

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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**SPECTER'S APOLOGY IS NOT ENOUGH • POLONIA IN ASHES? • BIELSKI BROTHERS, HOLLYWOOD STYLE**  
**"RON" HEJNA'S GENEROUS GIFT • LATE AMBASSADOR FONDLY REMEMBERED • ANNUAL HERITAGE QUIZ**  
**THE TREATS OF KARNAWAL • CIA HONORS KUKLINSKI • A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 304TH SQUADRON**



**A TRIP TO WARSAW'S  
OLD TOWN  
PAGE 7**

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

## NEWSMARK

**MAIDA'S REPLACEMENT ANNOUNCED.** Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Allen H. Vigneron (inset, left), bishop of Oakland, Calif., as metropolitan archbishop of Detroit, replacing Cardinal Adam Maida (inset, right), who has served the diocese since 1990.



Vigneron is a native of Michigan who once served as an auxiliary bishop in Detroit.

Maida reached the age limit for retirement for a bishop, age 75, in March 2005, but a pope often takes years to name a replacement. Maida was elevated to cardinal, a lifetime designation, in 1994.

Maida is being remembered for his "surprises," like the creation of a first-in-the-U.S. Catholic-Protestant school system, Cornerstone Schools, shortly after his arrival in Detroit in 1990.

In his 18 years of overseeing southeast Michigan's 1.4 million Catholics, Maida dedicated several new suburban parishes, administered the completion of a \$100-million endowment to support Catholic education, oversaw a major renovation of the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and the development of Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit into a program with a worldwide reputation in Catholic circles.

Maida was named a cardinal in 1994. He participated in the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI.

Detroit is the nation's sixth largest diocese, with nearly 1.5 million Catholics, and nearly 700 priests.



**FORYS EYES EMMANUEL'S CONGRESSIONAL SEAT.** Victor Forsys, M.D. hopes to win the Fifth Congressional seat, vacated by Rahm Emmanuel when the Illinois congressman was appointed Chief of Staff by President Barack Obama. The position is currently held by Ronald Burris, who was appointed by Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. Forsys, a native of Krosno, Poland came to the United States with his parents at the age of four. He and his wife Anna Birn-Forsys M.D., own the Community Medical Center on Chicago's Northwest side.

This congressional district, once represented by Daniel Rostenkowski, has the largest percentage of Polish Americans of any congressional district in the United States. *Story on page 8.*

**YAD VASHEM HONORS ANOTHER POLE.** Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, held a ceremony honoring Magdalena Grodzka-Guzkowska (right), a Polish citizen, as Righteous Among the Nations for helping children escape from the Warsaw ghetto during World War II.

Born in Rusinek, Grodzka-Guzkowska was 15 years old when she enlisted in the Polish Underground against the Germans.

In 1943, she met Jadwiga Piotrowska, also recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations, and joined her in helping children escape from the Warsaw ghetto.

Grodzka-Guzkowska collected the children, cared for them and escorted them to their places of refuge with Polish families or in monasteries, always with the utmost dedication and love although she was placing her own life at serious risk.

Before bringing the children to their hiding places, she taught them Christian customs in an effort to disguise their Jewish identity.



**DESTINATION POLAND.** Poland will be a vacation hotspot in 2009, says the FCO & ABTA TRAVEL TRENDS REPORT, produced by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Association of British Travel Agents. The report maintains that Poland is a real winner for vacationers because of the warm hospitality of the Polish people and the value for the money. The Polish National Tourist Office acknowledges that Poland definitely meets the goals of visitors seeking extra value as well as unforgettable sights and experiences. The acting director of the office, Ewa Binkin, stated her delight that the TRAVEL TRENDS REPORT highlighted Poland as one of the hot spots for 2009 and knows Poland is a first-class vacation spot offering world-class attractions to visitors.

## Polish American Pulchritude



**THE LEGION OF YOUNG POLISH WOMEN (LYPW)** held its final Debutante Tea on December 14 at the home of Mr. James and Dr. Anna Szpindor Watson in South Barrington, Ill. This year's Ball Chair, Grazyna Migala, announced the 70th White & Red Ball (Bal Amarantowy) will be held on March 14, 2009 at the Hilton Chicago. Eight debutantes, pictured above, will bow to Chicago's Polonian society at this gala black-tie event. Those interested in this event may contact Mrs. Migala at gam@migala.com.

## Diocese OKs Vigil at St. Stan's in Adams

ADAMS, Mass.—The Diocese of Springfield is allowing the vigil at the recently closed St. Stanislaus Kostka Church to continue without interference unless safety issues arise.

A December 29 organizational meeting of vigil participants drew roughly 100 people. They set up a schedule for round-the-clock vigil shifts in the church, and will continue to extend the schedule as volunteers and

time permits. A group of approximately 100 met in the church January 4 to sing koledy, which, according to a parishioner, were not part of the closing Christmastime services.

In August, Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell announced that St. Stanislaus and St. Thomas Aquinas would be consolidated in the Notre Dame parish. See "Vigil at St. Stan's," page 4.

## Workers Find Wartime Mass Grave

### Remains Believed to German Victims of Red Army

MALBORK, Poland—A mass grave dating from World War II and containing the bodies of at least 1,800 German men, women and children has been unearthed by construction workers here in northern Poland.

The discovery was made in the town of Malbork—once part of Germany called Marienburg during the War—by workers building a luxury hotel at the foot of the town's 13th-century fortress.

The remains are believed to be German civilians who disappeared after the Soviet Red Army captured the town as it marched on Berlin in 1945. Many skulls were found with bullet holes in them, suggesting executions had taken place, a local official said.

A small number of bodies were found in late October, and digging was halted to allow an investigation. After resuming work weeks later, the workers turned up the remains of dozens, and then hundreds, more people.

Polish and German experts have concluded they are the remains of German citizens still classified as missing, said town official Piotr Szwedowski. He said it was believed more bodies might yet be found.

Many of the millions who disappeared in the chaos of wartime Europe are still unaccounted for.

See "Mass Grave Unearthed," page 4

## Building on Tradition



St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Rochester, N.Y. celebrated the 100th anniversary of the construction of its historic church and unveiled a new shrine—the first in the diocese to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II. *Story on page 4.*

## ALMANAC

## February • Luty

"Simplicity is the highest goal, achievable when you have overcome all difficulties. After one has played a vast quantity of notes and more notes, it is simplicity that emerges as the crowning reward of art."

—**Frederic Chopin**, born this month in 1810.

## 2 CANDLEMAS

At Candlemas, honoring the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, Poles observe "Matka Boska Gromnicza." Candles blessed in church are taken home a symbol of the Blessed Mother. They are called Thunder Candles. The candle is lit during thunderstorms to protect the home from lightning. It is also lit in times of trouble or when someone is approaching death. The legend surrounding the candles is that in the evening the Blessed Mother wards off wolves by using the candles as a torch. In the art gallery of the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan, there is a painting of the Blessed Mother with the candle warding off wolves.

3 1899. Death of painter **Juliusz Kossak** (b. 1824).

## 4 ST. DOROTHY

*Świętej Dorocie uschnie koszula na płocie. — St. Dorothy's shirt will dry on the fence. (Days are windier and warmer starting today).* — 1505. Birth of the father of Polish literature, **Mikolaj Rej**.

1745. Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer **Thaddeus Kosciuszko**.

9 1961. Birth of **John Kruk**, colorful and often-quoted major league baseball player.

10 1866. Birth in Detroit of **John Temke**, first American priest of Polish descent.

11 1945. **Yalta Conference**. Soviets receive Poland's Eastern lands.

12 1867. Death of **George Sokolowski**, first Polish American graduate of West Point Academy and Civil War veteran.

15 1880. **Polish National Alliance** is formed in Philadelphia.

1903. Death of **Fr. Jozef Dabrowski**, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).

16 1952. Death of **Felix Witkowski**, last Polish American veteran of the Confederacy.

17 1772. **First Partition of Poland** between Prussia, Russia and Austria.

18 1386. Marriage of **Polish Queen Jadwiga d'Anjou** to **Wladyslaw Jagiello** of Lithuania.

19 1473. Birth of astronomer **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik) in Torun, Poland.

20 1530. **Zygmunt II August** crowned King of Poland.

21 1820. Birth of **Apollo Nalecz-Korzeniowski**, dramatist, poet and father of Joseph Conrad.

22 1814. Birth of folklorist and ethnographer **Oskar Kolberg**.

1810. Birth of **Frederick Chopin**, Polish composer, pianist, in Zelazowa Wola, Poland (d. 1849).

23 1884. Birth of biochemist **Casimir Funk**, father of the vitamin. (d. 1967)

1891. Death in Detroit of **Fr. Leopold Moczygomba**, patriarch of American Polonia, who led Silesian immigrants to the first Polish settlement in the United States, Panna Maria, Texas.

27 1971. First edition of the Polish language *Nowy Dziennik* in Jersey City.

1996. Death of Heisman Trophy winner (1950) **Vic Janowicz**.

This paper was mailed on or before **January 31, 2009**. The March 2009 edition of the paper will be mailed on or before **February 28, 2009**.

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## Specter's Apology is Not Enough

While Senator Arlen Specter's offer of apology to American Polonia's fraternal and cultural organizations ("Senator Arlen Specter Tells Polish Jokes at Prestigious Dinner," PAJ, Jan. 2009), is a step in the right direction, it is not enough.

Polish Americans have suffered through decades of jokes, name-calling, and derision. For a member of the U.S. Senate to openly mock us is a deliberate slap in the face to every Pole who has walked on U.S. soil. Specter's forced remorse would be non-existent had no one spoken up about his routine. One (especially someone who is 78 years old) does not suddenly start telling Polish jokes. This incident gave us a sample of Specter's opinion on not only Poles, but, we would wager, of all ethnic and race groups.

Specter must be taken to task on this. Readers have called and written the PAJ with a variety of suggestions for Specter's atonement, from a nationally-televised apology to letters of apologies to all Polish Americans via Polonia's media. Other suggestions from readers and callers include:

- An effort by Specter to see Poles are granted Visa waivers;
- Appropriation of finances for Polish American initiatives, such as funding for academic programs, grants for Polish American archival institutions; and spending on Polish American social service programs;
- Promotion of long-overdue recognition of Poles by the United States Postal System;

• Lobbying for a Presidential Pardon of World War II Private Eddie Slovak;

• Polish American appointments.

Understandably, Polish Americans are angry and want more than lip service.

Specter's Washington office is located at 711 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510; tel. (202) 224-4254.

**BE VIGILANT.** Hats off to the brave parishioners holding a vigil in the now closed St. Stanislaus R.C. Church in Adams, Massachusetts. The last Mass at the parish was held December 28, at which time a group decided to hold a vigil until the Vatican rules on its fate. The bishop of the Springfield Diocese is letting them stay on the property, barring any safety concerns.

Parishioners hope Rome will rule in their favor. Diocesan officials feel it will not.

"I don't know what the odds are. Probably not too good," said Henry "Hank" Tomkowicz, a spokesman for the group fighting the closing. "But we have to try. The worst thing you can do is not try. We're going to do as much as we can to save our church."

Ethnicity aside, closing St. Stan's shut the door on the most inspiring of Adams' parishes. When that is added to the passion the area's Polonia holds for its church, it is obvious

the Diocese chose poorly.

We salute the parishioners who refuse to surrender, and admire their steadfast commitment to holding their ground, not only for themselves, but for all Polish American parishes that have been closed or merged.

**VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND TALENT.** Polish Americans involved in family research are blessed with one of the nation's most successful genealogical groups, the Polish Genealogical Society of America.

Because the PGSA is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, it is constantly in need of help. Currently, it has two very vital positions open: the Publications Chair and the Convention Chair.

The Publications Chair oversees any material that the society issues, either in print or electronically, related to the genealogical purposes of the organization. He or she needs to have a good working knowledge of the English language. In addition, any knowledge of publishing and printing requirements or procedures is certainly a plus. This person currently interfaces with the editor of the *Rodziny*, oversees its e-zine *Notebook*, and works to find new books and CDs of merit for the society to publish.

The Conference Chair heads up a committee that plans, organizes, and implements the annual conference.

If you are at all interested in either of these positions, please con-

tact Eileen M. Carter at [ecskeeing@comcast.net](mailto:ecskeeing@comcast.net) for more information. She'd appreciate hearing from you, even if it's to answer your questions and provide more details.

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**MISSING STORIES.** Please remember: we are printed monthly, but have an early copy deadline. Over the past holiday season, we were saddened to see so many *Wigilia* and *Koledy* parties we could not tell you about because the press releases arrived well past our deadline. The same happened with *Heritage Month* observances.

Deadline for all copy is the 8th of the month preceding publication, e.g., February 8 for the March edition. We prefer e-mail ([info@palamjournal.com](mailto:info@palamjournal.com)), but understand not everyone has access to a computer. Send information to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 328, Boston, NY 14025, Attn: Editorial / American Polonia at a Glance.

## VIEWPOINTS

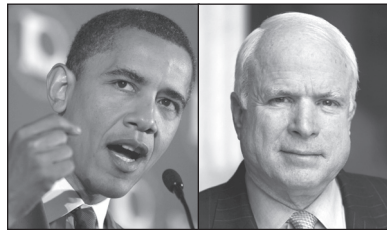
## Polonia in Ashes?

Reprinted from POLISH HERITAGE Publication of the American Council for Polish Culture

In the October 1, 2008 issue of *TYGODNIK POLSKI* there appeared an article reprinted from the Polish issue of *NEWSWEEK*, *Polska*, Nr. 43/08, written by Tadeusz Zachurski from New York and co-author Marek Rybarczyk. The title was shocking "Polonia w Proszku" (Polonia in Ashes). The premise of the article: Polonia has lost its significance because neither candidate for President, Obama nor McCain sought Polish American votes during the election campaign. This was at a time when Americans of Polish heritage were celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Poles arrival at Jamestown where they made a significant difference. Nei-

ther campaigner attended any of the celebrations, despite the fact that Polish Americans are the eighth largest ethnic group in the United States. Further, Zbigniew Brzezinski's son Mark is one of Obama's consultants.

It is not in the ACPC's purview to mix into politics, but it is our goal to keep our heritage alive and to make the following generations proud of their heritage. It cannot be very inspiring to our young people if their fellow Americans have little regard for them. When Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II, much of this attitude changed but since his death, attitudes are slipping. For some time we have been lobbying for the lifting of visa requirements on Poland with no success, while other countries with a lesser his-



**Neither presidential candidate, Obama nor McCain, sought Polish American votes during the election campaign.**

tory of support for the United States get to come here without a visa. Our representation in Congress has fallen off dramatically. In the senate there are only three senators of Polish background: Barbara Mikulski (D-MD); Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) (who has since retired).

It is worse on the House side, of 435 representatives, there is only John Dingell (D-MI); two Democrat governors: Ted Kulongowski (D-OR) and Tim Pawlenty (R-MN).

It is the opinion of the authors of the article that Polonia suffers from a lack of dedicated leaders. In addition to educating our youth about their heritage we should stress our contributions to the United States and the importance of participating in its government.

We certainly have potential leadership and we should encourage and support them through our scholarship programs and by participating in local interest groups. We are Americans of Polish decent and have always been good and active citizens: proud of our combined cultures.

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## The Complete Doctor



**Dr. Maria Siemionow: surgeon for the nation's first face transplant.**

The nation's first face transplant was a big risk not just for the severely disfigured woman who received it, but also for the surgeon who has made it the highlight of her career.

The Cleveland Clinic's Dr. Maria Siemionow put her professional reputation on the line by doing the radical operation that some consider unethical, but others praise as the only hope for people horribly disfigured by burns, trauma, cancer, or violence.

She has spent more than a decade preparing for it, and fame is not her motivation, she said in an interview several years ago.

"I don't feel competition to do anything in life except with myself. I compete with myself," she said.

Which is no small matter for an overachiever fluent in five languages, who has made a reputation on several continents as a skilled hand microsurgeon.

Siemionow, 58, grew up in Poland. As a young girl, she had private classes in English, studied Russian and learned German in high school. She learned Spanish during two summers in Barcelona as an exchange student.

After medical school in Poznan, Poland, she trained in Belgium, Spain and Finland.

Siemionow came to the United States in 1985 for a fellowship in hand surgery at Louisville, Ky., where the nation's first hand transplant was done in 1999. She has been at the Cleveland Clinic since 1995.

Asked how much she wants to know about a patient, she replied: "Everything possible. It's a commitment on both sides."

"She doesn't toot her own horn but she has done her homework," said Dr. Alan Lichtin, vice chairman of the hospital review board that approved the transplant plans.

Temperamentally, Siemionow seems ideal for the task. Her own hands are small and delicate, almost childlike. She dyes her hair blonde, likes to look sharp, and speaks of herself in confident but humble terms.

During surgery, "I like it quiet," she said. "I cannot read when there's music," preferring to give full attention to one task at a time.

Her husband is a biomedical engineer and her son is training to become an orthopedic surgeon.

In interviews over the last few years, she has talked of the many surgeries disfigured people have endured, and the poor quality of life many of them are left with.

"If you choose to be a surgeon, you are used to results that are not ideal but good," she said.

But with this landmark operation, she is clearly hoping for better.

—Condensed from AP releases

### QUOTES / compiled from news sources

## Bielski Brothers Hollywood-Style

"This movie will trigger off a national debate comparable to those provoked by Jan Tomasz Gross' books."

—**Tomasz Dostatni**, a Dominican friar, on *jewish.org.pl*, on the Hollywood production "Defiance," which gives a liberal account of World War II Jewish partisans, the Bielski Brothers. Some see the brothers as heroes, taking on the Nazis; other see them as opportunists who sought survival by any means possible. While flawed (see below) the movie has evoked the re-examination of the massacre of 128 Poles in the village of Naliboki. To date, Soviet partisans have been blamed for the massacre.

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"Defiance indeed departs from the truth on several occasions. Not only because the Bielski partisans fight against German tanks, which in fact never happened. Worse that the pre-war Nowogrodek is a Belarussian town in the movie where no one speaks Polish, and Polish partisans are missing from the film altogether. In Naliboki Forest (in reality the movie was shot on locations in Lithuania and Canada) there are only good Soviet partisans and bad Germans. [Lead actor] Daniel Craig speaks Russian, even though for the real Bielski it was a language as strange as German (he spoke both only poorly).

—**Reporters Piotr Gluchowski and Marcin Kowalski** in *GAZETA WYBORCZA*, Jan. 6, 2009.

"Poland's Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), which investigates communist crimes, is probing the massacre. I can only say we've taken testimonies from 80 witnesses of the massacre, a dozen of which recognized people of Jewish origin among the attackers. Five witnesses testified those were members of the Bielski unit. No names have been offered. Neither Tuvia nor his brothers were seen among the attackers."

—**IPN prosecutor Anna Galkiewicz**.

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"...Why, after decades of totally ignoring all the biggest anti-Nazi resistance groups of the Second World War, notably the Home Army (which saved far more Jews and others than Bielski ever did) and the

Warsaw Rising of 1944 (in which many Jewish fighters took part) does Hollywood choose to give prominence to a very obscure and minor group?"

—**Norman Davies**, author of *God's Playground: A History of Poland, and Rising '44*, and considered the world's expert on the history of modern Poland.

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"It is a scandal that anyone would make a film casting the murderers who massacred Polish villagers as heroes. They were murderers and bandits."

—**Polish historian Jerzy Robert Nowak**.

### JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU HEARD IT ALL ...

"The majority of Europe had turned on the Jews. The majority of Americans were, at best, indifferent towards their plight. But when the war was over it was clear that there was no going back to the pre-war days of Christians and Jews living side by side, especially not in Germany or Poland.

"And yet, the weight of the guilt for the Holocaust lay at the feet of Europe but the proposed solution was to create a Jewish homeland in a place where they had not lived in large numbers for nearly 2,000 years. Germany and Poland orchestrated the Holocaust but the land taken to create a Jewish homeland was taken from Palestine."

—**Liberal pastor Dr. Roger Ray**, published in the *SPRINGFIELD, MO. NEWS-LEADER* opinion column "From the Left," January 7, 2009. His article was titled "Middle East crisis reflects unworkable political solution."

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"They try to blame the Polish people for atrocities the Germans committed. They try to blame us for atrocities the Communists committed. They prefer to call concentration camps like Auschwitz where I almost died 'Polish' concentration camps instead of German camps. The bad guys are made to look like good guys."

—**Polish Catholic survivor of Auschwitz Michael Preisler**, from earlier comments on how the media misleads the American public simply because of ignorance or their care-

lessness in researching the facts.

