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IT'S PĄCZKI AND FAWORKI TIME!
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK
AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

**YOUR HERITAGE, YOUR DUTY • POLISH CODEBREAKERS NOT GIVEN DUE CREDIT • FIGHTING A WAR ON IGNORANCE
POLONIA LOSSES ITS "ROCK STAR" • "RUTKOWSKI WAY" STREET DEDICATION • OLEJNICZAK AND THE GREEN BAY PACKERS
UNDER ZYGMUNT'S PROTECTIVE SWORD • FALL IN LOVE THE POLISH WAY • USING FAMILY HISTORY CENTER FILMS**

NEWSMARK

TO STEP UP OPERATIONS AGAINST ISIS. (RADIO POLAND) — Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna said in Washington after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that Poland wants to provide more support in the campaign against the Islamic State.

"We want to provide more support than up until now," said Schetyna, saying specifics would be announced this month.

Asked by journalists whether this would entail a military engagement against the jihadist militants, Schetyna said that "if there is an expectation on the part of the grand coalition, we are open to talk about it."

Poland joined the U.S.-led operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, but it has not engaged in a military capacity against the Islamic State as of yet.

The United States has been pushing for a broad international coalition against the Islamic State since the September 2014 NATO summit in Newport, Wales.

POLAND SCOOPS FIVE OSCAR NOMINATIONS. Poland won five nominations for the 87th Academy Awards, including two for Pawel Pawlikowski's acclaimed movie *Ida*. The post-Holocaust drama was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film, and Best Cinematography.

Meanwhile, two Polish works, *Joanna* and *Our Curse*, are in the running for Best Documentary Short Subject. The films, directed by Aneta Kopacz and Tomasz Sliwinski respectively, explore dilemmas faced by families after the diagnosis of a terminal illness.

Finally, Anna Biedrzycka-Sheppard was nominated for Best Costume Design for her work on *Maleficent*.

Ida has proved a runaway success on the awards circuit, recently winning five prizes, including Best Film, at the European Film Awards. Shot in black and white, the film explores the plight of a novice nun in early 1960s Poland, after she discovers that her parents were Jewish and that they had been murdered in the Second World War.

Overall, two films are neck and neck in terms of garnering the most nominations. Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's *Birdman* both took nine.

Film critics have tipped *Ida* as the favorite to win in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

LENDING HELP. During a meeting with her Ukrainian counterpart Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz announced that Poland will provide a loan worth EUR 100 million (about \$123.5 million USD) to Ukraine.

The loan is intended to help rebuild the Donbas region, the site of the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine, as well as to support democratic reforms in the country.

The Polish Ministry of Finance stated that the conditions of the loan will be negotiated between itself and the Ukrainian Finance Ministry, although the intended priorities of the loan will be in accordance with OECD guidelines.

Other future projects discussed during Kopacz's one-day visit to Kiev included the construction of a gas interconnector between Poland and Ukraine, which would allow Poland to supply Ukraine with up to 10 billion cubic metres of gas per year, which would lessen Ukraine's dependence on Russian gas.

OLDEST WOMAN DIES. Lucyna Sobolewska, who had been Poland's oldest woman, has died at age 113.

On her last birthday, she told journalists how she remembered two world wars.

Born in lands that are currently part of Belarus, Sobolewska likewise recollected life under the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II.

She spent her twilight years in Szczecin, northwest Poland, and on her recent birthdays received bouquets of flowers from President Bronislaw Komorowski.

At present, there are over 4000 pensioners in Poland over the age of 100.

The oldest man in the country now is 109.

In Sympathy and Solidarity



PHOTO: LESZEK SZYMANSKI

POLISH PRIME MINISTER EWA KOPACZ joined other dignitaries in signing a condolence book at the French Embassy in Warsaw in tribute to the victims of the Paris shootings.

"I am united in grief with the families and loved ones of the victims, as well as French society," the prime minister wrote.

Kopacz said she considered the murders "an attack on the media (and) on the fundamental values of Europe: democracy and freedom of speech."

The condolence book was also signed by Speaker of Parliament Radoslaw Sikorski, and President Bronislaw Komorowski.

In a communication to French President Hollande, Komorowski said he was "deeply shaken by the news of the tragic terrorist attack on the editorial staff of the weekly *Charlie Hebdo* ... I wish to convey, on behalf of the Polish Nation, our sincerest condolences I roundly condemn this barbaric act of violence, which is an attack on the fundamental values of the free world, and assure you of the solidarity of the Polish nation with the French people in these difficult times."

Evidence points to an international conspiracy by militants to bring terror to the streets of France's capital. There are reports of a new accomplice, in addition to the three gunmen killed by French authorities and the widow of one, who escaped.

Senate Caucus on Poland Meets with Foreign Minister Schetyna

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and Jim Risch (R-Idaho), founders of the bipartisan U.S. Senate Caucus on Poland, welcomed Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna to Washington for a meeting to promote and strengthen the United States' relationship with Poland. During the meeting, the senators and Schetyna discussed key issues in bilateral relations, including the Senators' support for Poland's inclusion in the Visa-Waiver Program, Poland's role in the fight against ISIL, and the need for a strong transatlantic response in the face of threats to security and democracy in Eastern Europe.

See "Senate ...," page 5

Detroit's Chene Street: A Historical Perspective

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

DETROIT — Kudos to Karen Majewski, Marian Krzyzowski, and Deborah

Dash Moore, for developing the Chene Street History Project. Since 2002, the Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and Economy (IRLEE) at the University of Michigan (UM) has been conducting a study of Detroit's Chene Street which cuts through Detroit's East Side from the Detroit River

to the General Motors-Hamtramck Assembly Plant.

Chene Street was once one of the city's most vibrant commercial corridors. Along its corridor were hundreds of small and medium-sized businesses, many of them run by Polish and Jewish immigrants. It represented the heart of family, work, and a social life for thousands of immigrants from all over the world, as well as for African Americans who migrated from the South. Even Detroit residents who lived outside the boundaries of this corridor, traveled to the Chene

Street markets to purchase fresh produce and meats from their favorite purveyors. Sadly, today, there are virtually no reminiscent signs of the



PHOTO: WWW.FLICR.COM

Van Dyke Pastry Shop in 2008. One year later the building was set on fire by vandals, but still stands today.

Chene Street neighborhood. Most of this area has been devastated and depopulated.

The Chene Street History Project is aimed at producing a comprehensive social and commercial history of the neighborhood with hopes of chronicling what it was like to live and work during the Chene Street's vibrant years. The project team has accumulated several hundred oral histories from Polish, Jewish, and African American residents and business owners and has scanned thousands of documents and photographs.

See "Chene ...," page 3

Documenting Polish Victims of Germany

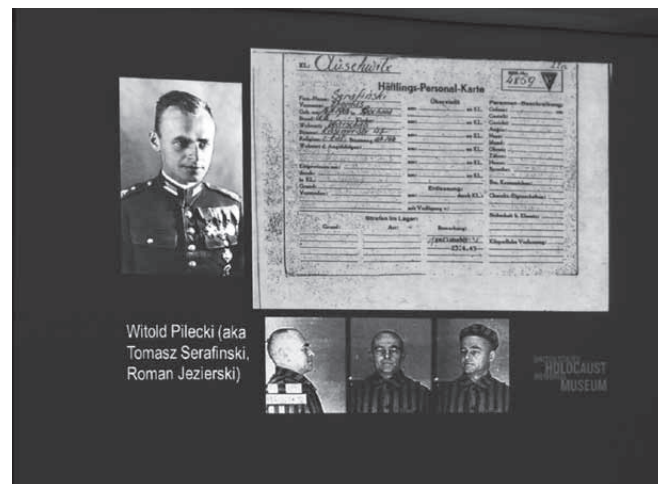
Holocaust Memorial Museum Representatives Made Presentation at Embassy

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representatives Ina Navazeliskis and Diane F. Afoumado of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. made a presentation at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on November 19, 2014, hosted by Consul Ewa Pietrasienska under the auspices of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf. The program's ongoing mission is to publicize the extensive availability of records, documents, photos, eyewitness testimony, etc., of the Polish and other victims of the extreme and deadly cruelty they suffered at the hands of the occupying Nazi Germans during World War II.

As per the USHMM: The German occupation of Poland

continued on page 4



AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP RECORDS. Pictured is the prisoner file card for Polish Army officer Witold Pilecki (aka Tomasz Serafinski, Roman Jezierski). He later escaped from captivity at the Nazi German Auschwitz Concentration Camp in occupied Poland, along with another prisoner, on April 27, 1943 – which report was viewed as documented to the German Gestapo secret police. These are examples of the 150 million documents and other materials already cataloged, or being processed, by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that are readily available and accessible by the public.

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February Luty

"Being a woman is a terribly difficult trade since it consists principally of dealings with men."

— From *Chance*, by
Joseph Conrad (1857-1924)

- 1 1411. Signing of the First Peace of Thorn (Toruń) concludes the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War
- 2 **CANDLEMAS**
Officially known as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, it marks the end of the Christmas season for another year.
1674. Coronation of **Jan Sobieski**, king and military leader who defeated the Turks in Vienna.
- 3 1899. Death of painter **Juliusz Kossak** (b. 1824).
- 4 1505. Birth of the father of Polish literature, **Mikolaj Rej**.
1745. Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko.
- 6 **ST. DOROTHY**
Świętej Dorocie uschnie koszula na płocie.
St. Dorothy's shirt will dry on the fence. (Days are windier and warmer starting today)
- 8 1296. Assassination of **Przemysław II**
- 10 1866. Birth in Detroit of **John Temke**, first American priest of Polish descent.
- 11 1945. **Yalta Conference**. Soviets receive Poland's Eastern lands.
- 12 **TLUSTY 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.
- 13 1416. A delegation of Lithuanians and Poles read their grievances against the Teutonic Knights at the Church Council at Constance.
- 14 **ST. VALENTINE**
Dzień Świętego Walentego
1919. Polish-Soviet War begins
- 15 1903. Death of **Fr. Jozef Dabrowski**, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).
- 16 1704. Warsaw Confederation formed.
- 17 **PĄCZKI DAY** (U.S.)
1772. First Partition of Poland between Prussia, Russia and Austria.
1386. Marriage of Polish **Queen Jadwiga d'Anjou** to **Wladyslaw Jagiello** of Lithuania.
- 18 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- 19 1921. Signing of the Franco-Polish Military Alliance.
1473. Birth of astronomer **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik) in Torun, Poland.
- 20 1919. Adoption of Small Constitution.
1941. Nazis ordered Polish Jews barred from using public transportation.
- 22 1810. Recorded birth of **Fryderyk Chopin**, Polish composer, pianist, in Zelazowa Wola, Poland (d. 1849).
- 25 1926. Poland, an original member of the League of Nations, demands a permanent seat on the League Council. It was given a semi-permanent seat.
- 26 1832. Polish constitution was abolished by Czar Nicholas I.
- 28 1750. Birth of **Ignacy Potocki**, Polish minister and nobleman.

This paper mailed on or before **January 30, 2015**.
The March edition will be mailed on or before **February 27, 2015**.

VIEWPOINTS / Jan Muczyk

Your Heritage, Your Duty

Robert E. Lee, arguably the best commander this nation produced to date, considered "duty" the most sublime word in the English lexicon. "One should do his/her duty in all things. You can never do more. You should never wish to do less." Horatio Nelson, England's foremost naval commander, while mortally wounded on the deck of his flagship *Victory* during the battle of Trafalgar, with his last breath thanked God for permitting him to die in the line of duty.

Clara Barton, the Civil War nurse who provided what little medical care the Union soldiers received, and who after the War went on to found the American Red Cross, earned a front-row seat in the American pantheon of heroes by doing her duty. When officers were complaining to William Tecumseh Sherman about this aggressive woman, the redoubtable general replied: "I do not wish to hear complaints about nurse Barton. She ranks me."

Poland's very existence is the result of exceptional people doing their duty. I have in mind King Jan III Sobieski, Kosciuszko, Pulaski, Pilsudski, Haller, Pope John Paul II, Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Paderewski, Walesa, and many others. It is also essential to honor the

doughty Polish women who, over the years, preserved Polish culture while their men were either fighting for the Polish cause or exiled by Poland's enemies.

These, however, were exceptional people doing their duty in extraordinary times. How do we relate our lives lived largely in ordinary times to the concept of duty?

If you studied while in school, you performed your duty. If you gave your employer a fair day's work, you did your duty. If you were a loving spouse and a devoted parent as well as grandparent, you carried out your duty. If you did whatever you could to educate your children and grandchildren, you were true to your duty. If you conducted business transactions honestly, and faithfully executed your civic responsibilities and religious obligations, you accomplished your duty. If you treated people with courtesy, dignity, and respect, you fulfilled your duty. If you were a caregiver to disabled members of your family, you performed the highest duty.

While performing your duty appears easy on paper, in actuality it is not. Therefore, having done your duty you can identify in the autumn of your life with the truest measure of a life well led as it appears in 2

Timothy 4:7:

*I have fought a good fight
I have finished my course
I have kept the faith*

Over the course of the most recent holidays, I was dismayed to see — on more than one social page — folks lamenting about wigilias past, how "no one wants to do it any more," or "this is probably our last Polish Christmas Eve dinner."

What?

Now, more than ever, is the time to fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith. Like generations before you, it is your duty to keep alive this heritage. This month brings us Pączki Day and/or Tłusty Czwartek (for those inclined to a more traditional observance), celebrations that close the winter revelry and mark the beginning of a time of introspection before Spring's rebirth.

Our heritage and our faith have been entwined for over a millennium. Use Lent as a time to reflect on this and the course you must take to keep each alive. Do not surrender. Fight a good fight. It is your duty.



Jan P. Muczyk is Professor Emeritus Cleveland State University and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

FORUM / David Zwolak

Polish Codebreakers Not Given Due Credit

The publicity statements and critical reviews for the new film, *The Imitation Game*, identify Alan Turing as "the man who cracked the Nazi code." The problem with this statement is that it gives the impression that Turing was the first to break the military code, Enigma. He was not. The honor of first breaking the code belongs to Polish mathematicians and cryptanalysts Marian Rejewski, Jerzy Rozycki, and Henryk Zygalski, who triumphed with the breakthrough in 1932.

The Polish team succeeded because they recognized that Enigma was an electro-mechanical code generated in a way different from past methods. This was a profound insight that led the team to break Enigma, and develop a manual method in the form of "grill" sheets to decrypt the intercepted messages. However, the Poles also realized that manual methods were too slow for an effective military response. Thus, the Polish team had a second significant insight, which ultimately led to building a device to rapidly decrypt Enigma. Cryptography now had not only the solution to Enigma, but also a "machine" device to decrypt a machine code, all courtesy of the Polish team. The Poles named their new decrypting device a Bomba.

The Polish team shared some Enigma discoveries with their counterparts in France and England in the 1930s. Finally, as the Nazi troops invaded in 1939, Poland provided all of the Enigma secrets, including a duplicate of the precious Bomba, to its allies in the west. This generosity was among the first manifestations of

Poland's World War II motto: "For your freedom and ours."

Thus, the Polish discoveries found their way to the British station at Bletchley Park, and served as the start for the later cryptanalysis achievements that occurred as Enigma evolved and became more complex throughout the war. And, what did the British call their own decrypting machines? They called them Bombs, of course!

The Polish story has been documented in numerous sources including the recent book *Enigma: How the Poles Broke the Nazi Code* by Wladyslaw Kozaczuk. Digital information is also extensive. A search on the name Marian Rejewski will yield an informative Wikipedia entry directing the reader to many additional references and websites. Finally, for those who care to make a real "brick and mortar" visit, the National Cryptologic Museum in Annapolis Junction, Maryland has an interesting exhibit on the Polish cryptanalysts and Enigma.

Turing certainly deserves well-earned recognition for the important work he did on progressively breaking the evolving versions of Enigma, and for his many insights that led to modern computers. Turing was an intelligent man. However, the men who first "... cracked the Nazi code" were Polish, whose codebreaking story is at least as intriguing as that portrayed in *The Imitation Game*. The Polish story is one I would dearly like to see in a film!

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Pulaski's Birthday to be Observed in Savannah, March 7

SAVANNAH, Ga. — This year's commemoration of the birth of Gen. Casimir Pulaski will be held Sat., March 7, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. at Monterey Square (corner of Bull and West Taylor Streets).

This is the site of General Pulaski's accounted burial and monument erected in his name, acknowledging the great contribution and ultimate sacrifice he made for the independence of the United States of America.

Last year's observance participants included Savannah's Mayor Edna Jackson, Georgia State Representative Ron Stephens, and Polish American historian Edward Pinkowski. Knights of Columbus and Coastal Heritage Society Revolutionary War re-enactors comprised the color guard. The American Council for Polish Culture placed wreaths at the monument.

At the luncheon which followed, Frank Sulkowski, sports director at WJCL-TV, gave the main address which mentioned the contributions of Poles to American life.

The ceremony is free and open to the public. Following the public observance, everyone is invited to join the Committee and guests at the Plantation Club at The Landings on beautiful Skidaway Island for a hot luncheon buffet which will be held from noon to 4:00 p.m. The cost for the buffet is \$30.00 per person and a cash bar will be available.

Please make reservations via mail: Savannah General Pulaski Committee, P.O. Box 16608, Savannah, GA 31416-3308; tel: Andrew Boguszewski (912) 401-5861.

More information is available at: www.poles.org/Pulaski.

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OUR FRATERNALS / Dorothy Wieczorzak

SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

The Difference Between Term and Whole Life

All too often we hear this comment from young professionals in the community: "I get insurance from my company."

Yes, today many large and even not so large companies offer their employees life insurance. It often is at least twice your annual salary and you may not make any premium payments, so this is a free gift.

This usually is **Group Term** insurance is meant to insure you for a length of time and that is the **Term** part. Usually the basis for the term is the length of time you are employed in that particular occupation. Often heads of households purchase additional term insurance to provide complete coverage for all possible scenarios. If you are married with children and have a home mortgage, consider how much you will need to educate your children and to pay off the mortgage. Then, should you not be around and your spouse will need to bear the cost of keeping the lifestyle of the family intact, what would all this cost?

In this case, finding the least expensive individual term policy to provide for all these expenses makes good sense. But for what length of time should you contract for a term policy? Probably the best is to take some time with your spouse and do the math. Consider what the ideal size of your family might be. Then, consider twenty years maximum from the time your last child is born. After that, the funds will be there for education and mortgage purposes and your spouse can eventually find employment to help the family fi-

nances.

