

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

A LOOK AT POLAND'S  
POSTAL SYSTEM

Page 7

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

THE CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA • HOT-BUTTON ISSUES IN SPEAK-UP • REJOICING WITH THE LIRA ENSEMBLE  
A TRIP TO PANNA MARIA • PĄCZKI RECIPES AND EVENTS • POLISH HERITAGE IS ALIVE AND WELL IN TEXAS  
PULASKI LEGION'S POLISH OFFICERS • MUSIC OF SZYMANOWSKI IN NEW YORK CITY • BLESSED IGNATIUS

## NEWSMARK

**URBAN STAMP A STEP CLOSER.** Postmaster General John E. Potter has asked the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to review the proposal to create a stamp for **Lt. Col. Matt Urban.**

Urban (1919-1995) was an Army officer who served with distinction in World War II. He was belatedly awarded the Medal of Honor, in 1980 for repeated acts of heroism in combat in France and Belgium in 1944. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, he is the most decorated American serviceman.

Previous attempts to create a stamp for Urban were turned down by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, the group which evaluates all stamp proposals.

Approximately 25 new subjects for commemorative stamps are recommended each year.

"Should the Committee decide to place the proposal under consideration, it will be added to the pool of candidates for upcoming years," said Potter.

A stamp for Urban, born Matty Louis Urbanowicz, in Buffalo, N.Y. has been repeatedly overlooked.

**POLES CALL FOR EXTRADITION.** Polish prosecutors say they have identified the Swedish mastermind of the theft from Auschwitz of the Arbeit Macht Frei sign and will seek his arrest and extradition to Poland.

Prosecutor Artur Wrona said that Swedish prosecutors have confirmed the identity of the suspect as Anders H.

Polish prosecutors withheld the suspect's last name, as required by Polish law.

Wrona said the man must be brought to Poland before charges can be filed and said prosecutors will issue a European arrest warrant.

Five Poles are under arrest after confessing to taking part in the theft December 18 of the sign, which says "Work Sets You Free" in German. The sign was found on December 20, cut into three pieces.



**LUBINSKI NAMED FIRST OPENLY GAY U.S. MARSHAL.** Former Minneapolis assistant police chief and Green Bay, Wisc. native **Sharon Lubinski** has become the first openly gay U.S. Marshal. The U.S. Senate confirmed her to be U.S. Marshal for the Minnesota District. Lubinski has served a number of roles with the Minneapolis Police Department. She was also a sheriff's deputy in Wisconsin's Dane County

for eight years.

U.S. Marshals oversee federal courthouse security, witness protection and the apprehension of federal fugitives. — SOURCE: WUWM, Milwaukee, Wisc.

**KOSCIUSZKO RETURNS TO WARSAW.** A monument to **Tadeusz Kosciuszko** will be unveiled in Warsaw, May 2. It will be located next to the Lubomirski Palace, near the Saski gardens. The monument is a replica of the one designed by Polish sculptor Antoni Popiel which stands in Washington, D.C.'s Lafayette Square, across the street from the White House. That statue was dedicated in 1910 and was a gift to the United States from the Polish American community.

Historian Marian Drozdowski, chairperson of the Committee for the construction of the monument, stated that since Kosciuszko is the most popular Polish national hero and almost four hundred schools in Poland are named after him, it is long past time that a monument be erected to him in the Polish capital city.

**POLES RESCUE SWEDISH FISHING BOAT.** Poles came to the rescue of five Swedes as their boat began taking on water in the Baltic Sea, about twenty nautical miles off the cape of Rozewie. Polish Sea Rescue responded to a distress signal, and were dispatched immediately. They rescued the crew members and towed the boat to Wladyslawowo.



## The Romantic Immortal

**F**ryderyk Franciszek Chopin is remembered as the composer of some of the most challenging and subjective music in the whole of the keyboard repertoire. He stands not only as Poland's greatest composer but perhaps as the most significant composer in the history of the piano; he exhaustively exploited the instrument's capacities for charm, excitement, variety, and timbral beauty. His innovations in fingering, his use of the pedals, and his general treatment of the keyboard were highly influential.

A Pole who spent his mature years in France, he brought to his music a keen interest in his native musical forms and was a precursor of the 'nationalist' composers who did so much to bring new life to Classical music during the course of the 19th century.

His father taught him until he was old enough to go to the Lyceum, but his musical proclivities manifested themselves early and at the age of seven he began piano lessons with Adalbert Zywny. The lessons were so successful that the young boy played at a public concert before he was nine. He also wrote a little march for the Russian Grand Duke Constantine, who not only accepted the dedication but had the work scored for military band.

At the age of 16 Chopin entered Warsaw Conservatory where he was taught by the composer Józef Antoni Franciszek Elsner. Elsner was helpful in a number of ways, but two in

particular: he taught Chopin the value of sheer hard work, and ignited in him a passionate interest in the music and culture of Poland; the latter was to become especially significant to Chopin later in life.

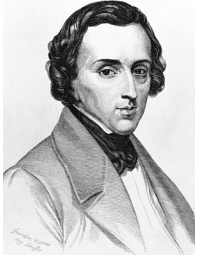
In his music he poured out his reaction to what was happening to Poland, especially in the Etude in C minor, Op. 10, No 12.

Chopin's legacy consists almost entirely of works for the piano. The instrument was everything to him, and he found previously undreamt of levels of subtlety and expression within its keys. He was acknowledged as a virtuoso, but one who had a very distinctive style, concentrating on delicacy of touch and extreme variations of dynamics and color. He was singularly gifted in the realm of melody, and was also a key figure in the popularizing of the polonaise, mazurka and other dance rhythms which was to lead many other composers to listen closely to the music of their own countries. Chopin's music is mercurial, and can move from the dreaminess of the nocturnes to the fire and spirit of the ballades and polonaises, the elegance and dash of his waltzes to the brutal emotional realism of his sonatas.

Apart from two piano concertos (both 1830) and four other works for piano and orchestra, virtually all his compositions are for solo piano; they include some 60 mazurkas, 27 études, 26 preludes, 21 nocturnes, some 20 waltzes, 16 polonaises, 4 ballades, 4 scherzos, and 3 sonatas. (Classical.net).

Related Stories in this edition: **Biography of a Genius • Chopin Bicentennial Celebrations Begin**  
**"Chopin's Poland" Essay Contest • The Heart and Soul of Poland's Musical Legacy**

## ALMANAC

February  
Luty

"Every difficulty slurred over will be a ghost to disturb your repose later on."  
— Frédéric Chopin

- 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.
- 3 1899. Death of painter **Juliusz Kossak** (b. 1824).
- 4 1505. Birth of the father of Polish literature, **Mikolaj Rej**.  
1745. Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer **Thaddeus Kosciuszko**.
- 6 **ST. DOROTHY**  
*Świętej Dorocie*  
*uschnie koszula na płocie.*  
*St. Dorothy's shirt will dry on the fence. (Days are windier and warmer starting St. Dorothy's Day).*
- 9 1961. Birth of **John Kruk**, colorful and often-quoted major league baseball player.
- 10 1903. Founding of the **Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn, USA**.  
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 Sokoloski**, 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. Recorded birth of **Fryderyk 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 Moczygemba**, 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 Ohio State Heisman Trophy winner (1950) **Vic Janowicz**.

This paper mailed on or before  
**January 30, 2010.**  
The March 2010 edition will be mailed on or before **March 5.**

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## The Heart and Soul of Poland's Musical Legacy

One cannot imagine the music of Poland without thinking about Fryderyk Chopin. Likewise, it is equally difficult to imagine Chopin without thinking about Poland. His music is part of our national identity, whether we are first- or sixth-generation Poles. The more we learn about Chopin, the more apparent this becomes. Here is one example:

For decades, Western New Yorkers listened to radio shows hosted by the late Stan Jasinski. The news from Poland portion of his Sunday show was introduced with *Polonaise in A major, Op. 40, No. 1*, better known as the *Military Polonaise*. Jasinski, whose radio career spanned pre-World War II past the Solidarity era, likely selected that song for the same reason Polskie Radio played it during the September 1939 German invasion of Poland at the outset of World War II: to rally the Polish people.

Until the German occupation, Polskie Radio broadcast this piece daily as nationalistic protest. It so infuriated the Germans, they banned public performances of Chopin's music. Knowing that faith and culture were responsible for Poland's survival during 18th and 19th century partitions, Germany aimed to eradicate the country's national symbols. They later destroyed Warsaw's main monument to the composer, a sculpture of a windswept Chopin seated under a tree, which was erected in 1926 at the entrance to Lazienki Park.

"In his *Military Polonaise, Opus 40, No. 1*," wrote Edward Baxter Perry in "The Story of the Polonaise," (*POLISH MUSIC JOURNAL*, Vol. 5, No. 2, Winter 2002) ... [Chopin] "tells us of the martial spirit and prowess, the courage and chivalry of the Polish knights in their magnificent, gem-studded armor sweeping the field of battle on their matchless steeds, with the clash of steel, the blast of trumpets, bearing the Polish standard to victory."

Anyone familiar with Chopin knows of his "dark side," a reflection of the angst felt for a Po-

land partitioned by Russia, Prussia and Germany. The power and majesty present in the *Military Polonaise* is offset by the helplessness and despair presented in the twin, but lesser-known, *Polonaise in C Minor, Op. 40, No. 2*. The great pianist and Chopin advocate, Anton Rubinstein, remarked that the *Polonaise in A major* is the symbol of Polish glory, while the *Polonaise in C minor* is the symbol of Polish tragedy.

It is ... "a broad, noble, but profoundly gloomy work of the darkly majestic type," wrote Perry. "The theme, in octaves, voices the stern, well nigh despairing indignation of a strong, dauntless race crushed to earth by the overwhelming weight of numbers, but sullenly biding its time, and gathering the remnant of its strength for one last desperate struggle, heroic, though hopeless, to avenge its many bitter wrongs; with pride and courage still unbroken, but with a full realization of its impotence.

"It is the same spirit that led the Polish students in the streets of Warsaw to throw themselves unarmed upon the Russian bayonets by the hundreds, preferring a futile death to a life of shame among a vanquished people."

In less than twelve minutes of music, Chopin captured Poland identity as victor and victim throughout the ages.

This is but one example of his genius. Many of his songs are identifiable by just a few notes. The "Minute" waltz, *Grande Valse Brillante, March Funebre, Heroique*, and *Fantasie-Impromptu* are just a few that come to mind.

Not all Chopin compositions echo his fervent nationalism. Written between 1831 and 1842, the *Scherzos* are among his most enduring masterpieces. The first, however, *Op. 20 in B minor*, is based on a Polish Christmas carol *Lulajze Jezuniu*.

It has been said that Chopin wrote the piece around the ancient lullaby in response to the sad news from Warsaw of the failed November Rising in 1830. The soothing carol in the middle

part after the stormy desperation of the beginning suggests a yearning for the comfort of his youth, a simpler time with a promising future.

**In less than twelve minutes of music, Chopin captured Poland identity as victor and victim throughout the ages.**

Chopin's relationship with his contemporaries has been the source of great academic debate. Still, when all was said and done, all held him in the highest regard. Perhaps they, like Franz Liszt, saw a man troubled by the conflicts in his homeland, who was able to translate those emotions into heavenly music.

"Music was his language, the divine tongue through which he expressed a whole realm of sentiments that only the select few can appreciate," wrote Liszt. "The muse of his homeland dictates his songs, and the anguished cries of Poland lend to his art a mysterious, indefinable poetry which, for all those who have truly experienced it, cannot be compared to anything else ... The piano alone was not sufficient to reveal all that lies within him. In short he is a most remarkable individual who commands our highest degree of devotion."

Chopin's music takes us from thrones to battlefields, from concert halls to parlors, from celebrations of Christ's birth to Last Rites. While we honor Chopin's genius during the 200th year of his birthday, let us contemplate our good fortune in having him to tell our story through his music.

**March Edition Will Be Mailed Late**

Because of the way the calendar falls, printing schedules, and other considerations, the March 2010 edition will not be mailed until Fri., March 5. The paper should arrive in your home no later than March 15.

## QUOTES / compiled from news sources

**A Race Against Time**

"In ten years there will be no witnesses and it will be easier for the crazy people who say nothing happened in the camps. Only the buildings will remain ... Nobody could have imagined such a horrific act of vandalism [as the theft of the sign]. Now try to imagine the public outcry if one of the barracks started to fall down, impossible to restore."

— *Director-General of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation Jacek Kastelaniec, who met with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The PM visited the camp in April 2009 and pledged to contribute to the restoration but has yet to announce a figure.*

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"We are in a race against time.

Our mission is to reach people who have information."

— *American-born Cynthia Wroclawski, outreach manager of the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project of Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum. To date, the names of 3.6 million Jewish victims have been registered. The project searches for survivors, who can recall the names of victims.*

◆ ◆ ◆  
[According to a Dr. Wieslaw Maslowski] ... "there is a 75 percent chance that the entire north polar ice cap, during the summer months, could be completely ice-free within five to seven years."

— *Al Gore, to a gathering on global warming, as reported in the*

TIMES OF LONDON.

◆ ◆ ◆

"I would never try to estimate likelihood at anything as exact as this."

— *Maslowski, telling the TIMES he has no clue where Gore got that idea.*

◆ ◆ ◆

"These rating agencies were falsely elevated to some godlike status that when they put a triple-A rating on something, you could take all of your mother's savings and invest it in there and you were doing the right thing."

— *Rep. Paul Kanjorski (D-Pa.), sponsor of the bill that now regulates credit rating agencies, such as Moody's, and S&P.*

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## SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

## “Traditionalist Poles have a difficult time accepting accusations of Polish anti-Semitism.”

In response to the letter of Anna R. Dadlez, Ph.D. regarding Polish-Jewish relations (PAJ January 10, p. 3), it's understandable that traditionalist Poles have a difficult time accepting accusations of Polish anti-Semitism. No other European nation has suffered as Poland has with the three partitions followed by the Nazi and Soviet occupations. It's challenging for a nation so victimized to confront intolerance of its own.

We all understand that Poland was a haven for European Jews in the Middle Ages. Polish monarchs welcomed Jews from Western Europe, although their motivation was hardly altruistic. Jewish acumen in finance and trade was sorely needed by the monarchs and nobility.

Many Jews thrived in Poland although socio-economic rivalries sparked periodic episodes of anti-Jewish intolerance.

In the late-nineteenth century, a concept of Polish nationalism began to emerge which argued that the Poland of the future would be a nation exclusively of ethnic and Catholic Poles. Roman Dmowski and his National Democratic Party spearheaded this “Poland for Poles” ideology which quickly gained popularity.

When Poland regained its independence in 1918, Pilsudski was able to successfully counter the radicalism of Dmowski and the Endeks. However, by the 1930's, National Democratic thought had gained sway. There were organized boycotts of Jewish businesses. Numerus clausus were established at universities restricting the number of Jewish students. Those that were accepted were relegated to segregated “ghetto” benches in the classrooms. Jews were prohibited from certain jobs and were restricted from promotion in others. High-level government discussions of the “Jewish Question” included the viability of deporting Poland's Jews. In a period of growing hostility there were frequent episodes of violence.

Ms. Dadlez casually dismisses the increasingly virulent anti-Semitism of inter-bellum Poland as “shortcomings.” She states that “in no way could (Jews) be considered a persecuted minority.” Huh? How much persecution must a minority endure before Dadlez grants recognition? Has Dr. Dadlez actually ever read a history of inter-war Poland with the Endecja, the Camp of National Unity, Oboz Narodowo Radykalny, the sermons of Polish Primate, Cardinal Hlond, etc., *ad nauseum*?

When confronted with examples of Polish anti-Semitism, traditionalists reflexively counter with the “Zydokomuna” myth, saying it was Poland's Jews that toppled the Polish nation by supporting communism and the Soviets as if to say, “Jews accuse us of bigotry and intolerance but they are guilty of bad things, also.” Historians tell us that a number of disaffected, educated Jews were attracted to the promises of a communist utopia with equality and opportunity for all despite race or ethnicity. Hence my earlier point that Polish-speaking Jewish intellectuals were attracted to communism and were represented disproportionately in the leadership of the

Polish Communist Party. Rob Strybel and Ms. Dadlez misconstrued my remark for their own purposes and accused me of stating Jews are more intelligent than Poles.

Some of Poland's Jews became frustrated with a society which was becoming increasingly restrictive in regards to religion and ethnicity and saw socialism and communism as positive alternatives. However, history reveals that only a very small percentage of Poland's Jews actually supported communism. Traditionalists would be surprised to learn that a proportionate number of Polish Jews were slaughtered at Katyn and deported to the Gulag by the Soviets. “Zydokomuna” is a myth.

Ms. Dadlez writes that she finds it “particularly unfortunate” that I “accuse” Rob Strybel of being a supporter of “Zydokomuna.” In reality, Mr. Strybel regularly and enthusiastically preaches “Zydokomuna” in the pages of the PAJ and elsewhere. Even Ms. Dadlez adds to the “Zydokomuna” myth by emphasizing that Polish Jews comprised the leadership of the UB-secret police. How did that happen, Dr. Dadlez? Jewish intellectuals gravitated to leadership positions of the early Polish communist party. Why? How? What was it about Polish society that made communism an appealing option for some Jews?

Unfortunately, Polish traditionalist such as Strybel and Dadlez, are satisfied to never ask “Why” and to never venture outside their

Editor's note: We sincerely appreciate the letters of both Mr. Kiseleski and Prof. Dadlez. We feel they provided information for a healthy argument on the matter of anti-Semitism. However, we also feel these discussions deserve more attention than can be afforded in the Polish American Journal. Therefore, we politely ask both parties to solve the matter with correspondence or debate between themselves. We are not ignoring the issue. We do feel, however, such debate is better suited to publications specializing in deliberations of this nature.

But the smokescreen of “Zydokomuna” should not dissuade us from examining the truth of Polish intolerance and anti-Semitism. The PAJ would actually do its readers and Polonia a great service by exploring historical Polish anti-Semitism. It's a sign of health and maturity for a nation to come to grips with its past. A weak and immature society whitewashes its history. The majority of the Polish people have been able to accept that their nation, like any other, has some shameful skeletons in its closet. It's only among the Polish conservatives, like the supporters of Father Rydzyk, Radio Maryja, the Kaczynskis, and in the pages of the PAJ, that denial and “Zydokomuna” persist.

Perhaps the PAJ would consider an article on an excellent history of the rise of anti-Semitism in Poland, “Poland's Threatening Other: The Image of the Jew from 1880 to the Present,” by Joanna Beata Michlic, Ph.D.

Tom Kiseleski, B.S.  
Pittsford, N.Y.

## “To juxtapose Poland ... against some unidentified ideal country is just not fair.”

I read with mixed feelings Mr. Kiseleski's long refutation of my comments in defense of Mr. Strybel. On the one hand I was pleased by the fact that he knows Polish history relatively well, on the other, his interpretation of facts is problematic. Also he seems unaware of the precarious situation in Poland, the newly resurrected country, which soon after the World War I, faced a growing threat from both the East and the West.

Briefly these are my comments:

To juxtapose Poland, which had just emerged from some 120 years of occupation in 1918 — which had to deal with unsettled population, ruined industry, horrendous political and economic problems — against some unidentified ideal country is just not fair. Even those countries which did not have such turbulent history did not practice “justice for all” in their domestic policies, which most of us would have liked to see. Case in point: the European and American experience through the 20th century and Israeli treatment of Palestinians in the last 60 years.

It is an undeniable fact that despite some real problems with ethnic minorities in the pre-war Poland, an open discrimination as seen in domestic policies of great powers did not take place in Poland. Poland was theoretically a democratic state with a constitution, senate, sejm and elections, dominated by one party, sometimes one man, but freedom

of speech was not curtailed to the extent that one was afraid to criticize the government or the ruling party. All minorities were recognized as fully fledged citizens of Poland, and though many different groupings or political parties could express and promote their sometimes disgusting beliefs and ideas in the political arena, (it happens in America, you know) they were not the government and had no executive power. The fact remains that there were many Jewish Poles in prestigious positions in the years 1918-1939. [See P. Wandycz “Price of Freedom” 1992, p. 211] Jews were considered an ethnic, not religious minority, based on language and custom, they were the third largest minority and represented almost 10% of the population, “most visible among the white collar workers, constituting nearly 50% of the “free” professions, virtually dominating medicine and law.” Although Poles are by no means angels, it is only fair to state that in many countries minority groups did not enjoy such freedoms and opportunities.

When Mr. Kiseleski states that in talking about the strong participation of Jews in the Soviet-imposed government of the post war Poland, we should ask why it was so, he is absolutely right. However, the only logical answer to this question must be “for reasons having nothing to do with justice.” Having a long border with Soviet Ukraine and Byelorussia, anyone living in Poland knew about the “man-made famine” claiming some seven

million Ukrainian lives in the early 1930s, on top of other atrocities taking place during Stalin's “collectivization.” We, who have survived the Siberian or Kazakhstan gulag during World War II (and there were Jews among us), remember very well that even ardent supporters of Karl Marx were hunted down by NKVD and that any idea of human equality, dignity and justice simply did not exist in Soviet Russia. It is indeed difficult to accept that Jewish Poles, educated as the author says, or any other persons familiar with the Polish scene, would be naive enough to find the system across the border attractive and believe that the ideas of equality and humanity could in any sense be applied to the murderous regime of the Soviet Union. I may also point out that the accusation of “anti-Semitism” has too often been launched without careful consideration of its applicability.