### CHANGING TIMES

"I guess just because it's Poland and you have these preconceived notions about how it's gonna (sic) be. And then when you actually get out there and experience it, it's surreal to see 20,000 Polish people—no black people in the crowd whatsoever—and they know every word and they're rocking, and they genuinely love the music."

—**Hip Hop artist Torae**, a Brooklyn, N.Y. native who recently completed a tour of Europe.

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"Getting a job is a big deal. A lot of people in my generation want that job that's going to make them big money. But at the same time, we don't want to be stuck in a job that we don't like."

—**Amanda Wilczynski**, a junior professional writing major at Carnegie Mellon Institute, has already edited textbooks and instruction manuals, but hopes to use her creative skills by becoming a television writer.

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We cordially invite our readers to participate in the time-honored tradition of sending Happy Easter wishes across the miles with a holiday greeting ad. All messages will be printed in the Easter 2009 Edition of the Polish American Journal. Your support, in the form of a holiday greeting, helps us continue our mission to serve American Polonia. Furthermore, it is a demonstration of the solidarity that exists between Polish Americans from all corners of our country.

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### SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

## Specter is an Embarrassment

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Pennsylvania for about 40 years, Arlen Specter is an embarrassment to many ethnic backgrounds, but especially the Polish in the state, who were and still are so important to Pennsylvania.

Perhaps [his telling of Polish jokes] has something to do with his medications.

This incident is particularly incredible at such an important point in our country's history: the election of the first African-American President.

Maybe we can all be sensitized by this incident, and hope something positive may come of it. Many of us have been too inactive in voicing our opinions and concerns in the past.

One of my goals for 2009 is to become more active, especially in light of all that has recently happened in just the economic sector alone. The voters spoke loud and clear this past 2008 election in many

ways and in many contests, not just the presidential contest.

I encourage all to be heard more, in whatever ways they are most comfortable with, on what they feel is important in their lives.

Remember: "It takes a Pole to raise the flag!"

**Frank Gadek**  
*East Greenville, Pennsylvania*

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## Voter Drive Effort Recognized



NEW YORK—The Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress used its annual Christmas/New Year “Oplatek” as the occasion to thank Chris Rybkiewicz (holding plaque) for acting as the chairman of its Voter Registration Committee.

“In recognition of organizing and conducting our 2008 Voter Registration Drive—the most successful voter registration drive the Polish American Congress ever had,” are the words inscribed on his plaque.

Shown above expressing these sentiments are Congress officials (l. to r.) Anthony Matrejek, treasurer; Bozena Kaminski, director; Frank Milewski, president; Rybkiewicz; Richard Brzozowski, secretary; and Vincent Brunhard, Jr., executive vice president.

Rybkiewicz was named to lead the drive by Chet Szarejko, who heads the Political Activities Committee of the Congress.

With so many important local elections scheduled next November, Rybkiewicz says he is already laying plans for another extensive drive in 2009.

## Vigil at St. Stan's in Adams, Massachusetts

*continued from cover*

January 1 under the new name of Pope John Paul the Great. St. Stan's parishioners quickly appealed the decision to the bishop and the Vatican.

Mark Dupont, spokesman for the Diocese of Springfield, said one of the Vatican departments in Rome—referred to as congregations—would review the parishioners' appeal and the bishop's response. He said the odds of that appeal being granted by the Vatican are “highly unlikely.”

The Vatican does not seek to get involved with managing these local decisions,” he said.

“The Vatican will review this decision with regard to whether there was a fair process in place, whether that was understood, and that we followed that process. If so, then we feel strongly that there would be no grounds to grant the appeal.”

He said the Vatican appeal process could take at least several months and could go “beyond a year.”

The St. Stan's parishioners join a growing number of Massachusetts Catholics engaging in civil disobedience to prevent the closure of their churches.

According to Peter Borre, one of a group of parishioners fighting church closings in the Boston area known as the Council of Parishes, several of the vigils in Boston have been underway for 50 months or more.

“Not one Boston vigil has collapsed,” he said. Of nine vigils begun in Boston, four resulted in church reopenings. The other five are still under way.

He said two vigils in New Orleans that started in October are “still going strong.”

Dola Sciszka-Lipinski, a vigil participant, said she didn't know where she would attend Mass if the Vatican closes St. Stan's.

“We still believe in the pope,” Sciszka-Lipinski said. “And we can wait as long as we need to; we have just as much patience as Rome.”

## Parish Celebrates Church Centennial, Unveils New Shrine

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the construction of its historic church and unveiled a new shrine—the first in the diocese to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II—on Sun., Nov. 16, 2008, with a special liturgy celebrated by Vicar General John M. Mulligan.

Dedication of the new shrine was the highlight of the celebration, which marked 100 years since the cornerstone of St. Stanislaus Church was blessed. The building, a local landmark, is the spiritual heart of Rochester's Polish community and has been recognized with awards for its beauty and architectural signifi-

## More Than a Building

“As a ‘friend of St. Stan's,’ I find the recent suppression of St. Stan's Church to be a grave injustice to the Catholics of Adams and the Catholics of the Diocese of Springfield.

“St. Stan's represents the story of America and the narrative of many of this nation's Catholics. The poor and the lowly of St. Stan's came to Adams from a Poland that had been divided among the great powers of Europe and wracked with war and unrest. They sought in Adams a chance to achieve what was unachievable in their native Poland ... in the name of St. Stanislaus Kostka they created a monument to the glory of God that is St. Stanislaus Church.

“... To this day the glory that those original founders sought is evident and inspires awe in all that enter.

“... I implore the bishop to realize realizes his error and reverse his horrendous decision in favor of the truth he so vehemently denies.”

—**Kyle T. Pero** of Adams, Mass., in a letter to the BERKSHIRE EAGLE, Jan. 2, 2009.

“... Bishop [Timothy] McDonnell and others in the diocese may view ‘The Polish Church’ as just a building and, yes, it is just bricks and mortar essentially, but as we all know it is also more than that. In a world today that is built on the philosophy that greed is good, and traditions and memories are disposable, that ‘building’ gave our townspeople hope that maybe we could change those ideals.”

—**Nicole Grabicki Brown** of Adams, BERKSHIRE EAGLE, Dec. 31, 2008.

“The diocese never showed any understanding of, or sympathy for, the deeply rooted and loyal St. Stan's community, or its affec-

tion for one of the most beautiful churches in the county and diocese.”

—From BERKSHIRE EAGLE editorial of Dec. 30, 2008.

“... to call the protesters at St. Stan's portrayers of ‘ignorance, cynicism and malevolence’ and a ‘minority rabble’ is to display a profound ignorance and disregard for the meaning of this ethno-centric church to the Polish people who built it and to their descendants.

—**Joyce Budinski Hawkins**, in response to an EAGLE Dec. 31, 2008 op-ed article by Dan Valenti, a contributing writer to THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE and the PITTSFIELD GAZETTE, whose account of St. Stan's deconsecration

“Mr. Valenti's stabbing description of St. Stan's as a ‘stadium urinal’ was intended to violate the thoughts of everyone associated with the former church. During the entire debacle of the closing of St. Stan's, the church hierarchy—from bishop right down to local priest—has demonstrated nothing but fool-hearted hubris. Mr. Valenti volunteers to hold the basin in which they wash their hands.”

—**Kenneth Shaw** of Adams, Mass., who stated his is neither Polish nor Catholic, and argues the Diocese chose to close the wrong church.

“Back when the church was being built, it was more important to give to the church than to yourself. It was an expression of their faith. Polish people know these stories, and remember the sacrifice their families made ... Now they feel betrayed, that everything they believed in is wrong, has no value, that there is an injustice being committed and that the church will now be rendered useless.”

—**Eugene Michalenko**, chairman of the Adams Historical Commission, on St. Stan's parishioners.



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## Mass Grave Unearthed

*continued from cover*

“Examination of the remains and the circumstances confirm that these are the missing German inhabitants of Malbork,” Szwedowski said. “I have no doubt it is them.”

The residents were ordered to evacuate as the Red Army advanced in 1945. Some refused, while others were prevented from doing so by

the general chaos of the front.

The Soviets shelled the city, forcing German troops to retreat. The remaining civilians found themselves at the mercy of Red Army troops. There were no known living witnesses of what happened, Szwedowski said.

The bodies were buried naked without any possessions, he said.

“We found no trace of any clothes, shoes, belts, glasses not even dentures or false teeth,” he said.

Some 100 skulls, mostly of adults, had bullet holes in them.

“We don't know if these are direct or indirect victims of the artillery barrage, but the bullet holes suggest executions in some cases,” he said.



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## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

### ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—The **Polish Genealogical Society of American** held its elections in November 2009. The following are the 2009 PGSA Board, officers, standing committee chairs and volunteers: Eileen Carter, pres.; Richard Stanowski, v.p.; Cynthia Piech, treas.; and Charlene Bielakowski, sec.

Directors are: James Czuchra, who will also serve as webmaster; Thomas A. Richter; Chris Modjeski Robinson; Richard Lach; Edmund Iwanski; and Norm Parchim.

Standing Committee Chairpersons/Voting Members of the Board include: James Piechorowski (website); Sonja Spencer Hoeke-Nishimoto (LDS Liaison); Karen Stanuch (membership); and Larry Grygienc (media). The Publications and Conference chairs are vacant. Rosalie Lindberg is chair of Marketing, a non-voting chair.

Volunteers include: Virginia Witucke (library); and Harry Kurek (programs).

### MASSACHUSETTS

CHICOPEE—On New Year's Eve 2008, **Szpara's Collegian Court** closed its doors for good due to sagging sales.

The Chicopee restaurant has been serving customers authentic Polish and American cuisine at its Park Street location for almost three decades.

Linda Szpara, the Collegian Court owner's daughter, told 22News, "It's been a good 28 years. We've had a lot of nice customers and met a lot of nice people. We are sad to get out of the business."

### MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL—Roberto Plano will be the featured artist performing Mozart, Schumann, Dohnanyi, and Bartok, Feb. 8, at 3:00 p.m. at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester Street, St. Paul. Tickets range from \$12-\$20. For more information, contact the **Frederic Chopin Society** at (612) 822-0123.

MINNEAPOLIS—The **Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM)** will show the first two films of the "Decalog" ("The Decalogue"—1988), a Polish film series originally made for television directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski and co-written by Krzysztof Piesiewicz at 7:00 p.m., Feb. 20, 2009 at the PACIM Library, 2514 Central Avenue. The full series consists of ten one-hour films set in Poland, each exploring the possible meaning of the Ten Commandments, examining the dilemma of fundamental sin in the lives of ordinary Warsaw citizens.

In "Decalogue I," a scientist (Henryk Baranowski) puts his faith in science and logic above all else to govern his daily life. In "Decalogue II" a violinist (Krystyna Janda) imposes an impossible decision on her husband's physician (Aleksander Bardini).

"Decalog" won many awards at several film festivals (including the Venice and San Sebastian film festivals). In 2000, it was awarded the "Best Foreign Film" by the American National Board of Review.

MINNEAPOLIS—**Holy Cross Church** will hold its famous pre-

lenten Sauerkraut Supper, Feb. 24, (upstairs at John Paul II School from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) with polka band (downstairs from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.). The School is located at 17th Avenue and 4th Avenue. Handicapped parking and elevator are located in the alley between the Church and School. Be sure to come early. This is a very popular event.

By the way, Holy Cross will be holding its regular Friday night Fish Fry throughout Lent this year.

### NEW JERSEY

NEWARK—**Polish University Club of New Jersey** honored Joseph E. Gore, Esq., outgoing president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, at its 80th Annual Scholarship Ball, held at the Marriott Hotel at Newark Liberty International Airport, Jan. 31, 2009.

In addition to the dinner and dancing, there was a special performance by the Polish American Folk Dance Company.

Proceeds from the event benefited the Club's Scholarship Fund. The University Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1928 to further the ideals of education, charity and cultural heritage.

### PENNSYLVANIA

OIL CITY, Pa.—Assumption Parish will hold Lenten Devotions in Polish, beginning Feb. 27.

*Droga Krzyzowa* (Stations of the Cross), will be held Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3 and 10.

The March 6 and April 3 services will begin at 6:00 p.m.

*Gorzkie Zale* (Bitter Lamentations) will be held Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m., beginning March 1, and continuing March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 15, which will be the date for a complete service (all three parts).

The Polish Heritage Project has available recordings of each devotional service for those who wish to hear these traditional Polish Lenten services.

Assumption BVM Church is located at 7 Pulaski Street. If you have questions or require additional information, write: Polish Heritage Project, 15 Spring Street, Oil City, PA 16301 or call Joseph Brozeski at (814) 677-4090.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Polish government, seeking a **new ambassador's residence**,

paid \$9.55 million the Washington home of former Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady.

Brady served from 1988 to 1993. The 11,000-square-foot brick Georgian mansion is on northwest Washington's Whitehaven Street, home to many embassies, and has five floors, 10 bedrooms, seven bathrooms, a formal ballroom and a wood-paneled library, on roughly one acre. There's a pool and a greenhouse. Built in 1927, the home is near a house owned by Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Among other things, Brady, 78 years old, is known for the developing-nation debt issues that became known as "Brady Bonds." He'd listed the home for \$10 million in 2006, then took it off the market after it failed to sell.

Poland's offer was unsolicited; a spokesman said it was seeking a higher profile, in part because of its 2011 presidency of the European Union.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Spring Semester of **Polish Language and Culture** will start on Monday, February 2 and end on Thursday, May 14. There will be fifteen (15) classes during our Spring session.

Beginners Polish I is designed for students with little or no previous Polish language training. Class focuses on developing the basic speaking, writing and reading skills that will help the students communicate in fundamental everyday situations. Elements of Polish grammar will be also introduced. Class meets on Thursdays, 6:30-8:10 p.m.

Beginners Polish II is the continuation of the current Beginners I class. Class focuses on expanding the knowledge of Polish by practicing the basic speaking, writing and reading skills. We will focus on developing better comprehension skills and getting more comfortable while communicating in fundamental everyday situations. We will continue to work with more advanced grammatical concepts of the language. Class meets on Mondays, 6:30 p.m.—8:10 p.m.

Intermediate Polish I is the continuation of the current Beginners II class. Class focuses on building conversational and comprehension skills. More complex grammatical concepts and writing rules will be introduced. Class meets on Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.-8:10 p.m.

Intermediate Polish II is the con-

## Friends of Poland Fundraiser



NEW BEDFORD, Mass.—The Friends of Poland held its Annual Fundraiser and also celebrated its 25th Anniversary of activity, at the Wamsutta Club in New Bedford. This was preceded by a Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Seated at the head table were Polish Consul Przemyslaw Balcerzyk, his wife and son; State Representative Robert Koczera and wife Ann; Rev. Roman Chwaliszewski; Jean Babiec, Mistress of Ceremony, founder and vice president; Thad Irzyk and wife Gloria; President Walter Jarnot and wife Del; Mayor Scott Lang; and Irene B. Schall, City Solicitor.

State Rep. Robert Koczera presented a proclamation from the State House and also citations to the president and vice president. Mayor Scott Lang presented a proclamation to president Jarnot, and Consul Balcerzyk of New York Consulate gave a brief talk.

Jarnot and his wife presented various members with a memento of an eagle keepsake, with their name inscribed on the base. This was for their continuous help, whether physical or monetary.

A special raffle commemorating the occasion was held. All prizes were given by donors in Rhode Island.

Polish songs—"Jeszcze Polska nie Zginela," "God Bless America," and "Jak Szybko mijaja chwile"—were sung, under the direction of Mrs. Roncka.

The Committee for this affair was: Jean Babiec, chair; Kathleen Gioiosa, co-chair; Alice Belina; Helen Arabasz; Julie Roszkiewicz; Bernice Fastoso; and Cheryl Babiec.

The next ambulance the organization will send to Poland was on display in the parking lot.

Members of this organization come from all parts of New England and New York.

Continuation of the current Intermediate I class. While focusing on expanding our vocabulary the class will be also enriched with more advanced reading materials. Class meets on Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.-8:10 p.m.

Classes will include discussions about aspects of Polish history, culture, customs and traditions. Students will have a chance to share their own knowledge, insights and experiences with Polish culture.

All classes will work with the textbook "Hurra Po Polsku" by Malgorzata Malolepsza and Aneta Szymkiewicz.

Beginners Polish I, Beginners Polish II and Intermediate I classes will work with "Hurra Po Polsku I

Student's Book" and "Hurra Po Polsku I Student's Workbook." Intermediate II Polish students will work with "Hurra Po Polsku II Student's Book" and "Hurra Po Polsku II Student's Workbook."

Cost: \$450 for new students and \$425 for returning students

If you are interested in joining us please contact basiabernhardt@yahoo.com

The Consular Division of the Polish Embassy is located at 2224 Wyoming Ave., N.W., Washington DC, 20008-39992. The closest metro station: Dupont Circle.

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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. would like to thank all of our generous supporters, who, for over 28 years, have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. Many children have been brought to the United States for live-saving heart surgery, which was not available to them in their own country. This year, we sent therapy equipment and medical supplies to an Orphanage, also an EKG machine was sent to a rehabilitation center. We provided much-needed medical equipment and supplies to several hospitals in Poland. A 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitor with software, cuffs, battery charger and batteries, an ambulatory Doppler machine, and a pulsometer was sent so that more children can be helped. Your financial support will allow us to continue to give Polish children the precious "gift of life." Thank you.

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## Canonization Nearer for Bishop

Blessed Zygmunt Szczęśny Felinski, former archbishop of Warsaw (1822-1895), moved closer to canonization with the Vatican's acceptance of a miracle resulting from his intercession.

### MIDWIFE AT AUSCHWITZ.

Stanisława Zambrzyńska Leszczynska, who worked as a midwife in the poorest districts of Łódź before the war found herself imprisoned by the Nazis in Auschwitz in 1943 where she assigned to the "sick wards." There, in violation of camp rules, she ministered to women in labor and let their newborn children live for as long as possible, despite camp rules that newborns were to be drowned immediately. At one point, the camp doctor demanded a report of all the infections and mortality rate for mothers and infants. She told him, "I have not had a single case of death, either among the mothers or the newborns." She saw anger and envy in the doctor's eyes, since not even the best German clinics could make such a boast. No one can explain why she was not immediately killed when she refused, "No, never!" to kill newborns as she was ordered.

Since her death in 1974 there has been growing devotion to her, with pilgrimages organized to visit her grave and materials collected for her process of canonization. She was commemorated in the Chalice of Life offered by Polish women to the monastery at Jasna Góra in 1882 and the Kraków School for Obstetricians was named in her honor in 1983. Prof. Giertych declared, "The life of Stanisława Leszczynska is that of an exemplary mother and devoted midwife. Thus she is especially suited to be a patron of the fight for life against the child murderers who, just as in the concentration camps, continue to ply their deadly trade."

**POLISH CRÈCHES.** The Bernardine Brothers installed one of the largest Christmas cribs in Poland at Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, near Kraków, one of Pope John Paul II's favorite religious sites. The crib was installed inside the shrine basilica and included 150 figurines and scores of moving elements, the old-

est parts of which date back to the 19th century.

The **Mormon Church History Museum** in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah, displayed 50 hand-crafted Polish Nativity scenes, on loan from Walter Whipple, professor of Slavic Languages at Brigham Young University.

Several Polish Nativity scenes were included in the exhibit of international crèches at the museum of the **Knights of Columbus** in New Haven, Conn.

**STO LATTO ... Fr. Raymond Darda** on his installation as pastor of All Saints PNCC parish in Sterling Heights, Mich. Bishop Jan Dawidziuk conducted the installation ceremony and Fr. Jarosław Nowak of Holy Cross Parish also participated.

**ROSE WINDOW SAVED, MURAL IS NEXT.** Corpus Christi RC Parish in Buffalo, N.Y., finished work to conserve the church's rose window, which suffered deteriorating structural supports, and also repaired the church façade. (The church roof also was damaged in a recent storm. See photo, above). The window was created by Meyer & Company of Munich, Germany, in 1923. While the roof replacement and stabilization of the church's massive towers are currently underway, the restoration of the monumental painting, a copy of Raffaello's "Disputation on the Body of Christ," is the next project. The painting, executed by Marion Rzeznik, whose works adorn several other Buffalo diocese churches, faithfully follows the original in Vatican City, except for the addition of Sts. Anthony and Francis, in recognition of the Franciscans who staffed the church before the Pauline Fathers took it over in the 1990s.

The restoration work will be carried out by the Swiatek Studios artists and artisans, whose Divine Mercy and Black Madonna icons already hang in the church.

