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NEW UNDERGRAD SCHOLARSHIP IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES ANNOUNCED • ROOMS THAT SANG AND DANCED

Newsmark

DUDA: POLAND WANTS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH U.S. (Radio Poland) Polish President Andrzej Duda said Poland wants to maintain close relations with the new U.S. administration.

During a meeting with the diplomatic corps in the presidential palace, Duda said that “the transatlantic bond brings tangible benefits to partners on both sides of the Atlantic.”

In his speech, Duda also focused on the problems of the European Union. “Today we need to reflect on the principles of European integration. To ensure balance between preserving the unity of the EU on the one hand and the social need to influence the course of European affairs on the other,” Duda said.

The president also said that “it is of utmost importance... that all decisions taken by the Warsaw NATO summit are implemented to the full extent: both on the military level, as well as the political one.”

KNYSZ NEW CATHOLIC LEAGUE CHAIRMAN. Dr. Walter Knysz was chosen to succeed Fr. Philip Eichner as the new chairman of the board of the Catholic League.

Knysz holds a Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Detroit. The founder of several dental business companies, one of his achievements is the establishment of a global provider of dental insurance; another is his founding of a dental practice management company. More recently, he launched a franchise agreement with independent dental practitioners, providing an array of services.

Knysz is past chairman of the “Leading the Way” campaign, and has been active for years serving on the board of Ave Maria University. He has also served the Thomas More Law Center.

GEORGIA PRESIDENT CONDEMS DESTRUCTION. The president of Georgia has accused Moscow of a “deliberate act of vandalism” after reports that Russians destroyed a historic Polish church and bulldozed a nearby cemetery in Georgia’s breakaway region of Abkhazia.

“In order to build a military training ground for the armed forces of the Russian Federation, a 19th-century church and historic Polish cemetery was destroyed,” said President Georgy Margvelashvili. “This is a deliberate act of vandalism, which violates the provisions of international law, including the Hague Convention of 1954.”

Margvelashvili called on the international community and UNESCO to intervene over what he described as “illegal actions by the occupying forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Georgia.”

The “Echo of the Caucasus” website reported that the Polish cemetery and church were established at the end of the 19th century near the village of Cabal.

A local official told reporters that a large group of Poles lived in the area in the 19th century.

BUYS CZARTORYSKI FAMILY ART COLLECTION. A significant private art collection, held by the Czartoryski Family Foundation, that includes works by Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt and Renoir, will be owned by the Polish government under a recently-signed agreement.

The celebrated family collection contains 593 valuable works of art which include Leonardo da Vinci’s Lady with an Ermine (“Dama z gronostajem”) and Rembrandt’s “Landscape with the Good Samaritan.”

“Lady with an Ermine” is one of the most important works in all of western art. The painting passed into Polish hands when it was purchased in 1800 by young Prince Adam Czartoryski during his tour of Italy. It was a gift to his mother, Princess Izabela Czartoryska, an avid art collector and founder of the Czartoryski Museum in Krakow.

Piotr Gliński, Poland’s Deputy Prime Minister of Culture who signed the purchase agreement, said the impetus for the acquisition by the government was to ensure that the works of art continue to receive proper care and that they remain in Poland forever.

Changing of the Guard



AMBASSADOR PIOTR WILCZEK is interviewed by Polish media at his residence during the recent Polish Independence Day Celebration on November 16, 2016. It also marked the occasion of the ambassador’s first official introduction in Washington and to the United States as a diplomat representing the Republic of Poland. *Story on page 4.*

Birthday Brings Time for Reflection



WACŁAW KOŁODZIEJEK shows the number tattooed on his chest by his Nazi captors. His crime was being a Polish Catholic.

by Frank Milewski

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — “With the passing of 2016 and our hopes in a new year, I reflect on my father’s 95th birthday on January 28, 2017, the passage of time, humanity, and his legacy as a Polish Catholic Holocaust survivor. It is nothing short of extraordinarily good fortune and his deep faith in God that spared my father’s life during 5 years of unthinkable Nazi brutality.”

