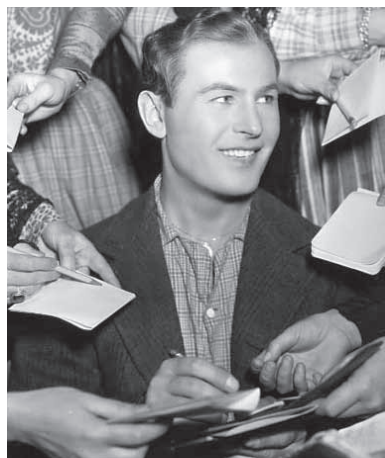


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**JAN KIEPURA,
THE KING OF THE TENORS
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AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

**THE CASE AGAINST THE POLISH JOKE • A CALL TO RECOGNIZE LT. COL. MATT URBAN'S GRAVESITE
PAHA RECOGNIZES POLONIA'S FINEST • CHICAGO'S POLISH TRIANGLE • THE MYSTERY OF DWÓR CZARNE
BRINGING POLISH CULTURE TO AMERICA'S TEACHERS • THE LEAN FARE OF OLD LENT • POLAND'S TRAIL OF TEARS**

NEWSMARK

PAC TO OBSERVE JUBILEE. The Polish American Congress (PAC) will observe its 70th Anniversary with a jubilee, Fri., May 30, 2014 in Buffalo, N.Y., the city where it was founded seven decades earlier.

Since its inception, the mission of the Polish American Congress has included goals for bettering the social, economic, and civic position of the Polish American community, especially relating to its increased civic and political engagement on all levels of American society.

Today's PAC is comprised of twenty national organizations, more than 300 local Polish American groups/associations, and thousands of members organized in 28 state divisions in 19 states.

WALESA: OBAMA FAILED. Former Polish president Lech Walesa said President Barack Obama has failed to reclaim his country's "moral leadership" of the world.

"When he was elected there was great hope in the world," Walesa told CNN. "We were hoping that Obama would reclaim moral leadership for America, but that failed," he said.

"America does not lead the world in the area of morality. In terms of the military, yes, no question about it. Economically, it is getting weaker. But in terms of politics and morality, America no longer leads the world.

The former Solidarity leader has shown little enthusiasm for Obama, turning down an opportunity to meet the him when he visited Warsaw in May 2011. Walesa met Republican candidate Mitt Romney on his tour of Europe in the summer of 2013. Last November, the former Polish president declared his outright support for Romney, saying that the Republican's "moral and economic values" would be "good for America." (Radio Polskie).

INQUIRY FINDS NO EVIDENCE TO FOUL PLAY. A five-year investigation into the death of Polish World War II leader General Wladyslaw Sikorski (inset) has found no evidence to support conspiracy theories that he was murdered.



The investigation, which was carried out by the state-backed Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), explored the circumstances of Sikorski's doomed flight from Gibraltar to London on July 4, 1943. IPN has found no proof that Poland's wartime prime minister was either murdered prior to the flight, or that the plane crash itself was caused by sabotage.

IPN concluded that there is "no reasonable doubt" in the question of his boarding the plane alive.

In 2008, at the beginning of the investigation, Sikorski's remains were exhumed, but no forensic evidence was found to suggest he had been murdered prior to the flight.

HISTORIC BARRACKS RETURNED. Half of a historic Auschwitz-Birkenau barracks on loan to the United States has been returned to Poland after two decades and long negotiations.

The building was one of the main items at the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, which wanted the lease extended.

Poland asked for it back after adopting new regulations in 2003 that limit the loan of all historical and art works to a maximum of five years. That led to years of negotiations between the museum and U.S. and Polish governments that ended in October, when the Holocaust Museum agreed to return its portion of the barracks.

The barracks will undergo conservation and be joined with its other half in Birkenau. The procedure may take up to three years, according to Rafal Pioro, deputy director of Poland's Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Barracks No. 30 is the only surviving example of the wooden barracks built before September 1943 at the so-called "family camp," where the Germans brought Jews from the Theresienstadt ghetto. It housed hospital wards for women and children. (The Guardian).

Piast Institute Launches New Polonia Communication Platform

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piast Institute has launched its new Polish American Communications Initiative (PACI) as it seeks to expand its mission of service to Polonia.

Piast was founded more than ten years ago to provide Polish American organizations and institutions with the research, surveys, information, and tools they needed to succeed in their own missions of service. In the process, the Institute has always sought to employ new social media and electronic venues that modern technology has made available to them. A key project to inform and empower our people and help them to tell our story is the Polish American Communication Initiative (PACI) developed in 2013 with the assistance of the Congressional Quarterly See "PACI," page 4

Soaring to New Heights



MAZOWSZE — the National Song and Dance Ensemble of Poland — has announced plans for a North American tour this Fall. The famed group's popularity is on the upswing. It has four new recordings, sang at Midnight Mass at the Vatican, and performed for a young audience of over 300,000 at Poland's Woodstock Festival this past summer. Story on page 7.

Polonian Scholars Recognized With Awards in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. On Friday evening, January 3rd, 2014, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the annual Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) Awards Ceremony took place.

The Awards Reception was hosted by Minister-Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy, Maciej Pisarski. In his welcoming speech, he stressed the importance of historical research on Polish-American subjects, reminded all present about important anniversaries in 2014 in regards to Poland, and congratulated all awardees.

The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo (PAC) received the prestigious 2014 Skalny Civic Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding contributions in promoting Polish-American community and culture in the United States. In May 2013 the PAC helped to organize PAHA's mid-year meeting in Buffalo and invited Professor James Pula to give a presentation entitled "Kosciuszko's Return to America" at the monthly meeting. Every year PAC organizes a variety of events such as: presentations on topics related to

Poland, concerts, film showings, Biesiada, Wigilia, Installation Luncheon, and art exhibits. Furthermore, every year PAC awards one or two students with the PAC Scholarship. PAC is also devoted to preservation of the murals by sgraffito artist, Jozef Slawinski. For all the hard work that the club does to promote Polish culture, PAHA decided to award PAC with this prominent award. This award is very significant because it comes from a national and international organization that promotes research focused on Polish American history and culture. PAHA was founded in 1942 as part of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America. In 1948 it became an autonomous scholarly society. Accepting the award on behalf of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo from PAHA president, Dr. Thomas Napierkowski were: Thomas Zawadzki (PAC Treasurer), Danuta Nycz-Nakamura (PAC Director), Fr. Matt Nycz (PAC Member), and Tomasz Wdowik (PAC Member).

Several other awards were presented that evening for scholarship in various fields. See "PAHA," page 3

The Volhynia Massacres

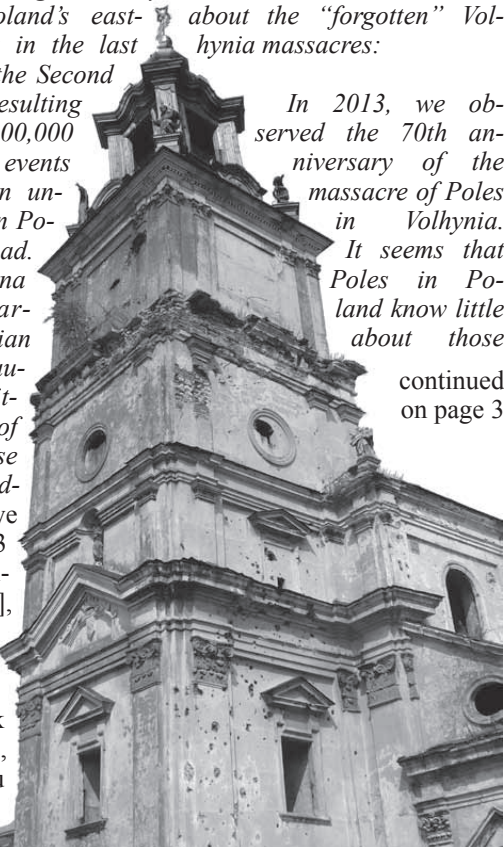
A CONVERSATION WITH
DR. JOANNA WIELICZKA-SZARKOWA

2013 marked the 70th anniversary of the Volhynia Massacres, a series of killings by the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in Poland's eastern provinces in the last two years of the Second World War, resulting in more than 100,000 deaths. The events largely remain unknown, both in Poland and abroad.

Dr. Joanna Wieliczka-Szarkowa, a historian and popular author, has written a number of works on these events, including *Wołyń we krwi* [Bloody Volhynia: 1943], and *Czarna księga kresów* [The Black Book of the Kresy], and *W cieniu czerwonej gwiazdy*. Zbrodnie sowieckie na Polakach, 1917-1956 [In the Shadow of the Red Star: Soviet Crimes against Poles, 1917-1956]. She spoke with the Polish American Journal about the "forgotten" Volhynia massacres:

In 2013, we observed the 70th anniversary of the massacre of Poles in Volhynia. It seems that Poles in Poland know little about those

continued
on page 3



THE BULLET-RIDDEN tower of the Podkamień Abbey, stormed by UPA on March 12, 1944.

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

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February Luty

Both are convinced
that a sudden surge of emotion
bound them together.

Beautiful is such a certainty,
but uncertainty
is more beautiful.

— excerpt from "Love at First
Sight," by Wislawa Szymborska

- 1 1411. Signing of the First Peace of Thorn (Toruń) concludes the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War 1733. Death of August II the Strong
- 2 **CANDLEMAS** (Święto Matki Boskiej Gromniczej), the day all the candles needed by a parish for the rest of the year as well as those for home liturgical use are blessed at church. Officially known as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, it marks the end of the Christmas season for another year.
Gdy słońce świeci jasno na Gromnicę, to przyjdą większe mrozy, śnieżyce.
If sun shines on Candlemas more frost and snow will this way pass.
- 3 1899. Death of painter Juliusz Kossak (b. 1824).
- 4 1745. Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko.
- 6 **ST. DOROTHY**
- 8 1807. At Iława (Ejłau), 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 **ST. VALENTINE**
Valentine's Day. *Walentyńki or Dzień Świętego Walentego.*
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).
- 16 1952. Death of Felix Witkowski, last Polish American veteran of the Confederacy.
- 17 1919. Germany signed an armistice giving up territory in Poland.
- 18 1386. Marriage of Polish Queen Jadwiga d'Anjou to Wladyslaw Jagiello of Lithuania.
- 19 1473. Birth of astronomer Nicholas Copernicus (Mikolaj Kopernik) in Torun, Poland.
- 20 1922. Vilnius, Lithuania, agreed to separate from Poland.
- 21 1941. Nazis order that Polish Jews are barred from using public transportation.
- 23 1891. Death in Detroit of Fr. Leopold Moczygemba, patriarch of American Polonia, who led Silesian immigrants to the first Polish settlement in the United States, Panna Maria, Texas.
- 27 **Thusty Czwartek** (Fat Thursday), Poland's "Pączki Day" (although it's not called that). Lines of shoppers can be seen outside better pastry shops. Pączki can be purchased at every supermarket, grocery and deli. Poles make it a point of honor to consume at least one pączek today.

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January 30. The March edition
will be mailed on or before
February 28.

VIEWPOINTS / Richard A. Pacer

The Case Against the Polish Joke

Beneficial changes in society occur slowly, but they do occur. Long-term change is positive, but such change has its peaks and valleys, much like the stock market. Thus slavery is no longer acceptable, as it once was. Many countries in Europe no longer invade one another, as they did for thousands of years, but have united in mutual defense (NATO) and economy (European Union). Years ago, physical and verbal abuse was commonly used in disciplining children, but now Society knows that such methods are wrong. (Discipline is still as important as ever, but it need not be abusive.) Society does learn and does make progress, albeit slowly.

Ethnic, racist, and sexist humor is gradually coming to be viewed by the more intelligent segment of society as simply wrong. In most cases, such humor is yet another form of abuse. Why is such humor wrong? Decisions made about whom to hire, or promote, or strongly encourage, are based on more than just academic credentials and experience. There is always an intangible element which plays a major role. Part of that element is rooted in a general impression, often subconsciously arrived at, of that person simply based on that person's sex, race, or ethnic heritage. How is this impression nurtured? Humor, which may portray the members of a group by means of a negative stereotype, unfortunately still plays a role and has a crippling effect.

Here's an example to consider. "Equal pay for equal work" has long been regarded as a desirable

ABC'S JIMMY KIMMEL introduced a series of Polish jokes on his "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show, and expressed his desire to continue them on future shows. Frank Milewski of the Polish American Congress' Anti-Bigotry Committee said he brought this to attention of Anne Sweeney, president of the Disney-ABC Television Group, "since we are of the opinion ABC has not authorized him to set broadcast standards for your organization."

Joining Kimmel in a recent swell of Polish jokes are NBC's Seth Meyers and comedian Amy Poehler.

goal for society. Yet when all of the usual factors (academic credentials, years of experience, and so forth) are taken into consideration, women still earn less, on the average, than men. Why? One of the reasons for this lies in the negative stereotypes about women which were propagated in years past by means of cruel jokes, jokes in which women were presented (all in supposedly good fun, mind you!) as inferior to men. Thank goodness women no lon-

ger put up with this kind of abuse. Women (and even some men) are to be commended for speaking out. Yet the effects of such discrimination still linger, and are only very slowly dying out. Unfortunately, a "glass ceiling" still exists.

YET, ONE SUCH TYPE of abuse still remains and is widely propagated. I'm referring to the Polish joke. Such humor is not innocent. It is a form of bigotry which results, in most cases, in anger, depression, and anguish. We know, for example, that when children are told that they are stupid or that they won't amount to much, this verbal abuse truly has a debilitating effect. Obviously, when children of Polish heritage are bombarded by Polish jokes, it cannot help but have negative consequences.

At this point the reader may protest, "But I would never tell such jokes to children." Granted, but the perpetrator is helping to disseminate such jokes among the population at large. Certainly, children are bound to hear or overhear such jokes. Either the people who tell such jokes are ignorant or they have no regard for the consequences of their actions. How can otherwise decent and intelligent people, who tell Polish jokes, not realize that they are attacking the spirit of an entire group of people? If they do realize this, how can they possibly be so cruel? A lie, when repeated widely, comes to be accepted by a certain segment of the population as true. When the message is presented in the form of a joke, it still has an impact, and some people will believe this message is true.

Unfortunately, a few people of Polish heritage are partly to blame for the present state of affairs. They need to speak out whenever they encounter the abuse of a Polish joke, and follow the lead of other groups who, by speaking out or working with anti-defamation organizations, have been more effective at combating abuse. Polish jokes are not in-

nocuous, although the person telling such jokes may look upon them as good-natured ribbing and nothing more. The intention might be to just "break the ice" by supposedly innocent humor. But again, like the misguided abusive treatment of children in past years (but with the best of intentions), the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

SOME PEOPLE OF POLISH heritage will actually laugh at Polish jokes. They are in denial, much like the person with chest pains refusing to believe he could possibly be having a heart attack. They may pretend that they are totally unaffected by such jokes. They will never admit that such jokes have affected their spirit or sense of well-being. They may even go so far as to tell such jokes themselves. This is sad.

Society changes slowly and moves, in the long run, in a positive direction. But it can be prod-

DECADES OF "POLISH JOKES," deemed "harmless," have created a culture that makes such degrading humor acceptable. Sadly, it takes a toll on the self esteem of its victims, sometimes tragically.

To wit: Bart Palosz, the 15-year-old Connecticut boy who shot and killed himself last August after years of being harassed. Palosz, a Polish immigrant, was the target of bullies due to his size (the teen was 6 feet, 3 inches tall) and Polish accent.

ded along by peaceful, nonviolent means.

Do your part to help the process along. Oppose bigotry wherever it exists. Educate the public about the harmful effects of Polish jokes, and all jokes which portray any group of people by means of a negative stereotype.

DIGITAL DEFAMATION. Amazon.com is selling a 1970s-era Polish joke book, both from its used book section and now making it available for Kindle readers. Larry Wilde's "The Official Polish Jokebook," first published in 1974, has been re-issued in digital format.

For those of you not familiar with Wilde (nee Herman Wildman), he is the author of 53 books of "humor," including a number of "official" joke books taking shots at doctors, lawyers, politicians, gays, Italians, Irish, and even his those of his own Jewish faith.

We ask Amazon.com customers to express their disgust with the renewal of this offensive humor.

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SPEAK UP

Committee asks for Support in Designating Lt. Col. Matt Urban's Gravesite "Notable"

Dear Fellow Americans,

The Matt Urban Memorial Committee asks for your support in getting the name of Lieutenant Colonel Matt Urban added to the list of "notable grave sites" at Arlington National Cemetery. The list is provided to Arlington visitors so they may easily locate the gravesite of this American Hero and learn about his remarkable combat service for our country.

LTC Matt Urban, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, is recognized at Arlington as "the World War II infantry officer who has earned the distinction of being the most decorated combat soldier of World War II." An Arlington Committee is currently in the process of revising their list of "notable" graves, so now is an opportune time to accomplish this mission. LTC Matt Urban is high on the Committee's list to be added so your timely support is very important and very much appreciated.

Please help by sending an email or letter of support to the History Office at Arlington National Cemetery. Their staff will confirm receipt of your email, consolidate them with similar emails of support and then forward them to the committee which is reviewing all candidates for the "notable graves list." There are three options for contacting the History Office at Arlington National Cemetery.

OPTION 1. Log on to www.maturbanmemorialcommittee.us/, and send your comments as an e-mail directly to the History Office at Arlington National Cemetery. A suggested message, which can be modified or personalized, is included.

This page will also allow **OPTION 2**, a direct e-mail contact to the History Office at Arlington National Cemetery.

OPTION 3. Letters may be sent to: Historian — ANC Operations Arlington National Cemetery Arlington VA, 22211

There will be a commemoration ceremony for LTC Matt Urban at 9:30 a.m. near his grave in section 7A of Arlington Cemetery on Aug. 23, 2014. Your attendance is welcome. Please share this information with your friends and colleagues for their consideration of support.

Urban Memorial Committee
Major Gen. (ret) Marvin G. Back
Co-chairman
Colonel (ret) Chester Szczotka
Co-chairman
Washington, D.C.

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PAHA Recognizes Polonia's Finest



THE POLISH ARTS CLUB OF BUFFALO (PAC) received the prestigious 2014 Skalny Civic Achievement Award. Pictured above are members (l. to r.): Tomasz Wdowik, Thomas Zawadzki (PACB Treasurer), Dr. Thomas Napierkowski (PAHA President), Danuta Nycz-Nakamura (PACB Director), and Fr. Matt Nycz.

continued from cover

PAHA presented the Skalny Civic Achievement Award to the president of the Jan Karski Foundation, and Wanda Urbanska for promoting legacy of Jan Karski (Polish World War II resistance movement fighter and later professor at Georgetown University). Other awards presented that evening were: Halecki Prize was given to Dr. Beth Holmgren for her book "Starring Madame Modjeska: On Tour in Poland and

America." The Amicus Poloniae was given to Peter Hetherington, a geologist and author of "Unvanquished," a book about Joseph Pilsudski. The Haiman Award was given for sustained scholarly effort in the field of Polish American Studies to Dr. Dominic Pacyga. The annual Swastek Prize was presented to Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz for the best article appearing in the Polish American Studies. Two Graduate Student Research Paper Awards were

given to Marta Cieslak (University at Buffalo, Transnational Studies Department) for her paper "Crossing the Boundaries of Modernity: The Transatlantic Journey of Polish Peasants to the United States" and to Piotr Derengowski (University of Gdansk, Poland, History Department) for "Capt. Alexander Raszewski's Polish Legion and Other Less Known Polish Troops in the Union Army During the American Civil War."

