

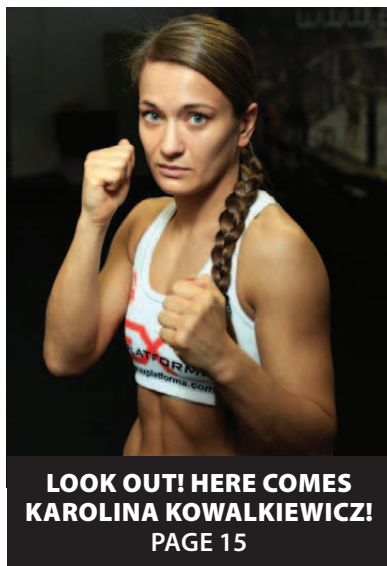
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LOOK OUT! HERE COMES  
KAROLINA KOWALKIEWICZ!  
PAGE 15

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

**WHY WE SHOULD ALL REGRET JEFFERSON'S BROKEN PROMISE TO KOŚCIUSZKO • A DIFFERENT VIEW OF POLAND**  
**MARDI GRAS ENTERTAINING WITH A POLISH TWIST • NYRB'S UNANSWERED MISTAKE • IT PAYS TO VISIT POLAND!**  
**ARCHBISHOP WENSKI ISSUES WARNING • THE FIRST POLISH SAINT • MAKE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY PERSONAL**

## Newsmark

**AUTOPSIES QUESTIONED.** Polish prosecutors have questioned the accuracy of autopsies by pathologists in Moscow for dozens who died in the 2010 Smolensk plane crash, private radio station RMF FM has reported.

According to RMF FM, Polish experts — who are carrying out their own investigation into the crash — say that the Russians did not report certain injuries in official autopsy reports, and also noted injuries which the victims never sustained.

Meanwhile, the TVN24 broadcaster has reported that the district prosecutor in Warsaw is currently translating documents from Russian investigators relating to gory pictures of the victims of the 2010 plane crash which earlier found their way onto the internet.

The 96 victims of the crash in western Russia included president Lech Kaczyński as well other top members of the Polish military.

"At the moment it is difficult to determine when the documents will be translated," Renata Mazur from the prosecutor's office told the broadcaster. "Translators have received them in batches. Recently they received a second batch of these documents. The process of translation takes a long time, as much of them are handwritten documents or in small print."

The Polish investigation into the publication of photos of victims of the Smolensk tragedy was first opened in 2012, but was suspended for some time.

The images leaked onto Russian, German and US servers included gory photographs of the victims of the crash, including some of the dead president. (Radio Polskie).

**THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS** has inaugurated the digitization of a unique collection of greetings from Polish citizens in 1926, marking the 150th anniversary of American independence. Held in 111 volumes, the collection is richly illustrated by some of the leading Polish artists of the day, such as the Zofia Stryjeńska, who was dubbed "the Queen of Polish Painting."

The 1926 gesture was partly an expression of thanks to the United States, which had supported the revival of the Polish state after World War I, following over a hundred years of foreign rule.

Signatories include President Ignacy Mościcki, senators, public officials as well as over five million schoolchildren and their teachers.

The volumes had been forgotten about for decades, but they were rediscovered in the mid-1990s.

It is hoped that the collection will be put online on July 4, 2016, marking Independence Day.

**CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR TEST.** Poland has voiced "deep concern" after North Korea said it has successfully tested a hydrogen nuclear bomb.

"We call on the DPRK to stop [such actions], and constructively engage in dialogue with the international community," said the Polish foreign ministry.

Poland has been involved in the stabilization process on the Korean Peninsula since 1953 by participating in the Neutral Nations' Supervisory Commission.

"We stand ready to support efforts for reconciliation of the Korean people, and for building lasting security and stability in the region," the ministry added.

**GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND.** A Youngstown, Ohio landmark is now just a memory.

Demolition work began January 4 at Krakusy Hall, located on South Avenue near Interstate 680.

The city paid \$38,000 to demolish the structure in an effort to remove blight in the area.

Back in its heyday, Krakusy Hall was the hub of Polish life in Youngstown. Hundreds of weddings, graduation parties and First Communions were held there. It was also the home of the Southside Boxing Club.

The hall was built in 1939. A time capsule buried at the site was removed.

## Poland Under Fire

*Bad losers and unfriendly media internationalize Polish internal row*

*Prime Minister Szydło holds her ground in European Parliament*

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Poland's government has been in for some rough sledding recently, attacked on four sides by a feisty protest movement, the liberal-leftstream media, the European Union, and the Standard & Poor's credit-rating agency. Consequently, Polish leaders found themselves faced with the daunting task of setting things straight.

Poland's conservative Law and Justice party (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość = PiS) became the first Polish political party since 1989 to democratically win an outright majority in both houses of parliament and lost no time in carrying out a legislative marathon to fulfill its campaign promises. It also had a sympathetic president to sign the bills into law. But each measure affecting such questions as the Constitutional Court, civil service, police, public media and bank taxes triggered a huge uproar from  
*See "Poland Under Fire," page 4*

## Poland Downplays Tensions with Germany Over "anti-Polish" Comments



Poland's Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski, left, and Germany's Ambassador Rolf Nikel speak to reporters after talks they held on request from Waszczykowski.

WARSAW (AFP) — Poland sought to downplay tension with EU and NATO partner Germany over comments by German politicians that Warsaw earlier slammed as "anti-Polish."

Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski took the rare measure of summoning the German ambassador after several German and other European politicians criticized recent media  
*See "Downplays ..." page 4*

## Pleasant Airs Welcome New Year



**NEW YEAR'S CHOPIN CONCERT AT POLISH EMBASSY.** Pianist Brian Ganz accompanies mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wor as she sings "A Maiden's Wish" (Zuczynie) at the Embassy of Poland to celebrate the beginning of the New Year. *Story on page 3.*

## Echoes of a Pilgrimage

by Tom Rusnak

CHICAGO — "We decide what's important in our lives" is what I'd say when asked about my first trip to Poland. "... and all of it was important." I was a sponge, absorbing every moment of the amazing introduction to my ancestral home. A homeland I had heard so much about and was now in at last. And, this was to be an event of a lifetime.

I was one of those grandchildren who loved to listen to the stories. I could sit with my maternal grandparents for hours. It must have been the exuberance of their tone or the sparkle in their eyes that attracted me because the heavy Eastern European accents were not as easy to absorb. The tales, nonetheless, were captivating.

One of my favorite stories was my grandmother's account of her childhood pilgrimage to the Holy Icon at the Monastery of Jasna Gora in Central Poland. St. Mary of Częstochowa

is the Byzantine era painting revered by the Roman Catholic faithful. It also happens to be the name of the premier Polish parish in my home town of Cicero, just west of Chicago. So whenever we'd speak of "Our Lady" I knew the story of her walk was cued up and ready to tell.

As the story goes Antonina, my "Busia," was sickly as a child. Her mother decided to take her on a pilgrimage to Częstochowa to pray for

her daughter's good health. They lived near the village of Krasnik in the Lublin province of what is now Eastern Poland. My grandmother told me how she, her mother and a group of pilgrims walked to Jasna Gora, a journey of many miles and many days.

I'd listen intently and barrage my dear grandmother with questions she'd lovingly answer. "What would you



*"At this point of the telling, it was clear in her gaze that she was no longer in the room, on the continent, or even in the latter half of the twentieth century. And neither was I."*

do while you walked?" I'd ask. "Sing songs, tell stories, pray and laugh" she'd reply. "Where did you sleep?" "Usually on the side of the road." "What if it rained?" "Then maybe in a farmer's house or in a barn."

At this point of the telling, it was clear in her gaze that she was no longer in the room, on the continent, or even in the latter half of the twentieth century.

*See "Echoes ..." page 4*

ALMANAC

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February Luty

- “The only way to realize the full scientific benefit of our observations is to share the data with our competition.”
- **Bohdan Paczynski** (b. Feb. 9, 1940), a leading scientist in theory of the evolution of stars.
- 1 1979. Birth of **Julie Ann Augustyniak** (Norfolk, Virg.), American soccer player who played for the Atlanta Beat of the Women’s United Soccer Association.
  - 2 **CANDLEMAS**  
At Candlemas, honoring the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, Poles observe “Matka Boska Gromnicza.” Candles blessed in church are taken home a symbol of the Blessed Mother.  
*Gdy na Gromnicę z dachu ciecze,  
zima się jeszcze powlecze.  
If on Gromnica icicles melt,  
winter’s finale is not dealt.*  
1674. Coronation of **Jan Sobieski**, king and military leader who defeated the Turks in Vienna in 1683, and thus honored for centuries as the “Defender of Christendom.”
  - 3 1974. Birth of **Konrad Galka** (Kraków), former butterfly swimmer, who competed in two consecutive Summer Olympics for Poland, starting in 1992.
  - 4 **TŁUSTY CZWARTEK**. (Fat Thursday) festivities mark the end of celebrations before Lent, which strictly forbids loud parties and meat dishes.  
1746. Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer **Thaddeus Kosciuszko**.
  - 6 **ST. DOROTHY**
  - 9 **PĄCZKI DAY** (U.S.)  
1940. Birth of **Bohdan Paczynski** (d. 2007), Polish-born American astrophysicist who pioneered a novel method for carrying out astronomical observations of distant objects that produce little or no light of their own.
  - 10 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
  - 11 1945. **Yalta Conference**. Soviets receive Poland’s Eastern lands.
  - 13 1416. A delegation of Lithuanians and Poles read their grievances against the Teutonic Knights at the Church Council at Constance.
  - 14 **ST. VALENTINE**
  - 15 1903. Death of **Fr. Jozef Dabrowski**, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).
  - 16 1704. Warsaw Confederation formed.
  - 18 1914. Birth of **Julius Kuczynski**, better known by his stage name, Pee Wee King.
  - 19 1921. Signing of the Franco-Polish Military Alliance  
1473. Birth of astronomer **Nicholas Copernicus** (Mikolaj Kopernik) in Torun, Poland.
  - 20 1941. Nazis order that Polish Jews are 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 1861. In the **Warsaw Massacre**, Russian troops fire on a crowd protesting Russian rule over Poland.

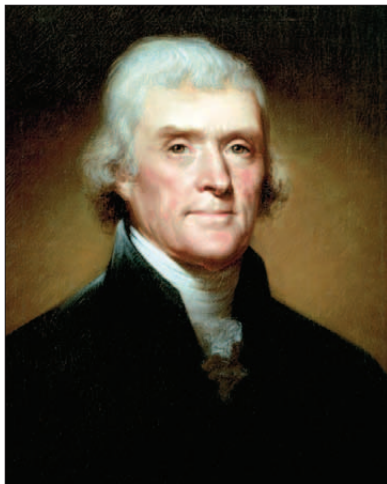
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VIEWPOINTS

# Why We Should All Regret Jefferson’s Broken Promise to Kościuszko

by Gary B. Nash and Graham Russell Gao Hodges

In March 1798, Tadeuz Kościuszko, a hero of the American and Polish revolutions, and Thomas Jefferson, Vice President of the United States, huddled in a cramped second-story room in Philadelphia to make a pact of honor centered on the Pole’s sizable American estate. Kościuszko, who had returned to the United States to a hero’s welcome less than a year before, anxiously wanted to leave for Paris to avoid entrapment by the Alien and Sedition acts. (Jefferson, estranged from President John Adams and hoping to use Kosciuszko’s prestige on a secret mission to convince the French not to wage war with the United States, prepared a fake passport for Kosciuszko.)



JEFFERSON (Rembrandt Peale, 1800).



HULL (unknown, 1848. Image based on daguerreotype).



KOŚCIUSZKO (Karol Schwekert, c. 1789-1792).

Before the Pole departed, he and Jefferson constructed a will to dispose of \$15,000 (Kosciuszko’s Revolutionary pay) after his death. The two men labored together to produce a document with the potential to alter American history.

Kościuszko’s first version deserves quotation. Though the spelling and syntax are eye-straining, the crude yet eloquent prose convey how passionately the romantic Polish revolutionary had embraced abolitionism:

*I beg Mr. Jefferson that in the case I should die without will or testament he should bye out of my money So many Negroes and free them, that the restante [remaining] sums should be Sufficient to give them aducation and provide for thier maintenance, that ... each should know before, the duty of a Cytyzen in the free Government, that he must defend his country against foreign as well as internal Enemies who would wish to change the Constitution for the worst to inslave them by degree afterwards, to have good and human heart Sensible for the Sufferings of others, each must be married and have 100 Ackres of land, wyth instruments, Cattle for tillage and know how to manage and Gouvern it well as well to know [how to] behave to neybhoughs [neighbors], always wyth Kindnes and ready to help them ... T. Kosciuszko.*

In this unconventional but emotion-packed will, Kościuszko expressed the convictions and commitments that made him such an admirable man for black Americans. Drawing on his longstanding belief that the downtrodden could prosper — peasants, as well as slaves — if given their freedom under favorable conditions, he tried to promote universal liberty and give Jefferson the opportunity to lead Southerners in a quest to re-

move the stain of slavery from the new nation.

A SECOND REVISED WILL, entirely in Kościuszko’s hand like the first, included a change of immense significance. Rather than the vague reference in the original version to use Kościuszko’s legacy to free “so many Negroes,” the rewritten will specified that “I do hereby declare and direct that should I make no other testamentary disposition of my property in the United

States I hereby authorize my friend Thomas Jefferson to employ the whole thereof in purchasing Negroes from among his own or any others.” Kościuszko surely made this crucial change with Jefferson’s consent, for Jefferson agreed to be the executor, as well as the beneficiary, of the will. Was Jefferson thinking of Sally Hemings, her daughter Harriet who was now not quite three, and the newborn Beverley, born just ten days before Jefferson witnessed Kościuszko’s signing of the will?

Jefferson endorsed Kościuszko’s scheme with a full heart, regarding the Pole as “the truest son of liberty I have even known.” For Jefferson, a promise at any time was a serious matter; but given freely under these conditions, it was to be held sacred. And for the next twenty years, Jefferson did not waver in his commitment to his Polish friend, maintaining a warm correspondence with Kosciuszko and, as they grew old together on opposite sides of the Atlantic, even invited him to live out his last years at Monticello and bury his bones alongside those of the Sage of Monticello.

Kosciuszko died on October 15, 1817. After several years of vacillation, Jefferson withdrew from his pact of honor with Kosciuszko by pleading in a Virginia court in Charlottesville that he could not serve as executor of his friend’s estate and would not use the money to free his slaves. As William Lloyd Garrison would say many years later, “What an all-conquering influence must have attended his illustrious example,” if he had taken the lead to abolish slavery. Merrill Peterson, for all his admiration for Jefferson, was anguished by this retreat: “The object of [Kosciuszko’s] will was lost. Had Jefferson felt stronger about the object, he would have ventured the experiment, despite statutory obstacles and the shortness of years, for the experiment [of free-

ing his slaves] was one he often commended to others and, indeed, one he may have himself suggested to Kosciuszko.”

WHY DID JEFFERSON, while throwing himself energetically into the creation of the University of Virginia, plead that he was too old and tired to carry out Kosciuszko’s will and betray the trust of his Polish compatriot? One of the key reasons was Jefferson’s allegiance to the Old Dominion

aristocracy and his devotion to sustaining the economic and cultural leverage of the white South in national politics. He also feared offending friends, especially slaveowners already shaken by the actions of others in Virginia who had released slaves from bondage. In a time when we are ac-

customed to seeing the current president reject scientific analysis on fearsome problems, stack regulatory commissions with those devoted to non-regulation, and stake out policy positions on the basis of insider friends and their deep-pocket interests, this earlier abandonment of an honorable pact with Kosciuszko has a peculiar odor.

As Kosciuszko’s will, abandoned by Jefferson, made its way through the courts, many complications arose. The estate was finally awarded by the Supreme Court in 1852, 26 years after most of Jefferson’s slaves had been auctioned on the rolling lawn at Monticello to extinguish his debts, to Kosciuszko’s descendants. For years in Poland, Kosciuszko’s countrymen held the view that the American Civil War could have been averted if the Polish hero’s philanthropic, abolitionist plan had been implemented. When the slaves at Monticello mounted the auction block to be sold off after the Founding Father died — the slaves that could have been freed if Kosciuszko’s will had been honored — a small-town editor in a Susquehanna River town asked how Jefferson, “surely the champion of civil liberty to the American people,” left “so many human beings in fetters to be indiscriminately sold to the highest bidder.” In biting words, the editor wrote: “Heaven inspired Jefferson with the knowledge ‘that all men are created equal.’ He was not forgetful — in his last moments he ‘commended his soul to God, and his daughter to his country;’ but to whom did he commend his wretched slaves?”

*Gary B. Nash and Graham Russell Gao Hodges are the co-authors of Friends of Liberty: A Tale of Three Patriots, Two Revolutions, and the Betrayal that Divided a Nation: Thomas Jefferson, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and Agrippa Hull (Basic Books, April 2008).*

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## FORUM

## A Different View of Poland

by Agnieszka Napierala-Cowen  
MPhil University of Oxford

OXFORD, U.K. — Poland has been recently, to use a metaphoric expression, “on the lips” of many western European and American newspapers. Interestingly the headlines have been quite scary and very negative: “Ultra-right wing,” “xenophobic” and “Euro-sceptical government has been elected in Poland” they read.

Did I miss something? *Elected ...* in the national, free and democratic elections. *Elected ...* not imposed. *Elected ...* the previous government was not overthrown.

So why so much negativity?

In Poland, time is counted differently: fifty years of communism, twenty-three years of post-communism, and now, with the last election, we can count using the words *free* Poland. Is that surprising?

## IT IS NOT A WELL-KNOWN FACT

that Poland for the last 25 years (with the exception of two) has been governed by people who were not made accountable for their communist past and different shades of alliance to the old, Soviet-imposed regime, their children, and their ide-

ological heirs.

It is not a well-known fact that Polish mainstream media had been dominated by the establishment paying homage to any ideals other than Polish, patriotic, and Christian.

Also not well-known is that articles read in the West about Poland are mostly influenced (if not dictated) by people belonging to that very powerful establishment: people who compromised Polish interests to suit the interest of its neighbors, Germany and Russia, and other times pan-interest of the European Union's leadership.

So taking aside the veil of this harmful propaganda, what the headlines of Western newspapers are really saying is that a new, patriotic, pro-Polish, pro-Christian government has been elected in Poland, marking the end of the old regime and begging a new era of Polish history.

It eludes me to understand why Poland is criticized for patriotism; for looking after its national interests; and for being proud of its history and heritage. In Poland's case, it is being criticized for being a Christian nation with deeply-rooted in Christian values. It is being criti-

cized for its aspiration to be a sovereign and independent state.

There are always powers and interests at play on the international scene, but for once, Poland is going to mind its own interests. And I mean that literally.

So don't worry about Poland. It is free. Finally.

And, when you think about Poland remember this, what one of England's greatest minds, G.K. Chesterton, once said:

*"I can certainly claim to have been, from the first, a partisan of the Polish ideal, even when my sympathy was mainly an instinct. (...) It was almost entirely founded on the denunciations of Poland, which were by no means rare. I judged the Poles by their enemies. And I found it was an almost unflinching-truth that their enemies were the enemies of magnanimity and manhood. If a man loved slavery, if he loved usury, if he loved terrorism and all the trampled mire of materialistic politics, I have always found that he added to these affections the passion of a hatred of Poland. She could be judged in the light of that hatred; and the judgment has proved to be right."*

It still holds.

## SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

## There are no Threats to Democracy in Poland

Dear Editor:

Contrary to alarmists media reports we want to reassure you – in Poland, there are no threats to democracy. The mainstream media keep criticizing the current government at will, all day long. People enjoy the right to public protest. This seems obvious in a democracy, however, during the last eight years it was not standard in Poland. It was during the rule of the Civic Platform and Polish People's Party (PO-PSL) coalition that the standards of a democratic state were frequently violated. Here are some examples:

During the rule of PO-PSL coalition, independent journalists were repeatedly harassed by the security agencies. The staff of, among others, “Gazeta Polska” had their homes searched. In May 2011, at six in the morning, agents of the Internal Security Agency entered the flat of an Internet user who ran a satirical website on Bronisław Komorowski. Independent journalists were dismissed from their posts as they demanded honest investigation into the Smolensk crash. Tomasz Sakiewicz and Anita Gargas, among others, lost their jobs in the public media. Cezary Gmyz was dismissed from the editorial staff of “Rzeczpospolita” for publishing information indicating that there were traces of TNT found on the wreck of the plane that crashed at Smolensk. Later, the information was confirmed by the prosecutors leading the investigation. In June 2014, agents of the Internal Security Agency raided the office of a weekly “Wprost” which revealed stenographic records of conversations held by most important politicians. The agents wanted to confiscate computers and data storage discs belonging to the journalists. The so called tape scandal that erupted a few days earlier, provided evidence, among other things, that state-owned companies subsidized only the media writing in favor of the government. They ignored such indicators as reading of the press. Media houses were pressed not to place their advertisements in the

independent press. For that reason a huge part of the media, *Gazeta Polska* included, were deprived of paid-for commercial advertisements.