But now, you have reached retirement age. The term policy meant to educate the children and pay off the mortgage is no longer valid and you still have the coverage offered by your employer. If you are lucky, part of your retirement benefits may be the continuation of this policy. And then, as you reach the age of

If you would have purchased a Whole Life policy when you were young, the premiums would have been paid, and cost pennies when compared to today.

70, you may suddenly learn that the premiums are no longer being paid for you and you can continue the coverage but you will have to make the payments.

Now you need to seek a **Whole Life** policy for your final needs. If you would have purchased such a policy when you were young, the premiums would have been paid and would have been pennies compared with what the cost may be now. Whole life means that you have insurance for the rest of your life. Our Fraternal Societies offer Whole Life plans where, once the time of payment is over, you continue to have the same amount you purchased for the rest of your life. If you purchased this when young, it would build cash value through the years and give you the option to take a loan against the cash value. And then there is the security that final needs have been met. Visit the Polish Beneficial Association at www.polishbeneficialassoc.com or Association of the Sons of Poland at www.sonsofpoland.org and learn more.

Dr. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann Brings History to Life

Dear Editor,

As a Director of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, and editor of its newsletter, I often find myself attending talks, lectures and seminars concerning the subject of Polish American history, culture and the arts. I find these subjects fascinating to someone like myself, who didn't think about his Polish heritage until I turned about fifty or so. As a third generation American on my father's side, I had been heavily assimilated and paid scant attention to my Polish roots, although I knew that, in general terms, that Poles had a history of which to be proud.

Lectures by historians, despite how much we may admire the subject matter, can be fairly dry events. People who spend their time haunting archives, libraries and private collections are not always first-rate exemplars of motivational speaking. So when I found myself in a conference room at Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State, on October 19, 2014, prepared to listen to a talk entitled "Polish-Americans Write to the Editor," I did so with no small amount of trepidation.

I need not have worried. The speaker, Dr. Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, was a breath of fresh air. She had it all. Attractive, charming, witty, well-spoken and in complete control of her subject matter. She was introduced by Wanda Sławińska, curator of the Fronczak Collections at the library. Dr. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, after receiving a MA with honors at the University of Lublin in her native Poland, immigrated to the United States in 1988 and studied at the University of Minnesota where she received her doctorate in 1997. She is now a professor in the history department at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Her topic covered her research surrounding the discovery of a trove of more than 500 letters written by Polish immigrants found in the archives of *Ameryka Echo* newspapers published by the Paryski Publishing Co. of Toledo, Ohio between 1889 and 1972. After the monumental task of translating and analyzing their contents, she sorted them into five separate categories

where they were printed along with her commentary in her book. Those categories include:

- Church, religion and spiritual life which included grievances against churches and priests and in particular, the Vatican response (or lack of it) to the Nazis in World War II.
- Polonian communities in the United States and the diaspora.
- Polish-American Identity
- The American Nation
- Comments on the homeland

Each of these topics was discussed with examples quoted from the original letters. It didn't take a lot of analysis to determine that, although many of the letters were written by people who were barely literate, their concern for many of the issues showed a highly intelligent and analytical thrust to their comments. These people cared about each other, and about their welfare and that of their fellows and the country that embraced them. Although their lives were dominated by hard work and making a living, these people had active minds and were mightily concerned about the quality of life and how they could participate in their new surroundings. It became obvious that Dr. Jaroszynska-Kirchmann had become, and her audience became affected by the sincerity and the quality of the people who had written these letters.

The talk was attended by a large, appreciative audience which contained a large sampling of Western New York Polish American cognoscenti including judges, publishers, and civic community leaders along with those citizens who are always attracted to the prestigious Fronczak Room Lectures.

Felix Klempka
Buffalo, New York

Chene Street *continued from cover*

Additionally, they have scanned church bulletins, personal papers, organizational records, and other ephemera. They also researched real estate records from 1890-1990.

Karen Majewski, Ph.D., is the mayor of Hamtramck and the project manager of IRLEE at UM. **Marian Krzyzowski** is director of the IRLEE at UM. **Deborah Dash Moore** is director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and a Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History at UM.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION

We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, **the PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization.** Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

As a national newspaper serving Polish American communities, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students, future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia, seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

OUR INITIATIVE

In this, our initial year of operation, we will solicit funds for our first funding project. In June 2015, we will ask our members how the PAJF's proceeds should be used. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board will review these suggestions and cre-



ate a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 30th 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

Fighting a War on Ignorance

Citing Eyewitness Accounts, Polish American Holocaust Documentation Committee Sets Records Straight

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Despite America's key role in defeating Nazi Germany in World War II and preventing Adolf Hitler from creating what he called a "1,000-year Reich," the degree of ignorance that exists about this period of world history is disturbing.

Contributing heavily to this state of Holocaust illiteracy is America's entertainment industry. Its ceaseless production of fictional films, theater, books and radio/TV opinions confuse their audiences who try to distinguish between truth and falsehood.

Such is the opinion of the Holocaust Documentation Committee of the Polish American Congress which began operations 25 years ago because, "nowhere else is Holocaust history as distorted and as misrepresented as it is about Poland."

The recent Holocaust views expressed by conservative TV commentator, Glenn Beck is a good example. Beck commands a loyal band of admirers and followers who can listen to him every day by subscribing to his personal BlazeTV network.

In September 2014, Beck irked some of his Polish American fans with a preposterous allegation against the Polish people during the time they were under wartime German occupation.

In his monologue deploring the

excessive concern of today's Americans with small and insignificant matters at a time other problems facing the country are enormous, Beck took an unjustified and irresponsible slap at the Poles.

"We're turning into the Poles. The smoke is billowing from the chimney ... They're burning Jews right down the street," Beck said. He insinuated the Poles were indifferent to the tragedy their Jewish neighbors were suffering at the hands of the Nazis and the Poles were doing nothing to help them.

Beck's statement is not true. The Poles did just the opposite, according to Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Yad Vashem bestows the "Righteous Among the Nations" award to those individuals who helped rescue Jews in the Holocaust. Of all those honored this way, Poles are the largest number despite the fact Poland was the only country in German-occupied Europe where the Nazis declared a death penalty for doing it.

This information is readily available on these institutions' websites. To make it even easier for Beck, the Polish American Congress sent him the English translation of a book written in 1968 by Szymon Datner, former director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, titled "Forest of Polish Heroes, Poles Murdered by Germans for Saving Jews During World War II."

The book will enable Beck to quote a respected Jewish source the next time he wants to refer to Polish-Jewish relations in the Holocaust, according to the Congress.

The book conveys the sense of gratitude that existed in 1968 among



BECK (left). Commentator's maliciousness underlines falsehoods. **DATNER** (right). Polish historian of Jewish descent, best known for his studies of Nazi war crimes committed against the Jewish population of the Bialystok area after the German attack on the Soviet Union in June 1941 across Poland.

Jews who survived the war only because many Poles risked their lives to save them. The following are some excerpts from Dr. Datner's book:

"Poles, when confronted with the Jewish problem, behaved with grand, national and human dignity. The Polish nation never accepted what the Germans were doing with the Jews," Datner wrote.

With Poland being the only German-occupied country where the Nazis ordered death for anyone who broke the law by helping a Jew, Datner noted, "The Poles could have lived with the German 'law' if they had been willing to observe it and let the Jews die. They did not want to. Many of them paid the highest price — the price of life."

Datner also observed: "If millions of Poles had been willing to obey these occupation orders and collaborate with the Germans, then no Jew, or almost next to none, would have survived."

Dr. Datner's heartfelt appre-

ciation of the help the Poles gave was most evident when he wrote, "Owing to the large-hearted help of the Polish society, its best sons and daughters, 100,000 Jews were saved in the hardest possible conditions ... This heroic aspect of heroism during the Nazi occupation is poorly researched when it comes to those who were saving human lives and luckily survived, and primarily when it concerns those who lost their own lives while saving the others."

Close to the ghetto, "The Church of All Saints in Warsaw was located next to the ghetto. The church, whose parish priest was the late Father Godlewski, became the shelter for almost 2,000 Jews who, with his help, managed to escape from the ghetto."

Recently, a major American newspaper published a story about the Warsaw Zoo where Jews were hidden by the Polish zoologist and his wife. It was a well known story even when Dr. Datner wrote about it in his 1968 book. "The Jews were hidden in animal cages and the Zabinskis provided them with food and looked after them with care, risking their own lives."

Dr. Datner devoted a whole chapter in a special tribute to the Poles who endured Nazi and Soviet Communist occupation in Poland's Bialystok Region which included the municipality of Jedwabne.

Being a Jewish historian, he hoped the help Poles gave Jews would receive proper recognition and appreciation. "The question of aiding the Jews in Poland during the Nazi occupation, both in the Bialystok region and in other parts of the country, is still waiting for systematic and thorough research. This

beautiful page should be added to the latest history of the Polish nation as soon as possible."

Dr. Datner died in Warsaw in 1990 and did not live long enough to witness the current efforts of anti-Polish elements to discredit and demonize the Polish residents of Jedwabne and blame them for the 1941 murders the Germans committed against the town's Jewish population.

There are many other statements in the Datner book Glenn Beck could quote to correct the misinformation he gave his BlazeTV audience.

Although he has not yet given the Polish American Congress Holocaust Documentation Committee the courtesy of acknowledging receipt of the book, there has not been any report of Beck repeating any misleading statements about the Holocaust.

The Polish American Congress formed the Holocaust Documentation Committee prior to the 1993 opening of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. It was headed by the late Michael Preisler, a Polish Catholic survivor of Auschwitz. The committee's purpose was to provide the U.S. Holocaust Museum personal testimony and memorabilia from Polish survivors and rescuers of Jews for exhibition at the museum.

After the museum's opening, the committee redirected its efforts to defending the history of the Polish people against false accusations and other misinformation.

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To contact the PAC's Holocaust Documentation Committee, write or call: 177 Kent Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11222; (516) 352-7125.

70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Camps

by Magdalena Kubow

On the 27th of January, the international community, American and Canada included, commemorated the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. Generally, we think of liberation as something glorious, something celebrated. But the response was not as jubilant as one may suspect. Many who were "liberated" immediately faced a plethora of challenges ranging from not over-eating (which usually resulted in death), finding safe shelter, and locating surviving relatives. Holocaust survivor Elly Gotz often recounts his experience of liberation during his many well-received talks to schools around the globe. After being liberated from Dachau by Soviet troops, his weakened and malnourished father, Julius Gotz, responded to the news by asking when his soup ration would be available; a very genuine concern. Liberation symbolized very real and new concerns, and not a time of care-free celebrations.

The eventual defeat of Nazi Germany was surely cause for joy in the Allied

world, but the liberation of the camps was not celebrated with parades, banners, and sensuous kisses in the street. Shortly after the war, Holocaust survivors had to re-build their lives, often in hostile environments, with little support. In North America, too, the reception of survivors was lack-luster. But as time passed and our collective memory grew, we began to acknowledge the true horror that the Holocaust represented, and that celebrating those who survived those horrors was neces-

sary.

Currently, conditions for many around the world are far from favorable. International manifestations of anti-semitism are apparent on our front pages daily, as well as other manifestations of hatred and prejudice. Shortly after the war, the Polish American Journal wrote an article recognizing the twelfth "week of brotherhood," a Jewish and Christian initiative meant to inspire peace and religious tolerance. It was, as President Roosevelt described in 1936, "an experiment in understanding; a venture in neighborliness."

This was a time where regardless of faith, race, or ethnicity, people would join to focus on one another's humanity and not what divides us. The PAJ stated that fascism and all forms of hatred should not, and could not, be the ideology that ever prevails, not during the war, nor after. Instead, the week of brotherhood should inspire an attitude of neighborliness not only for seven days, but all year long. In 2015, we could use this example and apply it, not only during the week of commem-

oration, but every day, so that "never again" represents a genuine reflection of what we stand for as a tolerant and civilized nation.

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Magdalena Kubow is a Ph.D. Candidate ABD, History Department at Western University, and a Course Instructor, Modern Languages Department & History Department at King's University College, London, Ontario, Canada.



PRISONERS help one another aboard a truck following liberation from a Nazi concentration camp at the end of World War II.

PHOTO: LIFE MAGAZINE

Documenting Polish Victims of Nazi Germany

continued from cover

was exceptionally brutal. The occupation authorities sought to destroy Polish culture by physically annihilating members of the Polish political, religious, and intellectual elites. Between 1939 and 1945, German authorities deported at least 1.5 million Polish citizens as forced laborers to German territories and imprisoned hundreds of thousands of Poles in Nazi concentration camps. The Germans killed approximately 1.9 million non-Jewish Polish civilians during World War II. In addition, the Germans murdered about three million Jewish citizens of Poland.

The presentation included official German documents, photos and artifacts related to the victims. Personal and heart-rending interviews with Jan Nowak-Jezioranski and other Poles were viewed with great empathy by the audience.

Presently the USHMM oral archives contain over 12,500 such interviews — the largest in the world. It is actively seeking more eyewitness/first hand interviews — especially in English — and any related surviving films or photographs. Arrangements can be made with the Museum's International Outreach Officer Jaime J. Monllor — jmonllor@ushmm.org — to present this Poland/Polish orientated program to the Polish American community.

The Holocaust Museum has archived a massive collection of

information about Polish, Jewish, and many other German persecuted peoples. The Polish collection alone encompasses concentration camp arrivals, transport and deportation lists, prisoner cards (with photos), forced labor and death lists, registration and work cards (some with photos), and much personal information compiled by the very efficient German administration bureaucracy in occupied-Poland.

THE U.S. REPOSITORY for the International Tracing Service (ITS) is located at, and managed by, the Holocaust Museum. It contains names, destinations, records and other personal information concerning the epical forced migration of populations of displaced persons for resettlement across the adjusted borders of Central and Eastern Europe after World War II.

All of the foregoing information and materials mentioned are accessible to the public at the Holocaust Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024-2126. You can also submit an ITS Research Request Form to the Museum's Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center at www.ushmm.org/resourcecenter/service. This is an extremely valuable resource for anyone searching for a lost relative or maybe finally learning of their fate.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

ILLINOIS

The **Polish Museum of America** (PMA) invites all to the exhibition opening of “Truth and Remembrance – The Katyn Massacre.” The opening of the exhibit will take place Sun., Feb. 8, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. Guest speakers will be Dr. Marek Jan Chodakiewicz and Piotr Uzarewicz.

Katyn is the symbol of one of the most shocking, yet little known genocides of the 20th century. In the spring of 1940, units of the Soviet NKVD (Secret Police) murdered 22,000 Polish prisoners of war in three different locations, collectively known as “Katyn.” This was part of a larger Soviet campaign against the Polish Nation in which one million people were deported to Siberia where many died in deplorable conditions.

The bilingual Polish/English exhibit of 32 panels relates the history of events leading up to World War II, the executions, the cover-up, and unending search for truth. The exhibit was prepared by the “Katyn Family” Association of Lodz and the Museum of the Independence Traditions in Lodz.

Truth and Remembrance runs through March 11, 2015.

School group tours may be arranged by calling (773) 384-3352, ext. 2112.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — Feb. 14. **Bal Karnawalowy (Carnival Ball)**. This event is sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM), and this year will honor the Polanie Club, a leader in cultivating interest for Polish culture for more than eighty years in the Twin Cities area. Doors open at 5:30, followed by a social hour and silent auction; dinner banquet; Opening of the Bal; and Closing of the Bal. Entertainment by the Chris Kalogerson Band.

Tickets: \$65.00 for PACIM members, \$75.00 for nonmembers, \$475.88 for a Table of eight. Tickets are now on sale online at www.pacim.org, or can be ordered by calling (612) 378-9291. Polanie Club members should contact bal@pacim.org or (612) 378-9291 for special ticket information.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On Dec., 6, 2014, the **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and Western New York** held its Annual Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons in Depew.

Officers sworn in by Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka were: Al Ziemecki (pres.), Marty Bochinski (v.p.), Dave Gorski (2nd v.p.), Mike Stack (3rd v.p.), Darryl Borawski (rec. sec.), Andrew Kozakiewicz (treas.) Paul Manno (fin. sec.), and Jerry Imiola (sgt.- at-arms).

Scholarships were also awarded to Jacob Schmidt and Nathan Smith. Other awards given were: the “Lifetime Achievement” award to the Pulaski Police President Alfred Ziemecki for all his years of service to the organization; “Business Person of the Year,” to Vince Santoro; and “President’s Award” to Carol



MUSIAL. Artist will perform at Polish Heritage Society’s Annual Chopin Concert, March 1, 2015,

Batt and Cheri Gorski-Suhr for their outstanding, dedicated service to the association.

HAMBURG, N.Y. — **Ted Pietrzak** has been named Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement at **Hilbert College**, announced President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D.

Pietrzak has over 25 years of experience in leadership positions in the not-for-profit sector. Pietrzak had previously served as the director of the Burchfield Penney Art Center, where he directed and supervised all aspects of the organization. He oversaw the completion of a new 84,000 sq. ft. museum and a successful \$36.6 million capital and endowment campaign.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The **Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia**, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) announces its Annual Chopin Concert, which will take place on Sunday, March 1, 2015, at 2 :00 p.m. at Holy Family University, Technology Education Center, located at 9801 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia.

Steinway Artist **Katarzyna Musial**, winner of the 2011 Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition in New York, will be the featured concert pianist.

Musial, Polish-born residing in Canada and spends time in New York is regarded as “a major talent, blessed with an astounding technique and an interpretive panache” by *Chicago Classical Review*, has performed as a concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber musician throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Her playing has been described by *New York Concert Reviews* “a pure delight ... wonderfully evocative ... vividly detailed.” Her interpretations “plumbed emotional depths with harmonic coloring.”

In addition to having won First Prize at the 2011 Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition (New York), Musial was also a prize winner at the Krzysztof Penderecki International Competition of Contemporary Chamber Music (Cracow), the Kay Meek Competition (Vancouver), as well as a recipient of the Alban Berg Prize for outstanding merit (Vienna) and the Philip Cohen Award for outstanding performance musicianship (Montreal).

Tickets are \$30.00 each; students \$20.00. For reservations contact Debbie Majka at (215) 627-1391, dziecko2@comcast.net. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. A light reception follows the recital.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Adam Zagajewski will be having a bilingual poetry reading at the Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol St., SE, Monday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased thru the Folger Box Office (202) 544-7077 or www.folger.edu/poetry.