These are the words of Patricia Kołodziejek, whose father Wacław Kołodziejek, was arrested in August 1940 in Warsaw as a teenager.

His crime: being Polish. And he was Catholic.

It took many days in a crowded standing room only cattle car train before he was unloaded at the Auschwitz see “Birthday ...” page 4

Bartoszewicz a Hero in Fort Lauderdale Shootings



TONY BARTOSIEWICZ (pictured in the airport with wife Jennifer Cleeton) covered Dean’s body with his own as the gunman stood over them, firing into the terrified crowds.

by Kyra Gurney
The Miami Herald

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Ten minutes after a shooter opened fire at the Fort Lauderdale airport, Tony Bartosiewicz called his daughter to let her know that he was safe.

Bartosiewicz had been in the baggage claim area when the shooter began firing on passengers. The retired electrician dove to the floor and miraculously remained unharmed, even as the shooter walked toward him and began to shoot over him. After the ordeal, “he was really shaken up and could barely speak,” said his daughter, Jenny Miller.

Bartosiewicz, who lives in Rochester, N.Y., told her about the shooting, but he left out an important detail. He did not tell his daughter that

he had jumped on top of a woman who was lying on the floor to shield her from the gunman. As bullets whizzed around them, Bartosiewicz quietly told the woman, Broward teacher Annika Dean, that he would protect her.

After what Dean said felt like a minute and a half of shooting, police arrived and detained the shooter. Dean, a 42-year-old mother of two boys, had emerged unscathed.

“The first thing I said to him was I thanked him and told him that it was terrifying and what he did brought me comfort, that it was just so comforting,” Dean said. “I thanked him throughout the day and told him he was a hero.”

But Miller did not find out that her 70-year-old father had put himself between the See “Bartosiewicz ...” page 4

PREPARING FOR WIELKI POST

Polish American Lenten Customs

The Origins and Significance of Our Folkways

by Fr. Basil Janasik O.F.M.
Polish American Studies

In the first centuries after Poland accepted Christianity in the year 966, the Lenten fast was observed so strictly that nothing cooked or warm was eaten from the middle of Lent until Easter Sunday. The people were satisfied with bread, dried fruits and smoked fish. Later, fast was observed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the entire Lenten season and special mortifications were observed during the first and last weeks.

Bread only was eaten on the Saturdays in Lent.



The Poles abstained from wine on Fridays but allowed themselves beer once a week. The usual drink was boiled water and, in some sections of Poland, many faithful not only took no food but abstained even from water on Good Friday. Others vowed not to take any food on Holy Saturday and remained true to their vow. Olive oil was used for cooking on non-fast days in the homes of the rich. The poor used a cheaper oil. The Poles still have a saying: “Sir benefactor, good dumplings on oil,” as a reminder of those times. It was unthinkable to eat meat and it was considered a concession to use butter.

Popular secular songs gave way to pious Lenten hymns. Women put away their ornaments and gaily colored dresses and substituted common, dark hued garments.

Since fish was the staple fare during Lent, each courtyard, monastery and village bred them in many ponds and pools. The kitchens of nobility had their “stockfish” prepared for Lent from great pike. When a sixteenth century bishop named Erasmus See “Lenten ...” page 9

PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

PHOTO: JENNIFER MILLER COURTESY OF FAMILY

ALMANAC

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February Luty

- 1 1733. Death of August II the Strong
2 CANDLEMAS Gdy jasne słońce w dzień gromniczny będzie, więcej niż przedtem śniegu spadnie wszędzie.
3 1899. Death of painter Juliusz Kossak (b. 1824).
4 1505. Birth of the father of Polish literature, Mikołaj Rej.
5 1962. Death of Władysław Dzięwiński, Polish astronomer and mathematician.
6 1296. Assassination of Przemysł II
7 1940. Birth of Bohdan Paczynski (d. 2007), Polish-born American astrophysicist.
8 1903. Founding of the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn, USA.
9 1945. Yalta Conference. Soviets receive Poland's Eastern lands.
10 1867. Death of George Sokolowski, first Polish American graduate of West Point Academy and Civil War veteran.
11 ST. VALENTINE Valentine's Day (Dzień Świąteczny Walentego or Walentyńki)
12 1903. Death of Fr. Jozef Dąbrowski (right), founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).
13 1919. Greater Poland Uprising ends.
14 1772. First Partition of Poland between Prussia, Russia and Austria.
15 1914. Birth of Juliusz Kuczynski, better known by his stage name, Pee Wee King.
16 1473. Birth of Mikołaj Kopernik, Polish astronomer known by his Latin name Nicholas Copernicus, in of Torun, Poland.
17 1941. Nazis order that Polish Jews are barred from using public transportation.
18 1574. Coronation of Henry Valois.
19 1814. Birth of folklorist and ethnographer Oskar Kolberg.
20 TLUSTY CZWARTEK Tłusty czwartek (Fat Thursday) festivities mark the end of celebrations before Lent, which strictly forbids loud parties and meat dishes.
21 1926. Poland, an original member of the League of Nations, demands a permanent seat on the League Council.
22 1832. Polish constitution was abolished by Czar Nicholas I.
23 PAŃCZKI DAY (U.S.) 1750. Birth of Ignacy Potocki, Polish minister and nobleman.



U.S.-led troops and Tanks Roll into Poland

Europe's largest such military build-up since the cold war

Will Trump's improved ties with Moscow weaken the deterrent?

by Robert Strybel and press reports

WARSAW — Thousands of U.S. and Allied troops and their combat gear rolled into Poland in January in Europe's largest military build-up since the Cold War.

This time, too, Russia was a key element of the Operation Atlantic Resolve, a deterrent to Moscow's growing militarism and neo-imperial designs.

The entire operation is headquartered in Poland. According to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Russia has deployed nuclear-capable Iskander missiles to Kaliningrad (bordering Poland and Lithuania) and suspended a weapons-grade plutonium agreement with the United States.

Four shiploads of military hardware — nearly 2,000 wheeled and tread-mounted combat vehicles of various types — were unloaded at the German port of Bremerhaven. They were sent to Poland by train and in convoys. They included Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, self-propelled Howitzers, and Humvee light armored cars.

Millions of Poles watched the start of the operation on TV, and many of those living in areas near the convoys turned out for a close-up view of the GIs and their gear. Ever since Russia's illegal 2014 annexation of Crimea, and its instigation of unrest in eastern Ukraine, beefing up NATO's eastern flank has been Poland's top strategic priority.

The first group of 250 U.S. soldiers arrived by plane in the southwest city of Wrocław, and moved to training bases in Żagań and Bolesławiec. The troops are part of a 3,500-strong Armored Brigade Combat Team, which President Barack Obama pledged to send to Poland at last July's NATO summit in Warsaw.

The Polish government has refrained from official statements on the subject, but foreign-policy expert Piotr Buras feels any Trump-Putin deal could only undermine Polish-U.S. relations.

In Germany, which is home to the U.S. Army in Europe headquarters, a new populist party with growing support from German voters, wants the American troops gone from Poland. The co-chair of the Alternative for Germany party, Frauke Petry, argued that antagonizing Vladimir Putin hasn't cut down on violence

Deterrent or Threat?

"For U.S. Army Europe, the arrival of the heavy brigade is a culmination of a steady build up that commenced in the wake of Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula, a move that sparked new security fears in Europe.

— John Vandiver in Stars and Stripes.



The U.S. Army sent armored Stryker vehicles — like these being loaded on railroad flatcars in Germany — on a 1,100-mile convoy through six European countries in a show of solidarity with U.S. allies.

"... the deployment of the U.S. forces in Europe by the Obama administration over the past days, moreover such a hasty one ... is a destabilizing factor for the entire European security."

— Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexei Mechkov.

"Let me be very clear, this is one part of our efforts to deter Russian aggression, ensure territorial integrity of our allies and maintain a Europe that is whole, free, prosperous, and at peace."

— Lt. Gen. Tim Ray, deputy commander of U.S. European Command.