Corpus Christi is a State and National Historic Site and the Pauline Fathers, in addition to undertaking the extensive physical restoration work on the church and its buildings, have launched significant projects for the poor neighbors of the church as well as religious and traditional

Polish celebrations for the Western New York Polonia. Among these is the recent Holy Family Sunday celebration where married couples were invited to renew their marriage vows and receive a special blessing as they look to Mary and Joseph as models for all Christian families.

**BISHOP/HOSPITAL AT ODDS OVER STERILIZATIONS.** Trinity Mother Francis Hospital, sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Tyler, Texas, has come under criticism from **Bishop Alvaro Corrada** for performing tubal ligations in violation of Catholic medical ethics. While the bishop claims the procedures are direct, and therefore unethical sterilizations, the hospital argues that they are not direct sterilizations but the results of therapeutic procedures dealing with matters other than pregnancy and approved by the hospital's ethics committee. The hospital administration expects to meet with the bishop to resolve the issue.

**CANADIAN HONOUR RETURNED.** The **Polish Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate**, Assumption Province, have returned to the government of Canada the "Order of Canada" medals given to two of the community's priests for their pioneering work in Canada. The decision was prompted by the Governor General of Canada's decision to award the Order of Canada to Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a holocaust survivor, in recognition of his controversial work in expanding abortions in Canada.

Since that time, several other prominent Catholics have returned their medals to the government because they do not wish to be connected with what they consider a sullied award. The provincial superior explained, "We hope that this gesture is understood as a sign of astonishment and outrage at the exploitation of the Order of Canada in the interests of an ideology of death, division and indignity which has resulted in the clinical murder of over 110,000 Canadians every year who never had the chance to deserve a better country."

**RAFAŁ LEMKIN ACCLAIMED.** The life of Polish lawyer **Rafał**

## Corpus Christi Challenge



**BUFFALO, N.Y.**—On December 28, 2008, the roof of Corpus Christi Church suffered significant damage during a violent winter wind storm. The entire slate roof of the historic East Side church must be replaced this Spring at a cost of almost one million dollars. Approximately half of the necessary moneys have been covered by a \$450,000 matching grant from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The parish has collected \$200,000 of the remainder, but is still a long way from its goal.

Despite the roof damage, Pastor Anzelm Chalupka remains hopeful. "Even in these difficult times, I am amazed with the ongoing support of our congregation and friends in the wider community. We hope that even more people of good will who love the East Side and Corpus Christi will come forward, knowing that our church is a cornerstone for rebuilding the immediate area. We remain committed to the belief that sooner or later, and with the right help from the city and state, the East Side will once again become a successful neighborhood."

For more information, please visit [corpuschristibuffalo.org](http://corpuschristibuffalo.org) or contact the parish at (716) 896-1050.

—Michael Pietruszka

**Lemkin** was celebrated by the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation. Lemkin (1901-1959) coined the term Genocide and was influential in having the UN General Assembly adopt the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948. His most widely known work is his 1944 book entitled *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*.

**MERIDEN CHURCH RESTORED.** Parishioners and friends of **St. Stanislaus RC Church** in Meriden, Conn., raised \$700,000 to restore their church on its 100th anniversary. The work will include cleaning the paintings, replastering and repainting the walls, repairing water damage, cleaning the stained glass windows, refreshing the woodwork and pews, installing carpeting and flooring, as well as repairing an exterior staircase. Parishioner Martin Lilienthal proudly declared, "We have a beautiful church, and this is only going to enhance it."

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Fr. Joe Plawecki** celebrating his 25th anniversary of ordination. Fr. Plawecki serves at St. Augustine RC Church in the Detroit archdiocese.

**COMMEMORATIONS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II.** Spanish tenor **Plácido Domingo** recorded a musical album, entitled "Infinite Love," based on the poetry of John Paul II. The German record label Deutsche Grammophon produced the CD which contains 12 songs. Domingo asked his son Plácido Jr. to write the musical score. A five-DVD set giving the complete documentary of John Paul II's life and pontificate with exclusive footage from the Vatican Television Center, has been produced in an elegant collector's case. For information: [www.hdh-communications.com](http://www.hdh-communications.com)

**KNIGHTS HONOR POPE JOHN PAUL II.** The Knights of Columbus in Taylor, Mich., formed a new Fourth-degree Assembly named for Pope John Paul II. The Fourth-degree is the highest level of membership in the Knights, all of whose members "are excellent role models in living out the Knights' shared values of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism," said Fr. Bernard Fraser, pastor of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish.

**CAUSE MAKES PROGRESS.** The cause of Ukrainian Catholic **Bishop Nykyta Budka**, beatified by **Pope John Paul II** in 2001, is making progress. The year 2009 will be the 60th anniversary of his death in the USSR's Siberian Camps of Karaganda, Kazakhstan, where he was imprisoned for opposition to the Soviet system. Bishop Budka went to Ukraine from his native Canada to minister to the faithful after World War I.

### MODLITWY

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

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

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that

in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. A.D.

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

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## KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

## Travelogue – Adventures in Poland

Part II  
by Staś Kmieć

Poland's  
National Opera  
Theater

After a welcome night's rest at the *Mazowsze* complex, I prepared to spend most of my day at Warsaw's stunning **Wielki Teatr** (Great Theater and National Opera House) with *Mazowsze*, and the Jubilee celebration. I viewed the preparation, the rehearsals and the in-theater warm-up of the artists. The last time I was in Poland's equivalent to the New York's Metropolitan Opera House was for a vivid performance of Moniuszko's *Straszny Dwór*; during my summer studies many, many years ago.

Located in historic Theater Square (*Plac Teatralny*), the theater was inaugurated on February 24, 1833, with a production of Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. After the building was bombed and almost completely destroyed during the 1939 battle of Warsaw, the theater was rebuilt, and the building reopened on November 19, 1965, after having been closed for over twenty years. During the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 the Germans shot civilians in the burnt-out ruins. The plaque to the right of the main entrance commemorates the suffering and heroism of these victims.

According to Antonio Corazzi's 1825 plans, the Great Theater's front façade was supposed to have featured a triumphal sculpture of Apollo, patron of the arts, driving a chariot drawn by four horses. However, the defeat of the November Uprising caused the idea to be abandoned, and the pedestal atop the main façade remained empty for nearly 200 years. In 2002, the sculpture that had been envisioned many years earlier came to adorn the façade. The new, contemporary quadriga was designed by professors at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, and was unveiled on May 3, 2002, to mark Constitution Day.

## Warsaw's Old Town

Krzysiek arranged a cell phone with a calling card feature for my



PHOTO: STAS KMIEC  
Warsaw's Wielki Teatr (Great Theater and National Opera House), destroyed during World War II was rebuilt, and opened in 1965, after having been closed for over twenty years.

use while in Poland. I wandered a short distance from the theater to the ancient heart of the capital—the **Old Town** as it was just getting dark, making phone calls to the United States along the way. The *Stare Miasto* is the oldest historic district of the city. It is bounded by *Wybrzeże Gdańskie*, along the bank of the Wisła River and by *Grodzka*, *Mostowa* and *Podwale* Streets.

Warsaw's Old Town was established in the 13th century. Initially surrounded by an earthenwork rampart, prior to 1339 it was fortified with brick city walls. The town originally grew around the castle of the Dukes of Mazovia that later became the Royal Castle when it was transformed into the royal seat in 1569. The Market Square (*Rynek Starego Miasta*) was laid out sometime in the late 13th or early 14th century, along the main road linking the castle with the New Town to the north.

During the 1939 Invasion of Poland, much of the district was badly damaged by the German Luftwaffe, which targeted the city's residential areas and historic landmarks in a campaign of terror bombing. Following the Siege of Warsaw, parts of the Old Town were rebuilt, but immediately after the Warsaw Uprising (August-October 1944) what had been left standing was systematically blown up by the German Army. A statue commemorating the Uprising, the *Little Insurgent*, now stands at the Old Town's medieval city wall.

After World War II, the Old Town was meticulously rebuilt utilizing photographs, blueprints and paintings that had been hidden during the war. The 18th-century *vedute* by Bernardo Bellotto, as well as pre-war architec-



PHOTO: STAS KMIEC  
Warsaw's Old Town after the war and today.

ture students' drawings, were used as essential sources in the reconstruction effort. The rubble was sifted for reusable decorative elements, which were reinserted into their original places. Many of the original bricks were reused. Fragments of the old city walls still survive, and stand as a reminder of the brutal history of Warsaw.

Warsaw's Old Town has been placed on the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites as "an outstanding example of a near-total reconstruction of a span of history covering the 13th to the 20th century."

Following the opening up of the East in 1989, the district quickly re-established itself as a major tourist attraction. It has a wealth of shops and restaurants. During all my visits to Poland, I would religiously visit to the *Cepelia* Shop in the Square... past the first floor offerings and up the narrow staircase to the area that sold Polish costumes and original costume artifacts. My "supplier friend" was about to go into retirement five years ago, when I was last there. She referred to me as her "client" and knowing that I was using the costumes to promote Polish culture abroad, she would save special items for me.

The shop, now called *PolArt*, looks the same. The prices now reflect a different economy and are significantly out-of-reach. While perusing the affordable *pisanki* (hand-decorated blown eggs) and comparing the prices of costumes with my calculator, the shop clerk addressed me. She said "I didn't think you would ever return." I surely thought it was a case of mistaken identity, but as we talked I realized that she had been positioned on the other side of the shop during my past visits. We discussed the shifting prices, the cultural scene, and I told her I would return later in my visit and perhaps purchase an elaborate

Lowicz man's hat.

From my first visit in 1971, I had witnessed the completion process of the important landmark site of the Old Town, and the country's comprehensive fundraising campaign. Even *Mazowsze* joined the effort, by performing the song, *Walczyk o Zamku Warszawskim* featuring Stanisław Jopek, at concerts while on tour, and then selling single recordings during intermission to raise funds. I still sing this song to myself when I walk through the Old Town.



PHOTO: STAS KMIEC  
The *Little Insurgent*, a statue commemorating the Warsaw Uprising, stands at the Old Town's medieval city wall.



The dancers of Warsaw's famed Teatr Sabat

## After-Jubilee Celebration

Following *Mazowsze's* Jubilee performance, I was led to the nearby **Cesarski Pałac** (ul. Senatorska 27; [www.cesarskipalac.com](http://www.cesarskipalac.com)) for an after-performance dinner, where Ya Jia Lin-Iwanejko, the owner, kept the restaurant open especially for our convenience. From a family of doctors who lived in Poland, Ya Jia (pronounced like the Polish name, *Jadzia*) broke with tradition and for the past 20 years has been offering Chinese cuisine in Poland, where she met her husband and is raising a family. The food is a delicious mix of Chinese flavors and Szechwan dishes. I did come to Poland to experience Polish food, but this was a curious surprise and unique "find" with even a fortune *ciasteczko z wróżką*.

Back in Karolin, I had the chance to celebrate and have an informational exchange at an after-party with members of the company into the wee hours of the morning, 5:00 a.m. to be exact.

## A Night at Teatr Sabat

After an understandably late start to the day, I was engaged in e-mails, and the completion of my *PAJ* December issue article. I was later treated to an evening at Warsaw's Folies Bergère/Rockettes/Las Vegas-style theater revue, **Teatr Sabat** (ul. Foksal 16; [www.teatr-sabat.pl](http://www.teatr-sabat.pl)).

With several shows in repertory, I saw *Witaj Europo* (Welcome Europe)—a mix of superb vocalists, a comedian, aerial artist, dance *pas de deux* and the spectacular Sabat Ballet. Featuring Warsaw's most beautiful female dance artists, the women are attired in incredible costume designs, which at times are slightly revealing. They are the sparkle and attraction to this enjoyable entertainment. Following the performance, the stage turns into the dance floor for guests.

For a theatrical evening of fun, beauty, extravagance and escape go to see this show! In an elegant, intimate setting *Teatr Sabat* celebrates in a pre-war Warsaw style. The theater is meticulous in its detail—opulently set in red and black with accents of rose

## Pierogi in Poland

Part II in a continuing series

*Pierogi* have made a comeback in Poland! Poles in Poland at one time (primarily during the Communist era) thumbed their noses on folk cuisine such as *pierogi*, *goląbki* and *bigos*, labeling them as peasant fare and relegating their existence to the *bar mleczny* (literal translation: a milk bar) and home/country cooking. If you were to find a restaurant that served *pierogi*, they were often the worst you had ever tasted.

I remember my father trying to order *pierogi* in Poland (not an unreasonable request) during our family visit in 1971, only to receive an odd look from the waitress and the curt response: "nie ma!"

Well, all that has changed. Perhaps in an attempt to appease and attract tourists, or in a throwback to a certain comforting nostalgia following years under Communism, Poland has lightened up and has welcomed back the *pieróg*. In a bold retro-chic move, old world cooking

is enjoying a renaissance and *pierogi* are at the forefront. Not only a staple of most any restaurant menu, including the American-style *Champion Sports Bar* at the Marriott Hotel (Aleje Jerozolimskie 65/79), there are now specific village style restaurants with a traditional atmosphere, and the popular *pierogarnia*—where the focus is primarily on the Polish dumpling.

Featured at the *Pierogarnia na Bednarskiej* (ul. Bednarska 28/30) are 14 different varieties of classic tastes and newer inventions such as: lentil and wild mushroom dumplings, *pierogi* made of *kasza* (buckwheat) with *kapusta* and wild mushrooms, *Brother-in-Law's dumplings* (boiled potatoes, farmer's cheese, spinach, garlic, fried onion) Wrocław dumplings of *kasza*, cheese and onion, *Diavolo dumplings* (pork meat, beef, paprika, sweet paprika, fried onion, marjoram), the oddity: *Dudy's pork lung dumplings*, and sweet *pierogi* with black currants, banana with raisins, blackberry or apples with cinnamon.

At a local grocery store on route

from Warsaw to Karolin, homemade *pierogi* were prominently displayed behind the deli counter. The least expensive were the cheese (≈\$5/kilo); followed by the *Ruskie* (≈\$6/kilo); the meat variety (≈\$7/kilo); and the blueberry (≈\$8.32/kilo) ... perhaps because the fruit was out-of-season.

While staying at the *Mazowsze* complex and completing my *PAJ* December issue *Wigilia pierogi* brief, soloist Piotr Zalipski treated me to some research. From his freezer he warmed already prepared *Ruskie pierogi*, which his aunt from Lublin had made for his recent wedding to dancer Magdalena Ciastek. They were homemade and delicious!

*Ruskie Pierogi* (Ruthenian) are a traditional dish of the eastern provinces of Poland made of a mixture of farmer cheese and potatoes, uniquely flavored with a pinch of spices and fried onion. The essence of peasant food, over time they gained quite a following among city dwellers and the aristocracy.

## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## UIC Receives \$10 Million from "Ron" Hejna



Ron Hejna and Ciocia Zosia: Poland 2004

Romuald "Ron" Hejna passed away on July 3, 2008 leaving an indelible mark on Chicago and its Polish American community. At his bequest, Hejna, a lifelong bachelor, left his monetary estate totaling \$10 million to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to further the studies of Polish language, literature and history. This gift is the second largest donation ever given to UIC by a single individual and the largest that its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) has ever received.

The College will establish three separate chairs of which two will be named in honor of Hejna's parents, and will be called "The Stefan and Lucy Hejna Family Chair of Polish Language and Literature" and "The Stefan and Lucy Hejna Family Chair in the History of Poland." Also, a scholarship will be renamed "The Hejna Family Scholarship in the History of Poland."

As Dwight A. McBride, Dean of LAS, stated, "UIC will become a beacon for scholars who wish to research and teach in this specialization."

Hejna's passion and love of Polish culture and history will give others the opportunity to learn about the history, language and literature of Poland. No one knew that back in 1995 Hejna began making sizable monetary gifts of approximately \$500,000 earmarked toward an Endowed Scholarship in the History of Poland to the College's History Department as well as a Chair in the History of Poland. This donation, as Hejna stipulated, was to be kept anonymous while he was alive.

Hejna, a teacher, may have been considered a simple man, but his steadfastness in analyzing the stock market helped him amass this sizable personal fortune. Growing up in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, having attended the University of Illinois at Navy Pier, then continuing his studies at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana campus, his interest and love in all things Polish did not waiver. Hejna's interest in languages and history followed him through his years at University of Illinois (U of I), where he was a member of the University's French Club, Russian Club and Polish Club, with eventual membership in the Navy Pier Alumni Association. Upon graduating from U of I in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, he spent his teaching and counseling career at Bogan, a Chicago public high school.

For a man whom, for all purposes, led a rather simple and private life, he was active within Chicago's Polish American community. He was a life member of The Polish Museum of America, a member of the Polish Military History Society of America, and a founding member of the Polish Falcons of America.

Hejna's donation will keep Polish studies alive and thriving in Chicago, the city with the largest Polish population outside of Warsaw. Thus, his monetary gift to UIC will, not only become a lasting legacy of him, but will extend beyond his love of Poland, and, thus, preserves his passion.

**POLONIA MOURNS HIT-AND-RUN DEATH.** On Saturday, December 6, sadness surrounded not only the Prospect Heights, Ill. community but Chicago Polonia

as well. A fatal hit-and-run crash, a random act of drunk driving, caused the death Monika (Monia) Skrzypkowski, a talented, vivacious, and happy fifteen year old. Monika had called her parents around 11:00 p.m. that night, requesting a ride home after attending her boy friend's family birthday party. Instead her parents, Artur and Margaret, arrived at the pick-up location to find a crowd of people, ambulances, paramedics and police. Monika lay on the black

top road.

"We held her hand as they tried to revive her and kept telling her to hang on, not to give up," Mrs. Skrzypkowski said.

Rushed to Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, medical personnel worked for over 40 minutes. Attempts to save Monika's life were unsuccessful. With police and prosecutors investigating this senseless death, the arrest of a fellow Hersey High School student, who was drunk and left the scene of this "hit-and-run," was made. The force of the impact "knocked her (Monika) out of her boots," stated Assistant State's attorney, Kristin Piper.

Kevin Schuh, a senior at Hersey, the captain of the school's rugby team, and voted its "most valuable player," was "charged with aggravated DUI causing bodily harm or death—a Class 2 felony."



Monika Skrzypkowski

Additionally, a bond of \$500,000 was posted and special conditions, including "a curfew except for school, religious services, or medical treatment," the loss of driving privileges, and no contact with the victim's family, were made.

Monika, a sophomore at the same high school, was an avid Polish culture enthusiast, a gifted poet, and an accomplished artist. She attended Emilia Plater Polish School, mastered the Polish language, and

danced with the Polanie Song and Dance Troupe. One of her poems was read by her mother, Margaret, to over 200 people who attended her funeral Mass at St. James Catholic Church in Arlington Heights. Monika was the oldest of four children leaving behind her parents and her siblings, Martin, Adam and Kasia.

**FORYS EYES CONGRESSIONAL SEAT.** Now that Rahm Emmanuel has become President Barack Obama's Chief of Staff, Illinois' United States Fifth Congressional seat is open. With numerous candidates eyeing this congressional position, Victor Forys, M.D. has taken the challenge to be a Democratic candidate, when, on March 3, 2009, registered voters in this congressional district will cast their ballots in a special primary election.

Born in Krosno, Poland on December 21, 1954, Forys came to the United States with his parents at the age of four, attended Chicago's Lane Technical High School, graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 1977 with a degree in criminal justice, and received his medical degree in 1983 from the Medical Academy in Gdansk, Poland. Once back in the States, Dr. Forys began his residency at Chicago's Ravenswood Hospital, and started his medical practice in Watseka, Ill. He returned to Chicago in 1991, where he and his wife, Anna Birn-Forys M.D., opened the Community Medical Center on Chicago's Northwest side.

For over 15 years, even with his limited schedule, Forys has been a health-care-issues commentator with the Polish language media within Chicago's viewing and listening area. Dr. Forys' decision to run as a U.S. representative in the Fifth Congressional District is based on his desire to reform health care issues, where too often working-class Middle America cannot afford adequate health care, to create job op-

portunities within the small business arena, and to play an integral part in immigration reform. Dr. Forys believes that, population-wise, Polish Americans are underrepresented in American politics, and that his candidacy will be the best opportunity for Polish Americans to elect one of their own to Congress.

This congressional district, once represented by Daniel Rostenkowski, has the largest percentage of Polish Americans of any congressional district in the United States. He is appealing to Polish Americans throughout the country to support his campaign. To learn about his candidacy and, if possible, contribute to his campaign, visit his website [www.victorforus.com](http://www.victorforus.com).