There is one other comment that I would like to make. Those people who have had neither personal experience nor extensive academic study of Poland before, during and after World War II, seem to know only about the suffering of the Jews. The theme has been pursued ad infinitum in publications and at schools, and there is a good reason for knowing about it, but not to the exclusion of everything else. The fact is, and it in no way detracts from Jewish suffering, that the Jews were not the only victims of the war. Yet, relatively few Americans know that while almost three million Jewish Poles perished under the German occupation, three million non-Jewish Poles shared their fate under the same regime. On the other hand, it is hardly surprising that to the people who had experienced the Soviet rule, any attempt to exonerate its supporters, is a sign of either ignorance based on historically unacceptable data, or on lack of basic human empathy.

And now for my advice to you, Tom: Since you obviously appear to be a person interested in history, I would suggest starting a serious study of Polish/Jewish relations, with an open mind, by reading renowned historians. Dr. Gross — whom you quote — has, to the best of my knowledge, a Ph.D. in sociology, not history. Norman Davies, a leading British historian in his book “Europe, East and West” c. 2006, gives a brief history of how Polish/Jewish relations have been misunderstood or misinterpreted by some western authors, and often prejudicial and, pre-conceived ideas flourished. (Chapters III and XI may be of special interest to you). It is only in the last several years after the collapse of the Soviet Union that books and documentaries dealing with the subject started to appear. Davies's other publication “Europe” c. 1996, includes statistics depicting crimes committed by Soviet governments, which are several times higher than those committed by Hitler's Germany. (Explanation: Hitler was in power only 12 years; Stalin ruled Soviet Union for some 25 years).

Happy reading.

Anna Dadlez, Ph.D.  
Saginaw, Michigan

## Anti-Semitism, Abortions, Prove to be Hot-Button Issues

Dear Editor,

I am a Catholic Polish American immensely proud of my Polish parents and the values I learned from them. I received a subscription to your paper as a Christmas gift. I am sorely disappointed in what I read.

It is no secret that the stigma of alleged Polish anti-Semitism has been an albatross around our collective necks. In your Speak Up section there is a discussion about “overplaying” the subject. But what do you have on the front page but a thinly veiled anti-Semitic note referring to a Golda Meier letter.

I think that Prof. Rudnicki was being very economical with the truth. Does he forget that in the 1950s the communist regimes in

Poland, USSR, Cuba, etc. looked upon their younger, able-bodied, educated subjects as state assets and refused to let them migrate until they, the regimes, got their value back from their so-called investments. To say that Golda Meier was “playing politics” is tautological. If that is the case, he should say the same thing about President Jimmy Carter during the Mariel boat lift. Castro sent his criminals and the infirm to the United States and tried to block talented able bodied Cubans from coming to the United States. Complaining to the Polish Communist Dictatorship that they were preventing such people from migrating to Israel is not playing politics but standing up for human rights. So we

see where Prof. Rudnicki is coming from when he defends the Polish Communist Dictators then in power by stating “Poland certainly did not intentionally send handicapped and aged people to Israel.”

Prof. Rudnicki, there is a bridge in Brooklyn that I would like to discuss with you.

Walter Bajak  
Via e-mail

**REALITY AND ROME.** I was disappointed but not surprised to read “Polish Americans to President: veto health Care if it Finances Abortion,” January 2010.

My mother, who is in her late eighties, very Polish and very Catholic, told me that the question of

abortion is such a personal issue that no one, not even the Pope, Polish or otherwise, can dictate what a person should or should not do. I told her that she is not following the dictates of her religion. She smiled and said that the boys in Rome don't always know about the realities of life and that is why many Catholics, especially in the United States, choose to disagree with Rome on a number of issues. She added that everyone is entitled to their beliefs but if their beliefs infringe on the freedom of other people to choose how to manage their lives, then they are plainly wrong. She called the abortion fanatics “ciemnota.”

The Polish word is interesting and hard to accurately translate but

it describes people that allow religious superstitions to dictate how they think and behave, usually in a very conservative manner bordering on backward.

Yes, the Polish community is more than Polkas and pierogis but progressive it is not. Let us hope that eventually it can climb out of the darkness.

Janusz M. Szyszko  
Canton, Michigan

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## Biography of a Genius



Portrait of Chopin by P. Schick.

by Barbara Smolenska-Zielinska  
English translation by Aleksandra  
Rodzińska-Chojnowska  
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Fryderyk Chopin Society

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin, the Polish composer and pianist, was born on 1 March 1810, according to the statements of the artist himself and his family, but according to his baptismal certificate, which was written several weeks after his birth, the date was 22 February. His birthplace was the village of Żelazowa Wola near Sochaczew, in the region of Mazovia, which was part of the Duchy of Warsaw. The manorhouse in Żelazowa Wola belonged to Count Skarbek, and Chopin's father, Mikołaj (Nicolas) Chopin, a Polonized Frenchman, was employed there as a tutor. He had been born in 1771 in Marainville in the province of Lorraine in France, but already as a child he had established contacts with the Polish families of Count Michał Pac and the manager of his estate, Jan Adam Weydlich. At the age of 16, Mikołaj accompanied them to Poland where he settled down permanently. He never returned to France and did not retain contacts with his French family but brought up his children as Poles.

In 1806, Mikołaj Chopin married Tekla Justyna Krzyżanowska, who was the housekeeper for the Skarbek family at Żelazowa Wola. They had four children: three daughters: Ludwika, Izabela and Emilia, and a son Fryderyk, the second child. Several months after his birth, the whole family moved to Warsaw, where Mikołaj Chopin was offered the post of French language and literature lecturer in the Warsaw Lyceum. He also ran a boarding school for sons of the gentry.

The musical talent of Fryderyk became apparent extremely early on, and it was compared with the childhood genius of Mozart. Already at the age of 7, Fryderyk was the author of two polonaises (in G minor and B flat major), the first being published in the engraving workshop of Father Cybulski. The prodigy was featured in the Warsaw

newspapers, and "little Chopin" became the attraction and ornament of receptions given in the aristocratic salons of the capital. He also began giving public charity concerts. His first professional piano lessons, given to him by Wojciech Zywny (b. 1756 in Bohemia), lasted from 1816 to 1822, when the teacher was no longer able to give any more help to the pupil whose skills surpassed his own. The further development of Fryderyk's talent was supervised by Wilhelm Würfel (b. 1791 in Bohemia), the renowned pianist and professor at the Warsaw Conservatory who was to offer valuable, although irregular, advice as regards playing the piano and organ.

**FROM 1823 TO 1826.** Fryderyk attended the Warsaw Lyceum where his father was one of the professors. He spent his summer holidays in estates belonging to the parents of his school friends in various parts of the country. For example, he twice visited Szafarnia in the Kujawy region where he revealed a particular interest in folk music and country traditions. The young composer listened to and noted down the texts of folk songs, took part in peasant weddings and harvest festivities, danced, and played a folk instrument resembling a double bass with the village musicians; all of which he described in his letters. Chopin became well acquainted with the folk music of the Polish plains in its authentic form, with its distinct tonality, richness of rhythms and dance vigour. When composing his first mazurkas in 1825, as well as the later ones, he resorted to this source of inspiration which he kept in mind until the very end of his life.

In the autumn of 1826, Chopin began studying the theory of music, figured bass and composition at the Warsaw School of Music, which was both part of the Conservatory and, at the same time, connected with Warsaw University. Its head was the composer Józef Elsner (b. 1769 in Silesia). Chopin, however, did not attend the piano class. Aware of the exceptional nature of Chopin's talent, Elsner allowed him, in accordance with his personality and temperament, to concentrate on piano music but was unbending as regards theoretical subjects, in particular counterpoint. Chopin, endowed by nature with magnificent melodic invention, ease of free improvisation and an inclination towards brilliant effects and perfect harmony, gained in Elsner's school a solid grounding, discipline, and precision of construction, as well as an understanding of the meaning and logic of each note. This was the period of the first extended works such as the *Sonata in C minor*, *Variations, op. 2* on a theme from *Don Juan* by Mozart, the *Rondo à la Krakowiak, op. 14*, the *Fantaisie, op. 13* on Polish Airs (the three last ones written for piano

and orchestra) and the *Trio in G minor, op. 8* for piano, violin and cello. Chopin ended his education at the Higher School in 1829, and after the third year of his studies Elsner wrote in a report: "Chopin, Fryderyk, third year student, amazing talent, musical genius."

After completing his studies, Chopin planned a longer stay abroad to become acquainted with the musical life of Europe and to win fame. Up to then, he had never left Poland, with the exception of two brief stays in Prussia. In 1826, he had spent a holiday in Bad Reinertz (modern day Duszniki-Zdrój) in Lower Silesia, and two years later he had accompanied his father's friend, Professor Feliks Jarocki, on his journey to Berlin to attend a congress of naturalists. Here, quite unknown to the Prussian public, he concentrated on observing the local musical scene. Now he pursued bolder plans. In July 1829 he made a short excursion to Vienna in the company of his acquaintances. Wilhelm Würfel, who had been staying there for three years, introduced him to the musical milieu, and enabled Chopin to give two performances in the Kärntnertheater, where, accompanied by an orchestra, he played *Variations, op. 2* on a Mozart theme and the *Rondo à*



French Romantic writer George Sand, who questioned the sexual identity and gender destinies in fiction. Outside the literary world, Sand was noted for her numerous love affairs with such prominent figures as Chopin (1838-1847), Prosper Mérimée, Alfred de Musset (1833-34), Alexandre Manceau (1849-65), and others.

*la Krakowiak, op. 14* as well as performing improvisations. He enjoyed tremendous success with the public, and although the critics censured his performance for its small volume of sound, they acclaimed him as a genius of the piano and praised his compositions. Consequently, the Viennese publisher Tobias Haslinger printed the *Variations* on a theme from Mozart (1830). This was the first publication of a Chopin com-

## Chopin Bicentennial Celebrations Begin

Poland officially began commemorations of the bicentennial of the birth of its most celebrated composer, Frederic Chopin, recently with a ceremony at his birthplace, Żelazowa Wola, about 50 miles west of Warsaw, and a concert in the capital featuring the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra. More than 2,000 events, nearly half of them to be held outside Poland, are planned during the bicentennial, including films, jazz performances, exhibitions and the 16th annual Chopin International Competition. In August, Warsaw will be home to the Chopin and His Europe International Festival, with 50 concerts and over 1,000 performers, and as always will host the 16th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition, October 2-23. For Chopin Year 2010 worldwide programming, check updates at [www.chopin2010.pl](http://www.chopin2010.pl)

In the United States, the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the Polish Cultural Institute in New York, in association with the Polish National Film Archive and Polish National Television are presenting a series of films inspired by the life and art of the great Polish composer.

Filmmakers around the world have explored Chopin's legacy since the beginning of the film era. Ranging from drama to documen-

tary and from animation to experimental, the films in this series reveal the cinema's fascination with Chopin's music and his dramatic biography, fraught as it was with illness, stormy love affairs, and exile from his homeland.

Six diverse programs will be presented from now until May, highlighted by the visually stunning *The Blue Note* by Andrzej Żuławski starring Polish pianist Janusz Olejniczak and Sophie Marceau (May 8); as well as a program of experimental films, including one of the world's most innovative: *The Orchestra* by Zbigniew Rybczyński (April 10).

Other films include: Aleksander Ford's 1951 classic *The Youth of Chopin* *The Youth of Chopin*, *Calling Mr. Smith*, one of the first and most persuasive World War II-era film experiments, rare footage of the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw at different stages in its history. Two Polish documentaries, *Born in Warsaw* and *Under the Sign of Chopin*, as well as the rarely screened archival newsreel from the competition's 7th edition, and *Impromptu*, dir. James Lapine, starring Hugh Grant as Fryderyk Chopin and Judy Davis as George Sand. [www.polishculture-nyc.org](http://www.polishculture-nyc.org).

— Staś Kmieć

position abroad, for up to then, his works had only been published in Warsaw.

Upon his return to Warsaw, Chopin, already free from student duties, devoted himself to composition and wrote, among other pieces, two *Concertos* for piano and orchestra: in F minor and E minor. The first concerto was inspired to a considerable extent by the composer's feelings towards Konstancja Gładkowska, who studied singing at the Conservatory. This was also the period of the first nocturne, etudes, waltzes, mazurkas, and songs to words by Stefan Witwicki. During the last months prior to his planned longer stay abroad, Chopin gave a number of public performances, mainly in the National Theatre in Warsaw where the première of both concertos took place. Originally, his destination was to be Berlin, where the artist had been invited by Prince Antoni Radziwiłł, the governor of the Grand Duchy of Poznań, who had been appointed by the king of Prussia, and who was a long-standing admirer of Chopin's talent and who, in the autumn of 1829, was his host in Antonin. Chopin, however, ultimately chose Vienna where he wished to consolidate his earlier success and establish his reputation. On 11 October 1830, he gave a ceremonial farewell concert in the National Theatre in Warsaw, during which he played the *Concerto in E minor*, and K. Gładkowska sang. On 2 November, together with his friend Tytus Woyciechowski, Chopin left for Austria, with the intention of going on to Italy.

**SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN VIENNA**, the two friends learnt about the outbreak of the uprising in Warsaw, against the subservience of the Kingdom of Poland to Russia and the presence of the Russian Tsar on the Polish throne. This was the beginning of a months-long Russo-Polish war. T. Woyciechowski returned to Warsaw to join the insurgent army, while Chopin, succumbing to the persuasion of his friend, stayed in Vienna. In low spirits and anxious about the

fate of his country and family, he ceased planning the further course of his career, an attitude explained in a letter to J. Elsner: "In vain does Malfatti try to convince me that every artist is a cosmopolitan. Even if so, as an artist, I am still in my cradle, as a Pole, I am already twenty; I hope, therefore that, knowing me well, you will not chide me that so far I have not thought about the programme of the concert."

The performance ultimately took place on 11 June 1831, in the Kärntnertheater, where Chopin played the *Concerto in E minor*. The eight months spent in Vienna were not wasted. Strong and dramatic emotional experiences inspired the creative imagination of the composer, probably accelerating the emergence of a new, individual style, quite different from his previous brilliant style. The new works, which revealed force and passion, included the sketch of the *Scherzo in B minor* and, above all, the powerful *Etudes from op. 10*.

Having given up his plans for a journey to Italy, due to the hostilities there against Austria, Chopin resolved to go to Paris. On the way, he first stopped in Munich where he gave a concert on the 28th of August and then went on to Stuttgart. Here he learnt about the dramatic collapse of the November Uprising and the capture of Warsaw by the Russians. His reaction to this news assumed the form of a fever and nervous crisis. Traces of these experiences are encountered in the so-called Stuttgart diary: "The enemy is in the house (...) Oh God, do You exist? You do and yet You do not avenge. - Have You not had enough of Moscow's crimes - or - or are You Yourself a Muscovite [...] I here, useless! And I here empty-handed. At times I can only groan, suffer, and pour out my despair at my piano!"

**IN THE AUTUMN OF 1831**, Chopin arrived in Paris where he met many fellow countrymen. Following the national defeat, thousands of exiles, including participants of the armed struggle, politicians, repre-

continued on next page

## "Chopin's Poland" Essay Contest

CLEVELAND — Mary Kay Pieski, president of the Ohio Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation announced final details governing the Chapter's annual essay contest commemorating the Bicentennial Year of Fryderyk Chopin's birth.

The essay contest, titled "Chopin's Poland" reflects Poland's designation of 2010 as the "Chopin Year."

Essay participants will have a choice of two topics: 1. How the Uprising of November, 1830 impacted Chopin's adult life and his music, and 2. Analyze specified compositions of Fryderyk Chopin in the aftermath of the Uprising of 1830.

The annual essay contest was designed to emphasize participation of junior and senior parochial high schools in the eight-foundation-block counties of the Ohio Chapter, namely Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark, Lorain, Lake, Geauga, Medina and Portage. Any in-

terested Kosciuszko Foundation Ohio Chapter high school junior or senior, however, can participate.

Awards for the winning essays are first place, \$1,000.00; second place, \$500.00; third place, \$250.00; and at least two Honorable Mention designations. Award winners, their parents, and their teachers will be honored at the annual banquet of the Ohio Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation on April 17, 2010 at the Polish American Cultural Center in Cleveland.

Essay entries must be postmarked by February 16, 2010. All related essay contest materials are available from the websites: <http://northeastohio.kf.org> or from [mszonert@hotmail.com](mailto:mszonert@hotmail.com).

All essays will be judged by university and independent scholars, who are familiar with the topics.

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*continued from previous page*  
sentatives of Polish culture, such as the writer Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Romantic poets A. Mickiewicz and Juliusz Slowacki, and the Warsaw friends of Chopin, the poets Stefan Witwicki and Bohdan Zaleski, sought refuge from the Russian occupation in a country and city which they found most friendly. Chopin made close contacts with the so-called Great Emigration, befriended its leader Prince Adam Czartoryski, and became a member of the Polish Literary Society, which he supported financially. He also attended emigré meetings, played at charity concerts held for poor emigrés, and organised similar events.

In Paris, his reputation as an artist grew rapidly. Letters of recommendation which the composer brought from Vienna allowed him immediately to join the local musical milieu, which welcomed him cordially. Chopin became the friend of Liszt, Mendelssohn, Ferdinand Hiller, Berlioz and Auguste Franck. Later on, in 1835, in Leipzig, he also met Schumann who

### As a pianist, Chopin was ranked among the greatest artists of his epoch, such as Kalkbrenner, Liszt, Thalberg and Herz, but — in contrast to them — he disliked public performances and appeared rarely and rather unwillingly.

held his works in great esteem and wrote enthusiastic articles about the Polish composer. Upon hearing the performance of the unknown arrival from Warsaw, the great pianist Friedrich Kalkbrenner, called the king of the piano, organised a concert for Chopin which took place on the 26th of February 1832 in the Salle Pleyel. The ensuing success was enormous, and he quickly became a famous musician, renowned throughout Paris. This rise to fame aroused the interest of publishers and by the summer of 1832, Chopin had signed a contract with the leading Parisian publishing firm of Schlesinger. At the same time, his compositions were published in Leipzig by Probst, and then Breitkopf, and in London by Wessel.

The most important source of Chopin's income in Paris was, however, from giving lessons. He became a popular teacher among the Polish and French aristocracy and Parisian salons were his favorite place for performances. As a pianist, Chopin was ranked among the greatest artists of his epoch, such as Kalkbrenner, Liszt, Thalberg and Herz, but, in contrast to them, he disliked public performances and appeared rarely and rather unwillingly. In a friendly, intimate group of listeners he disclosed supreme artistry and the full scale of his pianistic and expressive talents.

**HAVING SETTLED DOWN IN PARIS**, Chopin deliberately chose the status of an emigré. Despite the requests of his father, he did not obey the Tsarist regulations, issued in subjugated Poland, and never extended his passport in the Russian embassy. Consequently, being regarded as a political refugee, Chopin deprived himself of the possibility of legally revisiting his homeland. He longed to see his fam-

ily and friends and, seeking refuge against loneliness, decided to share accommodation with the physician Aleksander Hoffman, another Polish exile, and after the latter's departure from Paris, with his Warsaw friend, former insurgent and physician, Jan Matuszynski. In this situation, the composer could meet his parents only outside Poland and when in August 1835 they went to Karlsbad for a cure, Chopin soon followed. Afterwards, while in nearby Dresden, he renewed his acquaintance with the Wodzinski family. Years earlier, the three young Wodzinski sons had stayed in the boarding house managed by Mikolaj Chopin. Their younger sister, Maria, now an adolescent, showed considerable musical and artistic talent and Cho-

pin fell in love with her and wanted to marry her and set up a family home of his own in exile. The following year, during a holiday spent together with the seventeen year-old Maria and her mother in Marienbad (modern day Mariánské Lázně in the Czech Republic), and then in Dresden, he proposed and was accepted on the condition that he would take better care of his health. The engagement was unofficial, and did not end in marriage, for after a year-long "trial" period, Maria's parents, disturbed by the bad state of the health of her fiancé, who was seriously ill in the winter, and especially by his irregular lifestyle, viewed him as an unsuitable partner for their daughter. Chopin found this rejection an extremely painful experience, and labelled the letters from the Wodzinski family, tied into a small bundle, "My sorrow."

**IN JULY 1837**, Chopin travelled to London in the company of Camille Pleyel in the hope of forgetting all unpleasant memories. Soon afterwards, he entered into a close liaison with the famous French writer George Sand. This author of daring novels, older by six years, and a divorcee with two children, offered the

lonely artist what he missed most from the time when he left Warsaw: extraordinary tenderness, warmth and maternal care. The lovers spent the winter of 1838/1839 on the Spanish island of Majorca, living in a former monastery in Valdemosa. There, due to unfavourable weather conditions, Chopin became gravely ill and showed symptoms of tuberculosis. For many weeks, he remained so weak as to be unable to leave the house but nonetheless, continued to work intensively and composed a number of masterpieces: the series of 24 preludes, the *Po-lonaise in C minor*, the *Ballade in F major*, and the *Scherzo in C sharp minor*. On his return from Majorca in the spring of 1839, and following convalescence in Marseilles, Cho-



Chopin had lived at 12 Vendome Place in Paris for only three weeks before his death from tuberculosis on Oct. 17, 1849. There, a few hours later, a young sculptor, Jean Baptiste Clesinger, took a cast of the composer's face and hands. Clesinger was the son-in-law of novelist George Sand, whose well-publicized love affair with the composer had terminated in 1847. Hostile at first, Chopin had finally warmed to Clesinger, and they had become good friends.