Adam Zagajewski is a poet, novelist and essayist. His books of poetry include *Mysticism for Beginners*, *Without End*, *Two Cities*, *Another Beauty*, and *A Defense of Ardor*.

Senate Caucus



U.S. SENATORS Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and Jim Risch (R-Idaho) — founders of the bipartisan U.S. Senate Caucus on Poland — welcomed Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna to Washington.

continued from cover

“As co-chair of the Senate Poland Caucus, I’m pleased to welcome Foreign Minister Schetyna to the United States Capitol and look forward to working together to affirm and strengthen the endearing and enduring relationship between the United States and Poland,” Senator Mikulski said. “The United States and Poland are good friends and steadfast and true allies, from our economic and military alliance to our shared values. The Polish people resisted the yoke of communist oppression for decades after World War II, and their heroic and peaceful resistance hastened the end of the Soviet Union and the emergence of one Europe, whole and free. My Polish heritage has given me an identity and a set of beliefs that make me the Senator I am with a belief in freedom, a belief in people, and a belief that we must always speak truth to power.”

Mikulski said she will continue

to lead the fight in the U.S. Senate to strengthen the strong bond between America and Poland.

“Connecticut’s strong and vibrant Polish American community has made incredible contributions to our state as small business owners and active community members,” said Senator Murphy, who said the caucus “is to be their voice in the U.S. Senate and cement the overall relationship between the United States and Poland.”

“Poland has emerged as another anchor of political and economic stability in Europe,” said Senator Risch. “Poland’s strong commitment to our shared trans-Atlantic values and their willingness to fight alongside the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan are highlights of their friendship to the U.S.”

Senators Mikulski, Murphy and Risch launched the U.S. Senate Caucus on Poland in the 113th Congress.

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

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

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Orchard Lake Polish Mission, State Museum, Bring Auschwitz Exhibit to United Nations

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools continues nationwide cultural programs aimed at highlighting Poland and Polish culture. The Polish Mission is America's leading non-profit cultural institution. The apex of this mission is the exclusive partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland, the world's most authentic symbol of the Holocaust.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz (Jan. 27, 1945), The Polish Mission, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations, took the three-ton Forbidden Art exhibition to the United Nations, New York City. This most authentic memorial of the Holocaust, genocide, and the terror of the concentration camps begins the worldwide commemorations of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The exhibit presents modern Holocaust education, in full cooperation with the team of professionals at Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. The cooperation between The Polish Mission and the State Museum has been endorsed by both Vice President Biden and President Barack Obama.

According to Polish Mission director Marcin Chumiecki, "We have brought the message of Auschwitz, in a tangible way, to the United States."

Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Director Dr. Piotr Cywiński said that "It is urgently critical that we preserve Auschwitz, the most authentic symbol of the Holocaust."

He said the UN is a "most meaningful venue for Forbidden Art in the United States, but it will be most especially important to the global community of survivors, many of whom will participate personally in this remarkable anniversary."

Dr. Cywiński and Chumiecki, along with Deputy Secretary General of the UN, Jan Eliasson; Polish Ambassador to the UN, Bogusław Winid; U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power; and Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Ron Prosor, opened the exhibit on January 21. It will be on display through February.



The Forbidden Art exhibit examines the work of the prisoners in World War II German-run concentration camps.

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTS. Fr. Rick Poblocki, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Cheektowaga, N.Y. shares the microphone with Fr. Martin Moleski, S.J., professor of Theology at Canisius College, Buffalo, N.Y., on Buffalo's WLOF radio 101.7 FM. They alternate answering questions on a program called "Calling All Catholics." The station is part of the EWTN network started by Mother Angelica in Alabama. The station can also be heard through the iCatholic mobile app and is also on Facebook.

The biggest challenge for the station is getting the word out about the station according to Jim Wright, one of the station's founders. "That's the hardest challenge, getting people to know about Catholic radio. Then they need to decide to listen."

He went on to explain that 40% of the station's listeners are non-Catholics who want to know about the faith. The station is 100% listener supported, said communications director Zach Krajacic. "We have two fund drives, and it literally sustains us. God gives us just enough for us. He never fails us."

CHANGING LIVES OVERSEAS. Dr. Robert Smolinski is part of the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation, an organization of doctors and surgeons based in Williamsville, N.Y. that provides reconstructive surgery at no cost in developing countries

across the world. Dr. Smolinski is an orthopedic surgeon and member of the foundation's board of directors. The doctors and surgeons in the foundation specialize in helping individuals who suffer from facial or bodily disfigurement as a result of diseases, acts of violence or accidents. Their patients' self-esteem and quality of life are vastly improved as a result.

In the last five years, Dr. Smolinski has gone to Haiti, Vietnam, Ghana and Armenia. While many of his patients had national health insurance in their countries, they did not have access to doctors. Some patients, requiring extensive, multiple surgeries, are brought to the United States for the operations. Foundation also recruits doctors throughout the United States and raises funds to send them around the world. Participating physicians have included plastic surgeons, ophthalmologists, gynecologists, urologists, anesthesiologists and others. "I hope we change their lives," Dr. Smolinski said. "There are people who had problems, from either a physical or social situation, that they were not able to function in society."

STO LAT TO ... Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, CSSF, president of Madonna University, on being inducted in the 1835 Livonia Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was started 10 years ago to honor individuals and

organizations whose efforts help shape and improve the greater Livonia, Mich., community.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... Nativity Prep Boston, celebrating 25 years. School president Fr. John Wronski, S.J. marked the anniversary by declaring "Twenty-five years later, our successful graduates are beacons of hope in a weary world that still longs for peace, justice and equality. The hope they offer is not unlike the hope that was born into the world in a cold, dark stable in Bethlehem long ago." Nativity Prep is part of a network of middle schools recently established to serve underprivileged children in inner-city neighborhoods where public education has failed to meet their needs.

FELICIAN SISTERS HELPING THE NEEDY. Felician Sisters, celebrating 140 years of service in the United States, continue to find new ways to serve. At Villa Maria College, Cheektowaga, NY, they have opened an After School Homework Program to provide support throughout the year to low-income students from Cheektowaga elementary schools. Sr. Paul Marie Baczkowski CSSF and Sr. M. Fredrica Polanski represented the sisters at the formal inauguration of the program.

Entering the 30th year of service to its neighborhood, the Response to Love Center has seen its volunteers grow and its programs diversify. It started as a food pantry in 1985 with an unexpected gift of food from the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center and has since expanded to include multi-faceted outreach ministries including the food pantry (feeding some 3,000 households last year), clothing distribution, educational programs and high school equivalency instruction and English as a second language, medical assis-

tance, and career training. Sr. Johnnie Rzdakiewicz, CSSF, together with Srs. M. Cathene Raczowski, CSSF & M. Rose Szymanski, CSSF coordinate the work of 10 staff members and more than 100 volunteers. As Sr. Johnnie says, the center hopes to affirm those who come to them "so often alone, so often mired in their brokenness. We help them to remember that they are not alone. We help them to remember that God loves them."



PAPAL BLESSING SCROLLS UNDERGO A CHANGE. Archbishop

Konrad Krajewski, Pope Francis' almoner or director of charitable works, announced that from now on, papal blessing scrolls for couples about to be married and celebrating anniversaries, people marking significant birthdays, and other special occasions, will be prepared within the Vatican rather than in the multitude of stores throughout Rome who had accomplished that task for a fee.

Giving these blessing scrolls has been a tradition since the practice began under Pope Leo XIII some 100 years ago. Archbishop Krajewski explained that the change will ensure that apostolic benedictions raise as much money as possible for the poor and at the same time eliminate fakes. The new benediction scrolls will be produced on computers, rather than done by hand, as has been the practice up to now. Calligraphers in Rome are not happy with this change. It is important to realize that the payment has always been for the parchment scroll and not for the blessing itself, since blessings cannot be bought or sold.

CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

Stanisław Barańczak Dies at Age 68, Tadeusz Konwicki Dies at 88

January was the month in which we lost two magnificent Polish intellectuals.

The outstanding poet, translator and essayist — Stanisław Barańczak died at his home in Newtonville, in the suburbs of Boston, Mass. Barańczak has long suffered from Parkinson's disease.

In 1968 he released his debut volume of poetry "Facial Correction." He was one of the most significant artists and the creator of the so-called "New Wave" — a postwar trend in Polish poetry. In 1981 he was offered a job at Harvard University and moved to the United States. After the introduction of martial law in Poland, he decided to stay permanently in the U.S. The most important Barańczak's works are: "In One Breath," and "Tryptych with Concrete, Fatigue and Snow." He was also a brilliant translator among others of the works of Shakespeare. He won the 1999 NIKE Award.

News about Tadeusz Konwicki's death came on Jan. 7. Prose

and screenwriter, as well as movie director, Konwicki died in Warsaw at age 88. His works such as: "From the Besieged City," "A Chronicle of Amorous Incidents," and "Ascension Into Heaven," depict war and Stalinism with a protagonist unable to accept and establish his identity. His works served as an analysis of social memory and are to these days, an important cinematic and literary legacy in a post-war Poland.

NA ZDROWIE, JAMES BOND! Agent 007 Drinks Polish Vodka in a New Movie "Spectre." James Bond's drinks are always an important issue in the saga about the Agent of Her Majesty. This time, the one chosen for the most famous spy is the alcohol produced in Żyrardów, Poland. For the first time in history, one of the most recognizable, luxury Polish brand — Belvedere Vodka — will be a part of the famous movie "Spectre," starring Daniel Craig. The movie has its premiere on Nov. 6, 2015, yet Belvedere has already

created a special edition — the M16 bottle in a limited run of 100 bottles, the income from which will be donated mostly to charity. Knowing Bond's penchant for the "shaken, not stirred" martini, hopefully in the new movie he won't have to grapple with a hangover.

MAMMA MIA! IN WARSAW. A longtime Broadway hit (played from 2001) and a global sell-out, Mamma Mia!, will have a grand opening in Feb. in Warsaw's "Teatr Roma."

The musical based on the greatest hit songs by Abba, such as "Mamma Mia," "Chiquitita," "Take a Chance on Me" and "Waterloo," is an entertaining yet touching story about a mother and a daughter who tries to find out her real father's identity. The Polish production is the 17th foreign-language version of this musical.

Tickets are available at the Roma box office and the theater's website (www.teatrroma.pl).

Price ranges from zł.70 to zł.150.

MODLITWY

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

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

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

“Rutkowski Way” Street Dedication



Street dedication gathering.

Henry J. “Hank” Rutkowski, Sr., 89, is a longtime fixture in Chicago’s southwest side, Archer Heights neighborhood. He is also well-known at his St. Bruno Parish. For the past 70 years and on every December 6th, “Hank” has attended mass at St. Bruno Church to dedicate a mass to the memory of a lost World War II crewmate, Joseph Marlowe of South Carolina.

Very few know about Rutkowski, a World War II decorated veteran and a former prisoner of war. In 1943, at the age of 17 and with permission from his parents, Rutkowski enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. On December 6, 1944, Sergeant Rutkowski and crewmembers were assigned to bomb oil refineries in Marsberg, Germany. This was his first mission aboard the B-17 flying fortress, Blanco Diablo (White Devil), and it would be the crew’s last. Shortly after completing its bombing mission, the fortress’s right wing was hit by anti-aircraft flak. The plane quickly lost fuel and altitude. The crew bailed out over Nazi-occupied Holland. Eight crewmembers survived, but Marlowe’s parachute malfunctioned and he was killed. The crew was immediately captured and spent the rest of the war as prisoners of war at the Stalag Luft 1 prisoner of war camp in Barth, Germany. It was a camp for captured Allied airmen. Russian soldiers freed the camp on May 8, 1945.

Today, Rutkowski, the only survivor of this crew, is the recipient of the Good Conduct Medal, the Air Medal, the European Theatre of War

Medal, and the POW Medal. Before retiring in 1993, he worked for 40 years at Schulze & Birch Biscuit Company in Chicago’s Bridgeport area.

It was quite a surprise, when, on December 6, 2014, Rutkowski walked into St. Bruno’s Church and found family members, friends, veterans, Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, and 14th Ward alderman Edward Burke sitting in the pews. It was Burke who had learned about Rutkowski, when he happened to meet up with him after mass on December 6, 2013.

Rutkowski was to be honored by having a street dedicated to him. The Chicago City Council chronicled his service to his country and his Archer Heights neighborhood by naming a street (a section of 48th Street at Harding), just outside the church in his honor: Henry J. “Hank” Rutkowski Way.

Rutkowski understandably was overwhelmed, but known for his humility, he acknowledged that the real heroes are “the ones that didn’t come back.”

PACC & PAL-PAC HOST HOLIDAY PARTY. The second annual holiday party jointly hosted by Polish American Chamber of Commerce (PACC) and the Polish American Leadership - Political Action Committee (PAL-PAC) was held on December 12, at the elegant European Crystal Banquets in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Almost 450 guests attended. The evening began with a meet and greet cocktail hour, followed by special greetings

from PAL-PAC’s executive director, **Kinga Aleksandrowicz**, and PACC’s executive director, **Bogdan Puksza**. Introductory remarks were then given by **Anna Morzy**, president of PACC, **Lucas Fuksa**, president of PAL-PAC, **Michal Krynski**, chairman of the board of the PAL-PAC Junior Board, and **Arie Zweig**, PAL-PAC’s chairman of the board. In his remarks, Mr. Zweig introduced Illinois Governor-Elect Bruce



Arie Zweig, Frank Spula, and Bob Dold. PHOTO: PACC

Rauner, who came to the podium and addressed the Polish American community. Polish Deputy Consul General Robert Rusiecki then followed with holiday greetings and included a short reflection on 2014’s important historic anniversaries. Among the guests in attendance were: Illinois Congressman-Elect Bob Dold; Judge James Pieczonka; Chicago’s 30th Ward Alderman Ariel Reboyras; Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo; and Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress President Frank Spula.

The evening continued with dinner and wine, followed by dessert donated by **Bogna Solak** of Oak Mill Bakery, a performance by **Polanie**, a Polish dance troupe, and dancing to the live music of **Marek**

Kalinowski Band. Events concluded with a raffle of assorted prizes.

Guests also had the opportunity to meet **Adam Lizakowski**, Chicago’s premiere Polish poet, author of the newly published 40 Listow Poetyckich (40 Poetic Letters from Chicago to Pieszyce). Mr. Lizakowski graciously autographed his books.

The PACC is at the forefront of encouraging and promoting domestic and foreign trade to benefit its members and future business associates. It is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of Illinois as a business association. As the voice of numerous Polish American business men and women, the PACC’s goals include promoting member businesses and enhancing trade relations between the United States and Poland. PAL-PAC is an organization that addresses social, civic, and business interests of the Polish American community in the United States.

CLASSICAL EVENTS NOT BE MISSED. If you live in the Chicago area or plan on visiting, don’t forget to see “**The Passenger**,” an opera by **Mieczyslaw Weinberg**, performed by the Lyric Opera of Chicago at the Civic Opera House from February 24 to March 25, 2015. Tickets are available at (312) 827-5600 or at lyricopera.org. Also, coming to Chicago is “**The Property**,” a klezmer opera, composed by

Los Angeles-based Polish composer, **Wlad Marhulets**, with a libretto by Stephanie Fleischmann and Eric Einhorn. Based on a graphic novel by Rutu Modan, an Israeli illustrator, it tells the story of “a woman and her daughter who travel to modern-day Warsaw to try to regain family property lost during World War II.” The opera, with its klezmer-flavored music, will include members of Chicago’s renowned Maxwell Street Klezmer Band.

“**The Property**” will be presented in conjunction with the Lyric’s premiere of Weinberg’s “The Passenger,” and will be performed at two locations. Southside Chicagoans can have the opportunity of seeing this opera at the Logan Center of Performing Arts at the University of Chicago, February 25-27, 2015. Northsiders can see performances at the North Shore Center of Performing Arts in Skokie, March 4-5, 2015. Tickets are available at (312) 827-5600 or at lyricopera.org/property.

The **Newberry Consort**, a Chicago-based classical music group, will explore early Polish music, from the Renaissance world of Copernicus to the Baroque Period. Three concerts will be co-directed by Tom Zajac, a Chicago native, and a Consort audience favorite. The program will include Polish dances, folk tunes, songs, and choral repertory from Poland’s rich musical culture and from one of Chicago’s most vibrant ethnic communities. These concerts will run from March 20-22, 2015, at three different locations. For further information contact the Newberry Consort at (773) 669-7355 or info@newberryconsort.com.

MILESTONES / Richard Poremski

Bronislaw Rynkowski Turns 100

BALTIMORE, Md. – There was quite a celebration here on New Year’s Eve, 2014: the 100th Birthday of Bronislaw (“Bronia”) Rynkowski.

She was born in Baltimore on New Year’s Eve of December 31, 1914 to parents Stanislaw and Katarzyna Tomaszewski. In keeping with the Polish Catholic large family norm of the bygone era, her siblings were Adam, Ewa, Czeslaw, Stefan, Janina and Kazimierz. Bronia’s mature and loving marriage to Adam Rynkowski in 1966 ended with his passing 25 years later in 1991 at age 99.

Over 40 family members and guests attended the early afternoon centennial celebration at the Polish National Alliance, Council 21 petite banquet room. Everyone sang the traditional celebratory “Sto Lat!” (“100 Years”) with a special em-



Bronislaw celebrating her 100th birthday.

phasis on this auspicious birthday occasion. Blessings and prayers were given in Polish and English. Many toasts were made followed by a recounting of Bronia’s long

and well-lived years in the forms of spoken words, recalled vignettes, photo albums, and narrated projected photos.

A Papal blessing was received from Pope Francis, as well as greetings from U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski and other government officials.

After a large buffet and dancing, a radiant Bronia was surrounded by everyone dancing a circle around her table, with the merrymakers often stopping to bestow kisses on her cheeks.

With the hale and hearty Bronia Rynkowski now entering the second century of her life in 2015 we must now happily toast her with “Dwiescie Lat!” (“200 Hundred Years”).

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US!

Wesołego Alleluja!

Send greetings to family and friends across the miles with a patron ad in our Easter 2015 edition

Easter brings spiritual renewal. It is a time when once again our beautiful traditions and customs come to life. They are reminders of the inseparable relationship between our heritage and our faith.

We find it our mission to make sure these traditions do not fade away. But to do so, we need your help.