**LIRA ENSEMBLE CONCERT: A FIRST FOR CATHEDRAL.** On January 4, Artists-in-Residences at Loyola University Chicago and internationally known Lira Ensemble held a concert with the sounds of a Polish Christmas at Holy Name Cathedral. This was the first concert of its type ever held at the Cathedral. The concert program was filled with traditional Polish carols sung by the Lira Singers, along with delightful symphony pieces conducted by Paul Dijkstra, and a special appearance of Daniel Pituch, classical saxophonist who served as professor of saxophone at the Chopin Music Academy in Warsaw. The cathedral-filled audience was treated to special arrangements of "Wśród Nocnej Cisy" ("In the Still of the Night") and "Lulajże Jezuniu" ("Sleep Little Jesus") performed by the Lira Symphony Orchestra, Lira Singers and David Pituch.

Lucyna Migala, artistic director, pointed out that Poland has more carols than any other country. She also provided a narrative in English about Polish Christmas traditions, along with the history of the music performed at this delightful afternoon concert.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Syracuse Polonia Update

Syracuse's **Polish Scholarship Fund** elected the following leadership for 2009: Tad Szyszka (president), Lucian Konarski (vice president), Andrei Siok (vice president) and Nancy Cummings (treasurer). Marian Bysiak, Stanley Choromanski, John Klocek, Robert Synakowski, Steve Synakowski and Tomasz Walkowiak were also added to the group's board of directors ... **Bob Pietrucha**, the "Silver Fox of Polkas," moved his radio program to Sunday afternoons on WVOA 103.9 FM, 95.3 FM, 98.1 FM and 101.5 FM. For more information, visit [www.wvoaradio.com](http://www.wvoaradio.com) ... The **Sacred Heart School Reunion Committee** recently donated \$1000 to the Syracuse Polish Home.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** Noted urologist and Polish Arts Club of Buffalo supporter **Dr. Leon Nowakowski** passed away on New Year's Eve ... The **Polish Union of America** marked its 118th anniversary with a banquet at the Potts Banquet Hall on January 4 ... Also on the 4th, soprano **Brittany Mruczek** was the featured soloist at the St. Stanislaus Parish "Epiphany of Our Lord" Concert ... The **Kalina Singing Society** installed Michaeline LaNave as president, Michele Cofield as vice president, Justine Chudzinski as secretary, Mary Jean Syrek as treasurer and Adrienne Kusmierczyk and Irene Dobinski as librarians for the coming year ... **Andy Golebiowski** has started a new group for the families of post-World War II Polish immigrants in WNY ... Veteran NYS Senator **William Stachowski** of Buffalo was named chairman of the Senate's Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business Committee. It was anticipated that Senator Stachowski would be named chairman of the powerful Finance Committee, but that post went to a downstate senator.

The **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle's** "Slavic Christmas Eve" program, which was postponed by the weather in December, was held on January 10 ... **SPK Post 33** and **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 315** hosted "Oplatek" celebrations on the 11th ... Three levels of Polish language classes under the direction of **Lucyna Dziedzic** began at Maryvale High School as evening community education programs in mid-January ... **Wendy Higgins** is the new president of the Polish Cadets of Buffalo ... On January 14, the **Krakow-Rochester Sister Cities Committee**

and the **Polish Heritage Society** of Rochester hosted a reception at the Rochester City Hall "Krakow Creche" display. The exhibit continued until January 23 ... **Dawn Izydorczak** of Newstead has been elected president of the Erie County Town Clerks Association for 2009-2010. She replaces Hamburg Town Clerk Cathy Rybczynski ... The **Symfonia Choir** presented "Koncert Koled" at the Hamilton, Ontario Polish Hall on January 18 ... **Rev. Richard Poblocki**, former pastor of Queen of Peace Parish on Buffalo's East Side, has been reassigned to St. Josaphat Parish in Cheektowaga.

Polka veteran **Joe Macielag** addressed the Professional & Business Women of Polonia meeting at the Millennium Airport Hotel in Cheektowaga on January 21 ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** awarded its 2008 scholarships to Elizabeth Wojtowicz and Rose Valby ... The campus ministry of **Canisius College** is preparing students to participate in next Summer's International Service-Immersion Program trip to Poland. The students will care for children in an orphanage near Krakow ... On the 23rd, the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, presented a lecture by **Richard Lutz**, the author of "Jadwiga's Crossing" at the Rochester Academy of Medicine ... The **General Pulaski Association** recently re-elected Brian Rusk to his 21st term as president. The group also elected vice presidents Sandi Schmid and Ken Graber, treasurer Edward Reska, secretary Jerry Inda, chaplain Rev. Ted Bocianowski and sergeant-at-arms Irene Kmiotek ... "**Kabaret Rak**" were the featured performers at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre's "XII Kabareton" in Mississauga, Ontario on January 23 and 24 ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers** of WNY and **PhoCus** performed at the Third Annual Polka Snowball Dance at the Potts Banquet Hall in Buffalo on the 24th ... The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY awarded its 2008 scholarships to Rebecca Gworek, Jonathan Gworek, Jason Gulczewski, Amy McDougell, Nicholas Kwiatkowski, Christopher Seternus, Kristen Rohe and William Dunz. The organization also named Ron Dombrowski of WXRL's "Drive Time Polkas" show as Man-of-the-Year and Peter Stachowski of the Buszka Funeral Home as Businessman-of-the-Year.

Erie County **Judge Michael Pietruszka** was sworn in for his sec-

ond ten-year term by Buffalo City Court Chief Judge Thomas Amodeo at the Polish Villa II Restaurant on January 29 ... Polish violinist **Leila Josefowicz** performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in the Eastman Theater on January 29 and 31 ... On January 30, Fredonia native **Jenn Stuczynski** competed in the 102nd Milrose Games at NYC's Madison Square Garden ... The Polish Cultural Foundation, Fronczak Room of Buffalo State College and Polish Arts Club of Buffalo presented a lecture by journalist, writer, poetess and lecturer at the Pultusk Academy of Humanities **Dr. Teresa Kaczorowska** entitled "Mieczyslaw Haiman - American Polonia's Historian" at the Butler Library on January 31. Information on Dr. Kaczorowska's work is available at [www.kaczorowska.com/index\\_en.php](http://www.kaczorowska.com/index_en.php) ... Also on the 31st, **Andrzej Rozbicki's** Celebrity Symphony Orchestra performed "Viva Carnival" with the Affabre Concini Singers at Mississauga's Living Arts Centre and "Polanie" hosted a banquet at the St. Catharines, Ontario Polish Legion Hall ... "**Karnawal**" celebrations have begun across our area ... **Dyngus Day** is April 13, 2009. For information on Dyngus Day celebrations in WNY, please visit <http://www.dyngusdaybuffalo.com> ... **Polish American Veterans Association of America Post #1** Commander Stanislaw Przystal announced that his post will be hosting the organization's 30th national convention at the Grand Island Holiday Inn the Memorial Day Weekend in May of 2009 ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team announced that this year's "**Polish Festival Night**" will be held on Tuesday, August 11th. The Herd will play the Rochester Red Wings and the "Knewz" will provide music for the pre-game tent party. More information is available from Mark Gordon at (716) 846-2018.

If you have any item for this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. February 6 for the March edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: [pietruszka@verizon.net](mailto:pietruszka@verizon.net). For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: <http://www.polegl.org>.

## Pawlowski Appointed State Police Commissioner

by Ed Dybicz

HARRISBURG, Pa.—Col. Frank E. Pawlowski was appointed Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police by Gov. Edward G. Rendell and confirmed by the State Senate, it was announced by the Governor's Press Office and State Police Headquarters.

A 30-year veteran, Pawlowski had previously served as the Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the PSP since February of 2007. In that capacity, he commanded the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Patrol, Emergency and Special Operations, and, Liquor Control Enforcement. Additionally, he oversaw the Executive Service Section, the Gaming Enforcement Office, five area Commands, and 16 Troops located throughout the Commonwealth.

Pawlowski is a graduate of Monsignor Bonner High School, Upper Darby, the West Chester State College where he received a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 1976, and the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virg..

Pawlowski enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police on June 22, 1978. Upon his graduation from the State Police Academy at Hershey, he was presented with the American Legion Award which is given to the

outstanding member of the class.

Throughout his career, Pawlowski served in various assignments in patrol and criminal investigation functions in Southeastern Pennsylvania including Lancaster, Ephrata, Avondale, Embreeville, and also Harrisburg, Reading and Philadelphia.

He also held command positions at the troop level, in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Bureau of Integrity and Professional Standards. He also had temporary assignments with the Pennsylvania Attorney General Office of Special Counsel, and the State Police Task Force. He was selected

and served as one of the original members of the State Police Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) as a hostage negotiator and since 1992 as unit leader.

Pawlowski is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and the Chester County Chiefs of Police Association.

Pawlowski's late father, Frank Pawlowski, was also a distinguished State Police officer who served as superintendent of the Haverford Township Police Department from 1968 to May of 1975.



COL. FRANK E. PAWLOWSKI

## Club Donates Books to Library

FALL RIVER, Mass.— In honor of Polish American Heritage Month, the Polish American Citizens Club of Tadeusz Kosciuszko in Fall River donated four books to the Fall River Public Library.

The books— "Kosciuszko: Military Engineer of the American Revolution"; "In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian documents, Volume I: Polish, 2nd edition"; "Easter Eggs Polish Style and Two Hundred and One



(l. to r.): Paula Costa Cullen, Acting Library Administrator, Fall River Public Library, Fall River, Massachusetts accepts a book on Tadeusz Kosciuszko, from Brian R. Curt, president of the Kosciuszko Club of Fall River. Three other donated books are displayed on the fireplace mantle.

Egg Patterns"; and "Dictionary of 1000 Polish Proverbs" will give residents of Fall River new insight into Polish history, genealogy, crafts, and traditions.

## PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent. The Association, which was incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1972, strives to assist and cooperate with all individuals and organizations interested in Polish American life and history. Contributions in support of the work of the Association are tax-exempt. Regular one-year membership to the Association is \$30.00.

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

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MAIL TO: PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050



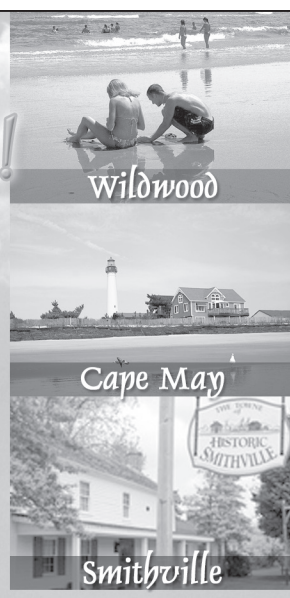
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Call: (716) 677-0220 for more info.

## Dinner Proceeds Benefit Children



BUFFALO, N.Y.—Over 500 civic leaders attended the Hope For Tomorrow's dinner at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Lancaster. The event raised over \$60,000 to provide dozens of cleft palate/lip and cataract surgeries for need children around the globe. Pictured are: Hope for Tomorrow Secretary Cynthia Guzik, who presented the Community Service Award to Try-It Distributing Co., Chairman Gene Vukelic; and Hope for Tomorrow Chairman Dr. Jeffrey Meilman, who has, to date, donated ten plastic surgeries in Torun, Kutno, Krakow, and Gdansk, Poland.

### Win one of Polonia's two best-known cookbooks

## PAJ Polish Heritage Quiz

You may win one of Polonia's two best-known cookbooks by taking part in this little heritage quiz. First prize is "Polish Heritage Cookery," the voluminous nearly 1,000-page, 2,200-recipe culinary "bible" known as the biggest Polish cookbook ever published in English. Second prize is "Polish Holiday Cookery" containing more than 400 recipes, tailored to holidays, banquets, festivals, weddings and other special occasions.

To be eligible, please write your name and address at the top of a blank sheet of and indicate the newspaper you saw this quiz printed in. Number it from 1 to 5 and after each number encircle the letter that correctly completes the following statements:

- Medieval Poland was part of a sprawling land empire known as the: a) Polish-Ukrainian Commonwealth; b) Polish-Ruthenian Commonwealth; c) Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
- Which of the following did not play a major role in helping Poland regain its independence in 1918: a) Ignacy Paderewski; b) Roman Dmowski; c) Stanisław Mikołajczyk.
- Follow-up festivities the day or days after the main event are known as: a) imieniny; b) przynosiny; c) poprawiny.

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



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

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## INTERNATIONAL

**POLES SET TO EVACUATE FROM GAZA.** Poles in the embattled Gaza Strip and other Gaza conflict victims are set to receive emergency aid through Caritas Poland, a Polish humanitarian organization. There are presently fourteen families in the Gaza Strip having members holding Polish citizenship. The Poles are predominantly Polish women married to Palestinians. Caritas Poland initiated a fund raiser among Poles to finance aid for those in Gaza and are actively collecting financial aid for those victims of the fighting. The organization has to date allocated twenty thousand dollars which is being used primarily for medical aid and to establish more first aid stations.

**KATYNEXECUTIONERSNAMED.** (thenews.pl)—The Russian Memorial Society NGO, investigating the Katyn Massacre, has discovered a list of names of Soviet secret agents responsible for murdering thousands of Polish officers in 1940.

The man in charge of the mass murder is thought to be personally responsible for the death of 50,000 people over a long and bloody career.

Researcher Nikita Pietrov has acquired a list of officers of the NKVD—a forerunner to the KGB—who participated in the Katyn massacre, where up to 22,000 Polish officers were murdered in prison camps and forests in Russia.

The head executioner turns out to be the then 45-year-old Vasilij Blochin. Making his first kill of Russian dissidents in 1927 he went on to execute people regularly for the next 29 years, causing the death of an estimated 50,000.

Records indicate that Blochin was especially trusted by Stalin, who used him to eliminate many of his enemies, real and imagined. The Katyn massacre was among the executioner's special tasks for which he received considerable reward once Stalin signed their fate in the spring of 1940.

Pietrov claims that the Soviet secret police rewarded not only high

ranking officers involved in the murders, but also drivers, typists and ordinary soldiers.

The Soviets initially claimed Nazi soldiers were responsible for the massacre. But after an investigation in the 1990s, Moscow admitted that it was in fact the NKVD who were responsible but have since refused, both to label the massacre as "genocide," or carry out prosecutions against those still alive who took part.

Pietrov of NGO Memorial Society is trying to establish and reveal the names of all Katyn executioners who are still being protected against war crime trials by the Russian authorities.

**GRAMMY NOMINATIONS FOR POLES.** A CD featuring five of Karol Szymanowski's vocal-instrumental works, including the Stabat Mater, Veni Creator and Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary, received a Grammy nomination in the "Best Choral Performance" category.

According to Grammy rules, the nomination went to Antoni Wit, Music Director of the Warsaw Philharmonic, and Henryk Wojnarowski, the Director of the Warsaw Philharmonic Chorus. The recording was made for the NAXOS label. Over the past five years, both Wit and Wojnarowski won three Grammy nominations for the CDs with music by Krzysztof Penderecki.

Antoni Wit's extensive discography on the NAXOS label includes the complete orchestral works by Witold Lutoslawski and Krzysztof Penderecki, a wide selection of Szymanowski's music and, most recently, the symphonic poems by Mieczyslaw Karłowicz, whose death centenary is being marked this month.

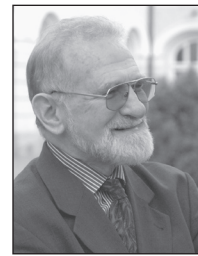
The Grammy Awards will be presented Feb. 8, 2009 in Los Angeles.

**KING ABDULLAH AWARDED IN GDANSK.** King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia received the first Lech Walesa Prize in Gdansk during celebrations in that city of the 25th anniversary of Walesa's having received the Nobel Prize.

The king was honored for the "promotion of values which were the foundation of the solidarity movement" and awarded in recognition of King Abdullah's service toward inter-religious dialogue, promotion of understanding and tolerance between cultures and promoting international cooperation advocating peace. He met with Pope Benedict XVI last November, with several other prominent world leaders and has fulfilled many charity undertakings. The prize of 1,000,000 euros comes with a diploma and a medal.

**GEREMEK CAUSED OWN CRASH.** A Polish prosecutor says that former foreign minister and EU lawmaker Bronislaw Geremek

caused the July 2008 car crash that killed him.



GEREMEK

The 76-year-old Geremek was driving to Strasbourg, where he was a member of the European Parliament, when he hit a van and died on July 13 near the village of Lubien in western Poland. A passenger in Geremek's car as well as the van's driver and a passenger were injured in the crash.

Geremek was a key figure in the Solidarity movement that helped topple communism in 1989. He went on to be Poland's foreign minister from 1997-2000.

**WIESEL FOUNDATION LOSES ALL MADOFF.** The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity announced that it is a victim of the historic alleged fraud by Bernard Madoff.

Elie Wiesel is the author of the book "Night," which chronicles his personal experiences in the Holocaust. He is also a former winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The charitable foundation dedicated to helping refugees and Ethiopian Jews, revealed that it had invested over \$15 million through Madoff. That amount represented virtually all of the foundation's assets.

Madoff's alleged fraud is reportedly in the neighborhood of \$50 billion.

Several high profile investors like Frank Lautenberg, Steven Spielberg and Mortimer Zuckerman have revealed that they lost money by investing through Madoff. Many of Madoff's investors knew Madoff personally and trusted him with their life savings. Prior to the fraud charges, Madoff was one of the most well-known and respected members of the Wall Street community.

The Elie Wiesel Foundation is the first major charitable organization to reveal that it had lost its assets because of Madoff's fraud.

**GLASS WITH CLASS.** Polish hand-blown Christmas tree decorations were given to French President Nicolas Sarkozy on his name day, to take home to his wife, Carla Bruni. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said that the "set of really, the most beautiful ... in the world" traditional hand-blown bulb-shaped Christmas tree ornaments are called "bombki." The French president was in Poland to fete former Polish President Lech Walesa on the 25th anniversary of his Nobel Peace prize win.

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## How Will You Be Remembered?

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can

# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## 12th Annual Paczki Day, February 22

### Largest Polish Pre-Lenten Celebration

BUFFALO, N.Y. —Come out and warm up to the polkas, Polish food and of course the paczki!

Paczki have been known in Poland at least since the Middle Ages. It is the feast of plenty before the Lenten fast begins. It is the last day of gaiety in Karnawal time, the period between Christmas and Lent. It is to mark the last moments of excess before the austerity of Lenten sacrifice.

If you never learned how to dance the polka, the Polish Heritage Dancers will show you how. These ambassadors of WNY's Polonia have been hosting this celebration for the past twelve years and this serves as a fundraiser for costumes.

The 12th Annual Paczki Day will take place Sun., Feb. 22, at the Hearthstone Manor, 333 Dick Road in Depew from 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Phocus will be playing all your favorite polkas from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

The Polish Heritage Dancers will take the stage at 3:00 p.m.

A Polish kitchen will be open for all your favorite foods. Dinners, as well as *ala carte* items, desserts and, of course, paczki, will be on the menu. Polish Beer will also be available. There will also be a basket raffle. Salt Lamps Etc., Amber Gems & more, and the Polish Peddler will be there for your shopping.

At the event, a Paczki King, Queen, Prince and Princess will be crowned.

This event is a perfect opportunity to bring children and grandchildren for a fun afternoon. There is plenty of free parking and buses are welcome. Tickets are \$6.00 in



Tiffany Kalisz displays paczki, those tasty pre-Lenten treats.

advance, \$8.00 at the door. Children under 12 can get in for only \$2.00.

For tickets, table reservations, or more information Michelle at (716) 937-0032 or Debbie at (716) 681-3526. Tickets are also available at the Am-Pol Eagle Newspaper, 3620 Harlem Rd. Cheektowaga,

N.Y. 835-9454, and at Salt Lamps Etc. 5274 Broadway, Lancaster, N.Y. 564-9286. Pre-sale tickets are on sale now until Feb. 20. Get your tickets early as there will be no pre-sale tickets held at the door.

For more information, visit [www.phdofwny.com](http://www.phdofwny.com).

## Gomulka and Biskup say "Come with us to Poland in 2009"

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.— Those who have traveled and toured Poland in the past know that there's much to take in, a lot to see, questions to be answered and a jubilant time awaiting you. On the other hand, first-time Poland travelers are being informed that it's important to select just the right group to travel to Poland with. The itinerary, with Polish- and English-speaking guides, sightseeing and—if applicable—free time to yourself for exploring are all ingredients, makes up the value of a perfect Poland vacation.

Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup have organized their third trip to Poland, taking a group from the United States and Canada, and it promises to be a trip to remember. This exciting Poland adventure is scheduled from May 28 through June 7, 2009. Flights are arranged from Chicago and New York City

into Warsaw, Poland, where you'll be greeted, informed and pampered for the next ten days. The sights of beautiful Poland will take your breath away with visits to Warsaw, Lublin, Krakow, Rzeszow, and Zakopane, relaxing at luxurious hotels. Polka parties with Lenny and Mitch, tours to Czesztochowa, the Wieliczka Salt Mines, and jam sessions with the gorale are all just a part of this exciting tour to Poland 2009.

