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WIELKI POST – STILL WORTH OBSERVING? • STONE PAINTS CATHOLIC POLES AS ANTI-SEMITES • A NEW POLISH BLESSED WINNERS OF OUR MATT URBAN SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST • SO YOU THINK YOUR KIEŁBASA IS THE BEST? RARE BOOKS NEED YOUR HELP • LINCOLN IGNORED POLES, FETED THE CZAR • PAĆZKI AND FAWORKI TIME



JANE KRAKOWSKI

POLISH AMERICANS MAKE THEIR MARK IN THE ARTS
PAGE 15

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

NEWSMARK

“MOST WANTED” INSURGENT CAPTURED. A senior leader of the Afghan Taliban has been captured in a joint operation between Polish soldiers and Afghan police officers near Spinde village in the eastern Ghazni province.

Mullah Abdul Kabir is thought to be one of the most active insurgent commanders in the region and responsible, claim Polish armed forces, for a roadside attack on NATO convoy in December 2011 in Ghazni, leaving six Polish soldiers dead, and another attack in August of that year, killing one Polish soldier.

“He is charged with the mass murder of innocent Afghani civilians as well as the kidnapping and atrocious murders of local administration officials and members of the local police,” Capitan Janusz Blaszczak from the Polish contingent in Afghanistan press office told Polish Radio.

The 54-year-old Mullah Abdul Kabir was arrested in early January during an attempted robbery, says Capitan Blaszczak.

Abdul Kabir has been in the Top 10 of the Joint Prioritized Effects List of most wanted insurgents in Afghanistan for the last five years.

RUSSIAN SERVICEMEN FACE TRAIL IN SMOLENSK CRASH. Four Russian servicemen will face trial for pilaging the wreckage of Polish President Lech Kaczynski’s plane which crashed near the city of Smolensk in 2010.

In charge of cordoning off the crash site, they each face up to six years in prison.

The case has been submitted to the Smolensk Harrison Military Court.

The plane carrying Lech Kaczynski, his wife and a host of Polish high-level officials crashed in thick fog near Smolensk on April 10, 2010, killing 96 people.

SOLDIERS WOUNDED. Three Polish soldiers were wounded in Afghanistan as they were on a routine patrol in the province of Ghazni, eastern Afghanistan. A fight ensued after the patrol was fired upon by the enemy.

The injured Poles were evacuated by helicopter to the U.S. military base hospital at Bagram, Parwan Province.

Polish troops have been serving in Afghanistan since 2002 and are scheduled to cease all combat operations by the end of this year. To date, thirty seven Poles have died on duty in Afghanistan.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS TO MEET. Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov, the Dalai Lama, and former South African President Frederik de Klerk have confirmed their participation in a meeting of Nobel Peace Prize winners to be held in Warsaw in October.

The meeting is to be hosted by the Lech Wałęsa Institute and will mark the 30th anniversary of awarding the then chairman of the Solidarity Trade Union with the Nobel Peace Prize and will coincide with Wałęsa’s 70th birthday.

Invitations have also been extended to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the leader of the Burmese opposition Aung San Suu Kyi.

Nobel Peace Prize winners have held regular meetings for over ten years now. Recent meetings were held in Chicago, Berlin, and Rome.

A STATUE FOR “WOJTEK.” A bear who saw action in World War II could be immortalized by a statue in Edinburgh’s Princes Street Gardens.

Wojtek — dubbed the “Soldier Bear” — was adopted by Polish troops and helped them carry ammunition at the Battle of Monte Cassino.

After the war, he lived in Scotland at Hutton in Berwickshire, before ending his days in Edinburgh Zoo.

The Wojtek Memorial Trust Fund has now raised over \$300,000 to create two statues; one for Edinburgh and another that will go to Poland. This year marks the 50 year anniversary of Wojtek’s death.

A Resplendent Quasquicentennial

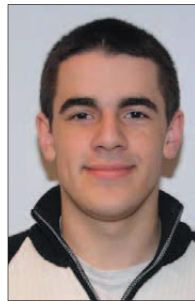


HOLY ROSARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH in Baltimore, Maryland, adorned in much finery, is depicted above during its Jubilee Mass, December 9, 2012. It was attended by 500 persons, including parishioner U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski and other dignitaries. Bishop Denis J. Madden was the Main Celebrant, assisted by parishioner Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski and 10 other priests. *Story on page 3.*

Country Mourns Firefighter, 19, Victim of Murder

WEBSTER, N.Y. — One of Polonia’s youngest and brightest lost his life in the line of duty.

Tomasz Marian Kaczowka, 19, was killed on Christmas Eve, together with his friend and mentor police lieutenant Michael Chiapperini, 43, when ex-con William Spengler fired at them and two other firefighters as they arrived to battle a blaze in the suburb of Rochester. Spengler had lured them to his neighborhood by setting a house and car on fire and then lying in wait to kill the first



responders.

Kaczowka was born in Rochester on May 16, 1993 to Janina and Marian Kaczowka. After graduating from Webster high School in 2011, he dedicated himself to civil service, working the overnight shift as an emergency dispatch operator for the City of Rochester and waking up at all hours of the night to respond to various emergencies. He became involved in firefighting as an Explorer, becoming a full member a year ago.

Kaczowka and his family were active members of Rochester’s St. Stanislaus Church. The stunning Christmas decorations he and his father helped to set up just a few days

See “Kaczowka,” page 4

The Copernican Legacy

The following was delivered by Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada — Professor Emeritus of European History, New Jersey City University, and past Executive Director and President of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America — at the 40th Anniversary Gala Celebration of the Kopernik Memorial Association of Central New York, Utica, N.Y., on Nov. 3, 2012. We feel they are worth repeating on the 540th anniversary of Kopernik’s birth, February 19, 1473, in Toruń, Poland.

by Thaddeus Gromada

There are good reasons for you and other Polish Americans to be proud of Kopernik and share in some way in his greatness. He was born in Toruń, Poland in 1473 whose family originally came from Śląsk. No doubt he was a



MIKOŁAJ KOPERNIK (Nicolaus Copernicus, 1473–1543) was a mathematician and astronomer who proposed that the sun was stationary in the center of the universe and the earth revolved around it. At the time, Kopernik’s heliocentric idea was very controversial; nevertheless, it was the start of a change in the way the world was viewed, and Kopernik came to be seen as the initiator of the Scientific Revolution. He was a titan, one of the greatest geniuses who has ever lived on this planet. He belongs to the real greats, in the class of Aristotle, Newton, Darwin, Einstein, who have made revolutionary breakthroughs and freed men from ignorance. His book, “De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium” written probably between 1515 and 1532 but not published until 1543 when Kopernik was 70 years old and near death, was

PolAm Baseball Great Stan Musial Dead at 92



MUSIAL. A quintessential Cardinal and proud Polish American.

by Robert Strybel

ST. LOUIS — Stanley Musial, one of baseball’s all-time greats, died at his St. Louis County home, January 19, surrounded by family and friends. His health had declined in recent years as a result of various afflictions including Alzheimer’s disease, and he was under hospice care when he quietly passed away at the age of 92.

Stan “the Man” Musial was the greatest player in the history of the St. Louis Cardinals and the quintessential Cardinal down to the very end. Musial played his entire 22-season career with the Cardinals, from 1941 to 1963. A .331 lifetime batter, Musial hit .300 or better 16 straight seasons,

See “Musial,” page 4

based on long observations of the skies and mathematical calculations. With incredible boldness Kopernik repudiated the geo-centric Ptolomaic system accepted for over a thousand years and asserted that the sun was the center of our solar system and the earth just one of the heavenly bodies revolving around it. This conception paved the way for Galileo, Kepler, and Newton and marked the birth of modern science making today’s space age possible. Just think of it! Truly, a universal man of the Renaissance, Kopernik was not only one of the greatest astronomers of all time, but he was a physician by training and predilection, an economist who formulated the law of bad money, later known as Gresham’s law, 32 years before it was devised

See “Copernicus,” page 4

ALMANAC



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February  Luty

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood."
— Marie Curie (1867-1934)

1 1411. Signing of the **First Peace of Thorn (Toruń)** concludes the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War

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.



4 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.*

8 1807. At Ilawa (Eylau), Poland, Napoleon's **Marshal Pierre Agureau** attacked Russian forces led by Aleksandr Suvorov, in a heavy snowstorm. Napoleon's forces ran low on supplies and ate their horses.

10 1925. **Poland** make an accord with the **Vatican** and the archdiocese of Vilnius was revived as one of five Polish dioceses.

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

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

14 1918. Warsaw demonstrators protest the transfer of **Polish territory** to the Ukraine.

15 1903. Death of **Fr. Jozef Dabrowski**, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).

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

18 1813. **Czar Alexander** entered Warsaw at the head of his Army.

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

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

21 1941. Nazis order that **Polish Jews** are barred from using public transportation.

22 1814. Birth of folklorist and ethnographer **Oskar Kolberg**. 1810. Recorded birth of **Fryderyk Chopin**, composer, pianist, in Zelazowa Wola, Poland (d. 1849).

25 1926. Poland, an original member of the **League of Nations**, demands a permanent seat on the League Council. It was given a semi-permanent seat.

27 1861. In the **Warsaw Massacre**, Russian troops fire on a crowd protesting Russian rule over Poland. Five marchers were killed.

28 1750. Birth of **Ignacy Potocki**, Polish minister and nobleman.

VIEWPOINTS / Robert Strybel

Wielki Post – Still Worth Observing?

PolAms who attended parochial schools in their childhood recall the concept of "giving something up" for Lent. Back then, American society reinforced that notion. Well into the 1960s, Kraft TV commercials touted their macaroni and cheese for Lent, and stores displayed signs: "Closed 12 to 3 on Good Friday."

Then came the baby-boomers raised on Dr. Spock's philosophy of permissivism. Self-indulgence, not self-denial, became the watchword of the day. Some people drifted away from pious Lenten practices through neglect or spiritual sloth. Others rejected them as medieval beliefs no longer relevant to modern times. Maybe it's time to take a closer look at what might be called the five different aspects of Lent:

RELIGION. Lent, which in Polish is known as "Wielki Post" (the Great Fast), was originally conceived as a period of both spiritual and physical preparation for Easter. There were prayers, Lenten devotions, retreats and one's Easter duty (the bare minimum once-a-year confession) for the soul, but these were reinforced by self-denial and self-mortification for the flesh. Even those of us who cannot equate with such religious practices, may do well to take time out once a year, raise above the daily humdrum, take stock of ourselves and give some thought to the meaning and purpose of life, to our relations with our loved ones and fellow-man.

HELPING THE NEEDY. Besides fasting and penance, Lent has involved giving alms to the poor. Beggars may no longer converge round the church entrance as they once did in the Old County, but the needy are always with us, even in affluent America. Helping those less fortunate is a good thing to do regardless of how religious

you happen to be. You or your group can prepare food parcels for poorer residents or families or maybe give them free admission tickets to your Święconka. Doing the shopping or other errands for homebound neighbors or driving them to the mall or church are just a few of many possibilities.

HEALTH. There are those who live and party as if Lent didn't exist, continue their weekend pig-outs and booze-ups and even wolf down Big Macs on Good Friday. But maybe it's worth considering what a boon to one's liver, gall bladder, cholesterol count, calorie intake and overall fitness and wellbeing could be six weeks of avoiding rich, fattening foods and alcohol. That is long enough for the body to adjust to a more modest level of "fuel" intake which could well become a healthier permanent lifestyle option. Athletes rarely consume big, heavy meals before major sporting events, because that would slow them down. And people who overindulge are permanently slowed down and often feel fat, flabby and listless.

CHARACTER BUILDING. For many, such common buzz-words as "anything goes," "if it feels good go for it" and "whatever rocks your boat" have all but replaced the concept of character building, working on oneself and trying to be a better person. The results can be seen most everywhere: many people want instant gratification here and now, display less patience and restraint, easily lose their temper and tell each other off. Asceticism (doing without) and self-discipline, as opposed to immediate gratification, whether pursued for religious reasons, or not, can help eliminate personal flaws and shortcomings. Sticking to resolutions, achieving weight-loss

and exercise goals (so many sit-ups or so many minutes of jogging) as well as being nice to someone who gives you a hard time are some examples of how to go about.

SELF-ESTEEM. Self-indulgence may provide temporary contentment, but only setting and achieving challenging goals enhances one's sense of self-worth, and Lent is the ideal time to do so. Great personal satisfaction comes from the realization that "I can do it" or "I have done it!" A good example are smokers who have kicked the habit, are very proud of themselves and can talk for hours about how they did it. Just floating along amid daily chores, pastimes and bad habits can be little more than mere vegetation. Using self-discipline to keep resolutions, hit targets and strengthen one's willpower provides a great boost to one's sense of self-esteem,

CULTURE. Apart from its religious, physical and mental aspects, Lent also has a cultural dimension. It may not be the time for frivolous entertainment, but it embodies aesthetic experiences ranging from the sublime to the folksy. No-one can deny the haunting beauty of those exclusively Polish Lenten devotions known as *Gorzkie Żale* (Bitter Lamentations) or the colorful pageantry of Palm Sunday processions. Passion Plays combine the spiritual and theatrical to provide a unique depth of experience. Folk culture is represented by those unique Polish "palms" as well as the ever-popular Holy Saturday food-blessing custom.

Which of the above aspects can you equate with? Or maybe the biggest impact can be achieved by integrating all five aspects into one comprehensive experience. With Lent 2013 upon us, it's something to think about!

SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Who's to Blame?

Dear Editor,

Many years ago a Jewish friend told me about an Art Exhibit by Artist Arthur Szyk that was being held at our local Jewish Center. Szyk was a Polish Jew who came to the United States before 1939 and was proud to be Polish and Jewish.

I found out that his family lived in Scarsdale N.Y. I called them and made an appointment to talk with his sister. When I called I was asked if I was Anti-Semitic, and my answer was "no."

This question always bothered me, why would she say that over the phone? Do all Jews think we Poles are Anti-Semitic? It is a question I think is answered in the new English Translation of *Polish-Jewish Relations 1939-1945* by Polish author Ewa Kurek, which was originally published in Poland in 2006.

When the Holocaust is presented by the media it always portrays the Jewish population huddled in ghettos by the Germans. How many people up to now knew that the Jews made a deal with the Germans for their own Jewish Autonomous Provinces, the largest being in Warsaw and Lodz? There provinces were built by the Jews

themselves to keep out the Poles. They had their own Juderant — Jewish police — for food distribution, etc. They also had their own class structure from rich to poor Jews.

As I read this book I was amazed at how the Jews were outsmarted by the Germans and how the Germans in 1942 used the Jews to do their dirty work.

I won't go into too much detail because if you, like me, were once asked why we did not do more to save the Jews, think of the consequences. If a Pole helped a Jew, their entire family would have been killed. That was the German law and thousands of Poles made the sacrifice. That's why more trees are planted for Poles in Yad Vashem than for any other nationality.

Mark Edleman, a prominent Jew, criticized Poles for not doing enough, yet Edelman would not have sacrificed his life for any Pole. With his thinking, there is only one life and it should not be sacrificed for the sake of a symbol.

This is a dynamic book for those who want to know the truth of Polish Jewish Relations. If you are interested go to www.iuniverse.com and look

for Kurek's book. It opened my eyes.

Al Koproski
Stamford, Connecticut

HALLER ARMY RECORDS AVAILABLE. I have inherited records from the Niagara Falls, N.Y. International Institute, and they are all of Polish people. The Institute was set up after 1918 to help female immigrants assimilate in the United States. I have become the guardian of these records which contain a wealth of information. The files vary quite a bit in size and scope depending on each particular case, but most at least contain the village in Poland that people came from, the ship they travelled on, etc. Some tell dates and locations of birth, marriage, and so on.

As I went through the records, I came across men who served in Haller's Army, part of which camped at Niagara-On-The-Lake.

Anyone with interest in these records is welcome to contact me at repetie@yahoo.com. I only charge the cost of copying and mailing.

Pete Ames
Niagara Falls, New York

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Baltimore's Holy Rosary Celebrates 125th

Former Pastor Attributes Miraculous Cure to Sainly Intervention

by Richard P. Poremski

BALTIMORE, Md. — On December 8, 1887 – 6,500 Sundays and over 26,000 Masses ago — the original Holy Rosary R.C. Church (Parafia Matki Boskiej Rozancowej) was consecrated in the city's Fell's Point neighborhood. Poland's Father Piotr Chowaniec was the church's first pastor with the mission to administer to the area's huge influx of Polish immigrants. At the time, Baltimore was the second largest immigration port of entry after Ellis Island in New York.

The present Romanesque-style church was dedicated in 1927. Able to seat 2,000, it is notably spacious – designed and constructed to be devoid of any interior supporting columns.

THE BI-LINGUAL JUBILEE MASS was celebrated on December 9, 2012 – 125 years and 1 day after the parish's founding. The church was near capacity with attending clergy, parishioners, families, friends, well-wishers, the Consul General-Embassy of Poland, and many other dignitaries. The hierarchy of the Archdiocese of Baltimore was well represented, as was the parish-administering North American Province of The Society of Christ Fathers (Chrystusowcy) for Poles Living Abroad, with the Reverend Andrzej Totzke, S.Chr. as pastor. At the Offertory, 20 associated groups presented their unique

ecclesiastical Jubilee gifts to Holy Rosary.

A Grand Banquet followed the Mass. There was a Toast, and the delivery of remarks by the various clerics and other luminaries. The Ojczyzna Polish Dancers provided a memorable performance for the banquet's closure.

As per the church history: "Holy Rosary Parish peaked at about 2,500 families, approximately 8,000 souls, in the 1920s and 1930s. Enrollment in the school was over 1,500 children. As many as six priests and 50 nuns were assigned to the parish. For a time Holy Rosary was the largest Polish parish (among six) in Baltimore, and the largest parish in the Archdiocese."

Holy Rosary's gradual decline began in the 1960s with the older generations passing on and the younger families fleeing to the suburbs. With decline in enrollment, the school closed in 1997; the nuns had already decamped many years previously. The school, large hall, and convent with chapel have now been leased to the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School network, which renovated all the facilities. Presently, most parishioners – about 70% are Polish speaking — live in other parts of the city, in 50 different cities and towns outside of Baltimore, and in three neighboring states.

The parish, with 500 families registered, is still vibrant and very active as the spiritual and cultural center of the greater-Baltimore Polonia. In the metropolitan area, Holy Rosary is the only church still celebrating Mass in Polish on Sunday and weekdays, in addition to its reg-

ular English liturgy services.

The Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy is located in Holy Rosary Church for an excellent and compelling reason. In 1995 then-Pastor Ronald Pytel was stricken with crippling and life-threatening heart disease. He underwent very risky surgery, experienced several close calls afterwards, and survived in a severely debilitated physical state. He was devoted to the Divine Mercy dogma and philosophy of Polish nun Blessed Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska. Pytel prayed fervently to her for divine intervention. He soon began feeling much better and rather normal. After subsequent visits to the hospital his totally amazed heart surgeon emphatically told him that "Someone has intervened for you ... your heart is now normal once again."

The tireless efforts and dramatic testimony of a miracle by Fr. Pytel in Rome were very instrumental in the Roman Catholic Church's eventual canonization of now-Saint Faustina in 2000.

What does the future hold for Holy Rosary? Its own declaration is quite to the point: "Under the special care and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, Saint Faustina, and Blessed John Paul II, our special patrons, and assisted by intercessory prayers of our deceased priests and parishioners now with God in Heaven, we move forward in time trusting Jesus – 'Jezu Ufam Tobie'! We trust that our mission will continue well into this 21st century."