"After death," wrote Franz Liszt, "his face regained its youthful beauty, its pure expression, and that serenity to which it had now been long unaccustomed. His youthful loveliness, so long dimmed by bitter sufferings, was restored by death."

pin, still greatly weakened, moved to George Sand's manor house in Nohant, in central France. Here, he was to spend long vacations up to 1846, with the exception of 1840, returning to Paris only for the winters. This was the happiest, and the most productive, period in his life after he left his family home. The majority of his most outstanding and profound works were composed in Nohant. In Paris, the composer and writer were treated as a married couple, although they were never married. Both had common friends among the artistic circles of the capital, such as the painter Delacroix and the singer Pauline Viardot, as well as the Polish emigrés, such as A. Mickiewicz and W. Grzymala. For years, the couple enjoyed a deep love and friendship, but with

time the increasingly hostile attitude of George Sand's son, who exerted a strong influence on the writer, caused ever more serious conflicts. A final parting of ways took place in July 1847.

**GRIEVOUS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES** as well as the loss of Nohant, so important for the health and creativity of the composer, had a devastating effect on Chopin's mental and physical state. He almost completely gave up composition, and from then to the end of his life wrote only a few miniatures. In April 1848, persuaded by his Scottish pupil, Jane Stirling, Chopin left for England and Scotland. Together with her sister, Miss Stirling organised concerts and visits in various localities, including the castles of the Scottish aristocracy. This exceptionally hectic life style and excessive strain on his strength from constant travelling and numerous performances, together with a climate deleterious to his lungs, further damaged his health. On 16 November 1848, despite frailty and a fever, Chopin gave his last concert, playing for Polish emigrés in the Guildhall in London. A few days later, he returned to Paris.

His rapidly progressing disease made it impossible to continue giving lessons. In the summer of 1849, Ludwika Jedrzejewiczowa, the eldest sister of the composer, came from Warsaw to take care of her ill brother. On 17 October 1849, Chopin died of pulmonary tuberculosis in his Parisian flat in the Place Vendôme. He was buried in the Père-Lachaise cemetery in Paris. In accordance with his will, however, his heart, taken from his body after death, was brought by his sister to Warsaw where it was placed in an urn installed in a pillar of the Holy Cross church in Krakowskie Przedmiescie.

❖ ❖ ❖

*For more information about the The Fryderyk Chopin Society, contact it at Plac Piłsudskiego 9, 00-078 Warszawa, Poland; e-mail: info@chopin.pl.*

## The Changing Face of America

ALEXANDRIA, Virg. — The United States ethnic and racial composition has significantly changed since 2000 and is projected to continue growing after the 2010 Census. The U.S. Census Bureau is increasing its efforts to inform and assist a wide variety of ethnic communities and language groups. This includes reaching out to historically undercounted groups such as Polish Americans.

The Census Bureau and its partners are taking several steps to obtain a complete and accurate 2010 count in the Polish American community. Language Assistance Guides will provide in-language help for Polish speakers as they answer the English-language Census form. Additionally, 2010 Census brochures, fact sheets, and answers to frequently asked questions have been created in Polish and are available for download on the Census Web site, [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov).

Furthermore, the Census Bureau is increasing efforts to inform Polish Americans about these new resources, and about the importance

of filling out the census form. A national advertising campaign will launch in January and continue airing when the census forms are mailed in March of 2010. The campaign will include TV, radio, print, and online advertisements that will be in-language on Polish American media outlets to explain the direct benefits of the census. The data decides how many seats each state occupies in the House of Representatives, and helps allocate over \$400 billion in funding to community hospitals, transportation, schools, and emergency services.

Polish American organizations and community leaders currently serve as national partners to help reach this audience. The Piast Institute, headed by Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, has been a consultant to the Census Bureau for 20 years. "We come together every 10 years to tell the world who we are and for the Polish community it is important. Many programs that are important to civic life are directly impacted by the census," he says, highlighting the importance of the cen-

sus.

In addition, several states provide funds for outreach to active non-profit organizations in order to help boost 2010 Census participation in select hard-to-count communities with low participation numbers in the Census2000. With the help of the "Count Me In" project in Chicago, the Polish American Association will target immigrants with limited English skills in 37 traditionally undercounted Chicago neighborhoods and cities around Illinois.

The upcoming census form will be the shortest in history, with only ten short questions asking for information such as name, gender, age, date of birth, race, and whether respondents own or rent their home. There are no questions about immigration status, Social Security numbers, or political and religious affiliations. All responses are confidential and used for statistical purposes only.

For more information about the 2010 Census, visit <http://2010census.gov>.

### HONORS

Professor **Richard Lukas**, author of "Forgotten Holocaust," "Did the Children Cry?" and "Forgotten Survivors," won a citation for his article on Irena Sendler from the Catholic Press Association during its annual meeting. The article appeared in *St. ANTHONY MESSENGER*.

**Patrice Nedelec** joined Sunquest in Tucson as vice president of quality and regulatory affairs ... **Aaron A. Pisula**, graduated *cum laude* from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, with a bachelor's degree in music performance. He continued graduate studies at Duquesne on a full scholarship to the Mary Pappert School of Music ... A mural to honor fallen Philadelphia police officer **John Pawlowski** was dedicated at the Parkwood Youth Organization in Northeast Philadelphia.

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## Catholic Healthcare Center for Women

A specially developed infertility treatment that is both effective and pro-life is now being offered in the New York region through Gianna: The Catholic Healthcare Center for Women, located at 15 East 40 St. in New York and sponsored by St. Vincent's Hospital. In addition to fertility treatment, the center offers a wide range of general women's health care including obstetrics, prenatal care and routine gynecology. **Dr. Anne Mielnik**, co-founder of the center, explains that while it is open to all regardless of their beliefs, the center's pro-life ethic and its founders' Catholic faith touch every aspect of its work. She and her associate **Joan Nolan** of Syracuse, N.Y., also founded the John Paul II Center for Women, a nonprofit organization with the goal of creating centers throughout the United States to offer pro-life medical care to women and to give them an alternative to treatments that are not pro-life such as in vitro fertilization (IVF). The Gianna center uses natural procreative technology (NaPro) to treat infertility and also to assist couples to avoid pregnancy naturally. With this approach, says **Dr. Mielnik**, no embryos are created in the lab for implantation in the uterus with some subsequently aborted as they begin to grow. Rather NaPro tracks the women's cycles to find underlying causes of infertility and then prescribes medical treatment or surgery to correct the problem. While IVF has a success rate of 45% after three cycles of treatment or 51% after six cycles, NaPro boasts that up to 70% of couples have been helped to achieve pregnancy.

**ARCHBISHOP RETIRES.** Pope Benedict XVI recently accepted the resignation of **Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk** of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Archbishop Pilarczyk had been the longest serving active bishop in the U.S., heading the archdiocese for the previous 27 years.

**ARCHBISHOP UNMASKS "PRO-CHOICE CATHOLIC" GROUP.** Archbishop-designate of Milwaukee **Jerome E. Listeki** declared that a self-described Wisconsin Catholic group which holds that Catholics can disregard the Church's teachings on abortion, contraception and human sexuality is disowning its Catholic heritage. The group Young Catholics for Choice, a part of the dissenting group Catholics for Choice, has begun collaborating with Family Planning Health Services of Wausau and is conducting an advertising

campaign to convince Catholics that they can disregard Church teaching and still remain in good standing. "Nothing could be further from the truth," the archbishop-designate insisted.

**FAITH ON ICE.** Archdiocese of Chicago's **Bishop Thomas Paprocki**, known as the "Holy Goalie," skated with the Green Knights of St. Norbert College in Wisconsin and then addressed the team in the locker room before the game. The bishop is a seasoned athlete and marathoner and, after his practice with the team spoke to them about the connections between sports and living the Catholic faith. "My faith," he says, "gives me strength to run marathons, and running marathons teaches me endurance, which helps me to persevere when facing challenges in life." Bishop Paprocki is currently writing a book on sports and faith. After blessing the St. Norbert team before the game, the bishop skated to center ice and dropped the ceremonial puck to start the game. St. Norbert's won 8-2.

**JOHN PAUL II FILM FESTIVAL LAUNCHED.** The John Paul II International Film Festival, "a home to filmmakers who have chosen to use this medium to express and share a message of hope, struggle, triumph and love to the world," held its first awards ceremony in Miami in November. The Miami campus of Florida International University was the site and the festival was hosted by the non-profit 7eventhDay Media, Inc. The festival was created in response to the late pope's apostolic "Letter to Artists," in which he challenged artists to respond to the world's need for Truth, Love and Peace through the use of art." One of the films awarded was the documentary "The Water Project," which followed a non-profit group to the Dominican Republic where they installed an aqueduct for a community that had never seen running water.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** to priests and religious of the Philadelphia Archdiocese: Bro. Kazimierz Pańnik, of the Pauline order, 75 years; Sr. Ann Rita Kobierowski, CSFN, Sr. Regina Wesolowski, CSFN, Sr. Consolata Pylilo, CSFN, 70 years; Sr. Aurelia Lopata, CSFN, Sr. Bernadette Sznurkowski, CSFN, Sr. Maryann McKeough, CSFN, Sr. Rita Partyka, CSFN, Fr. Marcellus Kolakowski, OFM, Fr. Clement Kurowski, OFM, 60 years; Fr. Joseph M. Olczak, Pauline order, Sr.

Patricia Ann Czarnota, OSF, Sr. Maria Denise Provoke, OSF, 50 years; Bro. Martin Joseph Jarocinski, Mercedarian, Sr. Christine M. Konopelski, SSSJ, 25 years.

**UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS RE-GAIN CHURCH.** Bishop Marian Buczek of the Kharkiv-Zaporizhia Diocese in Ukraine presided over the re-consecration of **St. Joseph's Church** in Dnipropetrovsk, in eastern Ukraine. A decade-long legal battle ended with the return of church, confiscated by the communists in 1949 and then sold to a private company in 1998. Capuchin Fr. Jerzy Zielinski, who serves at the parish, noted, "From early morning until late at night the parishioners have been working to clear away the rubble and make the church ready for the re-consecration ceremony." This year the Catholic community in Dnipropetrovsk marks its 230th anniversary. The Franciscan Capuchins are celebrating their 10th anniversary since their return to work in the parish and the 300th anniversary of their ministry in Ukraine.

**STO LAT TO ... John S. Grabowski**, professor of moral theology at Catholic University of America, and his wife **Claire**, parents of five children, on being appointed to the Pontifical Council for the Family.

**DISCERNMENT RETREAT A BIG DRAW.** Sr. Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, community vocations director for the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, in Ann Arbor, Mich., held their regular discernment retreat for about 100 young women in October. Women are attracted to the retreat in increasing numbers from all over the world. Over 4,000 women have made the retreats over the last 12 years. If some are being drawn to a religious vocation, the sisters direct them to communities that are appropriate to their vocation and inclination. "All we want for anybody is the will of God, no matter what that is," explains Sr. Joseph. "That is what the Church today needs—saintly women willing to embrace whatever God's will for them might be."

Upcoming retreats are scheduled for February 20-21 and May 22-23.

**ASKS YAD VASHEM TO HONOR POLISH NUNS.** Paul Z. Wos, who with his deceased parents saved the lives of twelve Jews during World War II in German-occupied Poland, called upon Israel's Yad Vashem Memorial to honor Poland's nuns, who hid and protected Jewish children.

Poles faced the death penalty for helping Jews. "We all knew we could be shot on the spot," said Wos, "but we were also Christians."

He has suggested "a special monument at Yad Vashem dedicated to the memory of these heroic women, who risked their lives in protecting the lives of Jewish children."

Yad Vashem turned down Wos' request. He was advised a monument like this already exists, called the Memorial to the Anonymous Rescuer, which "honors the nuns, clergymen, townspeople, farmers and other rescuers whose specific heroic deeds will remain unknown."



**SURVIVORS' STORIES ADD SOBER SIDE TO CHRISTMAS PARTY.** Wanda Lorenc and Wladyslaw Mazur (center) are concentration camp survivors and veterans of Poland's Warsaw Uprising (The Rising) of 1944. They do not normally speak about their wartime experiences at a Christmas party.

But with the large number of children always present at the annual Christmas party of the Polish American Congress, PAC President Frank Milewski (left) and Political Activities Chairman Chet Szarejko (far right) invited them to spend a few moments to tell the children what it was like to live as a teenager in German-occupied Poland in World War II.

"Holocaust studies in public schools don't usually accentuate the story of Polish Catholics like Mrs. Lorenc and Mr. Mazur. We thought our Polish American kids should be made aware of what such people went through," said Szarejko, a former history teacher on Long Island.

Both speakers were members of the Polish Underground (Armia Krajowa) and both were arrested by the Germans and sent to concentration camps.

During the Uprising, Mr. Mazur miraculously survived two German bullets that grazed his neck and a third one that pierced into his hip. Even a German soldier's rifle butt to his head was unable to finish him off.

While a prisoner in a German concentration camp, an SS guard kicked Mrs. Lorenc's face to a bloody pulp after she threw a piece of bread to a starving and pleading Jew. She considered herself lucky because she could have gotten a bullet in her head instead.

Mrs. Lorenc's parents and a brother are honored at Israel's Yad Vashem as "Righteous Among the Nations" for rescuing and sheltering twelve Jews during the Holocaust.

Another brother was part of an Armia Krajowa unit which tried to blow out a hole in the wall of the Warsaw Ghetto to let Jews escape.

But neither this brother nor Mrs. Lorenc were ever honored as "Righteous" because the Jews they helped were not around to testify that the events really happened. Israel's Yad Vashem does not count anyone this way unless the rescued Jew will validate it.

Even though Israel honors Poland as the country with the most "Righteous," many Poles say that number would be many times greater if it were not for the fact Yad Vashem does not count any act of aid unless the Jewish person who was aided steps forth and confirms it.

After coming to the United States when the war ended, Mr. Mazur centered his efforts on working with the Maria Konopnicka Polish Saturday School in Brooklyn, N.Y. Many of the students came to the Christmas celebration to honor him and hear his testimony.

As in past years, the Polish American Congress Christmas event was held at Greenpoint's Polonaise Terrace.

### MODLITWY

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

**PRAYER TO ST. JUDE.** Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who

invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. A.R.K.

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


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TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmieć

## A Trip to the Poczta

Part XII

To make a good Polish cocktail, the most common recipe says to take a few bars of Chopin and a dash of chivalry (including hand kissing), fortify it with a jigger of *wódka*, add a little Polish enthusiasm, a few tragic notes from the last world war, top it off with Polish blood shed "For your Freedom and Ours" and season it up with an inexpressible mood of yearning. For zest and pep add a touch of the beauty and chic of the *Warszawiacy*. Stir well.

I first came across this "recipe" back in Communist times and was reminded of it as I walked back from my jaunt in Kraków's Old Town. Taken one by one, the ingredients fit the stereotyped image of Poland. The real recipe is both simpler and more complicated at the same time, and as Poland has changed, so have some of the ingredients.

Back at Hotel Cracovia I assembled all my travel purchases and accumulations for a trip to the post office, in an attempt to lighten my load. I separated the items that needed to be sent, primarily books, promotional items and folders. Despite the best intentions and stringent rules on packing during my trips, I somehow always hit crisis mode while in Kraków. I needed to send a package back to the States. I also had to mail the cell phone I had on loan to Krzysiek back at *Mazowsze*.

With everything packed in a small suitcase I set out for the *poczta*. I inquired at the front desk for the directions to the nearest post office. I was told that it was very close — simply a right out of the hotel, right again and past the Cineplex, followed by another right. Easy enough! It was a pleasant sunny November day and the walk was quick. I walked a distance on that final right and no post office was in sight. My experiences over the years have led me to believe that *Polacy* are not known for giving full directions.

The best bet was to inquire with an older local who knew the area. Sure enough, a kindly woman walking with a cane, gentle words and a smile directed me on the correct path. What had been missing was a left and then a right following the third right. I was on my way. Before I even had the chance to turn onto the street I could hear the woman call out to me to reiterate the instructions, motioning with her cane. I accepted and thanked her again.

I found the *poczta*. It was not the large municipal *Poczta Główna* (ul. Westerplatte 20) that I was accustomed to, but a neighborhood local branch.

**HISTORY OF POCZTA POLSKA.** *Poczta Polska* is the Polish public post service — an enterprise with over 450 years of tradition, it is one of the oldest institutions in Poland. The Polish Post has more than 8400 postal outlets. It is the biggest postal operator on the market, not only in Poland but in the whole Central Europe. The postal network consists of postal outlets, branches and agencies. The enterprise is one of the biggest organizations in Poland with more than 100 thousand employees and handles about several billion postal items a year.

Before the postal system was established, correspondence was deliv-

ered by messengers. In the Middle Ages, such services were available only to the privileged classes — monarchs, rich merchants and some of the organized communities, like large towns, universities or monasteries. Royal couriers would use the *podwoda* method — horses and carts provided at fixed points on the route for replacement.

The postal service was created Oct. 18, 1558, when King Zygmunt August established a permanent postal route from Kraków to Venice, and later to Wilno, in order to manage new affairs in Italy, which arose after the death of Queen Bona, his mother. The king commissioned the supervision of the postal service to Prosper Prowana, a courtier of Italian descent. For many years the service was financed from the royal treasury, and it was not until 1647 that King Władysław IV introduced the so called *podatek podwodowy* tax.

As Poland engaged in a series of devastating conflicts in the 17th century, the development of the postal service had been brought to a halt until the reign of King Stanisław August Poniatowski. It was then made available to all the citizens at flat rates and the postmen (*pocztynion* or *kursor*) were issued official uniforms and post horns — an emblem that is retained to this day. The Polish postal service, at that time the most efficient postal system in Europe, was destroyed by the partitions of the country.

For short periods of time the service functioned in the Duchy of Warsaw (1807-1812) and the Kingdom of Poland (around 1815-1830). After regaining independence in 1918, the united territory of Poland was in need of a uniform network of communication. The interwar period saw the rapid development of the postal system as new services were introduced such as money transfers, payment of pensions, delivery of magazines, and air mail.

During national uprisings and in the course of wars, communication was provided mainly through field post, which was subject to military authority. Postmen always took active part in the fight for independence by secretly delivering parcels and documents, or by providing vital information about the enemy. Many important events in the history of Poland involved the postal service, like the heroic defense of the *Poczta Gdańska* in 1939 and the participation of the Scouts' Postal Service in the Warsaw Uprising. During the difficult times of World War II, the Polish Post in exile would lift up the spirits of compatriots by issuing commemorative postage stamps.

**EWA — "POCZTA POLSKA POSTER MODEL."** After a short wait on line, I was met with a smile and a pleasant greeting by the beautiful dark-haired Ewa, who could have been a poster model for *Poczta Polska*. What a welcome departure from the gray, gruff, pre-democratic atmosphere of years past! I told her I needed to pack my items for sending; she weighed the contents, gave me some forms to complete and a box kit for packaging and then told me to return directly to the front of the line when I was finished.

I had been spoiled during Communism by the *poczta* packaging wom-



**POCZTA GŁÓWNA**, the main post office of Krakow.

en. For a small fee the older women made a profession of custom-sizing boxes from remnant cardboard, expertly packing and cushioning the contents, with a grand finale of tying the box in an elaborate lattice spiderweb of string-cord.

With a box that was too large, I recalled their methods and sized and scored the box with scissors Ewa let me borrow. I secured the sections with the small amount of peel-off label tape and then tied the box with the short length of string. After several attempts, I produced an inventive result. The paperwork was in Polish and mystifying had also been translated into French — and only French, so I relied on my Polish understanding to complete the form.

I brought the misshapen package back to the desk and asked for some additional tape to completely secure

it from opening. Ewa assured me that I had done a great job and it would be fine. Because of the weight and since it didn't matter when I received the package, I decided to send it by boat, rather than air. I was told it would take 2-3 weeks. Would this be a mistake?

Realizing that I wanted coverage in case of damage or loss, I decided to pay with my credit card. The only problem is that Ewa could not accept it. With her apologies she directed me to another window, where I could pay the amount with my Visa and then return with the voucher. That accomplished, I said a silent goodbye to my package.

After a longer than anticipated ordeal I was relieved to lose the weight from my luggage. The convenience and efficiency with all its grim firmness and bureaucracy from Commu-



**POCZTA POLSKA** is a very efficient enterprise.

nist days-gone-by were missing, but the smile and pleasant exchange first with the older Krakowian woman and then with Ewa was well worth the experience. The "Polish cocktail" may have not changed in essence, but with in a new Poland with an optimistic and bright attitude and demeanor the taste is so much more pleasant.

*Postscript:* In just a little over 2 weeks the package arrived intact. I now know that there is a *Mailbox Etc* (ul. Karmelicka 55, www.mbe.com.pl), where they will package your items.

Free from the burden and suitcase I was on my way to Wawel Castle — the royal residence of the country's kings, queens and rulers.