The Volhynia Massacres: A Conversation with Dr. Joanna Wieliczka-Szarkowa

continued from cover

events, and Poles in North America nothing. Can you tell us what the Volhynia massacres were?

In February 1943, Ukrainian nationalists in Volhynia began mass murders of the local Polish population, which the Polish Underground described in its reports as "slaughter." Both the sheer scale as well as their unimaginable cruelty led to the use of that term. That Ukrainian genocide directed against Poles presumed the rapid murder of every one of our people, from the unborn and infants through children, adults, and the elderly. Whenever conditions allowed, the killings were always joined to barbaric tortures, such as: hacking by axe; piercing by knives or pitchforks; dismemberment; sawing apart; drawing and quartering; being thrown into wells; or being burned alive, together with the village, to obliterate any trace of it. Ukrainian nationalists murdered about 60,000 people in Volhynia and 70,000 in East Małopolska (the Stanisławów, Tarnopol and Łwów voivodeships) from 1943 to 1945.

We know these events took place. Why, in your opinion, is there such a lack of knowledge about these events, both in Poland and abroad?

The reason for this silence is, in my view, the mistaken conviction of Poland's leaders that, by meeting the expectations of Ukrainian nationalists and not "irritating" Ukraine, they can assure good relations with that country and prevent it from again becoming dependent on Russia. The dominant opinion in eastern Ukraine is that the OUN and UPA were fascist organizations whose criminal deeds stained them and makes them unworthy of glorification. However, in western Ukraine—lands which once belonged to Poland—the OUN-UPA tradition was and remains strong (as it also does in Ukrainian émigré circles in North America). It is on that that a national-state consciousness is being built, one that stresses that UPA members were heroes fighting for Ukraine's independence while, at the same time, censoring the truth about the OUN-UPA's genocide of the Poles.

What has been the position of Polish governments, past and present, on this matter?

It was only in 2003, on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Volhynia massacres, that future Prime Minister Jarosław Kaczyński branded those events as "genocide." At the same time, then-Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski condemned OUN-UPA ideology and the crimes committed under it. Likewise, in July 2003 the Polish and Ukrainian parliaments both adopted mutually agreed to declarations in connection with the 60th anniversary of the Volhynia "tragedy" (a compromise term that replaced "genocide"). But just five years later, in 2008, the Polish Sejm adopted no resolution on the issue because—as its then-Speaker (now Polish President) Bronisław Komorowski explained, a vigorous debate on the subject could reflect negatively on Polish-Ukrainian relations. In 2009, the Sejm unanimously adopted a resolution "regarding the tragic fate of Poles in the eastern *kresy* on the 66th anniversary of the anti-Polish acts of mass murder—having the character of ethnic cleansing and of genocide—undertaken by the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army." In 2012, four Parliamentary parties (the PSL, SP, PiS, and SLD) introduced a bill to declare July 11 as the "Memorial Day for Martyrs of the *Kresy*" but the ruling Civic Platform did not want to call the Ukrainian crimes "genocide."

Poles have always spoken—if sometimes quietly—about Katyń. What similarities do you see between the Katyń genocide and the massacres in Volhynia?

Both crimes were genocides. But insofar as Katyń destroyed the country's elite—military officers, officials, teachers, policemen, all grown men (except for one woman, Janina Lewandowska, a pilot)—in Volhynia, Poles were murdered regardless of age or sex. Katyń was perpetrated by NKVD functionaries on Stalin's orders; in Volhynia, apart from UPA fighters, local Ukrainians—women and children, too—also took part.



DR. JOANNA WIELICZKA-SZARKOWA. "We should do what we can to find unmarked mass graves and to lay those remains in consecrated ground."

Peasants armed with axes, pitchforks, and knives formed so-called "self-defense" bands, helping the UPA in its murders. Women and frequently children took part in pillaging, arson, and killing the wounded.

In your view, can we call the events of Volhynia "genocide?"

The crimes of Ukrainian nationalists against Poles can be classified in international law, in accordance with the 1948 UN Convention, as "genocide." Article 2 of the Convention states that "genocide is any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

*There are those who say that we should leave the past in peace: given current realities, when Poles have no chance of returning to the *kresy*, such issues merely complicate our relations with Ukraine, with*

Chesapeake Polish Settlement Gets Marker

CHESAPEAKE, Virg. — Surrounded by farms, gardens and proud residents, a state historical marker acknowledging Virginia's first long-term Polish settlement was unveiled Dec. 21, 2013.

Residents of the Sunray enclave in the Bowers Hill area celebrated with speeches before Mayor Alan Krasnoff helped pull the covering off the marker. The Rev. David Cupps of St. Mary's Catholic Church blessed the marker, and the community celebrated with food at the parish hall.

"This didn't happen by itself. This took a lot of work," said Gary Szymanski, the president of the Sunray Farmers Association.

Most in the community of several hundred people are descendants of Polish immigrants who began arriving in the early 1900s after seeing newspaper advertisements in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Mississippi and Tennessee. They settled and built farms in what was then Norfolk County.

The marker is located at 621 Homestead Road, across from an old schoolhouse, which was built in 1920 and is now used for ceramics classes.

State officials initially rejected a request for a highway marker. Pam Schenian, an architectural historian

with the Tidewater office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, helped with an appeal.

She found that the Polish Embassy in Washington sent a telegram congratulating Sunray on the 25th anniversary of the colony. A similar Polish colony founded in Spotsylvania County lasted just a few years, she said. In 1944, the Polish Catholic church did a census of dead and wounded soldiers, and Sunray at Bowers Hill was the only community listed in Virginia. Those pieces of history were among reasons Sunray now has a historical marker.

State Delegate Lionell Spruill Sr. and Victor Pickett of the Chesapeake Historic Preservation Commission also spoke at the ceremony.

The marker "helps solidify the togetherness of this community and how we've stuck together all these years," said John Skrobiszewski "We're a proud little community."

Skrobiszewski, a retired dean at Tidewater Community College, is an ancestor of a Sunray colonist. His grandfather, Jan Zawada, moved to the community from Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley around 1910 after seeing a newspaper ad. His grandfather helped lead Sunday prayers before the first church was built.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

whom we have a bigger common problem vis-à-vis Russia. What is your position?

Crimes must be condemned in the name of truth, because "reconciliation" built on lies is meaningless. It is our duty to restore the memory of and honor all the victims of the massacres in the *kresy*. We should do what we can to find unmarked mass graves and to lay those remains in consecrated ground.

Both the Polish and German Episcopates worked together after World War II to improve mutual relations, issuing their common declaration "we forgive and ask forgiveness" in 1965. What are the ecclesiastical relations between Poles and Ukrainians like on the Volhynia issue?

A joint pastoral letter of the Roman Catholic and Ukrainian Greek Catholic Churches was supposed to be appear on the 70th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" [a day of almost 150 local massacres of people in churches—ed.], which fell on July 11, 2013. In March 2013, however, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Łwów, Mieczysław Mokrzycki, told the Polish bishops that the two bishops' conferences could not work out a common position. Almost on the very eve of the 70th anniversary of the Volhynia crimes, a declaration was signed by the bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic, the Roman Catholic, and the Ukrainian Byzantine Churches, in which

appears the statement: "We know that a Christian evaluation of the Volhynia crimes demands of us unequivocal condemnation and a request for pardon for them. We judge that neither force nor ethnic cleansing can be methods to resolve conflicts between neighboring peoples or nations, nor do political, economic or religious reasons justify them. We desire today to honor the innocent victims of murder, to ask God's pardon for the crimes committed, and to call on all—Ukrainians and Poles living in Ukraine, Poland, or wherever in the world—to a brave opening of minds and hearts for mutual pardon and reconciliation."

There are those who say that the policies of the interwar Polish government towards its former Ukrainian minority brought about the hatred which results in the Volhynia massacres. There is also discussion of responsibility towards Ukrainians as a result of the resettlement of the Ukrainian population during Operation Wisła. [Operation Wisła resulted through 1947 in the forced removal of Ukrainians from Poland's new eastern border regions and their resettlement in northern and western Poland—ed.] What is your opinion?

In Western civilization there is neither idea nor value in the name of which one can deprive innocent and defenseless victims of life. Nothing justifies those murders.



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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 28th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

For information call (732) 680-0680 or write **POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE, INC., 177 BROADWAY, CLARK, NJ 07066**. e-mail: childshart@aol.com website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org

Rafał Blechacz

continued from cover

nate, Irving S. Gilmore of Kalamazoo, Mich., the Gilmore Competition operates silently, like the McArthur Foundation or the Pulitzer Prize committee. Past Gilmore recipients include Kirill Gerstein (2010), Ingrid Fliter (2006), Piotr Anderszewski (2002) and Leif Ove Andsnes (1998).

The Polish-trained Blechacz was the winner of the 2005 Chopin Competition in Warsaw in all five categories and has had an increasingly active touring career since. His recordings for Deutsche Grammophon encompass much Chopin, along with Haydn and Beethoven sonatas and a CD pairing of Debussy's *Pour le piano* with Szymanowski's *Preludium*.

Blechacz is pursuing a Doctorate in philosophy with emphasis in aesthetics and the philosophy of music



PHOTO © FELIX BROEDE / DG

BLECHACZ. Recordings for Deutsche Grammophon include works by Chopin, Haydn, Beethoven, Debussy's, and Szymanowski.

at Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika.
— Brian Wise

Polish American Communication Initiative

continued from cover

(CQ) to create a rapid alert, information and response system.

PACI is the most important tool for developing political effectiveness and community building that has emerged in several decades. It will allow Polish Americans to communicate with elected officials and the general public knowledgeably and on an almost instantaneous basis. It will also help to establish a strong base of advocates who can be mobilized rapidly on an issue. The PACI advisory committee will draw on political leaders from around the nation.

WHAT IS PACI? The Polish American Communication Initiative is a national communications and alert system devised by the Piast Institute with the following features:

- An objective non-partisan website which will regularly transmit significant or breaking news, analysis, data and legislative updates on important Polish and Polish American issues
- A means for recipients to respond on the spot to issues by sending

personal messages to members of Congress and the Senate and a vehicle for sending letters to national, regional, and local newspapers

- Data and analysis on key issues assisted by the Congressional Quarterly
- A forum for national dialogue on matters of community concern
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To succeed we need people to join the PACI network, and to support the project through participation and donations, however small. This engagement and support will give Polonia a new dynamic national presence and help tell our story more effectively to opinion makers as well as our fellow Americans and to let them know what our interests and needs are. Piast President Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski invites Polish Americans to participate in this unique effort.

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THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE / Anna Swierczewska

Diverging Paths on the Road to Acculturation

Editor's Note: This series by Anna Swierczewska, who came to the United States in 1983 as a political refugee, describes the different ways Anna and her twin sister came to terms with their Polish identities.

PART II THE BEGINNING

1983 was the year that I first heard the English language. It was also the first time I saw a black person, a yellow taxi, and a woman with pink hair (all on the same block). I was six years old at the time and was about to learn just how different my new world would be from the one I had known. Growing up in communist Poland, where many things were not available, or allowed, I had learned to appreciate my family and loved spending time with them. Everyday activities were magical moments for me: making *pierogi* with my grandmother, picking berries on her farm, attending Sunday mass, and visiting with friends. Little did I know that those seemingly simple pleasures that so many of us take for granted would soon be taken away from me. My *pierogi* would be replaced with McDonald's, the countryside with noisy streets of New York City, and friends...well, I had none. Eventually, Sunday Mass would slowly be replaced with work.

Arriving in New York City was unlike anything I had ever experienced in my short and uneventful life: large crowds, loud traffic, and a language I could not speak or understand. It was all so different, so foreign. We were sponsored by a family to come to the United States, whom to this day I have never met or learned the reason behind their sponsorship. All I knew was what my mother had told me: "This is our new home. Please stop crying now." I remember the loss I felt (already at the airport in Warsaw) when I realized I would no longer see my family with whom I was so close. Although I was too young to understand the reasons why we left, it was enough to feel resentment towards my parents for making me leave. I could not understand why they made this choice when it was so clear that they too were unhappy and unwilling to go. I would find out several years later that they were doing it against their will. There was, however, one member of my family who was excited about the trip.

MY SISTER'S NAME is Magdalena and she is my twin. She is two minutes younger than I am, and we are worlds apart. Although we grew up in the same household, you would never think that we are even related. She is a tall blond with blue eyes and I am a short brunette with brown eyes. I have always been an introvert with loner tendencies, and she the opposite. I have always known we were different but I never really questioned how or why until I sat down to write this memoir. My first memory of our differences goes back to the airport in Poland. She did not cry when we boarded the plane for NY, and all the new colors, smells, and environment that petrified me, excited her. She did not show any sadness or regret for leaving behind the world that she knew, she only thought of the new and in-

teresting things she would come to know. I did not realize it then but our diverging views regarding our new home, and life in general, were slowly starting to develop.

From that difference in opinions and actions, as you will soon learn, came the labels of optimist and pessimist. My sister was the happy optimist who looked forward to making new friends, while I was the pessimist who longed for her family and old way of life. Where I saw fear of the unknown, she saw adventure. These labels, despite fighting against them, have remained to this day. Despite this great difference in our personalities, we have always been extremely close, and still remain so to this day. We do share that "weird" twin thing and know when something is wrong, despite living 1400 miles away from one another.

NATURE VS. NURTURE. I have often wondered if our different personalities were the reason behind our diverging cultural identities, or were they simply personality traits with no bearing on our allegiance to the country we came from or currently resided in. Had I been more trusting and open to people, would I be more willing to find out about their culture and make friends? Or would I still be homesick, simply with more friends? Had my sister been less adventurous and inquisitive, would she only vacation in Poland or would she simply travel less? By similar logic, one might assume that all extroverts are automatically inclined to assimilate to their new culture, while the introverts are bound to suffer inside rejecting the society in which they are forced to live. More importantly, these same extroverts are accepted by this new culture, while the introverts are not. Although that was the case with me, I am not convinced that the answer is that simple.

Needless to say, if I could go back in time, I would have done things differently. I have always envied my sister's ability to befriend people and fit in so naturally. As a six-year old, I always believed it was easier for her to assimilate because of her sunny disposition. However, as a 35 year old, I no longer believe that. Although being shy and guarded did not help in socializing, it did not prevent me from assimilating; it was a conscious choice I made. I now see that, by isolating myself in a Polish culture where there was none, I isolated myself from what could have been a great life with great people. Unfortunately, hindsight is always 20/20.

By having an open and positive attitude towards her new culture, my sister was able to live the life that I could not. I sometimes wonder if it was a conscious effort on her part (to assimilate) knowing that she needed to make friends and accept this new life if she was going to be happy. Then again, not many six-year-olds think about assimilation as being a contributing factor to their future. The ironic part in all this is that between the two of us, it was always I who tried to fit in the most. It was always I who, although

I did not show it, longed to belong. The struggle came from wanting desperately to belong to one culture, but having to identify with another. This struggle caused me to wallow a bit in the 'what if' questions. What if I had never come to America? What if I went to college in Poland? What I learned is that, by living life through "what if" questions, life ends up passing you by. Having spent all my energy resisting my environment had done more harm than good.

ADAPTATION. Our official American education began at St. Lutheran's Catholic School. I will call this the adaptation stage of my new cultural identity. We were thrown into first grade with only a few words of English under our belt so we had to make do with a lot of pointing, gesturing, and guessing – my father had only taught me to count to 10 in our hotel room, which was the red light district of NYC at the time, and the place we called home for the first six months of our life in the United States. I did not yet understand the

By having an open and positive attitude towards her new culture, my sister was able to live the life that I could not.

basics of language acquisition, so I learned to listen and imitate what I heard on the streets and in commercials. I still remember learning my first American expression, *ring-around-the-collar*, from a TIDE commercial.

From what my parents tell me, I was able to pick up phrases very quickly and naturally fine-tune my accent. It was not too long before I excelled in spelling and surpassed my classmates in reading. My sister did not have the same experience. She found school quite challenging, especially reading and spelling. Polish lessons at home were even worse due to my mother's lack of patience and my sister's inability to remember her Polish phonemes. It was an ugly sight. Unfortunately, that inability soon turned to unwillingness and, ultimately, a lack of interest in learning Polish all together. As her Polish skills started to diminish with time, mine became stronger.

Although I did well in school, the stress of unfamiliar surroundings and being forced to adapt to them was unbearable to me. My happiness and relief, when it was time to go home, were unparalleled. I could finally escape this language, these customs, and these strangers. Home had always been my refuge. There, I could hear my own language and experience what I knew, though that would soon change as well.

Next Month: Conclusion

Anna Swierczewska was born in Poland, and emigrated to the United States in 1983 as a political refugee with her parents and twin sister. Her first two years of college were spent in France and Spain. Swierczewska received her M.A. in Liberal Arts from the University at Charlotte, N.C., and plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in Translation Studies in the near future. She currently works as a high school teacher of French and Spanish, as well as a freelance translator and proofreader.

Five Days in Poland: Próba, Kiepura and President's Soup

Returning to the *Mazowsze* compound, I rushed to my hotel room, dropped off my packages and headed to the Matecznik Theater to a rehearsal for the Kiepura Awards ceremony. *Próba* meaning “rehearsal” is a term I have heard and used so often, but as a presenter there would be no strenuous activity or sweat involved for me.

Walking down the upper level stairs in the theater hall, I was greeted by the strains of fine opera accompanied by a full onstage orchestra. Organizers were busily rushing about in preparation for this evening's Gala event.

I was introduced to Urszula Gutowska from the *Mazowiecki Teatr Muzyczny*, who was coordinating the proceedings. She briefed me that I would be seated in a reserved place in the audience. Upon hearing my introduction read and name announced, I would proceed up the stairs onto the stage and go to the center microphone. I would then be handed an envelope – opening it I would read the name of the recipient and then be handed the award, which I would present to the winner. Easy enough! From the audience level, I walked with Urszula up the stairs and approached the microphone – my *próba* was complete.

I returned to Director Izban's office to meet him for a late lunch. While waiting, I began to draft a few words to say leading to the winner's name – “and the Best choreographer award goes to...” My thoughts then drifted to the legendary man in whose name I was presenting this award. Who was this great singer Jan Kiepura?

I grew up with some knowledge of this famous Polish tenor. As a dancer at the Metropolitan Opera I knew of his stardom in the United States with the company, and once had a detailed conversation about him and Polish operas with Artistic Director Maestro James Levine.

At the time I was at the Met, Polish singers were a rarity in the ranks with only the glorious mezzo soprano Stefania Toczyska representing Poland on the roster. Today, there are several Polish artists attracting the attention of critics and audience alike – most notably Piotr Beczala and Mariusz Kwiecień.

JAN WIKTOR KIEPURA was born in the small industrial town of Sosnowiec, Poland (southwestern Śląsk region) in 1902, to a Jewish mother Miriam (a former singer) and a Catholic father Franciszek (a baker). In order to get married, his mother was baptized.