We invite you to participate in the time-honored tradition of demonstrating your support with an Easter Patron advertisement. This is not only a way to show fellow Polish Americans you care about our culture, but is a way to send Easter greetings to family, friends, and fellow Polonians across the miles. Can we count on you?

If you have any questions, please call 1 (800) 422-1275. Don't be left out!

TIMELESS TRADITIONS, like the blessing of Easter foods on Holy Saturday, are shared by Poles and their descendents across the globe. Your support directly helps the Polish American Journal’s mission to keep these customs alive for future generations, and to teach those who have forgotten the ways of our ancestors.

YES! I wish to support the PAJ by placing an ad in the EASTER 2015 EDITION. Please find a contribution in the amount of:

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

GROWING UP POLISH AMERICAN / R. Lucjan Łaniewski

Pieces of Heaven

After a grueling day battling real or perceived forces of evil, serious relaxation is in order, and what better way than to have a cup of good, hot tea, or preferably coffee, *czarna, z fusami* (black, brewed right in the cup) and a delectable pastry, Polish style, of course.

I grew up in New York City with my Polish parents and their Polish friends, and that's what I observed them doing, and that's what I longed to do myself someday.

Ah, but that was several lives ago. Now we live in Sandy, Utah, where we're served green jello with shredded carrots both as a vegetable and as a dessert (yes, it's as revolting as it sounds), most of the coffee tastes like swill, the most popular bagels are not boiled, but steamed before baking (oy!), and the beer, well, it can only be described as almost-near-beer. Lattespresso snobs might counter my coffee sentiment with the fact that there are Starbucks in Utah. Well, there are, but so what? Wild mushrooms grow here, too, but that doesn't mean they're all edible.

The favorite confection of Utahns, desired ... no, demanded and greedily devoured by masses of unruly children and mindless adults, is the venerable doughnut, mass-produced at the so-called "bakery" department of the local supermarket, and coated with tons of sugar and gobs of icing in unnatural colors. A far cry from *paczki* (Polish-style doughnuts), indeed. In civilized cities like New York, Chicago, and others, one can hop into a cab and within minutes, be surrounded by ethnic treats galore. Oh, what I wouldn't give for a decent napoleon, or a *rogalik*, or a hearty loaf of pumpernickel, or a creamy *sernik*, or a plump *makowiec*, or ... *faworki*.

THE TIME MACHINE travels back to the mid-1950s. I hear the clatter in the kitchen, and listen to the hypnotic "thunk, thunk, thunk" of the rolling pin as my mother, with just the right balance of gentle firmness, convinces a clump of mildly sweet dough to the proper thinness. Patiently, I watch her, my elbows on the table and my chin resting in both hands.

"Mamusiu," I say, "I've heard that some people make faworki thick and big, and that one is enough for a meal."

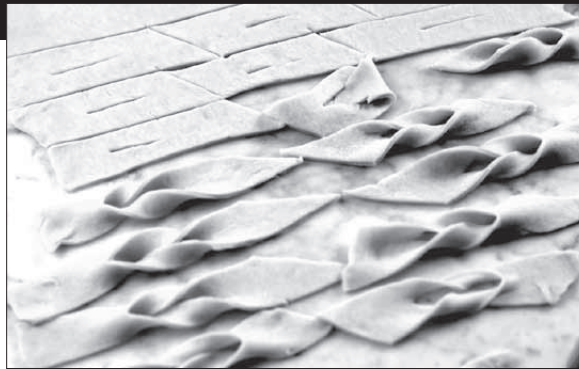
She says nothing, but the suggestion of a smile and the twinkle in her eye betray her thoughts, as she continues rolling, rolling, coaxing the elastic dough so thin, you can clearly see the designs

of the Formica right through it. At just the proper time, she sets aside the roller and ponders the delicate sheet for a moment, much like an artist would analyze his or her work in progress, deciding what color next to apply. She reaches for the knife, and in a flash—I dare not blink—the sheet is perfectly scored into strips, each about 3 cm by 15-20 cm, with not a square centimeter unused. I stare in awe at her hand as it produces, in blur of movement, another quick series of *tik-tik-tik*'s, magically conjuring up a slit of just the right length along the belly of each strip.

Hands washed and ready for this very moment, I anxiously await the inevitable nod of approval.

The race begins! I struggle to peel one of the sheer strips from the table. Then, with jaw set and tongue protruding from the corner of my mouth, using as much delicacy as a small boy's clumsy fingers can muster, I painstakingly feed one end of the strip through the slit, giving the pastry its strangely mobius-like character. I shake it gently to even out the twin opposing spirals and hold it up carefully for mother's approval. With a smile of pride, she nods her head. Gently, I lay my treasure next to the twelve she has already twisted in this time, and I take on another. Before long, all the strips have been properly inverted and arranged in formation, much like soldiers, lying at attention, awaiting orders.

MEANWHILE, with her other pair of hands, mother has already prepared the cooking pot and heated the lard (yes, *lard!*) to just beyond the smoking point. My assignment has now changed; I now must send these soldiers into battle to face certain death! (Hey, remember that I'm just a kid at the time, ok? I simply had a slightly morbid imagination, which was perfectly normal for kids that age.) Mother stands poised with a fork in each hand as I gingerly slip a twisted strip into the hot lard, trying not to make it splash. It disappears for half an instant in the murky liquid, then suddenly pops to the surface in a sea of bubbling foam, now horribly deformed and puffed up by the hot lard. In seconds, mother places the tines of the forks in just the right spots under the strip, and with a flick of both wrists, flips it over, causing hardly a ripple. A few seconds later, when the cooking process is complete, the forks form a stretcher and lift the perfectly cooked strip to



its temporary resting place: a large flat pan lined with towels which thirstily suck up the excess lard.

We repeat this process, cooking three or four at a time, until the holding pan is covered with a layer of faworki. Somehow, mother finds yet another hand which she uses to sift a snowstorm of powdered sugar over the still-warm pastries.

This process went on for what seemed like hours. The result was a pastry so light that you could eat about seventy-three of them before you even felt like you ate anything at all.

PIECES OF HEAVEN! They seemed to dissolve even before they got to your mouth. And of course, as you ate one, breathing wasn't an option, for the slightest air current would raise a cloud of the white powdered sugar onto your face and shirt.

Mom always made faworki in batches of about 400-500, but she'd always have to allocate portions to neighbors, friends, the landlord, co-workers, and so on. We always got "stuck" with the (yum!) burnt and broken ones, and a small plate of about seventeen orphans that refused to fit properly on the serving trays. Of course, we were too polite to snarf all these down at once, so the last few got relegated to the fridge, and took a few nerve-wracking days to vanish.

The last ones always became moist and droopy, sitting in a gooey sugar mess. In actuality, saving those for us was merely a formality, as many of the ones destined for distribution never quite made it to the serving trays.

Paczki? Feh!

Sorry, had to wipe a tear from my eye and drool off my chin.

So, you see, Polish culture is more than just arguing politics, history, or the subtle nuances of polka music; it is tradition. Everyone has their own "faworki" story and you've heard mine. In a land of green-jello-with-shredded-carrots, it is a rare treat to even discuss such matters. In life, one needs pleasant memories.

PĄCZKI DAY VS. TŁUSTY CZWARTEK

In Poland, *paczki* are eaten especially on Fat Thursday (Tłusty Czwartek), the last Thursday prior to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, this year, February 12. The traditional reason for making *paczki* was to use up all the lard, sugar, eggs and fruit in the house, because their consumption was forbidden by Catholic fasting practices during Lent.

In North America, particularly the large Polish communities of Chicago, Detroit, and other large cities across the Midwest, *Pączki Day* is celebrated annually by immigrants and locals alike. The date of this observance merges with that of pre-Lenten traditions of other immigrants (e.g., Pancake Day, *Mardi Gras*) on Fat Tuesday (February 17 for 2015). Chicagoans, due to the city's sizable Polish population, celebrate the festival on both Fat Thursday and Fat Tuesday, and also often eat *paczki* on Casimir Pulaski Day. In Buffalo, Toledo, Cleveland, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Milwaukee, South Bend, and Windsor, *Pączki Day* is celebrated on Fat Tuesday.

The *Pączki Day* celebrations in some areas are even larger than many celebrations for St. Patrick's Day. In Hamtramck, Michigan, an enclave of Detroit, there is an annual *Pączki Day* (Shrove Tuesday) Parade, which has gained a devoted following. In the Metro Detroit area, it is so widespread throughout the region that many bakeries have line-ups on *Pączki Day*.

In some areas, *Pączki Day* is celebrated with *paczki*-eating contests. The eating contest in Evanston, Illinois, started in 2010, and is held on the weekend before Fat Tuesday, while Hamtramck's contest is held on the holiday.

PICKUP A PACK OF PALATE-PLEASING PĄCZKI. Once again, Polish Youngstown will be selling these delicious seasonal treats for your enjoyment. They will be ready for pick-up on Fat Tuesday morning, Feb. 17, starting at 7:30 a.m. at Kravitz Delicatessen Liberty, 3135 Belmont Ave. Youngstown, Ohio 44505 or at Kravitz's Poland Library, 311 S. Main Street, Poland, Ohio. Costs are \$1.50/*paczek* and \$15/one dozen with a pre-order. Preorder recommended. Flavors available include apricot/custard/*lekvar* (plum), poppyseed, rose hip, and sugared (plain).

All proceeds go to benefit Polish Youngstown's children's programming and growing scholarship fund. For more information call (330) 746-8900. Downloadable order forms at www.polishyoungstown.org.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

It's Pączki Time!

PĄCZKI, POLISH DOUGHNUTS (paczki). Combine 2 cakes mashed yeast with 1 c flour and 1 c warm milk in a bowl and leave in warm place to rise. Beat well 6 egg yolks with 1/3 c sugar, add 1/3 c warm milk and continue to beat in double boiler until mixture thickens. Remove from flame and continue beating until mixture is lukewarm. Sift 3 c flour onto bread-board, mix in yeast mixture, egg mixture, 1/2 jigger rum, brandy or vodka, 1/2 t salt, 1 t vanilla and grated rind of 1/2 a lemon. Knead thoroughly, gradually adding 1/3 c melted butter. Continue kneading vigorously until air blisters appear and dough no longer sticks to hands. Place in warm bowl, cover with clean dish towel or plastic wrap and allow to double in bulk in a warm, draft-free place. Roll dough out 1/2 inch thick and cut into circles with glass or biscuit-cutter. Place on parchment, cover with clean tea towel or plastic wrap and allow to double in bulk. Fry a few at a time without crowding in hot 350° lard or shortening until brown on both sides. For plain *paczki* dust with powdered sugar or apply plain glaze. (Mix 1 c confectioner's sugar with 1-2 T milk or rum until spreadable.) For filled *paczki* use a pastry bag or syringe to inject a bit of rose-petal jam, *powidla* (Polish plum butter) or other jam of choice. Then dust with powdered sugar or glaze as above.

GLUTEN-FREE PĄCZKI (paczki bezglutenowe). Combine 1/2 c sugar, 1 t salt, 1-3/4 c warm milk, 1 stick butter and 4 beaten eggs and stir until smooth and blended. Stir in 1-1/2 T (2 packets) active dry yeast, let stand 5 min (or longer until yeast dissolves) and stir again. Add 1/4 c 100 proof vodka and 1 t vanilla extract. Transfer mixture to electric stand mixer. Using the paddle attachment while adding 1-1/2 c gluten-free flour and stir on low until smooth and well blended. Set aside in a warm place to rise for

1 to 2-1/2 hours. It is normal for the dough to rise and collapse. Beat in 3 more c flour and beat on high about 4 min. Add remaining 3 cups of flour and beat on high until thickened (about 4 min). Dough will be on the sticky side! Transfer to floured bread-board. Sprinkle top of dough with flour but do not knead it into the dough. Press down with hands or roll out 1/2" thick. Cut into rounds with glass or pastry cutter and place on parchment-lined baking sheet. Brush away any clinging flour and spray or sprinkle dough with water. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise about 30 min. In cast-iron pot or electric roaster heat lard or oil to 350°. In hot fat 2-3" deep cook several *paczki* at a time 2-3 min or until bottom is golden brown, then flip over and cook the other side to a golden brown. Transfer *paczki* to absorbent paper. As above, they may be filled, or unfilled, plain, dusted with confectioner's sugar or glazed.

ANGEL WINGS (faworki, chruściki, chrust). Mound 4 c. flour on bread-board, make a volcano-like crater at top, in which deposit 4 raw egg yolks and 1 T white distilled vinegar or 100 proof vodka. With knife blade shovel flour into crater, fold in 1/2 c sour cream and combine ingredients well. Knead dough until firm, roll it into a ball and then beat the living daylight out of it with a heavy, wooden rolling-pin. Reform into a ball and continue beating until air blisters appear. Roll out 1/4 of the dough at a time very thin, keep the rest wrapped in plastic wrap so it doesn't dry out. Cut into 4x1 inch strips, make a vertical slit at center and pull one end through the slit to form a bow. Fry briefly in hot lard or shortening until pale golden brown on both sides and gently remove with slotted spoon to paper-towel-lined tray. Dust with confectioner's sugar. Proceed the same way with the remaining dough.

Polish Heritage Dancers Present their 18th Annual

Pączki Day



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SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydłowski

Czy będziesz moja? Will You Be Mine?

Now that the New Year is here, what resolutions did you make, as you sat comfortable in your pajamas by the fireplace?

THE SHORT MONTH. The Italians say “February, the shortest month in the year, is also the worst.” February was the Roman month of purification. It was the shortest month because Augustus Caesar took a day from February and added it to August to make that month (which had been named after him) longer than July (which had been named for Julius Caesar.)

CANDLEMAS. February 2, Candlemas Day, takes its name from the blessing of candles on this day for use in church throughout the coming year. It is the feast of the presentation of Christ in the Temple when Simeon hailed him as “A light to lighten the Gentiles.” Christians used to light candles for Baby Jesus and Mother Mary and perhaps that is why in some areas today, the snowdrops which are evidence at this season are known as Candlemas Bells or Mary’s tapers.

There is an old belief that all hibernating animals, and especially the badger (groundhog) wake up on

Candlemas Day and come out to see if it is still winter. If it is a sunny day, the animals will see their shadows and go back to earth for a further 40 days. If it is cloudy they will not be frightened by their shadows and will stay about ground.

ONE OF THE POLISH GREATS born into nobility on February 4, 1746 was **Tadeusz Kosciuszko**, who in time would help the people on two continents in their struggle for freedom. There are many interesting books pertaining to Kosciuszko. The ones I found most informative were “The Purest Son of Liberty” by James Pula, “Peasant Prince” Alex Storzynski, and “Friends of Liberty” by Gary Nash.

CZY BĘDZIESZ MOJA? Long before St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers, a festival was held in ancient Rome during February in honor of the great god Pan. The festival was called Lupercalia, and one of its customs was for the names of young men and women to be shaken in a box and then drawn in lottery fashion to choose sweethearts. It happened that in the third century, Bishop Valentine of Rome, noted for his goodness and chastity, was

martyred on the eve of the feast of Lupercalia.

LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULEZ! Let us party, for it is Mardi Gras time!

The origin of Mardi Gras can be traced to medieval Europe, passing through Rome and Venice in the 17th and 18th centuries to the French House of the Bourbons. From here, the traditional revelry of “Boeuf Gras” or fatted calf, followed France to her colonies. New Orleans was established in 1718 by the French Canadian explorer Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville. By the 1730s Mardi Gras was celebrated openly in New Orleans, but not as we know it of today. In the early 1740s Louisiana’s governor, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, established elegant balls.

The earliest reference to Mardi Gras “Carnival” appears in a 1781 report to the Spanish governing body. That year, the Perseverance Benevolent & Mutual Aid Association was the first of hundreds of clubs and carnival organizations formed in New Orleans.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent begins. Eggs and fat were not eaten during Lent, so they had

to be used and pancakes were the traditional way of doing this. It was a time of great festivity before the fasting and penance during Lent.

THIS CHRISTMAS PAST. What a way for me to start the Holidays by attending two of the Christmas Concerts on Long Island. The first one was at the Polish American Museum on December 14, featuring the all male voices of the Oginski Chorus, which sang traditional Polish kolędy, and the Slavic Arts Ensemble performing classical Christmas music.

The day after Christmas, St. Stephen’s Day, it was a Polish Mass at St. Ladislaus Church, followed by a Christmas Concert featuring Polish kolędy sung by Klaudia Morełowska, and Evelina Backiel, accompanied by violinist Krystyna Wirkowski. There were also Christmas songs sung by Tom Kozakiewicz.

LECTURE TIME. The Polish American Museum located at 16 Bellevue Avenue, Port Washington, New York, will hold a lecture, “Tracing your Ancestors,” with Professor Jonathan Shea of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecti-

cut and the Northeast, Sun., Feb. 8 at 2:00 p.m. Also, applications will be available for the Founders Scholarship on March 1 for Nassau and Suffolk County students of Polish descent attending college in the Fall.

Coming to the museum in March: a Spring Concert. Details in next month’s column.

The museum mourns the loss of the last founding member, **Julian Jurus**.

The museum is open on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Group tours, please call for an appointment at (516) 883-6542.

AND NOW YOU KNOW. If you wondered why you make resolution for the New Year (and never keep them), you are following a tradition the Romans began each year. They made promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. While in the Medieval era, the knights took the “peacock vow” at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. The ancient Babylonian made promises to their gods at the start each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts.

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

Lasso the Moon!

Even though we live in a Jetson’s world of science and technology, as you know, I remain a guy of the past. Tradition and history mean a lot to me. Along with our Polish customs, every Christmas I make a point to watch *It’s a Wonderful Life*, the greatest movie ever made.

There are a number of angles and messages in *It’s a Wonderful Life* besides the main one (which as Clarence tells George) is each “man’s life touches so many other lives. When he isn’t around, he leaves an awful hole.” If we think our life is meaningless, worthless, or without merit, when we really examine it and think about it, we most likely have been given more and accomplished much more than we realize and our life is important to others in ways we cannot imagine. That message is apt and worth contemplating for Americans and Polish Americans alike. With that, my work is done, good night everybody!

“Wonderful life” is the title theme but the movie includes a love story, a struggle of good versus evil, human failing, human triumph, and also has touches of ethnic — when Mr. Potter calls George’s Savings and Loan friends “garlic eaters” for instance. But it is St. Valentine’s month and so I want to dwell on the love story aspect represented in the two great romantic parts of the movie. The first is when George meets up with Mary at the dance in the high school gym and the other is when he visits her house and finally succumbs to falling in love with her.