And to that we all can say "Amen."

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

Stone Paints Catholic Poles as Anti-Semites

"Westerners did not realize that anti-Semitism was common among Polish Catholics."

— *Film director, producer, and screenwriter Oliver Stone, from his 10-part Showtime series "The Untold History of the United States." Stone also minimizes the role the United States and Great Britain played in winning World War II, giving the lion's share of the credit to Russia. Showtime is owned by CBS.*

❖ ❖ ❖
"Poklosie" may be the most controversial Polish film ever made, for it touches a raw nerve among Poles: that of past anti-Semitism in Poland and its persistence today."

— *Review from The Economist, on the new Polish film by Wladyslaw Pasikowski, which describes the attempt made by two brothers to break the conspiracy of silence among the residents of Jedwabne, where the massacre against their Jewish neighbors had taken place. Like the book "Neighbors," on which it is loosely based, the film portrays all Poles as anti-Semites who did nothing to help Jews during World War II.*

❖ ❖ ❖
"You see, Irena ascribes to the 'one-drop' rule of Polish heritage. If you have one drop of Polish blood, you are Polish. Not part-Polish, or one-eighth. Polish."

— *Marta Mirecki, daughter of the late Polish American activist and leader Irena Mirecki, describing her mother's advocacy for Polish heritage.*

"I can be very persistent, even if I have to go to New York City to do a little schmoozing and deliver kielbasa to the guy."

— *Buffalo, N.Y. Dyngus Day promoter Eddy Dobosiewicz, on CNN's Anderson Cooper's promise to come to the city's festivities this year. Last year, Cooper broke into uncontrollable laughter while reporting about the Easter Monday doings in Western New York. That fit was voted the No. 1 "RidicuList" story from 2012 by Cooper's followers. The RidicuList is a regular feature on the "Anderson Cooper 360" show.*

Easter is Early This Year, March 31

Easter Greetings Deadline is March 8

Because Easter falls in March this year, the Annual Special Easter Edition (April) of the Polish American will be published a week earlier than normal. Please note this on your calendars.

Copy Deadlines

March PAJ.....February 1
April PAJ.....March 1

Advertising Deadlines

March PAJ.....February 8
April PAJ.....March 8

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Easter is EARLY THIS YEAR, March 31

Easter Greetings Deadline is March 8

Because Easter falls in March this year, the Annual Special Easter Edition (April) of the Polish American will be published a week earlier than normal.

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Musial. Enjoyed Making other People Happy

continued from cover

beginning in 1942. He played on three world championship teams (1942, 1944 and 1946) and in 24 All-Star Games, tying a record. He won three National League Most Valuable Player awards.

A friendly, fun-loving likable sort, Musial enjoyed making other people happy. He would tell a joke or play his harmonica at the drop of a hat and was always baseball's perfect goodwill ambassador. In 1969 he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown. When Polonia's Orchard Lake Schools first established the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (polishsportshof.com) on their lakeside campus near Detroit in 1973, Musial was the first Polish athlete to be so honored.

A large bronze statue to Musial at St. Louis' new Busch Stadium carries the inscription: "Here stands baseball's perfect warrior. Here stands baseball's perfect knight." In 1999, Musial was named a member of the 20th century's All-Century Team, and in 2011 President Barack Obama presented him with the Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian decoration.

A proud Polish American who spoke a fair brand of Polish, in his later years Musial wanted to share his love of the sport with kids in his ancestral homeland. Born in Donora, Pennsylvania, a town some 20 miles south of Pittsburgh, he may

have come close to ending up in the NBA. His Polish-born dad Łukasz had been pressuring him to accept a basketball scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, but his mother Marysia went to bat for her son. "Why did you come to America?" She asked her husband. "Because it's a free country," he replied. To which she retorted: "Yes, and that means a boy is free not to go to college if he doesn't want to."

I had the good fortune to meet Musial in Warsaw during some of his numerous trips to Poland when he was working on various pro-Polish projects with his good friend Edward Piszek, Philadelphia industrialist and humanitarian. Having heard that coaches from Castro's Cuba were planning to introduce baseball to Poland, they put their heads together to do something about it.

After years of effort and sizable financial outlays, Musial and Piszek were largely instrumental in introducing Little League Baseball to Poland. Their negotiating skills were also responsible for the central Polish town of Kutno becoming the Little League headquarters for all of Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Initially the German city of Ramstein had been nominated for that distinction. One of Kutno's seven stadiums is now officially known as Stan Musial Little League Stadium.

Kaczowka. Firefighter was Much Loved

continued from cover

before Christmas Eve remained on display during his funeral Mass. Half of the funeral service was conducted in Polish, the other half in English, presided over by Bishop Emeritus Matthew Clark of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester and about eight other priests. One of those priests baptized Kaczowska, helped ready him for his First Communion, and traveled from Ohio to participate in the Mass.

Kaczowka was an altar server at the Church and had attended the 11:00 a.m. Polish Mass there with his family, Dec. 23.

"I will always remember him as an optimistic, loving individual with a contagious smile who always put the needs of others before his own," said Darek Kaczowka, Tomasz' brother.

He said he remembered overhearing his younger brother's explanation of his dedication to fire service to their mother: "Mom, don't you know I'm going to save lives?"

He also recalls not understanding his brother's "hobby" and being annoyed at times when Tomasz' pager sounded in the middle of the night. Now, Dariusz says, he understands that the fire department was quite simply "his extended family."

More than 2,000 first responders came to St. Stanislaus church from all over the world. Some remained outdoors as the church was filled to capacity; others watched the funeral service from overflow rooms while other overflow attendance was hosted at nearby Franklin High School.

The 19-year-old firefighter was much loved and will be missed by many.

A Polonia Civic Center spokesman told the Kaczowka family that the Polish American community locally and beyond "shares in your grief."

Mateusz Stasiak, vice-consulate general for the Republic of Poland in New York, read in the Polish language, words of condolence from the Ambassador to Poland and the Consul General in New York, adding in English: "Tomasz was proud to be American and proud to be Polish ... You will stay forever young and forever a hero; you will never be forgotten."

Tomasz is survived by his parents, Janina and Marian; his older twin brothers, Dariusz and Greg; grandparents, Mieczyslaw and Stanislaw Lysik; aunts, Alicia (Wladek) Wojtowicz and Teresa Lysik; uncle, Stefan (Jolanta) Lysik; aunts, uncles, cousins and friends in Poland, many friends in Rochester and Webster, including his extended family at West Webster Fire Department.

LAPSUS CALAMI. The name of Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. Machalski, rector of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan, was misspelled on page 3 of last month's newspaper.

The name of Suligowski's Regiment was misspelled on page 20.

Book to Offer First-Hand Account of Zegota's Efforts to Save Jews

WARSAW — Confidential recordings made fifty years ago in Israel about Polish saviors of their Jewish neighbors during World War II will be released in book format.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, who served for a time as Poland's foreign minister after the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, announced the news, marking the 70th anniversary of the foundation of Zegota — the Polish underground's Council to Aid Jews.

Zegota, of which Bartoszewski was a member, was a branch of the Home Army (AK), the official underground force that was loyal to Poland's government-in-exile in London.

Poles who assisted Jews risked execution (along with their families) if caught by the occupying Nazi Germans forces.

In 1963, while on a visit to Israel, Bartoszewski was asked by the Yad Vashem Institute to make a series of recordings about his recollections concerning Zegota.

The tapes ran to several hours, and Bartoszewski was able to raise certain points that would have been unacceptable to Poland's then communist authorities.

Poland's communist regime had actively persecuted AK veterans following the war.

"I explained the insignificance of the efforts and activities of the communists, in comparison with

those authorized and funded by the Polish government-in-exile in London," Bartoszewski reflected in a press release.

Bartoszewski says that he is publishing the book "so that the memory of these noble people is not lost."

Zegota had about 100 cells across the country, the biggest branches being in Warsaw, Krakow, Lwow (now Lviv, Ukraine) and Wilno (now Vilnius, Lithuania). The most renowned member was Irena Sendler, who rescued several thousand Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto created by the Nazis in 1940.

Copernicus: Education at Jagiellonian Most Influential

continued from cover

by Sir Thomas Gresham; a statesman; a soldier who fought the Teutonic Knights showing his loyalty to the Kingdom of Poland; by necessity, a man skilled in the technical sciences, mechanics, surveying, a poet, and yes a painter.

Poland, the native land of Copernicus, certainly deserves some credit for producing such a genius. Copernicus did not live and work in a vacuum. Poland was responsible for providing the social and intellectual environment, the milieu, which made his intellectual growth and development possible. The Poland of Copernicus's time was a country that was beginning to enjoy the quasi federation with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania made possible by the marriage between Queen Jadwiga who originally was crowned King of Poland, and Wladyslaw Jagiello (Jogaila in Lithuanian) the Grand Duke of Lithuania in 1386.

This new body politic eliminated the German Teutonic danger after the Battle of Grunwald in 1410 and extended its borders from the Baltic to the Black seas. The period of the 15th and 16th centuries was Poland's Golden Age, ruled by the Jagiellonian kings under the influence of Christian Humanism and the Renaissance who managed to govern with great wisdom, prudence and toleration. Thus making it possible for diverse peoples of the Polish-Lithuanian Confederation, that is, the Poles, Lithuanians, Ruthenians, ancestors of modern Ukrainians and Belorussians, Armenians, Tartars, Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Jews, and later Protestants to live in harmony and peace while Western Europe was in turmoil as a result of religious conflicts. Such enlightened Poles, like Paulus Vladimiri, rector of the Krakow University, anticipated the spirit of the times to come, by advancing religious and social tolerance at the Council of Constance in 1415, anticipating the modern theories of human rights guided by the principles of peace and mutual respect among nations. When Casimir IV, the Jagiellonian died in 1492 after a long 45-year reign, Ruthenian Orthodox subjects mourned his death calling him good and just because he respected their traditions, customs and did not meddle into their ancient laws. This Jagiellonian legacy of pluralism, moderation and tolerance is today being recalled as Europe begins to face serious demographic changes and cultural instability.

Although in the modern sense Poland's political system could not be strictly described as a democracy. It nevertheless had one of the most advanced representative systems in Europe. Poland never developed an absolute monarchy like France,

Prussia or Russia; instead its monarchy was elective and it was severely limited by the bi-cameral Parliament known in Polish as the Sejm by 1401. The Parliament (Sejm) in control of the magnates and gentry passed the Polish Habeas Corpus Act in 1430. By 1505 Poland was definitely on the road to a Constitutional monarchy when the first Polish constitution, the so called "Nihil Novi" Act was passed. "Nothing new about us, without our concurrence," which meant that the king could not make a decision without the consent of the nobility through the Polish Diet.

MOST CRUCIAL FOR KOPERNIK'S intellectual development was the higher education he received at his alma mater, the Jagiellonian University in Krakow between 1491-1495. Copernicus was fortunate that Poland had established a university in Krakow as early as 1364, years before the universities at Vienna, Heidelberg and Cologne were founded. This university was totally reorganized, reformed, reinvigorated and modeled after the Sorbonne University in Paris in 1400. Although the reformed university was eventually called Jagiellonian University after King Wladyslaw Jagiello, it was really his wife, and co-king, Jadwiga, now St. Jadwiga who was the real founder of the university. The first endowment came from the sale of her jewelry and other valuables which she bequeathed to the university. She was the one who was deeply committed to providing higher education not only to Poles but other peoples living in the Polish-Lithuanian Confederation which included Lithuanians and Ruthenians. Krakow with its great university became a seat of scholarship where truly humanistic activity took place and attracted both scholars and students from all over Europe but particularly from Hungary and Bohemia. Indeed, the Jagiellonian University played a key role in in-

tegrating East Central Europe with Western culture.

When Copernicus studied at the Jagiellonian University, it was at its most brilliant period. As early as 1410 it had a special chair in astronomy whose professors included such luminaries as Wojciech Brudzewski, Bartlomiej of Lipnica, Michal of Wroclaw and Marcin Król. They certainly made an impact on Copernicus so we are justified to claim that his native country made a significant contribution in shaping this genius. He should continue to be an inspiring role model to all people, but especially to Poles and Polish Americans who claim him as their own and cherish his legacy. No doubt, he has inspired some of Poland's greatest mathematicians like Stefan Banach and Nobel prize laureates like Maria Skłodowska Curie (physics and chemistry), Andrew Schally (medicine) Roald Hoffmann (chemistry) and our own Polish American from Queens, New York, Frank T. Wilczek (physics). By the way, all last three Nobel prize winners were members of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America while I had the honor to be its Executive Director and President based in New York. It would be well for us to reflect a bit and ascertain how faithful are we to the spirit of Copernicus's intellectual and scientific heritage? As Polish Americans, how open are we to bold innovative ideas that make human progress possible, of course without accepting ideas that undermine basic human rights, above all respect for the individual human personality?

Copernicus made a startling, truly revolutionary breakthrough not only in the field of astronomy but in every field of learning. His ideas not only revolutionized the way of looking at the universe but man's relationship to it. Humanity owes Copernicus a great deal as it begins to push the frontiers of knowledge in the 21st century.

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Winners of Our Matt Urban Scholarship Contest



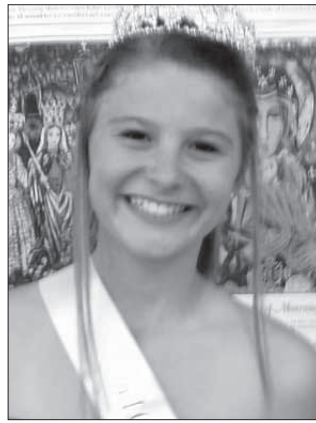
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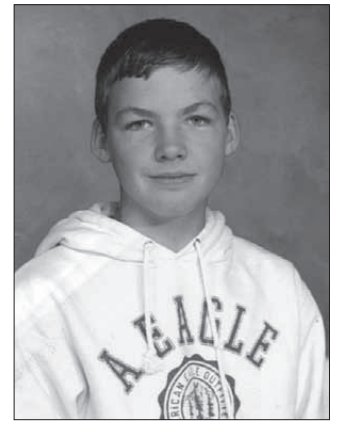
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To raise public awareness of the late Lt. Col. Matt Urban and continue efforts to have his image commemorated on USPS First Class Stamp, the Polish American Journal is giving away — through the generosity of the newspaper's patrons — over \$1,000 in cash and prizes to high school students who submitted an essay on the topic: "Why I Think the United States Postal Service Should Issue a Stamp Commemorating Lt. Col. Matthew Urban."

The contest, initiated by the late Leopold Potsiadlo, was open to all students in High School Grades 9 to 12 for the 2012-2013 school year. Entries were judged by creativity, relevance of expression of the subject, and overall impression.

We proudly present the top two essays.

Congratulations to the winners, runners-up, and to all who entered. The time and effort placed into all entries is to be commended.

The Son of Immigrants Became a Model of the American Character

by **Martin Wolk**
Grand Prize Winner

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Urban, the most decorated military hero in the history of the United States, deserves to be honored with a commemorative stamp.

America is very special, in that immigrants from every corner of the Earth brought their unique contributions to the culture and ideals of the United States. And so did the Polish immigrants, who brought with them the unique historical experience of their motherland. Throughout history, the Poles have always had to fight for freedom, which came with a great amount of suffering and sacrifice. They learned that freedom does not come for free; that there is a price that nations have to pay to enjoy freedom and pass it on to the next generations. And the Poles did not keep this precious gift only for themselves, but many laid down their lives fighting for the freedom of other nations. This is the tradition which Matthew Urban inherited, and these are the ideals that he bravely risked his life for in his selfless service to the United States.

Matthew Urban was born on August 25, 1919, in Buffalo, N.Y., as the son of Polish immigrants. He was drafted into the army when America joined World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The years that followed were a continuous display of his courage, leadership, and dedication to the cause of freedom.

His division was assigned to participate in the invasion of North Africa. Urban was appointed to provide entertainment for the soldiers. But when he heard that his division had met fierce resistance while in battle, Urban said to himself: "My companions are dying there and I am supposed to wait for them with

warm coffee? How could I look myself in the face?" Against the orders of his officer, he rowed himself to the beach and replaced a wounded platoon leader in the fight. For this he was promoted to executive officer. And Urban soon proved that he was worthy of this promotion. During another battle, he single-handedly knocked out a German observation post. He then led his company in a successful frontal attack on strong German positions. For this battle alone he earned a Bronze Star, two Silver Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

Urban's division also participated in the D-Day attack on Normandy. During the fighting Urban was severely injured and taken to a hospital. But when he learned that his battalion was facing difficulties on the front, even though he was not fully recovered, he left the hospital and rejoined the battalion. He found his comrades in severe distress, held up by strong enemy fire. When the commander of the battalion was killed, Urban filled his place. While still physically hampered by his leg wound and exposed to enemy fire, he manned a machine gun and placed devastating fire on the enemy, which boosted the morale of his soldiers and let them destroy the enemy position. Later, Urban was wounded in the chest, but refused evacuation, disregarding the recommendation of the military surgeon. For this type of actions, Urban was nick-named the "Gray Ghost" by both the Americans and the Germans, because no matter how badly he was injured, he always returned to the battlefield.

Around the town of Philippeville, in Belgium, Urban was hit in the neck by a machine gun bullet. He survived his injury, but only recovered by the time the war had ended. By then he would receive 29 decorations, including seven Purple Hearts (one for each of his battle wounds). When he died on March 20, 1995, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the 1970s, when a reporter was researching Urban's military career, he discovered a recommendation by a colonel and a staff sergeant for Urban to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. The colonel was killed in action shortly after writing the recommendation and the paper was lost for almost 40 years. The Army conducted an investigation and on July 19, 1980, President Jimmy Carter awarded Urban the Congressional Medal of Honor. Urban's achievements are probably best described in the President's own words: "Matt Urban is the greatest soldier in American history. He showed that moments of terrible devastation can bring out courage. His actions are a reminder to this Nation so many years later, what freedom really means. It is of soldiers like Lt. Colonel Urban that victories are made." Urban was also recognized by the local community in the city where he was born, Buf-

falo, NY. The Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of Western New York (the Matt Urban Center) took his name to "pay honor to the most decorated war veteran in American history."

Lt. Col. Matthew Urban represents what true leaders and heroes are made of. He displayed courage and leadership in the battlefield, and showed an extraordinary devotion to duty and readiness for the ultimate sacrifice to defend the ideals of freedom. In line of the tradition originated by his Polish predecessors fighting in the American War of Independence (such as Kosciuszko and Pulaski), Urban lived up to the motto "For your freedom and ours!" Not only did he defend America, but he also fought for and brought freedom to the nations in other parts of the world. In that, as an American soldier and the son of immigrants, he has become a timeless model of the American character and an embodiment of the ideals that are at the very heart of the American tradition of freedom and liberty. It is therefore appropriate to honor Matthew Urban with a U.S. Postal Service commemorative stamp, to portray him to America and the world. This will not only be a symbolic recognition of this American hero on the national stage, but will also serve the preservation of American history and serve a very noble educational purpose as an inspiration for the generations to come.

Loved America and Respected Democracy

by **Kathryn Lukasiewicz**
Second Prize Winner

The United States Postal System connects all Americans through the common bond of communication. Letters, newspapers, and magazines delivered by our mail carriers can change lives and influence generations, even though they are small enough to fit in a mailbox. For both children and adults, there is certainly no greater joy than a surprise correspondence from a loved one or dear friend.

Even the outside of the letters and cards that are sent contain much significance. Perhaps the most interesting part of the packaging is the stamp. This little sticker is the difference between a sent letter and a missed opportunity. However, due to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, stamps symbolize much more than a government fee, they provide insight into American heritage, while also teaching and intriguing the public. The committee views letters sent from the public to

determine which topic would be the most beneficial to all of the users of the postal system.