When he became of age, Kiepura left his rather gloomy, industrial hometown for Warsaw – where he began studying law. He took voice lessons and soon realized that singing was his true vocation. At age 23, he was hired as a replacement in the chorus of the Warsaw Opera, but he sang with such power that his voice dominated over the others, which resulted in his being fired. Three months later, he found himself on stage again, but this time as the male lead in Gounod's *Faust* in Lwów. The performance marked the beginning of a rapid rise in his career.

Two years later, he sang Calaf in the second performance of the Vienna premiere run of *Turandot*. Kiepura had an unqualified triumph and was labeled the “king of the tenors” by the Austrian press. From that point Jan Kiepura was in demand

everywhere around the world. He moved on to star roles at La Scala, Paris Opera, Teatro Colón and other major international opera houses.

It was not long before the cinema – now talking, required his beautiful voice and classic good looks. After his screen debut in *Die Singende Stadt* (1930), Kiepura became a popular leading man in many films, while still maintaining a demanding concert career. In 1933 when he re-



KIEPURA. Initially studied law before realizing his true vocation.

turned to Poland, with money from his performances he built the hotel, “Patria” in the Polish border-town of Krynica-Zdrój, which cost him about 3 million U.S. dollars – an unheard of sum at that time.

In 1934 on the set of one of his films, Kiepura played opposite the Hungarian-born lyric soprano Marta Eggerth, also a popular screen personality in Europe. On October 31, 1936, Kiepura and Eggerth were married at City Hall in Katowice. World War II caught them in Paris. When France yielded, they had to flee from the rise of Nazism to the safety of New York. Kiepura and Eggerth both had Jewish mothers.

Fortunately, he had received an offer from Metropolitan Opera's General Manager to join the roster during the 1937–38 season at \$500 per performance, for a minimum of ten performances. The contract stipulated that Kiepura be ready with lead roles in five operas. He made his debut as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* on February 10, 1938. His performance of “Che gelida manina” elicited an ovation so thunderous that he had to rise from the kneeling position to acknowledge the applause. His reviews were glowing.

At the Met, Kiepura's fee ascended to \$800 a performance in 1938–39. But his appearances there were sporadic, adding up to only thirty-three performances encompassing five roles, and four concerts over three seasons. His final Met role was Rodolfo, four years to the day after he had made his company debut.

In 1940, his name was placed in the *Lexicon der Juden in der Musik (Lexicon of Jewish Musicians)* by the Nazis. In Poland, he remained a national hero, despite the fact that his flight to America had cost him much of the property he had purchased, including the Hotel “Patria.”

Kiepura could see that his days in Europe were now limited. He pursued his career in the United States and audiences – particularly in cities where European refugees lived such as New York and Chicago, flocked to hear him sing. An ardent patriot, he generously supported organizations such as the relief fund for Po-

land.

He and Eggerth were approached to star in a new production of *The Merry Widow* at Broadway's Majestic Theater in 1943. Kiepura, who had mostly stayed away from stage operetta, was excited by the offer, but Edward Ziegler, one of the Met managers, was not – saying “If you do *The Merry Widow*, you can never enter the Metropolitan Opera again.”

Kiepura chose Broadway. The show was a hit, running for 322 performances, the two teamed together again on Broadway for *Polonaise*. Kiepura was represented by powerhouse impresario Sol Hurok, who sent him off on grueling concert tours, which netted far more lucrative fees than his opera appearances, and he made additional films.

The Merry Widow production toured throughout the United States, as well as around the world for another decade, and was performed in four different languages. The couple had two sons – Jan Sharbek and Marjan (currently a concert pianist); they re-settled in the United States in 1951 and Kiepura acquired American citizenship shortly afterwards. He purchased property in Rye, New York. Scrupulous in his health habits, he insisted on living in Westchester County rather than Manhattan because the air was cleaner.

In order to stay in good vocal shape during this draining schedule, Kiepura began taking Nujol – a medication composed principally of paraffin oil and often prescribed for asthma patients. He took Nujol in heavy doses for years.

While performing in the late 1950s, he began to notice a shortness of breath. A leading pulmonologist in Boston discovered that the paraffin oil had not dissolved, and the tenor's lungs were encrusted with it. A six-hour operation failed to reverse his condition. Kiepura returned to performing, feeling somewhat better, but still short of breath.

HE VISITED POLAND twice in 1958 – performing in Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Łódź, Katowice, Kraków, Poznań, Wrocław and Warsaw. Kiepura's arrivals caused a sensation in the capital and his shows evoked huge enthusiasm. Apart from performances in concert halls he never refused a request to sing, hence the public remembered him singing the most beautiful arias in the most unusual places, such as streets, on top of taxi roofs, balconies, and front steps of opera houses.

Rare concerts and programs were treated with reverence bordering on a religious experience. His voice captured the imagination of Polish and Jewish audiences alike, but his career quickly declined. His last appearance was on August 13, 1966 in Port Chester for the Polish American community.

Two days later, while at home, he received unfavorable news from one of his financial agents over the phone, he collapsed and died. Jan Kiepura was buried in Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw.

Despite his enormous mid-century popularity, Kiepura's career is not widely discussed today. His technical command was so immense that practically nothing posed a problem for him vocally. Few tenors of the time matched his charisma and dramatic imagination. He possessed natural vocal gifts that were

matched with a keen sensibility and intelligence. His golden timbre, friendliness, and generosity towards the public made him immensely popular – especially among young women who adored his handsome face and smile.

History has not looked favorably on successful opera singers who went on to have commercial success through recordings or films. Mario Lanza and Kiepura were among those whose reputations suffered in recent times because of their success in reaching beyond the opera world with wider repertoires in different media. Kiepura was ahead of his time in this respect. In the 1930s, film was the new cutting-edge medium, and no singer would have passed up the chance of screen stardom.

Kiepura, in contrast to Lanza – who hardly set foot on an operatic stage, became a screen star as a result of his successful career in European opera houses. He was blessed with the full visual package that this new medium needed, and the studios could expect considerable benefit from his stellar reputation.

In his native Poland his status is close to that of a national hero, with streets, monuments, stamps, trains, a musical theater company, and now this Awards ceremony in his honor.

Urszula brought Joanna Osinska-Rebosz – the person I had been corresponding with regarding this trip to meet me. I told her that I was prepared for tonight and had been jotting down my announcement of the winner. She said “Oh no, you have to read the officially worded text exactly as it appears on the card.” At which point I requested that a xerox copy be made, so I may have a chance to

familiarize myself with the wording, so it would bounce trippingly off my tongue.

Wlodek arrived and we headed the short walking distance to the Karczma restaurant – part of the new hotel accommodations on the *Mazowsze* compound. We were seated outdoors in front of the old-style, newly constructed village tavern and pondered over the menu. For a list of soups ranging from forest mushroom with truffle aroma to *Żurek* sour soup, I decided to try something new – *Zupa Prezesa* – President's soup. For a main dish I



ZUPA PREZESA – President's soup.

had the *Kotlet Schabowy* pork chop stuffed with mushrooms.

The soup was absolutely delicious with a compliment of *kielbasa* and a sprinkling of fresh dill. It was similar to a sour dough soup, like *żurek* or *biały barszcz*, but very different. Conductor Jacek Boniecki joined us and ordered two soups and nothing else... it was that good! The proprietor Andrzej Chlebowski answered my inquiries, telling me that the name was ornamental and had nothing to do with any President, and the recipe was from his grandmother's kitchen – he made it by her side to insure that this treasure would be passed down to other generations. Upon finishing, I slipped away to my room for a short power nap in preparation for the big Gala evening.

...to be continued

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New Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko Video

Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko's life and ministry as chaplain of the Solidarity movement in Poland during the martial law period is captured on a new video-documentary "Jerzy Popiełuszko Messenger of Truth." Written and produced by Paul Hensler the film was awarded Best Documentary at the 28th annual International Catholic Film and Multimedia Festival in Warsaw, Poland. Catholic activist and actor Martin Sheen narrates the film. This year mark the 30th year since Fr. Jerzy's assassination by agents of the communist government of Poland in October, 1984. For more information go to www.messengerOfTheTruth.com.

NEW ELEVATOR INSTALLED/BLESSED. Sr. Johnice Rzakiewicz, CSSF, welcomed Buffalo's bishop Richard J. Malone at the installation and blessing of a new elevator in the Response to Love Center, where she oversees a wide variety of community outreach services. The bishop also toured the facility and blessed a new chapel on the third floor. The Center is located in the former St. Adalbert's school building which the diocese sold to the center for a token price. During the ceremony she presented to the bishop a small statue of "Jesus the Homeless" and a sculpture titled "Lowly But Chosen." The elevator was made possible by a grant from the John R. Oshei foundation of Western New York.

POLISH ATHEIST SUES OVER EXTREME UNCTION. Contesting that freedom of conscience protects not only faith but also unbelief, Polish atheist Jerzy R. sued a hospital in Szczecin after learning from his medical records that he received the Sacrament of the Sick while in a coma, a routine practice at the hospital. Despite his recovery, he then sued complaining that his freedom of conscience has been disrespect-

ed and claimed compensation of 21,000 Euros for "immaterial damages." The Supreme Court of Poland agreed and a lower court is now determining the actual amount of compensation. The case is considered by some to be more evidence of excessive "political correctness" and even hostility to harmless expressions of faith in secular societies.

CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT. Volunteers have worked regularly at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cemetery on Dale Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. to restore and preserve the gravesites in the cemetery which is under the care of Holy Mother of the Rosary PNCC Cathedral in Lancaster, N.Y. **Lisa Marie Anselmi**, an anthropology professor at Buffalo State College has helped with the project and will bring her class along with radar equipment in the spring to help locate gravesites that are no longer marked. **Debbie (Konieczka) Lasik**, who heads up the project, noted that "a lot of the early grave sites were marked with simple wooden crosses, especially a group of infants and toddlers who died during a pandemic in the early 1900s and no longer have any markers for their graves."

STO LAT TO ... Michael Wojcicki, athletic director and physical education teacher at Mary Queen of Angels School, Cheektowaga, N.Y., on receiving the 2014 St. Lucille Socciaelli-Fr. John Sturm Making a Difference Award from the Making a Difference Foundation of the RC Diocese of Buffalo at their annual dinner. He has taught at the school for 23 years.

Fr. Joseph R. Kopacz on his installation as bishop of the RC diocese of Jackson, Mississippi on Feb. 6. Fr. Kopacz was a priest of the diocese of Scranton, Pa. Born in Dunmore, Pa., he graduated from Dunmore Central Catholic HS, St. Pius X Seminary, Scranton Univer-

sity, and Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, N.Y. He has served at vicar for priests, formation director and vicar general, president of the Catholic Schools' Board of Education, faculty member at the diocesan seminary and coordinator of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Scranton. While pastor of St. Ann Church in Tobyhanna he oversaw its consolidation to become Most Holy Trinity Parish.

Deacon Matthew Wisniewski and Deacon Marc Rybinski, ordained along with Leon Rodgers to the permanent diaconate for service in the RC Archdiocese of Detroit. Deacon Wisniewski will serve at St. Paul of Tarsus Parish in Clinton Township and Deacon Rybinski will be at Christ the Good Shepherd in Lincoln Park, Mich.

MOSAIC OF BLESSED JOHN PAUL II DEDICATED. Adam Cardinal Maida, retired archbishop of Detroit dedicated a mosaic of Blessed John Paul II in the Chapel of Our Lady of Częstochowa at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Blessed John Paul II will be canonized in Rome on April 27. He visited the shrine several times as a cardinal and once as pope in 1979. Cardinal Maida noted that just as each piece of mosaic is part of a body rather than a puzzle, so too, as Pope John Paul II proclaimed, every life is to be respected and every piece, every person is beautiful and here for a reason.

REMINDER: SAVING THE STEEPLES. A steeple at Detroit's St. Josaphat's Church is leaning while those at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church are twisted and likewise in danger of falling. **Kevin Piotrowski**, president of Divine Mercy parish which is the name of the merged parish including the two historic churches, declared the need for re-



CENTURIES-OLD TRADITION CONTINUES. Officers of the Polish Heritage Club of Uniontown, Pa. share opłatek, the Christmas wafer, at the club's December Wigilia. Over 125 members and guests were in attendance. Pictured are (seated, l. to r.): Frank Cetera, president; Tammy Rhodes, secretary; Andy Sadowski, vice president; and (standing, l. to r.): Curtis Rhodes-Marshall; Rev. Canon Joseph Sredzinski, chaplain; and Rich Novsek, treasurer. The Club was chartered in 1973 and continues to promote good Polish Culture in the Fayette County area.

pairs before the steeples have to be dismantled. St. Josaphat's church is closed until the storm damaged steeple is repaired and restored. Insurance for the damage will not cover all the costs of the work. And so the parish has launched a Save the

Steeple campaign, with signs visible from the nearby interstate. Both churches are on the National register of Historic Places. The parishes were founded in 1889. To help contact Mother of Divine Mercy Parish, 4440 Russell St., Detroit, MI 48207.

Special Canonization Edition for May

The April and May editions of the Polish American Journal will be special ones this year. In addition to the April paper being our annual Easter edition, the paper will also cover the events in the life of Blessed John Paul II, from his birth in Poland, to his canonization in April.

Because the ceremony in Rome takes place April 27, the May edition will be mailed one week later than usual.

Readers wishing to express their sentiments on this most historic occasion can do so in the form of a patron advertisement (see form on page 6). Digital editions of the May paper will be emailed to the diocesan offices of Roman Catholic, Polish National Catholic, and other parishes in Polish American communities across the United States.

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. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

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, J.K.

Join the Polish American Journal in commemorating a spectacular April!

— Easter Sunday, April 20 —

— The Canonization of Blessed John Paul II, April 27 —

This year is a very special one for Poles and Polish communities across the globe. In addition to Easter observances April 20, our beloved **John Paul II will be made a saint** the following Sunday, April 27.

To commemorate this event, the Polish American Journal is producing a special edition of the newspaper that will outline the events of Blessed John Paul's life from his birth in Poland, to his rise as Holy Sea of the Roman Catholic Church.



The paper will also be our **ANNUAL EASTER EDITION**, which celebrates the treasured customs of a Polish Easter, from the Blessing of Baskets on Holy Saturday, to Easter Monday revelry.

We are asking you for your support in the production of this special dual celebration edition.

In return, we — in the form of a patron advertisement — will print your congratulatory wishes, which will be shared with our readers across the United States, Canada, Europe, and other Polish communities around the world.

We hope you can share your joy with Poles and their descendants for this historic time.

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

YES! I wish to support the PAJ by placing an ad in the EASTER 2014 EDITION. Please find a contribution in the amount of:

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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

Poland's Trail of Tears

The Trail of Tears refers to the American government's forced relocation of American Indians from the southeast to Oklahoma in the 1830s. At least 50,000 Indians were forcibly removed under harsh conditions and many thousands died of starvation and disease. In the late 1940s, millions of Poles suffered through their own Trail of Tears.

As a result of the Allies' defeat of Germany in World War II and the Yalta Agreement's betrayal of Poland, the borders of both Poland and Germany were shifted westward. All German territory east of the Odra and Nysa Rivers became Polish, including the southern part of East Prussia and the Free City of Danzig. Polish lands east of the Bug River, including almost all the land confiscated by the USSR when it invaded Poland in collusion with Nazi Germany, was annexed by the Soviet Union.

FDR and Churchill also agreed to Stalin's demand for population transfers under the guise of reducing ethnic strife, but this was only a justification for the Soviet theft of eastern Poland. All Poles living in areas annexed by the USSR were to be moved within the new Polish borders. Germans living in areas awarded to Poland were to be relocated west of the Odra and Nysa.

So, after enduring the hellish nightmare of World War II, the surviving Poles and Germans who found themselves on the wrong side of the new borders were to be forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands and shipped westward like so much livestock.

Though less than half ethnically Polish, the territory taken from Poland included centuries-old and thoroughly Polish cities like Wilno and Lwów that were slated to become Lithuanian and Ukrainian.

Important German cities such as Breslau and Stettin would become Polish.

Most of the Poles were to be moved long distances to the areas to the west being vacated by the Germans. Many of these new refugees would spend weeks in transit, shuttled from initial staging areas to be loaded onto rail cattle cars or trucks, perhaps moving on foot, spending days in transfer camps. The camps lacked proper sanitation, were overcrowded and exposed to the elements. People were shoved onto boxcars with no facilities or had to travel on open rail cars. Only the lucky few were sardined into actual passenger trains. Even rarer were those who could commandeer a horse cart or automobile. Many thousands died of disease and exposure along the way. Some were assaulted, robbed or murdered by bandits or Soviet soldiers.

These forced population transfers constitute probably the most despicable act of the immediate post-war years.

Not that these "repatriants" had much to be stolen. Most could only take with them what they could carry. They not only left their homes and farms, they had to leave behind furniture, animals, precious mementoes and most of their clothes. To many, this did not matter because they had already lost most of their possessions in the war and were abandoning burned out shells they used to call home. But they were also leaving behind those intangibles of life: relationships with friends and neighbors, local traditions, all that was familiar, that place called home, where their ancestors

had lived for centuries, as well as their parish church and cemeteries where loved ones rested.

When the "repatriant" families reached their final destination they waited for days or weeks to be assigned to former German homes, most of which were just as damaged as the ones they had left behind. If they were fortunate they got a fully furnished apartment in good condition. In many cases the German families had to be moved out first. As the rail cars were emptied of Poles, they were replaced by evicted Germans moving westward who faced the same horrible conditions during transit.

The numbers involved in this population transfer are staggering. Before the war the population of Poland's eastern borderlands, or Kresy, was twelve million. About forty percent, or five million, were Polish. The population of the so-called Recovered Territories, German land given to Poland, was eight million, almost all ethnically German.

OF THE FIVE MILLION POLES in the Kresy, two million had already been removed after the Soviet 1939 invasion, to Kazakhstan and Siberia. Most survived, were released and settled elsewhere. Some two million remaining Poles were the ones forced to the former German areas. Most of the German population of these Recovered Territories had already fled westward before war's end to avoid advancing Soviet troops. A million returned only to be forcibly removed along with those who hadn't earlier evacuated.

The forced expulsions began in 1945 and were mostly complete by 1948, but some resettlements continued into the 1950s. Some Poles and Germans were able to remain in their homes by disguising their ethnicities. And many of them were prohibited from leaving because they were needed in recovery efforts. Small minorities of Poles still live in Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania. A hundred thousand Poles live in Lithuanian Wilno (Vilnius), 18% of the population. Poles constitute 7% of Lithuania. In Belarus they are 3% and in Ukraine less than 1%, mostly in the city of Lwów (Lviv). Lwów, once a major Polish cultural center, was to almost en masse be transferred to German Breslau, which was renamed Wrocław. In effect, Wrocław was to become the new Lwów, though not all its resettlers came from there.

Today, about 1% of Polish citizens are of German descent with most living in southwestern Poland. The former German areas given to Poland were often referred to as "former German territories under temporary Polish administration." No such designation was made for Polish areas taken by the USSR. They were outright and permanently annexed by the Soviets.

It was not until 1992, after the reunification of Germany, that the new borders of Poland were officially recognized by all parties as permanent and inviolable.

These forced population transfers constitute probably the most despicable act of the immediate post-war years. Today, as the number of Polish and German deportees who have first hand memories of their old homelands dwindles, the emotional ties to the old territories becomes weaker in both countries. Yet those places will always retain an important place in the souls and in the national identities of both Germany and Poland.

KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Mazowsze – North American Fall Tour

Mazowsze is on a roll with much activity coming from this famed Polish company over the last year. Under the direction of Włodzimierz Izban, they are in frequent motion with exciting performances and unique appearances.

Under the auspices of 2Luck Concepts, the company will commence a North American tour beginning November 5 in Chicago through December 21. Additional cities in Canada will be included. The 65th anniversary tour production will include new high-tech projections that will enhance the atmosphere and establish the surroundings of each region represented on stage. Several new additions and regional suites will join the classic standards on the program. The exact schedule is still being finalized. More information will appear in PAJ when available; consult www.2Luck.com, www.paj-today.com, or www.MazowszeOnTour.blogspot.com.

The company performed with a selection of Polish *kolędy* at the Vatican's Basilica of St. Peter during Christmas Midnight Mass (*Pasterka*) as it was celebrated by Pope Francis.

They assumed a new role when they took on the opera *Krakowiacy i Górale* this past year – premiering the new revised work, which was based on a classic 1794 work by Wojciech Bogusławski. The opera with a new libretto and lyrics was performed at the Grand Theater of the National Opera in Warsaw. With the success of the production, *Mazowsze* discovered in themselves a new potential. The opera – directed by Andrzej Strzelecki and choreographed by Zofia Rudnicka, was presented with a twenty-first century audience in mind. "It is a milestone in the development of *Mazowsze*," said director Izban.

Mazowsze became relevant to today's youth in Poland when they made an auspicious appearance at the 2013 Woodstock Festival with the contemporary techno band "Gooral" – combining their repertoire with new sounds to create a fusion of old-and new that over 300,000 outdoor spectators could not get enough of.

This year the company released four discs – an unprecedented amount. A CD and DVD of the "Gooral" – *Mazowsze* Woodstock collaboration, and two CDs with new selections – "Pieśni Polskie" and "Kolędy i Pastoralki."

Famed Composer Wojciech Kilar Dies at 81

"The power and the message of his music ... will stay in my memory forever," said Jerzy Kornowicz, head of the Association of Polish Composers. "Poland has lost one of the most individual voices in 20th and 21st-century music."

Wojciech Kilar, Poland's renowned pianist and composer of classical music and scores for many films, including Roman Polanski's Oscar-winning *The Pianist* and Francis Ford Coppola's *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, died on December 29, 2013 in Katowice at the age of 81.

Although he cited his first love as writing symphonies and concertos, he won worldwide attention as a film composer, writing scores for more than 130 films and working with celebrity directors. Kilar composed scores for more than 100 masterpieces of the world cinema. He won the best score composer award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 1992, and received the French na-



SEVERAL NEW ADDITIONS and regional suites will join the classic standards on Mazowsze's 65th Anniversary Tour.

tional film award César.

Francis Ford Coppola is understood to have given Wojciech Kilar a free rein to compose the score for *Dracula*, and it was reported that when the American director later asked Kilar what it took to write music like his, Kilar cryptically replied: "You need to live in Katowice."

Born in 1932 in Lwów, a then-Polish city, now in Ukraine, he spent his childhood in Rzeszów and Kraków before moving to Katowice in Poland's Śląsk region, where he lived most of his life and which he considered his "little homeland". He was also deeply attached to Częstochowa where he often celebrated his birthdays.

Inspired by the works of Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel and fellow countryman Karol Szymanowski – Kilar co-founded the Karol Szymanowski Society in 1977 – his work incorporated Polish folk songs and Catholic church music. His compositions ranged from the avant-garde to soaring choral works. His fondness for the simple motifs and the resonant use of bass and cello gave his music a romantic feel, and it was little wonder he came to the attention of film-makers. Kilar once said the three criteria that made him write film music were, in this order: the name of the director, the salary and the script.



KILAR. Wrote scores for more than 130 films, including 100 masters of world cinema.

In Poland, he was known for working with three influential Polish film directors: Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Kieslowski, and Krzysztof Zanussi. In 1991, Zanussi made a biographical film about the composer. He also worked on three separate occasions for fellow Polish native Roman Polanski, beginning with 1994's *Death and the Maiden*.

He composed repertoire for *The Śląsk Song and Dance Ensemble* concentrating on the areas of **Górny Śląsk, Zagłębia and Beskid Żywiec** and including the popular song "Głęboka Studzienka," and national dances such as *Polonez, Mazur and Kujawiak*. His gradually-building *Polonez* composed the film *Pan Tadeusz* will forever be embedded in memory.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

It's Official: The Polish Triangle — Trójkąt Polonijny

On December 11, the Chicago City Council made it official: The historic West Town District bounded by Ashland, Division, and Milwaukee Avenues will be officially known as the Polish Triangle. By a unanimous vote of 50 to 0, the City Council recognized the over-150-year contributions of Poles and Polish Americans in the development of Chicago.

Once the cradle of the Polish community in Chicago, the **Polish Triangle** area, now quite gentrified, still houses the award-winning **Chopin Theatre**, the Smithsonian Magazine-designated "Holy Grail" **Podhadlanka Restaurant**, **The Polish Museum of America**, the National Headquarters of the **Polish Roman Catholic Union**, **Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church**, the historic **St. Stanislaus Kostka Church**, and the popular **Polish Society of the Arts**.

After a strong community effort which included Polish Americans and many others, **Alderman Ray Suarez** (31st District) sponsored this proposal, which was co-sponsored by Aldermen **Joe Moreno** (1st District), **Bob Fioretti** (2nd District), and **Scott Waguespack** (32nd District). During public commentary, Marta Almodovar, an administrative supervisor with the Circuit Court of Cook County, said she "believes renaming the area would spur tourism from the resurgent Poland, which has thrived economically since the fall of the communist bloc in Europe." Suarez endorsed her proposal.

Alderman Moreno suggested that the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) rename its Blue Line stop at Division, the **Polish Triangle**. Suarez mentioned that efforts for this renaming are already underway. The CTA, however, gave a lukewarm response to actually renaming the station. "CTA has discussed this issue with Alderman Suarez and is happy to assist him in pursuing his constituents' goal of highlighting that area's importance in American and Polish history," said CTA spokesman Stephen Mayberry. "CTA has suggested a landmark sign at (the) Division station, prominently designating it as the station for the 'Polonia Triangle.' The landmark sign would be highly visible to our customers and would be in keeping with standard CTA signage policy for such a designation." This has yet to be seen.



Niemczyk, Zgrzębski, and Dworska.

A WIGILIA SERVED TO THE HOMELESS. With all that everyone has to do in preparing for *Wigilia*, it was wonderful to see and read what Polish Radio (1030 AM) and Polvision, along with St. Hyacinth Parish, did on behalf of the lonely, homeless and poor. Several hundred filled the gym of *Świętego Jacka*, shared *oplatek*, and sat down to an outstanding *Wigilia* dinner. This is perhaps the biggest *Wigilia* in the Chicago area.

It all started 14 years ago, when the late Jurek (George) Arsenowicz



A VIEW OF THE TRIANGLE from August 11, 1953.

initiated Christmas gatherings for single people, the poor and homeless. It drew such interest that the then parish pastor of St. Hyacinth, Father Michael Osuch, collaborated with Arsenowicz to host this special event for the destitute.

Acting as hosts on behalf of Polish Radio and Polvision were Jacek Niemczyk, Sergiusz Zgrzębski, and Kamila Dworska, along with Father Stanisław Jankowski and Father Michael Osuch, Pastor and Pastor Emeritus, respectively.

But many from the Polish radio and television media came aboard to volunteer their time and help. This three-hour Christmas Eve celebration was filled with music and entertainment provided by the Polonia Ensemble, singer and bassist Megiza, also known as Małgorzata Babiarczyk, and guitarist, Andreas Kapsalis.

As *wigilia* ended, the guests received gifts of clothing, food, and sweets. All of this, thanks to the generosity of businesses, restaurants,



PMA volunteers.

and volunteers from various organizations and St. Hyacinth Parish.

PMA HAD BUSY DECEMBER.

The Polish Museum of America (PMA) was busy during the month of December, as it prepared for its annual *Wigilia*, as well as co-hosting an evening with Bram Beelaert, curator of the Red Star Line Museum of Antwerp, Belgium.

On December 6, Beelaert presented a historical overview of the Belgium-American Shipping Company, Red Star Line, and the role Antwerp played in being the departure point, as well as the shipping line used by over 2.5 million immigrants from Western, Central, and Eastern Europe. This event was co-hosted by the PMA, Visit Flanders, and the Polish and Belgium Consulates.

The following evening, December 7, the PMA held its annual *Wigilia* celebration. This sold-out event brought many to the PMA to enjoy

the time-honored and, perhaps, the most important of Polish holidays. Traditionally a fast day, it is the most anticipated as well. So, in the elegant setting of the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall, families and friends gathered to break and share *oplatek* and to partake in a delectable, yet traditional meatless, *Wigilia* dinner that included *barczysz z uszka*, along with special Polish pastries. Once again, a special *dziękuję bardzo* to one of the PMA's most enthusiastic supporters, Kasia Bober of Kasia's Catering, for providing those traditional Polish *wigilia* delights. The PMA Staff and volunteers acted as hosts and servers.

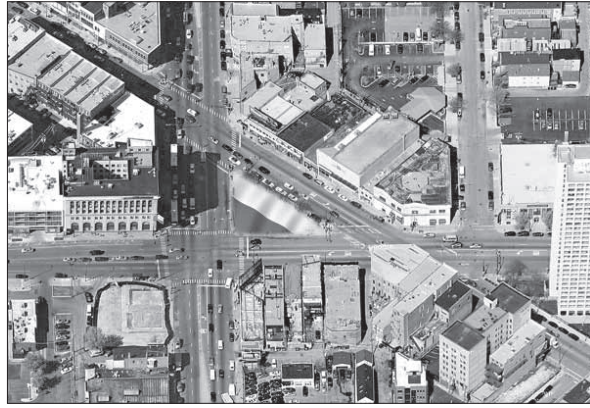
Additionally, The PMA will host the Museum's and the Polish Roman Catholic Union's newly-renovated First Floor and Gift Shop on January 26, 2014. The afternoon's Open House will give PMA patrons and the general public the opportunity to view the outstanding renovations. Tours of the new area will be given. This event is free, but donations to defray costs will be gratefully appreciated. With plenty of free parking, the PMA hopes to see many. More about this event to follow in the March 2014 issue of the Polish American Journal.

PAL-PAC HOLDS CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The first joint Polish American Leadership - Political Action Committee (PAL-PAC) and Polish American Chamber of Commerce (PACC) Holiday Party was held Fri., Dec. 6, at the European Crystal Ballroom in Arlington Heights, Ill. The event's success, attended by more than 400 guests, was also made possible by the generosity of many business and individual sponsors.

The Masters of Ceremonies for the evening's festivities were PACC executive director, **Bogdan Puksza**, and PAL-PAC executive director, **Ela Golebiewska**. Guests were greeted by PAL-PAC's chairman, **Arie Zweig**, who summed up the year's activities of this rapidly evolving Polish American initiative and read a letter from Polish Ambassador, Ryszard Schnepf. This was followed by welcoming remarks from Polish Consul General **Paulina Kapuścińska**. **Michael Krynski**, chairman of the PAL-PAC's Junior Board, spoke on the importance of active young-adult involvement and its effectiveness in supporting the PAL-PAC's mission.

Illinois gubernatorial candidates, Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford, State Senator Kirk Dillard (Ill.



THE TRIANGLE, bordered by West Division (east-west), Ashland (north-south), and Milwaukee (diagonal) avenues.

political-action organization formed for the purpose of addressing social, civic, and business interests within the Polish American community throughout the United States. Its initiatives are accomplished through education, issue advocacy, and representation in local, state, and federal governmental agencies.

THE GIFT OF THE PEACE LIGHT.

On December 19, the Polish Scouting Organization of Chicago presented the Bethlehem Peace Light to the consulate general of the Republic of Poland. Since 1987, the Peace Light of Bethlehem has travelled with scouting organizations



Puksza, Golebiewska, and Zweig.

24th), and Bruce Rauner, spoke to the guests. Wilmette Village president, Robert Bielinski, gave non-candidate remarks. Guests spent the remainder of the evening by bidding on items in the Silent Auction, enjoying a buffet dinner, tasting the heavenly pastry delights provided by Oak Mill Bakery, visiting with old friends, conversing with others, being entertained by the Polish Highlander band, Mountain Eagles, and dancing to the music of the Dori Koz Band.

In addition, guests had an opportunity to meet Richard S. Post, author of the newly-published "West of Goose Island: A Chicago Story" and Joseph W. Zurawski, author of "Polish Chicago: Our History - Our Recipes." Both were on hand to sign their books, which were available for purchase.

The PACC's mission is to encourage, support, and promote domestic and international trade among its members. As a not-for-profit organization, it wishes to be the voice of Polish American business men and women, and to be dedicated to serving their best interests through the education on current trends and the facilitation of commercial contacts.

The Polish American Leadership - Political Action Committee is a

throughout Europe and around the world to a variety of institutions. It is during the Christmas season that it became a living symbol of peace, unity, and hope. This honored tradition found shelter in private homes, as well as in governmental institutions.

Accepting the Peace Light on behalf of Consul General Paulina Kapuścińska was Vice Consul Konrad Zieliński. This year, the scouts in Poland gave the Light to the Polish president and the prime minister. The Polish Scouting Organization of Chicago, as the Ambassador of the Peace Light, also brought the Light to the Polish American Congress, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, and Polish parishes throughout Chicago. In 1986, the transfer of the Peace Light of Bethlehem was first inaugurated in Linz, Austria, as part of a Christmas charitable relief mission for children in need. Since 1991, the Polish Scouting Organization has taken part in this event. In 2001, the Peace Light made its way to the United States by way of the Canadian scouts who brought it to Ground Zero in New York. This year's message "Step out of the shadow. Show the good!" calls for working on self-improvement for the benefit of all.

Repairing Old Photos Topic of Genealogy Meeting

CHICAGO — "50 Photoshop Speed Techniques" will be the topic at the Feb. 9, 2014 meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA).

Eric Basir, owner of Photo Grafix, in Evanston, Ill., will offer advice on using numerous techniques to repair torn, faded, and other photographs in need of repair. He has served hundreds of genealogists throughout the United States with high-quality restoration of their photographic collections since 2001. He also has an extensive portfolio of work with advertising agencies, book and magazine publishers, and professional photographers. Basir serves the genealogical community as a teacher and author of two books and a video course about digital photo preservation and restoration.

The meeting starts at 2:00 p.m. at the Social Hall, The Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave.

MEMBERS of the PGSA are available on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the PMA library to help with your research challenges. However, if you are unable to stop by, you can e-mail an inquiry to PGSAmerica@pgsa.org or go to www.PGSA.org. Click on "How To..." in the sidebar and access "Frequently Asked Questions."

Currently, board member and PAJ columnist Steve Szabados is available at the Arlington Heights Library, every Friday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon. To see his schedule of talks around Chicago, go to: <http://steveszabados.com/calendar-of-events/>.

Humble Roots Bear Doctor



MARIAN AMOS KASPEREK, son of Marian and Jean Kasperek of Cole Camp, Missouri, earned his doctorate in Spanish Golden Age Literature from University of Oklahoma-Norman. He is a first generation American of Polish descent. His father immigrated with his parents, Marian and Stanislaw Kasperek, and his brother Czeslaw in 1956 from Marshall Plan-sponsored refugee housing in Ingolstadt, Germany.

Dr. Kasperek's paternal grandfather was originally from Wola Murowana, Poland, and his paternal grandmother was from Tarnow, Poland. They were taken individually to Germany in 1939 as laborers. After the war, they met in a refugee staging area in Weiden, Germany, where their two sons were born. Later they were transferred to Ingolstadt where they did whatever they could to provide for their family. They kept rabbits and pigs, worked on farms and road construction, picked apples and mushrooms in the woods, collected metal and bricks to recycle, made shoes, cut hair, and rented out their only bedroom. They had only an elementary education and had to hire people to tutor their sons in German for school, and to help them with paperwork for their immigration. Education was important to them because they saw the disadvantages of not having it. Their sons didn't realize, when their parents checked their homework, that they couldn't read it. Despite little education, Amos's grandfather could speak some Russian, Ukrainian, and a little English. In addition to her native Polish, Amos's grandmother learned to speak German and, after coming to the United States, English and Spanish.

Dr. Kasperek received his Bachelor's in education at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, and earned his Master's from University of St. Louis in Madrid, Spain. He now teaches at Bob Jones University, and next year will become head of the Spanish department. His grandparents would no doubt have been proud of Amos's accomplishments.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Polish Collection's Future in Question

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The State University of New York at Buffalo's Lockwood Library is changing its Polish Room. Mollie Poremski, curator of the library's Polish Collection, is in the process of placing a special collection of Polish artifacts in the Polish Room while relocating many of the books currently there into the general circulation stacks. Local Polonians are split on this issue. Some see this as a first move toward the elimination of the library's Polish Collection, others see it as a way to make the library's Polish Collection more accessible to the Public. And no one can seem to locate the complete 1955 agreement between the university and the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo establishing the Polish Collection to see if it addresses this issue. More later as events develop. For information on the Polish Room, visit www.library.buffalo.edu/polish-room.

PULASKI POLICE NEWS. The Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and Western New York recently installed the following officers at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew: **Al Ziemecki**, pres.; **Marty Bochinski**, v.p.; **Dave Gorski**, 2nd v.p.; **Mike Stack**, 3rd v.p.; **Darryl Borawski**, rec. sec.; **Ron Skotnicki**, treas.; **Paul Manno**, fin. Sec.; and **Jerry Imiola**, sgt.-at-arms. The oath of office was administered by the Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka**.

Scholarships were awarded to **Hannah Gnorek** and **Anthony Buhowski** that evening.

Other awards were given to **Paul Manno** (Man of the Year), **Steven Umstead** (Business Person of the Year), and **Paul Imiola** and **Ron Mayer** (President's Award) for their outstanding and dedicated service to the association.

POLONIA TIDBITS. The January 2014 edition of "The WholeNote," a Toronto music magazine, featured an article by Robert Aiken entitled "Lutoslawski's Legacy: A Personal Reminiscence" ... **St. Casimir Parish**, in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood, presented a number of events throughout the month of January, celebrating the "40 Days of Christmas." Events included the blessing of incense, chalk and gold on Epiphany, and a Winterfest Heritage Festival held at the Polish Villa II Restaurant in Cheektowaga. Photos of the events can be viewed at www.facebook.com/stcasimirbuffalo ... Binghamton resident **Valentina Kozlowski** is offering her CD, "Songs of Poland," on her website, www.ValentinaKozlowski.com ... **Lucyna Dziedzic** offered her various levels of Polish language classes at the Maryvale Binner Educational Center in Cheektowaga in mid-January. Ms. Dziedzic added an online class to her offerings for the first time this year.