Get all the details and find out the additional attributes that make this the Poland Trip of choice. Call or write: PAT Tours, 1285 Riverdale Street, West Springfield, MA

01089 or call toll-free 1(800) 388-0988. You can also obtain a printable flyer and registration form on-line at [www.chicagopush.com](http://www.chicagopush.com). "Jedziemy do Polski!" say Lenny and Mitch.

### POLKA MAILBAG

## A Chance for Polka Fans to Shine

Dear Polka Friends:

The reason for our letter is to ask for your help for a very special person in our lives, who also attend many polka functions. Very close friends of ours, Shirley and Trevor Sains had a daughter in 2000, named Savana, who was born with Cerebral Palsy. Savana has been attending a school called the Center for Independence through Conductive Education since July, 2004. The Center's mission is to educate children with motor disabilities to maximize functional independence. The school allows children with physical disabilities the opportunity to spend a significant amount of time working on daily life skills like walking, sitting, eating, and dressing in an intensive motor training environment.

While other children are spending their time on playing, sports, or academics, children with physical disabilities need to spend more time working on their bodies and their physical function. The Center has developed a program to do just

that in a fun and motivating setting where the children work along side their peers. Insurance companies typically limit physical therapy or occupational therapy to 1 or 2 hours per week which is not nearly enough. Through this program, Savana receives 7.5 hours of intensive therapy every week and the progress she's made has been remarkable.

However, to help cover the operating costs of the program so that every child can attend regardless of the cost, the center holds an annual fund raiser. This year in addition to their fundraiser, we are holding a benefit dance on Sunday April 26, 2009 at the Glendora House in Chicago Ridge, Illinois from 1:00-6:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Music Company, Downtown Sound and Freeze Dried.

We are asking you for a monetary donation if at all possible. If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation to the Center of Independence, just fill out and return the donation form attached. Please make sure the check(s) are made payable to the: **Center for Independence**. However, the checks must be mailed to: **Dance for Independence, P.O. Box 1377, Plainfield, IL 60544**.

There are very few programs of this kind in the country and we are extremely fortunate to have one just 12 miles from Savana's House.

Please contribute what you can, if you can. Also, please feel tell anyone that you think would be interested in helping. We really appreciate your consideration, thoughtfulness, and generosity in advance.

For more information on the Center for Independence, please visit there website at: [www.center-for-independence.org](http://www.center-for-independence.org)

**Christy Krawisz**  
Chairwoman  
Dance for Independence  
[krawisz35@sbcglobal.net](mailto:krawisz35@sbcglobal.net)

### Events at the PCC

ALBANY, N.Y.—The Polish Community Center will host a Super Bowl Party, Sun., Feb. 1. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. On Feb. 14, the center will host a Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance from 6:00 p.m. until midnight. For more information and a list of upcoming events, visit or call [www.albanyppcc.com](http://www.albanyppcc.com); (518) 456-3995.

### JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## Schafer Reissues Good Times

The "master of polka preservation," Chet Schafer, has re-issued the 1995 Good Times recording, "Love and Marriage & More" under the title "The Best of Dennis Motyka's Good Times." Schafer and a few other traditionalists like Bel-Aire Records deserve medals and accolades for their continuing efforts to keep this music alive and make musical history available to today's audiences.

The name of the recoding is different, but the review is the same. It's still Dennis Motyka's Good Times with some great music done in their own powerful style.

Roots! They represent the beginning, the current and the future. Roots can be aged as in a hundred year old grape vine or young as in a newly seeded plant. They can also connect, bridging the elder plant to a new offspring, continuing the growth, the life of the strain.

Musically, roots are a conduit, channeling the melodies of yesterday with the good times of today. The Good Times, in this case, is the Chicago based band strong on spirit, creative in their style and musically embedded in their Polish roots.

The Best of Dennis Motyka's Good Times, the band's new compact disc, illustrates this groups attention to detail and a sound that is theirs alone. The Good Times are obviously on a mission to preserve their musical heritage, flavoring it with a personal touch. With 28 cuts, combining two previous cassettes with 14 new tracks, this compact disc is a bargain at any price. But, don't buy it because it's a bargain, buy it for the music, the Polish vocals and the talent of the musicians.

As the title suggests, the songs are about love, marriage and good times. Cut one, "Wedding Polka Medley," establishes the ethnic relevance of the band and the recording. Polish vocals, especially those by Dennis Motyka, reflect a essence of your grandfather or your grandfather's grandfather. This can be felt throughout the recording on tunes like "Sweet 16" polka, "That's A No No" polka, "Going Steady" oberek and "Cooked Goose" polka. Polish is what these guys do best.

However, Polish is not all they do best. Originals such as "Propawiny" polka, "I Don't Love You Anymore" polka, "Oochie Koochie Smile"

polka and "Old Polka Records" are impressive and connected to those Polish roots. "Do Tanca" polka, another original, may be the best English polka on the compact disc and maybe the best written in several years. Whether the vocals are Polish or English, music is also what this band does best!

Experience makes The Good Times click. On accordion and vocals is Dennis Motyka. Jim Sierzega handles trumpet and vocals. Sax and vocals belong to Jerry Mytych while John Fornek plays sax, clarinet and does vocals. Bobby Zima keeps beat on the drums and Jim Kucharski is on "upright" bass. Together these musicians "melodize" and produce pure quality. In a world of "sound-alike" bands, The Good Times travel a road of their own.

These 70 minutes of superb music were recorded, mixed and engineered by Kathy Dunaj at Sound/Video Impressions, Inc. in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Return to the roots of Polka music. Enjoy the magnetism of Polish vocals. Bask in the good times of The Best of Dennis Motyka's Good Times "Love and Marriage & More"

with The Good Times. Do Tanca!

**POLKA MEMORIES.** It's both a tribute to the memory of Stephanie Pietrzak's mother, Wanda, and the title of this new CD on Bel-Aire Records. All those fans of Wanda and Stephanie will consider the 13 tracks on this recording priceless, as they give everyone some new tunes and some classic tunes.

Joining Stephanie's concertina is the melodic clarinet and sax of Eddie Madura, the trumpet of Jim Sierzega, the piano of Rich Cerajewski, the bass of David "Nigel" Kurdziel and the classic drums of Wayne Sienkowski. "Our Breakup," "Life In Chicago," "Green Forest" oberek and Haystack" are a few of the grabbers in this collection.

Growing up in North Tonawanda, Wanda & Stephanie became a fixture at Topolski's on Oliver Street, but it wasn't until they were on stage at Polkabration in New London, Conn., that I was able to see the "fan-natics" standing hundreds deep in front of the stage as this duo entertained their polka world.

This is a must-have for all Stephanie fans.

## NOTES

## On the Mend

PAJ Columnist **Barb Pinkowski** will be taking off a few months while she recovers from some minor surgery. You can send her get-well wishes at 39 Autumn Lane, Depew, NY 14043.

However, she does want to share this news with you:

**Dave Maguda**, who played accordion for Big Steve & the Belares and former Buffalo Polka Boosters board member, is home recovering after surgery at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y. You can drop him a get-well card at 48 Heritage Ct., Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

Congratulations to **Adam Gawlak** and **Justin Kohan**, who both earned First Chair spots with Erie County's All County Band. Adam's dad, Chris, was a member of the Steel City Brass and Dynatones. Justin's parents, Mark and Kyle, were members of Steel City, also. Adam plays tuba and electric bass (which he will also be playing with the All-County Jazz Band); and Justin plays trumpet.

Sympathy goes out to the family of **John Wszalek** of Buffalo, who passed away Jan. 20. John was an active member of the Polish Falcons Club in Depew, N.Y., and ran many dances there over the years ... Also, the family of **Edward Pericak** of Eden, N.Y., a long-time polka dancer in both Polish, Slovenian, and German-American circles. He was a huge fan of Walt Ostanek's music. Ed was 95 when he passed on Jan. 19.

**ISKIERKI. Nicky DiSebastiano**, Charm City Sound's accordionist, was hospitalized on December 21 after suffering a mild heart attack. He received angioplasty and two stents to restore blood flow. Fortunately, the doctors believe his heart muscle was not badly damaged.

Fans are often looking for lyrics. **The Brass Connection** website has a page with a listing of all their recordings. Click on any of the later recordings from "Blue Magic" down, and a list of the songs on each recording will open. Alongside each song is an icon for a Word document, which provides the lyrics for the song. Some are in English, some in Polish. Check it out at [www.thebrassconnection.com/recordings.asp](http://www.thebrassconnection.com/recordings.asp).

How many remember **The King Brothers** and their unique style on stage? If you want to relive a little of those days check out [www.myspace.com/concertinaman](http://www.myspace.com/concertinaman). The website was recommended by Steve Litwin, polka editor for the *Polish American Journal*.

The **Piatkowski Brothers** have updated their website and included six demo songs that they have recorded. The tunes can be played or downloaded in their entirety. They can be found at [www.PiatkowskiBrothers.com](http://www.PiatkowskiBrothers.com).

## POLKA SHORTS

## Minnesota Polka Festival Takes Place March 27-29

The Minnesota Polka Festival (<http://mnstatepolkafestival.com>) will be held at the Medina Entertainment Center, March 27-29.

Children 12 and under free, must be accompanied by an adult. All advanced tickets must be purchased at least one week prior to event. Reserved seating for advanced tickets only. Group rates are available. Online tickets available and [www.medinaentertainment.com](http://www.medinaentertainment.com) (extra fees may apply) or mail check or money order to MN State Polka Festival PO Box 65833 St. Paul, MN 55165 (For more info call Julianne @ 651-260-6600 / 888-682-2283).

Scheduled to perform are: (Fri., March 27, 7:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m. / \$12 Door / \$10 Advance)

Full Circle featuring Polka Hall of famers, Lenny Gomulka, Jimmy Weber and Al Piatkowski, along with Mike Stapinski, Roger Malinowski, and Mike Matousek; and Craig Ebel's DyVersaCo;

(Sat., March 28, 1:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. / \$16 Door / \$14 Advance / 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. only \$12/\$10 Advance) Minnesota State Amateur Old Tyme Waltz Competition; The Bill Koncar Band & The Bruce Bradley Band; Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones; and & Full Circle;

(Sun., March 30; 1:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. / \$15 Door / \$13 Advance); Minnesota State Amateur Polka Dance Competition (Standard and Hop Polka); Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones with Stephanie & and Her Honky Polka Band; and the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers.

## Honky Style Polka Music Comes To Bayway Polish Club This Winter

ELIZABETH, N.J.—A group of well known east coast polka musicians, "The Associates" will be taking the stage at the Bayway Polish Club this winter to perform traditional and honky style polka music. All the fun takes place on Sun., March 1, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

This alliance of musicians in-

cludes former Crusade front man Eddie Biegaj on drums, Wally Dombrowski leader of the Polka Country Musicians, on clarinet, sax, and trumpet, Nick Koryluk from the Polka Family Band on trumpet, Kevin Kurdziel from the Polka Family Band on piano and accordion, along with Andrew Krystopolski on concertina and Bryan Kurdziel on bass.

The Associates came together as a project of Kevin Kurdziel who resides in Bloomfield, N.J. "You find most live performances of honky style polkas out in the mid-west. I thought it would be nice to get some friends together and play traditional polkas here in New Jersey," he said. "Although most of the musicians playing have steady gigs with their own bands, the guys thought it would be fun to do something different for one evening."

Adding to the excitement of this performance will be having two young musicians joining the polka veterans on stage. Andrew Krystopolski, a renowned church organist will be adding his talents on concertina, and Bryan Kurdziel, son of Kevin Kurdziel will be showcasing his talents on bass guitar.

All the members of the Associates will be featured on vocals, and have each picked some of their favorite songs to perform.

The Bayway Polish Club is located at 625 Pulaski Street in Elizabeth, NJ and is easily accessible from the New Jersey Turnpike. For more information contact [Associatespolka@yahoo.com](mailto:Associatespolka@yahoo.com).

## Arizona Polka Weekend with the Touch

PHOENIX, Ariz.—The Pulaski Club of Phoenix Arizona is proud to present a Polka Weekend with Jerry Darlak & The Touch from Buffalo, N.Y., February 28 and March 1.

Kicking off the festivities Friday night will be the "Polka Soundz" of DJ "Nickelcity Dave" at 6:00 p.m. On Saturday evening, the polka dancing will be from 6:00-10:00 p.m., with doors opening at 5:00 p.m. \$10.00 admission at the door.

On Sunday afternoon the music continues from 1:00-5:00 p.m. with doors opening up at noon. There

will be a \$10.00 admission at the door. This is a no BYOB affair. The Pulaski Club has a full bar available and the Polish Kitchen will be open.

For more information about the dance, contact David Bonczkiewicz from Phoenix, Arizona at (602) 741-8214 or from Buffalo, New York call Ken Machelski at (716) 648-3888.

Hotel reservations available at Tempe-Days Inn 1221 E. Apache Blvd Tempe, AZ 85281; (800) 276-7415. Contact: The Pulaski Polish/American Club at 4331 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix Arizona 85008, (602) 275-9329.

## Mass Offered for Accident Victims

HAZLETON, Pa.—January 26, 2009 marked the eighth anniversary of the accident of Jan Lewan and his orchestra en route to a performance in Florida. The accident took the lives of Tom Karas and John Stabinski, and severely injured Lewan's son, Daniel.

A special mass was offered at St. Stanislaus Church on the 26<sup>th</sup> in memory of Karas and Stabinski, for the reunion of the Lewandowski family, and for the return of Lewan and his Orchestra.

A special mass was also celebrated for these intentions at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa.

## Mardi Gras Dance

FRIDLEY, Minn.—Get "wild" at the MPA Mardi Gras Dance to be held at the Fridley VFW, Osborne Road and Central Avenue (Highway 65), Feb. 21, 2009. Enjoy and dance to the music of Dave Novak & the Polish Choice band from 7:00-11:00 p.m. General admission is \$8 per person, \$7 for MPA members. Masks and costumes are optional!

For more information, email Jim Carlson at [k.carlson55110@yahoo.com](mailto:k.carlson55110@yahoo.com) or phone him at (651) 426-1079.

## Volunteers Keep Polka Show Going for 20 years

MERRILL, Wisc.—Each Saturday morning for 20 years members of the Wisconsin Polka Club broadcast the Saturday Morning Polka Variety Show on Patriot Country AM 730 Radio. The show, which is on the air from 6:00-9:00 a.m., provides a variety of polka music featuring German, Polish, and Slovenian.

## Milwaukee Hall Hit by Robbers

MILWAUKEE (PMN)—Andy Kochanski was hosting a Christmas party on Friday, December 19, 2008, and all the Milwaukee concertina greats had been jamming in Kochanski's Concertina Beer Hall (formerly Art's Concertina Bar) a landmark polka hall, on Milwaukee's South Side. He thought the silhouettes he spotted through the foggy windows were two customers coming into his tavern about 1:00 a.m. Then Kochanski saw the black ski masks and the sawed-off shotgun.

Kochanski did not hesitate. He reached under the bar for his loaded Glock .45. As he ducked, he heard a blast and lead whizzing over his head, shattering whiskey bottles and the mirror behind the bar. He stood up and squeezed the trigger. Bullets flew for about 10 seconds as the masked men backed out the door, he said.

Longtime local harmonica player Donald "Doc" Pfaff was hit and dropped to the floor. The bullet exited through the front of his hip, shattering a bone.

"With all the retired cops and firefighters that come in here, they [the robbers] are lucky I was the only one shooting at them," said Kochanski.

Kochanski thinks he hit the man firing the shotgun because of the way the man fell back, but he was not certain.

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We believe the following information to be correct, but it should always be verified before traveling long distances or expending funds.

**EVERY TUESDAY**

• **Illinois.** The Major Pensionaires at Major Hall, 5660 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, Ill., 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

• **Illinois.** Tony Paliga's Morning Stars at the Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill., 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., \$4.  
 • **Illinois.** The Midway Cavaliers at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7840 S. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Ill., 7:00-10:00 p.m., free admission.

**EVERY FRIDAY**

• **Illinois.** Joe Walega & the Happy Hearts at the New Warsaw Restaurant and Banquets, 6250 W. 63rd St., Chicago, Ill., 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$5.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

• **Florida.** John Gora & Gorale at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • **Florida.** Florida Honky Polka Band at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.  
 • **New Jersey.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at a Super Bowl Dance, Bayway Polish Club, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., music 4:00-8:00 p.m., game from 6:00 p.m., \$15 with hot dog buffet.  
 • **Wisconsin.** Concertina & Brass at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

• **Arizona.** Varitones at the Crescent Run resort, 8500 E. Southern Ave., Mesa, Ariz.  
 • **Florida.** Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
 • **Pennsylvania.** Jolly Joe (Alex Truskowski) & the Bavarians at the VFW Hall, Wilkes Barre, Pa., 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

• **Michigan.** Natural Tones at the Posen Community Center, 10813 N. Michigan Ave., Posen, Mich., 7:30-11:30 p.m.  
 • **New Jersey.** Ablemen at Polish Night, K of C Hall, Wallington, N.J., 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
 • **Ohio.** Change of Pace at the Mardi Gras Dance of the United States Polka Association, Doubletree Hotel, 6200 Quarry Ln., Independence, Ohio, costume contest, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

• **Florida.** B-Sharps at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.  
 • **Massachusetts.** Tony's Polka Band at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • **Michigan.** Natural Tones at the Warren Polka Boosters, Utica K of C Hall, 4425 Utica Rd., Sterling Heights, Michigan, 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • **New Jersey.** Ricky Anton & the Polka Stars and the Ablemen at a benefit for Deborah Hospital, Bayway Polish Club, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 2:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.  
 • **Ohio.** Squeeze Box at the International Music Association, Conn-Weissenberger Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • **Wisconsin.** Polish Connection at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**TUES.-THURS., FEB. 10-12**

• **Nevada.** Polka Festival. Orleans Hotel and Casino, 4500 W. Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. Check locally for details.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

• **Wisconsin.** Roger Majeski & the Harmony Kings at the Eagles Club, 1104 S. Oak Ave., Marshfield, Wis., 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., \$10.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

• **Connecticut.** Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at a Valentine dinner-dance, St. Joseph Club, Colchester, Mass. Buffet 6:30 p.m.; music 7:00-11:00 p.m. For reservations call (860)537-2550.  
 • **Michigan.** Natural Tones at the Uby Country Club, Uby, Mich., 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
 • **Michigan.** Big Daddy Lackowski at the St. Clemens Valentine Dance, Center Line, Mich., 7:00-11:00 p.m. Check locally for details.  
 • **Wisconsin.** Dance and Romance Weekend. Bands include Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo, Chad Przybylski & the Polka Rhythms, John Gora & Gorale and Stephanie Pietrzak with the Twin City Soundz. Eagles Club, 1104 S. Oak Ave., Marshfield, Wis. 2:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. Tickets \$14.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

• **Florida.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • **Florida.** Sounds of the South at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.  
 • **Illinois.** Stas Bulanda & the Old School Review at a dance of the Let's Polka USA Club, Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, Ill., 1:00-5:00 p.m., \$10.  
 • **Illinois.** John Gora & Gorale at Lone Tree Manor, 7300 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, Ill. Check locally for details.  
 • **Michigan.** Varitones at the Polka Boosters of America, Msgr. Hunt K of C, 7080 Garling, Dearborn Heights, Mich., 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • **New Jersey.** Rick Gazda Orchestra at the Bayway Polish Club, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 2:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.  
 • **Wisconsin.** DyVersaCo at the St. Croix Casino, Hwy. 8 and Hwy. 63, Turtle Lake, Wis., 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • **Wisconsin.** Norm Dombrowski & the Happy Notes at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

• **Florida.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages, Fla., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

• **Florida.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Pulaski Association, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., 6:00-10:00 p.m.  
 • **Florida.** Stas Golonka & the Chicago Masters at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
 • **Pennsylvania.** Jolly Joe (Alex Truskowski) & the Bavarians at the VFW Hall, Sunbury, Pa., 8:00-11:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

• **Florida.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Elks Hall, Englewood, Fla., 5:00-9:00 p.m.  
 • **Michigan.** Mixx at the Paczkowy Ball, Mount Carmel Gym, 976 Pope John Paul Ave., Wyandotte, Mich., 7:30-11:30 p.m.  
 • **Michigan.** Natural Tones at the Port Austin American Legion Hall, 8875 Hellems Rd., Port Austin, Mich., 7:30-11:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

• **Florida.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Pulaski Club, 3621 W. Intl. Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach, Fla., 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • **Florida.** Florida Honky Polka Band at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30, music 4:00-7:00 p.m., members \$5, non-members \$7.  
 • **Illinois.** Patrick Henry's Polka Party All-Stars at Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, Ill., 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • **Massachusetts.** Full Circle at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass. Check locally for details.  
 • **Michigan.** Duane Malinowski at the Toledo Area Polka Society, Conn Weissenberger Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • **Michigan.** Natural Tones at the LFA Hall, 2323 Amelith Rd., Bay City, Mich., 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • **New Jersey.** Polka Family at the Bayway Polish Club, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 2:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.  
 • **Ohio.** Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at SS. Peter and Paul Church, 4650 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, Ohio, 12:30-4:30 p.m.  
 • **Wisconsin.** Benaszkeski World Tour at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

• **Minnesota.** DyVersaCo at North Air Event Center, 6831 Hwy. 65, Fridley, Minn., 7:00-11:00 p.m.