In December 2014, two journalists (Tomasz Gzell of the Polish Press Agency and Jan Pawlicki of Telewizja Republika) were arrested. They covered the protest held at the headquarters of the National Electoral Commission. For a week or so, the Commission was not able to provide the results of the local elections which agitated Poles and some decided to occupy the premises of the Commission. The journalists were arrested even though they had their identity cards. They also faced a lawsuit against them. To this very day the results of the last local elections remain highly questionable, the proof being 2,000 protest notes lodged in local courts.

During the last eight years, the previous government kept journalists and citizens under surveillance as a usual practice. In 2014 alone, the secret service applied to have 2,177,000 telephone billings. In Europe we were definitely in the lead. The district public prosecutor's office in Warsaw is having an investigation into the wiretapping of independent journalists. In all likelihood, the service had no court warrant to do so.

In May 2015, after a lost election by President Bronisław Komorowski, the PO-PSL coalition violated the constitution and decided to elect new members of the Constitutional Tribunal. The politicians of the retiring coalition wanted to limit the right of the new ruling party to elect judges of their choice and appropriate the Tribunal completely. Today, after the reforms implemented by the Law and Justice (PiS), the judges elected by the Civic Platform still constitute the majority. They occupy nine of 15 seats in the Constitutional Tribunal.

These are just a few glaring examples. Similar violations of civil liberties were truly abundant. The government formed by the PO-PSL coalition was also involved in many corruption scandals. Under their nose, a pyramid scheme, Amber Gold, flourished, and thousands of Poles were cheated and deprived of their savings. The public said “enough is enough” and two months ago in a democratic election removed the PO-PSL coalition from power.

Democracy in Poland is doing fine, as compared to the eight years under the previous government.

Lukasz Szelaż  
via email

Editor's note: Szelaż is an independent journalist from Warsaw

## Wałęsa wants End to alleged “Spy Claims”

WARSAW — Former Polish president Lech Wałęsa said he wants to meet with the people who have accused him of having been a collaborator for the Soviet secret police, and asked the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) to organize a meeting with those who have accused him.

For years, various voices have hinted that Lech Wałęsa — a former electrician who went on to become the leader of the Solidarity trade union — was a Soviet collaborator codenamed “Bolek.”

His alleged collaboration supposedly ended several years before

the famed August 1980 shipyard strike in Gdańsk, where Solidarity was born.

“I propose a public final chapter to this ‘Bolek’ issue,” former president Wałęsa said.

In 2011, noted journalist and former dissident Krzysztof Wyszowski declared that he would not follow a court order and apologize to Lech Wałęsa for accusing the Solidarity leader of being a one-time communist agent.

In 2012 Wałęsa has expressed his “pain and disgust” at being accused of having collaborated with the communist-era secret service.

## New Year's Chopin Concert at Polish Embassy

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Fredrick Chopin piano compositions and Polish melodies were floating in the air here at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on January 7, 2016 under the auspices of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, in conjunction with the Heritage Society of the National Philharmonic Orchestra (NPO). Charge d’Affaires Maciej Pisarski warmly welcomed everyone, especially the numerous NPO guests, and remarked upon the close working relationship between the Embassy and the NPO, conducted by Maestro Piotr Gajewski, which frequently showcases Polish artists and musicians.

Pianist Brian Ganz is devoted to the music of Fredrick Chopin, and is recognized as one of the finest conveyors of Chopin's repertoire. He enraptured the audience with his presentation of the *Cantabile in B-Flat Major, Impromptu No. 1 in A-Flat Major*, and two *Nocturnes in C Minor and F Major*, respectively. The Embassy's historic Paderewski/Steinway piano never sounded as good as it did on this evening as

it almost-knowingly responded to Ganz's amazing commands and entreaties.

With her unrivaled voice and dramatic gestures, mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wor, accompanied by Ganz, captivated the audience as she sang ten short Polish songs by Chopin that are rarely heard. Selections included: “Handsome Lad” (*Sliczny chłopiec*), “Drinking Song” (*Hulanka*), “Out of My Sight!” (*Prez z moich oczu!*), “Double Ending” (*Dwojaki koniec*) and “Lithuanian Song” (*Piosnka litewska*). Before each presentation, Ganz and Wor explained the lyrics and plot to the audience. Some presentations were quite amusing, some melancholy or thoughtful, but they all represented the vibrancy and foibles of life. Polish American Wor was standing in for Iwona Sobotka who was still stranded in Poland due to American visa issues.

The evening was capped by a bountiful Polish and European buffet that left no one wanting. Along with the wine and aforementioned music, it proved to be an excellent entrance for the New Year of 2016.

## “Protect your Women, Not our Democracy!”

BERLIN — Polish fans made a bold statement during a volleyball match against Germany. Poles unfurled a giant banner reading, “Protect your women, not our democracy!”

The first half of the banner was in reference to the allegations of mass sexual assaults by migrants and refugees in Germany on New Year's Eve. The second half of the banner refers to recent European Union (EU) threats to suspend Polish voting rights due to actions of their new right wing government. Many Poles blame Germany for that threat.

Last year Poland's Eurosceptic Law and Justice party (PiS) won



a landslide majority in the general election, becoming the first party to govern without coalition partners since the end of communism. One of the first things PiS did was to rewrite the previous government's commitment to take in thousands of migrants from across the EU as part of the continent-wide mandatory resettlement program.

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## Echoes of a Pilgrimage

*continued from cover*

And neither was I. I was with the band of travelers walking through the countryside to the “bright hill,” the Jasna Gora that was the annual destination of hundreds and in later years thousands of pilgrims seeking blessings and paying homage to the patron saint and spiritual mother of the Polish people. The painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa was brought to Central Poland in the 14th century by a Count of Opole who acquired it in southeastern Europe. The legend surrounding it attributed it as a work of the apostle Luke. It was supposedly painted on a segment of the table belonging to either the Holy Family or the one used in the Last Supper. It resides in a grand chapel attached to the basilica. Jasna Gora is the gathering point of the faithful every 15th of August for the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. The painting is dark in color and often referred to as the “Black Madonna.” She has two scars on her cheek, presumably done by a vandal during a Hussite invasion many years ago.

After a while Busia would continue the story culminating with her arrival at the monastery. Her eyes would swell as she took a breath to say, “Tomek, when I saw God’s Mother. She was looking at me!” Then she would cry and I would get up, sit next to her on the sofa, and put my arm around her with a hug that comforted the both of us. This was the routine I happily repeated many times until her passing and afterwards in my memory.

**AS IT TURNED OUT,** Polish culture became a staple of my professional life. I worked for many years on the technical staff of The Lira Ensemble of Chicago. Our annual Christmas Gala would often include the very popular *Czarna Madonna* or *Black Madonna*; a beautiful song honoring Our Lady of Częstochowa.

I later got involved with the Kosciuszko Foundation’s Teaching English in Poland program and found myself in my ancestral home



Jasna Gora Monastery

for part of the summer. So it was no surprise how excited I was when I learned Jasna Gora was the first stop of our American tour. A benefit of volunteering with the program was a sponsored tour of a region of Poland. Ours went from Częstochowa, down to Zakopane then along the Wisła (Vistula) to Warsaw where we eventually left for home. Nothing exceeded the high anticipation I felt as did the first stop on our itinerary.

*“Tomek, when I saw  
God’s Mother. She was  
looking at me!”*

The plan was to arrive at the monastery, tour the grounds, then view the icon. The sanctuary of the chapel is gated, so the congregation views it from behind a metal grate. A railing along the edge of the sanctuary allows visitors an opportunity to walk, or for some to crawl on their knees, along its perimeter. It runs on one side, behind the altar itself, then out the opposite side back to the nave. The walls are adorned with testaments of adoration and thanks. Rosaries, plaques, crutches, small pressed silver reliefs of eyes or limbs accompany the visitor’s journey around the portrait of Mary.

There is a silver shield that protects the picture. It is raised only at

certain times of the day. That became a rather focused, though unnecessary concern for me on this visit. I wanted to make sure we were there at the time Our Lady was on public view. I didn’t want to miss the opportunity to see something I had heard about all my life.

The twenty or so Americans and our Polish hosts were taken on a tour of the main basilica, the outer grounds, the Rycerzka Hall of Knights, the treasury and the gift shop before we were to view the icon. Through it all, my anticipation to be in the presence of the object that played such an important part of my Polish childhood, was paramount in my mind. The echoes of my grandmother’s voice and the vision of her pale blue eyes lost in what had become our shared memory was ever present. I was so afraid I’d miss the chance to see it. My fears were unfounded but there nonetheless. Imagine my surprise and elation when we were told we’d be in the sanctuary, within the gate, for the exposition of the Holy Icon.

We assembled in the sacristy adjacent to the chapel. Someone noticed two of our group were missing. They had stepped out into the basilica. My school teacher instinct got the best of me and I left the group to retrieve them all the while dreading the chance that I wouldn’t make it to the sanctuary on time. I found the recalcitrant Americans and shepherded them back to the sacristy. When we returned, the chapel door was open and the Americans were filing in. I was easing into line when two groups of older Mediterranean women were ushered in and walked through the open door ahead of me. The latent panic awakened as I feared the chapel would reach capacity before I got in and the doors would close. I couldn’t bring myself to cut in front of an elderly pilgrim even if it were to see something that would highlight my five thousand mile journey to the sanctuary. I turned to face the silver shield as the music started and it was slowly raised to reveal the Holy Icon. And when I saw the picture of God’s Mother as my grandmother did one hundred years earlier, she was looking at me.



*Tom Rusnak has been to Poland eleven times with the Kosciuszko Foundation’s “Teaching English in Poland” program, viewing the Icon almost every year. He is currently an American staff leader for their summer language camps. He also serves on the technical staff for The Lira Ensemble, artists-in-residence of Loyola University of Chicago. He is a retired Fine Arts teacher and directs and designs for the theatre in the Chicagoland area.*

## Poland Under Fire



**SZYDŁO.** “We want the EU to understand that Poland, as a sovereign state, has the right to make internal decisions that serve the people.”

*continued from cover*

supporters of the parties that lost the October elections.

The losers launched a self-styled Committee in Defense of Democracy (KOD) which, week after week, brought throngs of anti-government protesters into the streets. They ranted, chanted and waved placards calling the government a dictatorship, accusing it of violating the constitution and claiming democracy was in danger. Protest leaders also traveled to the EU capital Brussels to snitch on their country’s government and urge action against it.

The KOD version of events, promoted by influential anti-PiS media including liberal-leftist *Gazeta Wyborcza* (known as the “Polish *New York Times*”) and anti-government TVN television found a receptive audience in influential Western political and media circles. As a pro-Polish, pro-family and pro-Catholic party that favors the little guy over banks and corporations, PiS (pronounced “peace”) has had a hard time being heard in the West.

But the anti-government message did get through, prompting European Parliament Chairman Martin

Schulz to call the situation in Poland “a Putin-style democracy” and order a debate on Poland’s alleged “violation of the rule of law.” Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło accepted the challenge and stood her ground at the European Parliament, based in the French city of Strasbourg.

In a calm but resolute voice Szydło refuted the accusations against her government and described the measures as the fulfillment of her party’s campaign pledges to voters. “We want the EU to understand that Poland, as a sovereign state, has the right to make internal decisions that serve the people,” she said. The prime minister reiterated Poland’s commitment to the EU but added the 28-country bloc had far more important problems than Polish politics to deal with to mention only the refugee crisis.

Far from being an inquisition with Poland in the hot seat, the session turned into a spirited debate. Speakers representing the Polish anti-government Civic Platform party did criticize PiS’ behavior, but many European Parliamentarians from different countries supported Szydło’s position. Quite a few attacked the EU for meddling in Poland’s internal affairs, and pointed out some of the bloc’s other failures and shortcomings.

In terms of crisis management, Polish leaders made a commendable effort, but continued misunderstandings cannot be ruled out. President Andrzej Duda met with former Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, now chairman of the European Council, and the two men agreed that the fever-pitch emotions surrounding the “Polish situation” should definitely be toned down. “It is not in our country’s interest to continue the dispute in the European forum,” added Tusk, rumored to be considering a bid for the Polish presidency in 2020.

## Tension with Germany Downplayed

*continued from cover*

and justice reforms by Poland’s new right-wing government as an erosion of liberties.

“We don’t have tense relations with Germany,” Waszczykowski told reporters following talks in Warsaw with Germany’s ambassador, Rolf Nikel.

“A visit by German politicians to Poland would be the best solution, so they can see that Polish democracy is not doing as poorly as they might think,” he added.

Nikel echoed the Polish minister, describing their talks as “constructive” and Polish-German relations as a “treasure we wish to safeguard so they can flourish.”

Relations between Berlin and Warsaw have been strained since the conservative Law and Justice party (PiS) returned to power in Poland in October after eight years in opposition.

Polish foreign ministry spokesman Artur Dmochowski refused to say what German comments Warsaw interpreted as being “anti-Polish” and which politician had uttered them.

But last month, European Parliament President Martin Schulz, a German Social Democrat, compared the political situation in Poland to a “coup,” prompting Prime Minister Beata Szydło to demand apology.

Schulz went further, telling a leading German daily that the PiS’s moves constitute a “dangerous ‘putinization’ of European politics”,

drawing a comparison to the hard-line governing style of Russian strongman, President Vladimir Putin.

The eurosceptic PiS has also said it will financially support EU efforts to tackle the refugee crisis, but has made it clear Poland would not take in as many migrants as the EU decided. The stance has put it on a collision course with Germany, which took in 1.1 million asylum-seekers last year — the largest group among them coming from Syria — and has called on all EU members to accept their fair share.

**WASZCZYKOWSKI INVITES GERMAN PEERS.** After his meeting with the German ambassador, Waszczykowski said German politicians should come and witness Polish democracy firsthand.

“We have a communication problem with certain German politicians but it seems to me that we are on the right track to finding a solution,” he said.

“The best solution would be a visit to Poland by German politicians who could then become convinced that the state of Polish democracy is not as bad as it might seem from afar,” Waszczykowski said.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Rolf Nikel said that the conversation with the minister had been constructive, and that “Polish-German relations are a treasure which must be safeguarded so that they are developed positively in the future.”

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# A Month of Celebrations

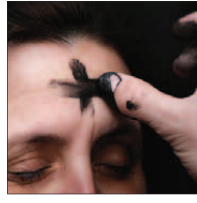
February may be the shortest month, but seems to have the most celebrations:

**February 2 is Candlemas**, celebrating the purification of the Virgin Mary after her delivery of the infant Jesus.

The weather on this late winter day was thought to be a kind of reverse indicator of what was to come: Fine weather indicated a prolonged winter, while clouds and chill presaged an early Spring. From the Middle Ages on, country folks believed that on this day hibernating animals left their dens to inspect the state of the sky.

It was believed of bears, badgers and especially hedgehogs that if they saw their shadows on that day, planting should be delayed for several weeks, an obvious precursor to our current Groundhog Day.

**February 10 is Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent. On this day the faithful receive smudges of ash on their foreheads, as an emblem of their mortality. The priest reminds us of the custom's meaning "Dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return." The practice, which reflects the Old Testament tradition of wearing sackcloth and ashes as signs of penitence, became Christianized early in Church history.



**FEBRUARY ALSO MARKS** the birthdays of four prominent Poles: **Feb. 4, 1746** — The birth date of **Thaddeus Kosciuszko**, hero of both America and Poland. A Polish freedom fighter and engineer, Kos-

ciuszko endeared himself to this country during the American Revolution (d. 1817).

**Feb. 16, 1757** — **Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz** was born, the eldest of sixteen children. The poet, playwright and statesman — as well as a leading advocate for the May 3, 1791 Constitution. (d. 1841).

**Feb. 19, 1473** — Birth of Renaissance mathematician and astronomer, **Nicholas Copernicus**. In the 1500s when most believed earth was the center of the universe, he proposed his theory that the planets revolved around the sun. (d. 1543).

**Feb. 23, 1854** — **Casimir Funk** comes into the world. Born in Poland, Funk was a biochemist and discoverer of vitamins. He found that vitamins B1, B2, C and D were necessary to human health. (d. 1967).

**SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa**

# Preparation for Winter, Healing Powers, and Magic

"*Sibracy*" (*Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II*) is written by *Stefania Borstowa*. *Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakhstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.*

Excerpt from a letter written in October 21, 1940:

It feels like winter already, the temperatures are below freezing and some snow covers the field. I did not work in the *kolkhoz* (farm) for at least a month, since they don't pay us anymore. Besides, I had to put my effort into storing enough supply of wheat and potatoes for the whole winter. We had to exchange about 20 meters of bed sheet fabric for about a hundred kilo of wheat, fifty kilo of flour and potatoes and fifteen kilograms of cabbage. I ordered a pig for Christmas. As you can see, we manage quite well. We need to work to gather all this winter supply pretty hard. For instance we have to carry wheat on the wheel cart from 15 km away. It is easy to count how many times we had to pull it to get 100 kilos home. Additionally we need to carry dry wood and shrubbery for heating. In spite of hard work, we look good and are in good moods. While we carry wheat we are singing: "Lord, give us bread" and we laugh from Soviet occupation.

I am surprised that there are some Polish families at village that do not prepare any supplies for winter. The policemen's wives are envious about everything, but they state that, since they were never used to carry the wood before, they would not do it now. I warned them not to ask for help later on, since they do not prepare for it now. It seems that our warnings have no impact so far. Stupid and lazy folks.

Excerpt from the letter written in November 1, 1940:

Today it is slightly warmer. The temperature is only about -8C (17F), but during nights the temperature drops to -20C (-4F). We learned a new skill: we grind wheat on quern-stones for flour. It took us, me and Marysia, six hours to grind one bucket of wheat, now we have enough bread for 10 days. Sophie, who was trying to choke her son in

the train on way to Kazakhstan lost her mind completely. They took her to a health center in Kustanay. Her son remained in the village, he is taken care by a wife of a doctor. One Polish woman, with a husband somewhere in Hungary, lives with a German boyfriend, a re-settler. It is a sham, since she is here with her children and a mother-in-law. Tobacco is the only crop that survived the destruction done by pigs and cows. There is a Polish family here, five people. They have boys with no clothes or shoes. They wear rags. If you can, please send some clothes or shoes for them. Please, send also some books for young people to read. We have here nothing.

Excerpt from the letter written in December 8, 1940,

We found a new way to earn money. We heal the sick. Until now, we are miraculously successful. We heal stomach, liver, headache, belly aches, diarrhea, ulcers, lichen, etc. Our healing power is known also outside the local community. We are invited to the neighboring villages, people even sent a horse-sled to take us to their houses. We are given some food, mainly carrots, beets,

cabbage, sometimes even butter or meat for our healing services. I am a main doctor and Marysia is my aide. We use mainly the same medicines: iodine, aspirin, cleaning/disinfection tools, quinine. We realize that our success will last as long as everybody survives, so we are very careful.

I received two big parcels, eight kilograms of medicines from our dear friends with different medications for different symptoms with information how to apply them. The parcels had everything we needed: bandage, gauze, cotton wool, thermometers, vitamins, anti-cough syrups, cupping-glass with methanol and a deck of cards. My friend told me that his aunt survived Soviet revolution only thanks to telling the fortune. She told me to do the same. After careful considerations only, since this was against my nature and my ethical upbringing, I decided to use a common sense and use some magic to help us survive here in Kazakhstan.



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As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendents since 1911, 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.



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## Archbishop Wenski Warns About Gay-Marriage

In light of a decision of a Florida judge to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples, Miami's **Archbishop Thomas Wenski**, in a letter to Church employees, explained that public support for behavior in conflict with Catholic teaching, including via social media, could cost them their job.

"All employees should note," he wrote, "that, because of the Church's particular function in society, certain conduct, inconsistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church, could lead to disciplinary action, including termination."

Florida became the 36th state in the United States to legalize gay "marriage."

The archbishop's clarification to employees follows several recent instances of Church personnel being let go for violation of Church teaching with media and legal action taken as a backlash, in Kansas City, Seattle, Chicago, Ohio, and Minnesota. The archbishop said that "by imposing a new definition of marriage on the people of Florida, the courts are changing what marriage means for everybody."