The gym scene is reminiscent of Romeo and Juliet where George spies Mary across the room and she gazes at him. Mary’s eyes light up and the two are immediately drawn to one another. They dance, laugh, and tumble into the underground pool and are “awash” in frivolity and friendship. It is a light moment, full of puppy love, and how a couple of high-school kids might act.

Some time later, at the urging of George’s mom (“nice girl that Mary; the kind that will help you

find the answers George”) he pays Mary a visit at her home. George Bailey is torn about where he is in life, where he is going, and what to do next; to become independent and the adventurer he yearns to be or commit to the woman he loves. Mary on the other hand is the immovable object who knows exactly what she wants and eventually Mary captures and consumes him by her will and feminine presence, ending in one of the most passionate embraces and kisses of all time. I’m holding an ice cube on the back of my neck right now thinking about it.

Outstanding events in my wonderful world occurred most recently as two young couples dear to me became engaged to be married. The first is the son of a Polish friend who is marrying a lovely young woman, also of Polish descent. I have observed a number of our young people who cherish their Polish heritage frustrated about pursuing or finding someone of Polish extraction. Marriage is about a feeling of familiarity, being connected on a number of levels, and being comfortable around the other person. Culture and background can play a significant part of that familiarity, connectedness, and comfort so I think it is so neat that they found one another. The Polish boys and girls are out there! Hook up!

The other is my youngest daughter Brigitte Aniela and her fiancé Alex. I have watched them evolve over the years into caring and mature adults who now are like a blend of good wine or bourbon getting better with age. I am busting with happiness for them because I believe they have their heads in the right places and seem very content with each other.

Both couples are happy and that makes me happy. God bless them and I mention these two shining examples because I hope and pray that our young Polish kids, like George and Mary, experience that mix of silliness and partying at the gym and the transition to seri-

ous gut-wrenching decision making about whom to marry, to form a family with, and share a wonderful life together. Whatever the formula in finding the “someone who will help you find the answers,” whether it is dancing the Charleston, living in Bedford Falls, or simply that both of our grandmas came from Lomza, I hope and pray all of our kids lasso the moon!

Happy Valentine’s Day! Ja cie Kocham!

POLISH OR NOT? Seen on the EthniCelebs website, **Erin Brady**, Miss USA 2013 is Armenian, Irish, German, and Polish. She is a Connecticut girl; does anyone from Connecticut know how Polish she is or can you find out? At a minimum, just to be in the mix of that beautiful creation, whatever the Polish percentage is noteworthy. What a gorgeous woman.



SANDRA DEE. Family roots in Poland.

In the January Pondering Pole, I spoke about the Polish connection for the story behind the musical *Grease*. From Wikipedia, “One of the popular songs of the Broadway musical and 1978 movie *Grease* is “Look at Me, I’m Sandra Dee,” in which the rebellious Rizzo satirizes new girl Sandy’s (Dumbrowski) clean-cut image, likened to Sandra Dee’s.” The real Sandra Dee was the daughter of Mary (Cymboliak) and John Zuck who were of Carpatho-Rusyn descent.

“Rusyns are an ethnic group from Eastern Europe, including Poland, where Sandra’s family was from” (<http://ethniccelebs.com/sandra-dee>). So a young woman from a Northwest neighborhood in Chicago was the model for Sandy Dumbrowski who was modeled after Sandra Dee, a young woman and American ac-

trix from Bayonne, N.J., married to the singer Bobby Darin, and whose grandparents came from Vilna and Izby, Poland.

A nice tribute to **Martha Stewart** appeared on the *Yahoo* ticker. In a *Forbes* magazine article titled “30 Under 30 Who Are Moving the World in 2015,” the actress Blake Lively, age 27 is featured as the creator of a web-site called *Preserve* that “sells clothes, food, and home goods that reflect Lively’s taste in U.S.-made artisanal goods, crafts, and foods.” The article mentions that “as a kid, Lively idolized Martha Stewart, and hoped to create her own lifestyle brand one day.”

Dziękuję bardzo to **Joseph John Czepiel** for the holiday greetings and interesting information especially about the Mummer’s New Year’s Eve parade in Philadelphia. I never knew it existed, the history of it, the spectacle of it all, and so

thank you Joseph for that. Check out the Polish American String Band *50 Shades of Hay* on the official Mummer’s Parade website <http://mummers.com/> for 2015. I was very impressed with the group’s performance and you can watch it yourself from the website.



If you have a thought about this month’s topic, have an answer to the question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139 ; email alibrig@yahoo.com.

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

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Olejniczak Helped Keep the Packers Alive

Sports fans know the names of many of the great coaches and players of the Green Bay Packers, but not that many know the name of the Polish American who played a big role in the survival of that historic franchise: **Dominic Olejniczak**.

Olejniczak became president of the Packers back in the late 1950s and played a key role in the survival and success of the NFL's storied franchise.

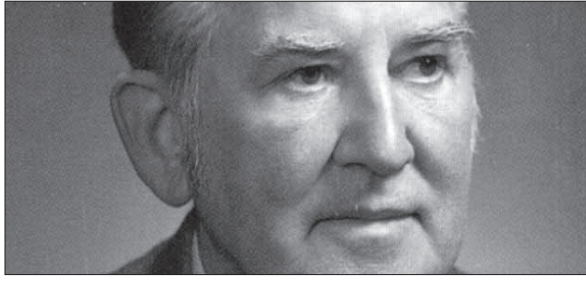
He was a native of Green Bay, born in 1908. As a young man he lived near the team's stadium at that time, and often took part in the team tradition of a youngster walking into the stadium with a player, carrying the player's helmet.

Dominic grew up and, like his father John, became a real estate broker. He served as alderman from 1936 to 1944 and then as mayor for five terms from 1945 to 1955. As mayor he was involved with a lot of important issues, like building a pipeline to Lake Michigan and planning a beltline around the city. However, most people remember him for his role with the Packers.

In 1950, while still mayor, Olejniczak was named to the Packers Board of Directors. With the team desperate for money, he led the civic drive that sold shares in the team that brought in more than \$100,000. Two years later he was named to the team's Executive Committee. He was also intimately involved in the building of New City Stadium (later called Lambeau Field) at a time NFL owners were threatening to move the team to Milwaukee.

Besides the Packers he was also active in many associations, including the Knights of Columbus and Elks Club. He received the Knighthood of St. Gregory from Bishop Aloysius John Wycislo and an honorary Doctorate of Law Degree from St. Norbert College.

Olejniczak became president of the Packer Board in early 1958. Far removed from their six NFL titles, the Packers hadn't had a winning season in ten years. Then the Packers posted their worst season ever (1-10-1) in Olejniczak's first year under coach Ray "Scooter" McLean.



In 1950, while still mayor, Olejniczak was named to the Packers Board of Directors and led the civic drive that sold shares in the team that brought in more than \$100,000.

Packer fans were enraged. "I can remember him taking me to a game and seeing him hung in effigy," recalled his son Tom. "It was a pretty interesting start. But he was a tough guy and had a thick skin. I think politics helped him with that."

His key move was heading the search committee for a new coach that brought Vince Lombardi to Green Bay as coach and general manager — but that wasn't a no-brainer at the time. Lombardi was a good assistant for the New York Giants, but he had no head coaching experience above high school. He wasn't known in the Midwest, having grown up, played and coached on the East Coast. Many wondered if the Brooklyn-born son of Italian immigrants would have trouble gaining acceptance in a small Wisconsin city that had a number of Western and Eastern European immigrant communities, but few Italian Americans.

In the end, Olejniczak got his man and the results were almost immediate. The Packers became the dominant team of the 1960s, winning five world championships over a seven-year span, including victories in the first two Super Bowls. While Lombardi was running the team, Olejniczak was busy stabilizing the organization and finances, building up a large surplus.

The team didn't do as well on the field when Lombardi left as coach in 1967, but the franchise was in a solid position for the future. Olejniczak remained as president until he resigned in 1982, having served 24 years in the unpaid position — more than anyone in the team's history. Olejniczak was then named the first Packer chairman of the board and served in that role until 1989, when he died at age 80.

One of his two sons, Mark, is a prominent Green Bay realtor who was an all-conference quarterback at UW-Stevens Point. The other son, Tom, a lawyer and long-time Packer

board member, was elected to the seven-man executive committee in 2013.

Today the Packers are the only non-profit, community-owned major league professional sports team in the United States, located in a small Wisconsin city of about 100,000 people. Olejniczak played a key role in laying the foundation for that great success story.



HALL-OF-FAMER. She's only 40, but **Liz (Janiszewski) Johnson** (above) has been elected to the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in the Superior Performance category. Liz will be inducted in a ceremony that will take place April 29 at the 2015 USBC Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. She will be joined by fellow honoree Larry Laub and the three inductees previously elected in the Outstanding USBC Performance category.

In 1996 Johnson won the first of her three U.S. Women's Open titles and captured Professional Women's Bowling Association Rookie of the Year honors. When the PWBA ceased operations in 2003 she competed with the men in the Professional Bowlers Association. She became the first woman to make a PBA telecast (2005 PBA Banquet Open) and later became the first woman to win a PBA regional title. In 2014 the Cheektowaga, N.Y.-resident was the second winner of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame's Excellence in Sports award.

Previous USBC Hall of Fame inductees include Ed Lubanski, Billy Golembiewski, Aleta Rzepecki Sill, Betty Kuczynski and Gary Daroszewski.

COACH K'S KIDS. Two young coaches who learned much about

the game from Duke's legendary **Mike Krzyzewski** are now blazing their own trails in college basketball. In a very short time, **Bobby Hurley** of the University of Buffalo and **Steve Wojciechowski** of Marquette already are turning around their respective programs.

In his second year at Buffalo, Hurley continues to build on last season, when he led the Bulls to their first ever outright MAC East Division title. Despite graduating some key players, UB has played well this season, including one of two of the top programs in the country on the road. The undersized Bulls led at halftime before losing at No. 1 Kentucky. Then, UB also led at the half before losing to No. 6 Wisconsin, due in large part to a 25 points, 11 rebounds and six blocked shots from the Badgers 7-ft. All-America candidate Frank Kaminsky.

Wojciechowski is doing well as he works to rebuild the Golden Eagles. Having played and coached at Duke for two decades, he's putting into practice many of the lessons he learned from the sport's all-time winningest coach. However, at Marquette Wojciechowski showed that he can be flexible. While Krzyzewski's adherence to man-to-man pressure defense is legendary, Wojciechowski has used a zone defense, which he thinks better suits his personnel.

The two former Duke point guards may someday be the leading candidates to succeed Coach K at the helm of the Blue Devils — if he ever decides to leave!

A GRONKING TO REMEMBER? New England Patriot **Rob Gronkowski** has inspired "A Gronking to Remember," a new adult novella about a woman's sexual awakening at the sight of the All-Pro tight end on the football field.

"I'll never forget the first time I saw Gronk spike a football. It changed my life forever," says protagonist Leigh, who later says seeing Gronkowski spike a ball while watching a game with her husband, Dan "... jettisoned jiggling ribbons of electric jelly through my body and melted my knees like two pads of margarine."

Author Lacey Noonan says the 38-page e-book likely will book one of the "Rob Gronkowski Erotica Series."

ALMOST PERFECT. New England kicker **Stephen Gostkowski** finished the 2014 season with 156 points, which made him the NFL's leading scorer for the third straight season. It was also the seventh-best

in NFL history, and the second-best in team history, following his 158-point total last season.

Now in his ninth season and heading to his third Pro Bowl, Gostkowski is the most accurate kicker in Patriots history, and one of the most accurate kickers in the annals of the NFL. Also, Gostkowski ranks first in career 50-yard attempts, having made 13 of 17 (76.5 percent) from that range.

ELSEWHERE IN THE NFL. Oakland kicker **Sebastian Janikowski** finished 2014 with a field goal percentage of 86.4 percent, hitting 19 of his 22 attempts. At age 36 he's still strong, as his longest field goal was 57 yards ... In his second season with Baltimore, fullback **Kyle Juszczyk** saw more action outside of special teams and caught 19 passes ... Rookie third round pick **C.J. Fiedorowicz** started eight games at tight end for the Houston Texans ... former Jaguar SS **Chris Prosinski** finished the season with Philadelphia.

THEY SAID IT

"The two things I'm quite sure we have big advantage over the United States: women, we have the most beautiful women ... I mean beautiful and smart and good culture, most of them come from good houses. And the second thing is food. We have a lot of farmers. We have a lot of healthy food, I think the numbers show in the United States that 50% of the people in the U.S. are overweight, so back in Poland that's impossible — I don't think we have 25% even."

— **Marcin Gortat**, the *Washington Wizards'* "Polish Hammer," called "The Most Interesting Man in the NBA" by USA Today, comparing the *United States* and his native Poland.

❖ ❖ ❖

"I love my foods, but I'm Polish. And I want a Polish sausage today."

— **Rob Gronkowski**, during a guest appearance on *Bravo's Top Chef: Boston*. He helped judge the contestants' "Quick Fire Challenge" creating a Polish sausage from scratch.

❖ ❖ ❖

"But nobody can doubt his influence on what became a phenomenon, as a publicly owned franchise in a quiet corner of Wisconsin ended up one of the brand names of professional sport."

— **Mike Lopresti** in USA Today, writing about former Packers' President **Dominic Olejniczak**.

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BUFFALO, N.Y. — Congratulations to Rochesterians, **Dr. Ralph Józefowicz**, who was recently awarded the Merentibus Medal at Kraków's Jagiellonian University and Polonia Civic Center President **Eugene Golomb**, who was recently honored by the Polish government for his longtime contributions to Rochester's Polonia Community ... The "God is Born, Bóg Się Rodzi" **Christmas concert** featuring the Novi Singers, Our Lady of Sorrows Choir and Maciej Jaskiewicz's Toronto Sinfonietta took place at Toronto's Our Lady of Sorrows Church on January 4 ... Buffalo Auxiliary **Bishop Edward Grosz** marked his 25th year as a bishop during January ... **Lisa Florezak** of Polish folk dancing fame introduced Ice Bikes to Downtown Buffalo's new Canal-side ice rink in early January ... Former Erie County Executive **Dennis Gorski** was sworn in as a Cheektowaga Town Justice, and Cheektowaga Town Councilmember **Angela Wozniak** was installed as the new NYS Assembly member for the 143rd District in early January.

The Chopin Singing Society performed kolędy at St. Gregory the Great Church in Williamsville on January 4; participated in a "Kolędy Celebration" with other choirs of District IX of the Polish Singers Alliance of America at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Hamilton, Ontario on the 11th; and provided the music for Buffalo Mass Mob VIII at **St. Casimir Church** in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood on the 18th of January ... The Professional and Business Women of Polonia heard from **Kathleen Rumpfola** on "Artfully Elegant Folk Dolls" at their

January 8 dinner meeting at Salvatore's Italian Gardens ... Also on the 8th, **Mary Jane Masiulionis** gave a presentation on "Polonia's Migrant Voices" at the **Polish Genealogical Society of NYS** meeting at Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga. The society recently elected the following leadership for 2015: Denise Oliansky (president), David Newman (vice president), Dolores Ferguson (secretary) and Chuck Pyrak (treasurer), along with the following trustees: Pierre LaJoie, Jim Ciulis, Maureen Gleason, Sherry Sojka and Patricia Rooney ... The Syracuse Polish Home hosted its "Oplatek Gala Dinner Dance" featuring the Melody Lane Band on January 10 ... Also on the 10th, Catholic Radio Rodzina sponsored its "Zabawe Oplatekowa" with the music of Non Stop at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario; and "Robmy Swoje", a musical program celebrating the creativity of Wojciech Mlynarski, was presented at the Polish Community Centre in Burlington, Ontario.

Johnny Rzeznik and **Robby Takac** of the "Goo Goo Dolls" performed at the tribute for WNY music legend Lance Diamond at Kleinhans Music Hall on the 10th ... The **Polish Cadets of Buffalo** undertook a redecorating project for the main hall of the Grant Street clubrooms the weekend of January 10 through 12 ... Queen of Martyrs Church in Cheektowaga was the site of the Quo Vadis Choir's "Polish Carols for the Finale of Christmas" program on January 11th ... The Bar Association of Erie County welcomed newly elected Polish American NYS Supreme Court Justices

Donna Siwek and **Paul Wojtaszek**, and Erie County Family Court Judge **Margaret Olszewski Szczur** at its Annual Welcoming Ceremony in Erie County Hall on the 14th ...

The Canadian premiere of **Grzegorz Braun's** film "Nie O Mary Wagner" took place at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga on the 18th. The centre followed up with a Grzegorz Braun Film Festival on February 1st ... **Mary Jane Masiulionis** spoke on "The Beauty of Gorale Folk Culture" at the January 21st meeting of the **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** at the Harlem Road Community Center ... The Polish rock band, **Czerwone Gitary**, stopped at Buffalo's St. Stanislaus Social Center on January 22; Hamilton Place in Hamilton, Ontario on the 23rd; Brampton, Ontario's Rose Theatre on the 24th and London, Ontario's Polish Hall on January 25th; as part of the band's 2015 North American tour ... A "Polish Night" featuring the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY and Special Delivery was held to benefit St. John's Pilgrims For Poland World Youth Day in Krakow 2016 at St. John's Parish in Alden on the 24th ... Also on the 24th, the Potts Banquet Facility in Cheektowaga hosted its 5th Annual **Snow Ball Dance** featuring the music of the New Direction Band; and Krystyny Gizowski and the Quo Vadis Choir headlined the **Ninth International Kolędy Festival** at the Millennium Gardens in Brampton, Ontario ... The Polka Variety Social Club met on January 28 at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW in Cheektowaga to dance to the music of "Rare Vintage" ... Father Czeslaw Krysa held his Sec-

ond Annual "Krupnik Festival" at St. Casimir Parish in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood on the 31st ...

UPCOMING. The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress will host "Kulig 2015" (Polish Winter Festival) at the Chestnut Ridge Park Casino in Orchard Park on February 5. More information is available from Jim Lawicki at JLAWICKI@verizon.net ... Special Delivery will provide the music for the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY's **18th Annual "Paczki Day"** at the Grapevine Banquet Hall in Depew on February 15.