SOURCE MATERIAL: *Poczta Polska*, www.poczta-polska.pl, Poland the Country and Its People

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Horse  
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Chrzan

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Tak

No  
Nie

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You  
Dziękuję

Please  
Proszę

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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut

## Rejoicing with the Lira Ensemble

The sounds that radiated throughout Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, were evidence of the setting of Chicago's own Lira Ensemble's Holiday concert: "Rejoice! Polish Carols." Attending such a festive gala was a wonderful way to end the Christmas season and a joyous introduction to the 21st century's second decade. On December 27, Orchestra Hall was filled by primarily a Polish American audience who listened and watched a new Lira production of Polish carols, as well as music from renowned Polish composers, such as Wojciech Kilar, Fryderyk Chopin, and Zygmunt Noskowski.

This concert also included spirited Polish songs and dances associated with the Polish regions of Lub-

lin, Silesia, Rzeszow and Krakow. A wonderful and innovated orchestral piece, *Polish American Christmas Festival*, by Leroy Anderson and arranged by Philip Seward, co-conductor of the Lira Orchestra, set the tone of the concert.

The Orchestra and the Lira Dancers performed Wojciech Kilar's beautiful and elegant Polonaise from the film *Pan Tadeusz*. The Hall echoed with sentimental and traditional Polish Christmas carols. Another highlight of the afternoon was the dancing of the Helena Polka, performed with that special "Chicago hop," which, as Ms. Migala explained, was influenced by swing and the Charleston. Lucyna Migala, Lira Ensemble's Artistic Director, General Manager and co-founder, served as Mistress of Ceremonies.



LIRA ORCHESTRA AND DANCERS.

She delighted the audience with interesting commentary about a couple of aspects of the Polish culture. Lucyna described the traditions of oplatek on Christmas Eve, the three kisses on the cheeks, and the greeting of guests with salt and bread which represent prosperity and wisdom. The practice of greet-

ing guests with salt and bread, as Migala pointed out, dates back prior to Christianity.

The Lira Orchestra was conducted under the baton of Dr. Ruth Lin, and the Lira Dancers were choreographed under the tutelage of Iwona Puc and Anthony Dobrzanski. The Lira Singers and Dancers were

dressed in authentic regional Polish costumes. The Lira Ensemble is composed of eight members of the Lira Singers, twelve members of the Lira Dancers, and forty-two members of the Lira Orchestra, and is Artist-in-Residence at Loyola University Chicago.

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## BEATING A BARMAID MEANS CHICAGO COP'S DISMISSAL.

The images from a February 19, 2007 video surveillance camera from Jesse's Short Stop Inn Tavern on Chicago's Northwest Side, that had been seen around the world, show an alleged altercation between a Chicago policeman, Anthony Abbate, and a Polish American barmaid, Karolina Obrycka. What one sees is a hulky 250 lb. man repeatedly punching, throwing, kicking and dragging a 125 lb. woman. It was not until February 21 that Abbate was arrested and charged with aggravated battery and placed on a leave-of-absence pending an internal investigation by the Chicago Police Department (CPD). He was released after posting a \$70,000 bond.

On May 29, 2009, almost two

years later, Abbate headed for court requesting a bench trial instead of a jury trial. He was suspended from the police force and relieved of his duties and pay.

The CPD had been facing public criticism, because it originally charged Abbate with a misdemeanor. Once the video was exposed to the public via television and internet, the charge was changed to aggravated battery. On June 24, 2009, Cook County Criminal Court Judge John Fleming sentenced Abbate to two years probation, ordered him to attend anger management classes and perform 130 hours of community service, and was given an 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew. His lawyers argued for a mistrial, claiming that he acted in self defense and that Obrycka attacked him. However,

Judge Fleming refused to reverse his guilty verdict. As Judge Fleming stated, "If I believed sentencing Anthony Abbate to prison would stop people from getting drunk and hitting people, I'd give him the maximum sentence."

On December 15, the Chicago Police Board, all members of a nine-member independent civilian board, ordered the immediate dismissal of Anthony Abbate from the CPD. "No one in recent memory ... has done more to tarnish the reputation of the Chicago Police Department than Anthony Abbate," Cook County Assistant Attorney LuAnn Snow stated during the sentencing hearing.

Sadly, Karolina Obrycka wanted Abbate to apologize to her. He did not.

"I'm disappointed," she said.



POLONIA ENSEMBLE and hosts in Fort Lauderdale.

**BREATHLESS SCHEDULE.** Polonia Ensemble had a very active schedule during the 2009 Holiday Season. On December 6, the Ensemble held its annual Polish American Christmas Gala at Northeastern Illinois University. On December 12, the dance troupe accepted its tenth annual invitation from the Polish Consul General of the Republic of Poland to sing Christmas carols at the Consulate's Holiday Gala. Earlier that day, this troupe was found performing an array of Polish folk dances in full costume at the Wood Dale, IL Public Library. Four days later, the Polonia Ensemble provided a festive spirit at the annual Chicago Society's Christmas Party. The Polonia Ensemble was proud to

be part of the twelfth annual Polish Christmas Eve celebration hosted by St. Hyacinth Parish on Chicago's Northwest Side and sponsored by Polvision and Radio Station 1030 AM. This was a special event in which the homeless and needy were the honored guests. As Mrs. Anna Krysinski, General Director of the Ensemble, mentioned, "We were pleased that we could help form a truly genuine Polish Christmas atmosphere for these homeless people and help them remember their most beautiful Christmas memories spent in Poland." After Christmas, the troupe traveled to the warmer climate of Fort Lauderdale, Florida at the invitation of Zdislaw Zielinski, president of Fort Lauderdale's Pol-

ish American Club, to perform at its annual New Year's Eve celebration. The entire visit was made possible through the generosity of Krzysztof Poprawski of the Sunrise Inn, Zenon Marzec of the Paradise at the Sea Resort, and Ryszard Czaplak of the Ocean Breeze Motel. They hosted the Polonia Ensemble and made this trip possible.

Polonia Ensemble is, perhaps, the most internationally-traveled amateur Polish American dance and song troupe in the United States. In the past eleven years, this ensemble has performed in Italy, Israel, Taiwan, Bulgaria, Peru, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Spain, Portugal and Ecuador, along with numerous performances in Polish and U.S. cities.



POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Pulaski Police Association Installs New Officers

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On December 4, the Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and WNY held its Annual Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew. The night's festivities included the installation of association officers: **Al Ziemecki** (president), **Marty Bochinski** (1st vice president), **Dave Gorski** (2nd vice president), **Walter Kantorski** (3rd vice president), **Mike Stack** (recording secretary), **Ron Skotnicki** (treasurer), **Paul Manno** (financial secretary) and **Jerzy Imiola** (sergeant at arms). The oath of office was administered by Erie County Court Judge **Michael Pietruszka**.

Nine scholarships were awarded by the group to local students: **Josh LiPuma**, **Chelsey Broderick**, **Kell Miskell**, **Jordan Kowalczyk**, **Jeremy Bible**, **Kyle Gulczewski**, **Nicole Nicosea**, **Kimberly Roll**, and **Hannah Grorek**. **John Mruk** was named Man of the Year and the Business Person of the Year award went to **Carol Misnik**. President's Awards were given to **Robert Mediak** and **Paul Imiola** for their dedicated service to the Pulaski Police Association.

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School President **Mira Szramel** received the Golden Cross of Merit for her tireless service to the WNY Polonia Community at the Polish Consulate in New York City ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** elected the following leadership for 2010: **Charles Peszynski** (president), **Malgorzata Nalecz** (vice president) and **Elzbieta Grabowska** (financial secretary) ... **Patricia Jaworowicz**, **Stanley Kaznowski III** and **James Rogowski** were sworn in as members of the Cheektowaga Town Board at the Cheektowaga Senior Citizen Center on January 1. Erie County Legislator **Tom Mazur** also took the oath of office during that ceremony ... Also on the 1st, NY Assemblyman **William Parment** administered the oath of office to City Council Members **Michael Michalski** and **Stacy Szukala**, Board of Assessors Clerk **Thomas Mleczko** and City Assessor **Mark Wisniewski** at the Dunkirk City Hall.

Controversy surrounds the early departure of Visiting Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching Fellow **Dr. Artur Grabowski** from the State University of NY at Buffalo after only one semester ... **Dennis Walczyk**, the CEO of Catholic Charities of Buffalo, has been named chairman of the NYS Council of Catholic Charities Directors ... **Villa Maria College** purchased the former Villa

Maria Academy athletic center in Cheektowaga from the Felician Sisters ... Soprano **Brittany Mruzeczek** performed at a traditional Feast of the Three Kings Mass at St. Adalbert's Basilica on Buffalo's East Side on January 2 ... Assistant U.S. Attorneys **Gretchen Wylegala** and **John Rogowski** received awards from the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation for the contributions to law enforcement in WNY ... Medina Mayor **Adam Tabelski** was chosen to be a member of the 18th annual Business First "40 under Forty" class.

The **Buffalo Polka Boosters** are celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2010 ... Hon. **David Franczyk** was re-elected to the post of President of the Buffalo Common Council ... The **Polish Union of America** celebrated its 119th anniversary with a dinner at Potts Banquet Facility on January 10 ... The University of Toronto presented lectures and recitals of Polish music by **Zygmunt Krause** in mid-January ... The **New Direction Band** played at the "Snowball Dance" at Potts Banquet Facility on the 16th ... On the 17th, the **Polish Legacy Project** - WWII hosted an Oplatek at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo ... Assistant U.S. Attorney **Bill Hochul's** name has been submitted to the Senate for confirmation for the position of U.S. Attorney for the Western District of NY by President Obama ... The **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** in Mississauga, Ontario hosted "13 Polonijny Kabareton" on January 22 and 23.

Polish composer **Krzysztof Penderecki** was in Toronto to participate in the University of Toronto's "New Music Festival" the last week of January ... Remember that February 16 is **Paczki Day** ... The Third Canadian **Chopin Piano Competition** will be held in Toronto at the end of February. More details about the competition's events can be found at [www.chopinfestival2010.com](http://www.chopinfestival2010.com).

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: PO-LEGL, 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: [www.polegl.org](http://www.polegl.org).

## Chicago Heights Honors Heritage



**THE CHICAGO HEIGHTS-WADOWICE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE** was active again in October celebrating Polish American Heritage Month at City Hall.

Members of the committee presented a beautiful pictorial exhibit tracing the history of the Chicago Heights Polish community. In addition, Mayor Alex Lopez signed a proclamation designating October Polish American Heritage Month throughout the city with the Polish and American flags flying together in front of city hall.

Eugene Sadus, chairman of the Chicago Heights Polish sister cities program and a musician himself, is pictured with one of the displays featuring Chicago Heights musicians of Polish ancestry. The exhibit attracted many viewers throughout the month.

### PRCUA Establishes Haiti Relief Fund

CHICAGO — The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America has established a "Haiti Relief Fund."

As all of you know, a 7.0 magnitude quake ripped through Haiti, Jan. 12, 2010. This quake caused great destruction and widespread casualties. This powerful quake was the first in more than two centuries in that part of the world.

The Executive Officers of the PRCUA established a fund to aid the victims of the earthquake. They are appealing to all Polish Americans to contribute to this newly established fund.

Contributors should make a check payable to the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America with a notation on the check "Haiti Relief Fund". Please mail checks to the PRCUA, 984 N Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60642-4101.

### Kosciuszko Legacy Gets Top Rating

WEST POINT, N.Y. — The U.S. Military Academy here has been ranked the top university in FORBES magazine's newest list of America's best universities. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who persuaded Thomas Jefferson to establish the school, would be proud.

Today, a towering statue of Kosciuszko overlooks the campus. After attending military academies in Warsaw and Paris, Kosciuszko was put in charge of building forts for the Continental Army by Benjamin Franklin and John Hancock.

George Washington put Kosciuszko in charge of designing Fortress West Point after the Pole's strategy to use the high ground at Bemis Heights became the deciding factor in the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point in the American Revolution.

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## Cleveland PGS Holds Election



CLEVELAND — The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland held its annual election of officers at its December 1st meeting and Christmas Party.

Re-elected were (l. to r.): Ron Marec (VP and membership), Ben Kman (treas.), Sonia Chapnick (sec.), and John F. Szuch, who was re-elected to his 18th term as president.

The organization meets on the first Tuesday of the month (September thru June) at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's PNC Church which is located at 5375 Broadview Rd. (a couple of blocks south of Brookpark Rd.). A short business meeting is held, followed by membership discussions about their ancestor research. There is generally a formal presentation at each meeting either pertaining to genealogy research or Polish history and culture. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting, starting shortly after 7:00 p.m.

Prospective new members are always welcome. Upcoming speakers can be checked out at the PGSGC website [www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/](http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/). Interested parties may also contact President Szuch at (330) 769-4603, pulaskipro@aol.com, or VP Ron Marec at (216) 752-5713, jamareca@cs.com.

## A Trip to Panna Maria



JERRY BRZEZINSKI talks with Fr. Mariusz Lazarek, administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Panna Maria, Texas.

Brzezinski, of Green Bay, Wisc., along with his wife Geraldine, made the trip to the historic town while visiting relatives in Texas.

Panna Maria was settled by Poles, who followed Fr. Leopold Moczygemba from the Slask region. They arrived on Dec. 24, 1854 after a nine-week voyage from Poland to the United States through the port of Galveston. On that Christmas Eve, they celebrated their first Mass

under an oak tree on December 24th 1854. In 1855 they built their first church next to the oak tree and dedicated it to the Virgin Mother, "Panna Maria."

The present church, named Immaculate Conception Church, contains the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, called the Black Madonna. This piece of art was donated by President Lyndon Johnson on May 3, 1966 to commemorate the Millennium of Poland's Christianity. The church is also home to three hand-carved chairs used by Pope John Paul II during his visit with the Polish people of Texas on September 13, 1987.

Brzezinski said Panna Maria is about a three-hour ride from San Antonio. About 15 minutes from Panna Maria, you pass near Kosciusko. The Fr. Leopold Moczygemba Memorial Highway bypasses Kosciusko, but you can see a large Catholic church in the distance. Next comes the town of Czestochowa. The highway bypasses this town too, but there too was a large Catholic church. Polish settlers took great pride in their churches.

The Brzezinski visit to Panna Maria coincided with the town's "Annual Homecoming Turkey Dinner,"

which was a near sell-out. Jerry met Fr. Mariusz Lazarek, parish administrator, and later visited the church, visitors' center and museum.

"If you are ever in that area try to visit this historical Polish site," said Brzezinski. "You will not be disappointed."

### Discover the Meaning of Your Polish Last Name

Near the top of the list as Poland's (and Polonia's) most popular Polish last names are Kowalski (meaning the blacksmith's son or helper – over 140,000 users), Wójcik (the village mayor's kid – 99,000) and Kamiński (the guy from Rockton or Stonebury – 88,000).

For a custom-researched analysis of the meaning and derivation of your Polish last name, how many people share it, where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with it (illustrations of the coats of arms are provided), please airmail a \$16 check (adding \$9 for each additional surname you wish researched) to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

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### NEWSWIRE

Poland's post-communist daily "Trybuna" has gone out of business after struggling 20 years on the free market. A direct successor of "Trybuna Ludu", the official organ of the once-ruling Polish United Workers (Communist) Party, in recent years it lost readership as diehard communists died out and the Internet made increasing inroads into the print-media sector. When Gen. Jaruzelski declared martial law in 1981, "Trybuna Ludu" and the hard-line army daily "Żołnierz Wolności" were the only papers permitted to appear.

Talking musical benches have appeared along Warsaw's historic Krakowskie Przedmieście and surrounding areas in connection with the 200th anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin's birth. The 15 special benches have been installed at various places connected with the composer's life and work in Poland's capital. Each is fitted with an audio device explaining the site's significance in Polish or English and provides a sample of one of Chopin's compositions.

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## PAHA

[www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://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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# Polka MAGAZINE

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## “Stas” Bulanda Passes

CHICAGO — Polka Music Hall of Fame member Stanley “Stas” Bulanda, died following illness in his hometown of Chicago. He was 55.

The leader of the the Average Polka Band, Dyno Chicago, and Old School Review, Bulanda was perhaps best known for his “Polish Prayer” waltz, which received much airplay throughout the early 1990s.

He is survived by wife Diane (nee Whyte); children Erica (David), Jennifer (Ken) and Tommy (Sandi); brother John (Barbara) and sister Sally (Karl) Gleffe.

Funeral took place Monday, January 11 with a Mass at St. Daniel the Prophet Church and interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Within a day after his passing, his mother Sally G. (nee Okrziesik) Bulanda, died. She was a grandmother



**STAS BULANDA.** Popular band leader dead at 55.

of seven, and a devoted great-grandmother of eleven.

## Remembering Stanley “Stas” Bulanda

by John Furmaniak

*John Furmaniak spent many years on stage with the late Stas Bulanda. We thank him for sharing his memories with us.*

I first met Stas in February or March of 1971. My wife and I were at a club called Club Karlov, and Stas — I believe — was playing with a band called “The Happy Times.” You could see he was way too talented for that group.

I bought the guys in the band a drink and he came over to us during break and we talked. I knew him from some of the PNA dances he would come to with his father and uncle, but never really got to know him until 1971. I asked him if he would be interested in joining my group, the Dial-A-Tones. The band had quite a bit of work and Stas said he was interested. I took his phone number and called him during the week to set up a rehearsal. At rehearsal it sounded good, he agreed to join the band, and history was made. We stayed together until 1976 when the band broke up.

At that time we hung out at the Omen Lounge and the owner, Ted Okzresik, had mentioned that his two sons, Danny and Teddy Jr., were ready for a band. This was the start of Windy City Brass.

Stas left in 1979 to go with Li'l Richard Towalski and got an opportunity to write some material for him. Stas also wrote some tunes for Gennie “O” when he was with Windy City.

In 1980 I was asked to go with Marion Lush & the White Eagles, and every Winter Stas would come down to Florida (Daytona) with Li'l Richard and we (The White Eagles) would use him on concertina for all the jam parties. Stas and I would always room together and hang out. Stas left Richie in 1985 and went with Jimmie Miezsala, and when I quit Marion Lush, Jimmy asked if I would like to join his group. It seemed to always end up with Stas and I getting back together. We were inseparable as friends and, because we only lived 10 minutes apart, drove to all the jobs together.

In 1986 we started the Average Polka Band and in 1989 we were nominated for a Grammy. The late '80s and early '90s were great times with plenty of jobs, meeting many friends and our friendship was undeniable. We were like Starsky & Hutch, Abbott & Costello, the Lone

## CPA Valentine's Day Dance

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Polka Association's Valentine Dance will take place Sunday, February 14, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel 7230 Engle Rd., in Middleburg Heights.

Music will be provided by Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze from Chicago, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Doors open at 2:00 p.m..

This will be a no BYOB with bar service and food available. Those 18 and younger will be admitted free. For large table reservations or more information call: (216) 661-5227.

Treat your valentine to a special night out. Mention “CPA” for special room rates at the hotel, which are good for both Saturday or Sunday night.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

## His Music was from the Heart

It was his voice that I first remember hearing many years ago, a voice that was his personality, whether he sang or talked or shouted. When Stas Bulanda spoke, people near him listened. When Stas Bulanda sang, everyone listened no matter how far they were from the stage. His voice was his heart and his music came from that heart. His “grind” on concertina, his unique way with a vocal, his talent on horn and clarinet all made his who he was — Stas Bulanda a Polka Hall of Famer!

He now rests with those that went before him, but those who knew Stas are well aware he won't let anyone just sit around. Play that concertina, Mr. Polka Man!

The following biographical comments are from Stas Bulanda's induction into the IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame:

Stanley “Stas” Bulanda's love for polka music started at a very early age while listening to the music of his father's and uncles' polka band.

They would let him sit on the stage and started his musical education. After a few years, they even allowed him to sit in on the drums at some of their engagements. It was in high school that he teamed up with a few of his friends and they started a small polka band. They mainly played at house parties, small installation dances and a few parish carnivals.

Stas then joined a band called the “Happy Times” orchestra who were together for a few years and played a lot of weddings, anniversaries, etc. While playing with that band, Stas had the opportunity to meet John Furmaniak who had a band called the “Dial-A-Tones.” He joined them as a concertina player and they recorded two albums. The very first song award Stas received was for a song he wrote called “Thank You For This Day” on the Dial-A-Tones first album.

After the Dial-A-Tones, Stas went on to play with the “Windy City Brass,” the “Li'l Richard Band,” the “Music Explosion” and then eventually again with John Furmaniak,

Ron Flisnik and Bob Pienta forming the “Average Polka Band.”

In their first year together, they recorded their first album on the Chicago Record label and a song on the record, “Polish Prayer Waltz” which featured Stas' two daughters, Erica, age 9, and Jennifer, age 8, won the band three awards. The next year, Wally Maduzia became the fifth member of the A.P.B. playing concertina, clarinet and saxophone. It was then they recorded their second album “Let's Have A Party,” which earned them a Grammy nomination.

In the following year, Tom Lizik became the sixth member of the A.P.B. as a trumpet player.

They went on to record another album titled “Stormin' Polkas.” The song, “Polish Traditions Waltz,” turned out to be a hit for the.

After several more years with the Average Polka Band, Stas wanted to start a band featuring more of the old time music that he loved so much. So he started a band called “Dyno-Chicago,” and continued the old time traditional music in his last band “The Old School Review.”

