass

1:30-3:00 p.m. Concert

DISTRICT IX

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CAROLS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

3:30 P.M. at St. Stanislaus Church

123 Townsend Street, Buffalo, NY 14212

Free Will Offering

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The Polish Singers Alliance of America was founded in 1889 and is the oldest Polish American Cultural Organization in America

OUR WIGILIA TRADITION. Before the traditional Christmas Eve dinner, the head of the household leads grace, then takes the opłatek, makes the Sign of the Cross over it, and shares it with the next in line, wishing them good health and God's abundant blessings.

It is a time of love, forgiveness and reconciliation, when all past grudges are forgotten.

Only after all have shared bits of opłatek, exchanged wishes, and made their peace with everyone else, does the festive supper begin.

The Michigan Cedar: A Christmas Memory

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

I can't remember exactly when, but it had to be sometime in 1944 that I went to live with my maternal grandparents, Bronislaw Bielski and Czesława Klepczynska Bielska, on their dairy farm in Michigan. They were Polish immigrants. My *Busia* (grandmother) was a farm gal from an area near Poznan and Dziadzia (grandfather) was, as he always would say, a "kawaler" from Warsaw. I was only four years old, but I still remember living with them.

Every day was a special day with my grandparents. It was a period when I spoke only Polish, talked to my mother back in Detroit on a crank-up phone, and pumped water from an outside well into the kitchen sink. It was a thrill to help Dziadzia make his homemade cigarettes with a cigarette roller, rolling paper, and Prince Albert tobacco.

Thus, my life, until I started first grade, would be lived on a dairy farm. It was a fun time in my life, but it was an educational experience as well.

There was one special day, I remember as if it were yesterday. I was neck deep in snow. Wearing galoshes several sizes too big, a winding path that seemed to have no end, and pre-dawn moonlight and stars as my guide. At last, I arrived at the warm, brightly lit barn. As a four-and five-year-old, I found, day after day, my Dziadzia doing the tasks that a dairy farmer has to do, milking the cows, preparing the milk for pick up. But this December day would be especially exciting to me – and the memory of it still is. It was the day that Dziadzia had promised me a ride into the woods to bring home a special cedar Christmas tree. Busia insisted on a cedar choinka.

Later that day, Bessie, one of my Dziadzia's horses, was harnessed, and off we went. The one bell on Bessie's harness created a chime and a rhythm that blended in with Grandpa's songs. The sound of crunched snow blended in perfectly with the sound of that single bell and Dziadzia's singing.

Using the path that Dziadzia had already carved out in the snow, we wheeled through a field of white crystal. Oh, how I loved any wagon ride with my Dziadzia, and my turn at the reins, telling Bessie to "get

along." We arrived at our destination – "the Back 40," the woods. There were trees, hundreds and hundreds, or so it seemed to an enthralled child. Unreachable, towering trees. Among them we would find that extraordinary cedar.

Dziadzia carried me on his shoulders with my arms locked around his neck, since the snow was so deep. I remember pointing out many trees. "There, no, move over there," I said. We would have no problem because each and every cedar looked majestic, perfect, gigantic.

"Toten, toten." ("This one, this one"), I said.

"Najlepszy drzewo!" ("The best tree!") was Grandpa's reply.

Three or four whacks of the axe, and the tree was ours. Back up I went onto Dziadzia's shoulders while he dragged the tree with one hand and carried the axe in the other.

Now, with that special cedar in the wagon, and me sitting next to Dziadzia, off we went back to the house. Dziadzia still needed to trim the tree to Busia's specifications for the height of the cedar. Not too short, but not too tall. With her approval, care was taken to place the tree into its special stand. The sweet smell of freshly-baked *chalka*, sugar cookies, and Polish-style coffee added to the excitement. The taste of Busia's

coffee still resonates with me today. Hand ground, chicory flavored, strong-boiled, made with eggshells at the bottom of the pot. Equal amounts of the freshest cream anyone could possibly ask for was added into our Polish latté.

Soon, we decorated the tree with real candles, toys, and the ornaments that Busia religiously unwrapped, some of which she had brought with her from Poland.

The fresh cedar tree from the woods was finally transformed into our majestic Christmas tree. Dziadzia carefully lit each of the candles, as I stood there in awe. That magical cedar tree became a part of my unforgettable memory of Dziadzia.

Looking back on my two years living with my grandparents on their dairy farm, I can't help but think that every day with Dziadzia was a special day, but this one day was extra special.



The author as a child with her dziadzia, and years later as a college student. Geraldine lived on her grandparent's dairy farm until the first grade.



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