For this reason, I believe the United States Postal Service should issue a stamp commemorating Lt. Col. Matthew Urban.

Matthew Urban was born to Polish immigrants in Buffalo, New York, on August 25, 1919. Though he was greatly influenced by the Polish culture from his parents, he also learned to love America and respect democracy. After completing his grammar and high school years in Buffalo-area public schools, he set his heart on getting a good college education — coincidentally his two brothers did as well — at that time, they were both at Buffalo University, one in medical school. Though Urban's father agreed to pay for his first semester at Cornell, how he would pay for the rest of his tuition was a mystery, especially after the stock market crash ravaged his fam-

ily's savings. However, one day he found an answer. If Urban joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), he could be assisted with his financial troubles. This led him to take up boxing. Though as a boy he beat up a neighborhood bully, he had no experience in this skillful form of combat. However, he won all-university boxing championship matches in three different weight classes. He later advanced to the intercollegiate championship, where his opponent, Americo Wocisjes of Syracuse University, was declared the winner. After the fight, Wocisjes remarked that Urban had been "robbed" of a victory.

In 1941, Urban graduated from Cornell as a 2nd Lieutenant, just as American involvement drastically increased in World War II. He is most admired for commanding a platoon, through the excruciating pain of a broken leg, at Omaha Beach, Normandy. He suffered many more injuries on the battlefield, thus inspiring the nickname "the Gray Ghost" — what German troops called him because of his resilience when injured. His ambition to serve others was not even affected by the temporary loss of his voice after being shot in the throat during battle — his seventh war wound.

After four years of hard fought battles, he set sail on the *Queen Mary* to return to America. He arrived home, and walked through his parents' front door, which was, thankfully, unlocked. As Urban's mother tearfully greeted him, he gestured that he could not speak because of his latest injury. Luckily, his family learned to deal with his new handicap. His Polish parents instilled a strong Catholic faith in him,

and his own prayers were directed towards his need for a voice. As he read the newspaper daily, he tried to say the words, and eventually he began to read out loud, until his voice, though raspy, was restored. He still wanted to become a high school athletics coach, and impact the lives of children with sports, just as his was impacted by boxing. After he began to speak as often as he had before his injury, he was made the Director of the Monroe Community Center in Monroe, Michigan, where he could show young people the power of physical exercise.

Because of his service, he was honored with 29 awards and decorations. Among these, President Jimmy Carter awarded him the Congressional Medal of Honor on July 19, 1980, the most prestigious combat award. He is one of nine Polish Americans to receive this astounding honor, making the connection between Polish heritage and excellence in military service quite evident. His 29 awards tie him with Audie Murphy for most decorated World War II hero. Murphy has already received the additional honor of being depicted on a postage stamp. Therefore, it is only just that Urban, too, be honored in this way.

The inspiring and engaging life story of Lt. Col. Urban makes him the perfect subject for a United States Postal Stamp. Americans who see his picture on stamps can learn of his great sacrifice for the country, and be fascinated by his tenacity and bravery in the face of danger. His story provides hope for all Americans, especially immigrants, that opportunities are always available to those looking to serve their country. It is a testament to national pride and familial love that a young boy of strong Polish upbringing, could grow up to be the "greatest soldier in American history." He never stopped helping others, whether he was defending his brothers in his Buffalo neighbor, protecting his soldiers in battle, or showing young adults the power of athletics.

All Americans should strive to impact the lives of others as greatly as Lt. Col. Matthew Urban.

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In addition to the scholarship, the first, second, and third place winners will receive a copy of "My Name is Million."

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North Java, New York



Lt. Col. Matthew Urban

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

A New Polish Blessed

Among eight miracles recognized by Pope Benedict XVI was one attributed to the intercession of Venerable **Sofia Czeska-Maciejowska**, foundress of the congregation of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Born of a noble family in the Małopolska region between Kraków and Sandomierz in 1584, and left widowed and childless in 1600, she devoted herself to works of mercy, especially toward orphans and children from very poor families.

From 1621-1627 she established a religious institute which ran a school for poor girls in her home in Kraków. At that time only rich girls were educated by tutors in their homes. The initial works of her institute were recognized by the local bishop (1627), the pope (1633) and the Polish king (1633). The spiritual direction of the institute was entrusted to the Jesuits. Sofia died in 1650 and is buried in the Church of St. Mary in Kraków. The religious congregation, formed on her institute was approved in 1660 and continues its work today in schools, student residences, orphanages, and other works for infants and young people.

FR. WSUL INSTALLED. Father **Adam Wsul** was installed as the new Pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Polish National Catholic Church on the northwest side of Chicago. This once heavily-Polish populated area of Cragin and Hanson Park has changed to both Polish and Spanish. Fr. Adam has it all covered. He can say Mass in Polish, English, and

Spanish.

His Installation took place Dec. 9, presided by the Western Diocese Bishop Stanley Bilinski. There were more than 300 people in attendance.

"We can expect great things for the future of Ss. Cyril & Methodius from Father Adam and his wife Agnieszka," said long-time parishioner Roman Trukolaski. "They are remarkable people."

Incidentally, Fr. Adam recently gave the Benediction at the Polish-American Heritage Award Banquet at the House of the White Eagle in Niles, Ill. He is in demand everywhere!

PFA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED. The Rev. Canon **Joseph L. Sredzinski**, Polish Falcons of America National Chaplain since October, 1981, welcomed PFA delegates to the 40th Quadrennial National Convention and 125th Anniversary, held in Pittsburgh, Pa., in July.

DIOCESAN SHRINE TO BLESSED JOHN PAUL II. Bishop **Arthur J. Serratelli** of the RC Diocese of Patterson, NJ, has designated Holy Rosary RC Parish in Passaic, NJ, as the diocesan shrine to **Blessed John Paul II**, a place where the faithful might seek the Blessed's intercession and find strength in his example. The title of the parish itself recalls the special devotion of the former pope to Our Lady and the Rosary, about which he said that the Rosary 'blends easily into the spiritual journey of the Christian life,

which, after two thousand years, has lost none of the freshness of its beginnings."

Fr. Stefan Las is pastor of the parish. **Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz** visited the parish and blessed a statue of John Paul II which stands outside the parish rectory, where the pope stayed on a visit while still a cardinal.

MARATHON RUN RAISES MONEY FOR VOCATIONS. Bishop **Thomas J. Paprocki**, RC

Bishop of Springfield, Ill., ran the St. Louis Rock-N-Roll marathon in 4 hours, 22 minutes, 53 seconds. It was his 19th marathon. He ran with LIFE Runners, the only pro-life marathon theme in the nation. As chaplain of the team, Bishop Paprocki celebrated Mass before the run. Supporters of his run have donated over \$10,000 to help pay for the education and formation of Springfield diocese seminarians. He also raised money through his run for local diocesan seminarians.

RELIC OF BLESSED JOHN PAUL II IN CAMDEN. As part of its 120th anniversary celebration, the RC



SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI. The former St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church in Detroit's Poletown neighborhood is for sale. Built in 1900 to relieve overcrowding at nearby St. Albertus Church, St. Stanislaus closed in 1989 along with dozens of other Detroit-area Catholic churches. Until recently, it was the home of Promise Land Baptist Church, which moved to a new location. The asking price is \$79,000.

parish of St. Joseph in South Camden, NJ, received a first-class relic of Blessed John Paul II. **Fr. Pawel W. Kryszkiewicz**, the pastor, travelled to Poland to receive the relic and bring it to the parish. He was helped in acquiring the relic by **Fr. Eustachy Rokoczy**, a Pauline monk from the Częstochowa shrine. The request, made in the summer, was approved by **Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz**. Assisting at the 120th anniversary celebrations were former pastors **Edward Lipinski** and **Piotr Szamocki**.

MINISTRY TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED. Fr. **Michel Depcik**, OSFS, serves at St. John's Deaf

Center in Warren, Mich. Fr. Depcik, OSFS, one of only 10 deaf Catholic priests in the Catholic Church, also ministers at Our Lady of Loretto Parish in Redford Township in American Sign Language, which he described as "the native language of deaf people." The St. John's Deaf Center was founded in 1974 as an outreach ministry of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Typically, about 120 people attend Sunday Mass at the center, and about 30 at Our Lady of Loretto, which was added in the early 1980s to serve deaf people on the west side of the Metro area. The local deaf Catholic community number about 300, but not all are able to make it to Mass every Sunday. Fr. Depcik explained, "In place of music, we attempt to use visual enhancements to bring a sense of the sacred to the liturgy such as the use of incense, holy water, use of a projector and screen."

For more information, email Fr. Depcik at depcik@oblates.us.

CONCERT HONORS POPE JOHN PAUL II. Chicago's WTTW-Ch11 and WFMT-FM 98.7 broadcast "Out Of Many, One... In the Spirit of John Paul," a concert event celebrating the peace-loving legacy of Pope John Paul II, and his impact on Chicagoans of all faiths. The musical portion of the program by the Chicago Symphony Chorus and Lyric Opera Orchestra was filmed in April and was interspersed with segments shot at various places of worship and cultural landmarks throughout Chicago.

Heritage Committee Observes Feast of Three Kings with Sing-Along

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — The Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton presented its first *Polskie Koledy Sing-Along*, Jan. 6, in observance of the Feast of Three Kings.

The event was held at St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church. The lead singers were comprised of choir members from six former Polish churches: St. John Cantius of Northampton; Sacred Heart of Jesus of Easthampton; St. Stanislaus of South Deerfield; Holy Trinity of Hatfield; Sacred Heart of Jesus of Greenfield; and Holy Rosary of Hadley — all closed due to the Springfield Diocese consolidation of Roman Catholic churches during the past five years.

The members were guests of the St. Valentine's Church Choir members. The program included fourteen traditional Polish Christmas Carols with sing-a-long song sheets for the almost 150 people who attended. During the inter-

mission, the new Pastor of St. Valentine's Church, Rev. Adam Czamecki blessed incense and chalk for distribution to the guests and provided a brief description of the Polish Tradition of marking the door entrance and lintels with the initials 20 K+M+B 13.

Visiting priests in attendance included the Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC), Ware, Mass.; Rev. Randolph Calvo, Holy Name of Jesus PNCC, South Deerfield, Mass.; and Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Holy Mother of the Rosary PNCC, Chicopee, Mass.

Many of those in attendance had tears of joy as they sang — bringing back memories of years past with the hope that the event will be continued annually. The event culminated with a reception and fellowship in the Church hall. Plans are already underway by the Polish Heritage Committee to make the Sing-Along an annual event.

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

Polish Radio Awarded



Deputy Consul General Rusiecki (l.), and radio host Kaminski.

ST. LOUIS — Anthony Kaminski's "Polish Radio" program received Poland's Cross of Merit award for contributions to the area's Polonia.

The presentation was made Nov. 10, 2012 at the annual Polonaise Ball, sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Society of Metropolitan St. Louis (Missouri).

Arriving from Chicago with his wife Monika, Deputy Consul General Robert Rusiecki presented the award, making sure to remind the audience of Poland's Independence Day of November 11th in his speech.

Among those in attendance were Honorary Consul Robert Ogrodnik, Marek Jankowicz of TVCrawcova, PACS President Robert Szydowski, and other members of Polonia.

"Polish Radio" evolved from an area polka program that debuted in 1935. Kaminski, whose first pro-

gram was on Valentine's Day 1994, was to initially just fill in for long-time host Anthony Geppert.

In addition to Polish American polkas, the show features current music from Poland. Kaminski continued the bi-lingual policy with the normal news and bits from Poland. With the assistance of his wife Alicja, Kaminski's show covers a variety of topics, including sports, traditions, names in the news, obits and whatever else he can think of to make the program interesting.

"Polish Radio" is broadcast live every Sunday on WEW. The station offers live streaming, so you may listen to the station anywhere in the United States.

Your Donation Can Save Rare Books

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America Library collection includes over 300 rare titles in the Rare Book Restoration Project which was initiated in 2012. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the PMAL, they have thus far been able to conserve and restore six books published between 1508 and 1604. The average conservation cost is \$689 per book. Currently, they are in the process of cataloging all books published before 1945. It is their hope to conserve as many rare books as possibly by 2015, in time for the PMA Library centennial celebration.

Cymelia, or rare books, in the PMAL collection are particularly valuable. In many instances, there are only a few copies left surviving to present day (based on information found in OCLC, WorldCat, Polish National Library, Europeana, and ABE Books databases, among others). The PMAL has the privi-

lege of custody over such unique material and also the responsibility to provide the best possible care and preservation for generations to come.

Each person, family, or organization who contributes to the RBR Project will be officially and historically recognized. The name of the donor will be printed on an ex libris affixed to the special clam-shell box created for each book, and will remain as a lasting mark of your generosity.

If you or someone you know would be interest in contributing, please contact the PMA Library at (773) 384-3352 ext. 101 or write to Malgorzata Kot, Head Librarian at: Malgorzata-Kot@PolishMuseumofAmerica.org.

Bal Karnawałowy

MINNEAPOLIS — The Polish American Cultural Society of Minnesota's signature event, Bal Karnawałowy (Carnival Ball), will be held Feb. 9 at the St. Paul Hotel, 350 Market St., St. Paul, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The formal event honors the pre-Lenten celebration that dates back several centuries in Poland. Included are a Polish dinner, dances by the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, dancing, and a silent auction of Polish and non-Polish items.

Tickets are \$60.00 for members, and \$65.00 for non-members. Tables of eight are available for \$500.00. Advanced registration is required.

Contact: Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, 43 Main Street SE, Suite 228, Minneapolis, MN 55414. (612) 378-9291; info@pacim.org. You may register on-line at pacim.org.

MODLITWY

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

PRAYER TO THE 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. Grateful thanks, A.W.

PRAYER TO END ABORTION. Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life, and for the lives of all my brothers and sisters. I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion, yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son. I am ready to do my part in ending abortion. Today I commit myself, never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of the unborn. I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement, and never to stop defending life, until all my brothers and sisters are protected, and our nation once again becomes a nation with liberty and justice, not just for some, but for all, through Christ our Lord. Amen! W.D.

A TALK WITH THE AUTHOR / John Grondelski

Dr. David Williamson, Author of "The Polish Underground"

Dr. David Williamson is author of a new book just published in England, *The Polish Underground*, about the Polish Resistance during World War II. Holding a doctorate in history from the University of London, Dr. Williamson discussed his new book with *The Polish American Journal*.

You are a British military historian: what led you to write about the Polish underground?

I have written on German history, especially the period 1914-1933. *Study of the Third Reich* involves an awareness of Nazi policy in Poland, and this led to my interest in the Polish Underground.

Speak of the World War II underground, and many Westerners think of the French resistance. Can you compare the Polish and French resistances? Why do people hear more about the latter and little about the former?

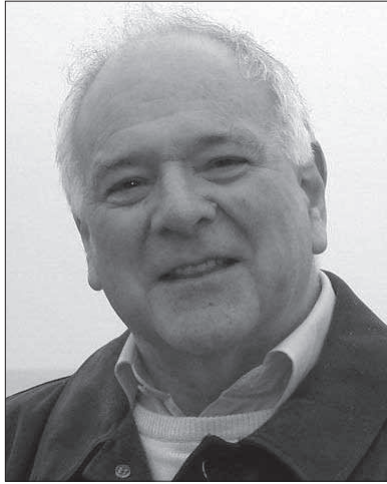
For the British and the Americans the war against Germany was waged essentially in western Europe. Operation *Overlord* gave the French resistance particular prominence in Britain and the US.

In many areas the tactics of the French resistance were similar to the Polish resistance. Both carried out sabotage, propaganda and passed intelligence back to London from where they received considerable material support from the SOE and their governments-in-exile. The situation in which they operated differed. In France, resistance was hindered by the collaborationist Vichy regime headed by the iconic war hero, Petain – a figure arguably comparable in importance to the deceased Pilsudski! In Poland there was no government that could collaborate with the Germans. Liberation also confronted the underground in both countries with different problems. It was the signal for the undergrounds to mobilize, but in Poland the USSR saw the Polish Home Army (AK) as an enemy to be liquidated, while in France the Anglo-Americans cooperated closely with Marquis even if there was some suspicion of the Communists. This was to lead to the tragedy at Warsaw and to triumph in Paris.

In your book, you state that the Polish Underground also worked outside Poland. The Polish Diaspora is large in many countries throughout Europe. Describe the Polish Underground's connections with other resistance movements in Europe.

By 1941 about 5,000 Poles had been enrolled in France and resistance cells existed throughout the country. In Denmark the Polish Underground concentrated on its compatriots in the *Wehrmacht* and *Todt* organization, encouraging them to amass intelligence and to carry out sabotage. In Greece and Yugoslavia many Poles deserted the *Wehrmacht* and joined local partisan bands. In Germany there were about three million Polish workers, many of whom supplied the Allies with vital intelligence and sabotaged production.

When most people think about the possible assassination of Adolf Hitler, they think of Count von Stauffenberg, yet your book notes that the Polish underground already had a plan to kill Hitler when he came to



"The Polish resistance is packed with dramatic stories," said Dr. Williamson. Review of "The Polish Underground" on page 18.

Warsaw in 1939. Tell us more about that. (What do you think might have happened if they succeeded?)

Like many attempts to assassinate Hitler, this failed as the Germans cleared the streets of bystanders and so unwittingly prevented vital signals from being passed to the conspirator who was to detonate explosives once Hitler's car entered the junction of Nowy Swiat and Avenue Jerozolimskie. To answer what would then have happened, one would have to be a virtual historian! My guess is that the *Wehrmacht* would have taken over, peace made with Britain and France. The Soviet and limited German gains (Danzig, the Corridor and Upper Silesia) would have been retained.

You mention that the Underground reached even into concentration camps like Auschwitz. Can you tell us more about what the resistance in the camps looked like?

The main thrust of the resistance in the concentration camps was to gain information as to what was happening and to pass it on to the Allies. Witold Pilecki, the commander of AK elements in Auschwitz until his escape in 1943 saw his role as encouraging fellow prisoners by providing news from outside, preparing for an eventual takeover of the camp and sending out reports on the conditions inside the camp. In 1942 as the liquidation of the Jews began Jan Koziielewski, alias 'Karski' infiltrated Belzec in the guise of an Estonian guard to gain firsthand evidence of what was happening, which he smuggled out of the camp on microfilm and took to London.

There is an occasional tendency to try to pin anti-Semitism on the Poles during World War II. Can you comment on the relationship of Christians and Jews in the Polish underground? What was the relation of the Polish underground to the huge Jewish minority in Poland and the Holocaust?

The Polish Underground did have links with the Jewish resistance. It had liaison officers working with Jewish resistance units. The leaders of the resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto received some military training from both the AK and GL (People's Guard). Through the Government Delegation in Warsaw the Polish Government-in-Exile dispensed help to Jews through the *Zegota* organization. It helped to protect Jews by providing shelter, forged documents and food. As many Jews had to pay for this, there were inevitably opportunities for abuse. Historian Jan Grabowski

observed, 'Some [Poles] helped because of greed, others because they had a heart of gold'. In eastern Poland, Jewish refugees from the ghettos tended to join the Communist Resistance and were sucked into the bitter internecine fighting between AK and Communists.

Put yourself in another man's shoes. There are lots of great stories connected with the Underground: Jan Karski, Henryk Slawik, etc. If you were a movie director in search of a great war story to film, is there anything you'd pick from your book to develop?