The Buffalo Sabres NHL team recently picked up 33-year-old **Zenon Konopka** (inset, left) a Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario resident whose father was born in Poland ... **Ralph Baumgartner** addressed the January meeting of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo on the topic, "The Black Madonna: Our Lady of Czestochowa," at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on January 15 ... The Polish Genealogical Society of New York elected the following leadership for 2014: **Denise Oliansky**, pres.; **David Newman**, v.p.; **Dolores Ferguson**, sec.; and **Chuck Pyrak**, treas., and well as Trustees **Patricia Neu-**

land, Maureen Gleason, Patricia Rooney, Walter Kloc, and Pierre LaLoie ... On January 18, Buffalo's historic Broadway Market hosted "Polka, Piwo And Pierogi" featuring the music of New Direction, a beer tasting by members of the **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle**, and pierogi by **Pierogi by Paula** and **Keeping Traditions Pierogi** ... Also on January 18, the **Bloor Hot Docs Cinema** in Toronto screened Andrzej Wajda's "Walesa: Man of Hope," the **Polish Legion Branch 418** hosted its "Zabawa" featuring "Polanie" at the Legion Hall in St. Catharines, Ontario, and the **Polish Heritage Foundation** held its "Czarno Bialy Karnawal" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario.

January 19 brought the Salon of Poetry, Music and Theatre of Toronto, under the direction of **Jerzy Pilitowski's** production of "Niezapomniani," featuring **Konstanty Ildefons Galczynski** and **Julian Tuwim**, to the Maja Prentice Theatre in Mississauga ... On January 21, **Jim Serafin**, president of the **Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister City Committee**, met with **Peter Eimer**, the North American Coordinator of SAGEGlobal at the Buffalo Club to discuss possible areas of increased cooperation. SAGE's mission is to help create the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders whose innovations and social enterprises address the major unmet needs of our global community.

On January 26, Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka** installed the following officers of the **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo**: **Alfred Karney**, pres.; **Elzbieta Grabowska**, 2nd v.p.; and Directors **Felix Klompka**, **Danuta Nycz-Nakamura**, and **Anthony Rudnicki**, at Gregor's Grove in West Seneca, and **Kaba-**

ret Nowaki presented "Paranienor-malni" at the John Bassett Theatre in Toronto.

The **Professional & Business Women of Polonia** will host their annual scholarship fundraiser, featuring **O'Connell & Co.** in the theatrical presentation, "The Lady With All The Answers," at the Park School in Snyder on February 20 ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** will sponsor their 17th Annual Paczki Day Celebration at the Hearthstone Manor in Depew on March 2 ... The **Betty Crocowski** Polish food truck will start gracing the streets of the WNY in March. More information will soon be available on the **Betty Crocowski** Facebook page or at www.bettycrocowski.com ... Remember that Tuesday, March 4 is **Paczki Day** this year.

❖ ❖ ❖

If you have any item that you would like to have included in future installments of this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (ie. February 6 for the March edition) at pietruszka@verizon.net.

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Sing-Along Draws Great Crowd



NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — Nearly 200 people attended the second annual Polskie Koledy Sing-Along sponsored by The Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton. The afternoon's event was held January 5 at St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church; hosted by the **Rev. Adam Czarnecki**, pastor, and its parishioners. The lead choir was comprised of choir members from area churches throughout the Pioneer Valley. The program included eighteen traditional Polish Christmas carols and pastoralki with sing along sheets for the people in attendance.

This year's program included a live Nativity scene portrayed by students from the Polish language class sponsored by St. Valentine's Church.

Rev. Czarnecki opened the event with prayer asking almighty God to open our hearts to praise Him and give glory by singing Polish carols, which are about His miraculous Birth. During the intermission, Rev. Czarnecki blessed incense and chalk for distribution to the guests and provided a brief description of the Polish Three Kings Day tradition of marking the door entrance and lintels of the house with the initials K+M+B 14.

Visiting priests in attendance included the **Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas**, Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC), Ware, Mass., and **Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz**, Holy Mother of the Rosary PNCC, Chicopee, Mass. Very Rev. Banas offered a closing prayer and made note that he compared the lead choir to the Mazowsze — the world's best known Polish folk group.

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. Guests as far away as Connecticut attending for the first time assured the Committee that they will again return. One woman commented that she had recently recovered from a stroke and just had to attend to hear the beautiful Polish carols. The event culminated with a reception and fellowship in the Church hall.

The Polish Heritage Committee said it plans to make the Sing-Along an annual event.

POLISH COMPOSERS. threecomposers.pl is an English-language site that provides a varied sampling of music of three of Poland's famous classical composers — Górecki, Lutosławski, and Penderecki. It is produced by the Narodowy Instytut Audiowizualny (National Audiovisual Institute).

2014 Pilgrimage to Poland with Erika

Many of you are familiar with the well-known polka band, "Pan Franek, Zosia and the Polka Towners," which has been playing on the polka circuit with various family members since the mid-1970's. Family member, 21-year-old Erika Piotrowski, has been an integral part of the band since she was three years old, singing vocals and playing the violin. She partially credits her great love of her Polish heritage and her lively enthusiasm in passing on the polka music tradition that originates from her mother's and her paternal grandparents' homeland of Poland to her own familiarity with the country of Poland.

Through the years Erika has visited relatives in Poland several times, celebrating Christmas, weddings, ordinations, birthdays and just getting to know the land of her heritage well. She has come to love Poland with its rich spiritual offerings and the mere beauty of its Eastern European landscape. Because of her love for her ancestors' homeland, she desires to share this treasure with as many people as possible. Thus, she is organizing a pilgrimage tour of Poland to take place May 23-June 3, 2014.

Erika hosted a previous pilgrimage tour to Poland, which was a great success. A couple of years ago, she went on a mission trip to the country of India where she worked with the Missionaries of Charity and stayed with the sisters of the Community of St. John. She realized after seeing the rich and beautiful culture of India that she wanted to take others to experience the heritage, traditions and beauty of her own ancestral country of Poland.

Erika speaks fluent Polish and

will translate any necessary information for travelers, although most of the main tour stops have English-speaking personnel.

Departing from Chicago, the first couple of days will be spent in Warsaw. A tour of the city of Warsaw will begin the trip, including a walk through Market Square and a visit to New Town Market and a stop at the History Museum to view the movie, "Warsaw Remains."

From Warsaw, the group will transfer to Niepokalanow Sanctuary, former home to St. Maximilian Kolbe, 21st century martyr of Auschwitz. From there the group will move on to Torun to spend the night. Following Torun, the pilgrimage group will visit Lichen Stary, the second most famous sanctuary devoted to Mary in Poland, and then on to a tour of Wroclaw to visit the site of the Battle of Raclawice, the gothic cathedral of St. John the Baptist and a short trip to Swidnica, the Church of Peace, the largest timber-framed religious building in Europe.

Continuing, the group will visit the most important religious site in Poland, the home to the famous Black Madonna, Jasna Gora Monastery. New there is a huge fiberglass figure of Pope John Paul II that overlooks the city of Czestochowa.

Following Czestochowa, a visit will be made to Auschwitz, the most infamous former Nazi concentration camp. On to Wadowice from there, the birthplace of Blessed Pope John Paul II. The group will retrace steps of his childhood in this village.

In Zakopane they tour will visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima in Krzeptowki. Here Pope John Paul II gave thanksgiving for his

life after his assassination attempt in 1981.

Erika is so anxious to share a raft trip down the Dunajec River in Szczawnica with her fellow travelers. It is one of the most beautiful scenic places in Poland. The next day the travelers will move on to visit the oldest salt mine in Europe in Wieliczka. They will experience tunnels, salt lakes, chambers and other unique discoveries of the underground world there. From there, a visit to the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, where Sister Faustina Kowalska was given the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Final day includes a visit to the Wawel Castle in Krakow, the seat of Polish kings. Time will be spent in the Main Market Square, the gothic Church of St. Mary's and taking in the sites.

The cost for this twelve-day tour is \$3,850 per person, including round trip air from Chicago, based on double occupancy. For more information, contact Erika Piotrowski at (231) 720-8378, or e-mail her at erikapeuro@hotmail.com.

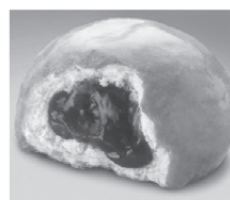
Genealogists to Meet

SALT LAKE CITY — The United Polish Genealogical Societies (UPGS) Conference will be held May 2-5, 2014 at the Plaza Hotel, 122 West South Temple.

To reserve a room, call (800) 366-3684. A discounted room rate is in effect (\$85.00) for single or double rooms, and good for the shoulder dates as well. Please use the full title "United Polish Genealogical Societies Conference" when applying for special rate, no abbreviations.

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PAJ Polka Editor to Receive IPA's Jozwiak Award

CHICAGO —Steve Litwin, Polka Editor of the Polish American Journal, was announced as the winner of the Joe Jozwiak Achievement Award to be awarded by the International Polka Association (IPA) in 2014. The exact place and date of the award presentation has not yet been determined.

Litwin was probably introduced to polka music shortly after his birth. Born and raised in a Polish American family in North Tonawanda, N.Y., a Buffalo suburb, polka music was part of everyday life, whether it be on the radio, on television, or with live bands at weddings and dances. At the age of seven he started taking accordion lessons from his uncle, a local musician and music teacher. Although for the most part he followed the lesson structure, he preferred playing polkas, waltzes and obereks. Litwin's grandfather played harmonica and was a big inspiration in his love for Polish and polka music.

In the late '60s, he began booking polka bands for club events and spending evenings at polka lounges, clubs and dances in the Western New York area. Litwin also began submitting articles to *The Polka News*, a monthly published in Connecticut.

His 1973 marriage relocated him to Binghamton, N.Y., where he and his wife, Adele, continued their activities at polka events throughout southern New York State and northeastern Pennsylvania. Along with teaching polka dance lessons, they started and edited a local polka club news bulletin entitled *Polka Press*.

Nebraska's Polka World solicited his work and his "Accordion to Steve" column became a regular feature of that publication. Throughout the next decade, his columns appeared in various polka and Polish American newspapers. In December, 1989, Mark Kohan, Editor-in-Chief of the Polish American Journal (PAJ), named Litwin Polka Editor. His "Polka Insider" column has been a regular feature ever since.

Since the early '70s, Litwin has written the liner notes for numerous polka albums including recordings by: Bay State IV; The Brass Connection; John Nyschot Orchestra; Bill Czerniak's Concertina Band;



STEVE and ADELE LITWIN, with plaque of recognition given to them by the Blazonczyk family for years of dedication to the promotion polka music. Now, that dedication has been recognized by the IPA.

Steel City Brass; and Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones. He also wrote the liner notes for *Polkas for Children*, produced by the Polish American Journal and *A Kolberg Sampler*, produced by the Polish Community Center of Buffalo. He was one of the photographers for the Dynatones' *Live Wire* album of 1982 and his photography is featured on Eddie Blazonczyk's *Polka Festival* album.

In 1976, he started playing concertina and since 1983, has spon-

sored a Concertina Jam session during the July Polka Fireworks festival at the Seven Springs Resort in Western Pennsylvania. Each year over 30 concertina players, including some of the top Polish concertina players in the country, participate in this annual acoustic event, playing tunes from the Polish heritage.

In addition to the print editions, Litwin's writings for the PAJ may be found at www.polamjournal.com/polka.

Chicago Push Making Plans

CHICOPEE, Mass. — Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push announced plans for 2014, which include a polka cruise, and a trip to Southern Poland and Vienna.

At Easter, the band will be performing at the Pvt. Leonard Post in the Buffalo, New York.

Also on the schedule is Ogleby Park, Wheeling, W.V.; the USPA Convention Memorial Weekend in Cleveland; the 40th Anniversary 4th of July Polka Fireworks weekend at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pa.; Mark & Val Janson's Summer

Musicfest in Frankenmuth, Mich. in August; the newly-organized IPA Labor Day weekend festival in Cleveland; and Polkamotion by the Ocean in Rehoboth Beach, Del., in mid-September.

Newly announced is their Southern Poland and Vienna, Austria Tour in September 2014, with Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup hosting another adventure to Poland, September 25 through October 5, 2014.

For more information visit chicagopush.com, call (413) 374-7096; e-mail chicagopush@aol.com.

Polka Weekenders Last Polka



THE LAST AND FIRST PRESIDENTS PRESIDED. Kenneth Adamski (l.) and Joseph Antkowiak (r.), the last and first presidents respectively of The Polka Weekenders Club, at its final function after almost a half century of a very active and cheerful existence.

by Richard P. Poremski

BALTIMORE — Sadly, The Polka Weekenders Club is no more.

On Nov. 17, 2013, over 200 pairs of feet danced the Club into the history books after 45 years of longevity, to the music of the TKO Variety Band at the Del Capri banquet hall. Presiding over the bittersweet event was the current and now last president of the Weekenders, Ken Adamski, as well as its founder and first president, Joe Antkowiak, both pictured above.

The Polka Weekenders was founded in 1964 and experienced a temporary three-year hiatus early thereafter. It then roared back to life with about 70 members and rapidly expanded. At its zenith the Club had approximately 800 dues-paying members, and was reported to be "The Largest Polka Social Club in the USA." It published a quarterly newsletter that publicized and promoted upcoming polka events and related programs throughout the area, as well as other articles of interest to the polka and Polonia communities.

Over the years, the Weekenders sponsored too many dances to count, booking both local and nationally-recognized polka bands at their events. Some of the bands are now defunct, some have undergone reorganization(s), and some are still

strongly belting out the polka beat.

Most of the Club's affairs were held locally, but also its members also traveled to many others in the northeast United States, frequently with two full buses of participants. Its farthest reach was a trip to Hawaii in 1984. But it wasn't just "all polka-all the time." It also proudly—and unselfishly—participated in many charitable, community, civic and Polonia events to the benefit of many others.

But now a much different day has dawned: the young people of today are not joining or supporting the social or fraternal groups like the previous generations of their families eagerly did. The lion's share of their socializing and networking is now done solo in cyberspace where they communicate instantaneously and constantly via their computers, laptops, tablet/pad devices, and smart phones.

"In summarizing the history of The Polka Weekenders over the past forty-five years, we can say with pride we have accomplished our goals," said the last communiqué issued by the Club. "(We) brought pleasure to our membership; assisted the Polish Community in many ways; conducted ourselves with dignity at every affair; and made every member proud to be a Polka Weekender."

Jimmy Sturr to Tape New TV Shows

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra will be taping new shows for his TV Program featured weekly on RFD-TV. Usually taped in Branson, Mo., these will be recorded in the Mohegan Sun Pocono Casino/Hotel in Wilkes-Barre.

Sturr and the Orchestra will be taping four shows per day starting Fri., March 28-30 2014. This is the first time dancing by the audience

will be included.

The Mohegan Sun Pocono Casino & Hotel (mohegansunpocono.com) is located off Route 81 and three miles from the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Airport.

Tickets are on now sale. For credit card orders call (800) 724-0727 or visit jimmysturr.com. Write Jimmy Sturr Productions, Box One, Florida, and NY 10921.

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish, email it with a short description to: pajpolka@verizon.net.



FRANK BORZYMOWSKI. Boys from Baltimore. Polka Holiday. Elmira, N.Y. 1983.



AL BRANECKI. Chicagolaires. Polish Home. Binghamton, N.Y. 1976.



FRANK LISZKA. The Brass Connection. Fountains Pavilion. Johnson City, N.Y. 1981.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Czelusta Park All Stars Shine

As I sit here writing my column, Northwest Ohio is covered in about a foot of snow, and the temperatures are hitting near-record lows, as they are in much of the country right now. The inclement weather we had in December seems tame by comparison. It didn't stop the TAPS membership from enjoying the Christmas Dance December 15 by any means. A good two hundred polka fans and family members showed up to enjoy the festivities, including several new members and their families.

The hall was decorated with the requisite poinsettias, and the meal was catered by Malczewski's. This of course means chicken and meatballs with all of the trimmings, and as usual these fine folks didn't disappoint. Christmas cookies adorned the food tables but only for a short while.

Lunch was only the beginning. The afternoon's dancing commenced with the sounds of the **Czelusta Park All Stars**. Eddie Biegaj played the drums, as well as Randy Krajewski on accordion, with Jimmy Rutkowski and Jimmy Mackiewicz, Jr. on trumpets/clarinets. As in past years, the boys in the band were joined on stage by Eric Hite and also Robert McMahon for sets of traditional kolędy, English carols, and a few Irish songs thrown in for good measure by Robert.

What is a Christmas party without a visit from St. Nicholas? All registered children received a gift from the old boy in between sets of

music. Dozens of door prizes and the poinsettias were raffled off, and the final set of music came all too quickly. Thanks to the many people who made the TAPS Christmas dance a success.

UPCOMING

Feb. 23. Duane Malinowski and the Polka Jamboree, TAPS monthly dance, music from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Doors open 12:30 p.m.

March 7. Echoes of Poland Annual Pierogi Dinner. 4:00-8:00 p.m. PRCUA Hall 5255 N. Detroit Avenue, \$8.00 per person, includes four pierogi entrée.

March 23. John Gora & Gorale. IMA monthly dance. Music from 2:00-6:00 p.m. doors open 12:30 p.m.

Mar 30. The Diddle Styx from Grand Rapids. TAPS monthly dance. Music from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Doors open 12:30 p.m.

Tour Germany and Poland with Tish Blazonczyk

CHICAGO — Tish Blazonczyk and family will be touring Germany and Poland, July 27 to August 9, 2013. You can enjoy the culture and history of Berlin, Dresden, Wroclaw, Wisla, Zakopane, Krakow, Wadowice, Czestochowa, and Warsaw. Arrangements are being handled by travel experts Mary & Richard Gorecki of PAT Tours.

For more information contact Bel-Aire at (708) 594-5182 or via email at belaire7208@aol.com.

New location for Bayway "Revival"

FLORIDA, N.Y. — Polka dancing is returning to the New Jersey area on Sun., March 23 at the former polka home in Bloomfield. Now called the Essex Manor it is located on



Broughton Avenue in Bloomfield, Exit 151 on the Garden State Parkway. Featured will be The **Jimmy Sturr Orchestra** starting at 2:00 p.m. The Essex Manor has been completely renovated and you'll enjoy a spacious dance floor. Food will be available throughout the day.

For more information contact Jimmy Sturr, Box 1, Florida, NY 10921.

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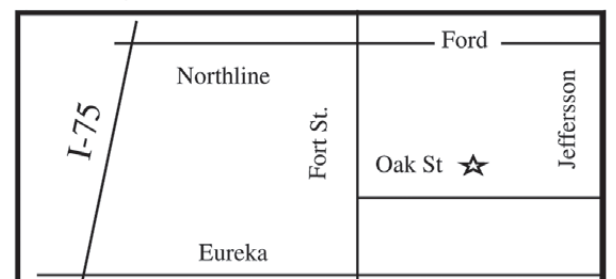


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DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

A Positive Response for a Favorite Charity

BUFFALO, N.Y. — It is still pretty cold in most of the country, so there's nothing better than a little polka dancing to warm up us. There have been so many dances here in Western New York and many more to come. I am looking forward to the nicer traveling weather so I can get to Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Youngstown, and beyond to attend events in other areas. Until then, I will continue to enjoy every moment of music right here in Buffalo.

POSITIVE RESPONSE.

Potts hosted its annual kolędy, which benefits Buffalo's **Response to Love** organization. The hall was packed to see **New Direction, Polish Heritage Dancers**, and **St. John Kanty Choir** led by Sister Johnice. Sister led everyone in reading the story of Jesus' birth with pauses between for an accompanying kolędy. After the choir and some enjoyable demonstrative dancing by Polish Heritage dancers, **New Direction** took the stage for polkas, as well as Polish and American Christmas carols. My favorite memory of this holiday function was when band leader Ron Urbanczyk split up the tables to each be one day of Christmas in the "Twelve Days of Christmas." By the last few verses of the song, every table was standing during their turn and competing for the loudest table. The enthusiasm warmed the crowd, and made it into a delightful evening for all. It was inspiring to see great music and entertainment come together to benefit a worthwhile organization right here in Buffalo.