Along with Bernie Gorak, Steve Fornek, Marty Drazek and John Furmaniak, The Old School Review just completed their latest CD entitled “Glory Days,” which also featured Stas' son Tommy, an excellent drummer and sound engineer.

POLKA PATTERN / Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

### Dance Benefits Polka Maryann

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A dance to help Polka Mary Ann Switkowski Cartner, cohost of the *Polka Happiness* radio show, was held January 24 at the Syracuse Polish Home. Mary Ann is suffering from cancer and is faced with overwhelming medical expenses.

Event organizers are still accepting donations on Mary Ann's behalf. Please checks payable to “Polkasonline.com — Maryann Benefit”

and mail to Polkasonline.com, P.O. Box 1994 Cicero, NY 13039.

### New CD from Ed Guca and the Polish Canadians

TORONTO — Ed Guca just released a new CD, his 15th album, capping a long and distinguished career in performing and recording on the polka scene. The new CD, entitled *Raise Your Glasses - Niech Sie Gra*, offers an exciting variety of contemporary and traditional polka styles for which Ed is famous.



**AUTHOR JOHN FURMANIAK** (left) on stage with Stas Bulanda.

Ranger & Tonto. We talked every day.

Finally the Average Polka Band suffered a major burnout. All the guys quit, and there we were on New Year's Eve, on stage with the equipment and no band. I told Stas to think about starting a new band. A couple of months later and he's all excited and says, “Foo, let's get another group going.”

**“It seemed to always end up with Stas and I getting back together. We were inseparable as friends ...”**

With the Average Polka Band, Wally Maduzia was on concertina, so Stas was mainly playing horn and some clarinet but we did a “honky” set with Stas going on box. We liked that sound, and Dyno Chicago was born.

After a few years I was suffering from my own version of polka burnout and wanted to take a break, so Dyno Chicago became history. Six months later, Wally Maduzia and I started up the One More Tyme band with some of Stas' old members, Eddie Tylka, Tom Lizik, and Jerry Mytych. Stas was playing with Jimmy Homel and the Changing Times as a side man, but you could see that wasn't his MO. A few months later he started up Old School Review. One More Tyme broke up in December 2008 and Stas called me from IPA Massachusetts weekend and asked if I would like to come

back and perform with him. Of course you know the answer was “yes” and I'm glad I did. Stas got sick in early August, but I got to see him inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame and I'm glad I was with him during his trying times the last six months. I will miss him dearly.

Some of the special moments with Stas over the years included: Dyngus Days in Buffalo; The Springs; the nomination for the Grammy; “Polish Prayer”; “Polish Traditions”; “Run Stas Run”; “Let's Have a Party”; Stas, sleeping on the couch in the chalet at 7 Springs, and us guys in the band carrying him outside without him knowing until morning; Dick Pillar's 25th New London celebration in Rhode Island; playing an anniversary in Jersey and Happy Louie being in the crowd and coming up to sing with Stas; our only Polka Cruise on the Carnival ship, Celebration with the whole band and their wives; the gig in Binghamton, and the steak house with the enormous steak that hung over the plate; the band vacation with wives to Vegas; playing for Judy Stringhill with Stas, myself, Tony Kempinski, and Eddie Siwiec; and Judy Stringhill's, All Star Band with Judy's sister Verna in Louisiana during Mardi Gras. There are so many memories but, as you can see, it always came back to me and Stas performing together. The memories will be in my heart forever.

John Furmaniak can be reached via email at: [qbss13@aol.com](mailto:qbss13@aol.com).

Guca is on sax, clarinet and of course vocals. Featured with him are a number of musicians well known to polka fans — Ed Humeniuk on fiddle, drums and vocals, Henry Szarota on accordion, Brian Tos on trumpet and vocals, and Joe Banel on drums and vocals. The surprise special guest on the album is Jerzy Krzeminski, leader of the famous Polish rock band, No To Co (So What), on guitar and vocals.

The new CD can be obtained from your favorite DJ, or by contacting Guca at [eguca@primus.ca](mailto:eguca@primus.ca).

Guca has been a pioneer in polka music, performing with polka stars such as Li'l Wally and Marion Lush across the United States, Canada, and Europe. He has led his own popular bands, the Polish Canadians, Polka Aces, and Major Music, and composed many original polka hits such as “Ej Mamusiu Moja” and “Tatusiu”. Ed received the well-deserved honor of being inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame in a ceremony in Cleveland last August.

Visit Ed's Myspace page, [www.myspace.com/edguca](http://www.myspace.com/edguca).

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## Getting Things Back to Normal



Dale Wojdyla (left) and Ray Barsukiewicz of the Concertina All-Stars.



Andy Kuczmarski of Phocus and sweetheart Theresa Ryndak.



John and Danuta Gora, a great couple from the Great White North.



Erin Binga and Eric Bakowski, who asked Erin for her hand at Christmas. She said "yes."



Frank Kolodziejski of the Piatkowski Brothers band and Buffalo DJ Mike Pasierb at Potts Hall.



The Brothers Piatkowski, Al H. (left) and Robbie E.

I hope your holidays and New Year were enjoyable. Now that all the cookies are eaten and the Christmas decorations put away, we can get back to our normal routines.

I think by now we got used to writing 2010 on our paperwork. Always takes awhile to get into the habit of putting the correct date at the beginning of a new year.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ...** Eric Bakowski and Erin Binga, who got engaged on Christmas Eve. A wedding will take place sometime in 2012. Eric currently plays concertina with The Alliance band. He is the son of Al and Barb. We wish them much happiness!

**GET WELL WISHES ...** go out to Irene Weich, secretary of the Polka Boosters Club, who recently had surgery. We wish her a very speedy recovery and hope to see her out

once she is all better ... Glad to hear Mark Trzepacz is doing better, too.

**CONDOLENCES ...** to the family of Stas Bulanda and his mother ... also, our deepest sympathy goes out to John Rogala and family on the passing of his wife, Cynthia, on Jan. 13th. John currently plays with Nickel City and formerly with the JR V group. Their son, Mark, also played drums with the band ... Deepest sympathy going out to the family of Richie Bosiacki. Richie, also known as "Richie the Roadie," was the driver and roadie for the G-Notes band for years. May he rest in peace.

**DOGGIN' IT.** Ray and Gerrie Barsukiewicz have a new family member — they recently got a new puppy — a "labradoodle" named Cosmo! So cute!

**THE FIRST POLKA DANCE** in 2010 was well attended. On Jan. 2, the Piatkowski Brothers and the Concertina All Stars played to a big crowd at Potts' Hall. Both bands did an excellent job. Dan Potts treated everyone to bowl of chili, which really hit the spot on an extremely cold night.

**STURR GETS GRAMMY NOMINATION.** "Polka Cola: Music That Refreshes" by Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra is a nominee in the Folk Category (Category 68) in the run for the 52nd Grammy Awards. Congrats to Jim and the guys!

**NEW WEBSITE.** New Brass Express has a new website at [www.newbrassexpress.com](http://www.newbrassexpress.com). The band is preparing to record after the first of the year and will be posting video of a behind the scenes look as they record their new CD.

**FULL CIRCLE IN TOWN.** The *ubergroup* Full Circle will appear Memorial Day, Mon., May 31 at the Ukrainian Hall on Como Park Blvd. in Cheektowaga. More details as they are announced.

**ADIRONDACK FESTIVAL.** Make plans to attend the 13th Annual Adirondack Polka Festival, Memorial Day weekend, May 29 & 30, 2010 in beautiful Old Forge New York. The event is sponsored by the Central

Adirondack Association and hosted by Dave Sychtysz of Syracuse, New York. Two full days of Polka Music will feature Dennis Polisky and The Maestros Men, Dave Walter, Frank Liszka and Old School, Jeff Mleczek and the DynaBrass and Polka Family Band. Polish Food and beverages are available.

For motel information and additional details contact Dave Sychtysz at (315) 699-1708.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

So, until we meet again, stay warm and cozy.

### UPCOMING

**Feb. 3.** Polka Variety Meeting. Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For info call Richard at 826-2281

**Feb. 6.** Polka and Big Band Night at Potts Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y. Music by The Knewz and Patti Parks from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Call Tom at 465-2487.

**Feb. 6.** Polka Night at the Batavia Downs Casino. Music by New Direction from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Free admission. Call Ron at 675-6588.

**Feb. 14.** Paczki Day Celebration at the Harvey Morin Post, 965 Center Rd., West Seneca, N.Y. from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Music by Phocus from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. with a folk dance show presented by the Polish Heritage Dancers at 3:00

p.m. Food, raffles and more. Call Michelle at 937-0032.

**Feb. 14.** Hard Times Polka Dance at Potts Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, N.Y. Music by the Concertina All Stars from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Feb. 18.** Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music at 8:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call Chris at 892-7977 for more information.

**Feb. 20.** Polka Night at the Polish Villa II on Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Music by Jerry Darlak & the Touch from 8:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. Call 822-4908.

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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.

**ONGOING**

**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 Ma-benka'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.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
 • Arizona. Varitones at Crescent Run Resort, Mesa, Ariz., 7:00-10:30 p.m.  
 • Florida. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 4:00 p.m., music 6:00-10:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
 • Arizona. Varitones at a Mock Wedding Dance, Sun Lakes Resort, Sun Lakes, Ariz., 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
 • Massachusetts. Eddie Forman Orchestra at a Sweetheart Dance, Sunderland Elementary School, Swampfield Dr., Sunderland, Mass., 7:00-10:00 p.m.  
 • New York. New Directions Band at Polka Night, Batavia Downs Casino, Batavia, N.Y., 7:00 p.m.  
 • Ohio. Freeze Dried at the Mardi Gras Dance of the United States Polka Association (USPA). Check locally for details.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
 • Florida. Polka Palls at the Polish American Pulaski Club, 3621 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 U.S. Highway 1, Vero Beach, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Bee Sharps at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Tropical Squeeze at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.  
 • New Jersey. Eddie Forman Orchestra

at a Super Bowl Party, Bayway Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., buffet at game time, music 4:00-8:00 p.m., \$15.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
 • Arizona. Squeezebox with Mollie Busta at the Pulaski Club of Arizona, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 6:00-10:00 p.m.  
 • Ohio. Duane Malinowski at Connie's Celebration Hall, 6195 Lewis Ave., Toledo, Ohio, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
 • Connecticut. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at a Valentine Dinner-Dance, St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., Colchester, Conn., dinner 6:30 p.m., music 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Florida All Stars with Joe Oberaitis at the WMNF Polka Party Express, St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., 1:30-4:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Eddie Forman Orchestra at Elks Lodge #2122, 3690 S. Jason St., Englewood, Fla., 5:00-9:00 p.m.  
 • Michigan. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at a Paczkowy Ball, Mount Carmel Church, Gymnasium, Wyandotte, Mich., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.  
 • Ontario. John Gora & Gorale at a Valentine Dance, St. Nicholas Hall, 1415 Barton St. E., Hamilton, Ont., Canada. Check locally for details.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
 • Connecticut. Patti & The Guys at the Polish American Citizens Club, 541 N. Main St., Bristol, Conn., 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski Band at the Polish Club, Belleview, Fla., dinner 12:00 p.m., music 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Jersey Polka Richie at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Polka Classics at the Polish American Pulaski Club, 3621 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 U.S. Highway 1, Vero Beach, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Sounds of the South at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.  
 • Florida. Florida Honky Band at the Cape Coral Elks Club, 4531 SE 10th Place, Cape Coral, Fla., 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • Massachusetts. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Lud-

low, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • Michigan. Frank Moravick at the Warren Polka Boosters, K of C Hall, 44425 Utica Rd., Utica, Mich., 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • New Jersey. Mike Niemiec's Variety Band and the Ablemen at Bayway Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 2:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.  
 • New York. Tony's Polka Band at the Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, N.Y. Check locally for details.  
 • Ohio. Polka Family at the International Music Association, Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • Ohio. Duane Malinowski at Bavarian Haus, Rte. 18 west of Deshler, Ohio, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
 • Florida. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages, Fla., 5:00-9:00, free admission.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19**  
 • Florida. Polka Palls at the Slovene National Benefit Society Lodge #603, 421 N Samsula Dr., New Smyrna Beach, Fla., dinner 4:00 p.m., music 5:00-9:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 3:00-5:00 p.m., music 5:00-9:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Stas Golonka & the Chicago Masters at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., 7:30-11:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
 • Florida. Mark Bouchard Orchestra and Joe Novak & Friends at the Slovene National Benefit Society Lodge #603, 421 N Samsula Dr., New Smyrna Beach, Fla., food 11:00 a.m., music 12:00-10:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
 • Florida. Mark Bouchard Orchestra, Bob Turcola Orchestra and Tony Klepic Band at the Slovene National Benefit Society Lodge #603, 421 N Samsula Dr., New Smyrna Beach, Fla., food 11:00 a.m., music 12:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Stas Golonka & the Chicago Masters at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 U.S. Highway 1, Vero Beach, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 U.S. Highway 1, Vero Beach, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Florida Honky Polka Band at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.  
 • Michigan. Squeeze Box at the Polka Boosters of America, Msgr. Hunt K of C, 7080 Garling, Dearborn Heights, Mich., 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Michigan. Duane Malinowski at the American Legion Hall, 11601 Lewis Ave., Ida, Mich., 3:00-7:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26**  
 • Arizona. Jerry Darlak & Buffalo Touch at the Pulaski Club of Arizona, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 6:00-10:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27**  
 • Arizona. Jerry Darlak & Buffalo Touch at the Pulaski Club of Arizona, 4331

E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 6:00-10:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Polka Family at the Polish American Pulaski Club, 3621 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Northern Sounds at Colony Clove, Ellenton, Fla., 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
 • Wisconsin. Polish Connection, Chad Przybylski & the Polka Rhythms and Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen at Dale's Weston Lanes, 5902 Schofield Ave., Weston, Wis., 3:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

• Florida. Bee Sharps at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.  
 • New Jersey. Matty Rock and Johnny Jay at Bayway Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 2:00-6:00 p.m., \$10.  
 • Ohio. Duane Malinowski at the Toledo Area Polka Society, Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • Ohio. Squeeze Box at Bavarian Haus, Rte. 18 west of Deshler, Ohio, 4:00-8:00 p.m.  
 • Rhode Island. John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Lefoyer Club, 151 Fountain St., Pawtucket, R.I. 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28**  
 • Arizona. Jerry Darlak & Buffalo Touch at the Pulaski Club of Arizona, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • Connecticut. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at the Polish American Citizens Club, 541 N. Main St., Bristol, Conn., 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Joe Novak & friends at the Polish American Pulaski Club, 3621 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona, Fla., dinner 12:00 p.m., music 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Northern Sounds at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
 • Florida. Polka Family at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 U.S. Highway 1, Vero Beach, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**Dates Set for Polka Fireworks**  
 CHICAGO — This year's edition of the annual Polka Fireworks Festival will take place Thursday, July 1 through Sunday, July 4, 2010 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, PA. For more information contact: Bel-Aire Enterprises, 7208 S. Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview, IL 60455; tel.: (708) 594-5182.

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THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Pączki Recipes to Have You Rolling (in) Dough

Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, evolved from the practice of shriving—purification through confession—just before Lent. Other names also apply. Mardi Gras is the culmination of several weeks of revelry. At Fasnacht, Pennsylvania Dutch children get up early to avoid being the last one out of bed. Adults and children eat *fasnacht kuchen*, traditionally a rectangular doughnut with a slit in the middle, raised without yeast. Pancakes are another traditional food on “Fat Tuesday,” baked to use up the cooking fats that are forbidden during Lent. To Americans of Polish descent, Pączki Day means eating *pączki*, special jelly-filled buns.

While the practice of Pączki Day is traditionally observed the day before Ash Wednesday in the United States, in Poland, pączki sales are the highest on *Thusty Czwartek*, or “Fat Thursday.” This day marks the start of the final week of the pre-Lenten celebrations.

In Old Poland, the *zapusty* or “carnival season” reached its height during this period. Elegant balls were held in well-to-do manor houses, attended by young men, women and their parents. Country-folk, on the other hand, would make merry, drink, dance and flirt at the village inn. The rich would feast on fancy hors d’oeuvres, roast game, and fine wines. Peasants enjoyed their *zimne noge* (jellied pig’s knuckles), *kiszka* (blood and groat sausage), and *kielbasa z kapusta* (sausage and cabbage), which they washed down with beer and *gorzalka*, the least expensive vodka available.

Common to both groups, however, were pączki, which were consumed in huge quantities.

In Polish American neighborhoods across America, there is more than likely a local bakery that sells pączki.

If you don’t have a good old-fashioned bakery nearby, or you want to try your hand at making these treats, here are recipes and tips on Pączki-

making from Polish Heritage Cookery by our own Polish chef, Robert Strybel:

**DOUGH.** Dissolve 2 cakes crushed yeast in 1 c. lukewarm milk, sift in 1 c. flour, add 1 T. sugar, mix, cover, and let stand in warm place to rise.

Beat 8 egg yolks with 2/3 c. powdered sugar and 2 T. vanilla sugar until fluffy. Sift 2 1/2 c. flour

into bowl, add sponge, egg mixture, and 2 T. grain alcohol or 3 T. rum, and knead well until dough is smooth and glossy. Gradually add 1 stick melted lukewarm butter and continue kneading dough until it no longer clings to hands and bowl and air blisters appear.

Cover with cloth and let rise in warm place until doubled. Punch dough down and let it rise again. Transfer dough to floured board, sprinkle top with flour, and roll out about 1/2” inch thick. With glass or biscuit-cutter, cut into rounds. Arrange on floured board and proceed in either of the following ways:

**SMALL PĄCZKI.** Place a spoonful of fruit filling (rose-hip preserves, cherry preserves, or other thick jam) off center on each round. Raise edges of dough and pinch together over filling, then roll between palms snowball fashion to form balls. Let rise in warm place until doubled.

**LARGE PĄCZKI.** Place a spoonful of fruit filling as above on only 1/2 dough rounds, cover each with another round, pinch edges together, and roll between palms to form a ball. Let rise until doubled in warm, draft-free place. Heat 1 1/2-2 lbs. lard in deep pan so pączki can float freely during frying. It is hot enough when a small piece of dough dropped into hot fat immediately floats up.

Fry pączki under cover without crowding several minutes until nicely browned on bottom, then turn over and fry uncovered on other side another 3 minutes or so. Note: If using electric fryer, set temp. at 360-375 degrees. If frying in stove-top pan and fat begins to burn, add several slices of peeled raw potato which will both lower the temperature and absorb the burnt flavor. Pączki may also be fried in oil, but lard produces the tastiest results. If you are cutting down on animal fats, you can compromise by using a lard and oil combination.

Transfer fried pączki to absorbent paper and set aside to cool. When cool, dust generously with powdered sugar, glaze or icing.

**EXQUISITE OLD WARSAW PĄCZKI.** This is an old recipe modified for those who prefer granulated, active dry yeast to the more traditional compressed fresh yeast.

Beat 12 egg yolks with 1 t. salt at high speed until thick and lemony. Dissolve 2 packets of dry yeast in 1/4 c. 110-degree water. Separately, cream 1/3 c. room-temp. butter with 1/2 c. granulated sugar until fluffy, and beat into yeast mixture. Scald 1 c. whipping cream and cool to lukewarm.

Gradually add 2 c. flour and the cream, plus 3 T. French brandy, beating constantly. Then add 2 more c. flour and finally the yolk mixture. Knead well until air blisters appear. Cover with cloth and let stand in warm place until doubled. Punch down and let rise again. Roll out on floured board, sprinkling top of dough with a little flour, about 3/4 inch thick.

Cut into 2 inch rounds and top half of them with spoonful fruit filling. Cover with remaining rounds, pinch edges together with seal. (Note: If dough is dry, moisten edges with water before pinching together.) Place pączki on floured board, cover with cloth, and let raise until doubled. Fry as above, drain on absorbent paper, and when cool, dust with vanilla sugar or cover with glaze, preferably containing some grated orange rind.

## Pączki Day Celebration, February 14

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Celebrate the last hurrah before lent begins at Western New York’s largest Polish pre-Lenten party.

This year the Polish Heritage Dancers 13th Annual “Pączki Day” celebration will be held on Valentine’s Day, Sun. Feb 14. The event starts at 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Harvey D. Morin Post, 965 Center Rd., West Seneca.

Music will be by Phocus from 2:00-6:00 p.m. The Polish Heritage Dancers take the stage at 3:00 p.m. with a folk dance show. Home-made Polish food (dinners, ale carte items and desserts) will be available for purchase. There will be a

Theme Basket Raffle. Amber, Gems & More, and Salt Lamps Etc. will be there as well for your shopping pleasure. There will be a crowning of the Pączki King, Queen, Prince and Princess.

Tickets are \$6 in advance or \$8 at the door. Children under 12 are \$2. For tickets and table reservations, call (716) 937-0032 or (716) 681-3526. Ticket will be on sale until Feb. 12. Tickets available at: Am-Pol Eagle, 3620 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y., 835-9454; Salt Lamps Etc., 5274 Broadway, Lancaster, N.Y.; and at Pott’s Deli & Grill, 694 S. Ogden, 826-6575.

## Contest to Determine Largest Pączek

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Can you make the largest pączek in Buffalo? By weight? By height? By width?

The judging will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 13 at Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle, 612 Fillmore Ave.