The Chopin Singing Society will host its annual "Chopin Birthday Celebration" at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW on the 17th of February ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will hold its Installation Luncheon at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca on February 21, and Dr. Piotr Derengowski will address the topic, "Poles in the American Civil War 1861-1865" at the group's February 25 meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center ... The Canadian government has designated April 2, the anniversary of St. John Paul II's death, as "Pope John Paul II Day" in Canada ... The **Chopin Singing Society** has announced that it will be moving its "Original Dyn-

gus Day Celebration" on April 6 to the Millennium Hotel



FR. CZESLAW KRYSA, pastor of St. Casimir's R.C. parish in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood, points to the church's cross during a tour of the building before the Buffalo Mass Mob gathering there, January 18.

in Cheektowaga.

The **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** will perform Karłowicz's Symphonic Prologue from "Music for the White Dove", Penderecki's Horn Concerto and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor during its "Na Zdrowie Poland!" program at Kleinhans Music Hall on April 24 and 25 ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team announced that its annual "Polish Festival Night" will be held on August 11th at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo. The Bisons will take on the Rochester Red Wings.



If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. February 6 for the March issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

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by Laura and Peter Zeranski
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth

Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS
\$16.95
By Laura and Peter Zeranski 2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100 color photos
Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY

\$24.95
by Robert Strybel
248 pp., hc., Hippocrene Bks.
Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

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

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 includes over 100 easy-to-follow recipes, and a detailed bibliography and resource guide.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

From Siberia to Freedom

ENDEAVOR

One Polish Family's Journey from Siberia to Freedom

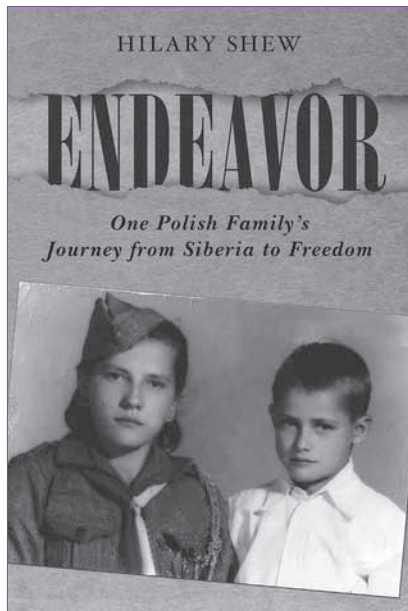
By Hilary Shew

CreateSpace, 2014, 320 pps.

Available from Amazon.com

Against the backdrop of World War II, one Polish family forced out of their home have to make a hazardous trek halfway across the world to freedom.

In 1940, Stalin arrested and deported almost two million Polish citizens to Siberian gulags. The Raczyńskis, a family living on



their farm in Eastern Poland were among the many that were deported by Russian forces under Stalin's orders. They were all made to board cattle cars along with hundreds of other deportees from their village and traveled to work camps in Siberia. Over the next several years, the Raczyńskis experienced unimaginable hardship including starvation, disease, and even death.

After being granted "amnesty" in 1941, the deportees were able to leave Siberia. However, they still endured starvation and disease. While traveling through such countries as Persia, Uzbekistan, and India, many people around them suffered and died from typhus and dysentery due to flea and lice infestation and poor sanitation.

Although there is a huge amount of suffering depicted, there is also hope. While in Uzbekistan, two of the Raczyński children, John and Thecla, are sent to an orphanage by their mother in hopes that they would have a better chance of surviving. Indeed, they are given more food there and had shelter. But they

could not stay for long; the deportees were sent to Iran. There, the children were able to attend church services and school. This structure helped the Thecla and John along with the other children to experience a little bit of normalcy in a world that was still in the grip of war.

Endeavor is not just about the family's narrative; Shew also describes the circumstances and actions that led to the forcible removal and systematic extermination of many people, including the Raczyńskis from their home during the Second World War.

Interspersed throughout, the author gives brief histories of important cities and ports that the Raczyńskis traveled through such as, Bukhara in Uzbekistan and Port Phillip in Australia.

Shew also includes a glossary, a thorough bibliography, copious endnotes, and an index. Although *Endeavor* is meticulously researched and thoroughly informative, it is published in double-spaced format which can be distracting at times.

Endeavor: One Polish Family's Journey from Siberia to Freedom by Hilary Shew is now available on Amazon.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Hilary Shew is a graduate of the University of Georgia and Georgia State University. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism, a Master of Science, and a Master of Education. Before retirement, Shew taught English in Atlanta. She now writes for equine journals and edits manuscripts. She currently lives in the Ozarks with her husband and their several animals.

and the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn, USA, Inc. Scholarships.

Exchanges to Poland. Year Abroad Program; and Graduate Studies and Research in Poland.

For more information, the Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc., 15 East 65th St., New York, NY 10065, (212) 734 2130 ext. 210. E-mail: Addy@thekf.org.

ACPC Announces \$5K Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies

by Marion Winters, Chairman

The Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies program, initially endowed by the Conrad R. Walas Family, is administered solely by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). Qualified applicants must send all of the materials described on the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org so that it is all received on or before March

POLONIA PLACES / Greg Witul

St. Valentine in Buffalo, New York



St. Valentine Roman Catholic Church
522 South Park Avenue,
Buffalo, New York
Status: Closed

Polonia's churches are named after variety of saints; Stanislaus, Casimir, and Hedwig are the most popular, but there are a few parishes named after St. Valentine. Since it is February we will visit one of St. Valentine's Roman Catholic Churches found in Buffalo, New York.

By the end of the First World War, the Poles of Buffalo had moved beyond their epicenter at the intersection of Broadway and Fillmore Avenue in the city's East Side to the surrounding neighborhoods. A few families settled in the city's traditionally Irish First Ward because of the abundant jobs found along the waterfront. Many of the families in the area began to campaign the Bishop for a new church so their children wouldn't have to walk up to two miles to attend a Catholic school. Hearing their plea, Bishop Turner appointed Father Ladislaus Brejske to the task. On August 10, 1920 at the home of Francis Ryszka, a meeting of the families was held by Father Brejske and St. Valentine's parish was born.

With a cohort of 450 families, Father Ladislaus purchased a vacant plot of land on the northeast corner of South Park Avenue and Alabama Street. As plans were being drawn up by architect George Dietle for a combination church/school build-

ing, the parishioners of St. Thomas Episcopal Church opened their hall to St. Valentine to be used as a temporary school. On May 15, 1922, the groundbreaking for the combination building was held and a year later the Bishop formally dedicated the building.

Due to the steady hands of Monsignor Stephen Szczepanski and Reverend Casimir Tomiak, St. Valentine was able to weather the Great Depression and the Second World War. For the parish's Silver Anniversary improvements were made to the church and parish grounds. After the Second Vatican Council a new liturgical altar was installed as well as new confessionals and

stained glass windows. Trouble started brewing for the church in the early 1980s as parishioners began moving to the suburbs. In 1987, the Diocese decided to reorganize the parishes of the First Ward, and St. Valentine was put on the chopping block. The decision to close the only Polish parish in the neighborhood spurred the Poles to protest to the point that the Buffalo Common Council passed a resolution opposing the closure. To appease the outcry, a deal was struck that linked St. Valentine to the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This agreement lasted until 2007 when St. Valentine was closed as part of the Buffalo's Journey of Faith and Grace.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Kosciuszko Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation is currently accepting scholarship applications from Americans of Polish descent and from Americans who are majoring in Polish subject areas. The majority of funding available is for graduate level studies. Scholarships will be awarded for full-time studies during academic year 2015-2016.

Among the scholarship available are:

Graduate Level Funding. Tuition Scholarship; Dr. Zakrzewska Scholarship for Women; and the Dr. Tolsck Scholarships.

Undergraduate Level Funding. Massachusetts Federation of Polish Women's Clubs Scholarships (for Massachusetts residents); Polish American Club of North Jersey Scholarships (for Club members);

and the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn, USA, Inc. Scholarships.

Exchanges to Poland. Year Abroad Program; and Graduate Studies and Research in Poland.

For more information, the Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc., 15 East 65th St., New York, NY 10065, (212) 734 2130 ext. 210. E-mail: Addy@thekf.org.

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15, 2015 (faxes not accepted). Original copies of all materials must be mailed to the chairman and duplicate copies to the other four Pulaski Scholarships Committee members: Mr. Marion V. Winters, chairman; Deborah M. Majka; Dr. Stephen E. Medvec; Carolyn L. Meleski; Alicia Dutka (addresses are listed on the website).

Five \$5,000 scholarship grants are available for the 2015 competition. Questions concerning the requirements should be directed to Mr. Winters at mvwinters@charter.net or tel. (508) 949-0160.

All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of the American Council for Polish Culture and will not be returned. Late, incomplete or unsigned documents will not be accepted or returned for correction. The decisions of the ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee are final and not subject to review.

All applicants for the Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies are invited and encouraged to become involved in the programs of the American Council for Polish Culture and to share their talents and expertise with the Council. The Council and its affiliate and supporting organizations across the United States have been engaged in cultural and educational programs for more than six decades. Association with the ACPC and/or any of its 32 established organizations may prove to be of value in the career development of applicants while the direct participation of Pulaski Scholarship applicants in the cultural and educational programs of the Council and its affiliate/supporting groups may further strengthen our mutual missions.

For further information about the Council, you are invited to visit its website: www.polishcultureacpc.org.

Search For World War II Submarine Underway

WARSAW, Poland — Two Polish teams will search this year for the Polish submarine *ORP Orzel*, which disappeared in the North Sea in May 1940 during a mission with the Allies in World War II. The two searches will be conducted by the Culture Ministry and the Maritime Museum in the Baltic port of Gdansk.

Built in the Netherlands, *ORP Orzel* started service in 1939, and fought German ships after Hitler's army invaded Poland Sept. 1, 1939. The vessel was held that month in Tallinn by then-neutral Estonia, but escaped.

Working with the Allies, the submarine then took part in patrol and escort missions for the British navy. On May 23, 1940, it left Rosyth, Scotland, and never returned.

Searches undertaken since 2008 have been unsuccessful.

TRAVELOGUE – 5 Days in Poland / Staś Kmieć

Under Zygmunt's Protective Sword

Part XI

Originally used as a communication route, Warsaw's famous Royal Route (*Trakt Królewski*) is a beautiful, 2.5 mile long road that goes from the Royal Castle at Old Town to King Jan III Sobieski's 17th century royal residence – Wilanów Palace.

Walking this road assures an incredible view of historical landmarks, including St. Anne's Church (Kościół Świętej Anny), the Tyszkiewicz-Potocki Palace, Holy Cross Church (Kościół Świętego Krzyża), and so much more. An entire day can be spent exploring the monuments and side streets that are considered part of the "Road of Kings", and there are innumerable sights to be seen.

The Royal Route is a series of connecting streets paralleling the Wisła River. Walking along Nowy Świat, I am taken aback with the change in 5 years' time. What I had described in my previous Travelogue as "a venue for cafés, restaurants, exclusive perfume, coffee, tea, pastry and chocolate shops and high-end boutiques," similar to New York's Fifth Avenue or LA's Rodeo Drive has now become the host to a Restaurant Row offering a huge selection of tastes. Along with coffee houses, pizzerias and sandwich shops, there are some common Polish cuisine restaurants, but the primary focus is on international foods from Mexican and Italian to Indian and Japanese. There are even

Brooklyn burgers and wings.

Here, one will encounter the city's sidewalk district, where the sidewalks widen enough to house outdoor cafes while still allowing sufficient room for the large amounts of pedestrians. There are men in suits on their cellphones or discussing business over an over-priced cappuccino.

Continuing towards the Old Town my impression was greatly affected by the extensive construction work going on to enable a second subway line. Many of my familiar stores were no longer operating, including *Egzotyka* – the exotic bird and fish shop that I had visited on my last trip. My parrot "Patty" back in New York will just not be getting a present this trip.

Local legend asserts that Zygmunt rattles his sabre whenever Warsaw is in trouble,

Near Warsaw University campus the street changes into *Krakowskie Przedmieście*, which then runs all the way to the Royal Castle. I never grow tired of old sites – the Nicholas Copernicus Monument (*Pomnik Mikołaja Kopernika*), Holy Cross Church, and the Presidential Palace (*Pałac Prezydencki*).

Once known as the "Radziwiłł Palace" (as it was owned for the longest period by this noble family) it is the elegant classicist

latest version of a building that has stood on the site since 1643. Over the years, it has been rebuilt and remodeled many times. For its first 175 years, the palace was the private property of several aristocratic families. It was the host of the authors and advocates of the Constitution of May 3, 1791, and is believed to have been the venue for Fryderyk Chopin's first public performance on February 24, 1818.

Since July 1994, the palace had been the official seat of the President of the Republic of Poland replacing the smaller Belweder palace. The current President, Bronisław Komorowski, decided to move the residence back to Belweder, in honor of Józef Piłsudski and the early presidents of Poland, but the transfer was understood as an attempt to avoid confrontations with aggressive mourners of the late President, Lech Kaczyński, who died in the 2010 air accident in Smolensk, Russia.

A monument of Prince Józef Poniatowski – Polish leader, general, minister of war and army chief, who became a Marshal of the Empire and inspiration for the Polish fight for freedom stands in the courtyard anchored by two majestic lion statues.

Rows and rows of architecture in pastel colors leads to the luxury Hotel Bristol. The historic establishment opened in 1901; it miraculously survived the war relatively unscathed, standing nearly alone among the rubble of its neighborhood. Many renovations followed, the exterior was further restored in 2005, and the interior redecorated in 2013, after which

the hotel joined "The Luxury Collection" division of Starwood Hotels.

I arrive at Castle Square (*Plac Zamkowy*) and am greeted once again by the impressive sight of King Zygmunt III Waza.

It was here in 1644 that his son

King Władysław IV erected the column to commemorate his father – best known for moving the capital of Poland from Kraków to Warsaw in 1596.

It is one of Warsaw's most famous landmarks and one of the oldest secular monuments in northern Europe. On the Corinthian column a sculpture of the King towers above the beautiful Old Town houses, adorned by four eagles. The king is dressed in armor, carries a cross in one hand, and wields a sword in the other. The figure ranks as Poland's second oldest monument – the oldest being the Neptune Fountain in Gdańsk.

The monument was demolished by the Germans in 1944 during the Warsaw Uprising when the column took a direct hit from a tank shell and came crashing down. The bronze statue, though severely damaged, survived. Losing only his sword, he was repaired and returned to his perch on a new column near the original site in 1949. Broken pieces of the column can still be seen lying next to the Royal Castle.

Local legend asserts that Zygmunt rattles his sabre whenever Warsaw is in trouble, an occurrence that was first reported during the 1794 Kościuszko Uprising and again during World War II. There isn't a more popular meeting place in the city, and there is not a minute of the day when the steps to the statue are not besieged by dating couples, school kids and skateboarders.

Next month: The Royal Route leads to a royal find.



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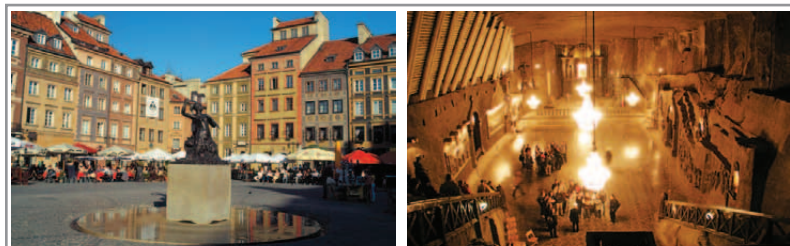
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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



NAZI GERMAN VICTIMS REDUCED TO ASHES AT AUSCHWITZ. Oswiecim, Poland. May 22, 1976.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Using Family History Center Films

Many Polish church records can be found in the film catalog on Familysearch.org. This website gives you access to genealogical information on over 2.4 million rolls of microfilm and over 742,000 microfiche that are stored at the Salt Lake City Genealogical Library. The library was founded in 1894 to gather genealogical records and assist members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with their family history and genealogical research. It is the largest library of its kind in the world.

Since January 2010, this website has offered the researcher the ability to view digitalized images of their films. Currently, the five online databases of Polish records include church records for Lublin, Radon, Tarnow, Częstochowa and Gliwice. However, these online databases only touch the surface of what is available in the FHL vaults. The catalog gives you access to all of the films.

Knowing the village where your ancestors were baptized or married, you can search the catalog for films of the church records. These can be ordered online and sent to your nearest Family History Center for viewing.

FHC films must be ordered online and the organization requires you to setup an account. The setup

asks for your email address and the default FHC where your films will be sent for viewing. To select your default FHC, the registration process screen will ask you to select the state in which you live. A list of Family History Centers will appear in a drop down menu for you to select one. Note that local libraries who have been FHC-certified may be on the list. I recommend that you select the library over an LDS center because the library will be open more hours which will make it more convenient to visit. Payment for the rental of the films can be done with a credit card or through PayPal.com. Films can be ordered for 60 days or for extended loan.

To select films, use the "Search" tab on the Familysearch.org home page and select "Catalog" from the menu. The catalog page will allow you to type in the name of the village where the church is located. Note that the church records are indexed in the catalog by the name of the village and not the name of the church. Another tip is to slowly type in the name and watch as a list of places appears. Do not copy and paste the complete name because this may not be the same spelling as it is in the catalog. Typing in the name slowly will allow you to select the correct village because the entries will also include other geo-

graphical names to help you locate your village even if the spelling slightly differs.

Once you have found the correct entry, click "search" and then select "church records." Then click through until you see the page that lists the films that are available. Each will list the type of record that is on each film and the range of years that are covered. To order a film, click on the number and follow the pages through the ordering process. You will be asked to make payment online as you would at any online store. The film will be delivered to the Family History Center that you selected as your default and they will notify you when it arrives.

This is an exciting process. You may be reluctant because the records will not be in English. This challenge can be overcome by using word lists that are found on Familysearch.org or in various books. Be brave and search the films. You should be rewarded for your efforts. When I found the birth records for my great-grandmother I felt that I had just performed a magical feat.

❖ ❖ ❖

Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," and "Memories of Dziadka."

POLISH CAN BE FUN! / Robert Strybel

This Valentine's Day, Fall in Love the Polish Way

Last time we talked about some of the Polish words and phrases many PolAms picked up in their younger days just by living in our near a Polish neighborhood. One such widely known phrase was "Ja cię kocham!" (I love you.) Those words went far beyond the confines of Polonia and into the mainstream when Bobby Vinton immortalized them in his *Melody of Love*, best known by its refrain: "Moja droga ja cię kocham ..."