**POLAND AND HUNGARY OPPOSE EU GAY MARRIAGE.** European Union diplomats in the UN have been outspoken supporters

of special new rights for individuals who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT). The new leadership recently elected in Poland and similarly inclined ministers in Hungary successfully stopped an EU ministerial agreement that would have forced all EU countries to honor same-sex "marriages" wherever they were contracted in the European Union.

Poland and Hungary argue that this violates the sovereign prerogative of countries to legislate on marriage and family matters. Currently in the UN, EU diplomats have aimed at "broadening the scope of recognition of LGBT rights" around the globe and not just ending discrimination. Other countries, smaller and weaker than Hungary and Poland but sharing similar views, will more likely stand together with the strong leadership of Poland and Hungary.

**SETTLEMENT IN ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS ABUSE CASE.** Archbishop Bernard Hebda and the archdiocesan attorney stated that they share the same goal with the litigants of securing safe places for children and note that the agreement legally establishes actions to be taken in situations of abuse.

Under the agreement, a predominantly lay ministerial review



**ARCHBISHOP WENSKI:** "... by imposing a new definition of marriage on the people of Florida, the courts are changing what marriage means for everybody."

board will deal with allegations of misconduct instead of relying upon the decision-making of one or two clergy members. There will also be two independent audits in 2017 and 2018 to ensure compliance.

The archdiocese recently declared bankruptcy as a result of sexual misconduct cases and Archbishop Hebda was appointed apostolic

administrator of the archdiocese at the resignation of Archbishop Nienstedt and Auxiliary Bishop Lee Piche.

**MINNESOTA TOWN STANDS UP.** When the atheist **Freedom From Religion Foundation** threatened to sue and thereby forced the Minnesota city of Wadena to take down its Nativity scene at the bandstand in a city park, residents blanketed the town with hundreds of nativity scenes. The city first allowed local citizens to put up the Nativity scene as part of their family gatherings at the bandstand, one each day throughout the holidays. Other citizens put up nativity scenes in the yards and shop windows.

Wadena resident **Dani Sworski** started a Facebook page filled with pictures of manger scenes all over town. "Let's shower the town with nativity scenes, let's share our faith," she declared.

Bill Donohue of The Catholic League commented, "It is entirely legal to put a manger scene on public property, as long as it is privately paid for and it is a public forum, i.e. an area that is open to art displays, concerts, rallies, and the like."

**TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS.** Poles celebrated the Feast of the

Epiphany (Jan. 6) with street parades. The holiday, commemorating the arrival of the Three Kings in Bethlehem to pay tribute to Jesus twelve days after his birth, is one of the oldest and most important days of the Roman Catholic Church and remains a public holiday in Poland.

"Epiphany" means "to reveal" and so tradition says that by bringing gifts to the Christ child, the three Wise Men reveal Jesus to the world as Lord. In Poland and in many other countries as well, the Feast of the Epiphany is known as Three Kings' Day.

Three Kings' Parades were introduced in Poland eight years ago and since then have been embraced in 420 towns throughout the country. In Warsaw, two events are organized, one on each bank of the Vistula River. The main event in Warsaw's Old Town, is the parade led by the Archbishop of Warsaw.

A Pole, a Chinese, and a Nigerian pose as the Three Kings. Around them are children dressed in three colors —red symbolizing Europe, green, Asia and blue, Africa.

The theme of this year's parade was "Mercy comes first. Love. Peace. Forgiveness" and refers to this year's Roman Catholic Church's Holy Year of Mercy.

## PSAA Singers Celebrate Kolędy

NEW YORK — Member choruses of the **Polish Singers Alliance of America** Seventh District gathered in Ridgewood's magnificent Church of St. Aloysius, Fr. Jerzy Poltorak, pastor, to celebrate Christmas with Polish carols and pastorals on January 10, 2016.

Participating were: Polonia-Paderewski Chorus #287 (New Britain, Conn.); Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Female Chorus #321 (Philadelphia); Chopin Singing Society #182 (Passaic, N.J.); a representative group of Aria #303 (Wallington, N.J.), as well as Oginski #283 (Hempstead, Long Island); Hejnal #323 (Greenpoint), and Jutrzenka Female Chorus #226 (South Brooklyn).

All choruses presented their three favorite Christmas pieces, which were appreciated by the audience. The choruses were grateful to congregation, which came to the 3:00 p.m. Holy Mass and stayed for the concert.

The choruses are lucky and proud to have new District 7 President Yaga Chudy take a pro-active role in reaching out and organizing such an enjoyable afternoon.

"In this world of stress and uncertainty, the singers reach out to all lovers of choral music and invite individuals with sweet voices to come and join them so they may continue their mission of fostering Polish culture through song," said the PSAA's Barbara Blyskal.

To learn more about the PSAA, call Yaga Chudy at (201) 681-7980, or visit polishsingersalliance.org.

### MODLITWY

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

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## Poles are Largest Group to Visit the Auschwitz Memorial

by Rabbi Allen S. Maller

A record number of more than 1,720,000 visitors came to the Auschwitz memorial in 2015. This number broke the previous record of 1,530,000 visitors set in 2014, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum in Poland reported. Recent years have seen a dramatic rise in visitors, up from fewer than 500,000 in 2000.

In 2015, as in previous years, the largest number of visitors (425,000-24.7%) came from Poland, where tens of thousands of students from Polish schools tour Auschwitz annually.

Then there are the following number of foreign visitors (75.3%): United Kingdom (220,000), the United States (141,000), Germany (93,000), Italy (76,000), Spain (68,000), Israel (61,000), France (57,000), the Czech Republic (47,000) and the Netherlands (43,000).

It is sad that the number of German visitors is only somewhat higher than the number of Italians. It is

hopeful that the number of visitors from Spain is even larger than the number from Israel.

Nearly 80 percent of the visitors are guided by museum educators in one of 20 languages. "The appropriate preparation and training of nearly 300 educators constitutes a challenge, taking into account dynamically changing attendance of visitors from different language areas," said the director of the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

Created by an act of the Polish Parliament in 1947, the memorial museum comprises two parts — the Auschwitz I camp, entered through the iconic "Arbeit Macht Frei" gate, and the vast area of Auschwitz II, at Birkenau, about two miles away.

The museum is a state-run entity. The Polish government provides more than one-third of the approximately \$15-million annual budget, and the European Union also contributes some funding. More than half of the budget is generated by the museum itself through visitor

fees for guides, sales of publications, onsite concessions and other income sources.

In 2009, a special Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation was established for a perpetual endowment whose income is specifically earmarked for long-term conservation. Some 35 states have pledged or donated funds to the endowment, including more than half of the sum from Germany.



Rabbi Maller is a graduate of UCLA and the Hebrew Union College. He has taught at Gratz College in Philadelphia, the Hebrew Union College and the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, and at the UCLA Extension. He is past president of the Southern California Association of Reform Rabbis and is now president of the National Jewish Hospitality Committee.

Rabbi Maller has also published many articles on Jewish sociology and education in popular magazines, both Jewish and Christian. He has also published original research in the scholarly journals "Jewish Social Studies" and "Judaism."

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## Amber Ball at Waldorf Astoria

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation Ball is a celebration of a mission fulfilled and the benefactors who made it possible. The Foundation awards more than \$1 million annually in fellowships and grants to graduate students, scholars, scientists and artists, and nearly 200 people benefited from the Foundation's financial assistance each year.

This year's Ball will be held Sat., April 30, 2016. It is an opportunity to gather with close friends and make new ones while dining and dancing at the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria.

The Ball will feature the Debutante Presentation. Young women are invited to apply. For information or to request a Debutante brochure, call (212) 734-2130 or visit [www.TheKF.org](http://www.TheKF.org).

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



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**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](mailto:childshart@aol.com) website: [PolishChildrensHeartline.org](http://PolishChildrensHeartline.org)

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

# A Historic Musical Event!

CHICAGO — It was a great historic musical event! For the first time ever, and for only one concert, world-renowned artists, jazz singer **Grazyna Auguściak** and **Michał Urbaniak**, jazz musician and composer, arranger, violinist, and saxophonist, appeared on stage together. On December 4, Chicago's Copernicus Center was filled to capacity to hear and see these artists perform.

Urbaniak, has for years, been known, appreciated, and admired by an international audience around the world. But for the first time, he performed in front of a Chicago Polish American audience along with Auguściak, Chicago's famous jazz chanteuse.

The duo dazzled the audience with a more than two-hour concert that began with Auguściak using her extraordinary voice, freely interpreting each song with refreshing clarity and creativity. Then Urbaniak performed his classic rendition of Krzysztof Komeda's "Rosemary's Lullaby" and the song "My Mother Told Me, Not To See You."

During the second portion of the concert, Urbaniak was accompanied by his musicians. The applause was thunderous as the group performed numbers ranging from folk sounds to hip-hop. The pieces played were based primarily on his recent music albums, thus allowing the musicians a certain amount of freedom in their interpretations and the concept of making music together.

Finally, Auguściak was invited back onto the stage, for the song "Waltz-Oberek," perfectly paced



Auguściak and Urbaniak

with Urbaniak's violin. A long, standing ovation closed the show for these outstanding musical artists.

## LOCAL BOY WINS NATIONAL CONTEST.

This past year, approximately 11,000 students throughout the U.S. took part in a very special art contest. Students from kindergarten through Grade 8 volunteered their time and talent to create a postcard depicting the Nativity of the Christ Child. This year, 41 out of 700 students from St. Blase Polish Language School in Summit, Illinois, participated. The national winner was **Lukasz Ratułowski**, a first grader from St. Blase.

On December 5, Lukasz and his parents, Barbara and Krzysztof, traveled to Washington, D.C., to the Basilica of the Immaculate Concep-



tion to take part in the award ceremony. Once home, Lukasz shared his experiences, not only in receiving such a prestigious award, but also in visiting the nation's capitol with his fellow students. He received an iPod for his outstanding artistic work.

This annual contest is sponsored by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, based in Chicago. The artwork is reproduced as the official Christmas card of the National Of-



Lukasz Ratułowski

fice of the Pontifical Mission Societies: Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Missionary Childhood Association, Society of St. Peter Apostle, and Pontifical Missionary Union. This is the seventh year of competition for creating a Christmas card and the second year that a student from St. Blase has won. Last year's winner was **Klaudia Bafia**. The winning works were displayed on Christmas cards distributed throughout the U.S. through the children's website: [www.MCAKids.org](http://www.MCAKids.org) as E-greetings. The students at St. Blase have already begun working on the 2016 Christmas card project.

**LIRA'S JOYOUS JUBILEE.** This year, the Lira Ensemble traveled to the Cleveland and Detroit areas to perform its "Joyous Jubilee - 50 years of Polish Carols, Song and

Dance." But it also performed in its hometown of Chicago with its "Polish and American Carols." On December 13, the Lira performed to a filled church audience at St. Mary of the Angels, a Chicago landmark, featuring a guest performance by the internationally acclaimed jazz singer, **Grazyna Auguściak**, who performed her original interpretations of Polish carols. As always, **Lucyna Migiala**, co-founder of the Lira Ensemble, gave a thorough and complete narration on the beautiful Polish customs and the history of Polish Christmas carols.

For the last 50 years, the Lira Ensemble has brought the best of Polish culture, not only to the Chicago area, but everywhere it has traveled. This group of classically trained artists brings delight to all who hear them perform.

## POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

# Names New and Old Sworn into Office

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Erie County Executive **Mark Poloncarz** was sworn in for his second term in Old County Hall in Buffalo on New Year's Day ... **Eugene Jankowski, Jr.** was sworn in as the Batavia city council president ... Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka** has been appointed to serve as a county and surrogate court judge, and acting NYS supreme court justice, in Genesee County for the 2016 calendar year ... Erie County Judge **Thomas Franczyk** decided that he would not seek the position of Erie County district attorney in this year's elections.

The official book of Buffalo's historic Broadway Market, which was edited by Michael Mulley and contains a forward by Buffalo Council Member **David Franczyk** and 100 black and white pages, is available at the market office ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** received a \$2500 grant from NYS Assembly Member **Angela Wozniak** to install a memorial bench in Cheektowaga and a canal-side memorial plaque in downtown Buffalo ... **Chrusciki Bakery** opened its fourth location at the College Park office complex in Amherst ... **Mazurek's Bakery** has opened a new location in Buffalo's Broadway Market.

The **Market Bar** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District was damaged by fire on the 3rd of Jan. ... The **Ludowa Nuta** folk group from Hamilton, Ontario headlined Corpus Christi Parish's "Oplatek & Koleda" at the East Side Buffalo church on Jan. 3rd ... Potts Banquet Hall hosted its **Annual Snow Ball Dance** featuring the New Direction Band, and St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, the Mother Church of Rochester's Polonia, hosted its **Oplatek Dinner Dance**, which included a "Jaselka" by the Polish School children, on Jan. 9th ... Also on

the 9th, the **Katolickie Radio Rodzina** held its "Zabawe Oplatkowa" featuring "Non Stop" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario, and the Syracuse Polish Home hosted its **Oplatek Dinner Dance** featuring the John Gora Band at its Park Avenue clubrooms.

On Jan. 10th, Buffalo Mass Mob XIV filled **St. Luke's Mission of Mercy** on Sycamore Street, and the Villa Maria Chorale and Quo Vadis Choir performed **Polish Carols for the Finale of Christmas** at Queen of Martyrs Church in Cheektowaga ... **Lucyna Dziejdzic** offered her Polish language classes as part of the Maryvale School District's adult education program beginning in mid-Jan. ... The **Pilgrims for Poland World Youth Day** in Krakow held their "Polish Night" featuring performances by Special Delivery and the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY at St. John's Parish in Alden, and the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga hosted the **Czarna Bialy Karnawal**, on Jan. 16th ... Also on the 16th, Buffalo's Broadway Market marked National Polka Month with its **Pierogi, Piwo and Polkas** event with music by the New Direction Band.

The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** presented Mary Jane Masiulionis' presentation on St. John Paul II's play, "The Jeweler's Shop," at the Harlem Road Community Center on Jan. 20th, and held its Annual Installation Luncheon at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca on Jan. 31st ... The Polish folk band **Golec uOrkiestra** performed at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga, and the Polish Canadian Salon of Music, Poetry and Theatre of Toronto presented **Dobry Wieczor Monsieur Chopin** at the Maja Prentice Theatre in Mississauga, on Jan. 15th.

Rev. Czeslaw Kysa's **Third Annual Krupnik Festival** was held at the Polish Villa II Restaurant in Cheektowaga, **Villa Maria College** in Cheektowaga held its "Blizzard Raffle," the **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** held its "Candlemas Celebration" at its Fillmore Avenue clubrooms, and the Dom Polski in North Tonawanda marked its **Polish Night** on Jan. 30th ... On the 31st, the New Direction Band performed at the **Polish Nook** in Niagara Falls

**UPCOMING.** The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress will host its "**Kulig Winter Festival 2016**" at the Chestnut Ridge Park Casino in Orchard Park, and the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY will mark "**Paczki Day**" with music by Special Delivery at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish National Cathedral in Lancaster, on Feb. 7th ... The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress is again investigating the possibility of establishing a **Polish Community Center** for WNY ... The Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY will be offering its "**Want To Learn How To Dance for Dyngus Day?**" polka lessons at the St. John the Baptist Parish Hall in Alden on Feb. 11th, 18th, 25th and March 9th ... On Feb. 12th and 13th, **Kabaret Pod Banka** will present its "19th Annual Polonijy Kabaretu" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will present Joe Macielag's lecture on "Polka — The Polish American Cultural Anthem?" at the Harlem Road Community Center on Feb. 17th ... The General Pulaski Association's **Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony** will be held at the General Pulaski statue in Downtown Buffalo on March 4th. After the ceremony, the group will host

its Installation Dinner at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga ... Forgotten Buffalo is offering its **Pride of Polonia Tour** on April 11th ... The **Polish Scholarship Fund** has announced that the "61st Annual Syracuse Polish Festival" will take place in Clinton Square the weekend of June 10 through 12.

❖ ❖ ❖  
If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the sixth day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. Feb. 6 for the March issue) to [pietruszka@verizon.net](mailto:pietruszka@verizon.net).

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LETTERS / Richard Lukas

## NYRB Leaves Too Serious a Review to a Novelist

*Editor's note: Dr. Richard C. Lukas submitted the essay below in the form of a letter to the editor of the New York Review of Books (NYRB). He criticized the review by Julian Barnes of Anna Bikont's book, "The Crime and Silence: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne." The NYRB, known for its anti-Polish bias, did not publish Lukas' commentary. The PAJ publishes the comments of Dr. Lukas here in their entirety.*

Letters to the Editor  
New York Review of Books  
435 Hudson St., Suite 300  
New York, NY 10014-3994

Dear Editor:

The NYRB apparently has exhausted its pool of competent historians to review books on wartime Poland. In the November 19, 2015 issue, the editors chose Julian Barnes, an English novelist whose fiction includes crime novels, to review Anna Bikont's book, "The Crime and the Silence," originally published in Polish in 2004 and four years after Jan Gross' badly flawed book, "Neighbors." Both books deal with the killing of Jews in the village of Jedwabne, Poland.

**Determined to remain in the headlines, Gross was recently reported by Agence France-Presse to have published an article in Die Welt in which he allegedly made this astonishing claim: "The Poles ... in fact did kill more Jews than Germans during the war." There is absolutely no historical evidence to support this bizarre claim.**

When I read the second paragraph of the review, where Barnes lavishly praised Claude Lanzmann's "Shoah" as "one of the greatest documentaries of the last fifty years," I realized that Barnes would offer readers yet another anti-Polish screed on Polish responsibility for the Jedwabne slaughter. Barnes follows Louis Begley, whose off-script Polonophobic rant about Jedwabne appeared in the NYRB last December. Begley was supposed to be reviewing a book about the people of a French

village that offered a haven for the persecuted Jews of Vichy France.

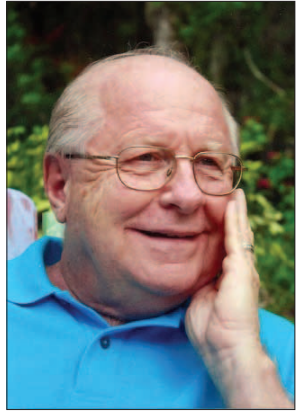
Few serious historians today would describe Lanzmann's nine hour mind-numbing film, "Shoah," as a documentary. By definition, documentaries are supposed to be objective. Shoah was a caricature. It depicted Poles as brutish, cruel, stupid and anti-Semitic. It is this Lanzmannesque characterization that revoltingly drips throughout Barnes' review.

Barnes betrays his ignorance of wartime Poland when he asserts that although most Poles remained passive during the German persecution of the Jews, he added judgmentally: "The sin of indifference can be no less toxic than other sins."

Really?

Obviously Barnes is ignorant of the fact that the Germans imposed an automatic death sentence on Poles aiding Jews, a penalty which only applied in German-occupied Poland. Despite the constant threat of death hanging over their heads, hundreds of thousands of Poles directly helped Jews during the war. There were thousands of other Poles who indirectly offered help. The fact that Poland has the highest number of people of any European nation listed as "Righteous Gentiles" speaks volumes about the incredible risks these courageous people took to save Jewish lives.

Barnes uncritically accepts the conclusions of Jan Gross, who made the claim that the Germans played a minimum role in the death of the Jedwabne Jews. This is the same Gross, who claimed the Christian half of Jedwabne murdered the Jewish half. The highly respected National Remembrance Institute (IPN) concluded that the majority of the Polish resi-



LUKAS

dents of Jedwabne remained passive during the slaughter, in which no more than forty Poles were involved. Determined to remain in the headlines, Gross was recently reported by Agence France-Presse to have published an article in *Die Welt* in which he allegedly made this astonishing claim: "The Poles ... in fact did kill more Jews than Germans during the war."

There is absolutely no historical evidence to support this bizarre claim.

Reading Barnes' essay, I was astonished by the almost complete absence of the Germans. How is it possible to write an account of wartime Poland without mentioning Nazi responsibility for the deaths of approximately six million Polish citizens, almost half of which were Polish Christians?

**Reading Barnes' essay, I was astonished by the almost complete absence of the Germans. How is it possible to write an account of wartime Poland without mentioning Nazi responsibility for the deaths of approximately six million Polish citizens, almost half of which were Polish Christians?**

Jedwabne was a horrible episode. The Germans bear primary responsibility for orchestrating it. But it does not excuse Poles who collaborated with the Germans and gained materially from the elimination of the Jewish people. Bikont concludes that, "Few countries can match us (Poles) in our reckoning with the ghosts of the past." Predictably, Barnes questions Bikont's conclusion.