The Polish resistance is packed with dramatic stories. *The Warsaw Uprising* is the great set piece. The life of General Bor-Komorowski, the Commander of the AK from 1943-October 1944, who ended up as a POW of the Germans and then in exile in London, would be interesting. The assassination of the SS Major-General-Kutshera on 1 February is a dramatic and moving story of great heroism. The stories of Corporal Jeffery and Sergeant Ward, escaped British POWs, who went native in Poland and joined the Home Army are fascinating, too.

What did the Polish Resistance achieve?

In military terms the Underground threatened the German lines of communication between the Reich and the eastern front through sabotage and raids. By the summer of 1944 it effectively controlled most of eastern Poland and initially assisted the Soviet advance. It also sent crucial intelligence about German troop movements and the developments of the V-1 to the western Allies. Yet in the end the Poles tragically swapped one oppressor for another.

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

The Trial of the Sixteen

Epilogue

"We left the ruins behind and a road led out across the fields. Here the air was fresh, there was the smell of newly-dug earth in the potato fields. I stood aside to see how the men were standing up to the long march. I could see by the way the veins stood out in their throats and temples, by their parched lips and shoulders bowed under the weight of their packs, that they were tired. But nobody was falling behind. The girls were also carrying heavy packs, and they looked like overburdened camels, but they were keeping step. One of them looked up at me as she passed by. 'Sir, may we sing?' she asked."

— From the memoir of Wacław Zagorski, survivor of the Warsaw Rising

It was a catastrophe of epic proportions that lasted for sixty-three days, perhaps the longest and bloodiest urban battle in history. By the time the Germans finally pulled out in January, 1945, 85% of the buildings in Warsaw (over ten thousand) had been destroyed. These included over nine hundred historical buildings, twenty-five churches, fourteen libraries, a hundred and fifty schools, the University of Warsaw and Warsaw University of Technology. More than one million people lost all of their possessions

The exact number of casualties is not precisely known, but most estimates put the number civilian deaths at 150,000 - 200,000, and the number of AK freedom fighters killed in action at 15,000 - 20,000, with another 15,000 - 20,000 wounded or captured. German casualties are estimated to be 8,000 - 10,000 killed in action with another 8,000 - 15,000 wounded or missing.

Most of the soldiers of the AK who survived and surrendered were persecuted by the Soviets after the war. They were captured by the

NKVD, interrogated and imprisoned on charges such as espionage, anti-Soviet activity, or collaboration with fascists. Many were sent to gulags where they were executed, while many others simply disappeared.

One of the most notorious acts of persecution has come to be known as "The Trial of the Sixteen." In March, 1945 sixteen leaders of the Polish wartime underground, including the Commander-in-Chief of the AK, Leopold Okulicki, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, Jan Stanislaw Jankowski, were invited by Joseph Stalin to a conference in Moscow to discuss their eventual inclusion in the provisional Government of Poland. Although they had been given a warrant of safety, all sixteen were arrested by the NKVD in Pruszkow on March 27th. They were then brought to Moscow for interrogation in the notorious Lubyanka prison.

After several months of torture and interrogations all sixteen were accused of dozens of false charges including; collaboration with Nazi Germany, terrorism, propaganda against the Soviet Union, membership in an underground organization, and planning an alliance with Germany. A public trial was held, over the protests of the Polish government-in-exile as well as the governments of the United States and Great Britain. The defendants were all forced to admit their guilt to the alleged crimes and were sentenced to prison terms that ranged from four months to as high as ten years, for Leopold Okulicki, and eight years for Jan Stanislaw Jankowski. Okulicki is thought to have been murdered in prison on Christmas Eve, 1946, and Jankowski died in prison two weeks before his scheduled release. He is also thought to have been murdered.

❖ ❖ ❖

Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of two award-winning historical novels set in World War II: Night of Flames and The Katyn Order. Jacobson, a frequent contributor to this newspaper, has travelled extensively in Europe researching stories of the courage of common people caught in extraordinary circumstances.

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

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Hitler Statue in Former Warsaw Ghetto Creates Controversy

WARSAW — A statue of Adolf Hitler praying on his knees has sparked controversy after going on display in the former Warsaw ghetto.

The artwork by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, titled "Him," has been installed in the Polish capital where thousands of Jews were killed or sent to their deaths by the Nazi regime. The statue has attracted large numbers of visitors since its installation in December 2012, but some organizations have criticized the decision to erect it in such a sensitive area.

The statue's placement is "a senseless provocation which insults the memory of the Nazis' Jewish victims," said the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, said he was consulted on the installation's placement but did not oppose it because it conveyed a strong moral question by provoking the audience.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

“Code of Silence” Verdict Upheld

CHICAGO — As mentioned in the January 2013 issue of *Polish American Journal*, the federal case of **Karolina Obrycka vs. City of Chicago** Chicago Police Department continued after a federal jury ruled in favor of Obrycka, the bartender who was brutally attacked by a drunken Anthony Abbate, an off-duty Chicago police officer in 2007. This beating was seen throughout the world via a video posted on the internet.

The judgment “affirmed the reality of the code of silence and the role of that code in Abbate’s misconduct.” Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s administration requested that the federal case against Chicago be vacated, calling the verdict “ambiguous” and likely to lead to numerous frivolous lawsuits.” Such a jury decision that holds the Chicago police responsible for their continued and unofficial “code of silence” was rare, because such claims against the police rarely make it to trial.

The federal jury found that the Chicago Police Department “had either a ‘code of silence’ or a police department that failed to properly investigate and discipline its officers. The city’s lawyers asked Ms. Obrycka to file a motion to ask a federal judge to “set aside the jury verdict” on this case. She agreed, as Karolina was concerned that she could lose the \$850,000 awarded her by this jury. In their filings, lawyers for the city “pledged” in court that regardless of U.S. District Judge Amy St. Eve’s ruling, the city would award Obrycka the \$850,000 in damages.

On December 20, Judge St. Eve refused to toss out the jury’s verdict that city officials tolerated a “code of silence” in the police department, and this “emboldened Abbate to act with impunity in attacking the bartender.”

Obrycka’s attorneys hope that this verdict will send a wider message that the “code” won’t be tolerated.

SMOLIGA TAKES WORLD SWIMMING TITLE.

In the January 2013 issue of *Polish American Journal* **Olivia Smoliga** was reported as having the best ever swimming record out of Illinois, and then she went on to break her own national record. But now she



Smoliga

is one of the best swimmers in the world. On December 18, Olivia, a Glenbrook South senior out of Glenview Illinois, won the gold medal in the 100m (meters) backstroke at the World Short Course Championships, held in Istanbul Turkey. In the last 50m of this event, she had the fastest split in the field with a time of 29.74 seconds. She took the gold in 56.64 seconds. Olivia won a total of four medals at the World Championship of which two were gold, one was silver and the other was bronze. In the 50m backstroke, Olivia won the silver medal with Aleksandra Urbanczyk of Poland claiming the bronze. She earned a gold medal in the 4x100m freestyle relay and a bronze in the 4x100m medley. She earned the second most medals

behind Olympian Ryan Lochte. This was Smoliga’s first world competition on the senior level. There is more in the future for this University of Georgia-bound swimmer.

THE POLISH HAMMER. As Loyola Academy (LA), a Jesuit college preparatory high school, returned for the fourth consecutive season into the Illinois state football finals for the Class 8A championship, Coach John Holecek, a former Buffalo Bills’ linebacker, was at the helm.

At the beginning of the 2012 football season, **Michal “Mike” Kurzydowski**, a 5’7”, 120 lbs. sophomore, began his first year as a member of LA’s sophomore football team. He did play a half season as a freshman, but an injury prevented him from continuing. So he tried again this year.

As a member of the LA sophomore team, his coach noticed Mike’s agility, his consistency in kicking, and his very serious focus. One month into the pre-season football training sessions, Holecek noticed Mike’s consistent field goal attempts at sophomore games and at



PRCUA Building

practice. No wonder! In one game, Mike kicked a 44-yard field goal, followed by a 40-yard field goal! His teammates dubbed him “**The Polish Hammer**” and Coach Holecek called him “Money.” There was no question. Holecek put Mike on the varsity team, where he stayed until the end of season. In games that he played, Mike had field goals of 25 yards, 32 yards, and 27 yards. Pretty good considering the average field goal among high school players is 20 to 25 yards. In the state playoffs, against Glenbard North (GBN) and with only five seconds left in the first half of the game, Mike made a 25-yard field goal, scoring the only points against GBN. Unfortunately, LA lost to GBN, thus losing a shot at the 8A state title.

Mike has shown his positive attitude and work ethic, not only on the field, but in the classroom. He is an academic scholar excelling in LA’s honors program, which includes English, History, Algebra II, Chemistry, and Mandarin Chinese. He even has time to sing in LA’s Contemporary Vocal Ensemble. As a third generation Polish American, he speaks Polish.

Do not let his stature fool you, **Michal Kurzydowski** will grow stronger and better, and he is someone to watch from the class of 2015.

PRCUA RECEIVES LANDMARK STATUS. On November 2, the Illinois Historic Site Advisory Council voted unanimously to place the **Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA)** building on the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was also submitted to the National Park Service for final approval. The PRCUA building is a four-story masonry commercial

building constructed in 1913. The architect, John S. Fizikowski, designed this classical art deco building. It was eligible for national registry designation because of its historical significance and association with Chicago’s Polish immigration settlement as defined in the Multiple Property Listing (European) Historic Settlement in the city of Chicago (1860-1930). Additional importance of this building is that it houses The Polish Museum of America (PMA), the oldest ethnic museum in America. A special “thank you” goes out to **William Ippen** and **Daniel Ott**, PMA student volunteers from Loyola University Chicago, who painstakingly spent months researching and completing the 24-page National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

HELP PRESERVE POLONIA HISTORY. An appeal comes from the Northwest Chicago Historical Society (NCHS) and the Forgotten Chicago organization, which are working on the publication of a book on the history of the region that includes the *Jackowo* (St. Hyacinth) and *Waclawowo* (St. Wenc-



Chopin Theatre

eslaus) areas of Avondale, the “Polish Village.” **Daniel Pogorzelski**, vice president of the NCHS and executive director of the Avondale Chamber of Commerce, is working with the authors of the book and the Arcadia Publishing House. They are looking for pictures, photos and documents on a variety of topics. Perhaps you may have photos of old buildings in Avondale that have been victims of the wrecking ball, famous people, who have visited the “Polish Village” area, such as Pope John Paul II, U.S. presidents, Lech Walesa, Lech Kaczynski, etc. as well as artists, such as Christopher Klenczon and Czeslaw Niemen. Any photos of this area from banners to buildings, people to places, are most welcome.

If you believe that you can contribute to preserving Chicago’s historic Polish past, please contact **Dan Pogorzelski**. His email address is: dan@forgottenchicago.com or you can call him at (773) 350-9414. Dan wants to assure everyone that his email address is protected from spambots. He also mentioned that



CONGRATULATIONS TO SMAK TAK. For the second year in a row, Smak Tak has been chosen by the *Michelin Guide* with its “Bib Gourmand” rating – the only Polish restaurant in the United States to receive such an honor.

It is just a small six-table eatery that resembles a small Tatra Mountain (Zakopane) chalet. Smak Tak and its proprietor, Piotr Lakomy, appeared on the very popular PBS TV program, *Check Please!*

This Chicago Northwest Side restaurant received “thumbs up” by all three of its guest reviewers.

authors of the book can make arrangements to visit the homes of the owners of Avondale memorabilia and scan these priceless items the spot.

CHOPIN THEATRE MAKES WAVES. The Chopin Theatre, located in Chicago’s historic, Polish Triangle (**Stanislawowo**), aka “Polish Downtown” district, considered by critics and audiences alike as an important cultural center in Chicago, presented more than 500 events in 2012.

Many of the Chopin Theatre successes ventured out to other theater venues across America. In June, the production of “Pirates of Penzance,” directed by Sean Graney and presented by the Hyprocrites Ensemble, captured audiences in Boston, and now has been invited to Istanbul. The play “Death and Harry

its 14th Annual All Souls Jazz concert, to present outstanding literary events such as the 4th International Polish Studies Conference, the Annual Prose Awards Evening, and a Poets’ Club of Chicago event. There were also too many other plays, lectures, and concerts to mention. Kudos to Chopin’s proprietors, **Zygmunt Dyrkacz** and **Lela Headd**, for successfully keeping theater alive in the Polish Triangle.

PMA ART TREASURES ON DISPLAY IN ILLINOIS TREASURER’S OFFICE. The Polish Museum of America (PMA) in an agreement with the Office of the **Illinois State Treasurer Dan Rutherford**, is exhibiting and will continue to display



Marta Jaguś poster: FORTE! CHOPIN

Houdini,” performed by the House Theatre of Chicago, held forty performances in the renowned Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami and, in 2013, will return to its home at the Chopin Theatre. “Our Town” directed by David Cromer was shown this past summer at Los Angeles’ Broad Stage with Academy Award winner Helen Hunt in the lead role. The ever-popular “Magic Parlour” performances by magician Dennis Watkins was moved permanently from the Chopin to Chicago’s famous Palmer House.

Some of the interesting programs which appeared at the Chopin Theatre included a wonderful harp performance by William Close. His performance of “Earth Harp” took third place in the “America’s Got Talent 2012.” The “Nutcracker” performed by the House Theatre was a huge success with sold-out performances and reviews acclaiming it the best of holiday entertainment. Also, in 2012, the Chopin was privileged to have world-renowned jazz singer, Grazyna Auguscik, and jazz pianist, Paul Kaczmarczyk, perform, to hold

ten selected artworks from traditional oil paintings to contemporary graphic art pieces from internationally-recognized talented Polish artists, such as Leszek Żebrowski, Marta Jaguś, and Sophia Jablonska, just to name a few.

The museum’s art curator, **Monika Nowak**, and PMA art volunteer, **Kinga Zaluch**, made a special trip to the Treasurer’s office to assess the lighting and location to ensure that the right pieces of artwork would be chosen. In keeping with the contemporary style of the James R. Thompson Center’s design, Monika Nowak and Kinga Zaluch selected bold and modern poster art to complement the Thompson Center’s contemporary interior space. Mr. Rutherford’s office displays the more traditional oil paintings. The art loan is active from July 18, 2012 - July 18, 2013.

The PMA has a similar arrangement with the Polish Consulate which has approximately ten paintings in its offices and reception area and four art deco travel posters hanging on the walls of the Consulate’s first floor public space.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Broadway Market to Host Lecture Series



FILLMORE DISTRICT Councilman David Franczyk. Kicked off lecture series at Broadway Market.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The city's fabled Broadway Market is celebrating its 125th anniversary. As part of the year-long celebration, the Friends of the Broadway Market District, the city's once-thriving Polonia, will be sponsoring free monthly lecture series.

The first, held January 12, discussed the history of Buffalo's East Side by **David Franczyk**, Fillmore District Councilmember. The February presentation will be on the history of the retail giant Sattlers by Mike Rizzo, and the March presentation will be on the History of Breweries in Buffalo and on the East Side by Peter Jablonski.

A schedule of weekly events at the Broadway Market can be viewed on the Broadway Market webpage. www.broadwaymarket.org.

POLONIA TIDBITS. The **Polish Villa II** restaurant in Cheektowaga has recently been remodeled and has introduced a new menu with authentic Polish cuisine and expanded entertainment ... **Stefan Mychajliw** was sworn in as the new Comptroller of Erie County on December 27 ... On December 28, carolers from **St. Casimir Parish's** youth group went door-to-door with the Star of

Bethlehem in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood singing Christmas carols in both Polish and English.

The **General Pulaski Association**, sponsors of the Annual Pulaski Parade in Cheektowaga, elected the following officers for 2013: Brian Rusk (president - 25th term), Sandi Schmid (first vice-president), Kenneth Graber (second vice-president) Edward Reska (treasurer), Jerry Inda (secretary), Rev. Michael Burzynski (chaplain) and Stanley Pulaski Sr. (sergeant-at-arms) ... **Molly Dahl Poremski** was recently named curator of the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYAB) Lockwood Library's Polish Room Collection ... Soprano **Brittany Mruczek** performed koledy at St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia, on December 30 ... Broadway Fillmore Alive's **Chris Byrd**, *Am-Pol Eagle* columnist **Greg Witul**, **Tony Fracasso**, and **Karen Siuda McCann** used the Facebook social network to raise the money needed to return a vintage lamp to its home in the New York Central Terminal in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District.

Matt Gryta, a Pol-Am reporter for the Buffalo News, recently published his first book, "The Real Teflon Don" about the Magaddino crime family investigation in WNY with retired NYS Trooper George Karalus ... The **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS** elected the following leadership for the new year: David Newman (president), Ted Smardz (vice-president), Denise Oliansky (secretary), and Chuck Pyrak (treasurer). Trustees Pierre LaJoie, Walter Kloc, Frank Miller, Pat Newland and Maureen Gleason were also returned to office ... SS. Columba and Brigid Parish in Buffalo renamed its parish center in honor of the late **Sister Karen Klimczak, SSJ** ... **Assumption Parish** and **Our Lady of Black Rock School** of Buffalo were the joint recipients of the Grant Amherst Business Association's 2012 "Institutional Support to the Community Award" ... **Debbie Szczepanski** was recently

named principal of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School in Depew.

The New Year's Eve Dinner Dance at Rochester's St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester's January Polish Happy Hour were cancelled in honor of firefighter **Tomasz Kaczowka** (2011 PHSR scholarship recipient) who was shot and killed while fighting a fire in Webster last Christmas Eve ... The **Consulate General** of the Republic of Poland in Toronto sponsored a "God is Born, Bog Sie Rodzi" Christmas concert featuring St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish's Agnus Dei Choir and Matthew Jaskiewicz's Toronto Sinfonietta at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Jan. 6 ... Also on the 6th, soprano **Brittany Mruczek** performed in English and Polish before the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir Parish and joined the Wanderers folk group for a reunion Christmas concert at Assumption Church in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood. This was the first event marking the beginning of Assumption parish's year-long 125 anniversary celebration ... **Lucyna Dziedzic** started another semester of her Polish language courses for the Maryvale Community Education program during January.

The **Polish Legacy Project** hosted its annual "Oplatek and Koleda" in the St. Stanislaus Social Hall in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, on January 13 ... Attorney **William Nowakowski**, former president of the WNY Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation, was elected Chair of the City of Buffalo Republican Committee ... Kosciuszko Foundation teaching fellow **Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz** of the University of Gdansk spoke on the Assembly of Captive European Nations at the January 16 meeting of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst ... Buffalo's **Roger Heymanowski** hosted a Polish Christmas TV program on Time Warner Cable Channel 20 on January 17 ... **Chrusciki Bakery's** cake designer Shannon Pilarski started a series of baking workshops at the bakery's Lancaster location during January ... **Bialy Orzel, Polonez** and **Ludowa Nuta** performed at the Polish Alliance of Canada Hall in Hamilton, Ontario on the 26th ... On January 26 and 27, Toronto's Salon of Poetry, Music and Theatre presented the Gorale group **Harnasie** in **Balada Tatrzanska** at the Maja Prentice Theatre in Mississauga, Ontario ... Also on the 27th, Krystyna Sienkiewicz, Zofia Czerwinska, Anna Derezowska, Rafal Cieszyński and Dariusz Taraszkiwicz appeared in **Zamkniety Swiat** at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga.

The **Krakow-Rochester Sister City** relationship marks its 40th year in 2013 ... The **Polish Villa II** Restaurant in Cheektowaga will be the site of "Stas and Stella's Polish Valentine Wedding" featuring the New Direction Players on February 16 ... Syracuse's Polish Scholarship Fund announced that its 59th Annual Polish Festival will take place the weekend on June 21 through 23 in Clinton Square.