The Entry Fee for contest is \$2.00

Categories to be judged are: weight, height, width, traditional flavored, and unique flavored. Pączki must have a filling and must be completely edible. Contestants must have a half dozen prepared for the judges.

To register, call Amy Smardz at (716) 228-3659

## ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

**Q** I see so many fragrances, body lotions and soaps with amber or amber oil listed as one of the main ingredients. Is Baltic amber used in all these products?

**A** Baltic amber, in its raw, untouched natural form will give off an aroma similar to pinesap. The best way to obtain this smell is burning thin shavings of amber directly over glowing charcoals. Burning amber gives off a sharp pungent piney aroma — extremely strong and very harsh. Amber was burned in the Middle Ages to ward off the Black Plague and it just might possibly have helped the people feel better, if only for a short time. Inhaling smoke from a pile of burning amber would most likely make one cough almost uncontrollably and bring tears to the eyes — possibly conducive to clearing impurities out of one’s system.

In ancient times peoples burned amber for a number of different reasons. It has been said that the Chinese peoples burned copious amounts of amber as a symbol of

their unending supply of wealth. Since amber was an exotic luxury, it was an extreme status symbol to show that their money could literally go up in smoke and not worry them one little bit.

As far as beauty products, perfumes, soaps and the like that we see on today’s market, the amber used for the “top notes” is manufactured from different materials — none of them actually amber as we know it. “Amber” compounds (the good ones) are primarily made from the resins of benzoic trees (spicy, gummy Asian trees) and labdanum (rock rose) with essential oils and fragrances added to it. Almost all of these products come from places such as Sumatra and India, where hand intensive labor is required to harvest the spices, herbs and special blends of ingredients.

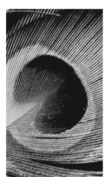
Of course, the manufacturers of such products keep their blends top secret. If you have ever used a high end product with “amber” as an ingredient, you most likely have enjoyed warm notes of a woody, earthy very rich fragrance — telling yourself this is exactly what amber must smell like.

At the opposite end, if you are using a relatively inexpensive product with an ingredient labeled as “amber” you are most likely smelling a cheap synthetic version of any number of other synthetics combinations and imitations such as vanilla, jasmine and the like. Possibly quite enjoyable but definitely not real amber by any means.

A decade ago, one could actually find products in Poland that were made with amber as an ingredient. Amber has many positive properties and Poles, from ancient to modern times, have always been both creative and clever in using those properties for well being. In today’s world, amber is very scarce and very expensive, making products with this marvelous gem almost impossible to obtain or, much more importantly, to properly authenticate.

Andzia and Holly Chmil are owners of Andzia’s Amber Jewelry, known on the web as [amberjewelry.com](http://amberjewelry.com). Andzia began working with amber in 1995 and her daughter Holly came on board in 2004 as a web developer. The company has been recommended by the prestigious International Amber Society in Poland every year since 2003. Send your questions about amber to: [andzia@amberjewelry.com](mailto:andzia@amberjewelry.com).

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## SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Opportunity Knocks

Baltimore Raven special teams standout **Tom Zbikowski** performed well when he replaced Ed Reed, the five-time Pro Bowl player and former defensive player of the year, in the Ravens' defensive lineup. Reed missed four games with a groin injury, and the former Notre Dame and Buffalo Grove (Ill.) HS star filled in ably.

Perhaps the most satisfying game for "Tommy Z" came against the Bears. He grew up a Bears fan in Arlington Heights, rooted for the Bears in the 2006 Super Bowl and would have loved to have been drafted by his hometown team. However, he's a Raven now, and he finished with seven tackles, second best on the day for Baltimore, as the Bears lost, 31-7. Reed praised Zbikowski following the win: "He's taken advantage of the opportunities that have come to him. 'Zibby's' been proven beforehand. I already told Coach that. He knows exactly what he's supposed to do, where he's supposed to be. And he's been playing all year. We always say that everybody on defense is a starter, so he's prepared that way all season. That's why we don't miss a beat."

Zbikowski was drafted by the Ravens in the third round of the 2008 NFL draft. He was also a standout amateur boxer, and won a couple of pro bouts before giving up the ring to concentrate on football.

**NFL NOTES.** The Houston Texans didn't make the playoffs, but team owner Bob McNair announced that coach **Gary Kubiak** would return for the final year of his five-year contract. The Texans finished a franchise-best 9-7 this season, and

are 31-33 in Kubiak's four seasons as coach. The team was 18-46 in its previous four seasons under Dom Capers ... Raiders kicker **Sebastian Janikowski** is the team's first member of the 1,000-point club. He set the team record for single-season accuracy and matched a career high for field goals made. Indeed, Janikowski might have gone to the Pro Bowl if he were on a better team. He made 26 of 29 field-goal tries (89.7 percent) with misses from 45, 57 and 66 yards. His 61-yard field goal was the fourth longest in NFL history. Janikowski is going to be an unrestricted free agent this offseason ... Patriots kicker **Stephen Gostkowski** led the Patriots in scoring for the second straight season, tallying 125 points while going 26-for-31 in field goal tries and a perfect 47-for-47 in extra-point tries ... **Rob Chudzinski**, assistant head coach, TEs for San Diego is considered a possible candidate for head coaching vacancies in the NFL. Many observers say that Chud's hiring last year helped head man Norv Turner manage games at much higher level than last season.

**THAT HURTS!** Oakland Raiders quarterback **Bruce Gradkowski** suffered a torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee and a partially torn MCL in his right knee in a game against Washington, ending his season. Gradkowski had provided a spark since replacing Jamarus Russell as starting QB for Oakland. He won two of his three starts, engineering comeback victories against Cincinnati and Pittsburgh before the injury. The Raiders trailed 17-10 when he got hurt, with Gradkowski completing 10 of 18 pass attempts

for 153 yards, before losing 34-13. The Pittsburgh native, drafted by Tampa Bay in the sixth round of the 2006 draft, has resurrected his pro career this season with the Raiders.

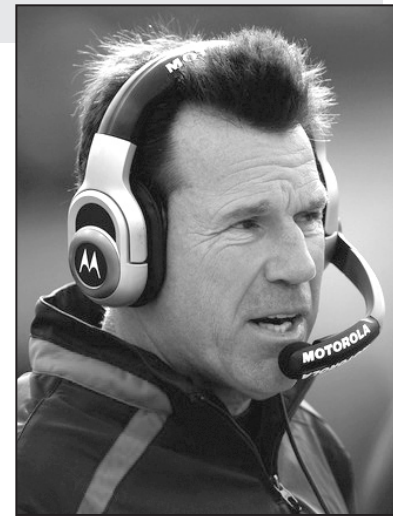
Portland Trailblazers center **Joel Przybilla** suffered a ruptured right patella tendon and patella dislocation. "The Thrilla" had stepped into the starting lineup after a recent knee injury to Greg Oden. Through 29 games, Przybilla was averaging 4.2 points, 8 rebounds, and 1.4 blocks in 23.2 minutes per game, but his season is now over.

**IN MEMORIAM.** **Tom Janik**, a defensive back and punter mostly with the AFL Buffalo Bills died at 69 in Texas. He made 25 interceptions in eight AFL seasons with Denver, Buffalo and Boston, and returned six for touchdowns. In 1968 as a Bill he intercepted a pass by Joe Namath and returned it 100 yards for a touchdown. The game turned out to be the Bills' only win, and the Jets went on to beat the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III ... **Ron Klimkowski**, a former pitcher for the Yankees and the Oakland Athletics, has died at the age of 65 ... **John Kuczynski**, one of the pioneers of free-style wrestling in Poland, died at the age of 74 in Gdansk. He was an Olympian in Rome (1960), a World Cup finalist (1958, 1959), and later coached ... **Michal Gajownik**, a Polish sprint canoer who competed from 2000 to 2006, died in a car accident in Chzanów.

**LEAVING DUKE.** We reported last month that Duke's **Olek Czyz** was seeing increased playing time early in the season. However, a decline



ZBIKOWSKI



KUBIAK

in his minutes led the Blue Devil sophomore to announce that he will transfer. Czyz leaves in good academic standing and hopes to land at another Division I school. "Olek has a bright future ahead of him and we wish him the best of luck," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said in a statement released by the school. "He has been a valued member of the Duke basketball family, and we will support him through his impending transfer." A 6-7, 240-pound native of Gdynia, Poland, Czyz saw action in 19 career games at Duke finishing with 23 points, 24 rebounds, eight assists, one block and two steals.

**GOING IN THE HALL.** Tight end **Mark Chmura**, a key contributor on the Packers' two Super Bowl teams in the 1990s and a three-time Pro Bowl selection, will be inducted into the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame. An excellent receiver as well as a devastating blocker, "Chewie" caught 188 passes for 2,253 yards and 17 touchdowns during his career in Green Bay.

Chmura is also remembered him for a high-profile sexual assault trial at the end of his career. A girl who was 17 at the time accused him of assaulting her in a bathroom during a post-prom party at a friend's home in April 2000. Chmura was acquitted in February 2001 and retired from football four months later.

**THEY SAID IT.**

"Quite honestly, yes, that off-the-field incident — which he was acquitted of — that was discussed. But that was some time ago. And these are things you can't hang around people's necks forever."

— Packers Hall of Fame president **Mike Gage**, on the induction of **Mark Chmura**.



"I'm just happy for me, because I always wanted to prove that I could be a free safety, that I wasn't just another good-tackling, white safety who understood the game, but a play-making safety."

— Baltimore Raven **Tom Zbikowski**, on his success as a starting free safety.

## BABA YAGA'S CORNER / James Smock

## Polish Heritage Is Alive and Well in Texas

Whenever someone mentions Polish American culture, places like Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit come to mind, but most people do not realize that there is a large population of Polish Americans in Texas. Large groups of Polish immigrants settled in small, rural Texas towns as early as 1854. Although many of these immigrants came to America with very little material possessions, they did bring their work ethic and toughness along with their unique culture and strong Catholic faith.

Over the years, many of the descendants of these early settlers have moved on to the larger cities in Texas or even to other states, but they still call small towns like Bremond, New Waverly, Anderson, Chappell Hill and Brenham home. Annual homecoming bazaars held at the local Catholic churches remain popular as a way for these descendants to connect with their Polish culture and heritage. A good example of this is St. Mary's Catholic Church in Brenham, Texas where they celebrated their annual Polish Festival last October with a menu of traditional Polish food including kielbasa, czarna, rosól, kiszka and pierogi.

Music was always an important part of the early Polish immigrant's life and was played at all weddings and family gatherings. The unique style of Texas-Polish music, as played by the early settlers, can still be heard today, thanks to a handful of musicians who believe that it is important to keep the traditional music of our ancestors alive.

For the last twenty years, Bri-

an Marshall and his friends have played old time Texas Polish tunes at the annual St. Stanislaus Catholic Church bazaar in Anderson. In 2009, an enthusiastic group of 15 talented musicians of Polish descent joined in, including the young sons of three of the musicians. It was heartwarming to see the Texas Polish music traditions continue through the next generation of grandsons of the early immigrants.

The second annual *Polski Koledy* was another excellent example of the many efforts to keep the old customs alive. On St. Stephens day, the day after Christmas, a dozen musicians along with approximately 60 Christmas carolers decked out in traditional costumes, descended on the little town of Chappell Hill, Texas to sing kolędy and share their culture and heritage with the local residents. The carolers sang on the steps of the historical St. Stanislaus Catholic Church and at several individual homes in the area and then held a solemn candlelight ceremony at St. Stanislaus Cemetery in honor of the early Chappell Hill Polish pioneers. More musicians joined the group for a jam session of traditional Polish music at a social held for the carolers later that evening.

Texans interested in their Polish roots have long had a fantastic resource in the Polish Genealogical Society of Texas. Over the last 25 years or so, the dedicated researchers at PGST have published volumes of information on the history and genealogy of the early Polish immigrants in Texas.

There are also quite a few recent

Polish immigrants in Texas, primarily in the larger cities. Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church is a focal point for the recent immigrants in the Houston area and has become the center of Polish religious, cultural, and social life in Houston. In 2009, the parish held a Polish Heritage Festival and a Dozynki Harvest Festival, and also hosted the annual Houston Slavic Heritage Festival. Entertainment at the Polish Heritage Festival contained a mix of traditional Polish folk dance and music, modern Polish music and the unique Texas-Polish dance band music as played by Polish fiddler Brian Marshall and his Tex-Slavic Playboys. Our Lady of Czestochowa parish is currently building the John Paul II Parish Hall that will be available in the future for Polish heritage events.

Houston also has an excellent Polish restaurant that serves many traditional dishes including bigos, pierogi, schabowy and golonka as well as the ever-favorite pączki for dessert. This is a preferred meeting place for the descendants of the early Texas Poles as well as the more recent Polish expatriates hungering for a small taste of home.

Yes, Polish culture, heritage and traditions in Texas are alive and well and Polish Americans in Texas are fortunate to have so many dedicated individuals who continue to celebrate the old Polish traditions and work hard to keep the culture alive.

You can find more information about our history, traditions and culture on the Polish Texans website at [www.polish-texans.com](http://www.polish-texans.com).



**ON ST. STEPHENS DAY**, the day after Christmas, a dozen musicians along with approximately 60 Christmas carolers decked out in traditional costumes, descended on the little town of Chappell Hill, Texas to sing kolędy and share their culture and heritage with the local residents

## HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

## Blessed Ignatius

Pope Benedict XVI beatified Ignatius Kłopotowski in 2005. A most ambitious, pious and dedicated priest, he is revered as a role model for social workers, priests, journalists, and all who are poor.

On July 20, 1866, Ignatius was born to very pious, patriotic parents in the Polish village of Korzentowka. Called to the religious life, he entered the seminary at seventeen. He administered in a variety of assignments. These included parochial vicar at St. Paul Parish, chaplain at St. Vincent's Hospital, and then as a seminary instructor. For fourteen years he taught sacred Scripture, moral theology and canon law. For two

years he also served as vicar of the Lubin Cathedral. His mission was a deep concern for the poor and the uneducated. This led to his founding an employment center, a professional school, a home for women and girls who needed to escape their poor surroundings. He also founded orphanages and homes for the elderly.

Father Ignatius founded and published "The Polish Catholic" in 1905 in Warsaw. He also founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto to assist him in his publishing ministry.

Father Ignatius died on September 7, 1931, now his feast day.

## IN MEMORIAM

## Danuta Mostwin, Doctor and Acclaimed Writer

Danuta Mostwin, an author, psychologist and sociologist who had been a member of the Polish underground during World War II and whose fiction chronicling the experiences of Polish emigres earned her two nominations for the Nobel Prize in literature, died Janury 11 in Ruxton, Md. at age 88.

Born in Lublin, Poland, and she completed high school in Warsaw in 1939. She had planned to be a playwright, but turned her attention to studying for a medical career after the outbreak of World War II.

After Germany occupied her homeland, Dr. Mostwin had to study at an underground medical school held at the University of Warsaw.

During the war years, she and her family were active in the resistance movement. In 1944, she met a young Polish freedom fighter, Stanislaw B. Mostwin, who became her husband. With the end of the war and the Russian occupation of Poland, and with her husband facing arrest by the secret police, the couple and her mother fled to England.

Dr. Mostwin completed her medical education in 1948 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In 1951, the couple and their young son immigrated to New York and then to Baltimore, where Dr. Mostwin went to work for the city Department of Public Welfare.

Many of her patients were Polish immigrants who lived near Patterson Park and Fells Point, and her experiences found their way into "Asteroids," a collection of

short stories that she later wrote.

In a 2007 interview with THE BALTIMORE REVIEW, Dr. Mostwin explained that "I didn't become a writer; I was born a writer. From the very beginning, if I didn't write, I was talking and telling stories."

Some of her novels included "Beyond the Water," "The Third Value" and "Testaments." Her last novel, "Magda," was published in 2006.

Critics and scholars consider her major work to be her seven-volume Polish saga, a historical narrative that chronicles a Polish family from 1863 to the present.

Her work was nominated in 2000 and 2006 for the Nobel Prize in literature.

Dr. Mostwin, who spoke only Polish at home with her husband, explained in a 1986 interview that "I've adopted a lot of the way of American living, but I remain European, foreign, because of my accent, because of my heritage. In a way, I want to preserve that difference."

Dr. Mostwin and her friend, Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, were co-founders in 1982 of the Maryland Action for Poland committee, which provided material relief to those in Poland who were affected by the declaration of martial law at that time.

"She was a freedom fighter, liberator, humanitarian, social worker and mentor. She was a legend and a pioneer both in Poland and the United States," Senator Mikulski said.

—SOURCE: THE BALTIMORE SUN

## TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- In 2008, Lech Walesa received a pacemaker in: a. Cleveland b. Houston c. New York City
- When award-winning polka bands travel south, it is known as "Polka Season" and occurs from: a. January to May b. October to March c. September to December
- When Copernicus died he was: a. 39 years old b. 51 years old c. 70 years old
- Mazowiec's first performance was held at the Polski Theater in: a. Warsaw b. Gdansk c. Krakow
- Karol Wojtyla's "The Jeweler's Shop" is a play about: a merchant's lifelong dream b. three couples struggling with love c. an overworked jeweler
- Włodzimierz Bonawentura Krzyżanowski was a: a. Civil War general b. World War II war hero c. Member of Eisenhower's cabinet
- Przenosiny* is a ceremonial event that is associated with a: a. funeral b. wedding c. baptism
- Pan Jan Onufry Zagloba is a: Nobel recipient b. renowned politician c. fictional character
- Professional surfer Snyder Strider Wasilewski's, middle name is: a. Raspberry b. Pipeline c. Wipe-Out
- Rye meal soup is: a. doughy b. sweet c. tart

**ANSWERS.** 1. b Houston 2. b October to March 3. c 70 years old 4. a Warsaw 5. b three couples struggling with love 6. a Civil War general 7. b wedding 8. c fictional character 9. a Raspberry 10. c tart

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## OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

**EUGENE S. "HERMAN" GEMBARA**, 83, was the owner and proprietor of the Gem-Bar Lounge along the South Branch of the Chicago River. Gembara's father opened the tavern in 1918, and Herman worked at the bar starting at a young age. He took over the Gem-Bar from his dad in the early 1950s, working around his day job as an engineer with the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. He was a longtime Democratic precinct captain in the 11th Ward, and worked as a bridge tender for the Loomis Street Bridge next to his tavern. He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Italy where he was wounded and earned a Purple Heart.

**RAY GORZYNSKI JR.**, 67, was a vice president of sales for a disinfectant company, Medtrol Inc. Born and raised in Chicago, Gorzynski graduated from Notre Dame High School and attended DePaul University. He worked in sales for over three decades, starting with Woodmen of the World Fraternal Life Insurance Society in 1971. He was also an avid traveler, visiting seven continents and 43 states, as well as following the Chicago Bears to New Orleans and Miami for Super Bowls in 1986 and 2007.

**IRENEE B. FRUPINSKI LAMECKA**, 63, died suddenly in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. An avid traveler, Lamecka journeyed to all corners of the world including, but not limited to, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, Africa, and the South Pole via a Soviet freighter. Born in Chicago, Renee attended St. Helen Elementary School and St. Stanislaus High School. During her childhood days, Renee was a member of the Chicago Pinwheels, a Polish dance troupe. In 1961, Renee traveled to Washington, D.C. to presented newly-elected President John F. Kennedy with a bouquet of flowers, and during the 1968 Democratic Convention, held in Chicago, Renee, once again, presented a bouquet of red and white flowers. This time it was to the soon-to-be President Lyndon Johnson. Lamecka was a debutante at the Legion of Young Polish Women's White and Red Ball and a Life Member of The Polish Museum of America. She received her R.N. degree from Chicago's St. Mary of Nazareth's School of Nursing, as well as her Bachelor and Masters Degrees in hospital administration from Roosevelt University. After a successful career at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, Renee was promoted to Vice-President of Nursing at this hospital's sister hospital, Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, IL. Following a number of years in that po-

sition, Lamecka accepted a position from the Veteran's Administration in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she worked until her retirement. She received numerous awards for her contributions to emergency nursing.

**SGT. JAMES R. MCILVAINE**, 26, from Olney, Maryland; was a member of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, stationed in Twentynine Palms, California, serving in Iraq's Anbar province.

**JULIAN M. NIEMCZYK**, 89, was a retired Air Force colonel who was the U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1986 to 1989. Col. Niemczyk was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve as ambassador, and he was also executive director of the heritage groups division for the Republican National Committee from 1973 to 1980. He was chief executive of People to People International, an education exchange program founded by President Eisenhower. He was also an Army Air Forces veteran of World War II and an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. During his military career, he also had assignments with the National Security Agency and the CIA.

**SISTER MARIA TERESA PAWLACZEK, LSIC**, a member of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, formerly of the Provincialate in Cherry Hill, N.J., was ready for her death on Jan. 7, 2010 of congestive heart failure and pneumonia at Virtua Hospital in Voorhees, N.J., having received the Sacrament of Anointing and the Viaticum.

Born October 8, 1929 in Prusy, province of Lwow in Poland now Ukraine; on February 10, 1940 her family was deported by Soviets in a cargo wagon on a long journey to Siberia, where with deep faith and singing hymns they survived in dreadful conditions. Detained for work, in 1942 they escaped through the Middle East where her father died in Persia now Iran. From Teheran, Poles took care of them all the way by transportation via India to Africa. The young Maria first stayed in Abercorn in Northern Rhodesia now Zambia with her mother and two sisters and then went in 1945 to complete high school in a Polish settlement in Lusaka, where she met the Little Servant Sisters nearby at their mission in Kasisi.