"We see this as a threat. These actions pose a threat to our interests and security, especially, when a third country [the United States] is beefing up its military presence along our borders with Europe. And this is not even a European country."

— Kremlin press secretary Dmitry Peskov.

"This is a tangible sign of the United States' commitment to maintaining peace on this continent. It is a sign of the U.S. commitment to this alliance and to peace and prosperity in Europe. The best way to maintain peace is preparation."

— Maj. Gen. Timothy McGuire, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Europe.

in Ukraine or Syria. "NATO sort of surrounding Russia is not going to help," she told NPR. "It's going to deepen the conflict. But I'm hopeful that Trump and Putin are going to end the situation." Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski, on the other hand, has said he hopes any effort to reconcile with Russia "does not happen at our expense."

INTERNATIONAL

UN to hold its 2018 Climate Change Conference in Poland

Poland has again been chosen to host a UN-sponsored Climate Change Conference. Long been under fire from environmentalists for its reliance on air-polluting coal for heating and power generation,

Warsaw is hoping advanced clean-coal technologies and the country's extensive carbon-dioxide-absorbing forests will help at least partially offset the damage caused by the greenhouse effect.

Poland has been invited to host the UN's 2018 Climate Change Conference. It would be the third such conference held in Poland in recent years.

Russian Drones Violate Airspace

Every so often Russian drones illegally violate Polish airspace in the northeast of the country which borders Russia's Kaliningrad exclave.

Polish border guards report each incident they monitor to the Defense Ministry, although the tiny unmanned planes are harder to detect than conventional aircraft.

Experts believe Moscow is testing Polish security services to see how swiftly they react to the provocations. In reconnaissance work, the camera-equipped drones can monitor troop movement and provide the coordinates of planned missile targets.

In 2017, the Polish army plans to purchase some 1,000 drones which can be equipped with ballistic warheads with a range of 16 miles.

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This paper mailed on or before January 31, 2017. The March 2017 edition will be mailed on or before February 28, 2017

Golubiewski appointed Consul General in New York

WARSAW — Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs appointed Maciej Golubiewski as the head of the Consulate General in New York.

He assumed the office on January 16, 2017.

Born in Łódź, Poland, in 1976, Golubiewski graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude* from Washington and Lee University (1999) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and has a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the Johns Hopkins University. He also holds an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the United World College of the Atlantic in the U.K.

After graduation, he moved to Washington D.C., where he spent three years in business consulting at Charles River Associates International before going on to graduate school. During his studies, Golubiewski interned with the office of Sen. Richard Lugar, served as a summer fellow at the Heritage Foundation, and was an associate scholar at the Center for European Policy Analysis. He was a teaching assistant and lecturer at the Johns Hopkins University and visiting professor at Mannheim University in Germany.

In 2008, he joined the Directorate General for Development and

Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries at the European Commission in Brussels. In 2011, he was transferred to the newly-created European External Action Service. Between 2014 and 2016, he served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and the Head of the Political Section at the EU Delegation to Lebanon in Beirut.

Golubiewski sits on an advisory board of the Integral Economic Development master programs at the Catholic University of America, and for almost ten years has been associated with the Sobieski Institute in Warsaw. He speaks Polish, English and French.

MUSIC

Baritone Paweł Konik and Pianist Michał Biel to Perform

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish Studies announces the Alex and Regina Rudewicz Polish Music Series featuring baritone Paweł Konik and pianist Michał Biel, Feb. 26, 2017 at 3:00 p.m., in Founders Hall, located in Davidson Hall Building, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley St.

Konik currently studies voice at Yale School of Music. He graduated from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music and worked with the Baltic Opera in Gdansk and with

the Young Artists Program – Opera Academy in the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera in Warsaw.

He was recently awarded The Special Prize for best interpretation of Russian aria at Le Grand Prix de L'Opera in Bucharest.

Biel, a pianist and vocal coach, is currently pursuing his master's degree in Collaborative Piano at The Juilliard School in New York City.