Reminder: Tuesday, Feb. 12 is Paczki Day!

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. Feb. 6 for the March edition) at pietruska@verizon.net.

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



SUPPORTING CENTURIES OF SALT. Wieliczka, Poland. May 23, 1976.

WIADOMOŚCI Z POLSKI / Robert Stybel

MAY SEND TROOPS TO MALI.

Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski has indicated that Poland may join a European Union forces and send troops to Mali, where French air strikes have stopped the advance of al-Qaeda-linked rebels. Sikorski believes letting the terrorist organization gain a foothold in the African state could pose a security threat to the EU itself, whose borders are not that far away. But he was quick to add that this would not be a combat expedition but a training mission to help upgrade Mali's defenses against Islamic insurgents.

SEPARATE CELEBRATIONS OF JANUARY UPRISING.

The 150th anniversary of the 1863 January Insurrection against Russia is being observed in Poland separately by different political camps. Launching the official observances, President Bronisław Komorowski said: "We can loudly declare that our generation has been granted a better destiny. (...) Today's patriotism no longer demands the ultimate sacrifice." But the official ceremonies were boycotted by the largest opposition party Law and Justice (PiS). And yet a third citizens' option wants no part of the politicizing and plans to hold observances of its own. The January Insurrection was the biggest Polish insurgency during the partitions (1795-1918) that carved up the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth which had once been Europe's largest land empire.

POLAND JOINS CYBER-CRU-SADE AGAINST WEB CRIME.

Poland has joined European Cyber crime Center (EC3), established at Europol (the European police agency) at The Hague. EC3 is to be the focal point in the EU's fight against the cyber underworld. Polish efforts have so far, been quite effective in combating cyber crime, but new forms of criminal ingenuity are constantly arising, said Polish Administration and Digitization Minister Michał Boni. He added that cooperation with the country's well-organized community of Internet users has made it possible to pinpoint online offenders, especially in cases of child pornography.

UNIQUE DRIVE RAISES FUNDS FOR SICK CHILDREN.

The Great Christmas Charity Orchestra, Poland's unique fund-raising project, marked its 21st birthday this year. Some 120,000 young volunteers took to the streets on a cold and snowy January Sunday collecting donations from people leaving church and passersby. Some \$220 have been collected since the campaign was launched in the early 1990s by former communist-era radio rock DJ Jerzy Osaka with proceeds providing medical equipment to treat youngsters with congenital defects, young accident victims and other sick children. For the first time, half of the some \$16 million expected to be raised this year will finance the treatment of elderly patients.

OWSIK CRITICIZED OVER BAD EXAMPLES, EUTHANASIA.

Most Poles who support Jerzy Owsiak's Great Christmas Charity Orchestra are prepared to overlook his provocative buffoonery in view of the amount of good he has accomplished for sick children. However, he has been criticized by Catholic circles for using part of the proceeds to hold free rock concerts for volunteers at which alcohol and marijuana are never in short supply and trains have been demolished by rock fans. Recently he came under fire for seeming to support euthanasia. He replied that he did not support it but merely stated that the issue was being discussed.

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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

Marie Curie in Trouble

continued

Marie Curie-Sklodowska was hunted by the press from 1902 on, when the journalists found her and Pierre working in their shack after their first Nobel award was announced. Until 1910 Marie's press coverage was mainly positive, although when she applied in November 1910 for the single vacant seat for a physicist in the French Academy of Sciences, she received some negative coverage since she was a woman and a foreigner. When members of Academy of Sciences gathered for a vote in January 1911, their president announced that everyone was welcomed to enter the chamber except women. By two votes, she lost the seat to 66-year-old Edouard Branly, who taught at a leading Catholic institution and was known for his contribution to wireless telegraphy.

Marie replied to the loss by throwing herself into her work. But in the Fall of 1911 when Marie, as the only woman, attended the Solvay conference in Brussels together with other world famous physicists in the world, the press got hold of intimate letters exchanged indicating a romance between her and Paul Langevin, a married man and father. She was called a foreigner, a Jew, a dissolute woman and a home-

wrecker. When Marie returned to Paris, there was an angry mob congregated there, so Marie had to take both her daughters away from home.

What was all this fuss about? Eve, Marie's daughter, vehemently denied the claims that her mom had a romance, but the evidence proves otherwise. The short history of the affair which almost broke Marie's reputation is below.

In spring 1910 Marie dropped in at the Borels for an informal dinner with the Perrins, another family of friends. Instead of wearing a simple black dress as usual since Pierre's death, she wore a fashionable white gown with a pink rose pinned to her waist. Marie seemed much more relaxed and happy. Her friends did not understand this transformation, but Marie felt like a loved woman again since she had a romance with Paul Langevin. Her friends still did not know about it.

Paul Langevin was a brilliant physicist and mathematician. He was Pierre Curie's doctoral student and his chosen successor at the ESPCI (École de Physique et Chimie). However, he was also a married man with four children, and five years younger than Marie. His marriage to Jeanne Desfosses, a daughter of a working class ceramicist,

was not a happy one. Known for his extramarital affairs, he was, for some time estranged from his wife.

Marie knew Paul Langevin from the times when he worked with Pierre Curie. After Pierre's death Paul helped Marie prepare the university lectures at Sorbonne. They became lovers in June 1910, meeting in Paul's rented Paris apartment. Their affair was evident from the letter exchange. Marie letters that were delivered to the press by Langevin's wife, are very emotional and sometimes cruel. Marie was advising Paul not to have any physical contact with his wife and not have another child.

During the Solvay conference in Brussels in 1911 Marie looked worn out and tired. She knew that Langevin's wife knew about her affair since they'd had an unfriendly encounter once before. There was a thrilling moment at the conference when Marie received a telegram that she was the sole winner of the second Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Then the second telegram came that Langevin's wife released their letters to the press.

Marie hastily left the conference since the affair became a public scandal. Luckily, she had a help from her most loyal friends. Debi-erne, a faithful co-worker, as well



CURIE WAS THE ONLY WOMAN at the 1911 conference organized and subsidized by Belgian industrialist Ernest Solvay. Discussions at this gathering of the world's top physicists opened the way to a new physics that would bring together relativity, the quantum, and radioactive atoms. Langevin, at far right, stands next to the young Albert Einstein. Curie, seated, confers with Poincaré.

as Borels and Perrins helped protect her children and her from the angry press and public opinion. But some professors at Sorbonne demanded that Marie leave France immediately. Paul Langevin, as a man and a Frenchman, was sheltered from most of the public anger except for one of the right-wing journalist, who called him "a boor and a coward." Though Langevin challenged him to a duel, the finish of the duel was not bloody, since both parties refused to use a pistol. Later Langevin and his wife signed a separation agreement. Langevin continued to have

more mistresses and even fathered an illegitimate child. He and Marie remained friendly, but not intimate. Many years later there was a happy end to this entangled story when Curie's granddaughter, Hélène Joliot, married Langevin's grandson, Michel Langevin.

Visit Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: polishsite.us.

REFERENCES:

- Barbara Goldsmith "Obsessive Genius"
- <http://www.aip.org/history/curie/scandal1.htm>

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

A "Little Candy" for Your Sweetie

As Michael Corleone said in *Godfather III*, "Every time I try to get out, they pull me back in." Every time I find the perfect food network or web site, "they pull me back in" and I find something else new and exciting.

While you are looking at Ren Behan's *Fabulicious Food!* (Pondering Pole January 2013) let me direct your attention to another Polish food-themed home page called *Mala Cukierenka*, "Little Candy" (malacukierenka.pl), a web site devoted to deserts. It is in the Polish language but there is a translator available. Like *Fabulicious*, the styling and layout of the displays are modern and so, so tantalizing. If you are a pastry addict as I am, then this site is your worst nightmare. Pay close attention to the blueberry cheesecake.

Question for February, is "Little Candy" a person? Or if not, who is the creator and force behind this excellent online resource? Since Val-

entine's Day is near, perhaps this is the perfect place to find the recipe for a Polish treat that you can make for your Valentine's sweetheart!

We have *Fabulicious Food!* and *Mala Cukierenka*, Kowalski's Markets of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and now Eroski Supermarkets. Eroski is part of Grupo Eroski, a private cooperative with over 2000 supermarkets and other specialty stores mostly found in Spain. Here is a brief description of the company:

Grupo Eroski can fill your pantry and book your next flight. One of Spain's leading retailers, Eroski operates about 2,440 supermarkets, hypermarkets, perfume shops, sporting goods stores, and other formats throughout its home country and in France and tiny Andorra. The firm's supermarkets operate under the monikers EROSKI/center and EROSKI/city while hypermarkets carry the EROSKI banner. It also runs grocery stores bearing the Caprabo brand. In addition to sup-

plying foodstuffs, the company manages the Viajes Eroski travel agency through more than 200 outlets. Grupo Eroski, which is the retailing arm of Mondragón Corporación Cooperativa, is owned by its employees.

I like the name Eroski because of the obvious Polish/Eastern European stamp, but I could not find any explanation for why this is the name as opposed to something more Spanish sounding. Can you help? I would also be curious to hear from our readers on whether they have visited and used the Eroski stores and what is your impression.

LISTS. How about a few lists to start off the New Year? Let's begin with the "What is there to see in Poland?" list. A number of recent experiences had me concerned about the initial responses of non-Poles but also about what comes to mind for our Polish people. For instance, when I asked a young American student what stuck out on his trip to Poland,

his reply was "that Auschwitz really had an impact on me."

Majdanek had an impact on me as well but that is not the most notable thing I remembered and saw in my visit to Poland. I have heard Wieliczka Salt Mines as a number one as well. Americans are so bombarded with Auschwitz and Poland in movies and television I fear people are automatically associating death camps and salt mines when they are asked about Poland. If you ask me what is there to see in St. Louis, the first items on my list are not the old courthouse, site of the famous Dread Scott race case, or the River des Peres, "the backbone of the sanitary and storm water systems" running through a significant portion of the city.

Before Auschwitz as my "places to see" in Poland are the rebuilding of "stare" Warszawa, the countryside, Zakopane and the Tatra mountains, Krakow and Wawel Castle, the various palaces and castles and manor houses, Jagiellonian University, Gdansk and the Baltic coast, and the special places of worldwide notoriety such as the Lenin Ship Yards, Malbork Castle, the Bolestawiec Pottery headquarters, and of course, Auschwitz or Majdanek. I

would also mention a trip to Poland gives one the chance to experience a people who are culturally and historically different than western or southern Europeans. Do so by trying the food and drink. Can you think of other interesting or unique things to see or experience in Poland? What have I missed?

POLISH OR NOT? Still waiting for answers on: **Ward Bond**, Bert the cop from the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*; **Katie Cleary**, Chicago born, model and actress; **Kate Upton**, Michigan born, model and actress; **Elle "The Body" McPherson**, model and entrepreneur, father's name is Gow (Is this short for "Gowronski?"); **Frank Yablans**, movie director, *Mommie Dearest* and *North Dallas Forty*; **John Candy**, comedian and actor; and **Jennifer Coolidge**, actress.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, an answer to any of the questions, a question of your own, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com. N.B. If you send eMail, reference the PAJ or the Pondering Pole in the subject line.

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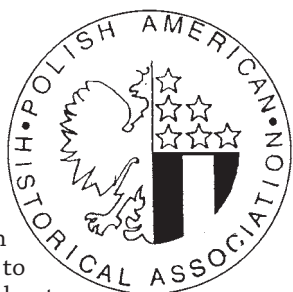
Polish American Historical Association

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

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

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Annual Fundraiser Pays Tribute to a Generous Soul

"Gift of Life" Lisa Biskup Memorial Benefit Dance, April 27 to Feature Badinov and Freeze Dried

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

By now, many readers are no doubt familiar with Lisa Biskup's story.

Lisa Biskup, the daughter of Ron Biskup of Brighton, Michigan, was a young woman with heart problems that were apparent soon after her birth in 1967. Because the problems were never fully defined, Lisa enjoyed a nearly normal childhood, with only minor limitations. While in high school, Lisa was evaluated by a team of doctors at Baylor University and began taking experimental drugs that gave her hope for the next 7 years.



Lisa Biskup

In 1990, Lisa was given the Gift of Life when she received a heart transplant. Over the next 16 years, Lisa accomplished many things, including working with children by day in the day care field, and going to school at night and on weekends, eventually earning a bachelor of science degree in human resources. At the same time, Lisa became a huge fan of Polish music, and traveled to numerous polka events and festivals around the Michigan and Midwest area. Sadly, her life was cut short in May of 2006 at the age of 39, not

long after Lisa had enjoyed a Polka cruise. Lisa was one of only a few organ recipients who was also an organ and tissue donor at the time of her death.

Lisa's father Ron and his wife Sue organized the first Gift of Life Dance in 2007 to honor Lisa's memory. In 2010, Ron formed the Lisa Biskup Organ and Tissue Donor Foundation. At that time, the sole purpose of The Lisa Biskup Organ & Tissue Donor Foundation was as a major supporter of the University of Michigan Transplant Center's Camp Michitanki. This camp gives kids who are organ recipients a week of carefree fun, where they can just "be kids."

In the early days of the foundation, Ron was also working with the State of Michigan to create an organ and tissue donor license plate.

I had the opportunity to speak to Ron right after the first of the year about Lisa, the Foundation, and the 2013 Gift of Life dance. Ron is proud to report that, after several years in the works, the Michigan Lieutenant Governor signed a bill into law in June 2012 designating a "Donate Life" license plate. Lisa's foundation was able to donate twenty-five percent of the funds needed to make this happen.

Ron said "The mission of the Lisa Biskup Organ and Tissue Donor Foundation has expanded to include not only Camp Michitanki, but also the Michigan Eye Bank. This organization encourages folks to designate the donation of their corneas to needy recipients. I am also working on a project to supply each child who attends camp with a brand new pair of athletic shoes."

Ron continued, "The Lisa Biskup Memorial Benefit Dance has become a popular event over the past six years and we look forward to our most successful event to date in 2013. The dance features music from two of the top Polka bands in the nation for your dancing and listening enjoyment, Randy Krajewski & Badinov from Ohio along with Freeze Dried from Illinois. Also,



After several years in the works, the Michigan Lieutenant Governor signed a bill into law in June 2012 designating a "Donate Life" license plate. Lisa's foundation was able to donate twenty-five percent of the funds needed to make this happen. Lisa's dad, Ron, is pictured above, at center.

The Donate Life plate carries the Donate Life logo and the message: "Be an Organ, Eye & Tissue Donor."

The plate is formally known as the John J. Gleason Gift of Life Plate in honor of the state representative, John Gleason, who sponsored legislation creating the plate. Gleason is a kidney recipient.

there will be a special guest appearance by legendary Hall of Famer, Mitch Biskup. Raffles and prizes and some of the best Polish food available will add to a night you don't want to miss. A 'great time will be had by all' as we dance, sing, eat and drink all while raising awareness for the need for more organ donors throughout the state of Michigan and beyond."

In closing, Ron remarked "as we go through life, there is always

someone who has a very strong influence on us. My daughter Lisa was that person for me, and she continues to inspire me after her death."

ADMISSION PRICES: Raffles, door prizes, silent auction and a Polish kitchen will be available. No BYOB. Cash bar will be available.

For more information please contact: Ron Biskup at: (810) 588-6266 or e-mail at: ronbiskup@yahoo.com.

Next Taping of "Mollie B Polka Party," February 21-24 in Ennis, Texas

RIDGEVILLE CORNERS, Ohio—The taping of the next "Mollie B Polka Party" is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, February 21 through 24 at Sokol Hall in Ennis, Texas. More details will be released in the near future. Bands interested should contact

Ted Lange at email: ted@squeezeboxband.com. The www.squeezeboxband.com site has been updated with new "Mollie B" and SqueezeBox merchandise, including the "Mollie B Christmas Special" DVD/CD pack, caps, towels, t-shirts, and CDs.

16th Annual Pączki Day, Feb. 10

WNY's Largest Polish Pre-Lenten Celebration

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

"What's a pączki? (punch-key)" you ask. "Pączki" is the plural of pączek (pohn-check), a deep-fried piece of dough shaped into a flattened sphere and filled with jam or other sweet filling. A traditional fill-

ing is marmalade made from fried rose buds. Fresh pączki are usually covered with powdered sugar, icing or bits of fried orange zest. Pączki have been known in Poland at least since the Middle Ages. It is the feast of plenty before the Lenten fast begins. It is the last day of gaiety in Karnawal time, the period between Christmas and Lent. It is to mark the last moments of excess before the austerity of Lenten sacrifice. The most popular flavor here is the black raspberry filled.

If you never danced a polka, the Polish Heritage Dancers will show you how. This group, the ambassadors of WNY's Polonia has been hosting this celebration for the past sixteen years and this serves as a fundraiser for costumes. Each region of Poland has its own unique dress and dances.

So bring your family and friends to celebrate the last hurrah before Lent, Polish style. The 16th Annual Pączki Day will take place on Sunday, February 10, 2013 at the Hearthstone Manor, 333 Dick Road in Depew from 1:00-7:00 p.m.

The Bedrock Boys, will be playing all your favorite polkas, waltzes, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. The Polish Heritage Dancers will take the stage at 3:00 p.m. Our Polish kitchen will be open for all your favorite Polish foods. Dinners as well as *ala carte* items, desserts and of course pączki will be on the menu. Polish beer will also be available. There will also be a theme basket raffle. We will crown Pączki King, Queen, Prince and Princess. Amber Gems and More and Salt Lamps Etc. will be there for your shopping pleasure.

This event is a perfect opportunity to bring children and grandchildren for a fun afternoon. Plenty of free parking and buses are welcome.

Tickets are \$6.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door. Children under 12 can get in for only \$2.00.

For tickets, table reservations, or more information Michelle at (716) 983-5084 or Debbie at 681-3526. Tickets are also available at the *Am-Pol Eagle* newspaper, 3620 Harlem Rd. Cheektowaga, 835-9454, and at Salt Lamps Etc. 5274 Broadway, Lancaster, 564-9286. Pre-sale tickets on sale until Feb. 8. Get your tickets early as there will be no pre-sale tickets held at the door.

To learn more, visit phdofwny.com. If you are on Facebook, be sure to like the Polish Heritage Dancers.

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email: pajpolka@verizon.net.



Above: John Gora and Eddie Blazonczyk, Polka Fireworks. 1998. Left: Mary Lou Czerniak and Al Bakowski, Concertina Jam, Polka Fireworks. 1999. Center: Rich Bernier on accordion with the Happy Louie & Julcia Polka Band, Fountain's Pavilion, Johnson City, N.Y. 1983.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Remembering Aloysius "Ollie" Spitulski

TOLEDO — Happy New Year to all of my readers. I hope this column finds everyone eagerly looking forward to that next polka event on the calendar.

I had the pleasure of attending a few Christmas celebrations as my schedule allowed, and each was well worth it. Society 162 of the PRCUA in Wyandotte held its annual Koledy sing along on Saturday, December 8th. Never having attended this event, I was warned, "it gets crowded so get there early." True to word, the club lounge was cozy by 7:00 p.m. The fellows in the band warmed up and started at 8 p.m. Thanks to John Zelasko, Sr and the members of the Wyandotte Cavaliers, the crowd was treated to many favorite Polish songs, with the English ones thrown in for good measure. Tony Kempinski, Dan Gury, John Zelasko Jr, and Kevin Jakubowicz also graced the stage at points during the evening. Congrats to Stanley Pasko Jr, 162 President, on another memorable gathering, and also on being re-elected President of the club for 2013.