She entered the Congregation in

1948 in South Africa, and with the religious name Sister Teresa made her first profession in 1951. With her cheerful, devout and loyal disposition Sister served at Mary Immaculate Children's Home and Nursery School, promoting its development in Lyndhurst, Johannesburg and qualified in early child care and education.

In 1989 Sister Teresa visited the Holy Land and the Motherhouse of the Congregation in Stara Wies, district of Brzozow in Poland, and leaving the Africa of landscapes and memories, was transferred to the United States to the Provincialate of the Little Servant Sisters in Cherry Hill, N.J. where she served as an assistant supervisor and prepared supplies for the poor and the oversea missions till 1996. She promptly accepted her next assignment as supervisor of environmental services at the Manor at St. Mary's and later as devoted sacristan with great respect for the Blessed Sacrament and priests and her much-loved prayer ministry among residents at St. Mary's Home in Cherry Hill till 2006.

Following two open heart surgeries Sister Teresa returned to the Provincialate as an apostle of prayer with hours of Eucharistic adoration.

The Viewing with Vespers and a Mass was held January 11, and on Tuesday morning, January 12 with a Mass of Christian Burial in the Provincialate Chapel. Interment was at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Chew's Landing, N.J. Contributions may be made in her memory: LSIC Siberian Missions, Provincialate, 1000 Cropwell Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.

**SPEC. LUKASZ D. SACZEK**, 23, from Lake in the Hills, Illinois; was a member of the 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment, Illinois Army National Guard, stationed in Woodstock, Illinois, serving in Nangarhar province in Afghanistan.

**NICHOLAS B. STACHNIAK**, 82, graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor of science journalism degree. In 1962, Stachniak joined the New York Times in their composing room and retired after 28 years of service. He was a member of the CWA/ITU Union. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, both stateside and in Germany.

**THEODORE THOMAS "TED" STUKA** of Corona Del Mar, Calif., died December 30, 2009 at the age of 92. A very kind and caring man he was the eternal optimist. Stuka was married to wife Betty for almost 60 years. They have two children, Dorothy and Martin, and grand-



children Charlotte, Maureen, Jane, Teddy, Luc, and Liam. Stuka was an accomplished opera singer of Polish heritage singing under the name of Tadeusz Sztuka

and signed a record contract with RCA. His second career was in real estate where he founded Stuka Realty. A private service will be held at Pacific View Memorial Park in Corona Del Mar.

**WILLARD C. SZCZODROWSKI**, 81, had several businesses in Chicago, but his favorite was the hot dog wagons and hot dog stand called "Bud's Dog Heaven." Szczodrowski later retired at age 65 from 3M Company in Nekoosa. In 1946, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in World War II and the Korean Conflict, during which he received a Victory Medal and Army of Occupation Medal Japan.

**EDWARD WDOWIARZ**, 91, a longtime supporter of the Polish American Journal, worked as an icing maker at A.N. Stollwerck, Inc., in Camden, and Whitman's Chocolate in Philadelphia until his retirement. Wdowiarz was an active member of St. Joseph's Church, serving in their Holy Name Society. He was also a member and Past Com-

mander of the Laskowski-Wojtkowiak American Legion Post 74, Camden. He was involved in multiple other community and Polish organizations. He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a surgical technician, stationed in Texas.

**STAFFSGT. MARKA WOJCIECHOWSKI**, 24, from Cincinnati, was a member of the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, stationed in Camp Pendleton, California, serving in Anbar province in Iraq.

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PONDERRING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

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## Steering Committee

My valentine to you for February is to consider the fine art of match-making.

Overheard at a wedding – Mother of the bride: “It took Bob’s (the groom’s) father and me three years to get these two married.”

Overheard at a sports bar – One guy with team jersey to another guy with team jersey: “I can tell you all of the things not to do in a relationship because I have done them all.”

When I was young and single, the *babci* would nudge me towards young ladies they thought I would be a good match with romantically. Occasionally they would become excited and just yell out (when we were standing together) “she should be your girlfriend!” It was funny and embarrassing and these immigrant generation gals with their overt (or sly ways) of creating love connections were a remnant of the matchmakers from the old country. I don’t think the second and third generation moms and dads are intrusive in their sons and daughters love life as their parents were. I’m not sure we have lost something either.

There is probably a chapter on Polish matchmakers in one of Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab’s books. There is the matchmaker part in *Fiddler on the Roof* (I’m humming the song now.) The American playwright Thornton Wilder wrote a play called *The Matchmaker*. I did find a reference to matchmakers in the Lithuania chapter of the *Encyclopedia of World Cultures* (Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data, vol. 6, 1994). In the section on “Marriage and Family,” it states:

In preindustrial Lithuania, marriage was arranged by matchmakers. Especially for the land-holding classes, it was largely an economic union with the bride providing a bargained dowry. During Lithuanian independence, arranged marriages slowly disappeared and were replaced by love marriages.”

This is probably the same model for preindustrial and independent Poland. Today there are plenty of professional resources for matching young people. The trend today seems to be either online services or companies specializing in bringing busy professionals in touch through eight minutes of relating or during a quick lunch. With a little surfing, you can find services for finding a Polish girl or boy from Poland. I actually think these are not necessarily bad approaches. We have modern equipment and methods, why not use them to find the person that most fulfills what you are looking for in a mate?

While independent mindedness is a characteristic of Polish Americans, I also don’t think it is a bad idea to lend advice and reasoning and support to the son or daughter’s search for someone or for the one they are dating, however they met. Most stable and traditional families give at least a tacit consent in one way or another to their son or daughter’s future spouse. There is a bonding, in healthy families, with the boyfriend or girlfriend to the extended family, psychologically and emotionally, as much as with the marriage partner, or in today’s world, with just the partner. If there is an ethnic component to the child’s family, this is even a more important consideration.

Should we bring back the Polish matchmakers? I don’t really think we need to but maybe we can learn from them and in a sense, as I have implied, there is probably a bit of

good matchmaking going on anyway. The young kids need a steering committee for sorting out all of the complicated stuff involved with hooking up with the right person, to be happy, and to spend the rest of their lives with. Maybe *ciocia* did say it best, “you should marry her!”

**BUCKET LIST III.** More project ideas.

**A Coffee Table book** about the most famous, unique, and well-known Polish neighborhoods, past and present. Some of them such as Greenpoint in Brooklyn, Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago, and The Northeast in Minneapolis still exist and can be visited. Some are no longer an entity but are remembered and are part of history. Once the Polish version is complete, editions for other ethnic groups is a possibility.

**Polish church and organization “heritage”-themed apparel.** Retro styles are popular now as evident by the number of professional teams that wear uniforms from the past for special occasions. Would someone from Omaha wear a knit shirt or sweatshirt with old fashion styling for St. Casimir Church in Buffalo, New York? I think so, especially if it looked cool. This is a nice alternative to the Polish Eagle as an identifier. Another consideration, the trend is not in symbols but in words – Hilfiger, Pink, or Aeropostale.

**ON THE ROAD WITH ALINA CASIMIRA.** The good reviews are pouring in for the Greenpoint neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. My daughter’s business trip took her to New York and she crossed the Brooklyn Bridge to visit this “Little Poland.” She thought it was a quaint and clean place. Keep going Greenpoint!

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS** from the Pondering Pole:

1. Jimmy Clausen, Quarterback, University of Notre Dame. Polish or not?
2. Scott Boras, Professional Baseball Agent. Polish? Just another day for 54-year-old Scott Boras, baseball’s most powerful agent, who left his \$20 million, 23,000-square foot office compound here to do his courting at the general manager meetings at Naples (Fla.) Grande Resort and Club.
3. Urban Meyer, born in Toledo, Ohio, and Head Coach of the University of Florida Football Team. Polish or not?
4. Erin Andrews, sideline reporter for ESPN, looks like a Polish face to me.

If you have an answer to this month’s questions, 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.

## BRUSH UP

### Trees and Flora

drzewo	(DJEH-voh) n	tree
liść	(leeshch) m	leaf
brzoza	(BZHOh-zah) f	birch
buk	(buhk) m	beech
jodła	(YOH-dwah) f	fir
klon	(klohn) m	maple

## Music of Szymanowski in New York City

Music by Polish composer Karol Szymanowski will be featured on the acclaimed New York Festival Of Song’s *The Voluptuous Muse*, a program of late 19th Century Romantic songs on February 16 and 18 at the Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center (129 West 67th Street).

The program will highlight the lush harmonies and exotic themes of late-Romantic masters including Szymanowski. These exquisitely-crafted creations are charged with seductive beauty and expressive power, composed during a unique historic moment of restless change—the era between the turn of the 20th century and the First World War. [www.kaufman-center.org](http://www.kaufman-center.org).

**POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND WINS AWARD.** WPHL, TV 17, which broadcasts the annual *Mummers Day Parade* in Philadelphia, presented the **1st place Viewer’s Choice Award** to the **Polish American String Band**.

Captain **Mark Danielewicz** and members of the string band received the award.

The honor was a result of their performance at the New Year’s Day Mummer’s Parade. The day-long parade featured 15,000 participants in four divisions of Comics, Fancy Clubs, Fancy Brigades, and String Bands. The clubs develop a theme, create costumes, build sets and props, and choreograph musical and dance numbers.

Founded in 1933, the Polish American String Band has been entertaining audiences of all ages in the fine tradition of Philadelphia Mummery with its great music — string band music with a polka sound — beautiful costumes and award-winning presentations.

The Band plays throughout the year at various venues to raise monies for its elaborate costumes and other expenses, including performances on at the two-day Polish festival held in Atlantic City, the Doylestown, Pa. Polish festival, and at the Philadelphia Pulaski Day Parade.

Although the membership is no longer exclusively Polish, their music reflects the Polish heritage. More

than ninety members, all volunteers varying in age, background, and occupation, live and work in the Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania.

Headquartered in an ethnic neighborhood of Philadelphia, the Band upholds the Slavic heritage of its members. It has been a consistent prize-winner in the Philadelphia New Year’s Day Mummery Parade, placing in the top ten 64 times, winning 11 first prizes and 14 second prizes.

Over the years, the band as played at performances throughout the United States, in Havana, Cuba, before Pope John Paul II in 1979 and 1998, and in their ancestral homeland of Poland, playing in Warsaw, Gdynia, Gdansk, Toruń, Kraków, and Częstochowa.

The Polish American String Band ([www.polishamericanstringband.com](http://www.polishamericanstringband.com)) and all of the String Bands that were in the 2010 Mummery Parade will perform during the *Show of Shows* on Saturday, February 27, at Boardwalk Hall, in Atlantic City, N.J.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

## Pulaski Legion’s Polish Officers

Polish-born Count Casimir Pulaski was one of many foreign officers to serve under the command of General George Washington during the American Revolution. Other Polish officers also came to America and sought to join General Pulaski’s command. Pulaski’s reputation was well known to them, and being a fellow countryman, they naturally were drawn to him, for their language, customs and habits were the same. And Pulaski was rather free to recruit his own staff of officers as well as enlisted men, especially after he formed the Pulaski Legion in 1778.

The Pulaski Legion was comprised of mostly foreigners, especially Germans. Among the officers were several Frenchmen, Germans and Poles. A famous American officer in the Legion was General Lighthorse Harry Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee. Of the Poles, the following notable officers served with the great Pulaski:

**Captain Joseph Baldeski** — Served as paymaster of the Legion. Auditors of the Continental Congress questioned and investigated his accounting practices, but cleared him of any wrongdoing. Nevertheless, he resigned his commission in late 1779. He apparently lived out his last years in Germantown, Pa. and was a starchmaker.

**Lt. Colonel Charles DeBotzen (or DeBoze)** — May have been an assumed name, but he was a Pole.

Commander of the infantry of the Legion. Died in battle during a surprise British attack on Pulaski’s camp at Egg Harbor, N.J. in 1778. His location had been betrayed by a deserter to the British side.

**Jerzmanowski** — First name unknown, rank uncertain and probably served as a volunteer without rank. A dedicated soldier well liked by General Pulaski, reportedly sent to him by General Washington. Apparently helped carry Pulaski off the field after he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Savannah in 1779.

**Captain John Zielinski** — Cousin of General Pulaski who served as Captain of the Polish Lancers of the Legion, and an excellent horseman. He had served with Pulaski in the Confederacy of Bar against the Russians in Poland. He died in September 1779 after being wounded in battle, either in Charleston, S.C. or Savannah, Ga.

**Captain Charles Litomski** — Aide-de-camp to General Pulaski at the Battle of Savannah in 1779. Capt. Litomski was riding beside Pulaski during the battle when the General was fatally wounded. Attended Pulaski at the time of his death and supposedly was present at his burial in Georgia. Returned to Poland and served under Kosciuszko, and then with the forces of Napoleon all over Europe. He returned to America in 1831, then went to Brazil where he apparently died.

**Colonel Michael Kowacz (or**

**Kovats)** — May have been Hungarian. Second in command of Pulaski’s Legion to Pulaski himself. Died in battle in Spring 1779 in an attack on the British near Charleston.

**Captain Stanislaus Kolkowski (or Kotkowski, Kotkouski)** — An officer under Pulaski in the Bar Confederacy. The only Pole beside Pulaski to be recommended to General Washington by Benjamin Franklin, the American representative in Paris. Washington personally interviewed him. Beginning his service in the Pulaski Legion in late 1778, he was court-martialed in February 1779 for abusing a civilian in Minisink, N.J. He quickly resigned and returned to Europe.

**Major Caesar Elholm** — Cavalry Officer under Pulaski, he was probably a Norwegian who came to Poland and fought for the Bar Confederacy, then came to America and sought out Pulaski for a position with him, for whom he performed heroically. After the Revolutionary War he was involved with the secessionist state of Franklin and died in 1799 in Georgia.

**Maurice Beniowski** — Born in Hungary but of Polish descent, he went to Poland and fought with the Bar Confederates and may have been acquainted with Pulaski. Beniowski was captured by the Russians and sent to Siberia from where he escaped. He made his way to France and then the U.S. in 1779. He never received a commission from Congress, but reported to the Pulaski Legion around the time of Pulaski’s death. Beniowski, by one account, “was recognized as his relative, chief mourner and heir, and departed.” He later became involved in foreign intrigue in Madagascar where he was killed in 1786.

Of course, several other Polish officers served with the American forces, not the least of whom was Thaddeus Kosciuszko. In addition, scores of Poles and Polish Americans fought with the Americans as enlisted men, or common foot soldiers. The French army that was allied with the United States also had some soldiers of Polish descent among its ranks.

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

dąb	(dohmp) m	oak
sosna	(SOHS-nah) f	pine
świerk	(shfyehrk) m	spruce
wierzba	(VYEHZH-bah) f	willow
modrzew	(MOHD-zehf) m	larch
kasztan	(KAHSH-tahn) m	chestnut tree

## THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



"YOUNG POLAND MAKING ITSELF FREE." Oswiecim, Poland – May 22, 1976. Former World War II Nazi-German concentration camp Auschwitz. The sign above the entrance was recently stolen by neo-Nazis. Police have apprehended the thieves, and recovered the infamous banner.

## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

## Inside A Nazi Slave Labor Camp

**REMEMBERING SURVIVAL**  
*Inside A Nazi Slave Labor Camp*  
by Christopher R. Browning  
W.W. Norton & Co., 2010, notes,  
photos, 375 pp, \$ 27.95

Browning presents a history of the Jews of Wierzbik and the Starachowice slave-labor camps through oral interviews as well as archival materials. This central part of Poland was under the control of the General Government during World War II.

More than anything, this scholarly book is a story of Jews and how some of them managed to survive through the four years (1941-1945) this book encompasses. Concentrating on 292 testimonies taken in 1995 and 2001, Browning provides personal perspectives on horrors of the war. It brought the elimination of the Jews, the horrors of slavery

and starvation down to a personal level. Villagers of Wierzbik were forced into slave labor at the Starachowice factories and munitions plant, which supported the German war effort. Poles living in the surrounding area are mentioned occasionally when they helped or informed on various Jews. One might say it is erroneous not to include the Polish detainees and their stories, but this book concentrates on bringing oral testimonies of the Jews into perspective with the entire history of World War II.

Bitterness exists when in 1972, Walter Becker, German Chief of Police in Starachowice, was acquitted by the Hamburg State Court of crimes against Jews. This brutal commander presided over the slaughter and liquidation of the Jewish ghetto in Wierzbik, in which some 4000 Jews were sent to die in Treblinka. No survivor can forgive him for his atrocities and callousness.

**THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT BREAD**

*1989 and the Civil War that Brought Down Communism*  
by Constantine Pleshakov  
Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009,  
index, bibliography, notes, \$26.00.

This excellent book brings into perspective the struggle of all Eastern European nations, leading to the

uprising that took place in 1989. Many will consider this revolt in Poland the beginning of the end, but there had been much dissent on the continent before the collapse of Communism.

His book begins with the war in Europe, the rise in Communism, and the influence of Pope John Paul II in the '70s. Food price hikes, shortages and discontent existed in all of Eastern Europe: Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia as well as Poland and Eastern Germany. Few revolts were without bloodshed. The political arena was a firepot of discontent, with leaders being toppled at a rapid rate. The working class in Poland which led the strikes at the Lenin shipyards can be said to be the beginning of the toppling of Communist rule, the fall of the Berlin Wall, reunification of Germany and shattering the entire political system.

This book provides details on the entire process of the unraveling of the Eastern Bloc after the war. A most informative read that calls for repeat reading to absorb the cohesiveness all relevant facts.

Pleshakov, a historian who now teaches at Mt. Holyoke College in Amherst, Mass., grew up in the Poland in the 1960s, and provides shrewd insight to the simmering distrust of leaders and the spirituality of Pope John Paul II.

## POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

## 70 Years Ago This Month

Jozef Opaki was a high school teacher in the eastern Polish city of Czortkow when the Soviet army invaded in mid-September, 1939. Shortly after Poland's capitulation, Czortkow was annexed into the Ukrainian SSR and severe repressions against the Polish population were initiated by the Soviet NKVD. In defiance of the Soviet oppressors, Opaki joined a secret band of resistors including local townspeople, merchants and dozens of his own high school students. Beginning as early as October of 1939 they began clandestine meetings and by the end of the year they were ready to act.

During December of 1939 a large number of Soviet soldiers were dispatched from the garrison in Czortkow to fight the war in Finland. Opaki and his band of resistors seized the opportunity to launch a strike for freedom. On the night of January 21—chosen because it was the anniversary of the 1863 January Uprising—Opaki and more than two hundred resistors gathered in the Roman Catholic Dominican Church and launched the first Polish uprising of World War II.

Armed with only a few handguns, knives and swords, the Polish resistors simultaneously attacked the Soviet barracks, the town center, the railway station, and attempted to gain control of the local prison where hundreds of Polish army officers were incarcerated. Though

caught by surprise, the remaining Soviet soldiers fled the barracks, regrouped and eventually put down the uprising. The next morning the NKVD began mass arrests, brutal interrogations and beatings. Twenty-four resistors were executed and fifty-five were sent to labor camps in Siberia including Jozef Opaki and most of his teenage students. Three months later, the Polish army officers incarcerated in the Czortkow prison were among those executed by the NKVD in the Katyn Forest.

**While short-lived and unsuccessful, the Czortkow Uprising was a harbinger of things to come.**

While short-lived and unsuccessful, the Czortkow Uprising was a harbinger of things to come. In Paris, General Wladyslaw Sikorski became Prime Minister of the Polish Government-in-Exile and immediately appointed Colonel Stefan Rowecki to organize and assume command of underground resistance forces in Warsaw. Through a clandestine wireless network, Polish leaders in Paris were able to communicate orders to various parts of Poland but were unable to reach Warsaw. So, couriers with forged diplomatic passports were forced to travel from Bucharest and Budapest, crossing through danger-

ous German and Russia held territory to complete the communication with the underground resistance in Warsaw.

The Nazi occupation of Poland was one of the most brutal in history as the SS and Gestapo sought to carry out Hitler's oft-stated goal of systematically destroying the very fabric of Polish life and culture. In the book, *Resistance*, author D.A. Landis quotes the noted Polish resistor, Jozef Garlinski, who reported that the underground resistance "had to not only concern itself with sabotage, diversion, and propaganda, but also had to provide courts of law, education, publication of books, preservation of cultural relics, theatre, and the press because all were banned."

Beginning with the ill-fated uprising in Czortkow and continuing with the formation of the Armia Krajowa (the Home Army), the Polish resistance movement would include hundreds of thousands of partisans fighting for freedom until the last day of the war.

❖ ❖ ❖  
Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish American author of the award-winning book, *Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two*. Mr. Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and is currently finishing his second historical novel set in Poland in World War II.

**Bitter Legacy to be Released in Paperback**

LEXINGTON, Ken. — The University Press of Kentucky recently announced that *Bitter Legacy: Polish American Relations* in the wake of World War II, originally published in 1982, is now available in paperback.

The press announced that Dr. Richard C. Lukas' book had sold out shortly after its original publication and that recently there has been demand for the volume.

*Bitter Legacy* is the first major analysis of Polish American relations from the Potsdam Conference through the Polish elections of 1947. Drawing on an array of sources, a number of which had never been used before, Lukas shows why and how American policy was never able to reverse the process, begun at the Yalta Conference, that transformed Poland into a communist state.