He graduated from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, where he studied piano under Andrzej Jasiński. He is the

recipient of several awards, including Best Young Accompanist at Le Grand Prix de l'Opera in Bucharest (2015), the 2016 Marc and Eva Stern Fellowship at SongFest (Los Angeles).

This event is free and the public is cordially invited. Refreshments will be served at intermission.

For further information, please contact the Polish Studies at (860) 832-3010 or jacquesm@ccsu.edu.

Public parking available in parking garages.

Eric Lu to Play Music of Chopin

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish Heritage Society will present a Concert in Honor of Fryderyk Chopin, featuring Eric Lu, Sun., March 12, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

The event will be held at Holy Family University Sister Francesca Onley Education Center, 9801 Frankford Ave., in Northeast Philadelphia. Free parking. Tickets: \$30.00 per person; \$20.00 for students. A light reception follows the

performance.

The guest pianist, Eric Lu, a 19-year old who is rapidly building an international reputation as a performer with enormous promise and a distinctive musical voice. He also won 4th prize in the 17th International Fryderyk Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Poland, becoming the youngest laureates in the history of the competition.

A native of the Boston, Mass., he

is now studying at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Reservations may be made through the Concert Chairperson, Debbie Majka (215) 627-1391 or email: dziecko2@comcast.net.

Checks should be made payable to the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, and mailed to Debbie Majka, 812 Lombard Street, #12; Philadelphia, PA 19147.

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Polish American Journal Foundation

The PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. It does this by organizing and supporting special events, networking, and providing consultation to individuals and groups, which seek to learn more about the Polish community in the United States.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants 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. In many cases, state or



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Now accepting applications for our 2017-18 Scholarships

federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As

a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us utilize over 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

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MUSEUMS

Gabreski Exhibit Opens



A FULL HAND OF ACES. World War II flying legends (front, l. to r.): Lt. Col. Francis S. Gabreski; Capt. Robert S. Johnson; Capt. Walker M. Mahurin; and Col. (later Maj. Gen.) Robert B. Landry (back): Capt. Walter Cook; and Lt. Col. David C. Schilling.

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. — Veterans Day 2016 was celebrated at the Polish American Museum with an exhibit of the newly acquired military collection of the late Colonel Francis Gabreski. The exhibit featured medals, photos, and correspondence, and was made possible by the generosity of members, friends, and patrons.

The program commenced with a welcome by Museum President Barbara Szydowski, followed by master of ceremonies, trustee Richard Brzozowski, who spoke about the day being a dual holiday — namely a day honoring veterans who served in the Polish and American military and Poland's Independence Day.

Guest speaker Dr. John Pitrowski spoke of Poland and its fight for Independence ending with World War II, and Gabreski's military career, which included his capture by the Germans, interrogation, and ten months as a POW. Gabreski was re-

leased when the war ended.

Dr. Janusz Romanski, president of Polonia Technica of the Association of Polish Engineers, spoke of Gabreski and the historical markers honoring him as a hero and resident of Oil City, Pa. This marker was dedicated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Kosciuszko Foundation of Pittsburgh, and the Polish National Alliance Lodge 905 of Oil City. Dr. Romanski also remarked that there other landmarks honoring Poles who contributed to the success of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Romanski presented Szydowski with the Kosciuszko Medal, accompanied by a citation, in recognition of the Museum's significant contributions to the successful preservation and promotion of Polish history and culture in Polonia.

Patriotic and classical music was provided by pianist Jim Montalbano.

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Bartosiewicz: Selfless Act



FLORIDA SCHOOL TEACHER Annika Dean (center, with her sons, aged 11 and 13) was just feet away from Fort Lauderdale gunman Esteban Santiago when he began his rampage at Fort Lauderdale Airport.

continued from cover

shooter and a stranger until Dean contacted Miller's brother on Facebook later that night. Miller called her father, who was on his way to board a cruise ship for the Caribbean with his wife, Jennifer Cleeton, and tried to ask him about the selfless act.

Bartosiewicz did not want to talk about it, Miller said.

"He's always been very selfless," Miller said. "He always tries to find the positive in things. He's always been a very amazing guy."