December 16th, the Toledo Area Polka Society presented their annual Christmas Dinner Dance. This was held at the Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Post, which has been completely updated on the inside. President Mike Marek along with his crew of officers and helpers, including this writer, served a delightful Polish meal catered by the Malczewski family. Randy Krajewski and the Czelusta Park All Stars provided the entertainment, with special guests Eddie Biegaj and Robert McMahon, who joined members of the band to sing Christmas songs and Koledy.

The 2013 Toledo Polka Queen was crowned at this dance, and the young lady is none other than Alyson Krajewski. Aly, as she is known, is the older daughter of Randy and Sue Krajewski, and comes into the title well suited. Aly has danced with the Echoes of Poland Song and Dance Ensemble for thirteen years.

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Aly is a junior at Central Catholic High School, where she is the vice president of the class council. Aly counts among her interests English and art. With Randy and Sue (a former polka queen herself) as her parents, certainly Aly has been listening to polkas since she was born, and dancing to them nearly as long. Aly received her crown, sash, and flowers from Sharon Zablocki after Randy escorted her to the front of the hall. Aly assumed the title from her good friend, outgoing polka queen Grace Rutkowski, daughter of Jimmy Rutkowski, long time leader of a Touch of Brass. Aly stated "I'm thrilled to be Toledo's polka queen, and I hope to do as good a job as Grace did. I will be attending as many polka dances as I can. I am so thankful to be a part of this Polish tradition."

The Toledo Polka Queen is sponsored Sharon Zablocki's Polka Party, which is one of the longest-running polka radio shows in the country. Sharon has continued to keep the polka queen tradition going in the spirit of keeping polkas relevant to the younger generations.

Before the dance ended, there was the requisite visit by Santa Claus, who hand-delivered gifts to all of the children present, and the prize raffles. All of the officers of the Toledo Area Polka Society wish everyone a Happy New Year, and they hope to see all members of the TAPS 'polka family' at a dance in 2013.

HERE IS THE LIST of Toledo dances upcoming:

- IMA February 10, Dan Gury's Dynadukes
- TAPS February 17, Duane Malinowski's Polka Jamboree
- IMA March 10, The Mixx
- TAPS March 17, The Jimmy Rutkowski Band, and the 10-, 15-, and 25-year club member recognition.

All IMA and TAPS dances are held at the Conn-Weissenberger post, with doors open at 12:30 p.m., a light lunch served at 1:00 p.m., and music from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Had a chance to chat with Randy Krajewski recently, and he wishes

to thank all of those folks who attended the New Years Eve dance at the United Polish Club of Elyria. Though I was not able to make it, I have heard that a 'good time was had by all'. Randy and his band have been invited back to ring in the New Year for a seventh time, that is, NYE 2013 with Tom Barnes and the UPC members in Elyria.

Randy also reports that Stanley's Five Star Market in Toledo, which is a major sponsor of his 'Sons of LaGrange' Internet radio show, has commissioned him to compose a commemorative song celebrating Stanley's many decades in business. This polka will be very likely be included as just one of many originals on Badinov's new recording, which is in the works for a release later this spring. Congratulations to Randy and all of the members of his band on continued success in the polka industry.

I COULDN'T END this month's column without mentioning the passing of Aloysius "Ollie" Spitulski, who died at the age of 93 on December 4, 2012. Ollie was one of the founders of the Commodore Club, currently located on LaGrange Street near Manhattan Boulevard, and was a person who had enormous influence over almost every facet of his long and productive life.

As Commodore club member Tom Roth noted in his tribute to Ollie in the January LaGrange Street News "practically everything associated with the Commodore Club had Ollie's hand attached in some aspect. Ollie was one of the founders of the Club in the 1930s. Ollie helped create the constitution and by-laws. He contributed significantly in making a positive reputation for the Club in the area of sports (softball, baseball and football) and the Club's social agenda.

As you walk around the Commodore clubroom, you cannot but feel Ollie's presence. whether looking at the current activities board on the wall that he conscientiously updated, Ollie's Box (where you placed information for his notification and use), or the plaques that honor the winners of the Ollie Spitulski

Bowling Tournament, and other activities attached to Ollie.

Perhaps his greatest contribution to the Commodore Club is the annual yearbook composed by Ollie that covered Club history from 1938 through 2010. Ollie also was the Commodore Club historian and scribe. He was the person responsible for writing the Club articles for the Lagrange Street News.

Ollie believed strongly that we have a duty and responsibility to do our individual best as we all have special opportunities and special responsibilities. He believed that God judges us based on what we do with these. Ollie stepped forward and always gave his best effort. Ollie was a true role model. He trusted people and had a deep and strong belief in his Catholic faith and the Blessed Virgin Mary." (info courtesy of Tom

Roth and the LSN)

To everyone who made his acquaintance, Ollie Spitulski was known as an intently focused man who took his responsibilities to God, family, and country very seriously. I had the privilege of attending a special event in August of 2010, when Ollie was honored for his years of service to the Commodore Club. It was at this event that Randy Krajewski presented Ollie with a special polka written especially for this occasion, titled "Captain Ollie". I will not forget the image of Ollie as he was handed a plaque with the lyrics engraved, or the smile on his face as his very own polka was being played. And even though he spent his final days in Erie, Pa. to be near his daughter, Ollie was truly a Toledo legend. Rest in peace, Ollie, you will be missed.

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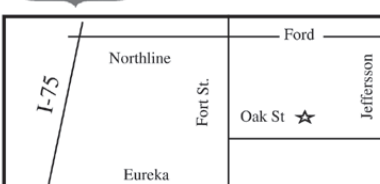
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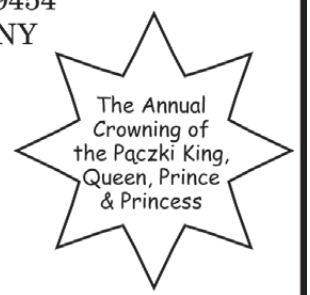
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First Polka New Year's Eve at the Millennium a Huge Success



OVER 500 PEOPLE packed the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo, N.Y. for the "First Polka New Year's Eve."



VIEW FROM THE STAGE. Fans lined up in front of Polka Country Musicians, who shared the stage with Buffalo's Bedrock Boys.

BUFFALO—Raves were loud and plentiful from all who attended the first Polka New Year's Eve at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo. Val Balkowski, the driving force behind this event, was complemented by the dynamic staff of the Millennium, the music of Connecticut-based Polka Country Musicians and Buffalo's Bedrock Boys to make it a night to remember.

With guests attending from all over the greater northeast, the ho-

tel was completely booked for this first-time event. A complete variety of music for listening and dancing was provided by the bands, while Al Krew put a perfect finishing touch to the evening with music in the Lounge.

The next event at the Millennium will be the Dyngus Day Party, Monday, April 1. For more information, call the Millennium Buffalo at (800) 323-3331 or Val at (716) 777-2455.

NEW OFFICERS. The Polka Variety Social Club of Buffalo recently installed the following officers for 2013: Bill Janish (president), Bob Wojciechowski (vice-president), Fay Morith (secretary), Pauline Janish (treasurer), and Fran Garbe and Linda Gayler (sergeants-at-arms).



Tour Poland and Central Europe with Jan Lewan

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Jan Lewan is hosting several tours to Poland and Central Europe this year.

Pat Tours is taking reservations now for limited seating. As deadlines pass, reservations will only be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you are planning to join the May tour to Poland, you should make your reservation now.

To join the July 14-25 tour to Poland, reserve your spot before the end of March. If joining the September 17-28 Great Capitals tour, reserve before the end of May.

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2013 tours include: May 14-25 Poland; July 25-Aug. 4 Poland; and Sept. 17-28 Great Capitals of Europe.

For reservations, contact: Pat Tours 1285 Riverdale St., West Springfield, MA 01089; (431) 747-7702 or (800) 388-0988.

CPA Events

CLEVELAND — Sunday, February 17, 2013 the Cleveland Polka Association will hold their President's Day Dance at St. John Byzantine Cathedral Upper Hall, 1900 Carlton Road in Parma, Ohio. The hall is located off Broadview Road, just south of Snow Road. Doors for this public dance open at 2 p.m. with music by Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze from Chicago from 3 to 7 p.m. No BYOB as food and beverages will be available. Donation is \$13.00 with those 18 and under admitted free.

For more information or large table reservations, please call Sylvia or Paul at (216) 228-1134.

Saturday, March 2, 2013 the Cleveland Polka Association and United States Polka Association will present a joint celebration of St. Joseph's Day at the Holiday Inn, Strongsville, Ohio on Royalton Road

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. with music by John Gora & Gorale from Canada from 8 p.m. until midnight. Donation is \$12.00. No BYOB as food and beverages will be available with special drink prices.

Call Barb at (440) 886-6157 or Paul at (216) 228-1134 for more information or to reserve a table for 10 or more. Special room rate of \$62.00 if you notify the hotel you are with the CPA or USPA. Call (440) 238-8800 for rooms.

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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Do you Remember the 1980s?

Just a little over a month into 2013, I stumbled upon the 1980s while sorting through a stack of articles in the famous "polka office." If you are old enough to remember the '80s, you might just enjoy this polka cruise back in time.

The '80s are behind us now, more behind us than some might care to acknowledge. It was a decade of several notable events in polka history. It was the decade that marked the demise of several bands including The New Brass, The Detroit Polka Authority, Polka Soul, The Mrozinski Brothers, The Polka Shamrocks, The Happy Harmony Boys and — at least a couple of times — The Dynatoners. The decade also brought the return of The Dynasticks, The Sounds, The Boys and — for at least a couple of times — The Dynatoners. New names on the stage included The Mass Brass, Limelite, This 'n That, and The Cz-

erniak Concertina Band.

During those years, Polkabration found a new home while other festivals under tents moved indoors, and Hunter returned to a solid polka format. Polka videos were given birth in the '80s along with the surfacing of the Polka Grammy.

It was a time to "Play Me a Song," have a "Polka Celebration," visit those "Pennsylvania Hills," "Put on Your Dancin' Shoes Tonight," "Salute the Polka Stars" and sing "Oh Baby Mine." Sturr and Stanky were televised. Alf played the concertina and Darlak left the Versatones.

Certainly this isn't everything that made the 1980s memorable for polkas, but the Insider's memory has lost a bit of its sharpness, or at the very least I'm writing in a flat key. After all, since those glorious 1980s we've all celebrated a few more birthdays than we might care to remember.

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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

Immigration – Where, Why, When

I do not have any oral history to indicate why my Polish ancestors decided to leave their beloved land so I sought possible answers in the history of Polish immigration.

The first Poles arrived in America in 1608. These Poles, hired by the London Company, created glass, pitch and potash which were the first exports of Jamestown colony.

The next wave of Polish immigrants included the nobles that were defeated in the battles during the 1795 partition for Poland. After their defeat, their lands were confiscated and they were forced to flee. The Nationalistic movements from 1840s to 1860s brought more battles with the monarchs in Europe including those within Poland. Defeats forced more Polish nobles and intellectuals to flee. Many Polish peasants in the lands controlled by the Russian Tsar actually supported the Tsar because he promised them farm land which would be taken from the nobles.

THE FIRST WAVE of Polish peasants began in the 1870s when the German Empire began their attempt to Germanize all of their non-German lands. New laws were very oppressive to the Polish people and the Poles in the Poznan Province saw their Church supported schools closed and replaced by German speaking schools. Poles were forced to sell their lands to the Germans who were recruited to re-settle in these new "German" lands. These policies forced the Polish farmers to emigrate because they could not

support their families with day-laborer wages that were available when they could find work. Passenger lists from this time period (1860 to 1890) indicate whole families left Polish-Germany to settle in the cities and farms of America.

THE NEXT WAVE of Polish peasants to leave Poland began in the 1880s when young single Polish men left to find work in America. These men were the younger sons of Polish farmers in the Russian and Austrian controlled lands. They had no hope of owning land because of inheritance laws which gave the lands to the oldest son and the fact that these areas had few industrial jobs available. Some of these immigrants found farm land but most settled in the cities and helped build the industrial output of the United States in the early 1900s. The steel mills, meat packing plants, auto factories and the railroads were major employers of our Polish ancestors.

Most of our Polish ancestors came from these last two waves of immigrants and I feel they made an important contribution to the rural and industrial growth of the United States.

We will continue this discussion next month and cover some of the details of the immigrant's journey to America.

❖ ❖ ❖

Stephen M. Szabados, author of "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," and "Find your Family History," is a regular columnist in the Polish American Journal.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

1416 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH 43607. Closed 2005. stanthonytoledo.com/default.aspx

Even though the St. Anthony of Padua Parish and church were closed by the Diocese of Toledo on June 7, 2005, it continues to dominate the corners of Nebraska and Junction Aves. The brick edifice was erected in 1891, two years after its humble founding in a wood frame church, which proved much too small to accommodate the countless souls who would find spiritual nourishment, education, and alas a better life, that would take in the Lynx Hill area. To this day, the part of the city retains its German nick name, "Kooschwantz," or as the Poles called it "Krowi Ogon," ("cow's tail") because of its location in what was then the boundaries of the city.

Initial settlement was reportedly from a wholesale uprooting of a village in the old country, (Poland), that comprised a second wave of immigration to Toledo, the first being those who settled near the other German speaking community of the city along LaGrange St. It was that community that became known as "Jadwigowo" (and this one as "Antoniego") that brought the founding pastor, Franciscan Father Vincent Lewandowski to Toledo to serve the spiritual needs of the Poles.

Though his residence was in "the other neighborhood," Fr. Lewandowski traveled south for the benefit of settlers there as well. At other times they traversed by torch light to the mother church of St. Hedwig for the Lenten Lamentations (Gorzkie Zale) until they firmly established themselves.

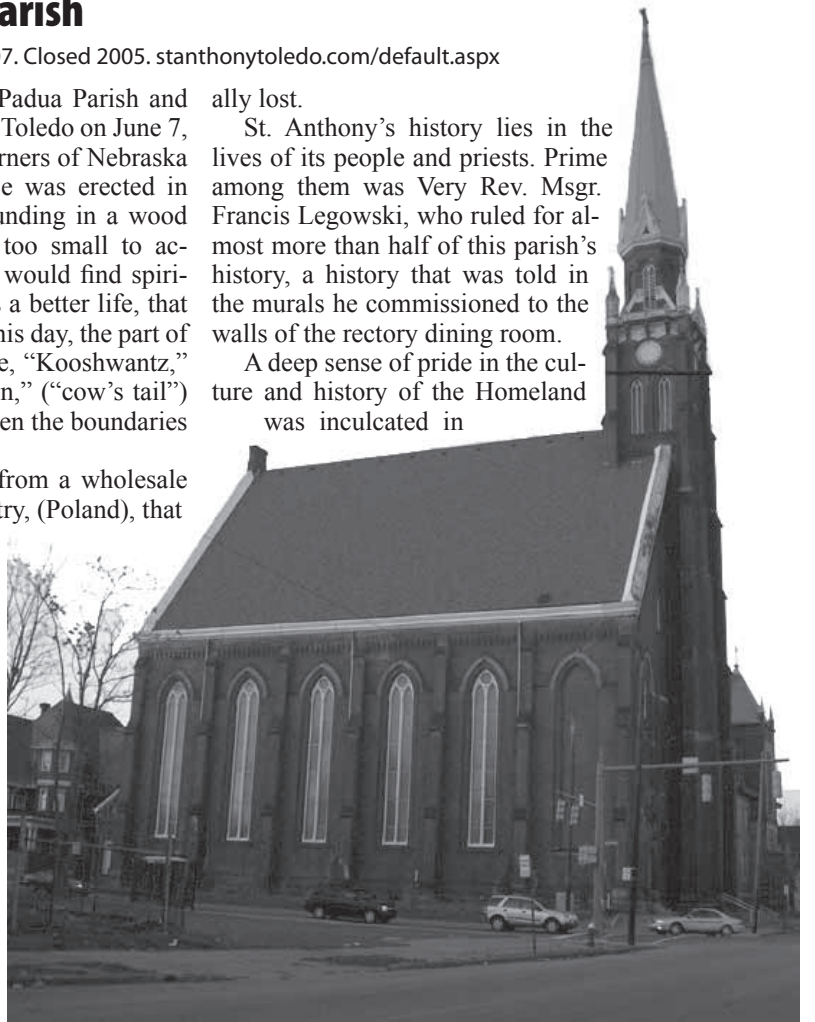
Very conscious of his own Franciscan spirituality and its heroes, Fr. Lewandowski chose the Franciscan Saint, Anthony of Padua, as the patron of this parish, a sister to St. Hedwig Parish, where he named the church bells St. Francis of Assisi and St. Anthony of Padua. The lone bell in the belfry of the Nebraska Ave. church is named for its patron.

Boasting the largest steeple in the City of Toledo, this spire served and continues to do so, as a beacon and an inspiration directing those physically or spiritu-

ally lost.

St. Anthony's history lies in the lives of its people and priests. Prime among them was Very Rev. Msgr. Francis Legowski, who ruled for almost more than half of this parish's history, a history that was told in the murals he commissioned to the walls of the rectory dining room.

A deep sense of pride in the culture and history of the Homeland was inculcated in



students of St. Anthony's by the Felician Sisters, who operated the school from its inception to the sad closing in 1970. More than 80 vocations to religious life can be credited to the Felician Sisters at St. Anthony's.

Years of neglect has taken its toll on the wonderful structure. This church, which served thousands of Polish immigrants for over 100 years, has been left to deteriorate amidst the urban decay that surrounds it. The historical marker that declares it to be a special place still stands, now surrounded by weeds.

Source: Parish history by Jerry Mazuchowski

Would you like to see your parish featured in "Reflections"? Please send a photo and a few paragraphs about the parish. While we appreciate full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name us last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

HELPING THE STORM-RAVAGED. St. Ann Council 2853 of the Knights of Columbus in Fair Lawn-Elmwood Park, N.J., held a "Polish Night" dinner-dance to benefit Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Council 3644 in Wallington, NJ, whose hall suffered severe water damage from Hurricane Sandy. (B.F.)

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

Do You Know What Your Name Means?

Have you ever wondered how your Old World ancestors may have acquired the Polish surname they brought over with them to America? Many started out as occupational nicknames: **Bednarz** (cooper, barrel-maker), **Kołodziej** (wheelwright), **Kaczmarek** (innkeeper), **Kościelny** (sexton), **Kowal** (blacksmith), **Młynarz** (miller), etc.

Peasant names were often derived from animals, foods, tools and household objects, including **Baran** (ram, male sheep), **Wróbel** (sparrow), **Zając** (hare), **Okoń** (perch, fish species), **Maślanka** (butter-milk), **Lopata** (garden spade) and **Słoma** (straw).

Most Polish names ending in "-owski", "-ewski" or even just "-ski" described people on the basis of where they came from: **Zaleski** (from Zalesie or Forestville), **Pawłowski** (Pawłów/Paulville), **Wiśniewski** (Wiśniewo/Cher-

ryville), **Piotrowski** (Piotrów/Petersburg), etc.

For a custom-researched analysis of how your Polish surname came about, how many people share it, where they live and whether it is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish researched) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Also included free of charge is a genealogical contact chart (root-tracing websites, data bases, organizations and firms) which has helped many Polish Americans get started in their ancestral exploration. The list includes professional genealogists qualified to track down family records, photograph or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly even turn up living long-lost relatives in the Old Country.