If one is seriously interested in understanding Jedwabne, it must be placed in the larger

context of the extreme cruelty that characterized life in eastern Poland at that time. Jews, Poles, Belorussians, and Ukrainians inhabited the area, and all of them betrayed, brutalized, and killed each other at one time or another in scores of Jedwabnes in one of the worst places in Europe. Jewish collaboration with the Soviets against the Poles during 1939-1941, when the Russians controlled eastern Poland were responsible for a large number of Polish lives. When the Soviet military offensive brought the Red Army into Poland in 1944, Jews again collaborated with Moscow in the arrest, deportation and death of thousands of Poles. In his earlier writings, even Gross conceded Jewish complicity with the Soviets against the Poles.

It is appropriate here to remind people like Barnes and Gross of something I had written in one of my books: "The history of ethnic communities whom the Nazis terrorized and murdered during World War II is written with heroes and villains, altruism and selfishness, and courage and cowardice. It is written in crooked, not straight lines, and in variegated colors, not in black and white. If one learns anything about World War II, it is that no group has a monopoly on goodness. Neither does any group possess a monopoly on evil."

The subject of wartime Poland is too important and complicated to leave to the glib judgements of novelists.

❖ ❖ ❖

*Richard Lukas, a well-known and respected historian and author specializing in modern Europe, has taught at universities in Tennessee, Ohio, and Florida. He earned his doctorate from Florida State and has also served as a research historian for the U.S. Air Force.*

*Lukas has also received an honorary doctorate, the Polonia Restituta award, and awards from both the Pilsudski Institute and the American Institute of Polish Culture. He is author of several books, including Forgotten Holocaust: The Poles under German Occupation, about the mass killing of Polish Christians during World War II, and Forgotten Survivors: Polish Christians Remember the Nazi Occupation.*

## 2016 – A Good PolAm Year!

by Robert Strybel

*continued from last month*

America is a cultural mosaic comprising St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Italian tenors and espresso, Cajun cookery, Mexican Mariachi bands and piñatas, Afro-American jazz, blues, swing and Motown, Jewish Klezmer music and Kosher dill pickles, the French Mardi Gras, German Oktoberfest, Scottish bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace" at funerals, and much more.

Rather than sitting things out and passively watching the passing show, maybe 2016 is a good time to help enrich ourselves and the American landscape with a few of our own cultural contributions. We continue with this list of suggested activities, some of which require advance planning and should be considered in the early part of the year:

**A POLISH TWIN-TOWN?** Having a twin-town or sister-city in Poland helps promote cultural and commercial ties as well as various people-to-people contacts. These include culturally enriching tourist and youth exchange visits. If your city already has a sister-cities agreement with some locality in Poland, why not look into and see how you or your group can participate. If not, why not propose entering into such an arrangement. For information please visit: [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)

To find out which Polish cities have twin-towns world-wide please check out: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_twin\\_towns\\_and\\_sister\\_cities\\_in\\_Poland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_twin_towns_and_sister_cities_in_Poland).

**JOIN A POL-AM FRATERNAL.** If you still don't belong, maybe it's high time to join. If you already belong, sign up your youngster. Pol-Am fraternals offer sound insurance policies, annuities and other financial products at competitive prices. In addition, they help promote our heritage by providing various cultural, educational and athletic opportunities and defend Polonia's good name — something the big commercial insurance companies do not.

**INVITE AN EXCHANGE STUDENT.** Hosting a Polish exchange student for a semester or year is a good for two-way cultural enrichment. Such a student is eager to experience American culture and improve his/her English. In exchange for room and board such a student can also help around the house, babysit, provide companionship for an elderly family member and enhance the host family's knowledge of Polish language and heritage. For information please contact Academic Year in America at: (toll-free) 800-322-4678; email: [aya.info@aifs.org](mailto:aya.info@aifs.org)

**POLISH NAMING.** Consider giving a recognizably Polish name to a school, library, street, square, park, bridge, strip mall or private business. Institutions and streets can be named after Copernicus, King Jan Sobieski, Chopin, Mickiewicz, Sienkiewicz, Joseph Conrad, Józef Pilsudski, St. John Paul II, Blessed Father Jerzy Popiełuszko,

Lech Wałęsa, Poland, Polonia, Warsaw, Kraków, Vistula, etc. Polonia Place, Polonaise Plaza, Polish Village, Cracovia Restaurant, Warsaw Terrace, White Eagle Manor, Tatra Chalet, Pomeranian Village and similar would be appropriate for commercial properties.

**POLISH COOKING CLASS.** A private home, clubroom, parish kitchen or school home-economics room can be a good venue for a Polish cooking class. If you advertise properly, chances are many interested people will come forward. The class should be conducted by someone who has a flair for cooking, Polish culinary expertise and an ability to pass it on to others.

**POLISH DINNER-PARTY.** Instead of the same old roast beef or fried chicken, next time you have company over for dinner serve something Polish. It can be the old standbys such as gołąbki, kielbasa and pierogi or slightly upscale fare such as steak roll-ups, roast duck stuffed with apples or roast pork loin and prunes. There are plenty of Polish cookbooks on the market and loads of recipes online. Just Google "Polish recipes" and you'll have plenty to choose from.

**LEARN ABOUT YOUR LAST NAME.** To learn what your Polish family surnames mean, how they came about, how many people use them, where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with them contact: [research60@gmail.com](mailto:research60@gmail.com). This

can be a good first step towards researching your ancestral heritage.

**ORGANIZE A POLONIAN BUS TOUR.** If you live in our near a city with a sizable PolAm population, there surely are various points of Polish historical interest in the area. Consider organizing a bus tour for your club, parish, school class, nursing home or informal group touching on Polish-flavored old churches, cemeteries, monuments, institutions and businesses. Lent, especially Holy Week, is a good time to organize a shopping trip to the Polish sausage shops and bakeries so people can stock up on Easter delicacies. A bus trip for Holy Week services including the Holy Saturday food blessing and Easter Sunday Mass could also be considered.

**ŚWIĘCONIE.** If your parish holds the Holy Saturday food blessing, be sure to popularize the custom among relatives and friends. If it doesn't, suggests to your pastor that it be introduced but first make sure a significant number of other parishioners will support the innovation.

**DYNGUS DAY.** Wet Easter Monday, the day boys drench girls with water, has evolved into a major annual event in Buffalo, N.Y., which prides itself as "the Dyngus capital of the world." Festivities include a parade, music, dancing, Polish food, drink, general revelry and, of course, the drenching custom at various venues around the city. For details check out: [www.dyngusday.com](http://www.dyngusday.com/)

Consider organizing a bus trip to Buffalo on Dyngus Day or start up the tradition in your own community.

**MAY 3RD CELEBRATIONS.** The anniversary of Poland's May 3rd Constitution, Europe's first modern, written constitution, is a good way to raise Polish cultural awareness. Be sure to support any local activities held in your area on that occasion. Petition your local officials issue a proclamation marking the occasion. Also consider having your group organize a parade, hold a memorial mass, sponsor a Polish festival, exhibition, school essay contest, marathon race or other suitable event. An interesting activity would be a bus trip to Chicago, where America's biggest May 3rd Parade is held.

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## THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

## All You Need is Love

As John Lennon and John Paul II would tell us, "All you need is love."

The panelist Pat Buchanan of *The McLaughlin Group* (a weekly public affairs program) made the prediction for 2016 that the flow of refugees into Europe will not subside. Even as an American an ocean away, the thought of that makes me apprehensive.

There is love and then there is tough love. What does Poland do with the refugees streaming in from the turmoil in the Middle East and is this situation different from others? Living amongst other cultures is nothing new for the Poles. The decades before World War II the ethnic makeup of Poland included large numbers of Germans, Lithuanians, Jews, Gypsies, Tartars, Ukrainians, and others. The rearranged border and transfer of people after the war made the country more homogeneous than it had ever been. Each world crisis has its own characteristics and circumstances and the Poles need to evaluate what is in their best interest while maintaining proportional moral sympathy and support. Security, resources, and accommodation are important considerations. I am confident the Poles will work it out for all concerned but let's see what happens.

Talking about refugees and the kindness of Poles to strangers brings me to the next topic. Got an email from **Frank J. Nice** (yes, that is his name folks; the original Polish name was Nye) responding to my call for examples of Polish names for kids and grandkids. Frank's daughter is **Melania** and the etymological description of the name shows the Polish pronunciation first (before the other primary links to the word — Italian, Spanish, and Late Roman) so we can conclude that Polish is the root or near root for this name. Americans are familiar with "Melanie" that most likely comes from the Polish Melania rather than the reverse. As Frank also told me, he saw it on a stained glass window in a Polish church in Maine. His other kids are Polish variants **Eryk** (for Eric) and **Liana** (pronounced the Polish way lee-ah-na).

You can argue that excellent naming is Frank's main claim to fame but like Seinfeld's pocket calculator "it does other things!" Frank is a pharmacist (with degrees all the way up to doctor), author, and a humanitarian. Let me tell you about what he has done in his life, for Polonia, and for all of us.

Frank and with his wife Myung Hee have written a book, *The Galactagogue Recipe Book*, (Hale

Publishing, 2014). Geared "For nursing mothers leading modern stress-filled lives," it is a collection of recipes that offer real nutritional support, are comprised mostly of inexpensive food easily found in most grocery stores, and are simple to prepare. Unique characteristics of this book are the catering to breastfeeding women, the use of herbs, spices, and foods traditionally used to support milk supply, and a number of the dishes that are family or Polish or Korean "ancestors' recipes." This is the perfect shower or pregnant mother gift and for more information visit [www.nicebreastfeeding.com](http://www.nicebreastfeeding.com).

Writing a recipe book is a great way to "serve" humanity, but there is so much more to this Nice story. In a continuing email conversation, he shared with me his involvement with the ongoing reconstruction in Haiti called "Health and Education for Haiti" that has lasted for 20 years:

"As a pharmacist, I started a medical mission to Haiti 20 years ago. We continue to go, now three times a year several weeks each time. When we are there, we see 1,000 or more patients per week. We have established several clinics in Haiti with ongoing care even when we are

not in Haiti. I have been to Haiti 20 times so far and will be going next in January 2016. I also started a school in Haiti for poor and orphan children."

Frank is on the board of directors for the charity and you can learn more about it at [www.hehonline.org](http://www.hehonline.org). Service to others in whatever form is such a noble and worthy vocation and we admire Frank and his family for all that they do for people, in whatever form that takes.

**POLISH OR NOT?** Found on [EthniCelebs.com](http://EthniCelebs.com), **Steve Carrell** the star of television and film has a Polish mother. Add Steve to the long list of Polish ethnic comedians. He is probably most famous for his work in the television sitcom *The Office* along with **John Krasinski** and for the movie *Anchor Man* starring Will Ferrell.

Another Polish billionaire? **Conrad Prebys**, born into a blue-collar family from South Bend, Indiana, "joined the ranks of the world's billionaires" in 2015. Conrad has the German given name but his surname definitely looks Eastern European. Conrad "Przebyszewski" Prebys, Polish or not?

More Polish names! I received a very nice email from **Sue Czerwinski** about her adorable grandson, **Marek Czerwinski**. Said *babcia* about her cutie:

Marek's name is the Polish version of "Mark" and means "warlike" although this little fellow is more about happiness and peace than war. Already two years of age, Marek has already enjoyed pierogis and other Polish traditional foods. Marek loves airplanes, trains, his books and playing with his dog, Sneakers.

**A BIG DZIĘKUJE BARDZO** to Frank J. Nice for sharing all of the great work he is doing and to Sue Czerwinski for sharing Marek with us! Thanks to **Jacek Jackowski** for the lead on Conrad Prebys. Happy Valentine's Day, and like little Marek, happiness and peace and love to all of you Pondering Poles out there. Say a prayer of thanks for having a home in this great country and for God to have mercy on the people in loveless and violent situations. We are blessed.

**IF YOU HAVE A THOUGHT** about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@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.

## OUR POLISH SAINTS / Martin Nowak

## Adalbert Was The First Polish Saint

Most Polish saints were born in Poland, but some were not. Almost all lived in and served God and the Polish people in Poland. Some have only a peripheral connection to Poland. St. Adalbert is considered to be the first Polish saint, and St. Stanislaus the first Polish-born saint.

**ST. ADALBERT****Wojciech****956?-997**Canonized: **999**Feast Day: **April 23**Grave: **Gniezno Cathedral, Gniezno, Poland, but Prague Cathedral claims to have his remains**

Considered to be the first Polish saint. Born Wojtech in Bohemia into a noble Czech family, he was ordained a priest in 982 and became Bishop of Prague at a very young age. He later also became Bishop of Gniezno, Poland and was a missionary to Poles and Slavic Prussians. He took the name Adalbert after his teacher, Adalbert of Magdeburg, who evangelized among Slavs in eastern Germany. St. Adalbert was noted for his charity and simple life, despite coming from a wealthy family. He traveled along the Baltic Sea to Gdąnsk during his missionary efforts in the east. While attempting to convert the ancient Prussians, he was murdered by them near what is now the city of Elbląg, Poland. Duke (later King) Boleslaus the Brave of Poland bought his body for its weight in gold and returned it to Poland. Patron saint of Poland, Bohemia and Prussia.

**ST. BRUNO OF QUERFURT****Bruno z Kwerfurtu****974-1009**Canonized: **Unknown, by tradition**Feast Day: **March 9,****June 19 or July 12**Grave: **Unknown**

Historically confused with St. Boniface the Apostle of Germany. Born in what is now central Germa-

ny, he was a follower of St. Adalbert and wrote Adalbert's biography. Bruno was consecrated a bishop and went on a mission to convert Poles and East Europeans. He preached in Poland, where he consecrated the first Bishop of Sweden. Like St. Adalbert, he was killed by the ancient Slavic Prussians while trying to convert them. Duke Boleslaus the Brave of Poland returned his body to that country. Patron saint of Prussia, Łomża, Warmia and Wilno.

**ST. ANDREW ZORARD****Andrzej Świerad,****Andrzej Żurawek****980-1009?**Canonized: **1085**Feast Day: **June 13 or July 17**Grave: **St. Emmeram Cathedral in Nitra, Slovakia**

Also known as St. Andrew the Hermit, he is usually linked with his companion and student, St. Benedict of Szkalka. Born in Poland, Andrew was a Benedictine monk who preached and evangelized in the Silesia region of that country. With the permission of his superior he left his monastery with St. Benedict and they became hermits who lived a simple and austere life in a cave outside of Nitra, Slovakia near Szkalka,

which was then part of the Kingdom of Hungary. Christian religious hermits chose their lives of solitude out of a religious calling, in emulation of Jesus' forty days in the desert. It was a life given over to worship of God, penance and prayer. Andrew died of natural causes. Patron saint of Hungary, Nitra and the Polish city of Tarnów.

**ST. BENEDICT OF SZKALKA****Benedykt z Szkalki****?-1012?**Canonized: **1085**Feast Day: **May 1, June****13 or July 17**Grave: **St. Emmeram Cathedral in Nitra, Slovakia**

Also known as Benedict the Hermit, he is usually linked with his companion and teacher, St. Andrew Zorard. Born in Nitra, Slovakia, he became a Benedictine monk in Hungary. He lived in a cave outside of Nitra near Szkalka with St. Andrew. After Andrew's death, he continued to live alone in the cave. A few years later he was killed by a gang of thieves and his body was thrown into the Vah River. A year later it was found intact. Patron saint of Vah River sailors, Nitra and the city of Tarnów, Poland.



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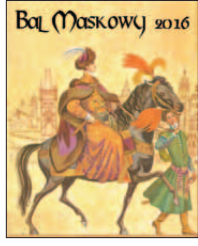
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## KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

## Celebrate Pani Ada's 99th Birthday



The **Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee** will host its annual **Bal Maskowy** – a formal affair held at the

elite Wisconsin Club, in downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Saturday, February 6.

Celebrating the tradition, charm and elegance of *Old Warsaw*, this year marks the 30th year of the event and observes the 99th birthday of Artistic Director, **Ada Dziewanowska** (inset, left). Pani Ada has made her mark as an early pioneer of the Polish Dance movement in the United States



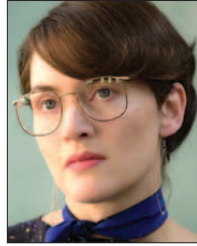
and has had an association with many Polonia dance groups.

The music of *The Windwinds Consort* will be enjoyed during cocktails and music for dancing will be provided by the *Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra* of Chicago. A fiery *Mazur* will be performed by the *Syrena Ensemble* and attendees will enjoy a gourmet dinner and dessert table.

Contact Lynn or Neil Dziadulewicz at (414) 453-0914 for details or online at: [www.syrenadancers.com](http://www.syrenadancers.com) to acquire an invitation and to have the opportunity to reunite, meet and maybe dance with the legendary Pani Ada, who will hold court and lead the opening *Polonez* and other communal dances.

**POLISH-ARMENIAN JOANNA HOFFMAN PORTRAYED IN FILM.** Actress Kate Winslet (*Titanic*) plays Polish-Armenian marketing guru Joanna Hoffman — one of Apple's earliest employees who

was known for standing up to Steve Jobs — in the new movie about the legendary Apple cofounder's life entitled *Steve Jobs*.



The movie includes a star-studded cast that features Michael Fassbender as Steve Jobs and Seth Rogen as Steve Wozniak.

To audition for the role, Winslet sent photos of herself in wigs of varying lengths to the film's producer.

"I wanted to please her [Joanna Hoffman] as much as I could. How she sounds, and her accent, is fairly complicated. She grew up largely in Armenia and Poland, and has Russians in her family, so she has all three accents, but she's been in America since she was a teenager, so she had American rhythms," Winslet said.

"She wasn't just a hotheaded Eastern European woman screeching at Jobs. She was a sister, his friend, and a little bit of a mother. Her recognition of who he was as a person and her acceptance and love of him, warts and all, was an admirable quality. (The real) Joanna came into the rehearsal space and I got to spend time with her. I didn't want to try and do an impersonation, but I wanted to honor the essence of her spirit."

Joanna's father is famed Polish film director Jerzy Hoffman who was deported to Siberia. Director Lucy returned to Poland after the war to have an illustrious career.

**COLD WAR SPY THRILLER FILMED PARTLY IN POLAND.** The city of Wrocław doubles as 1960s Berlin in the film *Bridge of Spies*, which stars Tom Hanks in the lead role. Cinematography is by Janusz Kamiński, who continues a

long-running collaboration with director Steven Spielberg.

The movie is based on real events about a New York lawyer who was given the onerous task of negotiating the release of a U.S. pilot shot down in a spy plane over the Soviet Union. The so-called "U-2 Incident" prompted the first exchange of spies between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Spielberg shot his Oscar-winning Holocaust film *Schindler's List* in Kraków in 1993. Six years later he wrote a letter of recommendation to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, calling for Polish film-maker Andrzej Wajda to be awarded an honorary Oscar, and Wajda duly won the award in 2000. Spielberg chose Wrocław as a location for his current project after an unofficial visit to the city in July of 2014.

**ŚLĄSK IMPRESSES WITH KOŁĘDY.** The Polish Song and Dance Ensemble, *Śląsk*, brought a representation of vocalists and musicians to church venues in the U.S. and Canada to initiate the Christmas season in style. Presenting an enthralling program of 20 *kołędy* (carols), *pastorałki* (shepherd folk pastorals), and Christmas songs, the 29 singers dressed in Rozbar-Śląsk costumes and 14-piece orchestra under the baton of Conductor Krzysztof Dziewięcki enchanted the audience with clarity and nuance.

The majority of the arrangements and original compositions were by the founder, Stanisław Hadyna, who's indelible and intricate symphonic musicality have been the cornerstone of this company. The concert provided a rare opportunity



**LIRA ENSEMBLE'S HOLIDAY CONCERT.** In celebration of the holidays, The Lira Ensemble of Chicago presented an anniversary production: *Joyous Jubilee: 50 Years of Polish Carols, Song & Dance*, at Cleveland's Connor Palace on Playhouse Square, and the following day at The Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton, Mich.

Director Lucyna Migala led the audience through traditions and commentary as the evening's narrator. The ensemble, composed of The Lira Singers, Dancers and Symphony, included the Polish Jazz Singer Grazyna Auguscik. "Oj Maluśki" was the audience favorite, with Auguścik producing inventive riffs to the well-known *góralskie* melody. In Act II, the Singers presented a strong *Śląsk Medley* and the Singers and Dance Ensemble closed jointly with a pleasing *Kraków Suite*.

A program of Polish and American Carols was presented on December 13 at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Chicago.

to hear many vocal soloists from the choir. Particularly noteworthy was Piotr Nikiel in the melancholic and rarely heard "Narodziła nam się dobroć." His clear tenor voice soared in the technical demands of the operatic phrases.