Professor Victor Mamatey described Lukas' book "as a significant contribution to the study of the origins of the Cold War." Professor Piotr Wandycz commented that

"Lukas's balanced and lucid book ... (is a) welcome contribution to the subject."

Professor Lukas' most recent book, *Forgotten Survivors*, will also be available soon in 2009 by the University Press of Kansas, which plans an additional publication run.

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## WORLD WAR II / by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

## Zamość under German Occupation 1939-1945

## Part II

**EARLY HISTORY OF THE REGION.** Zamojszczyzna is the name given to the region that surrounds the city of Zamość in southeast Poland. It consists of the counties (powiaty) of zamość, tomaszów, biłgoraj and hrubieszów.

The city and region is named after Jan Zamojski, commander-in-chief and chancellor to King Stefan Batory. One of the most skilled diplomats, politicians and statesman of his time, Jan Zamojski was granted a land charter — a massive amount of property from the king that was backed by the Polish parliament. The property could not be sold, mortgaged or divided and was entailed, that is, it could only be inherited in full by a legitimate male heir. As was the custom of the times, in exchange for the estate, the owner was required to prepare and maintain an army that would come to the aid of the king at a moments notice. He was also obliged to settle and develop the land. The new landowner had to make a vow within a church to uphold the requirements as outlined in the charter. Any questions or matters regarding the inheritance of the estate had to be settled by the parliament.

The town of Zamość was founded by Jan Zamojski in

1580 on the trade route linking Lwów and Volhynia with Lublin and Warsaw. It became the seat of local government and soon became a multiethnic and multicultural town. In 1585, Zamojski invited Armenians to Zamość as craftsmen.

In 1588 he invited Sephardic Jews from Lwów as merchants and traders. The Jews were granted the same rights and privileges as other residents including being able to own property and having complete religious freedom. In 1589 Zamojski brought in Greeks from Kaffa. In 1595, he founded a school of higher education called Akademia Zamojska with instruction in Greek and Latin on philosophy, medicine and law. It was the fourth one of its kind in Poland.

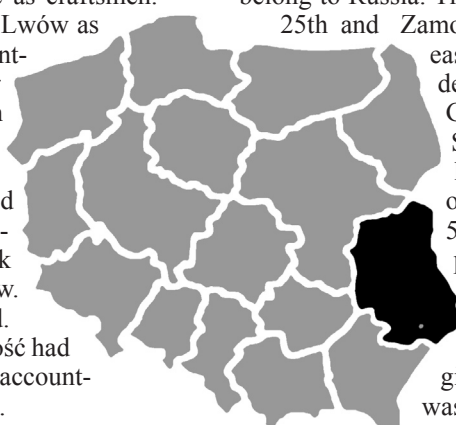
By the outbreak of World War II, Zamość had a population of about 25,000 with Jews accounting for 43 per cent of the total population.

On September 16, 1939, sixteen days after Hitler invaded Poland, the first Germans entered Zamość. As part of the German-Soviet Union Non-Aggression Pact, Russia attacked

Poland from the east on September 17, 1939. According to the initial communications regarding what would be the borders between Russia and Germany, the Zamość region was to belong to Russia. The Germans left the region on September

25th and Zamość was occupied by the Soviets from the east on September 27th. The concrete borders between Russian occupied Poland and German occupied Poland was finalized on September 28th and the Russians had to leave the Zamość region. The evacuation of the Soviets began on October 4th and 5th and was finalized on October 8th. Approximately a third of the Jews of Zamość left with the soldiers to live in the Russian zone of occupation.

The occupation of the Zamość region by the Soviets lasted only 14 days but was filled with rape, murder and looting. The evacuation of the Soviets was finalized on October 8th. The almost 500 year-old Polish city and surrounding region was now in the hands of the Nazis.

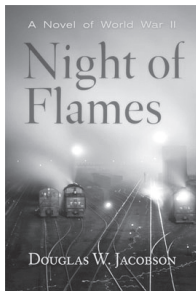


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NIGHT OF FLAMES: A Novel of World War Two by Douglas W. Jacobson \$16.95 384 pp. pb., McBooks Press

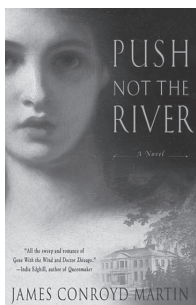
"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."

In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off

a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna and Jan Kopernik the loss is unimaginable. She is an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; he, an officer in the Polish cavalry. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.

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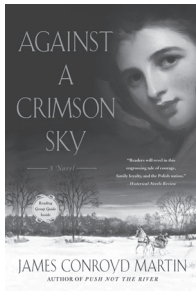
Through the long night of Nazi occupation, Anna, Jan, and ordinary people across Europe fight a covert war of sabotage and resistance against the overwhelming might of the German war machine. The struggle seems hopeless, but they are determined to take back what is theirs.



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

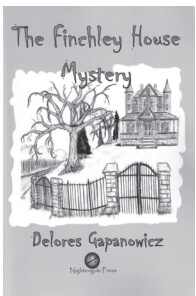
AUTOGRAPHED! This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish

countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel paints the emotional and memorable portrait of the metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna, a proud and resilient young woman, and Jan, her soldier-husband. Critics have called the story Poland's Gone with the Wind. "The story is well paced and compelling, the historical detail plentiful yet not overwhelming, and the characters engaging and true to the period." ~The Historical Novels Review. The author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY by James C. Martin \$14.95 St. Martin's 369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

AUTOGRAPHED! "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers. Having narrowly escaped death amidst the chaos caused by the violent dissolution of their homeland, Anna and Jan struggle to raise a family in uncertain times. When Napoleon Bonaparte comes calling, hinting at independence one day for the country, Polish legions form up—Anna's friends and family members among them—and accompany Napoleon as he battles his way across Europe in an effort that culminates in the doomed 1812 winter march to Moscow. "A sprawling epic... entertaining." ~ Publishers Weekly.

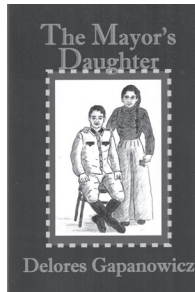


THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY by Delores Gapanowicz \$13.95 Nightingale Press, 2005 For Ages 9-12 132 pp. pb.

Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.

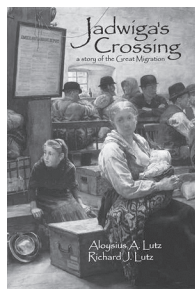
Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true? No one dared to investigate until Paul and Tom decided to find out once and for all. The boys and their sisters dared to go up the hill toward the old, old house and their adventure began — scary from the start.

THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER



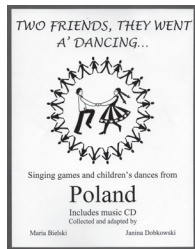
by Delores Gapanowicz \$12.95 Edition illustrated Nightingale Press, 2007 176 pp., pb.

Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. Gapanowicz wrote "The Mayor's Daughter" about her parents because she wanted the grandchildren in her family to have some idea of the life in Eastern Europe before her family emigrated. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms in Europe didn't spend their time only milking cows and picking potatoes. They played tricks on friends, went to wedding celebrations and dances, and flirted with other people their age. They also experienced tragedy and loss. Their lives were a mixture of the sweet and bitter, not unlike the lives of people everywhere.



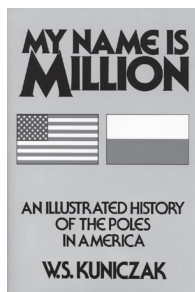
JADWIGA'S CROSSING: a story of the Great Migration \$19.95 Al and Dick Lutz' acclaimed work 348 pp., pb.

A perfect gift of heritage... The experience of late 19th Century immigration, as seen through the eyes of Paul and Jadwiga Adamik and what they went through to make America their new home. Appropriate for all ages 12 and up.



TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski \$20.00 Singing games and Children's Dances from Poland INCLUDES MUSIC CD, LYRICS, AND SHEET MUSIC

Spiral bound, softcover The book contains lyrics (in both English and Polish) of ten popular singing games, and a vocal music score with chords. Clear step-by-step movement and dance instructions are outlined precisely with the text. In addition, a CD of the recorded songs with accompaniment is included, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, and children can immediately enjoy the songs and games. Each page has an original "wycinanki" (Polish cut-out style) illustration, designed by the artist, Joanna Bielska, which can be reproduced for coloring or craft projects. Both authors are teachers by profession and have an extensive background in Polish folk art, music and dance. They have danced with the Polish American Folk Dance Company and organized countless folk dance workshops all over the New York Metropolitan area.



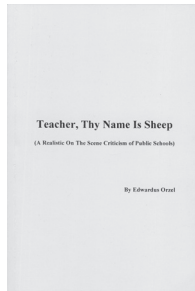
MY NAME IS MILLION: An Illustrated History of Poles in America \$14.95 hc. Original Price: \$24.95

From the 17th century to the present, people of Polish descent have made important contributions in every area of American life. Most of their names will not be found in American history books. But many of their names and stories are included in this richly illustrated history. My Name is Million is also the story of those millions of Polish Americans whose role in American life have, until now, gone unrecognized.



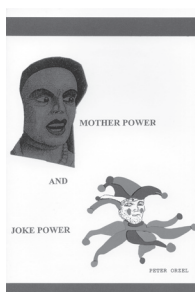
A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND by John Radzilowski \$14.95 312 pp. ill., maps. pb.

A comprehensive historical survey guides travellers through a general history of the people and places of Poland from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer, historical maps.



TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Edwardus Orzel) \$9.95 Kalski Books, 2004 132 pp., pb.

Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, first wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004. Among his views are "Give me a Principal with Principles." "It takes good parents, and good teachers, not a village, to raise good students," "The care of the student scholastically requires caring for the student." "TV is today's mother, father, and teacher" among others.



MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Peter Orzel) \$9.95 Kalski Books, 1998 142 pp., pb.

Mother Power is a compendium of psycho-biological sketches on personalities in various fields: politics, military, medicine, theater, and religion, written in a pertinent, pithy manner pointing out how mother influence determined the success of the famous and infamous.

Joke Power stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision.

The author is a retired high school and junior high school teacher, who has penned numerous polemic observations in community and regional newspapers.



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## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES — The Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles sponsors a statewide program to encourage students in grades 4-12 to learn more about the state's history. Students can participate in any of the following categories: historical paper; exhibit performance; documentary; historical web site; or 4th-5th grade poster.

The entry fee is \$40 per student; money orders only. Teachers, parents, and sponsors should make checks payable to the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

The deadline for teacher forms and material is February 11, 2010.

**Grace Malolepszy and Irena Szewiola**, California Project Coordinators, urge Polish American students to take advantage of this program. They also encourage Polish American businesses, organizations to name and design their own certificates for presentation to students, teachers and schools or donate to a monetary fund to be used to design a Project California Polonia History Day in Los Angeles, or History Day California certificates. Monetary funds are welcome additions.

The Constitutional Rights Foun-

ation ([www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)) is a non-profit, non-partisan nationally recognized educational organization dedicated to helping our nation's young people become well-informed engaged and active citizens and to understand their rights and responsibilities as members of our democracy

For additional information, send fax to (818) 892-5531 or write to Irena Szewiola, P.O. Box 14446, Van Nuys, CA 91409-4446

## ILLINOIS

ST. CHARLES — The **DuPage County Genealogical Society** will be hosting its 35th Annual Conference on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 4070 East Main Street, St. Charles, Illinois.

Registration and browsing begin at 8:00 a.m., with a full program from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, email Dorothy Hansen at [DCGSRegistrar@aol.com](mailto:DCGSRegistrar@aol.com) or visit their web site at [www.dcgs.org](http://www.dcgs.org).

## MICHIGAN

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — **Piast Institute**, a National Institute for Polish and Polish-American Affairs, is pleased to announce its presence on the popular social networking

sites Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. In accordance with its mission of "Building a New Polonia for the 21st Century" Piast constantly seeks new ways to connect and involve Polonia of all ages in hopes of bringing Polonia from different backgrounds together. A non-stop presence in the virtual world of Facebook and Twitter will help the Institute gain exposure and promote Polish and Polish American culture and issues among younger members of the Polish American community.

To follow Piast on Facebook, simply log on to [facebook.com](http://facebook.com) and search for the Piast Institute and for the Friends of Piast. To keep up with our tweets, connect with us at [twitter.com/piastinstitute](http://twitter.com/piastinstitute). To get the visual behind the work of the Institute, look for Piast Institute on Flickr.

If you would like to be added to the Piast Institute email list, simply email [info@piastinstitute.org](mailto:info@piastinstitute.org) and request to be added to the list.

## NEW YORK

NEW YORK — **Mika Brzezinski**, co-host of "Morning Joe" with Joe Scarborough on MSNBC, debuted her memoir, "All Things at Once," in January 2010, explaining the unusual circumstances of her childhood as well as the struggle to build a career in television media while raising a family. The book is published by Weinstein Books, who describes it as "a candid and inspiring motivational book that will help women of all ages confront the unique professional and personal challenges they face in the key moments of their lives."

Brzezinski's father is Zbigniew Brzezinski, the foreign policy expert and former National Security Advisor to former President Jimmy Carter in the late 1970s.

## OHIO

YOUNGSTOWN — **Ostatki: A Polish Carnival Celebration** will be held Sat., Feb. 6 at 7:00 p.m. at The Youngstown Club, 201 East Commerce St. Enjoy the popular imported vodka and unusual beer tasting, heavy appetizers, games, door prizes, live music, dancing, and, of course, paczki! Tickets are \$30 advance/\$40 at the door. Call (330) 719-0415 for reservations or visit [www.polishyoungstown.com](http://www.polishyoungstown.com).

YOUNGSTOWN — The **Krakowiaki Polish Folk Circle** meets every Thursday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Joseph the Provider Church, 633 Porter Ave. in Campbell Polish language, culture, crafts, dance and song classes for children ages 3-18. Opportunities for adults with the Village Folk Singers and Band. New members welcome. For more information go to [www.Polishyoungstown.com](http://www.Polishyoungstown.com) or call (330) 646-4082.

YOUNGSTOWN — The Polish Arts Club of Youngstown **Annual Concert and Scholarship Tea** will be held Sun., Feb. 21, 2010 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Admission is free. Butler Institute of American Art, Butler North. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birthday, attendees will enjoy a piano concert by Edward Bak. For more information, call Aundrea Cika at (330) 646-4082.

## PENNSYLVANIA

OIL CITY — **Lenten Services** in Polish will be held at the Assumption Church, 7 Pulaski Street. The Gorzkie Zale will be on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. and the Droga Krzyzowa will be on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. For information call (814) 677-4090 or e-mail: [php@polishheritageproject.com](mailto:php@polishheritageproject.com).

## Culture's New Face at Embassy

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Malgorzata Szrum arrived here from Poland in August, 2009 in the immediate wake of her predecessor, Mariusz Brymora, who was elevated in the Foreign Ministry and reposted to Warsaw. She quickly immersed herself in the extensive responsibilities and duties involved with being the Head of the Culture, Press and Public Relations Office at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

Counselor Szrum has already manifested her own unique professional style, exhibited by the number of varied cultural presentations to date — which no doubt is due to her extensive professional experience.

Born in Lodz, Poland, Szrum graduated from Lodz University's Philology Department, with a MA in Culture that specialized in Theatre Study/Criticism. Then it was off to City University in London, England, after being granted its Joseph Conrad Scholarship. She attained a multifaceted Postgraduate Diploma in Arts Administration there, which included a very rare special assignment to the Royal National Theatre.

Leaving her student days behind, Szrum pursued her vocation and until 2001 served as the Head of the Theatre Division of Arts Department at the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The years 2001 to 2005 saw her as the Deputy Director (and eventually Acting Director) of the Polish Cultural Institute in London. The much accomplished lady, at Warsaw's beckoning, then performed as Head of the Literary Department at the National Theatre from 2006 to 2009.

Szrum's many talents extend to having published numerous essays, interviews and articles about Polish and British contemporary theatre, new playwriting and arts administration.

The next few years promise fulfilling, interesting, and entertaining cultural times at the Polish Embassy, and other related venues, under the very professional tutelage of Malgorzata Szrum. Witamy w Ameryce i Waszyngtonie!

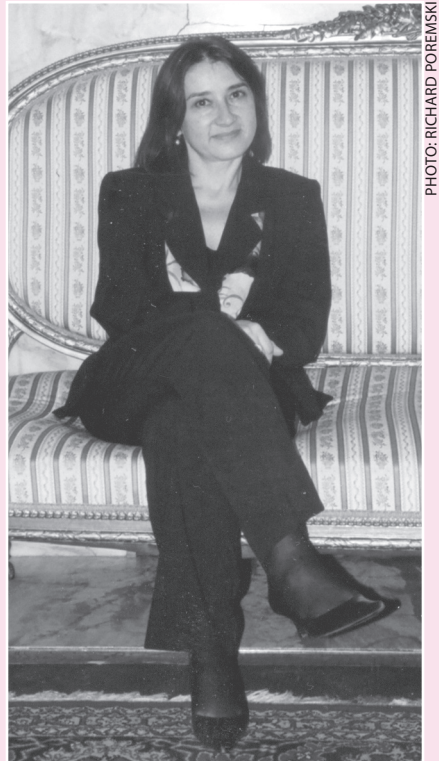


PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

**NEWLY-ARRIVED COUNSELOR SETTLES IN.** Pictured above, on November 3, 2009 during the Embassy reception for Poland's Independence Day, is Counselor Malgorzata Szrum - Head of the Culture, Press and Public Relations Office at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Easter Sunday is April 4, 2010

Ad Deadline is March 19, 2010

## Wesołego Alleluja!

**Reserve Your Space in Our Easter 2010 Edition**

### Send Easter Greetings to Family and Friends Across the Miles!

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 2010 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. Can we count on you? If you have any questions, please call 1 (800) 422-1275, M-F, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. **Don't be left out!**

**ATTENTION: EASTER IS EARLY THIS YEAR** — Because the holiday falls the first Sunday in April this year, we **STRONGLY** suggest groups and individuals sponsoring Easter Sunday and Dyngus Day (Easter Monday) events to advertise these in the **March edition** of the paper. Deadline for that edition is February 19. All other greeting and well-wishing adds will appear in the April Easter edition.

**YES! I wish to support the PAJ by placing an ad in the EASTER 2010 EDITION. Please find a contribution in the amount of:**

\$250  \$100  \$75  \$50  \$25  \$20  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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YOUR MESSAGE (Use additional sheet if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT ADDRESS IN AD?  YES  NO

PRINT TELEPHONE NUMBER IN AD  YES  NO

RETURN BY **MARCH 19, 2010** to:

**POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 328, BOSTON, NY 14025**

We thank you in advance for your support of our efforts to promote our traditions.

JOHNSTOWN — A new projection system at the Johnstown Flood Museum is bringing the Academy Award-winning documentary on the 1898 tragedy into the digital age.

**Bob Rutkowski**, owner of the production company The Magic Lantern, and Don Bell of Bell Engineering & Design, installed a new digital projection system capable of displaying the recently re-mastered film in perfect quality.

The film, which won the 1989 Academy Award for Best Documentary — Short Subject for acclaimed director Charles Guggenheim, was remastered into digital format in New York City. It provides a clearer image that reveals more detail than the 35 mm print.

## UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY — The **Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan** is hosting the United Polish Genealogical Societies conference in Salt Lake City from April 28 - May 1, 2010. A Polish buffet will be held on April 28, 2010 and will feature speaker Loretta "Lou" Szucs. Other speakers on Polish topics will be Daniel Schlyter, Sonja Hoeke-Nishimoto, Stephen J. Danko, Tomasz Nitsch, Paul Lipinski and Ceil Wendt Jensen. More information is available at their website [www.pgsam.org](http://www.pgsam.org).

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Spring Semester of **Polish classes at the National Polish Center** will start on Monday, February 8 and end on Thursday, May 20. As always, there will be fifteen (15) classes during the Spring Session.

Besides language instruction, all classes 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. Supplement materials will be distributed in class. The following classes will be offered in Spring 2010:

**Beginners Polish I** — designed for absolute beginners with no previous knowledge of Polish; provides basic understanding, speaking and reading skills that will help the students communicate in fundamental everyday situations. Wednesdays, 6.30 p.m.-8.10 p.m.

**Beginners Polish I Second Semester** — for students who completed one semester of Polish or equivalent. The class will focus on building vocabulary and every day communication skills as well as on developing reading skills. Mondays, 6.30 p.m.-8.10 p.m.

**Beginners Polish II continuation** — (prerequisite Beginners Polish I or equivalent) — designed for students who completed two semesters of Polish. The class will focus on building vocabulary in order to develop better comprehension and conversation skills. Class meets on Thursdays, 6.30 p.m.-8.10 p.m.

**Intermediate II/III** — designed for students who already have basic knowledge of Polish, understand fundamental grammatical concepts and wish to concentrate on more complex conversational skills. Tuesdays, 6.30 p.m.-8.10 p.m.

For more write to [basiabernhardt@yahoo.com](mailto:basiabernhardt@yahoo.com) or visit [www.learnpolishdc.com](http://www.learnpolishdc.com). The National Polish Center is located at 2025 O Street, NW, between 20 and 21 Street, very close to Dupont Circle Metro Station.