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niedużo.....(nyeh DUH-zhoh)	więcej.....(VYEHN-tsay)	Phonetic ch is like ch in loch m, f, n = male, female, neuter
a small amount	more	
za mało.....(zah MAH-woh)	trochę.....(TROH-heh)	
too little	some	
za dużo.....(zah DUH-zhoh)	raz.....(rahs)	
too much or too many	once	
dużo.....(DUH-zhoh)	dwa razy.....(dvah RAAH-zih)	
much or many	twice	
tuzin.....(tuh-zheen)	para.....(PAH-rah)	
dozen	pair	
kilka.....(KEEL-kah)	procent.....(PROH-tseht)	
few	percent	

Which of the following excuses have you used for *not* researching your POLISH roots?

- I don't read or speak Polish
- My ancestors left no paper trail
- I've heard all the records were destroyed
- My family never talked about life in the "old country"



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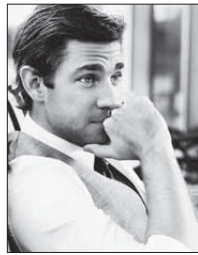
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KUTURA / Staś Kmieć

The “ski” Has It! Polish Americans Make Their Mark in The Arts

The world of entertainment — theater, dance, television and film is alive in the United States this season with the talents of Polish Americans, a Polish Australian, and a Polish national.

JOHN KRASINSKI. Actor, film director, and writer — Krasinski is most widely known for playing sales rep Jim Halpert on the NBC situation comedy *The Office*, which after 9 seasons is in its final season. He has appeared in several films including *Away We Go*, *Leatherheads*, *License to Wed*, *Big Miracle*, *Something Borrowed*, and *It's Complicated*.



Born in Newton, Massachusetts, the 6' 3" tall actor taught English in Costa Rica and then went to Brown University, studying theatre arts. He then trained at National Theater Institute and studied at The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.

Krasinski wrote and directed *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*; it premiered at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. He co-wrote *Promised Land* with Matt Damon and also appears in it.

Set in a rural Pennsylvania town, a natural gas company rep encounters more resistance than he bargained for when trying to buy up drilling rights on struggling farmers' land. *Promised Land* is now in theaters.

GORE VERBINSKI. An Academy Award-winning film director, screenwriter, producer and musician, Gregor “Gore” Verbinski is best known for directing the films *The Ring*, *The Pirates of the Caribbean* film saga, and the Academy Award-winning *Rango*.



One of his most famous commercials was for Budweiser, featuring frogs who croak the brand name.

After years of delays and setbacks, the big-budget, big-screen adaptation of iconic Western serial *The Lone Ranger* is finally being released. Directed by Verbinski, the film stars Johnny Depp as Tonto, Helena Bonham Carter, and relative newcomer Armie Hammer as the Lone Ranger; the film is currently scheduled to hit theaters July 3, 2013.

YVONNE STRAHOVSKI. Australian actress, Yvonne Jacqueline Strzechowski was born to Polish immigrant parents. After graduating from the University of Western Sydney, she was featured in a number of Australian television shows. She then starred as CIA Agent Sarah Walker in the American television series *Chuck*.

She adopted the more phonetic spelling of Strahovski as her stage name at *Chuck*, which was at producer Josh Schwartz's behest for the sake of easier pronunciation. Strahovski speaks fluent Polish and employed it in a brief exchange with a colleague in the *Chuck* episode “Chuck Versus the Wookiee” and again in two more episodes.

She is featured in season 7 of the Showtime series *Dexter*; has appeared in the 2011 film *Killer Elite*, alongside Robert De Niro. She also appeared in the 2012 comedy *The Guilt Trip*, opposite Seth Rogen and Barbra Streisand.

Strahovski is enjoying her Broadway debut in the current revival of Clifford Odets's *Golden Boy*.

JANE KRAKOWSKI. The actress, singer dancer is best known for her performance as Elaine Vassal on TV's *Ally McBeal* and for her current role as Jenna Maroney on the NBC sitcom *30 Rock*, which concludes a 7 season run this year. She regularly performs on the stage and won a Tony Award for her performance in the Broadway revival of *Nine* and an Olivier Award for her role as Miss Adelaide in the West End revival of *Guys and Dolls*.



Born Jane Krajkowski in Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey. Her father's family is Polish and comes from Kraków, and although she only knows a few words in Polish, her father and grandparents are fluent. She dropped the “j” from the family last name when she began working as an actress.

She released her debut solo album in 2010 — an album of cover versions called *Laziest Gal in Town* — on DRG Records.

CHRISTINE BARANSKI. Stage and screen actress Baranski is perhaps best known for her Emmy Award-winning portrayal as Maryanne Thorpe in the sitcom *Cybill*. Prior to her appearances in film and television, Baranski rose to prominence as a Broadway actress, winning two Tony Awards.

She was born in Buffalo, New York, the daughter of Virginia Mazurowski and Lucien Baranski, who edited a Polish language newspaper. Her grandparents were actors in the Polish theater.

Since 2009, she has played the role of Diane Lockhart, a top litigator and senior partner of a Chicago law firm on *The Good Wife*. She was nominated for Outstanding Support-



ing Actress in a Drama Series in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI. A television host and journalist, Brzezinski is co-host of MSNBC's weekday morning program *Morning Joe*, where she provides regular commentary and reads the news headlines for the program. She is a Democrat and her co-host Joe Scarborough is a Republican.



She was born in New York City, the daughter of Polish-born foreign policy expert and former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and Swiss-born sculptor Emilie Anna Benešová of Czech descent. Her father is a frequent guest on *Morning Joe*.

In her last position at CBS, Brzezinski served as a CBS News correspondent, substitute anchor, and segment anchor for breaking news segments and routine updates. During this period she became a frequent contributor to *CBS Sunday Morning* and *60 Minutes*.

She protests trivial journalism, but in a recent *Vanity Fair* photo-shoot kiddingly she was posed on a tabletop kicking her leg in the air.

JIM MIKLASZEWSKI. James Allen Miklaszewski better known as Jim or “Mik” Miklaszewski, is chief Pentagon correspondent for NBC News. On September 11, he was the first at the scene to report that the Pentagon had been attacked and has since led the network's coverage of the war in Afghanistan.



The Milwaukee native was one of the CNN “Originals,” serving as a National Correspondent and covering the Reagan White House. He was also a moderator for two CNN public affairs programs; his series, *After Nam*, a documentary on the Vietnam War ten years after the fall of Saigon, earned the Edward R. Murrow award for journalism.

MICHELLE KOSINSKI. A foreign correspondent for NBC News, she began work in broadcast journalism in Rockford, Illinois for WIFR while earning her BA and MA from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.



Rolling Stone magazine named her “hot reporter” in its annual Hot List in 2005. In 2009, she won a national Emmy award for her part in live reporting on election night, for NBC News' special coverage. 2010 saw Kosinski named foreign correspondent, moving from NBC's

Southeast Bureau to London.

JANUSZ KAMIŃSKI. A cinematographer and film director, he has photographed all of Steven Spielberg's films since 1993's *Schindler's List* and won Academy Awards for Best Cinematography for *Schindler's List* (1993) and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998).



Born in Ziębice, Poland, Kamiński emigrated at the age of 21—after Prime Minister Jaruzelski imposed martial law in 1981—to the United States. The film *Lincoln* is currently in theaters in which he masterfully projects greyish hues and nearly blinding blasts of white light to the film.

MARIA KOWROSKI. A Principal ballerina at the New York City Ballet, she was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, began her ballet training at age seven, and later entered the School of American Ballet (the official school of New York City Ballet), became an apprentice with the company and was invited as a member of the *corps de ballet*. In the spring of 1997, Kowroski was promoted to the rank of soloist and in the spring of 1999, she was promoted to principal dancer.

She has performed as a guest artist with the Maryinsky ballet in productions of *Swan Lake* and *Jewels*, as well as with the Munich Ballet in *Apollo* and *Brahms Schoenberg Quartet*. Kowroski was the recipient of the Princess Grace Award in 1994.



Other Polish Americans without a “ski” ending surname in theater news include:

WALTER BOBBIE. Theatre director, choreographer, and occasional actor and dancer, Bobbie has directed both musicals and plays on Broadway and Off-Broadway, and was the Artistic Director of the New York City Center Encores! concert series. He directed the long-running revival of the musical *Chicago* — for which he won the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical.



Born in Scranton, Pa., he was baptized *Władysław* Babij. As a performer, Bobbie created the role of “Roger” in the original Broadway production of *Grease* in 1972 and starred on Broadway as “Nicely-Nicely Johnson” in the 1992 revival of *Guys and Dolls*, for which he received a Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding

Featured Actor in a Musical.

Bobbie recently directed *Venus in Fur* on Broadway and the Manhattan Theatre Club's extended engagement of *Golden Age*, the third play in Terrence McNally's opera trilogy.

SCARLETT JOHANSSON. Tapping into her feline side as Johansson plays Maggie “the Cat” on Broadway in the current revival of Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at the Richard Rodgers Theatre. It is her first time back



on Broadway since winning a Tony Award in the Arthur Miller play *A View from a Bridge* in 2010. Born in New York City, she is of Danish descent on her father's side and of Polish Ashkenazi Jewish descent on her mother's side. Johansson began her acting career in 1994 starring in North, followed by the acclaimed film *The Horse Whisperer* (1998), *Ghost World* (2001) and then the hit *Lost in Translation* (2003) with Bill Murray in which she again stunned critics. Later on, she appeared in *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (2003) and in Woody Allen's *Match Point* (2005) for which she was nominated again for a Golden Globe. As a singer, Johansson has released two albums.

Lakomy Cast in Upcoming “Deadly Sins” Episode

NEW YORK — Polish American actress Anna Lakomy was cast in Episode 8 of “Deadly Sins,” an Investigation Discovery network show which portrays true stories of everyday individuals who are pushed beyond the limits of the law by seven deadly sins. The air date will be announced soon.

Lakomy, a graduate of the “Fame” high school in New York City, actually went on to pursue the sciences in college and was quickly climbing the corporate ladder as a market research executive when she decided to follow her dreams and began to pursue acting professionally in March of last year. Since then, she has booked over 30 roles, many of them leading ones.

Most recently, Lakomy wrapped up her first two independent feature-length films. While most of the work she has done is currently in post-production or just entering the film festival circuit, you may have seen her in Season 2, Episode 12 of “I Married a Mobster” and you will see her as a featured fancy bride in the French feature film “Chinese Puzzle” (dir. Cedric Klapisch) coming out next year.

For clips of her work, visit anallakomy.com.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Henri Strzelecki, Innovator in Athletic Apparel, Dead at 87

One of the innovators in athletic apparel, **Henri Strzelecki**, has died at 87. He founded the international lifestyle clothing brand, **Henri**



Lloyd, worn by America's Cup yacht crews and Around the World teams. The company was established in 1963 in Manchester England when Henri partnered with Angus Lloyd to form Henri-Lloyd Limited.

Strzelecki, who was born in Brodnica, fled occupied Poland to join the Polish 2nd Corps in Italy. He fought with Corps in the liberation of Bologna and other campaigns, earning recognition in the form of medals from both the Polish and the British governments. With Poland in the hands of the Communists after the war, he decided to remain in Britain. There he studied textiles and design before working with all clothing companies in Manchester.

An avid sailor, Henri became dedicated to improving sports clothing, and started working on it in a converted chapel in Manchester. From there Henri-Lloyd grew into a global giant, earning a reputation for pioneering new technologies. Those innovations included the first non-corrosive zip made of nylon, the introduction of a Velcro closure in waterproof garments, and the hand taping of seams as an alternative to varnishing. Henri Lloyd's focused on innovation and developing new technology. In 1994, his high performance breathable foul weather gear used Gore-Tex for the first time

He was known as a charismatic man who made friends easily. He was the consummate host, as exemplified by the dinners he gave at the Polish Club in Kensington during the London boat shows. Towards the end of the meals, he would slowly do a "table tour," stopping behind each chair and introducing its occupant to the rest of the assembled company. "There was never a hitch,

nor was he stuck for a name or a relevant story," according to his obituary in *Boating Business*. "No one who saw one of these performances has ever forgotten it."

Through the Henri-Lloyd Trust he was involved in helping disabled people to take part in and enjoy watersports. Strzelecki was given many awards for his work, including the Member of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 1985 and the Gold Cross of Merit presented by the President of Poland in 1990.

In a statement carried on the Henri Lloyd website, **Lukasz Lutostański**, Consul General at the Polish Consulate in Manchester, said that "the loss of Henryk Strzelecki will be felt not only by the Polish community in Manchester, but will also be mourned by the entire Polish community world wide. Henryk Strzelecki was one of the great Poles. He was kind, fascinating and intelligent to name just a few characteristics."

CHUDZINSKI COMES BACK.

The Browns have hired former Browns offensive coordinator **Rob Chudzinski** as their 14th fulltime head coach. Chudzinski, 44, who was coordinator of the Carolina Panthers, is a native of nearby Toledo and lifelong Browns fan. "Chud" attended St. John's HS in Toledo, then played tight end at the University of Miami, winning national championships with the Hurricanes in 1987 and 1989. After coaching at his alma mater, Rob started his NFL coaching career with the Browns in 2004.

KNUCKLEBALL CAMP? Pitcher R.A. Dickey revived his career and won the National League's Cy Young Award winner by mastering the knuckleball. *The New York Times* talked to **Phil Niekro** about how many other careers could be revived learning the tricky, unpredictable pitch. "I would think every organization has pitchers who have good talent, but just don't have what it takes to make it with what they've

got," the Hall of Famer said. "And every organization has a guy or two who could probably learn the knuckleball."

The greatest knuckleballer in baseball history, Niekro helped Dickey learn the pitch. The knuckleball is not easy to learn, of course. But Niekro and his brother, Joe — who learned it from their father, Joe Sr. — are among those who used the pitch to achieve long careers as major league starters.

"It's a learnable pitch," Niekro insisted. "But there just aren't many people in organizations that know anything about the knuckleball. I know I'm available. I'd be pleased to help young men learn it if they want to commit to it, because everybody can't throw 90 miles per hour."

Niekro won 318 games over his career and was a three-time 20-game winner. Still, he insisted that Dickey had the greatest season any knuckler has ever had. When Niekro called Dickey to congratulate him, the man known as "Knucksie" said he was touched by Dickey's response. "We did it," Dickey told Niekro.

Phil will turn 74, April 1. Younger brother Joe died in 2006 at age 61 from a brain aneurysm. Joe's daughter Natalie created the Joe Niekro Foundation, which raises money for aneurysm treatment and research.

COLLEGE HOOPS. When you talk about Polish American basketball coaches, you naturally have to start with Duke's **Mike Krzyzewski**, the all-time leader in coaching wins in men's college hoops. However, there are others. Two of them are former great players who are in their second years of rebuilding projects. Coaching Utah is **Larry Krystkowiak**, a standout forward at Montana and the NBA. Another former great player in college (Bradley) and the NBA, **Jim Les**, took over the struggling UC-Davis program after some great years coaching his alma mater.

Doug Wojcik, who starred at Navy alongside David Robinson, is now coaching the College of

Charleston. He was let go by Tulsa last season despite a 19-11 record. In his 7 seasons there he turned around a downtrodden program, and became all-time winningest head coach in program history with 140 career wins — including 4 straight 20-win seasons. In addition to his team's success on the court, all 17 of Wojcik's senior student-athletes at Tulsa accomplished a seven-year graduation rate of 100 percent. That wasn't good enough for Tulsa, so Doug came back east (he's from West Virginia) to take over the Cougars.

Tod Kowalczyk has continued his remarkable job turning around Toledo's devastated basketball program, where he took over in 2010. The school recently extended the contract of the former Wisconsin-Green Bay coach through 2017.

Among players, a couple of big freshman are already making their marks. Center **Przemek Karnowski** is contributing in his first year with Gonzaga and is considered a future star. He's a European-style big man, with excellent shooting skills and a deft passing touch. The 7-1, 305-lb. native of Torun, Poland helped the Bulldogs to a 13-1 start.

Kaleb Tarczewski is a freshman from Arizona, after being one of the most recruited big men in the nation. The 7-ft. native of New Hampshire, plays a more traditional back-to-the-basket style in the low post. He moves well, has great hands and is a strong finisher. With "Zeus" starting at center, the Wildcats started the season 12-0 and earned a no. 3 ranking.

Frankowski, Osetkowski and Kowalski may sound like a Hamtramck law firm, but it's actually part of the Columbia University basketball team. 6-2 so. Guard Steve Frankoski missed last season due to a foot injury, but his shooting has been huge this year for the 7-5 Lions. Steve leads the team in 3-point buckets. By the way, his father, Stan, played college basketball at Fordham, 6-11 so. Center Cory Osetkowski has also seen a lot of playing time, and is one of the Li-

ons' top rebounders and shot-blockers. 5-10 sr. guard Dean Kowalski is a reliable reserve and a team leader.

HERE ARE A FEW of the other Polish-Slavic names on men's college hoops rosters: 6-1 point **Dave Sobolewski** is the starting point guard for Northwestern ... **Kye Kurkowski** is a 6-10 so. Center for Nebraska ... Jr. forward **Dave Dudzinski** of Holy Cross is considered one of the top big men in the Patriot League ... Canadian-born Jr. forward **Murphy Burnatowski** is playing great for Colgate after transferring from Maine ... So. guard **Joey Ptasinski** is an outstanding 3-point shooter for Lafayette ... **Conner Lipinski**, a 2012 preferred walk-on guard at Maryland, was offered a scholarship by the Terps ... 6-11 Center **Luke Piotrowski**, whose father Tom played for La Salle (1978-83) and for Portland in the NBA, is a redshirt freshman for Richmond ... **Bobby Horodyski** is a sr. guard for the UCF Knights ... **Marek Olesinski** is a so. forward at Air Force. His mother was a member of the Polish National Basketball Team (1982-90) and his father was a member of the Polish National Pentathlon Team (1976-87) ... Michigan State freshman forward **Kenny Kaminski**, considered an elite shooter, will likely be reshirted this season after having surgery on his right shoulder ... Sterling Heights, Mich. native **Alan Wisniewski** is a 6-9 Jr. forward for Penn State ... After 2 seasons at Oakland, 7-ft. center **Kyle Sikora** transferred to Stetson in his home state of Florida. His dad, Andrew, played basketball for two seasons at Southern Connecticut State ... **James Blasczyk** is a 7-foot-1, 260-pound sr. center for USC ... **Dallin Bachynski** is a 7-ft. so. center for Utah. His older brother Jordan is a 7-2 jr. center for Arizona State ... Polish-born **Jakub Kusmieruk** is a 7-4 sr. center for Idaho State ... Duke back-up forward **Todd Zafirovski** is not Polish. His father is a native of Macedonia. Did I miss anyone? If I did, let me know.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Lincoln Ignored Poles, Feted The Czar

Historians routinely rate Abraham Lincoln our greatest president, a secular saint who could do no wrong. But like most politicians, he did what was politically expedient. Such was the case involving the Polish insurrection of 1863 against Russia.

Lincoln, of course, was president during the American Civil War and one area of importance to him was that of foreign relations. Regarding countries that mattered, Britain and France favored the South, and Russia was considered a staunch supporter of the North. These alliances were critical, for if any one of those countries overtly supported the Confederacy with supplies and money the Union might be doomed.

In Europe at the time, Britain and France were aligned against Russia and the latter enjoyed excellent relations with the United States., a far cry from the 1830s when Russia was excoriated by the American press and public for its treatment of the Polish insurrectionists. In the 1860s Russia was looked upon by Americans as comparable to the United States, largely because Czar Alexander II was considered to be

a liberal reformer. He had freed the Russian serfs in 1861 (but not Polish serfs) and made other progressive reforms. Both countries were also thought of as vibrant, expanding empires.