"Północ już była," as sung by Izabela Mirecka and Dariusz Żaczek, was the standout for its playful nature. With an arrangement by Dziewięcki in occasional syncopated rhythm, the soloists expressed the urgency of the shepherds rushing to reach the manger. They interacted with each other, connected to the audience and the juxtaposition of folk-voiced alto to baritone-bass was delightful. *Gawędy* (folk tales) were interspersed by actor Piotr Hankus.

Artistic Director Zbigniew Cier-

niak presented a concise hour and 15 minute program without intermission. The audience response was so strong that, in addition to an encore repeat of "Bóg się Rodzi," the ensemble sang their signature folk melodies "Karolinka" and "Szła Dzieweczka."

At the conclusion, Rev. Andrzej Kurowski, pastor of St. Frances de Chantal in Brooklyn, N.Y., personally broke the traditional *oplatek* wafer with each of the 34 artists.

**APRIL RETURN.** Thirty members of the *Śląsk* Ensemble will perform at *Silver Dollar City Attractions* in Branson, Missouri in a primarily dance program during the entire month of April 2016. For more information: [www.bransontourismcenter.com](http://www.bransontourismcenter.com).

## CULTURAL TELEGRAM / Kasia Romanowska

## Mirrors Exhibition at the Copernicus Science Center

Have you ever looked at the back of your own head? Or peered into your own ear? Do you really know how others see you? Mirrors. All eyes on me – the Copernicus science Center's latest temporary exhibition – offers all of these experiences. "Find out how mirror images get formed, and how your eye sees them. Look at yourself more closely than you ever have before. Watch your own reflections in a kaleidoscope and in a mirror-maze. Steal Elvis Presley's face, learn about mirror-writing, and learn why mirrors reverse the left vs. the right side of an image, but not the top vs. the bottom. Try taking your own "mirror selfie" and show it to others," say the organizers. The exhibition was produced by Technorama in Switzerland, one of the world's most important science centers. The concept for the interactive exhibits was co-created by Richard Gregory, a British psychologist of perception. Exhibition lasts till May, 29, 2016

## Cultural Auctions at the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity

For the fifth time the Polish Film Institute is coordinating an auction in which valuable items from the authors or cinematic institutions are transferred to the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity. This time, in

several auctions, people can bid for the cameo role in the latest Jacek Bromski's movie, Agata Buzek's dress, or a comic-book "Valerian," with a letter from a French director Luc Besson. Over the last four years, the auctions coordinated by the Polish Film Institute have collected nearly 100 thousand zloty. The finale of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity will be held on January 10. This year's goal is to raise funds to purchase medical equipment for the wards and decent medical care for seniors.

## Themed Walks in Warsaw

Themed walks are breaking records of popularity. In one, capital

lovers could participate in a tour dedicated to The Doll by Bolesław Prus in January. The book is set in the 70s of the 19th century, and includes many historical sites, such as Lesisz's winery in Krakowskie Przedmieście and the Carmelite Church on the same street. The walk takes place within a "Warsaw, the hidden history," program. Established by a group of city guides, the initiative operates both on the web and on the streets of the capital. Other past walks included, the ability to trace, among others, Warsaw bombers from tsarist times. Next walks are in preparation. Participation in events is free of charge.

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**A PAINTING RECENTLY SOLD** at auction in Warsaw was reportedly stolen from the presidential palace a short time before former President Komorowski left office. The painting, "Gooseherd" by Roman Kochanowski (1857-1945), has been returned to the Rempex auction house after the buyer was refunded the approximately \$2500 he paid for the painting.

Marek Lengiewicz, co-owner of the auction house, told reporters that he had no prior knowledge the

painting had been stolen and defended the individual who offered the painting for sale.

Police were first notified last August by staff of the newly-elected President Andrzej Duda that the painting was missing from the presidential palace. Authorities have not yet decided whether to charge the seller with theft or to call same as witness to the crime.

The investigation continues, as three other items were also reported stolen from the palace.

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Mardi Gras Entertaining with a Polish Twist

Here are some favorite Polish delicacies to serve at your Mardi Gras ball, mid-winter dinner-dance, Pączki party, parish supper or other pre-Lenten meet-up.

**BREADED CHICKEN ROLL-UPS (zrazy zawijane z kurczęcia).** Pound 4 skinned and halved chicken breasts on both sides into 8 cutlets 1/4" thick. Thinly spread each cutlet with powidła and a sprinkle with salt, pepper and marjoram. Roll cutlets up from wider towards narrower end. Coat in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs, gently shaking off excess. Place seam-side-down in hot butter or oil to seal. Brown on all sides, then reduce heat and simmer another 8-10 min or until fully cooked. Drain on absorbent paper and serve at once with rice and sliced cucumbers and dressed with sour cream.

**HUNTER'S STEW (bigos stew).** Drain 3 qts sauerkraut, rinse in cold water, drain again, squeeze dry and chop coarsely. Place in pot with 1 bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Transfer drained sauerkraut to bak-

ing pan and add some or all of the following: 2 qts various cooked cubed meat (beef, venison or other game, pork, veal, turkey, duck), 3 c smoked Polish sausage (or other deboned, cubed smoked meat like ham, ribs, hocks), 1 mushroom bouillon cube, 1 c stewed tomatoes, chopped, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples, peeled and diced. Mix ingredients and bake uncovered in 350° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs at 325°. After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate over night. Reheat at 350° for 90 min before serving. If too moist, pour off some of the liquid and stir in a T or more flour, mix well and bake another 15 min. Serve with rye bread or potatoes.

**PĄCZKI/POLISH DONUTS (pączki).** Stir in to dissolve 2 packets active dry yeast in 1-1/2 c warm (110°) milk and set aside. Cream 1/2 c sugar and 1 stick butter by hand or with paddle attachment of mixer until fluffy. Beat in 1 large egg and 3 large yolks at room temp, 1 t salt and 1 T cognac, rum or vodka brandy

and salt until all ingredients are incorporated. Gradually add 4-1/2 cups flour alternating with milk-yeast mixture and beat for 5 min or longer until air blisters appear. If dough appears too soft, work in up to 1/2 c more flour. Transfer dough to greased bowl, cover with tea towel and let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk. Punch down and let rise again. Turn dough out onto lightly floured board and roll out to a 1/2-inch thickness. Cut rounds with 3-inch biscuit cutter or tumbler. Combine leftover dough scraps into a ball, roll out and cut into additional rounds. Cover and let rise until doubled (30 min or more). In deep skillet, pot or Dutch oven heat lard or oil to 350°. Place pączki top-side down hot fat a few at a time so as not to crowd and fry 2 to 3 min or until bottom is golden brown. Flip over and fry another 1-2 min or until golden brown. Drain pączki on paper towel. When cooled to room temp poke sides of pączki with nozzle of pastry bag and fill with powidła (plum butter), rose-hip jam or other thick jam of choice. Glaze with white icing and sprinkle with finely chopped candied orange rind. Or, simply dust with confectioner's sugar.

**FAWORKI/CHRUST/CHRUŚCKI (angel-wings).** In mixer bowl combine 5 large egg yolks and 1 large whole egg at room temp with 1/2 t salt and beat at high speed until thick and lemony (about 5 min). Beat in 1/4 c confectioner's sugar, 1/4 c sour cream, 1 t vanilla and 1 T cognac, rum, vodka or 6% distilled vinegar. Gradually add 2 c flour or enough to form a soft, cohesive dough, working in a bit more flour until no longer sticky. Turn out onto a floured board, divide in half, cover with plastic wrap and let rest for at least 20 min. Roll out each half at a time to a thickness of 1/8 inch and cut into 1 x 3 inch wide strips. Make a 1 inch slit down the center of each dough strip and pull one end through the slit. In deep skillet or pot to heat enough lard to 350° to achieve a depth of 2-3 inches. (Frying in lard the traditional way produces tastier chruściki than those fried in oil or vegetable shortening. Yes, lard is high in cholesterol but as a once-a-year treat it shouldn't kill you!) Fry faworki a few at a time so as not to crowd about 1 min per side or until golden. Transfer to papwer towel and dust with confectioner's sugar.

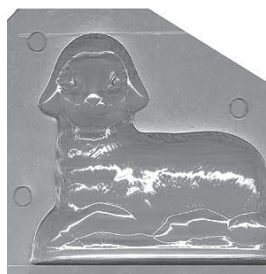
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**COOKBOOKS**

**PIEROGI LOVE**  
New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food  
By Casey Barber  
\$19.95  
Hc; 128 pp.  
8.3 x 8.1 inches  
Full color photographs

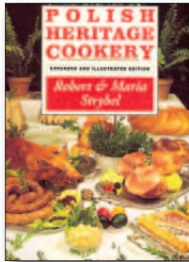


This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogie and fried apple pie-rogies to worldly fillings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierog for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors.

Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good Food. Stories.

recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

**POLISH HERITAGE COOKERY**  
by Robert Strybel  
\$49.95  
h.c. 900 pp.  
7.25 x 9.50 in.  
Expanded Edition, ill. and full color photographs

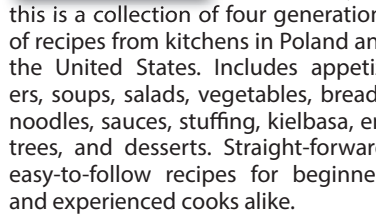


"Polish Heritage Cookery is the best Polish cookbook printed in English on the market." — *Polish Cultural News*  
A perennial bestseller, *Polish Heritage Cookery* is the most extensive and varied Polish cookbook ever published. More than 2,200 recipes use easily available American ingredients and measurements. Modern Polish cuisine is a blend of hearty peasant dishes and more elegant gourmet fare, incorporating a broad cross-section of cultural influences. The book includes numerous cultural notes, historical accounts of Polish culinary traditions, and descriptive line drawings. Its expanded edition includes information on Polish products available in the United States, such as plum butter, honey mushrooms, and kielbasa, and their culinary uses.

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.

**GREAT POLISH RECIPES**  
by Raymond T. Laskowski  
\$10.00  
Spiral bound, s.c.  
62 pp., index  
8.5 x 5.5 in.  
Published in 1980 and rediscovered this year, this is a collection of four generations of recipes from kitchens in Poland and the United States. Includes appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, breads, noodles, sauces, stuffing, kielbasa, entrees, and desserts. Straight-forward, easy-to-follow recipes for beginners and experienced cooks alike.



**POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES**  
\$16.95  
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 PIEROGI:**  
*From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood*  
\$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.  
A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

**THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK:**  
*Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond* — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.  
96 recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

**POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK**  
\$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 44 pp., sc.  
Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

**POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK**  
\$10.00  
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.  
This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right in your kitchen that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.

Effective Jan. 19 2016, all Bookstore orders shipped USPS Media Mail. Priority or Express mail services are available for an extra fee..



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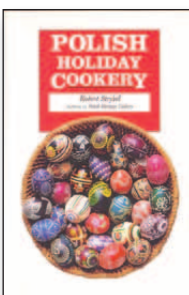


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**THE ART OF POLISH COOKING**  
By Alina Zeranska  
Pub. at \$22.95  
PAJ Bookstore Price: \$15.95  
Ethnic / Polish  
384 pp.  
8 1/4 x 5 1/2

Reissued by Pelican Publ., *The Art of Polish Cooking*, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish

**POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY**  
\$24.95  
by Robert Strybel  
248 pp., h.c., 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



## BOOKS IN BRIEF/ Mary Lanham

Polish Armor of the Blitzkrieg *and* Love for Family, Friends, and Books**POLISH ARMOR OF THE BLITZKRIEG**

by Jamie Prenatt

Illustrated by Henry Morshead  
Osprey Publishing, 2015, 48 pps.  
P.O. Box 3985New York, NY 10185-3985  
ospreypublishing.com

In 1939, Poland's Army used armored units, including tanks, tankettes (light tanks), and armored cars to fight against the invading forces of the Soviets and the Germans. The odds were against Poland who had only 750 armored vehicles to oppose over 6,000 enemy units on multiple fronts. *Polish Armor of the Blitzkrieg* describes the history of Poland's armored forces beginning in 1919 and the evolution of the various tanks and other armored vehicles through the '20s and '30s during Poland's rearmament program.

Like all Osprey publications, *Polish Armor of the Blitzkrieg* contains not only easy to understand text, but also dozens of archival photographs and color illustrations. Among the various historical photographs is an image of



a row of Polish FT-17s along with their drivers. Another interesting photo in the book is of a crew working on the tracks of an armored car. In addition to dozens of archival photographs, many full-color illustrations of various models of tanks, tankettes, and armored cars are included.

This slim volume also contains a bibliography, index, tables, and seven appendices which include information about battalions and tank companies.

*Polish Armor of the Blitzkrieg* is a great addition to any World War II library and is available on OspreyPublishing.com and Amazon.com

*About the author:* Jamie Prenatt earned his Bachelor's degree in psychology from Towson University and a Master's degree in government/national security policy from Georgetown University. He has over 30 years of civilian and military intelligence experience and is currently a senior analyst in the Department of Defense. He taught military history and wargaming at the Smithsonian Institution as well as intelligence studies at the university level. Prenatt is also the author of another Osprey publication, *Axis Midget Submarines: 1939-45*.

*About the illustrator:* Henry Morshead is a design consultant in the European aerospace and automotive sectors. He has illustrated for a number of other Osprey publications including, *US Army and Marine Corps MRAPs*, *British Light Tanks 1927-45*, and *Humber Light Reconnaissance Car 1941-45*.

**LOVE FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND BOOKS**

by Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm

Hamilton Books, 2015, 353 pps.  
4051 Forbes Boulevard, Suite 200  
Lanham, Maryland 20706

In her autobiography, *Love for Family, Friends, and Books*, Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm recounts the major events in her life starting in Poland and winding through England, Canada, and finally the United States. Using the unique literary device of forgoing the narrative structure, Ziolkowska-Boehm instead relates memories by drifting from topic to topic highlighting the important experiences of her life.

Born in Łódź, to a family that emphasized reading and education, Aleksandra seemed destined to be an academic and writer. Indeed, even after giving birth to her son in 1969 she still continued on with her studies at the University of Łódź to earn her Master's



degree. For her Master's thesis she chose Melchior Wańkowicz as her topic as her father had a substantial collection of his books. After his interview, Wańkowicz asked to see Aleksandra's thesis so far. He was so impressed by her analysis of his works that he hired her as his research assistant. Under his tutelage, Ziolkowska-Boehm launched her writing career.

Her academic and writing career has led her on path across the globe. At one point she lived in Toronto, Canada, having accepted three writing scholarships before finally settling in the United States where she lives now.

*Love for Family, Friends, and Books* by Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm is available from Amazon.com and at Roman.com.

*About the author:* Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm holds a Master's Degree in literature from the University of Łódź and a PhD in Humanities from the University of Warsaw. She has a son named Thomas and currently lives with her husband, Norman Boehm in Wilmington, Delaware.

**POLONIA PLACES**

GREGORY L. WITUL

**St. Mary Catholic Church**89 Saint Mary Place  
Korona, Florida  
Status: Open

It's February, and for much of Polonia that means snow, icy roads, and bitter cold. But over a century ago, a small group of wise Polish Americans took an opportunity to leave the winters of the Great Lakes and move to sunny Florida. Like hundreds of Polish settlers before, the first thing this colony did was establish a church, Blessed Virgin Mary, Reigning Queen of Poland.



The first St. Mary's church built in 1914.

The hamlet of Korona was the idea of the Bunnell Development Company. These real estate developers came up with the idea to sell 40 acres of Florida "farm land" for only \$1 down and advertising it to Poles living in Chicago and Detroit. In 1914, Bishop Michael Curley purchased a lot for a Catholic church in the center of Korona just as the first trainload of 14 Polish families arrived. The "farm land" they were promised was an overgrown jungle of swampy Floridian vegetation. Many left at the first chance they could, but those who stayed eked out a living by farming.

With \$1,000 raised from the community, Izydor Waszewski was contracted to build the church, and on September 5, 1914, Father Baczyk arrived, giving birth to the parish. The gothic-inspired church quickly became the center of the residents' lives. The church saw baptisms, weddings, funerals, a short-lived school and celebrated many Polish holidays in its early years. The parish grew slowly as other Polish

pioneers tried their hand at taming the Florida frontier. Father Radka, stationed in Titusville, became the second pastor in 1922. Under his tenure, the parish became an outmission of St. Paul's in Daytona and the parish's name was simplified to St. Mary.

It was also during his time that the White Eagle Hotel opened, becoming Korona's secular hot spot.

In 1933, St. Mary was transferred to the Redemptorists and Father Hoffman C.Ss.R. began to oversee the parish. Father Hoffman, an energetic priest, erected a shrine for St. Christopher to watch over the travelers along Route 1. Father Hoffman also oversaw the Silver Jubilee of the church in 1939.

From the start of World War II through much of the 1950s, the Polishness of the parish slowly diminished as the founding generation passed on. Some traditions, like the food, survived, and the Millennium of Christianity in Poland helped with the religious aspect. But something more would be needed keep the parish Polish.

In 1977, a newly retired priest, Canon Walter Bayer, moved to Korona and became involved at St.



Today's St. Mary's complex as seen from the old Dixie Highway.

Mary's. This dynamic man was a fresh breath of air to the community and revived many of the Polish traditions. Father Bayer celebrated Polish masses, held May 3rd celebrations and preached in support of the Solidarity movement. Soon, Poles from across Florida would attend St. Mary's for Sunday Mass. So much so that, in 1985, an effort to have the church classified an ethnic parish was undertaken. Although the effort failed, the growing crowds of Poles joining the parish, along with the flood of retirees moving into the area, justified a new St. Mary's being built.

On October 8, 1994, the new church was dedicated with the old church being reserved for special functions. Today, St. Mary is still firmly Polish with Father Slawomir Podosiedlik celebrating an 11:30 a.m. Polish Mass on Sundays.

**Ru's Pierogi to Start Full Production**

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A dedicated pierogi production facility with its own fast-food style pierogi restaurant is under way in Buffalo.

**Ru's Pierogi** will occupy the first floor of the Turner Brothers Loft building at 295 Niagara St. Developer Jake Schneider will be converting 55,000 square feet of space into 40 apartments on upper floors. Work on the circa-1860s building has been underway for two years.

"We'll be doing production for restaurants and going into grocery, and operating a restaurant and a food truck," said Zachary Schneider, Jake's son, who leads the Ru's project. It's not the first restaurant in the family; his sisters Eliza and Sarah own Merge, and Sarah owns HandleBar with Evan Thompson. Zachary is also a partner in 15

Fingers, a digital marketing agency.

"We'll probably be opening the restaurant in April," Zachary Schneider said, though construction delays could push that back. It'll offer customers their choice of pierogi, cooked to order in a quick-service format, with no servers. There'll also be Polish favorites like cabbage rolls, as part of a small menu, Schneider said. There's also a food truck under way, to be launched at the same time as the restaurant.

The main part of the project will be expanding the reach of Ru's Pierogi, created by chef-partner **Andy Ruszczyk**, to more restaurants, and eventually grocery stores, Schneider said. "We're really focused on production," Schneider said.

— Excerpted from *The News*

**PAC Attends Famine Memorial Dedication**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Nov. 7, 2015, the Polish American Congress Washington Metropolitan Area Division helped honor the memory of millions of Ukrainians killed by the Soviet caused famine in 1932-33. PAC members and other Polonians joined thousands of Ukrainian Americans in the dedication of a memorial to the victims of the Terror Famine.

Among the speakers were the main organizer of the ceremony, Ukrainian National Information Service Director Michael Sawkiw, Congressmen Marcy Kaptur (OH) and Sander Levin (MI), the First Lady of Ukraine Marina Poroshenko, and Oleksandr Severyn, a 93-year-old survivor of the Holodo-

mor. A recorded message from the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko was played. After the speeches and singing of the American and Ukrainian national anthems, attendees walked to the monument where it was dedicated with a religious ceremony held by Catholic and Orthodox clergy. The events concluded with a march to the White House, where a candlelight vigil was held.

Many Ukrainian Americans reacted positively to the Polish American presence. Upon seeing Polish flags, several expressed their appreciation for the PAC and Polonian act of solidarity. One of them stated "Slava Ukraini! Salva Pol'shchi!" (Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Poland!).

19th Annual

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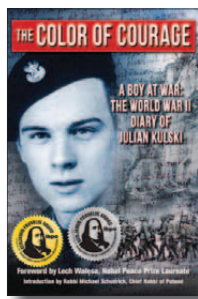
Pre-Sale Tickets Only on sale until Friday, February 5th!  
Visit our website: [www.phdofwny.com](http://www.phdofwny.com)  
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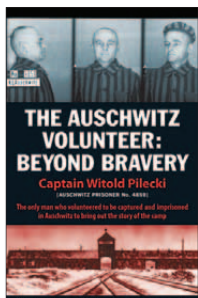
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NEW! THE COLOR OF COURAGE A Boy at War: The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski Paperback by Julian E. Kulski \$19.95 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012

496 pp., 6" x 9", pb, "If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.