Miller said she was not surprised when she learned what her father had done.

"It made sense," she said.

After the shooting, Bartosiewicz told Miller he no longer wanted to go on the cruise vacation.

"I just want to go home," he told her.

Ambassador Wilczek Arrives in Washington

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On November 9, 2016, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States of America, Piotr Wilczek, Ph.D., officially presented his Letters of Credence to Ambassador Peter Selfridge — the United States Chief of Protocol in Washington.

Wilczek is well acquainted with the United States. From 1998 to 2001 he taught Polish language and literature as a visiting professor at Rice University, the University of Illinois and the University of Texas at Austin. He also was invited to give public lectures at Harvard University and conducted research as a visiting scholar at Boston College and Cleveland State University.

Wilczek also has a direct familial bond with the American Polonia. Until his diplomatic appointment in the U.S., he officiated as the representative in Poland of the New York-based Kosciuszko Foundation. He also served as president of the Foundation's affiliate in Warsaw.

On this evening, Wilczek called directly upon the support of the many representatives of the Polish American organizations present. He hoped for their continued cooperation to further the collective goals of Poland *vis a vis* Polish America presently and into the future. He especially thanked American Polonia for its tireless and focused efforts over the many past difficult and tumultuous years to free Poland — and to keep it free — from foreign occupation and domination.

Piotr Wilczek was born on April

26, 1962 in Chorzow, Upper Silesia, Poland. A prolific literary scholar, intellectual historian, author, and translator, he graduated in 1986 from the University of Silesia in Katowice, where he received his Ph.D. in 1992. He later was installed there as a professor and the Dean of Faculty. At the University of Warsaw in 2008 he was the founding director of Collegium Artes Liberales (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences). Wilczek is an active member of Warsaw's non-partisan American Study Group at the Polish Institute of International Affairs. In 2006, he received the honorific "Professor of Humanities" from Poland's president, Lech Kaczynski.

Being a true intellectual and scholar, Wilczek has been the recipient of numerous grants and scholarships. In addition to his extensive academic pursuits and accomplishments in Poland and America, Wilczek engaged in cultural diplomacy by conducting postgraduate research and postdoctoral projects in England at Oxford's St. Anne's College, the University of London's Warburg Institute, and The British Center for Literary Translation, University of East Anglia.

❖ ❖ ❖

Wilczek now embarks on a completely new journey into the world of international diplomacy and complicated politics to represent the Republic of Poland and its people. No doubt his intellect, academic achievements and extensive breadth and depth of knowledge will serve himself and Poland well in the challenging environment as a newly-minted diplomat.



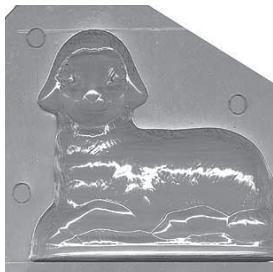
SENATOR AND AMBASSADOR MEET. Congressman Mike Quigley (IL-05), a member of the Congressional Caucus on Poland, met with new Polish Ambassador Piotr Wilczek (right) for a discussion on Poland-U.S. affairs, including visa waiver for Poland, transatlantic security cooperation, and ways to strengthen ties between the two nations as both transition into a new government.

"Poland remains a friend to the U.S. as both of our nations undergo a government transition, and (the) meeting with the new ambassador marked my first official meeting with the new government," said Quigley.

"With uncertainty surrounding the relationship with Russia, and Putin's ambitions across Eastern Europe, our strategic partnership with Poland is as important as ever. Poland is a crucial NATO ally given their shared border with Russia, and I am encouraged to see the new Polish government prioritize military modernization. I also look forward to welcoming the new Chicago based consulate team."

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Birthday Brings Time for Reflection

continued from cover

concentration camp. He found himself in the company of hundreds of thousands of other Catholic Poles just like him. Auschwitz was not yet completed, "so my father was forced to finish this Nazi order," said Kołodziejek.