**Paper Spotlights Eddie Forman**

AMHERST, Mass. (PMN)—An article by Phyllis Lehrer published on December 26, 2008, in the AMHERST BULLETIN, put the spotlight on musician Eddie Forman.

Forman began a life of music at an early age. He began playing the accordion at age 5-and-a-half, influenced by Myron Florin on the Lawrence Welk show.

Sitting in his office at Hopkins Academy where he teaches, Forman, founder and leader of the Eddie Forman Orchestra (EFO), told Lehrer of his life in music. She wrote that he was eloquent in his praise for his family, fans and orchestra members who share his music and life.

A resident of Hadley with his wife, Carol, who performs with the orchestra, Forman grew up around polka music. "It's part of my heritage and I'm proud of my heritage," said Forman, who has played in the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City and takes the Hopkins Academy Band to play in the Pulaski Day Parade in Northampton.

By 15, Forman had his own group. He played while he was a student at Hopkins and at Westfield State College. Today, the orchestra plays about 48 weekends, about 100 performances, a year. The five-member orchestra plays for dances, parties, polka Masses, reunions, weddings and festivals throughout New England, New York and New

Jersey. The orchestra performed in Florida from 1991 to 1994 and has resumed that schedule; the Florida venue attracts the snowbirds from the north. The group plays for a week while Hopkins is on winter break and brings all the instruments and sound systems needed.

Forman told the Amherst Bulletin staff writer, "I say I need to slow down, but I never do. When people are nice enough to hire you, you can't say no. If I cut the schedule in half, who do you say no to. I'm an all or nothing guy. People are still calling, so I must be doing something right."

It was part of that fan base that successfully wrote letters on his behalf for entry into the Polka Hall of Fame of the International Polka Association (IPA) located in Illinois. He was inducted into it in 2006.

According to Lehrer, the group rehearses only for recordings. Forman's discography begins with 45s and his first album was done in 1972. The latest CD is coming out in the spring.

**Gerlich Passes**

CHICAGO—Eddie Gerlich, an original member of the Harmony Kings, a popular polka band of years ago, passed away in Chicago on Christmas Eve at the age of 89. He was a World War II Army Veteran, D-Day Omaha Beach Survivor and a Purple Heart recipient in the Battle of Bastogne.

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## POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## The Treats of Polish Karnawał (Mardi Gras)

**ROAST PORK LOIN WITH PRUNES.** Rub a 4-5 lb pork loin with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1 - 2 buds crushed garlic, place in roaster, smother meat with 2 sliced onions, cover and let stand at room temp 1 hr. Remove loin, pat dry, sprinkle with flour and brown on all sides in hot oil or lard to seal in juices. Return to roaster. Brown onions in the pan drippings and return to roaster. Add 1 c water and bake in 375° oven 1 hr. Meanwhile, soak 2 c unpitted prunes in water to cover 20 min and add to roaster. Bake another 90 min or until tender but not overcooked. Cut the loin in 2 to see if it is no longer pink inside. Serve with rice and a grated carrot, apple, horseradish salad.

**BREADED PORK CUTLETS.** Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" - 1/3" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice gold-

en brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil, drain on paper towel and serve immediately. Optional: For super-tender cutlets, transfer cutlets to baking pan, add 2-3 T pan drippings and 2 T boiling water, cover and seal with foil and let simmer in 350° oven 30 min.

**TRIPLE.** Cut 2-1/2 lbs pre-cooked tripe (available at ethnic meat markets and delis) into thin strips 2"-3" long. Scald with boiling water to cover and cook 10 min, then drain. Combine tripe with 6-7 c beef stock and a portion of soup greens, sliced into matchsticks and cook on med until vegetables are tender. Dissolve 3 T flour in 1 c of slightly cooled stock and return to pot, simmer briefly. Season to taste with salt, pepper, marjoram, ginger, paprika and several gratings of nutmeg. For Warsaw-style tripe, serve grated yellow cheese on the side for sprinkling over the soup. Serve with good Polish rye bread. When time is at a premium try heat & eat imported Flaki Zamojskie out of a jar.

**KIELBASA & SAUERKRAUT.** Preheat oven to 390°. Place 2-1/2 lbs fresh kielbasa in one layer in

baking pan greased with 1 T lard or butter. Cut 2 onions into quarters and slice each quarter quite thin, spreading onions on and around the kielbasa. Bake 15 min, then reduce heat to 350°, add 1 c hot water and bake another 40 min. Meanwhile, drain 2 - 3 qts sauerkraut and rinse in cold water. Drain, press out moisture, chop coarsely, place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, add 1 bay leaf and cook uncovered 45 min. Drain and transfer to baking pan. Cut baked fresh kielbasa prepared as above into 3" pieces and mix with sauerkraut. Season kielbasa pan drippings with 1 t liquid Maggi seasoning and add to sauerkraut. Optional: Sprinkle with 1/2 - 1 t caraway seeds. Bake in 350° oven 60 min or so. Leave in oven 30 min after switching off heat. Taste improves with each reheating.

**HUNTER'S BIGOS.** Soak 1 oz dried bolete mushrooms in 1-1/2 c water several hrs, then cook in same water until tender, chop, return to liquid and set aside. Drain 3 qts sauerkraut, reserving liquid, rinse in cold water, drain again, squeeze dry and chop coarsely. Place in pot with 1 bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Transfer drained sauerkraut to baking pan and add some or all of the following: 2 qts various cooked cubed meat (beef, venison, pork, veal, turkey, duck), 3 c smoked Polish sausage, the mushrooms and their liquid, 1 c stewed tomatoes, chopped, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples. Toss in ingredients to blend and bake uncovered in 350° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs at 325°. After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate over night. Reheat at 325° for 90 min before serving. If bigos appears too moist, dust with 1 or more T flour, mix well and bake another 15 min. If the bigos is not as tart as you want, stir in a little reserved sauerkraut juice. Season with salt, pepper, marjoram and crushed juniper. Serve with mashed or boiled whole potatoes or rye bread.

**PĄCZKI.** Beat 12 egg yolks with 1 t salt at high speed until mixture is thick and piles softly (about 7 min). Separately, add 2 pkg active dry yeast to a bowl containing 1/4 c warm water to soften. Cream 1/3 c room-temp butter or margarine, gradually adding 1/2 c sugar, until fluffy. Stir 1 c flour into yeast mixture. Add 3 T rum and 1/2 c pre-scalded whipping cream, then beat in another 1 c flour and stir in another 1/2 c of whipping cream. Beat in another c flour and the yolk mixture, beating about 2 min. Gradually beat in 1-1/2 c flour and continue beating until air blisters appear in dough. Cover dough with plastic wrap and place in a warm place to rise. When doubled in bulk, punch down, cover again and when it rises again, punch it down. Roll dough out on floured board 3/4" thick. Cut into 3" rounds. Place a spoonful of very thick jam (powidła, rose-hip jam) at center of half the rounds. Brush edges of rounds with water and top with remaining rounds. Pinch edges together to seal and shape snowball-fashion into balls. Cover pączki and keep in warm place until doubled in bulk (about 20 min). Fry pączki in hot (365°F) fat to a nice golden brown on both sides. Transfer to absorbent paper and sprinkle with powdered sugar while still hot.

## ART SCENE / Staś Kmieć

## Irena's Vow heading to Broadway

Following a triumphant sold-out engagement, *Irena's Vow* will arrive on Broadway on March 10 at the Walter Kerr Theatre.

The critically acclaimed, tremendously moving new play (reviewed in PAJ's November issue) is the riveting, life-affirming story about a courageous and unsung heroine of World War II—Irena Gut Opdyke, a Polish Catholic. The production is presented by the Directors Company in association with Power Productions, NY and the Polish Cultural Institute in New York

After a period of preview performances the Dan Gordon's play will officially open on March 29. The entire Off-Broadway company will reprise their work.

**HOLOCAUST FILMS IN THE CINEMA.** During the holiday season, six films appeared in movie theaters and art houses relating to the period of the Holocaust during World War II and focused on the rise of Hitler's Germany raising awareness and perpetuating a history that many forget.

*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* evokes the same sentimentality of Roberto Benigni's Oscar winner *Life Is Beautiful*. *The Reader* directed by Stephen Daldry is based on Bernhard Schlink's best-selling novel and stars Kate Winslet as former concentration camp guard tried for war crimes. Tom Cruise, the star of *Valkyrie*, portrays Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, a patriotic German military officer involved in a plot to assassinate Hitler. *Good*, a Holocaust parable shows Viggo Mortensen as a professor in a moral dilemma.

The victims and survivors of Hitler's regime are shown in *Adam*

*Resurrected*, about a nightclub performer, played by Jeff Goldblum, who finds himself, after enduring the camps, confined to an Israeli asylum, and *Defiance*, where Daniel Craig (known as cinema's current James Bond) portrays Tuvia Bielski, the real-life leader of a group of Jewish partisans who fought the Germans in the forests of Belarus.

The European cinema has also dealt with Nazism and the Holocaust represented on American screens in recent years by *The Counterfeiters*, which won the Academy Award for best foreign-language film, *Downfall*, *Black Book A Secret*, *One Day You'll Understand* and Roman Polanski's tale of survival—the Oscar-winning film, *The Pianist*.

The great value of artistic renderings of the Holocaust, like good historical novels, is that they offer a living and breathing account that gives pride back to the people who were sacrificed. Aesthetically evoking horror in a more profound way than a documentary, these films provide important fragments of meaning for a world that desperately wants to understand inhumanity and cruelty.

Currently available on DVD is the documentary *The Rape of Europa*. The film details that more than 60 years following World War II, thousands of art treasures stolen by Nazis as they swept through Europe are still missing. Private collectors, museum curators, and family heirs battle over the rightful ownership of priceless artwork that has resurfaced. Hitler's plan, according to interviewed historians, authors, and other experts in this riveting document, was to obliterate enemy culture and history while adding to his private art collection.

## Review: Polish Modern Dance Company takes Manhattan

Gdansk's Dada von Bzdülów Theater presented the U.S. premiere of its modern dance theater piece *Factor T*. in September at the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival. Having made a splash in New York City after an engagement at the famed La Mama E.T.C. in 2006, the company returned to Danspace Project with a completely different and unique work.

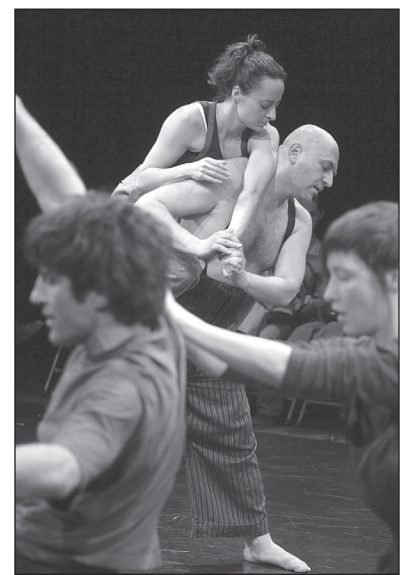
Directed by Leszek Bzdyl, the company invokes much humor, along with irony and reflection in its work.

Based on the writings of Polish experimental filmmaker, novelist, philosopher, and poet Stefan Themerson, *Factor T* is a theatrical interpretation of Themerson's theory that the eternal tragedy (factor T.) of mankind lies in the conflict between a compulsion to satisfy certain urges and an aversion toward the actions that such satisfaction may require.

*Factor T* was created as a part of *Out of Bounds* — choreographic encounters between Poland and Philadelphia

The four member ensemble for this particular piece features Bzdyl, Katarzyna Chmielewska, Rafal Dziemidok, and Philadelphia dancer Bethany Formica. Formica, a Polish American, attended an audition workshop process, which resulted in her acceptance into the piece. Each dancer is uniquely different in body type and style, and the partnering is challenging and visually compelling. The inventive choreography has a wonderfully dangerous edge and utilizes a broad vocabulary of movement and concepts from the post-modern era.

*Factor T* begins with bare-bones simplicity in movement and costuming and evolves with complex-



Rafal Dziemidok and Bethany Formica (center) framed by Leszek Bzdyl and Katarzyna Chmielewska in *Factor T*.

ity of costume, choreography and psychological thought — challenging the boundaries of traditional views, not only in dance, but life.

The collaborative choreography incorporates the frequent use of props and the spoken word, particularly effective in a complex counter analogy and a review of The Ten Commandments.

The piece is never "safe" and is surprising in its inventiveness. Whether paper airplanes fly over head, or the audience is manipulated and directed, or a never-ending succession of increasingly elaborate vintage garb, *Factor T* takes its audience hostage for a unique journey.

*Factor T* was presented by Danspace Project in association with the Polish Cultural Institute, with additional support from the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw.



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## CIA and Documentary Honor Polish Army Colonel Kuklinski

by Richard Poremski

LANGLEY, Virg.—His pseudonyms were “P.V.” (for “Polish Viking”—initially his own choice), “Gull” (CIA bestowed due to his being an avid sailor) and “Jack Strong” (emergency code name), but “Patriot” would have served Polish Army Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski even better.

And so they gathered here at CIA Headquarters, adjacent to Washington, D.C., on December 11, 2008 for a lengthy symposium, with a new documentary that paid tribute to Col. Kuklinski. He was a very brave man who single-handedly changed the course of world history, preventing the East-West Cold War from quite possibly morphing into a nuclear holocaust, during which his beloved homeland of Poland would be the first, and possibly the only, totally destroyed victim.

By special invitation, approximately 300 persons attended the afternoon-long program entitled “Preparation for Martial Law Through the Eyes of Ryszard Kuklinski.” The main speakers were CIA Director Michael Hayden; David Forden, Kuklinski’s CIA case handler; Aris Pappas, CIA analyst who managed the reams of Kuklinski’s proffered information; Ben Weiser, author of “A Secret Life,” Kuklinski’s biography; and Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter’s National Security Advisor.

Guests of honor included Kuklinski’s grandson Michael (Mrs. Joanna Kuklinska was in Warsaw, indisposed and unable to travel), a score of CIA officers and analysts from the Warsaw station who processed Kuklinski’s mountain of top secret Soviet/Warsaw Pact military plans and documents (over 40,000 pages supplied from 1971 to 1981), and a sizable delegation from the Embassy of Poland led by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki.

**BRAVERY CITED.** All of the speakers heaped well-deserved praise and honor upon Kuklinski, citing him for his personal bravery (sure death awaited for any misstep) and his staunch opposition to a merciless and deadly Soviet/communist-totalitarian regime that would see subjugated Poland destroyed in order to further its goal of world dominance. The CIA also distributed a comprehensive program book and companion CD that contained 80 newly declassified Kuklinski-supplied documents and reports.

The aired documentary “War Games,” produced/directed by Dariusz Jablonski, chronicled the amazing Kuklinski story and contained many fascinating and candid interviews with Kuklinski’s wife Joanna, friends, former high government officials and leading military officers in Poland, Russia (former Soviet Union) and the United States; all being germane to the era. Interspersed in the film were animated clips of video game imagery to illustrate the Cold War developing into a very hot war. Just previously, “War Games” was premiered in Warsaw’s Philharmonic Hall under the patronage of



**SIGNING OF WARSAW PACT DOCUMENTS.** Col. Kuklinski is shown standing, handing documents to Soviet Min. Def. Ustinov. This photograph shows just how really close Kuklinski was to the top military powers.

Poland’s Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Culture.

**FIRST POLISH OFFICER IN NATO.** Kuklinski’s motivation was patriotic, honorable and altruistic. As a key member of the Polish Army General Staff, he was privy to all of the war plans and the Order-of-Battle of the Soviet Union and its captive Warsaw Pact member countries. In the event of a war with the West/NATO, the Warsaw Pact would attack with its first Strategic Echelon (SE) into then-West Germany. The defending NATO forces were in rough parity with this force and could fight it to a standstill until a massive air and sea lift of reinforcements arrived from the United States. But on/about the third day of battle, the Soviets would launch their second SE (equating the first one) across the vast Plain of Poland to engage and overwhelm the stalemated NATO forces. The door to Western Europe and the blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean would then be forced wide open.

NATO and the United States then faced a very stark choice: In order to survive and defend democracy against communist domination they would have to strike and destroy the second SE with nuclear weaponry while it was still crossing Poland—before it could enter into the battle. Kuklinski was very aware of the extreme and dire consequences resulting from the Soviet attack plan—his beloved Poland would be incinerated, sacrificed on the altar of war by the Soviet Union. This, above all else, was Kuklinski’s prime motivator to become the “First Polish Officer in NATO” (as dubbed by Zbigniew Brzezinski).

**TRAITOR OR PATRIOT?** Kuklinski, even today, remains something of a controversial figure in now-democratic Poland. He was tried and sentenced to death in absentia by the communists after his CIA arranged and hair-raising escape from Poland in 1981. Finally, in 1997, after much political maneuvering and legal wrangling, Ryszard Kuklinski was fully exonerated and rehabilitated to full citizenship by the Polish government—a full eight years after Poland threw off the yoke of communism in 1989. (Both the U.S. and NATO were active Kuklinski champions prior to Poland’s 1999 admittance into NATO).

Public opinion on Kuklinski is still divided in present day Poland. But now, due to recent revealing books, documentaries, release of secret documents, scholarly research, news articles and other information, public opinion is now shifting more favorably in the direction of Ryszard Kuklinski ... the patriot.

### BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

## A Concise History of the Culture of Tattooing

**CHINA TATOO**  
by Chris Wroblewski  
SCB Distributors, 2008  
143 pp., \$29.95

This oversized book contains dozens of pictures of tattooed figures on full-color glossy paper. Wroblewski provides a concise history of the culture of tattooing, its meanings in tribal communities and continuity throughout the years—written in both English and Chinese.

The story of tattooing is more complex than one would imagine. Wroblewski walks the reader through the preliterate societies from the Asian mainland to the Aztec empire and across the world. Some societies worshipped tattooed gods and had themselves marked like their divine protector. Other tattoos depicted branding, denoting ownership.

In the nineteenth century Western tattoo enthusiasts and Japanese masters took place when British sailors and merchants reintroduced the art of “writing on bodies” in tattoo salons throughout Europe. Today it is popular throughout the world, and in America, primarily as a form of body adornment.

The fascinating photographs in this book are clear and bright, providing dozens of tattooed bodies and the hundreds of pictures people choose to replicate on their bodies.

**MODERN ARCHITECTURE POP-UP**

by Anton Radevsky  
and David Sokol  
Universe Publishing, 2008  
\$45.00

Pop-up books are the rage lately, and this oversized book rates among the best. Twenty color pop-ups of public buildings from around the world jump up at you as you turn the pages. They are organized chroni-

cally, beginning with the Romantic Era and ending with notes on the Future of Architecture.

Sidebars of more pictures and additional pop-ups are included on each page. Bridges, skyscrapers, the Eiffel tower, Falling Waters, Chrysler building, Sydney Opera House, and the Burl Al Arab in Dubai are just a few of the wonders in this book. Detailed history on the construction and architect of the buildings enhance the book. Anyone interested in graphics, construction and art will enjoy this book.

Radevsky is a pop-up engineer and illustrator, while Sokol is a freelance architectural writer.

**THE BRUISE**  
by Magdalena Zurawski  
University of Alabama, 2008  
174 pp., \$16.95

Zurawski presents the reader with M, the protagonist in this story of a woman in college who doubts what she encounters and challenges all about her. In a whirlpool of words, her thoughts ramble on and on, challenging all she sees. She struggles to find a sense of reality. As a neurotic lesbian, she is lonely, desperate for companionship. She antagonizes over her actions, deciding her very actions change and determine her reality.

When she falls in the bathroom and hits her head she decides it was an angel who touched her, causing

the bruise. As a sex-starved coming of age woman, her thoughts ramble, circling back again and again in long convoluted sentences.