Like the United States, Russia was a collection of many states under a central government, albeit with a repressive undemocratic government. When the Poles in 1863 began an uprising with the goal of gaining independence from their Russian occupiers, comparison to the southern U.S. states seeking independence from their central government were inevitable.

In the North, newspapers praised the czar for his reforms, and when the 1863 rising began, they mostly criticized the Poles, calling their revolution a blunder without chance of success, and sometimes citing the Poles as the equals of the Southern Confederate traitors. Whereas in the 1830s the Poles were gallant freedom fighters, they were now seen as troublemakers wanting to break apart the Russian union, just as the Confederates sought the tearing up of the American union. American unionists did not support secession

of Poland from Russia, lest they be judged hypocrites for opposing American southern secession. So the Poles were abandoned in the process.

In the South, President Lincoln was likened to Czar Alexander. Just as the czar was oppressing and attacking the freedom loving Poles wanting to establish independence and self-rule, so was "Czar Abraham" drawing the sword against the Southerners for seeking their own country.

The Lincoln administration made no pronouncement regarding the Polish insurrection either for or against. It could not risk turning Russia into a supporter of the South and it favored the anti-British, anti-French stance of the czar.

The American ambassador to Russia, Cassius Clay, was an outright Russophile who favored the czar's suppression of "reactionary, Catholic and despotic Poland." American officials cited their historic policy of neutrality in not getting involved in European affairs, as well as the fact that nearly seventy years after Poland had disappeared from the map, Russia's treatment

of Poles was considered an internal matter and no business of the U.S. government.

While the Poles were fighting and dying for their freedom, and a good number of Polish immigrants were fighting for the Union cause in America, a Russian navy fleet came to new York in September 1863 and shortly afterward visited San Francisco.

New Yorkers' welcome for the Russians was jubilant and the press was giddy with pro-Russian sentiments. There was a parade and a ball was thrown for the Russian officers. In December, a Russian warship anchored off Alexandria, Va. A banquet aboard ship was attended by cabinet members and Mrs. Lincoln, who toasted the czar in place of President Lincoln, who was ill in Washington. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles wrote, "God bless the Russians." A reception for the Russians was also held at the White House in December at which the president was present. During this time, a Polish sailor who was serving on one of the Russian vessels jumped ship, was hunted down by Americans, returned to the Russians

and hanged.

Could not have President Lincoln made a muted statement about Russia's harsh treatment of the Poles, or at least stood up for the Poles in private? He did neither. The Poles did not rate highly for him. In the game of international chess, they were expendable pawns.

The Russians needed American support to counter British and French moves in Europe as much as America needed Russian support to counter British and French support for the Confederacy. That Abraham Lincoln could not bother himself with a few official words of sympathy for the Poles, even behind the scenes, seems to stand as a blot on his revered character, and one that should be noted by Polish Americans.

Concerning the fate of America, the Polish Insurrection of 1863 diverted the attention of the British and French from aiding the Confederacy to opposing the Russian atrocities against the Poles. From the suffering of our Polish forefathers come some of the seeds of the Union victory over the Confederates.

Cooking Classes in Baltimore

BALTIMORE, Md. — The Polish National Alliance and Polish Heritage Association of Maryland will present Polish Cooking classes Feb. 2 (2:00-5:00 p.m.); March 2, (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) and March 2 (2:00-5:00 p.m.), at the Polish National Alliance Building, 1627 Eastern Ave.

The Feb. 2 class will teach *zrazy wolowe* and *kopytka* (beef roll-ups and Polish-style dumplings). The March 2 morning class will demonstrate *bigos* (hunter's stew), present

an introduction to decorating Polish easter eggs, and explain how to arrange a Polish Easter Basket. The afternoon class will demonstrate *zupa szczawiowa* (sorrel soup) and repeat the *pisanki* and *swieconka* demonstrations.

The cost for each session is \$25.00 (check only, made payable to and mailed to Joan Persing, 38 Liberty Pkwy, Baltimore, MD 21222). To make a reservation, e-mail gosal12@verizon.net or call (410) 866-6419 after 5:00 p.m.

Think Your Kielbasa's the Best?

BUFFALO, N.Y. — So, you think you can make kielbasa? Here's your chance to prove it.

The Adam Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic Circle (Mickey's) and Tornspace Theatre are bringing back the spirited "Buffalo's Best Kielbasa Contest," Dyngus Day, April 1, 2013.

This contest will converge Dyngus Day revelers, Polish beer connoisseurs, and Polish sausage lovers into the Heart of Polonia to determine Buffalo's Best Kielbasa. The

sponsor of this event is Fillmore District Council Member David A. Franczyk.

The winner of this year's contest will receive a basket of Polish cheer, and best of all, the honor of being designated Buffalo's best.

The contest will be held at the Mickiewicz Library, 612 Fillmore Ave., from noon – 3:00 p.m.

Anyone who wishes to participate must register in advance. Any questions can be emailed to buffalobestkielbasa@gmail.com, or by calling (716) 479-2342.

Admission to the contest is \$10. Admission includes a ballot to vote for the People's Choice Contest, one draft beer, a commemorative cup for beer tasting, and admission to evening activities at Mickey's beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Police to Hold Gala

GARFIELD, N.J. —The Polish American Police Association of New Jersey will hold its First Annual Gala, Fri., Feb. 1, at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Manor Banquet Hall, 454 Midland Ave., Garfield.

A cocktail hour, carving station, international chef station, entrees, desert, open bar, and DJ entertainment are included in the \$85.00 admission.

Valor Awards will be presented to the families of late Federal Air Marshal David Popek, and New York Police Officer Artur Kasprzak.

To order tickets, write to polish-copsnj@gmail.com papaofnj.org, or visit www.papaofnj.org.

Family Secrets On-Line

CHICAGO — The Polish Genealogical Society of America invites all to come hear guest speaker Robin Seidenberg's presentation on how to unlock your family secrets using online historical newspapers. The event — "Mining for Gold: Online Historical Newspapers" — will be part of the PGSA's Quarterly Meeting, Feb. 10; at 2:00 p.m.

Seidenberg has been studying her family history since 1997 and is especially knowledgeable in the area of using historical newspapers. She is a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the Association of Professional Genealogists. The meeting will be held in the Social Hall of the Polish Museum of America (PMA), 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. There is ample parking adjacent to the Museum.

Refreshments will be offered.

PACWNY Happy Hour

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Congress, Western New York Division (PACWNY) will sponsor a "Happy Hour," Thurs., February 1, at Flappy's Greyside Grille and Pub, 5700 Transit Road, West Seneca, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The event will feature Wardynski kielbasa, pizza, wings, salad, beer, wine, pop, and juice. Ample off street parking, elevator service, and wide screen TVs will be available. There will also be Polish music and Polish beer available. The charge of admission to the Happy Hour is \$20 for members and \$25 for Non-Members.

For additional information or reservations please contact either Jim Lawicki at (716) 864-6110 or Rick Mazella at (716) 598-5869.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Pączki and Faworki Time

PĄCZKI. (Filled Polish doughnuts): There is really no short-cut way of creating these Mardi Gras favorites from scratch: So, if you've never worked with yeast dough before, maybe ask someone who has to show you the ropes. But if you nevertheless want to try your hand at it, combine 2 cakes mashed yeast with 1 c flour and 1 c warm milk in a bowl and leave in warm place to rise. Beat well 6 raw egg yolks with 1/3 c sugar, add 1/3 c warm milk and continue to beat in double boiler until mixture thickens. Remove from flame and continue beating until mixture is lukewarm. Sift 3 c flour onto bread-board, mix in yeast mixture, egg mixture, 1/2 jigger rum, brandy or vodka, 1/2 t salt, 1 t vanilla and grated rind of 1/2 a lemon. Knead thoroughly, gradually adding 1/3 c melted butter. Continue kneading vigorously until air blisters appear and dough no longer sticks to hands. Place in warm bowl and allow to double in bulk in a warm, draft-free place. Roll dough out 1/2 inch thick and cut into circles with glass or biscuit-cutter. Place a spoonful of thick jam (rose-hip jam, powidla/plum butter or other) at center of each circle, fold in half pinch ends together and shape into a ball snowball fashion. Fry in hot lard

or shortening until brown on both sides. With tongs transfer to paper towel and dust with confectioner's sugar. Variation: Pączki may be fried unfilled, and after they have cooled off, jelly (cherry or strawberry are best) can be squirted into the center with a pastry syringe.

FAWORKI/CHRUŚCIKI. (Angelwing or bow-knot pastries, photo, above): Mound 4 c flour on bread-board, make a volcano-like crater at top, in which deposit 4 raw egg yolks and 1 tsp white distilled vinegar. With knife blade shovel flour into crater, fold in 1/2 c sour cream and combine ingredients well. Knead dough until nice and firm, roll it into a ball and then beat the living daylight out of in with a heavy wooden rolling-pin. Re-form into a ball and continue beating until air blisters appear. Roll out 1/4 of the dough at a time very thin, keep the rest wrapped in plastic wrap so it doesn't dry out. Cut into 4 x 1 inch strips, make a vertical slit at center and pull one end through the slit to form a bow. Fry briefly in hot lard or shortening until pale golden brown on both sides and gently remove



with slotted spoon to paper-towel-lined tray. Dust with confectioner's sugar. Proceed the same way with the remaining dough.

RÓŻE KARNAWAŁOWE. (Mardi Gras rosettes): The same dough is used as for faworki but its preparation and assembly are a bit more involved. After rolling out dough thin, cut it into circles of three different sizes and make 4-5 slits at equal intervals round the outside of each circle. Dab center of biggest circle with egg white, cover with medium-sized circle, press down at center with thumb, dab some egg white at center and cover with the smallest circle. Press down with thumb so circles stick together. Fry in deep hot lard or shortening until light golden brown on both sides, then transfer to paper-towel-lined tray. Place a well-drained cherry from cherry preserves at the center of each rosette and sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.



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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes MLIS

BOOK REVIEW / John M. Grondelski

A Look into the Underworld

THE END OF THE WORLD IN BRESLAU

by Marek Krajewski
tr. by Danusia Stok
Melville House/Random House,
2012, 294 pp, \$24.95.

Criminal Councilor Eberhard Mock once again finds himself in a desperate situation. Two gruesome murders have taken place in the Polish city of Breslau, and he has been put in charge. The murders are connected only by the discovery of bits of a calendar stuffed in the victim's mouths, the date of their death circled in blood.

Hard-driven, with questionable sexual habits, Mock also has problems at home. His young beautiful wife has begun acting strangely, has developed new friends and is attending occult meetings. Mock assigns one of his policemen to follow her. She leaves him and becomes involved with the German Communist Party. Additionally, he has been called to save his nephew's life by settling his gambling debt, using money which he had planned to buy jewelry for his wife.

In the midst of Mock's drinking binges and unprofessional ethics while interrogating suspects, he recalls similar unsolved murders and sets his sergeants reading century old cold cases.

Krajewski provides colorful descriptions of the city through inner thoughts of the characters, drawing the reader into the atmosphere and dark and dirty underworld in 1927. His writing at times, however can be poetic—"a light frost settled under a cloudless starry sky" and "snow-white cuffs emerged from the sleeves of dinner jackets" or "a shot of schnapps and a dish of chicken in aspic garnished with a halo of pickled mushrooms."

Melville House has provided the American readership with many Nobel Prize winners and fine European fiction.

IDENTITIES

Capitalism, Materialism and the American Way
by T.E. Stazyk, Create Space,
2012, (Amazon) 364 pp. \$15.99

When Dave, a corporate executive is let go, he goes into a funk. As president of one of the companies within the telecommunications group, he is downgraded to having a security guard help him pack and escorted out the door.

His wife suggests they take a few days vacation. Jim, one son, is wrapped up in his work, always on the cell phone and no time for vacations while his brother, Alex, wonders why he has to have a handful of electronics constantly on hand, a slave to his work. "I think Jim

doesn't know who he is without someone sending emails or texting, calling on his Blackberry day and night. I still haven't figured out what he actually does," complains Alex. The two are opposites in their view of their place in the world.

Dave is soon offered a partnership in a prestigious consulting firm, prompting a move from Chicago to New York. His supportive wife, Jill, is willing to relocate, sure that she will find some work to do as well.

The book takes the reader through Dave's growth in the firm, consulting with their clients, improving their branding, client sensitivity and public relations. Successful in his communication with others, he is sensitive to the benefit or loss of their actions. Others are primarily concerned in making more money. If they are making more now, they must be that much more valuable. Their concern is where they stand in society, how others view them. But Dave is concerned with the greed, selfishness and materialism of his co-workers.

Jim has met a girl through a speed dating in the Village. As a banking expert, she is on track for partnership at a Wall Street firm. At the vacation house, Dave and Jill learn that Jennifer is driven with ambition, even more so than Jim. She feels she must make an impression on all who she meets, from the waiter to the corporate leaders. When her firm dismisses her she goes into denial, making all efforts to tell others she is still in control and considers herself a multitasking financial wizard. But she invites a guru, a spiritual guidance and healing Swami, to the house for a private session. It proves disastrous. Dave however, invites the Swami for a meeting the following day, interested in the Swami's philosophy. He learns that he must simplify life, be less materialistic, live for today. Who are we and what matters to us?

In an urgent call about a very upset client, he learns the company is willing to follow the client's demands, knowing full well it will only lead to disaster. It will however, make a good amount of money for the firm. Dave realizes he, too, has fallen into the trap of capitalism and decides he has to do something about it.

This book provides a glimpse of the business world and what it is doing to American greed and materialism.

Williamson's "The Polish Underground"

THE POLISH UNDERGROUND, 1939-1947

by David G. Williamson
South Yorkshire, England:
Pen & Sword, 2012. Pp. 242,
HB, £19.99 (approx. \$32.00 USD)
To order: pen-and-sword.co.uk
or www.amazon.com

Say "Resistance" and most Americans will rarely think of the Poles. Their images may be serious: Ingrid Bergman trying to smuggle her Czech resistance husband Victor Laszlo out of Casablanca. (M.B. Biskupski's 2010 book, *Hollywood's War with Poland*, suggests why not a single Pole could be found in the veritable watering hole of resistance that was Rick's Café Américain). Their images may be hilarious: think beret-toting Michelle DuBois of the BBC comedy, "Allô, Allô," popping out of the woodwork in Rene Artois' comfy little café with her trademark line, "Listen very carefully, I shall say 'zis only once!'" What is most interesting, however, is the general amnesia about the Polish Resistance which, one might add, just happened to be the largest civilian underground anywhere in World War II.

Given that amnesia (which one might uncharitably suggest is willful), David Williamson's book fills an important gap, making available a relatively complete yet relatively compact, easy-to-read history of Poland's Underground, from the beginning of World War II until the formal consolidation of communist dictatorship in 1947.

Starting with the German invasion of 1939, Williamson shows how the September Campaign gradually transformed itself into an ongoing resistance against German (and Soviet) occupation. While many soldiers left the country in September 1939 to continue the struggle for Poland abroad, those who remained had to dig in for what would become a long haul. Williamson's account is chronological, and he helps readers feel the situation as the war progressed. In the fall of 1939, Poles thought "the long haul" meant until England and France opened up a Western Front—in a few days . . . a few weeks . . . a few months . . . by spring? Indeed, one of the key motifs that Williamson well presents—though obviously not to his country's credit—was the Poles' faith in Britain and the Brits' regular dashing of Polish hopes.

Another example of this, to which Williamson regularly refers,

was the extreme reticence of the British Air Force, despite repeated entreaties, to drop supplies regularly to the Polish Underground. They essentially tried to limit their supply drops to moonless winter nights, i.e., nights long enough for the round trip flight to occur under cover of darkness. In defense of the English, the flights were very risky: they involved extensive overflight of enemy territory to drop supplies in an occupied country (or to land clandestinely and rapidly offload goods) and then return. Consider this entry from an aviator's diary entry, about a drop to insurgents during the Warsaw Uprising:

Williamson's book fills an important gap, making available a relatively complete yet relatively compact, easy-to-read history of Poland's Underground ... Interview with the author on page 7

"... Canadian pilot, Flying Officer Dougie Mac Rae said to me, 'There should be a river visible' and I said, 'Yes there is,' and he said 'That's the Vistula.' Navigating that far and coming spot bang right over the Vistula, I thought was great. Then Doug had to turn to fly up the Vistula, those were the briefing instructions, and it wasn't more than a few minutes passed by, fairly quickly, we could see what was ahead of us, and it was nothing but a huge pall of smoke. In between you'd get red glows that were obviously fires, and that was all we could see of Warsaw. We had to fly up and pass over three bridges and turn to port after the third bridge, that was said to bring us to Pryziński [?] Square, where Polish females fighting in the Home Army would be holding hurricane lamps in the form of a cross, and that's where we were supposed to drop the supplies'" (pp. 159-60).

That said, on September 18, only because of Stalin's acquiescence, 110 American bombers took off and dropped nearly 1,300 containers of supplies, too little and too late. As Tadeusz "Bór" Komorowski, the commander who ordered the Warsaw Uprising observed, "had the . . . containers been dropped in the first days of the rising . . . the whole of Warsaw would undoubtedly have been freed of the enemy" (p. 163).

The author recounts how the Underground often had to wait . . . for supplies, for the right opportunity, for bigger geo-political considerations. While occupied Poles itched to fight the Germans, prudence of-

ten demanded holding back in the face of exponential German reprisals. Resistance, as Williamson shows, was not revenge: it required calculation, for example, to ambush the enemy. Consider, for example, that the Underground had prepared a plot to assassinate Hitler during his October 5, 1939 visit to Warsaw. The plan called for detonating explosives at the intersection of Nowy Świat and Jerozolimskie when the Führer's car passed that point. "Unfortunately, the Germans took the precaution of clearing the streets of bystanders, which ensured that the observers, who were to signal Hitler's imminent arrival to the con-

spirator hidden in a nearby bombed-out house, were unable to take up their positions Consequently, the would-be assassin, who himself could not see Hitler pass by, did not detonate the charge. It is conceivable that, had Hitler been killed, history would have taken a different course!" (pp. 10-11).

Another key element to the fate of the Underground was the USSR. British-Polish cooperation took a different shape once the Soviet Union switched sides in the War, and Williamson argues that certain events, e.g., Soviet victories at Stalingrad, the Western Allies' decision to abandon the liberation of Europe through the Balkans in favor of France, etc., all progressively made Polish independence marginal to the Big Three's war effort. The Soviets, in turn, had their own agenda, for which the Underground — like the Polish officers killed at Katyń — represented an obstacle. Williamson summarizes it thusly: "In essence, Stalin was waging a war on two fronts in Poland: against both the retreating Germans, and against the AK and the traditional Polish elite" (p. 206).

The book ends with two useful appendices: a dateline of World War II events in Poland, and capsule biographies of the main Polish figures of the times.

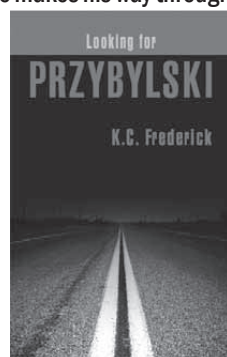
An animated film on the Warsaw Uprising is slated to appear (www.hardkor44.pl). This — and Williamson's book — should appeal to readers interested in fact over fiction. Even if they read it in a comfy café.

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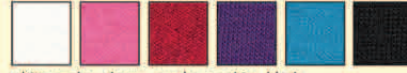
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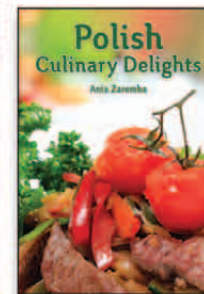
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