Today let's take a look at some of the terms of endearment those in love share. In English those have included darling, honey and honey bunch, sweetheart, sweetie and sweetie pie, kitten, cupcake and pumpkin.

Many terms cannot just be translated directly into Polish. If a boy called a girl "dynia" (pumpkin), he might get a black eye. If he called her "słodkie serce" (sweet heart), she might think he had had one too many.

Nevertheless, Polish and English do share a number of translatable lovey-dovey expressions. These include **kochanie** (darling), **najdroższa** (dearest), **kotku**, **koteczku** (kitten), **słoneczko** (sunshine), **aniółku** (angel) and **księżniczko** (princess).

Girls in both languages may refer to a big, cuddly boyfriend as **misiaczku** (teddy bear) or **słodki brutalu** (sweet brute).

Some typically Polish terms that could not be literally translated into Polish include: **skarbie** (treasure), **zabeńko** (little frog), **rybeńko** (little fish) and **kwiatuszku** (little flower).

Now let's look at some of the sweet nothings those in love are wont to say.

• **Skarbie, kocham cię i potrzebuję.** Darling, I love you and need you.

• **Ja też cię kocham, mój duży misiaczku.** I love you too, my big teddy bear.

• **Sweetheart, do you love me too?** Kochanie, czy ty mnie też kochasz?

• **Nie, ale bardzo cię lubię.** No, but I like you very much.

• **Princess, you're so beautiful!** Księżniczko, jesteś taka piękna!

• **Jesteś taki przystojny, mój wielki, słodki brutalu!** You're so handsome, my big, sweet, brute!

• **Anioleczku, jesteś taka dobra, słodka i miła. Ubóstwiam cię.** Angel, you're so good, sweet and nice. I adore you.

• **Jesteś taki silny, opiekuńczy i wrażliwy.** You're so strong, caring and sensitive.

But sometimes things go awry and the following expressions may be needed:

• **Przepraszam. Nie chciałem.** I'm sorry. I didn't mean to.

• **Ona nic dla mnie nie znaczy.** She doesn't mean a thing to me.

• **Byłem pijany i nie wiedziałem, co robię.** I was drunk and didn't know what I was doing.

• **Przysięgam, że to się nigdy już nie powtórzy.** I swear it'll never happen again.

So let's end our love story on a positive note:

• **W końcu pogodzili się, pobrali, założyli rodzinę i żyli długo i szczęśliwie!** In the end they made up, got married, started a family, and lived happily ever after!

WORDS OF WISDOM

Kto się czubi, ten się lubi!
P.S. Reader input is most appreciated. If you have any questions, remarks or suggestions, please feel free to email them to: strybel@in-tertia.com

Historic Scenes Through Mobile Means

CHICAGO — The Polish Genealogical Society of America has announced its 2015 bus tour, "Historic Scenes Through Mobile Means," will be held Fri., Sept. 25, 2015. The tour will take you to historic Polish Churches on Chicago's South Side, among them St. Michael the Archangel and St. Adalbert, along with one or two other sites of interest.

The next day, a one-day conference — "Research Before and Beyond the Internet" — will be held at the Marriott Midway Hotel (near Midway Airport) and will include speakers of note on topics of interest to genealogists.

As they become available, details will be posted on the PGSA website, www.pgsa.org, in the monthly PGSA Notebook, and in the Spring issue of the *Rodziny*.

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The Spoils

WARSAW — The purchase of luxury goods in Poland is on the rise, as the growing number of wealthy Poles is expected to rise to almost one million during the coming year.

Segments of the luxury goods market growing in Poland include automobiles, clothing and accessories, real estate, hotel services, spa resorts, travel, jewelry, perfume and cosmetics, yachts, electronics and interior design.

Worth noting is the ongoing global success of Polish brands which has contributed to the growing wealth of Poles.



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What Does Your Last Name Mean?

by Robert Strybel

If it is **Kowalczyk**, someone once called some distant ancestor of yours "the blacksmith's kid," and it stuck. **Nowak** was what they called "the new guy in town" and **Wójcik** was "the village mayor's son." **Dąbrowski** was "the man from Oakville (Dąbrowa)," **Kamiński** came from Kamień (Rockbury, Stonewille), and **Łopata** (spade) was the nickname given to a peasant who tilled the soil.

If interested in finding out what your Polish surname means, how it originated, how many people use it, where your namesakes live and whether a coat of arms ever accompanied the name, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank check or money order to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw / Poland.

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OBITUARIES

Polonia Losses Its "Rock Star"

Illinois state comptroller, **Judy Baar Topinka**, 70, passed away unexpectedly on December 10, 2014, in Berwyn, Illinois, from complications due to a stroke.



She was one of Illinois's most colorful and popular politicians. Topinka spent more than three decades in the public eye holding several offices in the state of Illinois. She was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 1981-1985, the Illinois Senate from 1985-1995, served three terms as Illinois Treasurer, and finally Illinois State Comptroller. Topinka was considered the matriarch of the moderate wing of the Illinois Republican Party. She was a fiscal conservative,

but also an early advocate of abortion and gay rights. These positions put her at odds with members of the GOP's conservative wing. On every Election Day, she was a Republican, but after the election she was there to help everybody.

Topinka was born on January 16, 1944, in Riverside Illinois, a Chicago blue-collar suburb, to Lillian (Shuss) and William Baar, the children of Czech and Slovak immigrants. She continued to live in Riverside her entire life.

A graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, she considered a journalism and public relations career. After graduation, she worked as a reporter for numerous Chicago area newspapers while starting her own public relations business in which she consulted for various political candidates. In 1980, she successfully

started her political career.

Since her early childhood, Topinka had a strong sense of her Czech heritage. As she started elementary school, Czech was her first language. She continued to study the language by attending the Alois Jirasek Czech School every Saturday, but later she also became proficient in English, Polish, and Spanish.

Topinka loved playing the accordion and the piano. If asked, she would play any accordion, anywhere, any time. She had a fondness for the "Beer Barrel Polka" and for dancing the polka. She was a dog lover, and a friend to all the varmints that came on her property. And regarding yard sales, garage sales, or Goodwill stores, Judy was an expert. She went to as many yard and garage sales as her schedule permitted. Her home was filled with *rozmaite rzeczy*, an interesting array

of items purchased as such sales.

During her 34 years in politics, she had received more than 250 awards from civic, social service, business, and professional organizations, including: Legislator of the Year, the Abraham Lincoln Legislator Award, the Civilian Service Award from the U.S. Army, the Israel Bonds "Man" of the Year Award, and the Award of Merit from the Advocates' Society, the most prestigious honor this association of Polish American attorneys bestows on outstanding citizens in recognition of their efforts to support the Polish community.

She was a member of 60 business and professional, not-for-profit, and social organizations, including the City Club of Chicago and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. She was an active member of the Illinois Republican Party and, at one time, served as its chair. She be-

longed to the Ceska Beseda Czech Social Club, The Polish Museum of America, Legion of Young Polish Women, and Polish Women's Civic Club.

You could see Judy at many Polish American events, from the Copernicus Foundation's Taste of Polonia to the Legion of Young Polish Women's White and Red Ball, from the PNA Chicago Society's Inaugural Ball to the Polish Women's Civic Club Christmas Luncheon. She never missed the Casimir Pulaski Day celebration at The Polish Museum of America. Her speeches were always "off the cuff," filled with genuine enthusiasm for all things Polish and her pride in being part of Polonia. She loved Chicago Polonia and it loved her. She was truly Illinois Polonia's rock star. Baar Topinka is survived by her son, Joseph Baar Topinka.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

Anna M. Cienciała, Specialist on Polish International Diplomacy

Anna M. Cienciała, 85, renowned specialist on Polish International diplomacy in the interbellum period, passed away in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on December 24, 2014, as she prepared to return to her home in Lawrence, Kansas. Dr. Cienciała was *Professor Emerita* of Russian and East European Studies and History at the Center for Russian and East European Studies [CRESS] at the University of Kansas (KU) in Lawrence. She was a highly respected scholar at KU, but was internationally recognized as well.



Her last major work, *Katyń: A Crime Without Punishment* (Yale University, 2007 and 2009, co-edited with Natalia Lebedeva and Wojciech Materski), includes a selection of Soviet documents that confirm their guilt for the massacre. However, it is her masterful com-

posed 125-page monograph on the history of Poland, the start of World War II and the chronology of the Katyń Massacre — split into segments and introducing each section of *Katyń: A Crime Without Punishment* — that deserves special mention. It is without a doubt the best summary introduction to Polish history in the English language.

According to Polish American research historian and a friend of Cienciała, Krystyna Piórkowska, "Professor Cienciała's ability to present documented facts, precisely footnoted and written in unemotional language, served the Polish cause in a manner that was purely intellectual yet was able to connect to all levels of society — both the general reader and the scholar. Professor Cienciała countered various of the allegations and accusations made concerning interwar Polish foreign policy, and she also was the victim of ad hominem attacks made by pro-Stalinist Katyń deniers. Yet her work stands unblemished and untarnished."

Born in the Free City of Danzig, today known as Gdansk, on November 8, 1929, she received her secondary education in England, followed by university studies at Liverpool University, McGill University in Montréal and her doctorate in history from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. She began teaching Eastern European history at the University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto, and then accepted a teaching position at the University of Kansas, where she remained until her retirement in June 2002. After her retirement, she continued to be strongly involved in the educational mission of CREES and KU's History Department and began to teach an Internet-based course of studies.

She was the recipient of numerous awards from various organizations including the National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright, American Council of Learned Societies, the International Research Exchange, the Union of Polish Writers, and the Hall Center at University of

Kansas. She was also awarded the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America.

This year, a celebration of her life and work was held on June 22, 2014, at the University of Warsaw; she also was presented the Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Poland for rendering great service to the Polish nation.

Additionally, Prof. Cienciała is listed in the Who's Who of American Women and the *Złota Księga Nauk Humanistycznych* 2013 (The Golden Book of Humanities Studies, Poland) and in 2000 the History Institute of Gdansk University and the city of Gdansk honored her. Dr. Cienciała specialized in 20th century European, Polish, Soviet, and American diplomacy from 1919-1945. She wrote extensively on these areas and, as of January 2014, had 202 publications. She is survived by a sister, living in Canada, and her lifelong friend, Roma Boniecka.

Masses in her memory were offered on January 14 at the Jesuit Church on *ul. Świętojańska* in Warsaw and included representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Education, the Polish Academy of Sciences, and individual scholars. On January 18, a Mass was offered at St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, Church in New York City. Present were Bogusław Winid, ambassador to the United Nations, Urszula Gacek, the new consul general in New York, and Deputy Consul Mateusz Stasiak. A memorial service, held at KU Lawrence on January 22, included representatives from the Polish Embassy in Washington, as well as the Consulate in Chicago and members of the KU community, were in attendance.

A special thanks to Krystyna Piórkowska, for coordinating with me in the composition of this obituary and for making it possible to have memorial Masses offered for Professor Cienciała in New York City and Warsaw.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

POLAND AND WORLD WAR I / Martin Nowak

The Germans Take Warsaw and Wilno

To the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary fighting on World War One's Eastern Front against Russia, Warsaw was a coveted prize. It was the capital of Russian Poland, also known as the Congress Kingdom of Poland, and the capital city of ancient Poland. Not only was it important psychologically to both sides, but for Russia it was a major staging ground and center for its fighting forces, a transportation and supply hub, as well as the central point for the care of wounded soldiers evacuated from the front lines. On some days, as many as 40,000 wounded men arrived and were put in makeshift hospitals in every manner of building. Streets were filled with ambulances, doctors and nurses.

Warsaw was a beehive of activity. Autos dashed around. Troop convoys passed through. Roads into the city were jammed with masses of people, refugees from the nearby fighting.

Germany attempted to take Warsaw twice early in the war. In October 1914 it was turned back by the Russians just twelve miles short of the city and a month later was again repulsed short of Warsaw. The Ger-

mans then settled for the capture of Łódź. But in summer of 1915 a renewed attempt on the Polish capital was made. More than 100,000 German troops supplemented by thousands of Austrians drove eastward, northward and southward toward Warsaw. The Russians proved unable to deter this onslaught and evacuations of the city began on July 15.

The civil servants were the first to leave followed by the general population, some voluntarily, but most forcibly. For certain, any healthy male of fighting age was compelled to leave. Everything of value in Warsaw — telegraph wires, horses, vehicles, every metal scrap, church bells, machinery, rooves of factories — was either taken away or smashed so as to make it unusable to the Germans.

Art and antique treasures were conveyed to Moscow, including Chopin's heart from the Church of the Holy Cross. For several days trains and wagons headed eastward filled to overflowing.

In all, half the population of Warsaw was evacuated, as well as hundreds of thousands from surrounding villages, where the Rus-

sians harvested or burned crops and destroyed houses in their scorched earth policy. The skies surrounding the city were filled with smoke.

As July turned into early August the thunder of German artillery came ever closer, shaking the windows throughout the city. A few German airplanes appeared over Warsaw, dropping several bombs, which seemed to bring about more curiosity than terror among Varsovians, though they did cause several deaths. The same reaction was noticed the previous March when an aerial squadron had bombed the city, and in October 1914 when some German zeppelins bombarded Warsaw from the air, dropping fourteen bombs before the Russians managed to shoot down one of the airships.

The Polish citizens of Warsaw overwhelmingly supported the Russians, even the hardened anti-czarists. After all, the czar's troops were defending their city against the Teutonic horde which threatened to destroy their livelihoods and their very lives. But the Russians' destructive scorched earth tactics and forced evacuations began to change their attitudes and to see the Germans in a more favorable light.

By August 4 the Russian army was in full retreat across the Wisła River, with troops pouring over pontoon bridges north and south of Warsaw. By 3:00 a.m. next morning all the Russians had fled from the city and the bridges crossing the river were blown up. A few hours later, on August 5, 1915, German troops marched into Warsaw as the thousands of remaining residents somberly looked on, uncertain of what was to come next.

Under German administration Warsaw gained a certain degree of autonomy, but as in other occupied cities, food and fuel became scarce as trade and traffic were restricted. Poles were "encouraged" to go to Germany to seek employment.

The last major Polish city to fall to Germany was Wilno on September 18. By early September the Russians realized they could not defend the city and began evacuating ahead of the German army. As had happened in Warsaw, city services stopped, government officials fled, and tons of freight from stripped down homes and factories were moved eastward.

As German artillery was heard approaching, Russian arson teams

burned down apartment and office buildings and stores and mansions, looting what they could carry and destroying what they could not. Zeppelins appeared over the city and began dropping bombs at random, devastating the train station.

As in Warsaw, the Russians forcibly drove people eastward. Many men of fighting age successfully evaded a brutal manhunt by hiding in the city or escaping into the woods. The sound of Russian explosives destroying bridges as they fled signaled the arrival of German soldiers in the deserted streets.

As citizens came out of hiding, they numbered less than half of Wilno's original population, but were soon joined by a flood of refugees from the countryside. These people faced extreme hardships and the Germans did not help them. Food sources had been wiped out and the occupiers prohibited the trading of grain. By 1917 shortages of food and fuel were pervasive. Disease and mortality increased and law and order broke down. The German response was threats of deportation, confiscation, arrest and even summary execution for violations of regulations.

Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Big Joe Siedlik Dead at 80



BIG JOE. Publisher of *Polka World* newspaper, radio and television host.

The polka world lost one of its true icons with the passing of Big Joe Siedlik on January 1, 2015 at the age of 80.

I was writing short pieces for the Connecticut-based *Polka News* when Big Joe, from Nebraska, contacted me in early 1970s, asking me to write for his *Polka World* newspaper. That marked the start of my association with Joe and the birth of my "Polkas Accord-ion to Steve" column.

Siedlik spent more than half a century promoting, publicizing and distributing polkas to people everywhere. Aside from the *Polka World* newspaper, he broadcast a nationwide radio show and then took that program to television. Whether it was polka radio shows, festivals, or television, he was involved in all aspects of the business. He helped churches, clubs, and charitable groups, both by sponsoring fundraising events and by broadcasting from parish festivals or serving as MC for ethnic festivals. Unfailingly, whenever someone needed help, Siedlik would get on the radio

to raise awareness and funds. His *Big Joe Polka Show* was broadcast on radio for over 25 years, becoming a Sunday fixture for fans. At one time, Siedlik was featured on over 30 stations from across the country. When others lost their fervor for and commitment to polkas, he tirelessly promoted the music and the bands he loved so much.

He will be sorely missed.

41st Polka Fireworks

The 42st Polka Fireworks Festival will bring five days of polka music to the Seven Springs Resort, Champion, Pa., July 1 through July 5, 2015. Featured artists include: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Ray Jay & the Carousels, Henny & the Versa J's, The Knewz, DynaBrass, Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Box On, John Gora & Gorale, The Eddie Forman Orchestra, The New Brass Express, and Polka Family. For information visit the website at: <http://polkafireworks.com>.

After all These Years, Ed Guca is Still Playin' Polkas

It's true: after more than 50 years, Ed Guca and the Canadians are *Still Playin' Polkas*.

This is Guca's 16th album, and the music is as exciting and fresh as ever. A highlight of the new recording is a lively nine-minute medley of his hits, including originals such as "Ej Mamusiu," "Tup Tup" and "Rosemarie." The first track on the album, "Rumba Dyna" polka, is a catchy tune that is quickly becoming a hit.

"Cigarettes and Whiskey," is one of four brand new Ed Guca originals on this recording. There are also fresh new versions of polka classics such as "Andziu" and "Kalina w Lesie."

Guca is joined on this recording by Brian Toss, trumpet and vocals, Tom Butash, accordion, piano and vocals, Joe Poper, bass and vocals, and Joe Banel, drums. Special guests include former bandmate Ed Humeniuk on fiddle and daughter Karen Guca on vocals.

Ed started his first band in the early 1960s in Toronto, Canada, and quickly recorded his first album as he began writing original songs. He played and recorded with polka superstars like Li'l Wally and Marion Lush, hosted the first polka radio show in Canada, and opened a recording studio to showcase Polish Canadian talent. He was inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame in 2009.



EDDIE GUCA

President's Day Dance

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Polka Association is presenting a Presidents' Day Dance, Sun., Feb. 15, 2015, at St. John Byzantine Cathedral, 1900 Carlton Road, off Broadview, south of Snow Rd., Parma, Ohio.