This is Zurawski’s first book.

**NULL AND VOID**  
Poland: Case Study on Comparative Imperialism  
by M.B. Szonert  
University Press of America / Rowman Littlefield Publishing Group, 2008, notes, bibliography, index, 252 pp., \$36.00

This scholarly book is concerned with the distorted history of Poland, from the Nazi era and especially the Stalinist period. For fifty years the Soviet perspective of Polish history has been entrenched in current history books.

The Nazi-Soviet invasion, the Katyn crimes, and the Soviet extermination of the Polish Independent Movement were effectively hidden from the world for many years. It is within the Independent Movement that Szonert intertwines non-fiction narrative and historical analysis in depicting the life of Halina, one of the many freedom fighters.

Halina’s story from the beginning of the war to present time keeps the book from becoming a dry academic exercise. It will be of interest to the general public as well.

Szonert is to be commended for her analysis of Poland’s history.

### Gates Foundation to Help Revitalize Polish Libraries

WARSAW—Prime Minister Donald Tusk, in cooperation with Microsoft’s Bill Gates, has begun a project to revitalize Poland’s National Library as a 21st century cultural center.

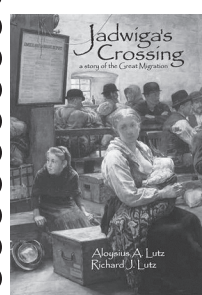
The country’s libraries will start to undergo modernization. The national government will cover 80

percent of costs, regional governments 20 percent.

The Ministry of Culture will spend over \$9 million over the next three years. The Polish-American Freedom Foundation and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is donating an additional \$8 million to support the project

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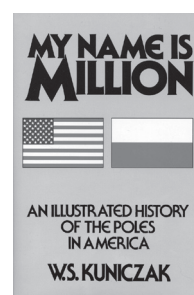


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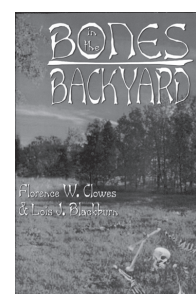
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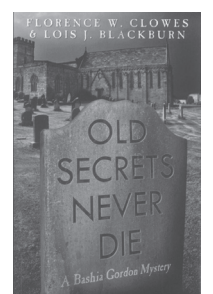
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## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Five-Time Winner

**Mariusz Pudzianowski** solidified his reputation as the strongest man in the world by winning the World's Strongest Man competition in 2008 for the fifth time. Pudzianowski captured the title for a record fifth time by defeating American Derek Poundstone in the final event. He succeeded despite a serious calf injury, which he suffered in the Polish Strongman Championship Cup of 2008 and aggravated during the WSM qualifying rounds.

Much smaller than most strongman competitors, Mariusz makes up for his relative lack of size with great speed and endurance. The native of the Polish town of Biala Rawska is extremely popular, not just because of his unprecedented success but also because of his personality and body-builder physique. In 2005, Mariusz formed a musical group called Pudzian Band, with himself as a singer. In 2006 the Pudzian band toured for the first time, and they recorded the song "Zdobyc' swiat" ("To Conquer the World.") He also appeared last year in the Polish version of "Dancing With the Stars."

WSM is the major event in strength athletics. It is a decathlon-style event in which competitors accumulate points by competing in unique events that combine strength and athleticism, like the giant log lift, the fridge carry, and the plane pull. The 2008 event was held in September in West Virginia, but not aired by ESPN until the Christmas season.

**ONE OF THE GREATEST.** Although his collegiate career ended more than a half-century ago, **Tom Gola** is still regarded as one of the best ever to play college hoops. In fact, ESPN recently ranked him 17th on its list of the 25 greatest college basketball players of all time.

Nicknamed "Mr. All-Around," Gola was able to play every offensive and defensive position on the court. He led Philadelphia's La Salle High School to a Catholic League championship, then passed up hun-



**Tom Gola: one of the best ever.**

dreds of collegiate scholarships to stay in Philly and play collegiately at LaSalle. Gola, the first modern, four-time college All-American, was named the 1955 College Player of the Year. He was the first player in collegiate history to score over 2,000 points and grab over 2,000 rebounds. Gola also enjoyed a ten-year NBA career with the Philadelphia Warriors, San Francisco Warriors, and New York Knicks. He is one of a select group of players to win an NIT, NCAA, and NBA title.

In 1968, Gola returned to his alma mater as head basketball coach. During his two-year tenure he led the Explorers to a 37-13 record. He then was elected to the Pennsylvania State Legislature, and later served as Philadelphia City Controller.

**MOVING ON.** Boston College football coach **Jeff Jagodzinski** was fired after interviewing for a coaching position with the New York Jets. BC athletic director Gene DeFilippo warned Jagodzinski he would be fired if he interviewed.

Jagodzinski has coached at BC for two seasons and has led the Eagles to the ACC championship game each year. Jagodzinski was the BC offensive coordinator in 1997-98. He then coached tight ends with the Packers from 1999-2003. He was the offensive line coach for Mora with the Falcons in 2004-05. In 2006, he was the Packers' offensive coordinator. Despite his success at

BC, Jagodzinski reportedly wanted to return to the NFL.

**JUST A JOKE.** According to some sources, **Lee Knorek** was the first person born in Poland to play in the NBA. A 6' 7" Center, Knorek played basketball at the University of Detroit Mercy and DeSales/Denison before playing professionally, mostly with the New York Knicks in the late 1940s. In some records he's listed as being born on July 15, 1921, in Warsaw, Poland. That would make him the first native of Poland to play professional basketball in the United States. The problem is that it isn't true.

In fact, Leonard "Lee" Knorek was born in Rossford, Ohio, but his birthplace is listed in official NBA records as Warsaw, Poland. That was the result of a joke between Knorek and a friend, Paul Taylor. Taylor, who signed Knorek to his contract with the Knicks, thought it would be interesting to give Knorek a more exotic birthplace. Knorek was fluent in Polish, however, and sometimes pretended that he was a native of Poland. Teammate Nat Miltzok told a story about Knorek pretending to be an ambassador from Poland at a hotel during a team road trip.

Knorek played pro basketball after serving with the U.S. Navy during World War II. After four years in the pros he returned to Ohio where he operated a liquor distribution company. He died in Rossford in 2003.

By the way, the first Polish-born player in the NBA was **Cezary Trybański**, who first played for the Memphis Grizzlies on November 15, 2002.

#### SPORTSPEOPLE OF THE YEAR.

Polish Radio has reported the ten top Polish athletes of 2008, in an annual ranking organized jointly by the SPORTS REVIEW daily and the state television TVP. It has been the 74th edition of this popularity rating.

2008 was the year of **Robert Ku-**

**bica**, the only Pole in F1 races, and it came as no surprise that almost 130,000 Poles voted him the best athlete of the year. He was followed by gold medalist in male gymnastics **Leszek Blanik**, who received over 121,000 votes while the third in the ranking was gold medalist in shot put from Beijing, **Tomasz Majewski**. The first woman in the top ten, a mountain biker and the silver medalist of the women's cross country cycling at the Beijing Olympics, **Maja Wloszczowska** came in sixth. Tennis player **Natalia Partyka** and swimmer **Katarzyna Pawlik** were named best disabled athletes of 2008.

The best sports event of last year was a bicycle race **Tour de Pologne**, while a retired ice hockey player **Mariusz Czerkawski** was recognized for his lifetime sports achievements.

SPORTS REVIEW (PRZEGLAD SPORTOWY) was founded in 1921 in Krakow. It is one of the oldest sports dailies in the world.

**THEY SAID IT.** "Gola has had so much praise piled around him that it is hard to believe that behind the barrier of press notices there exists anything that even faintly resembles an ordinary mortal. There does, however, although Father Joseph Belz, another Incarnation priest who has had considerable influence on him, is inclined to side with some who believe Gola is a bit too good to be true. 'There is a touch of unreality about Tommy,' Father Belz says.

"Nowhere, possibly, is this better seen than on the basketball floor, where Gola appears to be untouched by the excitement about him yet commands the game so complete-



**Mariusz Pudzianowski is the world's strongest man, winning the competition in 2008 for the fifth time.**

ly. There is a Polish phlegmatism about Gola which amounts to an air of detachment. The expression on his high-cheekboned face seldom changes, and his show of apparent aloofness is his one outstanding personality characteristic."

—A December 27, 1954 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED article on basketball great Tom Gola, then an All-American at LaSalle University.

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"I thought I was in trouble when he called."

—New England kicker **Stephen Gostkowski**, joking about a call from coach Bill Belichick. In fact, Belichick called to let Gostkowski know that he earned a Pro Bowl berth for the first time. Gostkowski made 91.9 percent of his field goal attempts, the second-best season mark in team history.

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"It's about trying to make big hits, like when you hit someone so hard, he doesn't get up. Those are the kind of hits you like."

—NFL linebacker-turned-actor **Bill Romanowski**, summarizing his playing philosophy for ESPN.com. "Romo" was listed as one of the ten dirtiest players in team sports (no. 5), along with fellow Polish American football players Steve Wisniewski (no. 4) and Conrad Dobler (no. 1).

## PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## A Fertile Mind

It is the month for valentines and based on my extensive study on the subject, the most important measurement in sex is the distance between the top of the shoulders to the top of the head. For those who do not realize it yet, emotions, maturity, and the brain are more important than the genitals. I worry about our young people, and especially our young Polish kids and their thinking about sex.

I recall a handful of soldiers on a train from Krakow to Lublin jawing and laughing with each all the while gawking towards a pretty girl sitting a couple of rows away. One fellow seemed rather enamored with her and began his "conquest" by awkwardly giggling and throwing out—what I could discern—were pickup lines. Unfortunately for him, she saw right through it. The young woman simply remained serious but friendly and by the end of the trip he was sitting beside her, talking quietly and respectfully behaving himself. She broke the hot shot down by maintaining her composure and self esteem. They made a nice couple. I hope they hooked up.

Father Piekarski would integrate little tidbits of life during high school geometry class and one time he screamed at us for our shallow

approach to women. "All that you guys think about is how attractive a girl is or what a great figure she has. You should look for someone that you can partner with, that will give you companionship and happiness. That is what it is all about!" Then he would put his hand in the air with a pinched thumb and index finger saying, "you've got point A."

Unless I am missing something, sex is composed of three parts and all three are equally important but the first two are more equal. The first part is about the ability to relate to a person on a very practical and basic level. Can I live with this person as I lived with my roommates at college? Do this person's habits coincide with mine? Does this person grab and squeeze the tube of toothpaste in middle like a barbarian or does he lightly push from the bottom in an organized and efficient manner? How do I squeeze the toothpaste?

Second, does this person have interests, activities, and a profession or vocation or does she drink all of the time, think about sex all of the time, or has the primary goal of finding the remote? Do these interests and activities match mine? Is her maturity level the same as mine?

Regarding the second part, let

me suggest that especially for Polish kids, taking an interest in Polonia is a good activity, has changed lives for the better, and has put a number of young folks together with dancing or cultural events. If you are the parent of young children and are interested in Polonia, drag the kids along. At the least, it is still a good diversion from wandering, highly charged minds, is a great educational exercise, and might improve the child's self esteem.

I've seen it happen. I've seen kids who were not Polish find fun and happiness doing things Polish. Do something romantic this Valentine's Day. Make a pot of golabki (cabbage rolls) with your kids.

**PAUL WEYRICH.** The "Pioneer of the Conservative Movement" is not Polish according to THE JOURNAL TIMES of Racine, Wisconsin. "He was the son of a German immigrant father who stoked the furnace at St. Mary's Hospital and a Norwegian-American mother" ([http://www.journaltimes.com/articles/2008/12/18/local\\_news/doc494a965c46a25706305843.txt](http://www.journaltimes.com/articles/2008/12/18/local_news/doc494a965c46a25706305843.txt)). Now it might be possible that his father was a Germanized Pole and if someone has information on that or something contrary to the Journal Times,

let me know.

**READERS RESPOND.** From Jane Pelczarski of the OASIS Polish Group of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: "One of our local papers, THE PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE had an article about the fact that the remains of Copernicus might have been found in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Frombork ... however, a recent guide book entitled "Landmark Visitors Guide Krakow" by Andrew Beattie and Tim Pepper had different information. They claim on page 44 of their guide book that "His ashes are kept in an urn in the Czartoryski Museum."

Like Shakespeare, do we really know where Copernicus is buried? THE POST GAZETTE and the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL both report with DNA evidence that he is buried in Frombork. However, the DNA was from hair fragments, so, was part of him burned and stored at the Czartoryski? Are the ashes at Czartoryski, Copernicus, or someone else's uncle Mikolaj? Consider this the February question for the Pondering Pole.

From Don Binkowski: In the November issue of the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL, the Pondering Pole asked who the greatest Polish politician is. Well, a new book "Tolerated But

Never Accepted: Polish American Officials of Michigan and Polonia in a World Political Perspective," will be available soon, is written by Don, and might have the answer. Get a copy.

Dziękuję bardzo to Jane and Don, to Chester Kujawski and Geri Koziatek for their positive feedback about the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL and kind words, to Eleanor Brzezinski for the list of Polonia activities and organizations in Southeast Florida, and to Jack Jackowski for the great ideas, support, and participation. If you want the Southeast Florida activities and organizations list let me know and I'll send you a copy.

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If you have an answer to the question this month, a previous month's question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; e-Mail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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Please note: if you send e-Mail to me, put a reference in the subject line about the PAJ or the Pondering Pole. I will not open an e-Mail if I do not recognize the subject.



HERITAGE

BABA YAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klaehn

# Theatrical Excellence

by Ellye Slusarczyk

Mazowsze, a Polish theatrical dance group, was founded in 1948 by Mira Ziminska-Sygietynska and her late husband, Tadeusz. This dance group has helped to insure the preservation of Polish dance, costume, song, and folklore.

Mazowsze artistically transforms and stylizes each and every number that they perform. Costumes are authentically designed and represent particular regions in Poland. These costumes are made of cotton and wool, brocade and lace. Their vibrant colors, with colorfully rich embroidery, are a treat to their audience. Men's hats are decorated with tassels, fur, and peacock feathers. Dazzling skirts, blouses, and shawls adorn the women. Since many of the costumes are made of wool, they are very heavy, weighing several pounds. Each dancer and performer has to be in the best of physical condition to be able to perform the many techniques and artistry needed to perform.

The majority of young people in the group are highly trained graduates of music and ballet schools. To become a member of Mazowsze is a highly competitive process.

After you have had the privilege of enjoying a performance of this world renowned dance troupe you will describe the show as magnificent, brilliant, and exciting. You will come away with an intense feeling of Polish pride.

TRIVIA TIME

- Dick Pillar owns a) Up, Up, and Away Recording Sounds b) Polka Beat Recordings c) Steljo Record and Video Company
- King Jan II Sobieski's wife was a) Karolinka b) Marysienka c) Magdalene
- Sleza is known as the a) holy mountain of our forefathers b) Baltic isthmus c) ancestral food
- Artist Michael Willmen's paintings have given him the name, the Selesian a) Rembrandt b) Titian c) Gaugin
- Sleza attracts over 350 species of a) snakes b) spiders c) ants
- Milickie Ponds has a large a) concentration of lily pads b) stork nesting area c) bird habitat
- Chopin taught piano to a) Princess Wanda b) Queen Stephanie c) Count Fryderyk
- No visit to Kazimierz Dolny is complete unless you buy a) gingerbread b) rooster cake c) walnut forte
- Szczepreszyn is a) a waterfall b) forest preserve c) town
- Bukowa Gora means a) Stag Mountain b) Beech Mountain c) Elk Mountain

**ANSWERS.** 1.c Steljo Record and Video Company 10.b Beech Mountain 2.b Marysienka 3.a holy mountain of our forefathers 4.a Rembrandt 5.b spiders 6.c bird habitat 7.a Princess Wanda 8.b rooster cake 9.c. town 10.b. Beech Mountain

**FIGHTIN' WORDS.** For years, Rogers City, Mich. and Chicopee, Mass. have feuded over the world's largest Polish sausage. The 8,773-foot wonder created by Nowicki's Sausage Shoppe in 1977 made the Chicopee Provisions Company's 25-foot-long kielbasa look puny by comparison, but Chicopee's Leo Partyka dismissed the Rogers City entry as "nothing more than an oversized hot dog."

# A Brief History of the 304th Squadron

by Neville Bougourd

Everyone has heard of the glamorous adventures of the 303rd Fighter Squadron, the all-Polish heroes of the Battle of Britain, who had the highest kill rate and the biggest individual scoring pilot in that battle, even though it had been going on for two months before they joined it. But spare a thought for the 304<sup>th</sup>, the bomber crews who made an equal and much more prolonged contribution to the eventual victory.

The 304th Squadron was formed at RAF Bramcote in Nottinghamshire in August 1940 and was one of the first all-Polish units to fight with the RAF.

On September 1, 1939 the German Blitzkrieg rolled over Poland and the Polish Air Force fought valiantly but lost out to superior German forces who were already battle experienced from the Spanish Civil War. The PAF fled to France and fought again but on the collapse of France, they were forced to run to England. Re-equipped, they fought again and this time they won. Some of the Polish forces made their way to France and Britain by incredibly tortuous routes through the Middle East and Eastern Europe, often traveling the length of North Africa through the battle zones of Tobruk, El Alamein and Benghazi.

But it was a hard fought and costly battle with 106 dead in direct combat and a similar number lost in training accidents and air raids. The Poles flew many missions against French ports and German industrial areas, suffering huge losses because their Wellington Bombers, although capable of absorbing enormous damage, were very susceptible to anti-aircraft fire and fighter attacks. With relatively poor defensive weaponry and an incredibly slow maximum speed of 234 m.p.h., they were sitting ducks in active combat. Fortunately, no one mentioned this fact to the Poles, or if they did it was ignored, because they fought on and sometimes took on vastly superior German fighter forces—and won. There are many stories of this lumbering bomber fighting off vastly superior forces of fighters and com-

## U.S. Senate to Debate Resolution on Poland

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Senate will debate a resolution commemorating ninety years of U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations. It was introduced to the Foreign Relations Committee by three senators: Richard Lugar and George Voinovich of the Republican Party and Barbara Mikulski of the Democratic Party.

In the resolution, the Senate congratulates the Polish people on their great achievements as a free democracy and recalls that two important anniversaries are to be observed this year—the 20th anniversary of the collapse of communism and the emergence of a democratic system in Poland as well as the 10th anniversary of Poland's entry into NATO. The resolution also stresses Poland's participation in the war in Iraq and the NATO operation in Afghanistan, and Polish-U.S. cooperation in the democratization processes in Eastern Europe, non-proliferation of weapons and human rights.

A vote on the resolution has not yet been scheduled.



A group of Poles, including 304th men taken in Scotland in 1942.



Wreckage from a 304 plane (HF208), still lying on a remote hillside in Ireland after 65 years.

ing home bullet-riddled but safe. There are many reports of aircraft with huge sections of wings or fuselage missing, making it home with their precious crews of trained airmen safe. Aircraft could be replaced quicker and cheaper than trained airmen.

By the middle of 1942, the Polish crews had done more than their fair share of front line battle and had taken such a hammering that they could barely muster a half dozen aircraft and crew to fly them, at any one time. At this point they were given an alleged respite by being transferred to Coastal Command where their main duties were convoy protection and anti-submarine warfare. Basically this meant much longer flights over water, with no physical features to navigate by; and flying at altitudes of 500 feet or less. They were so successful at sinking and otherwise harassing German U-boats, that an increasing number of fighters were diverted from other duties to deal with them. The Leigh Light and other technological developments meant that they could find submarines at night when they had



Leopold Antoniowicz

to surface to take on fresh air and recharge their batteries. Once again the casualties began to mount but the Polish spirit never flagged.

Unlike the fighter crews, the 304th didn't have the luxury of aerodromes at Biggin Hill, Manston, Tangmere, etc. with the opportunity of rest and recuperation in London and the towns and cities of South East England. They fought

from bases like Tiree, Benbecula, Predannack and Davidstow Moor in the wilder and more remote parts of Britain where they might have the luxury of an isolated pub for relaxation.

Their battlefields were the North Atlantic and the Bay of Biscay, which were hostile environments even without the presence of the enemy. This was no place for the faint of heart and these young Poles were among the most stout-hearted warriors of the conflict.

At the end of the war, they transferred to Transport Command, ferrying supplies to Eastern Europe and the Middle East until they were disbanded in December 1946.

Neville Bougourd is a member of the Baba Jaga's Polish Culture Forum. The information used in this article has been extracted and compiled from official records and/or has been corroborated from at least two sources.