NEW! THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER by Witold Pilecki Translated by Jarek Garlinski \$34.95 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014 460 pp., 6" x 9", pb,

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."

AMERICAN ORIGINALS Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play Editor: Timothy Borden Pb. 258 pp. The University of Toledo Press 9 x 6 inches \$22.95

American Originals, an anthology of stories from Toledo Polonia will prove to be a favorite on any bookshelf devoted to the Polish-American experience. Eleven chapters discuss aspects of what makes Toledo's Polish community unique, such as the polka traditions, weddings, foods, neighborhoods, and culture. Importantly, American Originals provides an overview of the assimilation of the Poles into Toledo.

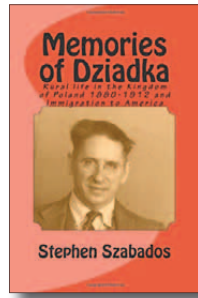
The University of Toledo Press published American Originals as part of its series on the various ethnic groups who settled in Toledo. Previous titles include Hungarian American Toledo, The Irish in Toledo, and Aran Americans in Toledo.



LOVE IS LOVE List price \$25.95 PAJ Bookstore price \$15.95 By Maria Bello 240 pages, 5.5 x 0.8 x 7.2 inches Dry Street Books, 2015

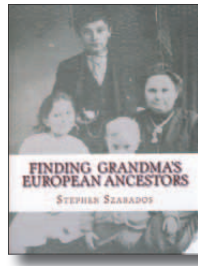
The daughter of a working-class Roman Catholic Italian American father and Polish American mother, Mario Bello majored in political science at Villanova University. Following graduation, she honed her acting skills in a number of New York theater productions before moving on to become one of today's most successful actresses. Bello speaks often and highly of the influence her Polish American grandmother had on her.

In 2013, Bello was recovering from a life-threatening illness when she made a discovery that changed her life: She was in love with her best friend, a woman named Clare. In her new book, she examines the myths that so many believe about partnerships. She explores how many different relationships helped define her life.



MEMORIES OF DZIADKA Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America by Stephen Szabados \$14.95

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.



FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS by Stephen Szabados \$14.95 / 128 pp., pb.

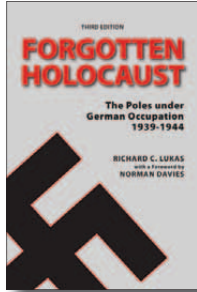
This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The au-

thor uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample documents, current websites and books that will be useful for your genealogical search. Even if you are not a beginner, this book will give you helpful tips that may be the one you need to locate that missing relative.



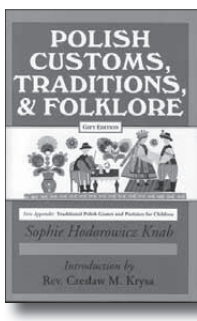
POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success by Stephen Szabados \$19.95 164 pp., pb.

This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional sources are covered but it also discusses many new sources for Polish records that have been implemented by genealogy societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.



FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition \$19.95 358 pp. pb. Hippocrene Books.

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, The Forgotten Holocaust is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.



POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE \$16.95 by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab 340 pp., pb. Hippocrene Books

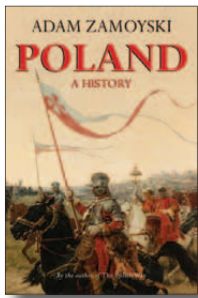
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, be-

ginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, nameday celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.

MY WAGGING TAIL by Stanley Bednarczyk \$19.95 / 476 pp., p.b.

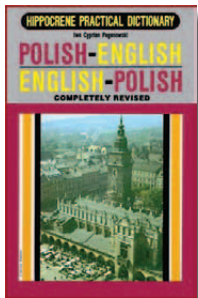


There comes a time in life when one begins to look backward instead of forward. The story of growing up in Camden, N.J. as the son of Polish immigrants (and the youngest of five children) Bednarczyk, an 81-year-old Depression baby, recalls his life on the streets as a youth and as a letter carrier. "A member of the so-called Silent Generation, he has something worthwhile to say." (Mary Latham, Polish American Journal).



POLAND: A HISTORY by Adam Zamoyski \$19.95 pb. 426 pp. 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative" ... "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable."



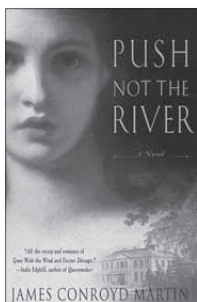
HIPPOCRENE PRACTICAL DICTIONARY POLISH-ENGLISH ENGLISH-POLISH \$19.95 by Iwo C. Pogonowski 682 pp., pb. 7x4.5 inches 15th edition

Over 31,000 entries for students and travelers; a phonetic guide to pronunciation in both languages; a handy glossary of the country's menu terms; a bilingual instruction on how-to-use the dictionary; and a bilingual list of abbreviations.



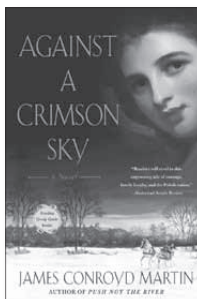
BE NOT AFRAID by Heather Kirk \$19.95 Borealis Press, 276 pp., pb.

Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book? Be Not Afraid is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It killed no one.



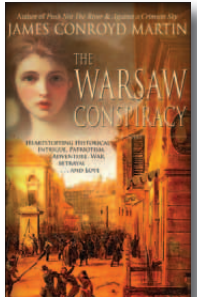
PUSH NOT THE RIVER \$15.95 St. Martin's Press. 496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY \$15.95 St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

"You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.



THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY Hussar Quill Press, 508 pp., pb. \$17.99

Portraying two brothers in love and war, The Warsaw Conspiracy completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

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## GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

## Make your Family History Personal

Genealogy is defined as the study of *family history* but it should be more than a collection of names and dates. Your ancestors were living human beings who interacted with the people around them. It is important that the history you preserve must include not only the documents, but also the family pictures and the oral history that has been passed down. Be sure to collect all of the stories about your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins that tell us about their daily lives and what happened at family gatherings.

The names, dates, documents, pictures and oral history are the easy items to find for your history. The most important — but hardest — aspect of genealogy is to find the story that makes your family come to life. All of these facts and events are related and are pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. As the pieces are added the complete story may be revealed.

How do we find and put all of the pieces together? Most genealogists develop an addiction for their search

for the information. The use of the internet has become an important tool, but phone calls, letters and visits to libraries, court houses, museums and archives are still required. However, collecting the family history from your relatives is very important to find the complete story. Note that most genealogists believe they will never know the complete story. In many cases the answers that we seek can only be given by people who are no longer with us and this becomes the most challenging phase of our research.

To expand my family history further, I began questioning what my immigrant ancestors experienced when they emigrated. How did they suffer? What were their fears? They left not knowing what waited them. How did they handle this? Who did they interact with? What were their daily activities? We cannot know the answers to the questions but pondering what the answers could be gives us insights into what our ancestors felt. Trying to find the answers to

these questions as they pertained to my grandmother helped me understand her strength of character and why she enjoyed the things she did. Note, that I did not find specific answers but after doing research about the conditions and events that surrounded her, I could only speculate what she experienced. Since I was able to spend time with her, I could see how those conditions and events may have influenced her development.

The complete story is difficult to uncover and you may never get to the end of the book. Do not give up. Always ask questions. Be patient and keep putting the puzzle together. The story will slowly be revealed.



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

If you have been following our *Polish Can Be Fun!* Series, you have hopefully picked up a thing or two along the way, and now is the time to see what you have learned.

Please choose the correct answer, proper form or the word that best completes a given Polish sentence:

- Na Wigilię babcia przygotowała: a) białą kielbasę; b) bigos; c) kapustę z grzybami.
- Mąż mojej córki to mój: a) ojczym; b) teść; c) zięć.
- Which of the following makes sense: a) Kto stłukł mleko i rozlał wazon?; b) Kto zjadł wazon i stłukł mleko?; c) Kto stłukł wazon i rozlał mleko?
- The song "Moja droga ja cię Kocham" was made famous by: a) Li'l Wally; b) Frank Sinatra; c) Bobby Vinton.
- Wujek Staś siedzi na ławce i pali: a) fajka; b) fajkę; c) fajkę.
- "Psia krew" is a: a) greeting; b) curse; c) prayer.
- "Którędy można dojść do mostu?" is asking how to get to: a) the train station; b) the bridge; c) the beach.
- The proper Polish pronunciation of the surname Nowak is: a) NO-whack; b) NO-veek; c) NO-vahk.
- The Easter morning Resurrection procession circles the church: a) once; b) twice; c) three times.
- In half-na-pól lingo "skiejfowało się" would mean: a) a fire has broken out; b) there is widespread flooding; c)

- there's been a mine cave-in.
- "Nie szkodzi" is the proper response to: a) przepraszam; b) dziękuję; c) proszę.
- Jestem z: a) Ameryka; b) Ameryce; c) Ameryki.
- "Kiedy on wreszcie przyjdzie?" expresses: a) satisfaction at the wonderful weather; b) gratitude for a favor; c) impatience that someone hasn't showed up yet.
- Kasper, Melchior and Baltazar are: a) some of Poland's most popular first names; b) the names of Poland's great 19th-century poets; c) the names traditionally ascribed to the Magi.
- A Bednarski who wanted to change his Polish surname to its English equivalent would choose: a) Taylor; b) Shepherd; c) Cooper.
- Someone wanting to buy eggs and butter would go to a: a) komisariat; b) pogotowie; c) sklep spożywczy.
- If someone asked: "Co będziesz robił w Polsce?", a good reply would be: a) Jego matka pracuje w piekarni; b) Po śniadaniu poczytam sobie gazetę; c) Chcę odwiedzić krewnych i zobaczyć Zakopane.
- Next weekend our parish will be selling: a) pączki; b) ponchki; c) pączkis.
- Wesołych Świąt means: a) Merry Christmas or Happy Easter depending on the time of year; b) only Merry Christmas; c) only Happy Easter.
- If someone were asked "Jak

pańska godność?" he might reply: a) Adam Kowalski; b) Barzdo dziękuję; c) Nie ma za co.

**CORRECT ANSWERS.** 1.c); 2.c); 3.c); 4.c); 5.c); 6.b); 7.b); 8.c); 9.c); 10.c); 11.a); 12.c); 13.c); 14.c); 15.c) 16.c); 17.c); 18.a); 19.a); 20.a).

How did you make out? If you got them all right, your Polish is excellent! 18-19 Right – very good; 16-17 right – not bad; 14-15 right – fair; 12-13 right – not too good; 11 or less – back to school!

## WORDS OF WISDOM

*Bieda temu dokuczy kto się za młodu nie uczy.*

P.S. Reader input is most appreciated. Please email questions or remarks to: [strybel@interia](mailto:strybel@interia) or airmail them to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, POLAND

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## IN TIMES PAST

## Wheelin' and Dealin'



**BOXER STANLEY KETCHEL** (nee Stanisław Kiecal) at wheel of American Underslung auto with his manager Britt Willis, both of whom would be dead not long after this photo was made in San Francisco in 1908.

Middleweight champion Ketchel (the "Michigan Assassin") was fatally shot in a training-camp robbery in 1910, and Willis became the victim of a "violent stomach hemorrhage" in 1909. Their car, an American Underslung, was among the first to employ the now-universal dropped frame, with the bottom of the car below the axles.

Shorpy Archives photo from a 6½ x 8½ glass negative by Dana Studio, from the collection of George Whitney, Jr. (1922-2002)

Do you have an old photo you would like to share with our readers? Send photos to: "In Times Past," Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110. Please provide a brief description. Digital copies — jpg or tif, 300 dpi at 100% reproduction size (approx. 4 inch width) — with descriptions may be e-mailed to [editor@polamjournal.com](mailto:editor@polamjournal.com). All photos will be returned.

## GENEALOGY NOTEBOOK

## Visit Gdynia's Emigration Museum

GDYNIA, Poland (Reuters) — In 1938, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who would later be the U.S. National Security Adviser to President Jimmy Carter, travelled with his parents on an ocean liner from Gdynia, Poland to Canada.

He trod the black-and-white tiles in the main hall of the old marine station, as did Witold Gombrowicz, an avant-garde writer who left for Argentina in 1939, just before outbreak of the World War II, on the liner *Chrobry*.

They were just a few of the millions who set off from this northern Polish Baltic Sea port to seek a better life in a faraway land.

"Whenever we say that there are more than 20 million people of Polish origin worldwide, that we are the sixth diaspora in the world if it comes to the dispersion of the nation beyond the borders of a country, these numbers are always surprising," Joanna Wojdyło, the press officer of the Emigration Museum in Gdynia, told Reuters.

The museum, which opened last

year, is the first in Poland devoted solely to migration. However, the terms migration and emigration are understood broadly by the creators of the museum.

"The museum tells the story of emigration from the Polish lands from the beginning of the 19th century to modern times. So, firstly, there was not always a Polish state on the map, therefore we talk about the Polish lands. Secondly, of course we focus on Poles, and this is the main trend in this narrative," Wojdyło said.

"But we also talk about the migration of people not necessarily of Polish ethnicity," she added.

The Emigration Museum is located in Gdynia's old marine station, commissioned in 1933 and one of the pearls of the architectural modernism style.

The permanent exhibition in the former transit zone covers three main topics: the journey and preparation for it, the history of the marine station in Gdynia and the life of emigrants abroad.

## Common Misconception Debunked

NEW YORK — It has often been said that family names were changed at Ellis Island by individuals processing the immigrants into the country. This myth, in turn, has been given credibility by newspapers, such as the *New York Times*, often in reporting obituaries.

When Kenneth A. Bravo, J.D. saw one of these obituaries a few years ago, he wrote to the *Times* pointing out their error and suggesting sources that they could check to verify what he was saying.

Bravo is vice president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and the former president and current member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland.

When the *Times* seemed to ig-

nore Bravo, he did the research on the family of the person named in the obituary, and was able to show what the name was when the family immigrated and how the family name changed as they adapted to life in the United States. He sent all of the proof to the *Times* and was still ignored. Finally the *Times* responded. They were not going to do anything to correct the erroneous obituary but suggested they might do a news story on the issue. The experience led him to do a search of other *Times* obituaries with the Ellis Island story. He located about half a dozen. After doing the research on each, he was able to show the original name for each of them.

— Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, March 30, 2015

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Coming After Joanna Jedrzejczyk?



Kowalkiewicz

Look out Joanna Jedrzejczyk, here comes **Karolina Kowalkiewicz!** After a big nationally televised victory, Karolina is looking ahead to capturing the UFC strawweight crown currently held by Joanna.

Karolina, 30, defeated Iraqi-born Randa Markos in the opening bout of the recent UFC event on FOX. The native of Lodz, Poland improved to 8-0 with a unanimous-decision victory, and set the stage for a possible showdown with her fellow countrywoman and UFC strawweight champion Jedrzejczyk, 28. "One day I hope I will fight with her," Kowalkiewicz said. "She's the best, and I want to fight with the best." However, Karolina has plenty of esteem for her fellow Pole. "I know her. She's really amazing," Kowalkiewicz said. "I respect her very much. In Poland, she's very popular."

Despite Joanna's growing fame as a UFC champion, it was Karolina who first created a buzz for women's MMA in Poland when she competed in the KSW (Konfrontacja Sztuk Walki) tournament and became its first ever-female champion in 2014. Her victory helped drive the popularity of MMA in Poland, especially Women's MMA. UFC color commentator Joe Rogan seemed to have trouble pronouncing Karolina Kowalkiewicz's last name, but it's likely a name that will be around the sport for a while.



Wojciechowski

### DUKIES FLOURISH.

A pair of former Polish American Duke point guards are early in their head coaching careers, but their programs are already showing results.

**Steve Wojciechowski**, 39, played professionally in Poland after leaving Duke in 1998. He then returned to the Blue Devils, coaching under **Mike Krzyzewski** for 15 years before getting his first head coaching job at Marquette in 2014. After going 13-19 last season, Steve Wojciechowski has his team at 10-2 after the first half of the 2015-16 season. Under Coach K, Wojciechowski became skilled as a coach and recruiter, and that's paying big off for the Golden Eagles. He was just the third first-time head coach to ever bring in a recruiting class ranked in the top 10.

**Bobby Hurley**, 44, played in the NBA after leaving Duke in 1993. He was out of basketball for a time before joining brother Danny as an assistant at Wagner in 2010. In 2013 he became head coach at Buffalo, leading the Bulls to their first-ever NCAA tournament. He went to Arizona State in 2015. The Sun Devils are hardly the most talented team in the PAC-12, but Hurley seems to be getting the most out of them. The Sun Devils posted a 10-3 record in the first half of the season before going into conference play.

Hurley and Wojto did face off this season at the Legends Classic in Brooklyn, with Marquette capturing the title. After the game Wojto said: "Bobby was an idol of mine ... He was somebody that I looked up to and admired ... It's an honor to compete against him and his team and I know he's going to have outrageous success at Arizona State." Hurley commented: "I respect what Steve did as a player and I obviously followed the Duke program in the years after I left. He played the position with tenacity and fire and passion and his team competed that way tonight ... I'm happy he's doing well."

**COACH KS CLASH.** The previous time the Coach Ks faced each other, Duke defeated Utah in the Sweet 16 on its way to the NCAA men's 2015 basketball title. However, when they met this season the Utes knocked off the Blue Devils at Madison Square Garden in overtime, 77-75.

"It's kind of beyond words, really, when you consider what we've gone through and where Duke is and this whole situation," said Utah coach **Larry Krystkowiak**. Led by **Kyle Kuzma's** 21 points, the Utes improved to 9-2 while securing a marquee win.

The "other" Coach K, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, recently said that the 2016 Olympics will be his last coaching the United States men's basketball national team. Krzyzewski coached the U.S. to Olympic gold medals in 2008 in

season with Green Bay before going into sales.

Other Polish Americans in the top 100 include: **Gene Hubka**, 91, who played for the Steelers in the 1940s; **Johny Lujack**, 90, who won the 1947 Heisman Trophy before playing for the Bears, and **Joe Sobolewski**, 89, a University of Michigan product who played for the AAFC Chicago Hornets and a few other teams.

**MORE PLEASE.** Polish President Andrzej Duda told Polish sports stars "Of course we ask for more — more efforts and more medals." Duda spoke to athletes during a meeting at the presidential palace in Warsaw, including **Anita Włodarczyk**, world record holder in the hammer throw, members of the Polish handball team, swimmer **Radosław Kawęcki**, and mountain biker **Maja Włoszczowska**.

Duda pointed out that Polish athletes will face many challenges next year, particularly at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Poland will also host some big sporting events, including the European handball championships and the 2016 FIVB Volleyball World League Finals.



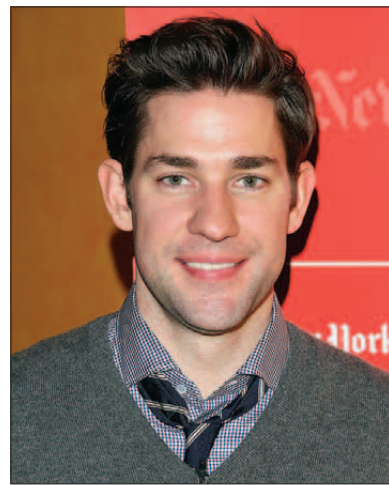
Trumka

### BEST THING FOR TRUMKA.

**Richard Trumka** is president of the 12.5 million-member American Federation of Labor and Congress

of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) since 2009. Trumka has often been compared to another great labor leader, Lech Walesa, because of his down-to-earth style, thick mustache, and Polish ancestry.

However, Trumka's son Rich did play college football. Now an attorney, Rich Jr. played linebacker at Cornell for three seasons (2003-2005) and won the Big Red team's Bernie Olin Award for "an underdog (who) showed determination and grit and persevered."



Krasinski

### BACK IN SHAPE.

Actor **John Krasinski**, who rose to fame on TV's *The Office*, is the brother of **Paul Krasinski**, who starred on the Brown University basketball team. In fact, Paul was the team captain and MVP as a senior, and was later named to the school's all-1990s squad. John was an outstanding basketball player at Newton South HS in the Boston suburbs, but didn't pursue a similar athletic career at Brown. Walking into the Bears' gym "I remember thinking, 'they're too big and too good,'" he said in the Jan/Feb edition of *Men's Health*.