Please remember the Response to Love needs assistance all year long. You can contact Sr. Johnice for its needs at (716) 894-7030 or check out the website www.response-to-lovecenter.org for ways you can help.

WHAT A GREAT PLACE! The very same Sunday afternoon, I visited a new tavern in Buffalo. **Metzgers' Pub** in West Seneca was the spot for **Special Delivery's** performance. The pub has a charming bar, great menu and rather ample back room. The room served impeccably for the band and the patrons, who came to support this new polka locale. There were several tables and a generous sized dance floor for those who wanted to watch the band, sit, have a bite to eat and dance a few. Even better is that the bar overlooks the attached room so you can leisurely socialize and have a drink, while still watching the band. This location is a successful combination for the mingling of both regulars and polka junkies. Judging from the reaction of the crowd and the sound of the band, it is a sure wager that Metzgers' will be having this band back for another date very soon.

Special Delivery also performed at the **Broadway Market** twice during the Kriskindlemart event. During a Friday afternoon while shopping for my holiday items, I heard kolędy echo through the market. It was then that I took notice of everyone smiling that walked by or heard the band. This band never ceases to amaze me, changing from traditional polkas to Zac Brown band, Uncle Kracker, Jose Feliciano, then back to traditional kolędy without missing a beat. The mass of people who turned out to Dianeagains on Dec 29th definitely agreed. Both the bar and backroom were mobbed with fans enjoying the band and exchanging holiday wishes to old and new friends alike. The last Bills game didn't keep anyone away from sup-



STEVE BROWN and his grandmother, **ELSIE**, matriarch of the Zielinski family.

porting this local establishment and their continuation of polkas once a month. According to the bartender, Polka Sunday is the biggest crowd Dianeagains sees in its business. A half an hour after the music was over, there were only a few people left in the bar, a testament of why everyone was there.

NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHORS.

Polka music and holiday cheer also filled the air of **Anchor Inn** when **Phocus** had its monthly polka Sunday. As usual, it was an evening filled with merriment, music, and entertainment. The snow was piling up outside and everyone was perfectly content to stay as long as they could as to enjoy the music. Three generations of the Zielinski family overtook the corner of the bar showing their love and support of family member Bob Wroblewski, who plays trumpet in the band. This is another fascinating piece of our WNY polka community, the continuation of generations that all love and appreciate the music. A perfect dance amid the night between **Steve Brown** and his grandmother, the matriarch of the Zielinski family, **Elsie** truly captured my heart. The love of polka music, respect, and the importance of family was all encapsulated in that three minute dance.

The days before Christmas were very busy on the polka and Polish front. Polka musicians, fans, and East side supporters descended on **Arty's Tavern** the Saturday before Christmas for their annual kolędy jam. Musicians from many different bands took turns spreading their Christmas spirit. Arty's is like coming home for Christmas in Buffalo's Polonia. Whether you have known the **Kwiatowski family** for a few hours, years or decades, they treat you as one of their own. With this small East Side corner tavern filled to capacity, I looked around as to absorb every ounce of energy at that moment. My eyes fixed on the 20+K+M+B+13 over the front door inside the bar. Seeing this reminded me again that this bar is the epitome of East Side Buffalo. It is Polonia's version of Cheers but even better. I'm not sure, but I am betting it is one of the only bars with that symbol above their door.

Next time you are in the area, stop by and say hello to Mary or Paulie and check out the doorway. They live by their motto "It's all about the love," and I have so much love and adoration for the family and their commitment to the Polish culture.

After a long hiatus of polka music at a local musician's icon bar in Buffalo, the **Buffalo Touch** returned to their stage. It was literally standing room only in the bar room within the first 30 minutes of the music starting. **The Sportsmens Tavern** is a music mecca having live music every single day of the week. Sportsmens opens their stage to local, national, and international musical acts throughout the year. It prides itself on offering the very best in musical entertainment in almost every genre. The Sunday afternoon event with the Touch was no exception. It was obvious that the band was feeding off the electricity of the crowd. Being the Sunday before Christmas, many out-of-towners showed up to support the band. Both the **Druzbiak** and **Wisniewski** families had a sort of reunion there with multi-generations of both families being present. There were also many surprises in store that day. Before the band started, the owner Dwayne announced that a local soldier (grandson of **Millie Wisniewski**) was not able to make it home for Christmas. They showed a quick video of the soldier telling his family that he loved them and was sorry they couldn't be together for the holiday. As tears rolled down the faces of those who knew him and those that didn't, he walked through the front doors of the bar-room. What a wonderful feeling for his family who undoubtedly celebrated the entire day. The band welcomed former member **Ray Barsukiewicz** to the stage to sing his famed "If You See Kay" as well as **Richie Kurdziel** who was here visiting family from Florida. **Gary Krupski** was also treated to a surprise visit from his brother **Ricky** from Chicago. It wasn't long after his arrival that Ricky "Krew" Krupski along with local musician **Sheila "Kielbasa" Connors** and her washboard took the stage for a few songs. As a final treat, band member **Mike Nowakowski**, who has been off from the band after shoulder surgery, was able to belt out a few of his favorite tunes with them as well. The afternoon aligned perfectly as was obvious by the smiles on the faces of the owners Dwayne and Denise Hall. Dwayne said he was glad there was such an overwhelming response to this event and he is looking forward to more opportunity for polkas at his establishment.

A PERFECT EVENING. Don't you love it when everything seems to work together in unison to create the perfect event? Those of us who attended New Years' Eve at the Millenium were lucky enough to witness an entire night of absolute perfection. The hotel, staff, décor, food, weather, and music all made for an



CANADIAN CONTINGENT. Just a few of the many who traveled south of the border to enjoy the hospitality of Val Bakowski, the Millenium Hotel, and the music of Polka Country Musicians and Special Delivery.

unforgettable night of memories.

Over 450 people attended the 2nd annual sold out event hosted by **Val Bakowski**. It was impossible not to relish in every aspect of this celebration. The doors opened at 7:00 p.m. with each band playing a short set during cocktail hour. We were then seated for dinner however; it was hard to tell by the number of people who continued to dance. This is a testament to the music that filled this glorious affair. Drinks flowed, laughter rang through the air, and the dance floor was brimming with dancers for every single song. It was nearly impossible to spot someone near the back of the hall from the front of the stage because the floor never cleared. **Special Delivery** and **Polka Country Musicians** definitely added the necessary magic that made this gala flourish. Attendees were from WNY, Canada, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and beyond. A large group of Canadians polka lovers including members of Polish folk group **Ludowa Nuta** seemed to never leave the dance floor between songs.

It may have been cold and snowy outside but no one cared about anything but enjoying the love and friendship of our Polish community on New Year's Eve. Polka Country offered their usual repertoire of Polish, English, and country flavored polkas and Special Delivery offered polkas and American music for the perfect compliment. I think Val can expect another sold out crowd for next year. Without a second thought, I will be there to bring in 2015!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Buffalo, New York

- Feb. 2.** New Direction. \$7.00 includes Polish sausage. 7:30-10:30. Ray's Lounge, 2070 Clinton St., Buffalo.
- Feb. 7.** Polish Happy Hour. Free. 5:00-7. Polish Cadets, 927 Grant St., Buffalo.
- Feb. 8.** New Direction. Eddie Kutas's Birthday Bash. \$5.00. 8:00-11:00 p.m. Polish Villa II, Harlem Rd. Cheektowaga.
- Feb. 8.** Special Delivery. Free. Metzger's Pub, 4135 Seneca St, West Seneca, N.Y. (716) 674-9897. 7:00-10:00.
- Feb. 9.** Hard Times Dance. Buffalo Concertina All-Stars. \$10.00 or \$5.00 w/

coupon. 4:00-8:00-also enjoy \$1.00 baloney & onion sandwiches and glasses of beer. Potts Banquet, 41 S. Rossler Ave. Cheektowaga.

Feb. 15. New Direction. Polish Night Dinner Dance. St. John Vianney Parish. 7:00-11:00. For info call Ron 675-6588.

Feb. 20. Polka Booster Meeting. Concertina All-Stars. \$7.00-members/\$10.00 non-members. 8:00-10:30. Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew.

Feb. 23. Special Delivery. Free. Dianeagain's, 2460 Clinton, Cheektowaga. (716) 768-3246. 4:30-7:30.

Feb. 26. Polka Variety Meeting - Knewz. \$8.00 members/\$9.00 non-members. 7:30-10:00. Pvt. Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga.

March 1. Mardi Gras Dance. Special Delivery and PhoCus. \$10.00. Potts Banquet, 41 S. Rossler Ave, Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7:00-12:00. Call Ted for tickets (716) 668-9101.

March 1. The Knewz. 7:00 p.m.-midnight. AMVETS 13. 25 Review Place, Buffalo. Tickets (716) 480-7174.

March 2. Annual Paczki Day with Special Delivery and Polish Heritage Dancers. \$6.00 advance (until 2/28) \$8.00 at door. \$2.00 children under 12. 1:00-7:00 Hearstone Manor, 333 Dick Rd., Cheektowaga. Call Michelle (716) 983-5084 or Debbie (716) 681-3526 for info. March 9. Special Delivery. Free. Dianeagain's 2460 Clinton, Cheektowaga. (716) 768-3246. 4:30-7:30.

Phoenix, Arizona

Feb. 15. Stephanie & Arizona Honky Polka Band. \$10.00. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix. Repeat performance Feb. 16. from noon-5:00 p.m.

Feb. 28. Meet and Greet Party with Buffalo Touch. Free. Pulaski Club, 4331 E McDowell Rd., Phoenix.

March 1. Buffalo Touch. \$12.00. 6:00-10:00. Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix.

March 2. Buffalo Touch. \$12.00. 2:00-6:00. Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix.

Cleveland, Ohio

Feb. 16. CPA President's Day Dance with Henny & the Versa J's. \$12.00. 3:00-7:00. St. John's Byzantine, 1900 Carlton Rd., Parma.

March 1. CPA/USPA Joint Dance. "D" Street Band. \$12.00. 8:00-12:00. Holiday Inn, 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville.

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Fri., March 21	5:30-8:30 PM / Doors open at 4:00 PM, Food Available The Polish American Pulaski Club 3621 West International Speedway Boulevard Daytona Beach / 352-742-2180
Sat., March 22	5:30-8:30 PM / Doors open at 4:00 PM, Food Available The Polish American Pulaski Association 4616 Darlington Road Holiday / 727-848-7826
Sun., March 23	2:00-6:00 PM / Dinner 1:00-2:00 PM The Polish American Social Club 7500 Route 1, Vero Beach / 772-564-2082

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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



IT PUT POLAND ON WHEELS. The Maluch (The "Little One") Polski Fiat 126. Warsaw, Poland. May 16, 1976.

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Menu Items

	ai is like "eye"	
	A preposition joins with the next word	
jadłospis	(jahd-WHOH-spees)	homar
	menu	lobster
karta dań	(KAHR-tah dain)	karp
	menu	carp
karta win	(KAHR-tah veen)	karp po grecku
	wine list	(kahrp poh
gulasz	(GUH-lahsh)	GREHTS-kuh)
	goulash	cold carp in onion
indyk	(EEN-dihk)	and tomato sauce
	turkey	karp w galarecie
jagnię	(JAHG-nyeh)	(kahrp
	lamb	vgah-lah.REH-cheh)
klopsy	(KLOHP-sih)	carp in aspic
	meatballs	karp z wody
kanapka	(kah-NAHP-kah)	(kahrp ZVOH-dih)
	sandwich	boiled carp
		jarski
		(Jahr-skee)
		vegetarian

SYMBOLS, GESTURES & SUPERSTITIONS / Robert Strybel

Every nation has its own system of notions, beliefs, signs, symbols and ways of doing things, whose origin is usually buried in the distant past. The Polish people are no different in that regard. Some notions have been borrowed, other are indigenous. Pagan superstitions have intermingled with Christian customs, and often the justification for a certain practice is no longer widely known – it's just the way things are done. Many old habits have fallen by the wayside, whilst others are limited to a certain region or even a single town or village. Here are some that are encountered with varying frequency.

KNOCK ON UNPAINTED WOOD. The Polish version of this traditional European-wide practice not to tempt fate or prevent something bad from happening is "odpukać w niemalowane drewno." In America it's just "knock on wood," the English say "touch wood" and in Italy it's "tocca ferro" (touch iron)."

PIGEONS BRING BRIDES LUCK. It is considered good luck if a bride-to-be sees pigeons or magpies on her way to church. But black-feathered birds such as ravens and rooks are unlucky.

HAIR-DYING A "NO-NO" IN PREGNANCY. It was once held a pregnant woman should not dye her hair any color because she may end up giving birth to a red-haired child. Red hair was once frowned on in Poland, but today both hair-dyeing and red hair are simply fashion options.

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THE PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Remembering, Forgiving, and Moving On

The recent death of Nelson Mandela made me think of Poland, Lech Walesa, and Solidarity.

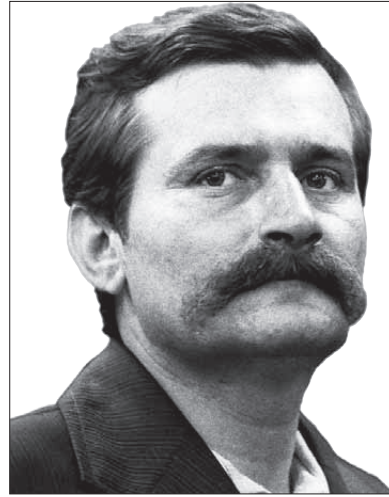
Two places and men worlds apart and yet so similar in many ways. Mandela was central to the struggle to end racism in South Africa and Walesa fought the "Evil Empire" (the Soviet Union). Both efforts had charismatic leaders (two each if you count Winnie Mandela and John Paul II) and the benefit of an exerted worldwide pressure. Both toppled oppressive and domineering "systems," apartheid in South Africa and communism in Poland. Both had opposition that acquiesced rather than was defeated. Both were a born out of a longing for freedom.

While the main protagonists were undeniably larger than life and the determination was monumental, my thoughts keep coming back to the opposition, the individuals on the other side that, when all was said and done, had much more to lose and in the end had to make the real gut-wrenching decision on how to react and behave. Not sticking up for the oppressors here, I am just always curious about what people are thinking and how they behave. There are always two sides to every story.

Mandela and Walesa certainly knew what they wanted and would not waver; F.W. de Klerk of South Africa and Wojciech Jaruzelski of Poland had a number of options. They were loyal to their commission and subservient to the governing body of their countries. Both of them loved their country and did not want to see it perish but could have fought to the bitter end. Yet as the drama played out, it was apparent they became increasingly resigned to change and whether theirs was a conversion of the heart or whether they simply acted pragmatically and for self-preservation, we will never know for sure.

As true and great are Mandela and Walesa, in a different sort of way so were the two men that they faced. At one point, I have to think and I have to hope that they realized the noble and true intentions of their foes and accepted that their point of view was wrong. I also have to believe that they took that giant step at reconciliation and asked for forgiveness. If this is correct, most probably they began by taking that much smaller but equally important step by forgiving themselves.

Who among us in life has been attached to ideology, behavior, and a belief about someone or something that in time we came to realize was not correct or at the least was not worth the strife. Isn't it amazing the number of times that an opinion or notion about someone or something within Polonia or from outside of Polonia shut us off from what we later learned was a good and benefi-



THE SIMILARITIES shared by Lech Walesa (left) and Nelson Mandela are many. Both fought to end oppression in their countries, and both succeeded despite staggering odds against them.

cial and how much we regret what was missed in the process.

Like de Klerk and Jaruzelski, later is better than never, and perhaps a good way to start is by forgiving, or asking forgiveness, but most importantly, by taking the first step by forgiving oneself. This lesson from history and life, it seems to me, is well worth noting and doing.

THE KATYN MONUMENT. It is 2014 and it might come as a shock to some that Stalin was just as much a psychotic and genocidal maniac animal as Hitler. Our "ally" hated the Poles as much, maybe more, than he hated the Germans. If someone said to Uncle Joe, "you know Hitler wants to rub out the Poles and take their land," it is a good bet his response would have been, "yeah, me too."

The monument to the Katyn massacre in Baltimore is warranted and necessary. We should not forget that heinous event and monuments are good for reminding. My problem is that we Poles tend to obsess about that one event. The obsession for Katyn obscures our remembrance about how barbaric the Germans were to the Poles in World War II. The Russians murdered twenty-five thousand Polish officers at Katyn. For comparison sake, here is a passage from *The Forgotten Holocaust* (Hippocrene Books, New York, Third Edition, 2012) by Richard Lukas:

So many Poles were sent to concentration camps that virtually every Polish family had someone close to them who had been tortured or murdered there. Over 35,000 Poles passed through Dachau; approximately 33,000 Polish women were imprisoned in Ravenbruck. In Sachsenhausen, 20,000 Poles perished; in Mauthausen, 30,000; In Neuengamme, 17,000.

As we all should know, that is just the tip of the iceberg for German atrocity against the Poles. Where is the monument for all of that? Maybe there is one (let me know) or maybe we need one or maybe a monument that encompasses the whole of this unbelievably tragic episode in Polish history that includes the German as well as the Russian.

DO WIDZENIA, JAKUB. Jim Rygelski was a well-known writer in St. Louis for many years. He was a reporter for the St. Louis Globe Democrat, the Suburban Journal newspapers, and was editor of the St. Louis Review, the Archdiocesan newspaper for six years. He co-authored two books, *The I-55 Series*, *Cubs vs. Cardinals*, and *Ten Rings: Stories of the St. Louis Cardinals World Championships*. Fortified with the sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Jim passed away December

18, 2013.

Though he had many interests in his life, every time we got together it was a Polish party. He loved baseball, his religion, his family, his friends, and his work but when we visited, there was at least one Polish circumstance or reference we could share.

Jim told me one time that he and I were born in the wrong era. "We should have lived during the same time in history as our dads" he would say. He was right. Although we didn't grow up in the same part of the city, it felt like we had because of our Polish roots. He was a typical neighborhood guy and I loved that about him.

Father Bommarito said at Jim's memorial Mass that "Jim was Polish of course, but his heart was Italian." It was cute and funny, and true in a way. Jim told me he moved to the Italian Hill because he wanted to live in an ethnic neighborhood. The truth is he had a spot in his heart for all things ethnic but as far as I was concerned he *lived* the Polish life.

Living Polish for Jim was saying it in Polish, enjoying the food, having a Polish beer on occasion, and relating to and keeping a connection to the Polish community. It was a positive attitude and it drew people to him in a positive way.

I remember taking a trip with him to Chicago to take in a White Sox game (one of the last before they tore down the old Comiskey Park) and to catch up with some of his journalist friends. He took five of us out to eat that night and adamantly announced: "I'm paying for the dinner but we are going to eat Polish food!" We ate at the Busy Bee restaurant on the old North side and it was a wonderful experience.

I will miss his intellect, his concern for others, and his friendship. He had many, many friends, generally cherished all of humanity, and he loved his people, the Polish people, in a special way.