For more on the 304th Fighter Squadron, visit: <http://jaga-host.proboards79.com/index.cgi?board=history>

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<b>TOTAL</b>			

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

## Polish Tracks in Alaska

Foreign crewmen have been common on the ships of most nations down through the centuries. Russia was no exception. Men of varied backgrounds manned her ships, including Poles.

Poles were among the crews of Vitus Bering, himself a Dane, and Alexei Chirikov, that discovered Alaska for the Russians in 1741. Research has identified the names of Poles in the ships' logs. Translated from the Latinized Russian are surnames such as Wielkopolski (Velikopolski), Buczowski (Butzovski), and Kozmian (Kozmin). And Jan Kozyrewski was a consultant to the Bering expeditions. Before Bering, ships under the command of Dmitry Pawlecki, a Polish Russian, in 1732 sailed the strait between Siberia and America and supposedly saw the shores of Alaska.

Later, Russian Alaskan sea captains of Polish descent included Stefan Wojewódzki, Dionizy Zaremba and Andrzej Klimowski. Klimowski was born in Alaska, the son of a Polish exile and a native woman. Russia did not banish prisoners to Alaska as they did to Siberia, but some of these Siberian exiles were able to secure positions with Russian Alaskan fur traders, particularly after their sentences were completed.

Maurice Beniowski, a Polish exile to far eastern Siberia, was able to escape with other exiles aboard a ship in 1771 and apparently traded with natives of the Aleutian Islands before heading south and making his way to Paris.

In 1809, ten Siberian ex-convicts

in Alaska, including two Poles, hatched a plot to overthrow the head of the Russian operations, Aleksandr Baranov at Novoarkangelsk, present day Sitka. Inspired by the exploits of Beniowski, they were to steal a ship and head for the south seas to form a settlement. But the Poles, Leszczyński and Bereżowski, revealed the secret to Baranov, who quickly foiled the plot.

**ANOTHER POLISH CAPTAIN** sailing for the Russians was Szymon Janowski. He married Commander Baranov's daughter and became assistant manager for Baranov's successor. In 1816, he ordered a census of Russian America. The tally was 391 Russians and Europeans, 244 mixed race, and several thousand natives under Russian control. Seldom were there ever more than a few hundred Europeans in Alaska at any one time.

In 1817, a Pole named Korsakowski was sent on a mission to explore Alaska's interior along with Janowski. The party built a fort and looked for a legendary lost tribe of white men, but little was accomplished.

Filip Baranowicz (Baranovich) was a Pole important in developing a fishing industry in Alaska in the early 1800s.

The United States bought Alaska from Russia in 1867. Polish born Henryk Kalusowski translated from Russian for the U.S. all the official documents relating to its purchase. Polish American Civil War veteran General Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski

was in Alaska in 1873 as an agent of the Treasury department to enforce revenue laws and assess the general situation there. Some sources claim that he was the first governor of Alaska, but that is erroneous. The assertion may have stemmed from the fact that he was the only civilian governing official of any rank within Alaska for the time he was there, and a mistranslation of his memoirs.

From 1883 to 1891, Polish American Fryderyk Schwatka led research expeditions into interior Alaska and wrote about his adventures there. The Schwatka Mountains in the Brooks Range of northern Alaska are named for him. Sol Ripinsky was a Polish Jew and friend of Schwatka who settled in Haines and was a storekeeper, postmaster, customs officer and advocate for territorial status for Alaska.

The great American writer Jack London spent much time traveling through Alaskan wilderness in the 1890s. Inspired by its beauty, he wrote many tales of the north country. One of them, a short story called "Lost Face," tells the brutal fate of a Polish exile in Alaska. London probably was inspired to write it after hearing about Poles who had made their way to Alaska from Siberia.

Poles involved in the mining industry in Alaska were Henryk Czeczott and Kazimierz Grochowski. The early twentieth century saw several Polish geologists exploring the territory, among them Karol Bohdanowicz, Józef Morozewicz, Eugeniusz Romer and Stefan Jarosz.

Jarosz headed three expeditions in the 1920s and 1930s and discovered and named Lake Piłsudski and Mount Krzyżanowski on Kościuszko Island off the panhandle. He took many plant, animal and mineral samples back to Warsaw and published the story of his journeys.

Other places in Alaska bearing Polish names include Zaremba, Wojewodski and Baranovich Islands and Romer Glacier.

**IN MORE RECENT TIMES**, Pope John Paul the Great blessed Alaska with stopover visits to Anchorage and Fairbanks in 1981 and 1984. And Polish Americans have held important positions in the state. Michael J. Kaniecki was Bishop of Fairbanks from 1985-2000. Frank Murkowski represented Alaska in the U.S. Senate from 1981-2002 and was Governor from 2002-2006. His daughter Lisa has been U.S. Senator since 2002.

During the 2000 census, 13,268 Alaskans claimed Polish descent, about 2% of the population.

Support the PAJ with an Easter Patron Ad today. See page 3.



**TRADITION CONTINUES.** Author and PAJ Contributing Editor Dr. John Radzilowski is Assistant Professor of History at University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan, where he teaches history and geography.

## Polish Journalists in Panna Maria

PANNA MARIA, Texas—On Election Day, Nov. 4, 2008, two employees of TVN 24, a private television station in Poland, came to America's first permanent Polish settlement to cover the U.S. Presidential election.

Dariusz Prosiecki, a journalist from Warsaw, and Artur Lukaszewicz, a cameraman from Wrocław, broadcasted live from Panna Maria with Immaculate Conception Church in the background. They reported how South Texas Silesians viewed the candidates and the election.

The journalists interviewed people throughout the United States, including Kosciuszko, Texas, San Antonio, Chicago, and New York.

## Don Samull's 2009 Calendar

DEARBORN, Mich.—Learn about the riches of your Polish heritage day by day with the new 2009 Polish American Calendar. Each day highlights an event from Polish history or culture on that day.

Accompanying these daily recollections are monthly Polish recipes from the files of the author's own family: breaded pork chops; kielbasa; sorrel soup; and potato pancakes among other family favorites.

This attractive calendar, with all 365 days of recollections of Poland's past and 12 special recipes can be yours by sending \$6.95 (includes shipping) to its author, Donald Samull, 1312 N. Drexel, Dearborn, MI 48128.

## Teach in Poland this Summer

MINNEAPOLIS—You can live and work this summer for a month with excited and motivated students in Torun, Poland, the beautiful UNESCO-designated medieval city situated on the Wisla River.

In conjunction with UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization) and the Polish Ministry of Education, American "teachers" (not necessarily "certified" but with related experience) are invited to participate in a unique English language and cultural exchange program. American High School or University Student Assistants are also encouraged to apply.

The program emphasizes reading, conversational / oral, and written English language experiences within an American cultural context, and introduces American teachers to the culture, history, traditions and people of Poland. High school students come from all over Poland to participate. Three weeks of instruction are followed by a tour to local cultural sites the fourth week. Cost of the program is modest.

Expenses: airfare and a small administration fee, are tax-deductible. Room, board and cost of excursions are included. For more information, please contact: Charlene Kaletka Delaney, American Director, UNESCO English Language Program, Torun, Poland; (651) 423-5020; e-mail PaniD@aol.com.

## GENEALOGY

### Gorski Presented with First Reymont Award

DETROIT—Genealogist Bill Gorski is the first recipient of the Reymont Award of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. Established in 2008 for the 30th anniversary of the Society, the award recognizes members who emulate Polish Nobel Prize-winning author Wladyslaw Reymont (1867-1925), who chronicled the lives of Polish peasants in his work "Chłopi."

The award is given by the committee to a genealogist who has demonstrated distinguished service, loyalty and devotion to Polish ancestors. It features a reproduction of the 1905 portrait of Reymont painted by the Polish artist Jacek Malczewski.

Gorski began his genealogical research in 1977. He joined the newly formed Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (PGSM) in 1978. In 1981, Gorski was appointed editor of the PGSM newsletter, which soon became the respected journal THE EAGLET.

Over the span of more than 20 years, Gorski traveled extensively throughout the state of Michigan, acquiring documents, maps, and jubilee books from Michigan's Polonia. Photos of his travels, along with slides, books, and other research material, were donated to the Library of Michigan in 2002. The J. William Gorski Genealogical and Historical Collection is now housed at the library and State of Michigan archives. The collection can be found in the online catalog under the keywords William Gorski Collection.

### Using Alien Registration for Genealogical Research

An alien registration number (A-

number) is a number assigned to a person as part of the Alien Registration Program or to a person who was not naturalized and can be a valuable genealogy resource for our immigrant ancestors. Your immigrant ancestor was required to register with a local court from 1802-1828. From 1929 to 1944 the laws governing alien registration changed; these records are referred to as registry files. As of July 1, 1940, every alien resident (over the age of 14) was required to register at a post office. Aliens who were entering the United States registered when they applied for admission. Each alien filled out a two page form and received an Alien Registration Receipt Card. Aliens were required to carry the card at all times and notify Immigration and Naturalization Services of any address change within five days. If your ancestor was never naturalized or was a part of the Alien Registration Program, chances are he/she received an A-number. These registration forms can provide information about your ancestors' immigration, employment, military service, court records, arrests, club memberships and other activities.

To learn more about Alien Registration Cards go to: [http://www.naturalizationrecords.com/usa/alien\\_reg.shtml](http://www.naturalizationrecords.com/usa/alien_reg.shtml).

### Free On-line Access to Ohio Death Certificates

As part of an ambitious indexing project, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has indexed and digitized the Ohio Death Certificates from Dec. 20, 1908-1953.

This free resource may be accessed by visiting [\[archlabs.org\]\(http://www.familyse-archlabs.org\), clicking on the "Record Search" link and choosing "Ohio Deaths" from the list of records available. You will be able to search by the name of the deceased, as well as by the names of his or her spouse and parents.](http://www.familyse-</a></p>
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The Akron Public Library Special Collections Division will continue to offer copies of these records for a minimal fee. For information about their research and correspondence services, please visit their web site at [www.akronlibrary.org/main-sc.html](http://www.akronlibrary.org/main-sc.html).

For information about the Family Search Indexing Project, visit [www.familysearchindexing.org](http://www.familysearchindexing.org).

An index to Ohio Death Certificates from 1913-1944 by partial name of deceased and optional county is online at <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/death/>, providing Volume and Certificate numbers to locate images on microfilm at the Akron and Cleveland Public Libraries, both of which have indices for 1908-1953 on microfilm.

—OUR POLISH ANCESTORS, publication of the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland.



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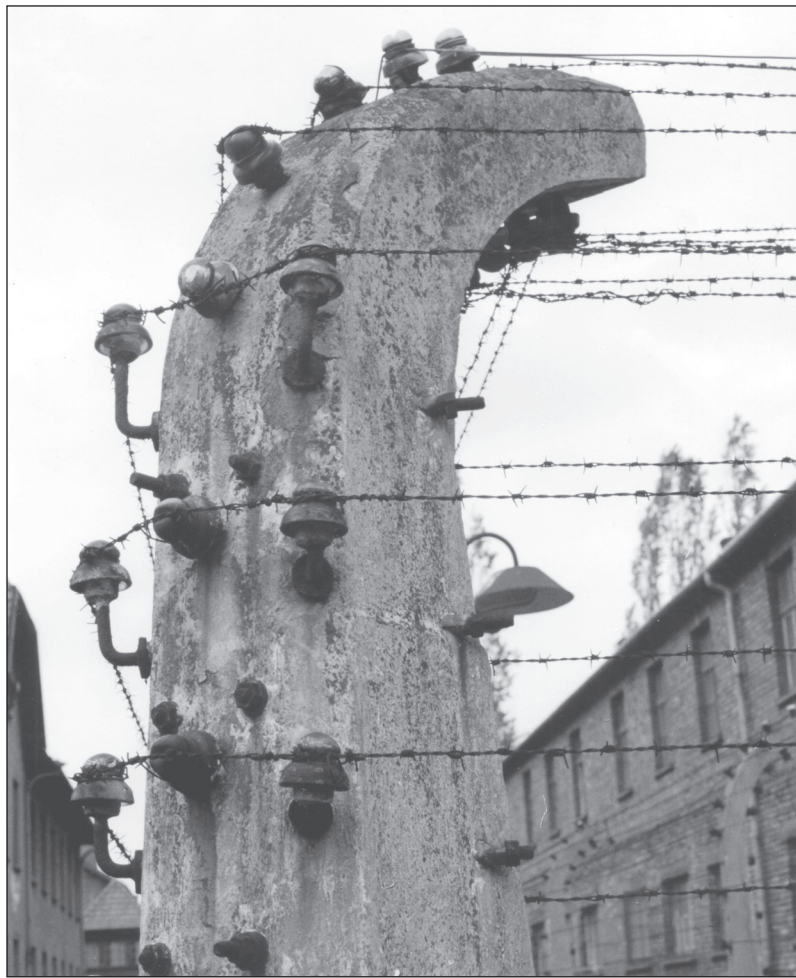
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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski

IN MEMORIAM



“Death Dealing Fence:” Auschwitz, former Nazi German World War II Concentration Camp. Oswiecim, Poland, May 22, 1976.

# Ambassador Nicholas Rey Fondly Remembered

by Robert Strybel  
PAJ Warsaw Correspondent

WARSAW— Former U.S. ambassador to Poland, Nicholas Rey, who died recently in Washington at the age of 70, is being mourned in the land of his birth as a “great friend of Poland.” Grateful for his friendship and support, Poles filed through the lobby of Warsaw’s U.S. Embassy to pay their respects to the deceased by signing a book of condolence.

He was a mere 20-month-old toddler when he fled in a diplomatic convoy with his parents to Austria four days after Nazi Germany invaded Poland in 1939. But aside from that accident of birth and the fact that he spoke fluent Polish from home, Nick Rey was your typical Anglo-American high school and college student and later Wall Street banker with few ties to his Polish heritage. He knew he was a direct descendant of Poland’s famous 16th-century poet, his namesake Mikołaj Rej of Nagłowice, but that had no bearing on his life. Some thought he was of Hispanic background because “rey” means king in Spanish.

A graduate of Princeton and John Hopkins University, he gained ex-



REY

tensive experience in the field of investment banking and was associated with such financial institutions as Bear, Stearns & Co and Merrill Lynch. Rey’s Polish adventure began after his ancestral homeland

threw off the Soviet yoke and for the second time in the 20th century redeclared its independence in 1989. When the United States set up the Polish-American Enterprise Fund (PAEF), a \$240 million federal program to stimulate private enterprise in Poland, Rey was approached to help spearhead the initiative. “I was the only gray-haired, Polish-speaking investment banker they could find,” Rey joked in an interview.

From 1990, the PAEF lent its support to nearly 100,000 Polish entrepreneurs and injected more than \$1.2 billion dollars into Poland’s emerging economy through direct equity investments, home mortgages and consumer financing. In recognition of his efforts to promote Poland’s transition from Marxist central planning to free enterprise, President Bill Clinton appointed Rey as the U.S. ambassador to Poland in 1993.

That was a heady period when everything seemed possible. A few years earlier, Poland had dumped communism in a peaceful Solidarity-led revolution which touched off the collapse of one Soviet-backed regime after another across the European continent. A short while later the Soviet Union itself had ceased to

exist.

During his ambassadorship in Warsaw, Poland was building a parliamentary democracy and making a bid to join NATO, and Rey used every opportunity to serve his ancestral homeland with his expertise and enthusiasm. Poland rewarded his efforts by decorating him with the Commodore’s Cross of Polonia Restituta.

Rey returned to Washington after his term as ambassador ended in 1997, but he did not abandon his interest and involvement in Polish affairs. He was among the founders of the American-Polish Advisory Council, a group lobbying in favor of Polish interests, where he worked together with Gen. Edward Równy and Mark Brzeziński. When the Polish-American Enterprise Fund set up the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (PAFF) in 2000, Rey was among its leaders.

In a message of condolence, the Polish-American Freedom Foundation said it owed him a great debt of gratitude. “As a member of its Board of Directors, he always served it with his extensive knowledge and experience and was personally involved in many of its projects even at the most difficult times of his life. We always thought highly of his wisdom, counsel and friendship and will miss him dearly.”

In one of his last interviews, Rey said: “The older I get, the more Polish I feel.”

He died of lung cancer in his home in Washington’s Georgetown section, survived by his wife Louisa and three grown children. His funeral was held at Georgetown’s Holy Trinity Church on January 30.

## New Exhibits at Polish American Museum Highlights Joint U.S.-Polish Military Efforts

PORT WASHINGTON, Long Island, N.Y.—The Polish American Museum in cooperation with the Center for Military Studies have joined together in a bold and exciting project, “For Our Freedom and Yours.” This undertaking depicts the joint U.S.- Polish military struggles against tyranny and in the preservation of freedom. The museum’s President Barbara Szydłowski and Gerald Kochan, founder of the Center for Military Studies have pooled resources to bring to light a story that is too often untold in America. Their alliance has already resulted in several new exhibits and many more are planned to follow.

The Polish American Museum’s initial major project with the Center for Military Studies was in 2007 with the Jerzy and Danuta Gradosielski exhibit, “Love, Courage and Sacrifice.” This exhibit has been held over by popular demand and augmented by several new exhibits about the Polish 2nd Corps in the Italian Campaign. Additionally, several new exhibits have been brought to the museum to amplify the story of the Polish participation during World War I, World War II, and the (Polish-Bolshevik War), the 1919-1920 Polish-Russian War.

The following are just a few of the new exhibits highlighting the

massive revitalization of the historical focus of the Polish American Museum under the guidance and support of the Center for Military Studies:

- Blue Army Exhibit. Gen. Jozef Haller and the Blue army that fought under French Command in World War I and later in the Polish-Soviet War of 1918-1921. Many members of the Haller Army were Polish Americans who answered the call of the Polish statesman Ignacy Paderewski the famous concert pianist and composer;
- A highly informative exhibit on 1586 Special Duties Flight in the Polish Air Force during World War II. The exhibit features two highly decorated officers Jan Nowocin and Antoni Blazeowski, who, together with other members of this unit, flew many secret missions into occupied Poland. The intense training and risks involved in their air missions are recorded in the artifacts and items displayed;
- One particularly personal experience is presented by the exhibit on 17-year-old Wladyslaw Paszkowski, who enlisted with the Independent Carpathian Brigade (SBSK). You can follow his military career from Tobruk to Monte Cassino and the liberation of

Ancona and Bologna. There are some particularly nice anecdotal aspects to this exhibit.

All exhibits feature medals, photos, uniforms and awards of the soldiers who fought gallantly in the war for not just their country, but for freedom and democracy and a world without totalitarian regimes.

### All exhibits feature medals, photos, uniforms and awards of the soldiers.

Additionally, attendees can view the diverse range of special exhibitions and displays of Poles and their contributions also offered in other wings of the Museum. Exhibits that include Nobel Prize winners Madame Curie and Frank Wilczek; Copernicus and Casimir Funk; the Solidarity Struggle; artwork; folk art, and cultural displays are all available.

Please contact the museum about special guided tours and guest speakers for classes and civic organizations.

The museum is located at 16 Bellevue Avenue, Port Washington. Museum hours are Wed., Thur. and Fri. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., and Sat. from noon to 3:00 p.m.

For additional information call (516) 883-6542.

BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

### Herbs and Spices

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch • Phonetic ai is like eye  
m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

- ziola.....(ZHOH-woh) n pl herbs
- sól.....(suuhl) f salt
- pieprz.....(pyehpsh) m pepper
- bazylia.....(bah-ZIH-lyah) f basil
- kminek.....(KMEE-nehk) m caraway seed
- cynamon.....(tsih-NAH-mohn) m cinnamon
- goździki.....(gozh-DJEE-kee) pl cloves

- koperek.....(koh-PEH-rehk) m dill
- czosnek.....(CHOHS-nehk) m garlic
- imbir.....(EEM-bihr) m ginger
- majeranek.....(my-yeh-RAH-nehk) m marjoram
- pietruszka.....(pyeht-RUUSH-kah) f parsley
- tymianek.....(tih-MYAH-nehk) m thyme

—continued next month

### Place Polonaise Sold

GRIMSBY, Ontario, Canada— The beautiful Place Polonaise in Grimsby, Ontario, 17 acres in all, was recently purchased by a local developer, according to real estate developer Stan Gidzinski, the man who represented the property for the former owners, the Polish Alliance. The lakefront property went for nearly the asking price of \$13.75 million dollars.

Gidzinski said the fate of the property is unclear, stating that it will be totally in the hands of the developers. Grimsby Mayor Bob Bentley said it’s no surprise the property was finally sold. He said the town has had “expressions of interest from a number of players” since the property went up for sale.

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