Auschwitz concentration camp was specifically constructed by the Nazis, initially to imprison Poles. From 1940 to 1942 Auschwitz prisoners were almost exclusively Polish Christians. 1941 saw the first exterminations of these Polish Christian prisoners. From 1942 to 1944 Jews were delivered to Auschwitz as part of the Nazi "Final Solution." Even in 1943 the Nazis killed Polish Christian prisoners by hanging, in the largest public execution in Auschwitz.

Many of these Polish Christian prisoners who were not killed in the gas chambers or individual executions, died of starvation, forced labor, and medical experiments. "My father suffered forced labor, starvation, medical experimentation, and torture," she said. "Throughout, he refused to succumb to death. His unbreakable endurance was remarkable, and the Nazis nicknamed him 'hard as stone'."

Kołodziejek was condemned to death and had the number "2254" tattooed on his chest. In June 2009, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum's director of research explained this Nazi branding:

"The difficulties in identifying the corpses increased ... tattooing was done with a special metal stamp, holding interchangeable numbers made up of needles approximately one centimeter long. This device allowed the whole serial number to be punched at one blow onto the prisoner's left upper chest. Ink was then rubbed into the bleeding wound. The POWs being tattooed were so weak that they had to lean against the wall in order not to fall over under the impact of the tattooing punch. Other ex-

hausted prisoners, whose physical condition indicated the likelihood of their imminent death, began to be tattooed ... There is only a handful of Polish survivors with numbers tattooed on their chests! The use of the metal tattooing stamp proved to be impractical. A single-needle device was introduced, which pierced the outlines of the serial-number digits. The site of the tattoo was later changed to the left forearm."

The POWs being tattooed were so weak that they had to lean against the wall in order not to fall over under the impact of the tattooing punch.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum believes Kołodziejek may be the last remaining Holocaust survivor from one of the first transports into Auschwitz with a number on his chest. "My father has always worn this '2254' tattoo as a badge of Nazi defiance that encapsulates his determination to live despite all odds, a symbol of his witness and testimony to five years of Nazi atrocity upon humanity," said Patricia.

"Some Holocaust survivors could not or would not discuss their experiences of terror committed by the Nazis," she added. "But my family lived my father's near-death horrors each and every day. My sister and I grew up listening to his recollections daily. He lived his life never forgetting what the Nazis did and he never let his children forget.

"For a good portion of his 72 years as a Holocaust survivor since the concentration camps were liberated in 1945, he has suffered an indignity that still prevails. The subject of the Holocaust as it pertains to Christian Poles continues to be met with ignorance and outright distortions to its history."

IT IS NO SECRET that Hitler's *Generalplan Ost* (General Plan East)

was a plan to colonize Central and Eastern Europe, implemented by genocide and ethnic cleansing, and that Nazis viewed Slavic people as inferior. It is no secret that Poland's territories have always been geographically and strategically valuable, and historically fought over. It is no secret that on August 22, 1939 Hitler ordered his commanders to: "kill without pity or mercy, all men, women, and children of Polish descent or language."

Nazi crimes claimed the lives of three million Christian Poles and three million Polish Jews.

"Yet my father, along with fellow Polish Christian Holocaust survivors, has been met with abject exclusion in references to the Holocaust and Holocaust survivors by those that want to claim the Holocaust their own," said Kołodziejek. "He has had to endlessly justify his very existence as a Nazi victim and as an Auschwitz survivor.

"On this 95th birthday, I wish to celebrate my father's life, defined as a Holocaust survivor, and wish him a happy birthday. We celebrate his life in defiance of Heinrich Himmler's dark intent: 'All Poles will disappear from the world ... It is essential that the great German people should consider it their major task to destroy all Poles,'"

Patricia Kołodziejek said she hopes 2017 brings acknowledgment, inclusion, and deep respect for Polish Christian Holocaust survivors "that is so deserved and overdue." She added: "My hope is for a balanced reference of the Holocaust that correctly tells its history for future generations to learn from. It is a responsibility that benefits humanity and the legacy of all who suffered the Holocaust."

❖ ❖ ❖

Readers who want to join his daughter Patricia Kołodziejek in wishing Mr. Waclaw Kołodziejek a happy birthday, may send correspondence to P.O. Box 294, North Chelmsford, MA 01863.