He was my best friend and I will miss him so much. We will all miss him.

❖ ❖ ❖

If you have a thought about this month's topic, an answer to the question, a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com. Don't forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, ponderingpole.blogspot.com. The blog is a work in progress and I need to catch up on posting current and past articles.

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

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A Mystery Solved

How a Polish American Genealogist Helped to Discover the Man who Saved Jelenia Góra's 16th Century Dwór Czarne

by Tim Firkowski

Your family history research may help more than your family. Normally history helps genealogists find their ancestry, but in this case genealogy helped a historian.

When Łukasz Firkowski and I began researching the Firkowski family in order to find out how we were related, I knew that the information that we put up on my website may attract relatives so we could expand our family knowledge, but I had not anticipated some other benefits that have occurred.

Our research has helped historians in Poland. The latest example of this is the inquiry I received the end of the summer last year by the curator of a Museum in Jelenia Góra, Poland.

Jacek Jakubiec, the curator of Dwór Czarne (Black Manor) in Jelenia Góra, Poland sent me an email in September of 2013 requesting any information I had on someone with the surname Firkowski/Wirkowski that might have been associated with Black Manor. Since this town is not known to be the center of ancestry of any of the Firkowski family, there was little I could do in assisting him with only a surname.

Jacek was an altar boy, a scout, sailor, model airplane hobbyist, an athlete, and assistant professor at the Technical University of Wrocław. In 1971, life events brought him to Jelenia Góra. Jacek was the lead designer of its urban plan. With the ecological degradation of the local land, he felt the need to get involved in the civic environmental movement. He had a year internship in Hanover, Germany and then studied during a stay in Mexico. He has been the curator of Black Manor since 1977. In addition to his rescue from death, his life achievements are: He won several awards and prizes in competitions for urban planning. The readers of the Jelenia Góra newspaper "Nowiny Jeleniogórskie" awarded "Man of the Year" to Jacek in 2006. Jacek is



PHOTO: MARCIN OLIVA SOTO

DWÓR CZARNE (Black Manor) is today the home of the Foundation for Ecological Culture, and the site for concerts, theater productions, and other social gatherings.

married with four children and four grandchildren.

Here is how the process began for Jacek in learning more about the unknown Polish manager of Black Manor.

THE UNKNOWN Firkowski/Wirkowski took over the manage-

ment of not only the manor, but also, the entire agricultural property, which until recently was called the "Gut Schwarzbach." Exactly what circumstances brought him there is not known, but he filled the role of "Włodarz" (Steward) very well. Where is there information and what do we know about the first Polish host of Black Manor? Unfortunately little is known.

Jacek became more interested in this person when writing a history of Black Manor and he came to this place after World War II. He decided to make use of the scarce unreliable information, which was at his disposal after many years of dealing with the Manor. Even the name of the manager in different relationships was in question: Wirkowski, Firkowski, Jankowski

With the desire to find more reliable evidence, Jacek started by talking with and listening to the stories from some women, the wife and daughters of the last German lessee of the property – Eng. Lu-

dwig Rahm. He met Gertrude, the younger of the daughters, in 1986 when the Manor — a few years earlier — was at risk of demolition and renovation had come to an end. Since then, he met with Gertrude and sometimes even her mother. In 1994, he had met with Vera Ruth Rahm (no longer living) in Hanover, Germany. Both women said that Mr. Rahm had daily contact with the Polish manager for over a year: up until October of 1946, when he left the Manor and moved to Hanover, Germany. They had nothing but positive comments when they talked about the Polish host. He had to be an expert farmer for someone to take on the big challenge of managing 70 hectares of land that was part of the Manor and the complex of farm buildings and livestock. The Polish manager did not live at the Manor every day but he visited by horse and buggy. He immediately reviewed what needed to be done, and even before the first winter he had made repairs to the roof and lightning protection. He had to be a gentle man, probably gifted with a charming personality because the Rahm women's stories had not only a note of appreciation for what he did, but also admired him. Considering how Polish-German relations were at that time and how difficult, this was a brave Pole, because the others would not have been. He was something special. It turns out that here, in the area called "the wild west," times were very uncertain: post-war chaos, widespread looting, deliberate destruction of what was formerly German, there were those who claimed recovered land,



A photo provided by Zbigniew Tomery's identified Stanisław Firkowski. Tomery's note about the photo read: *Jelenia Góra, 08/18/46, at the gate to the family house at 4 Szpacza Street (from left to right – my brother-in-law, Mr. Firkowski, Z.Tomera, Mr. Wlad. Lasocki, Mr. Weltowski & Tadeusz).*

the party, which I arranged on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of his transportation business in Jelenia Góra. Mr. Firkowski is standing next to the horse with the raised head, and I am next to the other. These horses also rode to the wedding on Sept. 18, 1948. At the same time I want to inform you that in 1945 and early 1946, Black Manor housed the military veterinary clinic that treated horses that were injured during the war and after the war.

Zbigniew Tomery

So, here is clear evidence that Stanisław Firkowski was host and manager of the property of Black Manor. Jacek contacted me again with a first name "Stanisław." The photo included the age of Stanisław, but it did not match anyone I had in my family tree exactly. I looked through my data and found someone that closely matched. I sent Jacek the limited information I had on my Stanisław in hopes that it would help him. (An unknown person at the 2nd Firkowski family reunion in Poland had added this information.) The photo from the magazine article was posted to our family Facebook page, hoping someone might recognize the photo and image. Although it was known when he lived (1921-1983), it was close to the information already known, but his relationship with Jelenia Góra could not be confirmed. We know about his wife, Irena Walecki and that he was the father of three daughters: Anna, Magdalena and Ursula.

I WAS ABLE TO LOCATE the mailing address for the nephew of this Stanisław who just happened to be living in Jelenia Góra. Jacek wrote to him and they met to discuss the mystery. It appeared that I had found the correct Stanisław and as the family closest to Stanisław began talking and digging up more information, the mystery slowly began to be solved. One of Stanisław's living daughters was located. Her son connected with Jacek and was able to provide Jacek with photos and information about his grandfather at Black Manor.

Thanks, due in part to Stanisław Firkowski; Black Manor was saved from oblivion. The importance of his role in the history of Jelenia Góra and Black Manor cannot be denied. If Jacek had not taken the time to document the history of Black Manor, no one may have known about this piece of history.

Next: A look at the centuries of history of Dwór Czarne

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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

How to Use Online Family Trees

Many researchers begin their work by using one of the online family trees to chart their family. Ancestry.com is a popular starting point for the new researcher because of its advertising and their 14-day free trial offer. Some researchers may start with an online tree and then convert to using lineage software on their computer. Some may maintain only an online tree and some may use both.

Whatever the methods used, the presence of an online family tree will give you a chance to make contact with people searching for the same ancestors. Making these contacts gives you a great opportunity to exchange information to extend your tree, add oral history and add pictures.

Please remember that information you find on other family trees may be very exciting but you must do the work and verify its accuracy. Use the relationships listed in other online trees as clues. These relationships must be verified before adding them to your tree. When searching other family trees look for the sources for information that other researchers post so you can use this source to get copies of the actual documents. Build timelines to make sure dates and places are consistent and possible. Contact the author of the trees to get their sources and possibly more information, documents and pictures that they did not upload to their online trees.

Ancestry.com requires a subscription to access their genealogy databases but building and maintaining a family tree on the website is free. There are a number of other websites that offer the opportunity to maintain

your family tree online and also allow you to search family trees of others. Here is a link to Cyndi's List that gives you a long list of online family trees and a brief summary for each:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/genealogy-website/the-collaborative-family-tree/>

Online family trees are a source of information that is used by many new genealogy researchers. As long as you are careful and follow the rules listed above online family trees can be a very useful tool.

SUMMARY

- Build and maintain online family trees to establish contacts with other researchers that may have information on common ancestors.
- Be careful to avoid posting information that should remain private or that you do not want known outside of the family – such as birth, social security number, scandals, etc
- Use relationships listed on other family trees as clues until you have found documents to verify.
- Be as accurate as possible. Try to post only confirmed facts to our online tree.



Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to the *Polish American Journal*, is a prominent genealogist. In addition to numerous columns and papers, he is the author of three books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," and "Polish Genealogy."

and others came with unknown intentions.

Searching for information about his hero, he came across my web page of the Firkowski family. Jacek thought there had had to a connection, since a Firkowski family reunion had recently brought together over 200 people.

He email me, asking I might know of someone with the name surname Firkowski/Wirkowski who might have been associated with Black Manor.

While I was able to help him with information about the surname, at the time, I knew nothing of the Manor.

A STROKE OF LUCK. The next piece of evidence was found in the February 1999 issue of the quarterly *Skarbiec Duchy Gór*.

A reader, Zbigniew Tomery, who is no longer alive, wrote a letter to the quarterly referencing an article about Black Manor from the December 1998 issue.

Within this letter, was Jacek's hero: Stanisław Firkowski. No longer was there any doubt about his name, but he was also shown in the picture. Because Tomery knew Stanisław personally, he was able to provide some interesting details.

Jacek quotes Zbigniew Tomery letter in its entirety:

Jelenia Góra

February 24, 1999

I would like to inform you that the manager of the Black Manor was Mr. Stanisław Firkowski, who came from Poznan and left there in 1949, he got married and ran his own farm. Under his management Black Manor blossomed, cultivated land, raised cows, grew agricultural products that provide for the needs of the City to the canteen and employees. He was efficient with horse transportation, including carriage horses, which he rented for various occasions, including weddings. In the picture — a couple of horses from the property, which on 18 August 1946, he used to bring guests to

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes MLIS

The Hero Rodziewicz

POLISH HERO ROMAN RODZIEWICZ

*Fate of a Hubal Soldier in
Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and
Postwar England*
by Aleksander Ziolkowska-Boehm
Lexington Books, index, photos,
134 pp.

Rodziewicz was born in 1910, into a privileged class on the family estate in Manchuria. He spent the first ten years there, hearing tales of Poland and the daring escapades of past fighters and patriots. Plans to establish Poland's freedom were foremost on everyone's mind.

In 1922 Poland was once again a nation but Japan invaded Manchuria and Roman and his sister were sent to his grandmother's estate in Wilno. This voyage took many months, stopping at ports around the world. The rest of the family planned to follow, however, both his mother and father died before they could make the journey. Roman and his sister both attended school, but Roman was expelled for causing trouble with his teachers. He decided to enlist in the Surwalki Calvary Brigade and served there for two years, before returning to his uncle's estate, planning to learn how to manage the large farm.

In the fall of 1939 at the outbreak of war he joined his squadron and met Major Henryk "Hubal" Dobrzanski. They became famous for fighting the Germans in the forests of Poland. They marched toward Grodno, but had to fall back to the Lithuanian border. There they met with Colonel Jerzy Dabrowski who ordered the regiment to disband. Hubal refused, declaring he would take charge and continue to fight to return to Warsaw. They were the last active unit with no base for supplies and surrounded on all sides by the enemy. The inhabitants of Kielce welcomed them with open arms, supplying them with ammunition, food and shelter. Dobrzanski fought on for the next nine months before being killed in battle. Rodziewicz had kept a diary of their activities during this period, which are provided in this book. For the next thirty years Roman continued to live out his experiences, feeling he was a patriot, not a hero.

The group disbanded and Roman was later arrested and imprisoned in Auschwitz. He saw huge transports of people gassed to death. A year later, Roman was transferred to Buchenwald. In 1945 the area was bombed by the Allies and the inmates were transferred to Czechoslovakia and later Austria. It was in Salzburg that the German commander allowed them to escape, declaring the war was over. He went to Italy where he met Melchior

Wankowicz, who wrote a book about his escapades and declared him a hero.

Later, living in London, he married and had two children. He frequently visited Poland but remained in England for the rest of his life.

CRAZY HORSE
The Wild West for Kids
by Jon Sterngass, Sky Pony Press
2013, illustrations, maps, index,
bibliography.
Age 8-12, 147 pp. \$12.95.

This is a great book for young and old alike. It is full of illustrations and photos of American Indians, forts, attack maps and how the United States decided the fate of the indigenous population.

To honor the brave Crazy Horse warrior, sculpture Korczak Ziolkowski bought land in the Black Hills of South Dakota and in 1948 began carving a sculpture of Crazy Horse, a Lakota Sioux warrior, on Thunderhead Mountain. Mt. Rushmore, with the heads of the four presidents 12 miles away, will be dwarfed by the Crazy Horse Memorial when finished. Ziolkowski died in 1982 but his family continues on with his dream. The face of Crazy Horse was completed and dedicated in 1998. When finished, it will be the world's largest sculpture.

Today the Lakota population, which numbers around 153,000, continue to honor their ancestors with the Big Foot Memorial Ride, a two-week event that reenacts the warriors' attack before they were killed at Wounded Knee. Today the Memorial Center is open to the public as the Ziolkowski family continue working on their father's dream.

MY WAR, MY LIFE
by K. Sophie Stallman
Mill City Press, 2013
photos, 392 pp., \$16.95.

Sophie tells a heartwarming story of her struggles as a young girl growing up in a privileged class in Poland, her life as a teenage courier and finally, becoming an American citizen. As one of the thousands of refugees of war, each has a unique and thought-provoking story to tell. Would we, in our pampered American life, have been able to survive?

It is a fascinating story of her escapades as a courier during the Second World War, constantly living in danger through the Uprising, the German occupation and Communist Poland. She soon realizes she has a guardian angel keeping her from danger and is grateful to God for protecting her. She is finally able to escape to America and freedom. In her new life, she now resides in California, surrounded by her husband, two children and grandchildren.

Bringing Polish Culture to America's Teachers

ST. LOUIS — The American Council for Polish Culture exhibited at the 93rd National Council for Social Studies Conference, held at the Cervantes Convention Center Nov. 22-23, 2013. This was the 15th year for the ACPC to sponsor a booth called "Polish Perspectives" at this conference.

More than 3,500 educators were in attendance.

The ACPC sponsored Rita Cosby's presence at the conference. An investigative reporter for MSNBC, CNN and FOX News, she is also the award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of "Quiet Hero," the story of her father's role as a Polish freedom fighter during World War II.

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Foreign Ministry Division awarded the ACPC a project

a grant for the NCSS Conference. Additional donations by individual and business sponsors helped offset the costs, which included Cosby's speaking fee.

Over 400 teachers attended the speech given by Cosby, who talked about her father's ordeal, and Poland during World War II. Cosby graciously signed books following her presentation, with fans waiting in line over an hour-and-a-half to talk to her.

David Bailor, director of the NCSS conference, said Cosby was by far the most outstanding speaker of the National Conference.

A corner booth allowed the ACPC to engage educators in a variety of venues, which included posters, a CD on Polish Perspectives, and the demonstrations of Polish customs. Available to teachers were

1,000 posters, 1,000 Jamestown commemorative marker bookmarks.

With the upcoming canonization of Blessed John Paul II on April 27, 2014, many educators involved in catholic education welcomed the DVD "Nine Days that changed the World" The Friends of the John Paul II Foundation made these 40 DVDs available to those who were genuinely interested.

Other book sellers and publishers provided books and giveaways for teachers.

The backdrop of the ACPC booth held three panels: "Days to Fly the Polish Flag"; "Important Dates in Polish History"; and "Polish Folklore and Traditions." These were designed by Carla Tomaszewska.

The 2014 conference will be held in Boston, Mass., November 22-23.

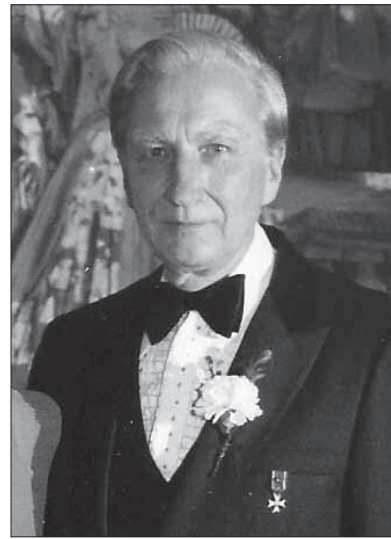
IN MEMORIAM / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Louis Koncza, Chicago Chief Bridge Engineer

Louis Koncza, 91, passed away on December 30, 2013. Born shortly after the end of World War I, he inherited the paternal traditions of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, while his Polish traditions were passed down to him by his mother. After World War II, he was forced to leave Poland and lived in Germany as a displaced person. During those years, Koncza obtained a degree in architecture. In 1949, he arrived in United States and settled in Chicago where he graduated from the University of Illinois with an engineering degree. In 1967, he was appointed chief bridge engineer for the City of Chicago, with responsibilities that included the planning, designing, and maintaining of the city's renowned moveable bridge system. He was responsible for more bridges than those existing in some European countries. In 1973, he was promoted to chief engineer for Chicago's Bureau of Engineering.

Among Koncza's accomplishments were the removal of the "Z" curve bottleneck and the reconstruction of North Lake Shore Drive, the erection of the Columbus Bridge (the second longest moveable bridge in the world), and the engineering of the rapid transit extension from the Jefferson Park Station to O'Hare Airport. In 1992, after 24 years of outstanding service for the City of Chicago, he retired from an active engineering practice.

Koncza was registered both as a professional and structural engineer. During his engineering career, he was a member of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Public Works



Association, the Western Society of Engineers and was a member of its Washington Award Selection Committee. He remained an active member of the Polish American Engineers Association. In the past, he made many presentations on Chicago's major public works projects and was a well-known and respected member of the local and national engineering community.

Koncza was active in the Polish American community. As co-chair of the Copernicus Monument Committee, he obtained the necessary permits to erect this monument on city property, and in 1973 he supervised its erection at the front entrance of the Adler Planetarium. He was a guiding force, not only to restore the Kosciuszko Monument, but to relocate this monument from Humboldt Park to its present location west of the Copernicus Monument. He played a very active role in the planning and development of the widely-acclaimed Jefferson

Park Copernicus Polish Culture Center and in organizing the Polish-American Numismatic Association medallion art series commemorating the anniversaries of the most important events in the history of Poland and American Polonia. He was also a member of the Polish National Alliance.

In recognition for his various efforts and accomplishments, he received an award from the Chicago Beautification Committee, was presented with an honorary membership in the Polish American Congress, received an honorary decoration from Government of Poland for his devotion to the engineering profession and civic affairs; and was the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient of the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division.

He is survived by his daughter and grandchildren.

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POLISH HERITAGE QUIZ

Win a Cookbook!

You will be eligible to win one of two Polish cookbooks if you take part in this year's Polish Heritage Quiz. "Polish Holiday Cookery" contains all the favorite old Polish dishes served on such festive occasions as Easter, Christmas, weddings, banquets, festivals and dinner parties. The other book is titled "Culinary Traditions of Mazovia, Kashubia and Silesia" and focuses on the time-honored delicacies of Poland's major regions.

Unlike previous Heritage Quizzes, which featured multiple-choice questions, this year's edition is a bit different. To take part, write your name and mailing address at the

top of a sheet of paper. Take a good look at the drawing of a Polish family and answer the following three questions:

1. What Polish custom does this drawing depict?
2. When does it take place?
3. What's wrong with this picture?

Airmail your answers to:
Polish Heritage Quiz
ul. Kaniowska 24
01-529 Warsaw, Poland

Or email them to
strybel@interia.pl

Good luck – Powodzenia!