Music will be provided by Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze from Chicago. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. with music and dancing from 3:00-7:00 p.m. No BYOB. Snacks are welcomed. Donation is \$12.00 per person with those 18 and under admitted free.

For information or large table reservations call Jill at (440) 319-1877 or Sylvia at (216) 228-1134.

Back to Poland for John Gora & Eddie Biegaj

FORT ERIE, Ontario, Canada — Two well known Polonia musicians are heading back to Poland this May 28th until June 9th. A tour that will start in Krakow and will include sight seeing and polka music through the Wieliczka salt mine, Wadowice, Dunajec River rafting, Zakopane, Chocholow, Tychy, Wroclaw, Boleslawiec, Stare Jablonki, Gniezno, Poznan, Bydoszcz, Olsztyn, Gdyna, Sopot, and Gdansk, plus many places in between. All taxes, admissions, hotels, tour bus, English speaking guides and entertainment are included in one price. Direct flights are available from either Chicago, New York or Toronto via LOT Airlines. A complete day by day itinerary is available at: www.johngora.com or call Wanda (800) 533-0369.



BIEGAJ



GORA

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

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



Chicago's Li'l Teddy. Polish Home, Binghamton, N.Y. c. 1993.



The late Jimmy Johnson (left) and Hank Mazurchowski with the New York Sound. Unknown location near Buffalo, N.Y.



Tony Krupski (accordion), Gino Kurdziel (bass) and Al Bakowski. Jam Session, Buffalo, N.Y. 1996

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DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

Holidays Include Performance by Buffalo Legend Happy Richie Bojczuk



Joe and Doris Brozowski at the Millennium Hotel's New Year's Eve Party.

The holiday spirit was alive as participants donned their Christmas attire for the **Buffalo Polka Booster Christmas party**. Rare Vintage provided the steady flow of music for the elegant evening of entertainment. Both members and a handful of non-members were treated to a beautifully decorated hall and a deliciously satisfying meal before taking to the dance floor. Rare Vintage is an eclectic group of veteran musicians from Buffalo who have the ability to play just about any genre of music. While dinner was being served a few couples could not wait to get on the floor and enjoyed a few dances in between courses. Buffalo Polka Boosters works diligently to promote polkas all year long in Western New York so it was a nice change of pace to enjoy the fruits of their work while relaxing to the beat of yet another upbeat Buffalo polka band.

TAK JAK DAWNYCH CZASÓW.

Each holiday season, a small corner tavern on the East side of Buffalo hosts a sing-a-long kolędy. This event which started out as a few musicians singing and playing to spread the holiday spirit has turned into one of the most beloved and anticipated events of the year. Hundreds of people crowd into the small family owned-corner bar. **Arty's**, which sits on the corner of Peckham and Memorial Drive, is in one of the most iconic neighborhoods of Buffalo's Polish community. The sense of holiday magic has never been more alive than seeing this crowd gathered around the diverse array of polka musicians who were smiling and belting out familiar kolędy for the anxious patrons. Thank you to the Kwiatkowski family for keeping the Christmas spirit alive in a way that is a throwback to the days before extravagant gifts, political correctness, and holiday stress were roadblocks to enjoying the true meaning of the Christmas.

WELCOMING 2015. After the anxiety of the Christmas season, it was nice to be among friends to celebrate New Year's Eve. Millennium Buffalo hosted a polka New Year's Eve with **Special Delivery** and **Polka Country Musicians**. Friendly faces started filing into the hotel, transforming it into a reunion of friends that we don't see often enough. Music devotees greeted one another with holiday wishes as they arrived in the hotel lobby from Chicago, Cleveland, Albany, Canada, and neighboring communities of Buffalo. The afternoon was filled with room parties and reminiscing the memories of years of friendships bonded through supporting polka music. As the evening began, it was exciting to behold everyone outfitted in the shimmering glam-



Albany's Debbie and Gerry Rymanowski. Radio host and former model bringing in the New Year.

our that is expected at a New Year's Eve event. While cocktail hour began, I looked around and noticed the broad gamut of the crowd — a group of 20-somethings all the way to couples past retirement age — all enjoying the same entertainment



The Kozak family at Happy Richie's New Year's Day performance.

for the evening. To me, that speaks volumes as to polka music and the importance of handing it down to future generations.

As everyone sat down for the five-course meal, Special Delivery took the stage creating the perfect amount of ambiance. Once the band began to showcase its vast repertoire of music, it was impossible to keep people from the dance floor. Even while dinner was being served, the dance floor was occupied by those wanting to enjoy every moment of the music. Special Delivery provided a tremendous mix of music that gave everyone the opportunity to flaunt their personal dance moves.

As dinner came to an end, Polka Country Musicians took the stage. Belting out powerful polka beats from the first moment sent the crowd into a party frenzy. The band, which draws a faithful following no matter where they play, proved once again that they are worthy of the fanfare. The dance floor was jammed and the front of the stage was packed full of people who just wanted to watch and cheer the band as they performed. The evening continued with dancing galore and a perfect combination between these two top-notch bands. Each provided a distinct sound but both accomplished the same result: entertaining the masses for this memorable evening.

As midnight neared, Special Delivery took the stage in anticipation of the big event. Crowns, hats, and horns made their way onto the heads and hands of everyone as we crowded onto the dance floor to begin the countdown. Crystal bowls of *sledzie* (herring) also made its way onto the tables to be consumed at



Happy Richie Bojczuk, pictured with fan Marina Kozak, sang on New Year's Day.

midnight to ensure a year of prosperity and bounty. As midnight struck, red and white balloons were released from the ceiling to add to the jubilation of saying goodbye to 2014 and welcoming 2015. Couples exchanging kisses and friends wish-

ing New Year to one another illuminated this banquet hall with feelings of a promising outlook at the New Year began. I personally loved looking around and seeing the glistening eyes and wide smiles of my friends as we were lucky enough to welcome another year in together.

The music continued well into the New Year allowing everyone the opportunity to celebrate the very first hours of 2015 together.

The next morning, tired yet blissful polka lovers made their way to indulge in a lavish brunch buffet. Plates were brimming full of delicious food as friends mulled over the events of the evening. Laughter filled the tables and coffee was the hot commodity for those of us who can no longer survive on just a few hours of sleep. The wealth of friendship and love of music was shared once again as we all said our good-byes until the next event. I know I walked away from this event feeling thankful once again that I continue to make friendship through polka music year after year.

A "HAPPY" NEW YEAR. Once I went home and took a short nap, it was time to get ready to attend an event I had been really looking forward to. For years since I moved to Buffalo, I would hear about the Happy Richie Band. I had never seen nor met this gentleman, but those who spoke of the band, always had such a spark when they reminisced of him. **Phocus** had announced about a month prior that **Happy Richie Bojczuk** would be joining them on stage at Potts Banquet Hall on New Year's Day.

After a dynamic set of Phocus and a short break, the long awaited



Millie (l.) and Kathy Wisniewski at Arty's Bar on Buffalo's East Side for the annual Christmas Sing-Along. The annual pilgrimage draws a huge crowd.

appearance of Happy Richie had arrived. With a worn out song book which obviously had been treasured for years, he grabbed the microphone and began singing on the floor in front of the stage. His opening theme number grabbed the attention of the entire hall as his voice remained unchanged even in his absence over the past 20 years. Fan favorites including "How Married Are You Marianne?" "Nickels and Dimes," and "I Love Polka Music" rallied an unbelievable amount of excitement from the attentive audience.

Richie humbly thanked the fans for coming and sent song and after song out to his long time admirers. It was obvious from the very first note he sang what an impact he had on his fan base years ago and still does today. Musicians and many fans were brought to tears by the appearance of this Buffalo polka legend. Don Kozak, a diehard polka lover, was outwardly emotional as he expressed his heartfelt thoughts that he never thought he would get to see Richie perform again. Don and his wife Marina are two of my favorite polka dancers, and after seeing Don's enthusiasm, I was happy to get a few minutes to talk to him about this landmark event.

Don confessed to me that at one time he and Marina did not even know how to polka dance. In 1977 while listening to the radio, Marina loved a song that she heard and had Don come in to listen to it with her. The found out that the singer was Happy Richie, and then researched to find out where he performed. They took a trip to see him on Clinton Street and fell in love with his polka beat. Don went on to be one of his biggest supporters becoming the President of the Happy Richie Fan Club for 18 years. They also organized many bus trips with Richie and traveled along to hear his band. Even New Year's Eves were spent at the AMVETS 26 post on Ward Road in North Tonawanda with Happy Richie headlining, and Kozak organizing the event. Don can

be seen in front of almost every Happy Richie video posted on YouTube to date. His emotion expressed so much love and adoration for this gifted man who I feel grateful that I got to enjoy. Richie has faced some difficulties over the past several years so it was delightful to see him light up as fans cheered him on.

A huge thank you goes out to Jimmy Nowaczewski, who was somehow able to talk Richie into returning to the stage. I am hopeful that we will see him perform again with even more fervor. Somehow, I feel that the crowd will grow even larger for that next event. Stay tuned as I will keep you posted on his next performance.

UPCOMING

Feb. 6. Special Delivery at Lee Whedon Memorial Library, 620 West Ave Medina, N.Y. 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Feb. 8. Special Delivery, Hard Knock Dance at Dianeagains, 2460 Clinton St., Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Specials on fried baloney and onion sandwiches and beer.

Feb. 8. Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Hard Times Dance, Potts Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler St., Cheektowaga. 4:00-8:00 p.m. \$10.00 admission or \$5.00 with coupon. Featuring \$1.00 baloney sandwiches and glasses of beer.

Feb. 14. New Direction. St. John Vianney's 2nd Annual Polish Night., Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park, N.Y. Call Ron for details 675-6588.

Feb. 15. Special Delivery, Polish Heritage Dancers at Paczki Day Celebration. Grapevine Banquet Hall, 333 Dick Rd., Depew, N.Y. 2:00. 6:00 p.m. \$8.00 advance/\$10.00 at the door and \$2.00 for children under 12. Call Michelle (716) 983-5084 for info.

Feb. 19. Buffalo Polka Boosters Meeting, Polish Falcons, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Feb. 25. Polka Variety Meeting, Dave Gawronski and the Forgotten Buffalo Band, Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. 8:00-11:00 p.m.

March 7. The Knewz Saturday Night Dance, Amvets Medallion Post 13, 25 Review Place, Buffalo. 7:00-midnight. Call Carol for info (716) 480-7174.

March 7. Special Delivery, Polkasino Bustrip to Seneca Niagara Casino. Potts' Banquets, Rossler Plaza. 4:00-6:00 Call Ted Szymanski (716) 668-9101

March 8. Music at Dianeagains, 2460 Clinton St., Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Call (716) 768-3246.

March 27-29. 4th Annual Wheeling Polka Festival, Oglebay Resort Wheeling, WV featuring Dennis Polisky and Maestro's Men, NuTones, Lenny Gomaluk, and IPA Tribute Band. Call (304) 243-4060 for rates and information.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Tribute to Ray Jay Planned

Happy New Year to one and all from Toledo! In their usual way, the holidays came and went faster than flying reindeer. I was able to check out a few of my favorite Polish Christmas traditions this year, as the weather stayed decent enough for travel.

Stas Pasko and the members of the PRCUA in Wyandotte hosted the annual **Koledy Night**, December 12, and — wow — what a crowd! Stas reports that over 325 people were in attendance to hear the Cavaliers play English and Polish winter favorites. Just as we were getting comfortable, the doors opened and we were surprised by Chicago's **Polish Carolers**.

For those who are not familiar, this is a group of guys who have traveled for years all over to play for shut-ins, friends, and events. The crowd went wild, as all of the musicians played the beautiful songs of a Polish Christmas for the appreciative audience.

The second night of that weekend, the music was closer to home as the Commodore Club on LaGrange Street hosted its annual Christmas party. This event has been led for several years by **Randy Krajewski** and friends with a special appearance by vocalist **Robert McMahon** of Toledo.

On to the end of the weekend: The **Toledo Area Polka Society** (TAPS) held its annual Christmas Dinner Dance December 14, with the Czelusta Park All-Stars performing polka favorites, and koledy too. This is one of the few full dinner dances the club has, and it was complete with a Polish-style chicken and meatball dinner, and the req-

uisite visit from Santa Claus to all of the children.

And so another Christmas season came and went. New Year's Eve was spent close to home playing cards with friends, but not without anticipation of all the good things to come in 2015.

Perhaps the biggest news to report is that TAPS is moving forward with two new events this year: May 2-4 TAPS will be taking a bus to the Testimonial Dinner and Dance in honor of **Ray Jay Jarusinski**, being held in Greensburg Pa. As a result, there will be no May TAPS dance.

On June 20, TAPS will hold an inaugural **Polish Summer Picnic** at Oak Shade Grove in Oregon, Ohio. Many readers may know of Oak Shade Grove as the location of the German-American Festival held in August of each year. This event will be held in the outdoor pavilion, and will include two bands, food and beverage sales, raffles, and much more. Stay tuned for more information in my column as these events unfold.

ON A SAD NOTE ... Bob Earl, Sr. passed away unexpectedly in early December while playing golf in his winter home in Florida. Bob Earl was one of the three leaders of the Imperials of Toledo. He played for over 50 years, recording 12 albums with the Imperials, and traveling extensively. Bob leaves to mourn wife Mary Earl, sons Jim Earl, Bob Earl Jr., daughter Mary Earl Booth, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Bob will certainly be missed.

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It all happens on February 8, 2015 at Dianeagain's, 2460 Clinton St. (near Harlem), Cheektowaga. 4:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information, call Dianeagains at (716) 768-3246 or Ted at (716) 668-9101.

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 Open enrollment for the 2015-2016 academic school year ends on 4/1/2015 at 5:00 pm. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school, at www.NHAschools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on 4/15/2015 at 1:00 PM in the Teachers Lounge. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

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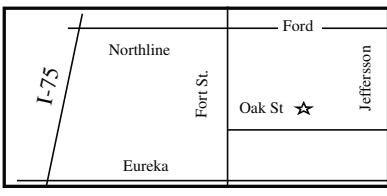
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Easter Butter Molds



Folding Easter Square Wooden Butter Mold
Each pyramidal block features an Easter lamb, a fish, a pussy willow and an egg engraved in the mold, representing an Easter themed relief when butter mold is completed. Measures 2.7" L x 2.7" W x 2.8" H
#KOR102 - \$49.95

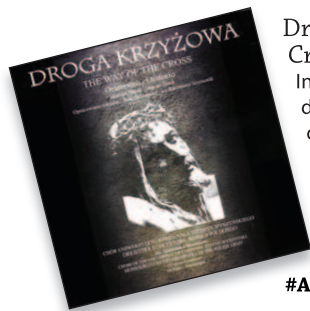


Easter Lamb Wooden Butter Mold
The molded butter lamb is a Polish tradition, and has become a staple in many homes during Easter celebrations. Measures 4.5" W x 2.5" H x 1.5" D.
#KOR101 - \$39.95



Easter Chick Wooden Butter Mold
A cute Spring chick sprouts from this hand-crafted mold. Makes a nice companion piece to the Easter Lamb Butter Mold. Measures 3.75" W x 2.75" H x 2" D.
#KOR103 - \$29.95

Easter Music on CD



Droga Krzyzowa - The Way of the Cross on CD
In chapter 16 of Mark's Gospel, the disciples are thunderstruck by the discovery of the empty tomb and the angel's message that Christ had risen.. For those disciples, Jesus' resurrection primarily meant that, for the Church, the way of the cross had only just begun. 16 songs. 58 minutes.
#AB003 - \$19.95

Easter Lamb Decorations

Each Lamb is hand made from natural products by artisans in Poland



Laying Easter Lamb
4.0" L x 1.75" W x 3.5" H
#VA007 - \$9.95

Standing Easter Lamb
Measures 4" H
#VA006 - \$9.95

Easter Eggs



Pressed Amber Egg
This chicken-sized egg is made of amber chunks and amber dust, melted down and then combined with plastic. A beautiful decoration for your Holiday setup. Measures 2.25" H x 1.75" D.
#AMB045 - \$29.95

Brass Egg Stand
Measures 0.5" H x 1.5" D.
#435994 - \$6.95



Artistic Wooden Painted Easter Egg
Each wooden egg is masterfully decorated with ornate designs and color schemes; no two eggs are the same. These award winning ARTEGGS are crafted by a company in Poland 2.25" H x 1.85" D.
#4353003 - \$14.95 each



Vividly Painted Wooden Egg, Set of 2
Handcrafted wooden eggs with strikingly beautiful hand paintings ornamenting the egg. No two are exactly alike. 2.25" H x 1.75" D.
#250402 - \$12.95



Small Painted Wooden Eggs, Set of 3
Hand painted so no two are exactly alike. 1.25" H x 0.8" D
#250406 - \$12.95

Polish Crystal



Hand Cut Clear Crystal Egg Candy Jar
This small Egg Jar is wonderful gift to showcase during the Easter holiday season, or at any other time for that matter. The production of this marvelous piece is entirely made by hand. 24% Lead Crystal. Measures 4.7" High. Made in Poland
#GAR515 - \$49.95 each

Easter Cards



Easter Postcards, Set of 9 different postcards for Easter each having a message in Polish on the back. 4.25" x 5.5" #PCS803 - \$9.95



Easter Eggs, 5 Card Set Mixed Set. Measure: 4.6" x 6.5", Envelopes included. #PCS228 - \$9.95

Easter Sunday Palms

Please Note: Since our Easter Sunday Palms are handmade, yours may not arrive exactly as pictured!



Brought to the Palm Sunday mass by the parishioners, straw palms are blessed by the priest. Consecrated palm fronds are believed to have protective powers and are kept in the home for protection from misfortune.

A. 23 Inch Palms, Set of 3
Hand made by skilled artisans in Poland from natural items.
#ARP395 - \$19.95

B. 30 Inch Palms, Set of 3
Hand made by skilled artisans in Poland from natural items.
#ARP394 - \$29.95

Easter Egg Sleeves



Alleluja - Egg Sleeves #260301 - \$3.95



Cartoon - Egg Sleeves #260302 - \$3.95



Folk - Egg Sleeves #260303 - \$3.95



Fabergé - Egg Sleeves #260304 - \$3.95

C-F. Easter Egg Sleeves, Set of 4
Collection of 4 different Styles; Alleluja, Cartoon, Folk, and Fabergé. Each set contains 10 designs.
#260300 - \$13.95