Afterwards, John didn't always stay in best of shape after he became an actor, but some movie roles have motivated him to work out. Most recently, he trained intensely for a role as a special op in the new movie, *13 Hours*. Although the Navy SEAL-style workouts were "brutal at times," Krasinski, 36, intends to keep up a regular fitness regime in the future.

### GETTING STRONGER.

He's in his 40s, but **Robert Piotrkowicz** is still in great shape — he's one of the world's best bodybuilders. Born in 1974 in Warsaw, the "White Eagle," is only the second Pole to compete in the Mr. Olympia contest (the first was **Mirosław Daszkiewicz**) and the first to do it twice (2010 and 2011). He received his membership card in the IFBB (International Federation of Bodybuilders) in 2007, and is currently the only Polish bodybuilder recognized by the Federation. His first coach was another well-known Polish bodybuilder **Peter Gluchowski**.



Piotrkowicz

**THANKSMAS AGAIN.** Former Tampa Bay Rays manager **Joe Maddon** is now with the Chicago Cubs, but he's still running his annual "Thanksmas" celebration in Tampa Bay. He started the tradition almost a decade ago, and it draws hundreds to feast on a Polish-Italian meal and raise money for charity.

However, the National League Manager of the Year has expanded the event to his hometown of Hazelton, Pa. and is planning a similar fundraiser in Chicago next year. Thanksmas, which features pierogi and meatballs, is held between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's Maddon's way of giving back, and he said he won't be happy until the fundraiser is happening throughout the country.

Robert also excelled in powerlifting and karate. Trained as an engineer, he is a graduate of Warsaw University. He and his wife Joanna run a fitness club in Ząbki.

### POLISH ROCKET LIFTING OFF.

**Jakub Lewandowski** of the men's swimming and diving team at Pace University in NYC is living up to his nickname: The Polish Rocket.

The Colorado native is the son of two Polish immigrants. He's a 6'-2", 160-lb. sophomore who competes in fly and freestyle and holds the school record in the mile with a 16:44. It was while he was competing for a club team that he picked up his "Polish Rocket" nickname. One of the reasons for that might be the large Polish Eagle tattoo that Jakub has on his shoulder.

Lewandowski said that swimming requires a lot of work. "The thing with swimming is that it's a very aerobic sport; if you miss one practice it's the equivalent of missing two or three days of practice." However, while athletes in sports like football and basketball can pursue pro careers after college, "You're not going to get paid unless you're Olympic caliber."

The digital journalism major hopes to have a future as an international media correspondent. He is fluent in both Polish and English, and hopes it will give him a competitive edge in that field.

### TO HOST WORLD JUNIOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Polish city of Bydgoszcz will host the World Under-20 Championship July 19-24, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) has announced.

The event is expected to draw more than 3,000 young athletes from around the world. Experts say

it is a huge challenge to organize the championships with just six months to prepare.

Bydgoszcz put together an application to host the event at short notice after the championships were taken away from Russia. The All-Russia Athletics Federation was suspended from the IAAF following a major doping scandal.

The Polish town hosted the U20 Athletics Championship in 2008 and Poland is the only country in history to hold the event twice.

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# It pays to visit Poland!

*\$1 = 4 zlotys*  
*A boon to visiting PolAms*  
 by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—A favorable exchange rate should make this year's visit to Poland a real bargain. That means that PolAms planning to do Poland will be getting more zlotys for their dollar than last year, the year before, and in fact any time in over a decade. In our global economy, U.S. economic performance, world oil prices, the Chinese stock exchange, economic crises and other factors largely determine currency-exchange rates. But the fact remains that since late last year the U.S. dollar has been fetching 4 zlotys or more.

Besides more zlotys to spend for each dollar, the round exchange rate also makes it easier to know what things cost than if they were getting 3.29 or 3.72 per greenback. The zloty price seen on menus and

in store windows can simply be divided by four. If something costs around 20 zlotys, it's a snap to figure paying about \$5.00.

Those who haven't been to Poland in quite some time will be happy to know that gone are the shady communist-era black-marketeers approaching American-looking pedestrians with "cięc mani" (change money). A currency-exchange counter (known as "kantor wymiany walut" or "kantor" for short) can be found in hotels and stores where dollars and other currencies can be legally exchanged. Many American credit cards can be used to obtain zlotys from a Polish "bankomat" (ATM).

The following chart will give you a rough idea of what things cost in Poland. Many prices are subject to seasonal change, vary from region to region and in general are cheaper in small towns and rural areas than in big cities.

Inexpensive hotel per night (big city).....	\$40.00 - \$60.00
Inexpensive hotel per night (small town).....	\$25.00 - \$30.00
Extremely spartan, no-frills hostel per night.....	From \$10.00
Pint of vodka .....	\$6.00 - \$8.00
Beer (17 oz bottle.), grocer-store price .....	50¢ - 75¢
Beer (17 oz.), bar or restaurant price .....	\$1.50 - \$2.50
Meal in average restaurant .....	\$5.00 - \$10.00
Portion of pierogi (5-6) in inexpensive eatery .....	\$2.50
McDonald's cheeseburger .....	.62¢
Candy bar .....	20¢ - 40¢
Men's hair-cut (corner barber shop, not hotel).....	\$5.00
Women's hair-cut, dye and styling .....	\$20.00
Dental filling .....	\$30.00 - \$40.00
Cigarettes, packet of 20.....	\$3.00 - \$4.00
Air-mail stamp for 5-page letter to US.....	\$1.30
Bus, tram or subway fare (Warsaw).....	.60¢
Taxi from Warsaw's Chopin Airport to downtown.....	\$7.00
Rental of small economy car per day .....	\$21.00
Average men's suit .....	\$250.00 - \$400.00
Polish daily newspaper.....	50¢
Cheapest new small economy car .....	\$7,500.00
Gallon unleaded 95 octane gasoline .....	\$4.75
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Low monthly old-age pension .....	\$250.00
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## NOTEBOOK

### Katowice declared UNESCO City of Music

(RADIO POLSKIE) Katowice, in southern Poland, has been awarded the status of UNESCO City of Music, the mayor has confirmed.

"We have been convinced for a long time that Katowice is a musical city," Mayor Marcin Krupa reflected in a statement.

"The title awarded by UNESCO is the finest confirmation for us that we were right," he said. "It is also proof that the city's strategy of investing in culture is bearing fruit."

Katowice has become the first Central and Eastern European city to win the title, joining such destinations as Bogota (Colombia), Bologna (Italy), Seville (Spain), Glasgow (U.K.), Ghent (Belgium), Brazzaville (The Congo), Hamamatsu (Japan), and Mannheim and Hanover (Germany).

The Silesian city boasts such prestigious ensembles as the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra with its recently-opened concert hall, the Silesian Philharmonic, the Silesian Quartet, and the Camerata Silesia Choir. Katowice is also the venue of thirty music festivals.

### Poles are in Top Ten in English

According to the Swedish-based EF (Education First) Language School, Poles rank in the top 10 of the world's most proficient speakers of English as a Foreign Language (EFL). Poland scored 62.95 in the study ranking it in ninth place world-wide. Sweden captured first place with a score of 70.94, followed closely by the Netherlands (70.58) and Denmark (70.05). It's obvious that Germanic-speaking countries usually

fare the best so it may come as a surprise that Poland came in a tad above both Germany and Austria.

### Justin Bieber coming to Poland

Internationally famous Canadian pop star Justin Bieber will perform in Poland later this year. The singer will kick off his European tour in Berlin, Sept. 14, and give over 30 concerts across the continent including such venues as Stockholm, Copenhagen, Antwerp, Prague, Vienna, London, Zurich, Madrid and Lisbon. Bieber's performance at Kraków's Tauron Arena has been scheduled to coincide with Polish Independence Day, Nov. 11. Opened in 2014, the arena has hosted numerous sporting events as well as such performers as José Carreras, Elton John, Slash, Robbie Williams, and Ennio Morricone. (R.S.)

## OBITUARIES

### Tomasz Blatt, Last Sobibor Survivor

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Tomasz Blatt, one of the last survivors of the 1943 uprising in the extermination camp in Sobibór in Nazi-occupied Poland, has died in Santa Barbara at the age of eighty-eight.

Two years ago, during the events marking the 70th anniversary of the Sobibór uprising, he was decorated with the Officer's Cross of the Or-

der of Merit of the Republic of Poland. It was his last visit to Poland.

Born in 1927 in Izbica, near Zamość in eastern Poland, Blatt was deported to Sobibór with his whole family in the spring of 1943.

His parents and younger brother were killed in the gas chambers. He took part in the uprising and managed to escape with a group of some 300 prisoners.

He found shelter with a family of Polish farmers and shortly before the end of World War II joined Polish resistance units.

In 1957, Blatt emigrated to Israel and later settled in the United States.

After the mass escape of prisoners in October 1943, the Nazis dismantled the camp and planted trees on the site in an effort to hide all traces of their crimes.

### Clarence "Polish George" Rzezotarski, Bookstore Owner Devoted to Preserving History

by John Fauber

MILWAUKEE — Clarence "Polish George" Rzezotarski, died on Christmas Day from complications of multiple sclerosis.

He was 75. Rzezotarski was devoted to preserving all things Milwaukee and Wisconsin that otherwise might be forgotten: a vast collection of 1970s-era counterculture publications; thousands of postmarks from Wisconsin post offices, many of which no longer exist; a quirky, subterranean east side bookstore that he co-founded, specializing in collectible works of local and European history.

"George was always interested in lost things," his wife of 49 years, Darlene "Lolly" Rzezotarski, said.

Rzezotarski came of age in the early 1960s, working as a manager of coffee houses that were part of

Milwaukee's beatnik scene, including one known as the Unique Coffee House on the east side and another, the Brat House, in the downtown area.

He also was an avid collector of — and sometimes contributor to — Milwaukee counterculture publications. These included the *Bugle*, or *Bugle American*, an underground 1970s newspaper, and the *Street Sheet*, a radical, mimeographed paper put out three times a week by the so-called Yuppies in the early 1970s.

Eventually, he would donate those collections to Marquette University, from which he earned a master's degree in history.

"He had a tremendous knowledge of the city's history," said longtime friend Pat Small. "He seemed to reach out to people who were a little eccentric."

In 1973, George and Lolly

opened the Dancing Bear Bookstore in a basement storefront at 2406 N. Murray St. A few years later it moved to N. Oakland Ave. near Locust St. until it closed in 1989.

Known more for its odd, antiquarian collection than its financial success, it was a people's bookstore.

Rzezotarski also worked as a history lecturer at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

The Rzezotarskis also are remembered for the New Year's Eve gatherings that took place at their longtime home on N. Newhall St. and later in their Shorewood house, where he received hospice care for multiple sclerosis.

The parties, which the couple hosted for 39 years, drew neighbors and friends.

—Excerpted from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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# Polka MAGAZINE

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## Stanky & the Coal Miners Continue to Mine Diamonds

by Laura Rysz  
citizensvoice.com

In an Igloo in Alaska, John Stanky was playing his accordion for a local Alaskan native. The man was frantic. Stanky asked the interpreter what was wrong. The interpreter said, "He thinks you are playing too loud, and he is afraid the walls of the igloo are going to crack."

Stanky, who was born John Stankovic, still plays his music loud and proud. Mr. Stankovic, 78, believes there is a direct correlation to the distinct sound of polka music and dancing. He has been all over world, including New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, Germany and England.

The difference between playing in the states and playing abroad is how quickly people respond to the music. Mr. Stankovic says it takes a while for an American audience to get into the music. However, once they do, the personal walls and self-consciousness that people have fall. What emerges is a celebration of life and music.

**PLAYING WORLDWIDE.** "As soon as the audience hears the first lyric in Europe they are already up and dancing. In America, it usually



PHOTO: PETE G. WILCOX/TIMES LEADER

John Stanky of Stanky and the Coal Miners fame plays his accordion at his home in Nanticoke.

takes the audience one or two songs from the set list before they get moving," Mr. Stankovic said. "The effect that our music has is that it makes our fans happy. As soon as we start to play people get up and dance. We have a fan base of more than 2,000 people that come out and join us; we have been playing for years and years."

Mr. Stankovic, a Nanticoke native, began playing in 1945. His father was from Czechoslovakia

and played both the accordion and the violin. In 1949, Mr. Stankovic played at weddings with his father. In 1951 he started John Stanky and the Tip Toppers. It was not until 1960 that he went by Stanky and the Coal Miners.

*"My father ... used to say, 'If you learn five songs you will never starve.'"*

"In those days, people used to take the furniture out of the house. There would be an empty room. Everyone would dance, drink a few beers and eat. There would also be tents in the backyard. So, the wedding would be going on inside and outside of the house. That's what we did in the '50s," Mr. Stankovic said.

He produced "Pennsylvania Polka" which his wife, Dottie, hosted. WVIA airs re-runs of the program — which began 35 years ago — six days a week.

**PLENTY OF MEMORIES.** John Stanky and the Coal Miners have about 25 albums, 60 songs, and a book titled "Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie: The Story of Stanky and the Coal Miners," which recounts stories of the band's experiences.

Some of Mr. Stankovic's most memorable experiences stem from when he would play with the band on airplanes.

"In China, we played on an airplane and Billy Joel was there with his now ex-wife Christie Brinkley, as we were walking around playing," he said. "We also made commercials with Robert Kline."

Currently, his two daughters play in the Coal Miners. Kim Bukowski plays the saxophone and clarinet and Debra Horoschock plays the trumpet.

"My father made me practice for one hour every day. He also used to say, 'If you learn five songs you will never starve.' I learned 10," Mr. Stankovic laughed. "That's a joke by the way."

### POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

## Harmony Sharp's John Sniezek Passes

In 1969, polkas took us south toward Sharon/Farrell, Pennsylvania and it was at a lounge down there that I met John Sniezek and his Harmony Sharps polka band. They were young and provided a sound of their own. After that first meeting, John Sniezek and I stayed in touch. We both played accordion.

There was no email at that time, so we used the U.S. Post Office to exchange thoughts about polka music, the band, and more. It was a friendship that covered miles but we always remained friends. Our paths would cross on occasion, at a wedding, at a dance, or in a Wegman's parking lot. My friend, John Louis Sniezek Jr., passed away Friday, Dec. 4, 2015, in Phoenix of a stroke.

The Harmony Sharps recorded their first album, "Harmony Sharps at Idora Park," in 1969, and followed that up two years later with their second album "On Target with the Harmony Sharps."

His obituary read as follows: John was born on March 11, 1951, in New Castle, a son of the late John and Jennie (Muszynski) Sniezek. John had been involved in community health and the healthcare industry for more than 35 years. His professional travels had taken him to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia. Through-



**CHANCE MEETING AT WEGMAN'S.** The late John Sniezek (right), with Steve and Adele Litwin.

out his career, he received several leadership and community awards. He is survived by three daughters, Deanna Gonzalez of Cherry Hill, N.J., Jaelyn Maertz of Phoenix and Teresa Sniezek of Scottsdale, Ariz.; two granddaughters, Abryana and Presley Maertz; four grandsons, Trevor, Kyle and Matthew Gonzalez and Kaden Maertz; his sister, Joanne Witkowski of New Castle; and his brothers, Tom Sniezek of Salem, Ohio, and Gary Sniezek of Webster, N.Y.

A few weeks before John's passing, we were in our local Wegman's supermarket, and John's brother Gary came out of nowhere and recognized Adele. Gary and John were using the parking lot as a meeting place before continuing on a trip. It was a total surprise to us all to be at the same place, at the same time. Just a few weeks later, John passed away. The meeting in that parking lot was our final visit with John, a true Harmony Sharp.

## Fighting for Their Life

*Polka fans and support polka shows try to avoid massive cutbacks*

AMHERST, Mass. — A petition is being circulated online demanding that radio station WMUA, operated out of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, rethink some recent decisions. On January 10, 2016, the station programmer announced that the WMUA polka weekend block would be reduced from 12 hours (six on Saturday and six on Sunday) to four hours on Sunday only. Shows currently on air include those hosted by Billy Belina, Todd Zaganiacz, Mitch Moskal and Helen Curtin.

By way of background: polka music has been a staple on WMUA since 1979, and for most of that time has been heard year-round for 12 to 13 hours, each and every weekend.

Many of the talented polka musicians who populate the Western Massachusetts area — and the area is truly rife with talent — began playing polkas as a result of hearing shows on WMUA. To limit access to this programming prevents future generations from enjoying that same opportunity.

In the 36 years polkas have been on the WMUA airwaves, their shows have raised nearly a half a million dollars from polka supporters — not small change for a student-run, community radio station. Ironically, this decision comes a month and a half after polka shows raised \$24,000 in 20 hours for the station's annual fundraiser.

Polka fans and supporters of polka radio who wish to have their voices heard can do so at [www.ipe-titions.com/petition/keep-polkas-alive-on-wmua](http://www.ipe-titions.com/petition/keep-polkas-alive-on-wmua).

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## Mleczek Shout Out a Great Success

Kudos to Larry Trojak for his eloquent article in the January edition about the efforts across the polka community to help those in need when serious medical issues arise.

To pick up on the story of Jeff Mleczek a bit:

Across the polka world on November 8, a **Shout Out for Jeff Mleczek** took place at 5:00 p.m. The Shout Out originated from the Toledo IMA dance, which featured Mleczek's band DynaBrass as the musical entertainment. As most readers know, Mleczek suffered a debilitating stroke earlier in 2015, and has been undergoing a lengthy rehabilitation with the support of his family and friends. The Shout Out was a polka community-wide event held in order to wish Mleczek well, offer up prayers for his continued improvement, and to encourage him towards full recovery and return to the bandstand he loves so much.

As one of many polka fans in the crowded hall that day, all I can say is: Wow! what a great tribute to Jeff it was. So many people came out to listen to the dynamite sounds of DynaBrass and wish Jeff well; the energy in the room was palpable.

As the time built to 5:00 p.m., the area near the bandstand filled nearly to capacity. Interim DynaBrass band leader Joe Zalewski called Jeff's parents, who were with him in his room waiting for Joe's call. The sound of everyone shouting "Get Well Jeff!" brought tears to Joe's

eyes and the eyes of many others that day. Jeff's parents on the other end reported that Jeff definitely was aware of what was happening, and as we heard this news, the din for Jeff grew even louder.

The tributes continued from the bandstand as the night concluded. Perhaps the most touching tribute of all was the band itself doing an outstanding job playing Jeff's music.

Kudos to Joe Zalewski for leading the band through the transition, to Bobby Earl Jr. for picking up Jeff's vocals on so many of his hits, and to Kenny Olewin from the Polka Jammer Network, for providing a top notch live remote broadcast.

The DynaBrass was originated by Jeff Mleczek and has been performing a polka festivals and venues throughout the USA and Canada for more than 20 years.

The band continues to perform in Jeff's absence under the interim leadership of Joe Zalewski.

Toledo Area Polka Society is pleased to announce that its first dance of 2016 will be held on Sunday, March 6th and will feature Jeff Mleczek's DynaBrass at the Conn-Weissenberger hall from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Please consider making a trip to Toledo after the Lovin' on Lynda Dance in Grand Rapids to help yet another member of our great big polka family make it through a rough time. For more info, call (419) 276-1600.

## It's Polka Time Celebrates 25 Years

HUGO, Minn. — *It's Polka Time!* with Craig Ebel will celebrate 25 years on the air with a dance at the historic Withrow Ballroom in Hugo, Sat., March 19, 2016. Dancing will be from 4:00-10:00 p.m. with music provided by The Boys from Baltimore, Maryland, and The David Austin Band from Madison, Wisc.. Admission is \$12 per person; 6 and under are free. The evening will include door prizes, giveaways, and a huge parade of musicians.

A 2012 Inductee to the International Polka Hall of Fame, Craig Ebel, will also celebrate his 35 years of broadcasting. A graduate of Brown Institute School of Broadcasting, Ebel has worked in all facets of radio broadcasting including

announcer, reporter, board operator and producer. In 1981, while attending classes at Brown, Ebel's first job as an announcer was on "Polka Polka" 1010 WMIN (formally WJSW) in Maplewood, Minn. The station was only on from sunrise to sunset, but its format included 80 percent polka music.

*It's Polka Time!* made its debut on Feb. 2, 1991, on a Brooklyn Park station, AM 1470. The station was changed its call letters to KCW and changed its format, adding one and a half hours of polkas to the Sunday morning schedule. Later KCW added a three-hour Sunday afternoon show called *Polka Time! PM*.

For more information, email [itspolkatime@hotmail.com](mailto:itspolkatime@hotmail.com).

## Tom Kula Award Dance

by Rich "Sudsy" Cerajewski

CHICAGO — The Polka USA group had a fabulous turnout of over three hundred people to honor Tom Kula, an outstanding musician and friend to all. Tom was a mainstay of the Ampol Aires for over 50 years and the New Ampol Aires for another 13 years. His sparkling personality and unique vocals were a key to the staying power of the band for years.