NEW BOOKS

The Family Cannon

THE FAMILY CANNON
by Halina Duraj
Augury Books
ISBN: 978-0-9887355-3-8
Paperback; \$15.00

The debut collection by author Halina Duraj brings readers an American family, strikingly individual but recognizable to us all—as strange and familiar as home.

An escalating neighborhood feud takes an unanticipated turn. A college student visiting Poland learns about drinking, dancing, and some of the more perplexing mysteries of adulthood. A mother opens up about her youth and courtship. A daughter

tries to understand her own relationship within the context of what she has been taught about marriage.

Duraj's stories have appeared in *The Sun*, *The Harvard Review*, *Fiction*, *Witness*, and other journals. She has an MA in creative writing from the University of California, Davis, and a Ph.D. in literature and creative writing from the University of Utah. In 2012, Duraj was a writer-in-residence at Hedgebrook, a women's writing retreat on Whidbey Island, Wash. She teaches at the University of San Diego, where she also directs the Lindsay J. Cropper Center for Creative Writing.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Then There Were None

The NFL season started with three Polish American head coaches, but now there are none.

The Houston Texans fired **Gary Kubiak** after a 2-11 start. Having gone 12-4 last season, the Houston Texans were expected to be a championship contender in 2013. Houston's bad fortune had a lot to do with the struggles of veteran QB Matt Schaub. Kubiak, who coached the Texans since 2006, publicly thanked the organization for the opportunity. He also placed a full-page ad in the *Houston Chronicle* thanking fans. It was a tough year for the 52-year-old Houston native, who suffered a mini-stroke in November at half-time of a game against the Colts. Kubiak had a 61-64 regular season record and a 2-2 playoff record in his Texans career.

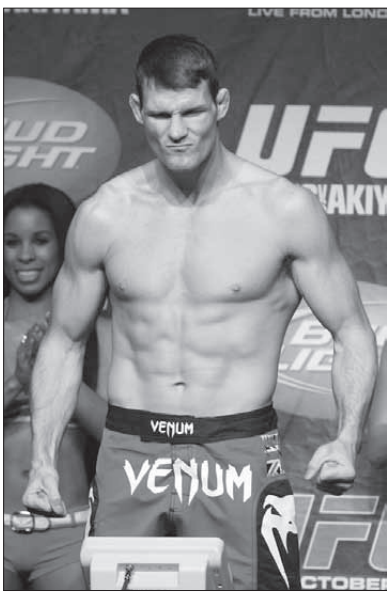
Mike Munchak was fired by Tennessee, the franchise in which he had spent 31 years as a player and coach, after three seasons at the helm. Sources said that Munchak could have saved his job but stood on principle. The Titans reportedly offered him a multiyear extension at almost double his \$3 million salary, if Munchak would make more than a dozen staff firings and demotions. Munchak declined, and he was gone. The Titans started 2013 at 3-1 when QB Jake Locker was injured, and finished 7-9. Tennessee was 9-7 and 6-10 in Munchak's first two years.

In a move that sent shock waves through the league, the Cleveland Browns fired head coach **Rob Chudzinski** after just one season. After searching for a QB, Chudzinski seemed to find the answer with Bobby Hoyer. The Browns started the year 3-2, but declined after Hoyer went down with a knee injury in Game 5 against Buffalo. Cleveland won just one more game, finishing 4-12. Chudzinski, who grew up in Toledo as a rabid Browns fan, had served as the team's offensive coordinator in 2007 & 2008. He is the first Browns coach fired after one year. His dismissal marked Cleveland's fourth head coach firing in the past six seasons.

All three men were well-compensated and will be able to take advantage of other high-level coaching opportunities (if they haven't already), but it's sad to see these talented and highly regarded NFL head coaches let go.

THE COUNT. Sports nicknames have various meanings, but for mixed martial artist **Michael Bisping** his nickname — "The Count" — has a unique significance. Bisping has an ancestor who was, in fact, a Polish count.

Apparently, back in the Middle Ages that ancestor had been conferred the title and some land for his battlefield heroics. "They were living a nice life until the Germans invaded in World War II," said Bisping. "They lined the whole family up against the wall, and shot them all dead, and my granddad was the only one that made it out alive." Andrzej, Michael's grandfather, escaped to England. Michael's father, Jan, later joined the British Army and Michael was born on a British base in Cyprus in 1979. Michael is currently fighting in



Michael "The Count" Bisping

the middleweight division of the UFC. He is a former Cage Rage Light Heavyweight Champion, and *The Ultimate Fighter 3* Light Heavyweight Tournament winner. As of 2013, Bisping is ranked the #4 middleweight in the world on the official UFC rankings. His overall record is 24-5.

In his last fight he earned a unanimous technical decision over Alan Belcher at UFC 159 in April 2013, but later underwent two surgeries to repair a detached retina in his right eye. Though he intends to fight for a few more years, Michael has begun working as an analyst for FUEL TV.



(l. to r.): Spider Jorgenson, Pee Wee Reese, **Eddie "The Brat" Stanky** and Jackie Robinson.

THE BRAT. The recent movie "42" chronicles the efforts of Jackie Robinson to integrate baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. **Eddie Stanky**, the Dodger second baseman, is involved in one of the pivotal moments in the film. In one of the most dramatic scenes, Philadelphia Phillies manager Ben Chapman viciously attacks Robinson with a torrent of racial slurs during a game. Robinson knows he can't respond, but Stanky comes to his support. Stanky angrily confronts Chapman, telling him to pick on someone who is able to fight back. When Robinson later asks Stanky why he challenged Chapman, Stanky told him it was because a teammate was being attacked.

Stanky was a hard-nosed player known as "The Brat." In an article for sabr.com, Alexander Edelman wrote: "He was born Edward Raymond Stankiewicz, on September 3, 1915, to Frank and Anna Stankiewicz. The family shortened the name to Stanky when Eddie was a boy. In his childhood years in the blue-collar Philadelphia neighborhood of Kensington, Eddie devel-

oped the belligerent, enthusiastic, win-at-all-costs attitude that would make him so successful—and reviled—in later life."

Former manager Leo Durocher once said of him: "He can't hit, can't run, can't field. He's no nice guy ... all the little SOB can do is win." A three-time All-Star, Stanky later managed the Cardinals, White Sox and Rangers, and was head baseball coach of the University of South Alabama, which he turned into a national power. He died in 1999 at the age of 82.

In the movie Stanky is played by Jesse Luken and Chapman is played by **Alan Tudyk**, a Polish American actor. In addition, former big league pitcher **C.J. Nitkowski** played the role of Philadelphia pitcher Dutch Leonard.

OLYMPIC GOALS.

After being one of the top contributors for America's silver medal-winning ice hockey squad in 2010, San Jose Sharks forward **Joe Pavelski** (right) will play for Team USA in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. In 2010 he tallied three assists in six games for Team USA, which finished with a silver medal.



Pavelski has been a winner at every level. He led his Stevens Point HS team to a Wisconsin state championship in 2002. He then joined the Waterloo (Iowa) Black Hawks of the USHL, and that team won the league title. At the University of Wisconsin Pavelski led the Badgers to a national championship during his sophomore campaign. He opted to forgo his final two years of eligibility to join the NHL as San Jose's 205th overall selection in the 2003 NHL entry draft.

CELSKI RETURNS. In a dominating performance, **J.R. Celski** lost just one race during the US Olympic short track speed skating trials, qualifying for three events at Sochi — 500, 1,000 and 1,500.

It was a far different experi-

ence than the trials before the last Winter Games. During a race Celski crashed and his right skate sliced his left leg, making a huge gash and coming within inches of severing his femoral artery. Remarkably, he came back five months later to win a pair of bronzes in Vancouver in 2010.

The third son of a Polish American father and a Filipino mother, J.R. has a large, unique tattoo on his chest that depicts a Polish eagle inside of a five-pointed golden yellow star found on a Filipino flag.



J.R. Celski and his Polish-Filipino tattoo.

HOT STOVE. Pitcher **Scott Kazmir** came to terms on a two-year, \$22 million deal with Oakland. A former first round pick, Kazmir came back from baseball oblivion to start for the Indians last year... Veteran catcher **A.J. Pierzynski** signed a one-year deal worth \$8.25 million with Boston... Soon-to-be 38-year-old White Sox first baseman **Paul Konerko**, who has 434 career home runs, signed a one-year, \$2.5-million contract with Chicago... Right-handed pitcher **Brett Marshall**, 23, was claimed off waivers by the Chicago Cubs. Marshall, a native of Texas with Polish roots, made his major league debut last season with three relief appearances for the New York Yankees.

THEY SAID IT

"Wow, I can pick anything? I'd have to pick some ethnic food. My mom's Czech and Polish and my dad's Ukrainian and Hungarian. My mom's favorite dish, and my favorite that she makes, is chicken and

dumplings, so a chicken paprikash. I would have to go with maybe a ham and some pierogi — get a little hunky in there, as we call it back in the Pittsburgh area."

— *Golfer Jim Furyk, when asked by golf.com what he would put on the menu for the traditional Champions Dinner if he won the Masters Tournament.*

❖ ❖ ❖
"He's been a great leader and a great mentor for all of us, setting a great example. This is just unfortunate. You can just look at their last (seven) ballgames and there are one-score games everywhere. This thing could easily have flipped the other way."

— *Colts coach Chuck Pagano on Houston Texans coach Gary Kubiak being fired by the Texans.*

❖ ❖ ❖
"One of my buddies said, 'You're going to be playing for free here by the time you're done paying for tickets.' It's something I want my friends and family to enjoy too."

— *Center Zenon Konopka, upon being claimed by the Buffalo Sabres. Konopka grew up on a farm in nearby Niagara-On-the-Lake. His father was born in Poland, and his mother is from Buffalo.*

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The Lean Fare of Old Polish Lent

Old-style Polish Lenten fare can mean religious self-mortification in preparation for Easter while giving your body a six-week break from rich, artery-clogging foods, lowering cholesterol levels and shedding a few unneeded pounds. Some of these recipes can help add variety to the fish fries some PolAm groups hold during Lent.

LENTEN RYEMEAL SOUP (żur postny). In crock or glass jar combine 1 c rye flour or 1 c rolled oats or 1 part of each, add several rye-bread crusts or 1 slice rye bread, 1-3 buds slivered garlic, a bayleaf and several grains allspice and drench with 4 c pre-boiled lukewarm water. Cover mouth of container with cheese cloth fastened with rubber-band and let stand in warm (75°- 80°F) place 3-5 days, or until liquid becomes pleasantly tart. If any mold appears at the top, just remove and discard it. It is not toxic! To make your soup, combine 4 c vegetable stock (traditional or bouillon-cube-style) with about 3 c strained ryemeal sour and bring to boil. Simmer briefly and season with salt, pepper and marjoram. Thicken with 1 T flour dissolved in a little cold water, if desired. Serve in bowls with dishes of mashed potatoes (garnished with

chopped onions fried in a little oil) on the side. Or serve over diced cooked potatoes or cubed farmer cheese in bowl. Note: Imported Polish ryemeal sour (żur, żurek) at PolAm delis is the real thing, in case you don't fancy souring your own..

LENTEN BEER SOUP (postna polewka piwna). In Old Poland people gave up wine, mead and gorzalka (vodka) for Lent, but not beer, which was considered an ordinary daily beverage. In fact, this beer soup was a Lenten specialty. In pot place 1-1/2 c rye or wholewheat bread (or some of each) crumbled or torn into small pieces. Add 1 qt beer, 1 c water, 3 T oil, 1/4 t salt, 1 t sugar and 1/2 t bruised caraway. Bring to boil and simmer 2-3 min. Strain, forcing bread through sieve into another pot. Bring to boil again and season additionally to taste with salt and pepper if desired. Serve over cubed farmer cheese and/ oil-fried rye-bread croutons.

LENTEN POTATOES (postne kartofle/ziemniaki). Serve boiled potatoes garnished with chopped onions fried to a tender golden-brown in a little oil. Mashed potatoes (simply mashed with no butter or milk added) may be served the same way

or the fried onions may be mashed into the potatoes. A plate of any such potatoes served with a bowl of room-temperature buttermilk or hot fresh milk on the side was a typical Lenten supper.

HERRING (śledzie). Marinated herring or herring in oil (available at Polish delis) are better suited for the lean Lenten table than rich creamed herring. Serve with plain boiled potatoes for a typical Lenten meal. Supermarket marinated herring (out of a jar) can be used to prepare śledzie w oleju (herring in oil): Drain herring, discard onions and spices, transfer to clean jar, interspersing with layers of chopped onion. Drench with oil to cover and refrigerate overnight. Serve with boiled potatoes or rye bread.

FRIED FISH (ryba smażona). Rinse and pat dry 2 lbs fresh or thawed frozen fish fillets, salt lightly and refrigerate several hrs or overnight. Optional: fillets may be drizzled with lemon juice and smothered in sliced onions. Salt and pepper fillets roll in flour or a 50-50 mixture of flour and plain bread crumbs. Fry in 1/2" hot oil to a nice golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towel. You can give your

fish fry a Polish flavor by serving the fish with boiled potatoes (not fries), sauerkraut salad (not cole slaw) and horseradish sauce (not tartar sauce).

SAUERKRAUT SALAD (salatka z kiszzonej kapusty). Drain, lightly rinse and press out moisture from 1 qt sauerkraut. Chop coarsely. Add 1 large grated carrot, 1-2 chopped onions and 1 peeled, diced cooking apple. Toss, season with some pepper, sugar and (optional) caraway seeds and drizzle with salad oil. Optional: For best results, refrigerate several hrs before serving.

HORSERADISH SAUCE (sos chrzanowy). Fork-blend equal parts of prepared, plain (non-creamed) horseradish, sour cream and mayonnaise. Season with a bit of lemon juice and sugar to taste. Serve with fried fish or on hard-cooked eggs. In non-Lenten cookery this sauce goes great with ham, pâté and aspic dishes.

LENTEN STUFFED CABBAGE (postne gołąbki). Cut out core from a head of cabbage and place in pot of boiling water cored-side-down, remove leaves as they wilt and set aside to dry. Fill with any of the following and roll up:

• **Mushroom and rice:** Combine 8-16 oz fresh white or Portobello mushrooms fried with 2 chopped onions in 3 T oil until tender and 4 c slightly underdone rice; stir in 1 egg and 1 T chopped fresh parsley and/or dill, and season with salt and pepper to taste.

• **Mushroom and kasha:** Proceed as above but substitute 4 c underdone buckwheat groats for the rice.

• **Kasha, potato and cheese:** Combine 3 c underdone buckwheat groats, 1 c plain mashed potatoes and 3/4 c crumbled farmer cheese; stir in 1 egg and season with salt, pepper and (optional) a pinch of chopped mint leaves.

• **Rice and egg:** Combine 4 c undercooked rice, with 2 finely chopped onions fried golden tender in a little oil, 3-4 chopped hard-cooked eggs, 1 raw egg and 2 heaping T finely chopped fresh dill, and salt and pepper to taste.

Place cabbage rolls snugly in baking pan in no more than 2 layers. Drench with mushroom stock (1 mushroom bouillon cube dissolved in 3 c water) and bake in preheated 350° oven 2 hrs. After switching off heat, leave in oven until cooled to room temp. Refrigerate and reheat as needed.

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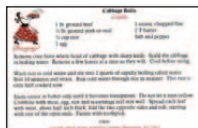


THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
\$16.95
by Sophie Knab
337 pp., pb., ill.
Hippocrene Books

This popular cookbook by beloved Polish American author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab is now updated with a new section on Polish Feasts and Festivals! Knab combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year, giving readers priceless historical information to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants. Lovely illustrations by Elliott Hutten and pearls of practical wisdom from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book. This title

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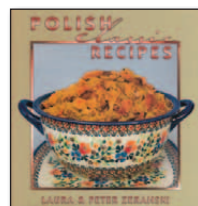
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By Laura and Peter Zeranski
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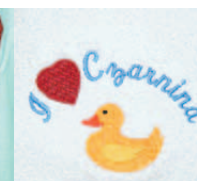
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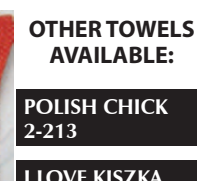
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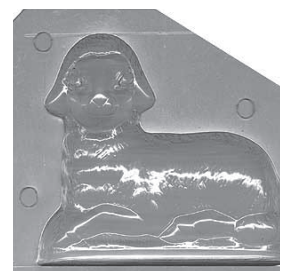


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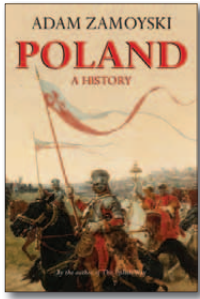
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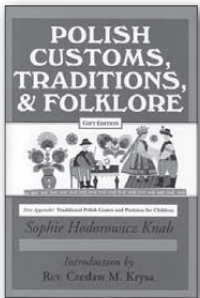
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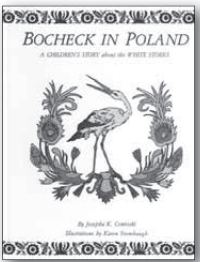
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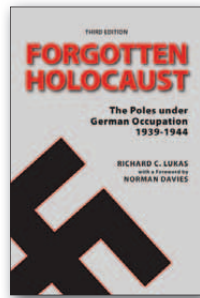
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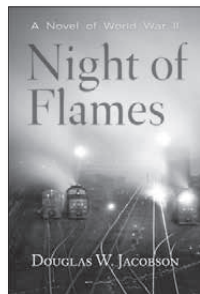
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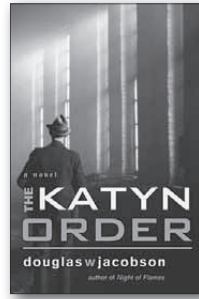
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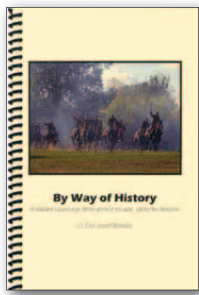
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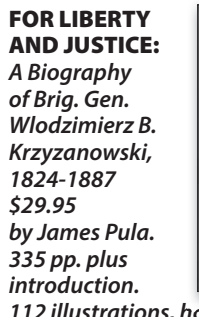
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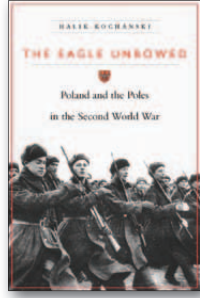
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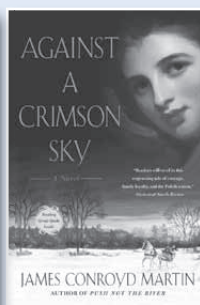


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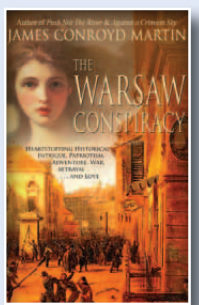
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BONES IN THE BACKYARD — *A Bashia Gordon Mystery* — \$14.95
with Lois J. Blackburn Infinity Publishing, 2001, 198 pp, pb.

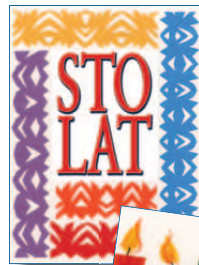
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\$14.95 Palmetto Press 2004. 152 pp., 5.5" x 8.25," photographs, pb.

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