A highlight of this event was seeing the last two original band members, Roman Travers and Andy Day, do their classic renditions of "Swir Swir" ober-ek and "Parade" polka. They brought the crowd to its feet singing a number of the band's favorites. The boys in the New Ampol Aires did a great job of duplicating the sound of original band and backing up Roman, Andy, and Tommy.

Tommy was overcome with emotion when presented with the IPA Leon Kozicki Award. Making this event even more moving was the presence of polka legends Leon Kozicki, Chet Schafer, and Tish Blazonczyk, as well as many well-known polka musicians and DJs. Everyone was there to honor a true gentleman and great musician and his family, for a lifetime of music and accomplishments that has brought joy to polka fans everywhere.

**POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski**

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to johnzz@cox.net.

**FEBRUARY 6**

- Eddie Forman. Elks. Englewood Fla. 5-9. (941) 474-1404
- John Gora. Polish Hall. Cambridge On. Evening. (519) 277-9989
- Mike Surratt. Washington Saengerbund. Fairfax Va. 7-11. (202) 310-4691

**FEBRUARY 7**

- Eddie Forman. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-7. (727) 934-0900
- Jasiu's Polka All Stars. Polish American Club. St. Petersburg Fl. 3-6. (727) 463-5845
- Golden Tones. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Special Delivery Band. Paczki Day Dance. Holy Mother of Rosary Cathedral. Lancaster NY. 2-6. (716) 937-0032
- Polka Pals. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Polka. PASC Club. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (352) 596-4802

**FEBRUARY 8**

- Eddie Forman, Recreation Center. The Villages Fla. 6-9. (352) 754-2270

**FEBRUARY 9**

- John Gora (DJ) . Millenium Hotel. Cheektowaga NY. Happy hour dance. (716) 681-2400

**FEBRUARY 13**

- Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca NY. 4:30-7:30, (716) 768-3246
- Dennis Polisky. St. Joe Polish Society. Colchester Ct. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550

**FEBRUARY 14**

- Eddie Derwin. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504

- Dennis Polisky. German Club. Pawtucket Ri. 2-6. (401) 723-3549
- Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
- Northern Lites. Polish Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (352) 258-7059
- Nu Soundz. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Polish Kid. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) -894-0900
- Polka Country Musicians. PACC. South Hadley. Ma. 3-7. (413) 534-3919

**FEBRUARY 18**

- Real Vintage. Polish Falcons. Depew NY. 8-10:30. (716) 771-1076

**FEBRUARY 20**

- The Knewz. Ludlow PACC. Ludlow Ma. 2-6. (413) 567-1961

**FEBRUARY 21**

- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman/Lenny Gomulka. Ludlow PACC. Ludlow Ma. 2-7. (413) 567-1961
- Phocus. Captain Smith's Anchor Inn. Cheektowaga NY. 5:30-9:30. (716) 896-9762
- Northern Sounds. Polish American Club. St. Petersburg Fl. 3-6. (727) 463-5845
- Joe Stankz Cadets. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Polka Generation. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-0900
- Sounds of The South. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908

**FEBRUARY 27**

- Marc Bouchard. SNPJ Lodge. Sam-sula Fla. 12-10. (386) 428-8868

**FEBRUARY 28**

- Jeannie Polka. PASC Club. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (352) 596-4802
- Pennsylvania Villagers. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Polka Jersey Richie. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Day-

- tona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908

**MARCH 3**

- Jimmy Sturr. Strawberry Festival. Plant City Fla. 10:30 AM. (813) 752-9194

**MARCH 5**

- Jimmy Sturr. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 5-9. (727) 934-0900
- Frank Maravcik. Elks Lodge. Titusville Fla. 12-6. (321) 268-2113
- Mike Surratt. White Rose Restaurant. York Pa. 7-11. (717) 848-5369

**MARCH 6**

- Special Delivery Band. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca NY. 4:30-7:30. (716) 768-3246
- Joe Stankz Cadets. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Jimmy Sturr. PACC. Vero Beach Fla. 1-5. (772) 778-0039
- Bailey's Best. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Bee Sharps. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
- Northern Sounds. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Music by Jeannie. PASC. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (352) 596-4802

**MARCH 11**

- The Knewz. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling WVA. 8-12. (304) 243-4060

**MARCH 12**

- Special Delivery Band. Polkasino Bus Trip. Donovan Post. Cheektowaga NY. (716) 668-9101
- The Knewz/Stephanie/D Street. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling WVA. 3-12. (304) 243-4060
- Frank Moravcik. Moose Lodge. Bradenton Fla. Evening. (941) 739-8630

**MARCH 13**

- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Polka Country Musicians. German Club. Pawtucket Ri. 2-6. (401) 723-3549
- Dennis Polisky. PACC. Lyndhurst NJ. 2-6. (201) 803-0909
- Polka Family Band/Ray Jay. Oglebay Resort. Wheeling WV. 12-6. (304) 243-4060
- Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
- Polka All Stars. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Salt City Brass. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 3-6. (727) 934-0900
- Out side Da Box. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Music by Jeannie. PASC Club. Hudson Fla. 2-5. (352) 596-4802

**MARCH 19**

- Special Delivery Band. Broadway Market. Buffalo NY. 3-6. (716) 893-0705

**MARCH 20**

- Polski Swingmasters. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Polka Country Musicians. K of C. Saratoga NY. 2-6. (518) 584-8547
- Lenny Gomulka. Roosevelt Hall. Norvelt Pa. 3-7. (724) 861-5872
- Marc Bouchard. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7-59
- Sounds of the South. Polish Club. St. Petersburg Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
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DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

# Wrapping Up 2016 and Starting 2017 Just Right

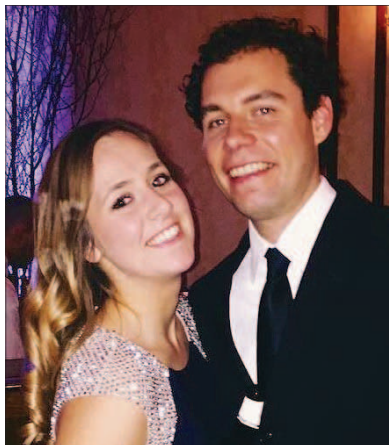
BUFFALO, N.Y. —Lenten time is quickly approaching in preparation for the early celebration of Easter this year. I'm sure I am not alone in wishing that spring weather is also in the not-too-distant future. During this time as we prepare to focus on the simple things in life and growing closer to God, we are fortunate enough to have so much to look forward to in the polka realm. February will be filled with Pączki Day celebrations and, of course, who can forget the countdown to Dyngus Day. Western New York is blessed to have several pączki events this year so make sure you check out the polka calendar and get your fun in before the fasting of our forty days begins. Of course, we all know that Buffalo is lucky enough to be home to the largest Dyngus Day celebration in the United States. Therefore, I look forward to seeing many of you over the course of the next few months.

**SOUNDS OF THE SEASON.** The musical diversity of **Special Delivery** was a key part of the celebration for **Buffalo Polka Boosters** Christmas party. This yearly happening, held at Polish Falcons in Depew, is a more formal event than the club's typical monthly meetings. The non-profit organization, which works diligently to raise funds and support polkas, offers a discount to members for this event as a well-deserved thank you for supporting the efforts and music of local polka bands all year. Even at the full price for non-members, this evening-long event is a bargain, with dinner, drinks, and top-notch entertainment. After a satisfying family-style four-course



Chris Sikorski and Christy Nowakowski

who make the yearly visit to join in the merriment. Musicians from **Buffalo Touch**, **Concertina All Stars**, **Phocus**, **Special Delivery**, and **New Direction** were all playing in unison welcoming the holiday spirit. **Ken Machelski**, band leader of the **Touch** and **Bob Wroblewski**, who played trumpet for **Phocus**, both beloved musicians in the polka world, stole the show as they played for the first time after some time off while recuperating. **Richie Kurdziel, Sr.**, in from Florida for the holidays, was happy to sing a few songs while effortlessly playing the concertina. It was nice to see **Richie, Sr.** and **Richie, Jr.** on the bandstand playing alongside one another. Even **Richie's** father in law, **Casey Kliszak**, hit the bandstand, boosting that concertina sound. A variety of musicians in Buffalo make an effort to attend this event creating a star-studded showcase for every polka lover. The spirit of Christmas and sense of community are alive as you watch the musicians and listen



Brian Urbanczyk and Kayla Rosinski

my eyes to true meaning of Christmas and remembering that there is no better gift than the love of friends and family.

**NOWY ROK.** Buffalo's polka devo-



Wally Dombrowski & Mary Rose Nesbitt

survived many recent personnel changes, looked much different on the stage for this performance. A few of their regular musicians could not make the gig, so **Art Gaylor**, ac-



Gary and Lori Piatkowski

tees were lucky enough to have their pick between two New Year's Eve festivities to ring in 2016. The Millennium hotel, where my family has spent the last three year's celebrating, once again embraced the polka community by hosting one of the nation's hottest bands, **Polka Country Musicians**, alongside Buffalo's own **Special Delivery**. Both bands and their faithful followers were a sure combination to draw many to this extravaganza. We did not attend but got positive hourly updates from friends who were there. There is no doubt that everyone in attendance enjoyed every moment of their experience at this party. Millennium Hotel has become a mainstay polka locale over the past several years and I look forward to seeing more events in the future at this centralized venue.

When Dan Potts announced that he was presenting a New Year's gala this year, my husband and I decided to ring in the New Year with many of our friends at this event. Music for the evening's entertainment was **Phocus**. This band, which has



Shane and Melissa Jozwiak

cordion player from **Buffalo Concertina All Stars**, as well as **Jim Kaminski**, a concertina player who has recently been performing with a few local bands for the first time since the 1980s, filled the void for the evening. The band put on quite a show, switching from traditional waltzes and polkas into their more modern tunes, piquing the interest of many non-polka patrons. **Ricky Krupski** of the **Krew Brothers** has recently joined this band on stage and his vocals add a new dimension to the band. The band's unconventional attitude towards polka music respects the music's past but

adds changes that give them their trademark sound. The dance floor was overflowing with veteran polka dancers as well as novices who were playfully enjoying the beat of the music.

**Tadj** from the **Buffalo Touch** provided traditional dance and top 40 hits during the band's breaks. After the buffet-style dinner of prime rib, chicken, fish, asparagus, pasta, and delicious cheesecake, everyone was ready to get out and dance those calories away. The hall was adorned with beautiful decorations which completely transformed the space for a truly spectacular evening. For only \$50.00 per person, we were treated to dinner, music, a six-hour open bar, noisemakers and hats, as well as traditional pickled herring at midnight.

I am very grateful that I got to spend the evening with my closest friends, and, at the same time, support a local business that is a mainstay to polka music all year long. With the sold out crowd, I am sure that the Potts family will be planning an even bigger celebration to ring in 2017 polka style.

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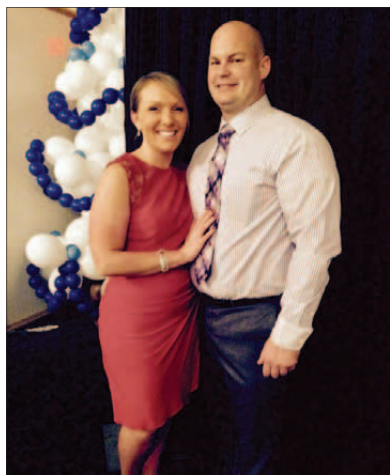
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Jimmy Lacki and Sarah McKibben

dinner, it was time to get the soiree in full gear, and the band was certainly up for the task. Polkas, waltzes, Christmas music, and American music rang out throughout the night and the dance floor was never empty. During a short break, new board members **Jim Kaminski** and **Marcia Moscato** were welcomed with open arms by members of the board. **Special Delivery's** professionalism shows with each note played and every musician in the band is given the chance to showcase their craft. The music kept the crowd there until the very end. Thank you to all of the guys in the band for providing an unforgettable evening for all of us.

The hospitality that the **Kwiatkowski family** shows is always exhilarating. The family, owners and operator of **Arty's Grill**, once again hosted a **Kolędy** celebration in preparation for the Christmas season. Polka musicians gathered to play their favorite English and Polish carols while encouraging participation from the enthusiastic crowd. Elbow room only, this small East Side tavern is transformed into a reunion of families and friends



Chris and Tara Bukowski

to the crowd singing along to cherished holiday melodies. As I am usually overwhelmed by the chaos of the season with shopping, baking, and wrapping gifts, I look forward to this afternoon every year. It opens

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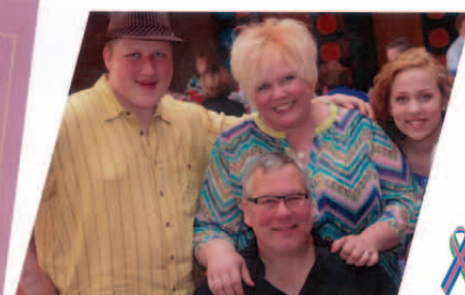
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## WHAT OUR ANCESTORS CELEBRATED

## Święto Matki Boskiej Gromnicznej — Our Lady of the Thunderbolt

by Robert Strybel

This holiday occurring 40 days after Christmas is officially known by the Church as the Feast of Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It commemorates the Jewish ritual according to which the Blessed Mother was purified after giving birth and presented her Baby to the Temple. But for ages it has been associated throughout Europe with candles and the Blessed Virgin, likened to the candle that gave birth to the Light of the World. On that day churches were ablaze with candlelight, and the candles to be used in the liturgy throughout the year were blessed.

Just as the Catholic Feast of the Assumption (Aug. 15) is known in Poland by the folkloric term *Święto Matki Boskiej Zielnej* (Our Lady of the Greenery), so too Candlemas is called *Święto Matki Boskiej Gromnicznej*. That can be translated as Our Lady of the Thunderbolt Candle. (The Polish word *grom* is a clap of thunder, hence the *gromnica* is the thunderclap candle and *gromniczna* is its adjectival form).

For ages Poles have flocked to church on February 2, bringing with them the tall beeswax candles which would be used for ritual purposes in

the home throughout the year. During Holy Mass the candles were blessed and the faithful did their best to carry their lighted candles home with them – not always an easy task during blustery weather. Once home, the head of the household would use the burning candle to trace a soot-stained cross on the ceiling beam of the home or cottage.

He would also take the lighted candle to every nook and cranny of the cottage and visit his outbuildings as well in the belief that its radiance would ward of the forces of darkness. After the flame was blown out, it was believed that inhaling the candle smoke would prevent coals and sore throats.

As its name implies, the “gromnica” was believed to protect against thunderstorms and was placed in the window to keep lightning bolts away. This writer recalls how terrified his late maternal grandmother, Katarzyna Kupczyńska, had been of violent thunderstorms. As a child I would often visit my Babcia in the tiny beer, wine and sweet shop she ran in Detroit’s then predominantly Polish suburb of Hamtramck. Once, when it started thundering, she closed the shop and hurriedly took



the Cross or said some prayer, but Polish prayer books often contain a “Modlitwa w czasie burzy” (Prayer during Storms).

The lighted *gromnica* also had another important function: it was placed in the hands of people on their deathbed and those who had just died. When not in use, the candle was kept behind a holy picture over the bed as a kind of *memento mori*, a reminder that no-one can escape death. The thunderbolt candle was also believed to protect against wolves. Different Polish painters have depicted the Blessed Mother holding a pack of wolves at bay with a *gromnica*.

Although the Feast of the Three Kings (Jan. 6) is the last of the Twelve Days of Christmas, and some take down their home Christmas cribs, trees and other Yuletide decorations soon thereafter, to this day Candlemas is the final cut-off point. On that day the season’s last Christmas carols are sung in church on that day. But in the olden days, roving caroler-masqueraders continued to pay visits, although their attire and antics by then had become less Nativity and more Mardi Gras oriented.

One popular custom in Poland is that of the *gromnica*, the Thunder Candle. The blessed candle is brought to the home, and the family seeks the protection of Matki Bożej Gromnicznej, Our Lady of the Thunder Candle. Above, the head of the household burns the sign of the cross into the cross beam of their home with their Thunder Candle. Tradition says the Blessed Mother would then protect the family from wolves and other wild animals. During storms the *gromnica* would be placed in the window to protect the home from lightning. Also, the *gromnica* would be placed in the hands of the dying lighting their way to eternal life.

me by the hand to her home two doors away. There she lit a *gromnica*, hoping the storm would soon

pass over. I was only 7 or 8 back then and no longer recall whether Babcia simply made the Sign of

## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## PAC Brings Visa Waiver Advocacy to Capitol

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Frank J. Spula, president of the Polish American Congress, and Anthony J. Bajdek, vice president for American Affairs, traveled to Washington, Dec. 10 for a full day of scheduled meetings on Capitol Hill. Dr. Bar-

bara Andersen, PAC Washington National Office executive director, accompanied the two PAC officers during visits to 12 U.S. Senators from 10 states.

The legislators, representing states in which the PAC has a State Division, included in order of scheduled times Senators Kelly Ayotte (NH), Daniel Coats (IN),

Tim Kaine (VA), Benjamin Cardin (MD), Ron Johnson (WI), Thomas Carper (DE), Debbie Stabenow (MI), Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), Diane Feinstein (CA), Joe Donnelly (IN), Mark Kirk (IL), and Richard Durbin (IL).

The timing of the visits, although set weeks in advance, proved to be of key importance for the issues that

were discussed, among those being the inclusion of Poland into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (WVP) – an issue of key interest and an ongoing effort for the Polish American Congress.

## Language Classes in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Spring Semester of **Polish Language and Culture Classes** will start the week of February 1 and end the week of May 5.

There will be four sections of Polish Language instruction:

- Beginners I class will meet on Wednesdays (February 3 - May 4)
- Beginners I continuation class will meet on Thursdays (February 4 - May 5)
- Beginners II/ Intermediate class will meet on Mondays (February 1 - May 2)
- Advanced Conversation class will meet on Tuesdays (February 2 - May 3)

All classes start at 6.30 p.m. and end at 8.20 p.m. The cost is \$450 (new students); \$425 (returning students). For more information and to obtain registration form or a gift certificate please e-mail: [bernhardt-basia@gmail.com](mailto:bernhardt-basia@gmail.com) or call (240) 338-2592

## Curator of Polish Jewish Museum Speaks at U-M

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, the chief curator of the core exhibition of POLIN — the Museum of the History of Polish Jewish in Warsaw — talked about the museum January 13 at a lecture sponsored by the University of Michigan’s Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and the **Copernicus Program in Polish Studies (CPPS)**.

How the museum came to be was the subject of her talk, “Rising from the Rubble: Creating the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.”

“POLIN Museum is a *gesamtkunstwerk*, a remarkable integration of a memorial site, fitting architecture, and innovative multimedia narrative exhibition,” she said. “Nowhere else is this story told in this

way. And there is no more appropriate place to tell this story.”

“The core exhibition at POLIN recovers the thousand-year history of Polish Jews and tells the story in the very place where it happened,” Kirshenblatt-Gimblett explained. “The museum completes the memorial complex.”

The POLIN museum stands on land that was once part of the Warsaw ghetto, and has attracted over a million visitors since it opened in 2013.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is university professor emerita and professor emerita of performance studies at New York University. She is the author of several acclaimed books and has received many awards for her work, including a recent medal from the president of Poland for her contribution to the creation of POLIN.

## Save the Date

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The **Polish American Arts Association** of Washington, D.C. will celebrate its 50th anniversary, Sat., Sept. 17, 2016, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the Congressional Room of the Congressional Country Club, in Bethesda, Maryland. For information, call (571) 276-5574.

## Lakomy Stars in “Appetence”

NEW YORK — Polish American actress **Anna Lakomy** stars opposite Julia Montgomery (“One Life to Live,” “Revenge of the Nerds”) in an edgy sci-fi short, “Appetence.”

The film is about a loving, but manipulative stage mom (Montgomery) who convinces her idealistic and ambitious starlet daughter (Lakomy) to “stop eating to save the world” and ignites the Feeder Diet Revolution that propels her to ultimate stardom – but at what price?

The idea for this short came when writer/executive producer Paul Cen-zoprano was pondering about what may cause people to stop eating in the future and realizing it would probably be due to a fad launched by Hollywood.

More information on Lakomy can be found on [www.AnnaLakomy.com](http://www.AnnaLakomy.com)

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## Easter is Early This Year, March 27

## Easter Greetings

## Deadline is Feb. 12

Because Easter falls in March this year, our Annual Special Easter Edition of the Polish American will be published a month earlier than normal. The PAJ depends on income generated by its Special Editions to balance its books. Please contact us about your Easter greetings before the February 12th deadline.

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