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Sing-Along Packs Parish

by **Krysia Newman**

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. —The Polish Heritage Committee and St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church co-sponsored the "Polskie Kolędy Sing-Along" to celebrate the Christmas season. The event was held January 8, 2017 at St. Valentine's.

With thirty lead singers and well over two hundred guests, the Sing Along featured twenty-two traditional Polish Christmas carols and pastoralki (pastorals). The lead singers were choir members from area churches throughout the Pioneer Valley. The organist was Jean Gromacki, and choir director was Fran Moro. In addition, the program included a live nativity scene portrayed by Stephen Matuszewicz (Joseph), Laurie Smarz (Mary), George Smarz, Isaac Scott and Francis Martin (3 Kings).

Special guest musicians, Jeff and Veronica Rovatti, were invited to participate. The brother and sister duo from Feeding Hills, Mass. are distinguished performers, who have appeared with many orchestras throughout the Northeast. Jeff has been entertaining audiences with his concertina for the past decade and is the leader of the Rovatti Polka Band. Veronica is a well-known violinist and is the lead vocalist of the Rovatti Polka Band. She is also a member of the Jeff and Joe Polka Band, as well as a frequent guest

musician with other local Polish bands.

Rev. Adam Czarnecki opened the event with prayer, asking God to open our hearts to praise Him, and give glory by singing the carols about His miraculous birth. During the intermission Rev. Czarnecki blessed incense and chalk for distribution to all in attendance.

Bob Gibowicz, Chairman of the Polish Heritage Committee, spoke about Polish Christmas traditions.

Very Rev. Fredyrk Banas offered a closing prayer, and said the event was beautiful, adding that the carols described what Christmas is all about — the birth of Jesus. He also said it was very heartwarming to see so many guests, many of which said the concert of carols reminded them of years past. The event culminated with a reception and fellowship in the church hall.

The 2018 Sing Along which will take place January 7, 2018.

MODLITWY

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DEVOTION TO ST. JUDE. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved, preserved and glorified throughout the world now and forever. The Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the Helpless, pray for us. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude for prayers answered. J.J.S.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. K.F.

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1050th Anniversary of Conversion Observed

On October 22, 2016, a Mass at St. Michael's Church, Buffalo, commemorated the conversion of Poland in 966 under King Mieszko I. St. Michael's was host to Polish Americans as they were forming their first parish for Polish Americans, St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr. Also commemorated at the Mass were Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko, assassinated near the date as well as Saints John Paul II and Faustina Kowalska, Poland's gifts of holiness to the universal Church. In November Buffalo's Bishop Richard Malone offered Mass in the cathedral to commemorate the anniversary. Polish native Fr. Richard Biernat, the bishop's secretary, provided historical comments in his homily. The ceremony was coordinated by Joseph Macielag, previous president of the Western New York Polish American Congress. The Polish Heritage Dancers of Western New York also were present in Polish dress.



PHOTO: PAUL KEMIEL

DONATION HELPS RESTORATION. The Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City, Ind., made contributions to several local organizations this past holiday season, including a donation to the "2000 Angels" project at St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church.

The project will restore the historic church's deteriorating exterior north and south gables, which have faced 126 years of harsh Indiana winters.

Pictured (l. to r.): Gene Tylisz, Carol Tylisz, Kathy Sadlowski, Fr. Walter Rakoczy, Fr. Walter Ciesla (pastor of St. Stan's), Mark Kolasa (PHA president), Margaret Picur, Natalie Kroening, and Larry Yodowski, M.D.

STATE VS. CHURCH IN CHILD CARE AGENCIES.

While faith-based adoption agencies in Illinois, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., and California have had to close their doors to avoid participating in state-mandated adoption rules, the Michigan Catholic Conference is trying to prevent that from happening. David Maluchnik, director of communications for the Michigan Catholic Conference, notes that the Conference is trying to urge lawmakers to adopt legislation to protect Catholic and other faith-based agencies from having to violate their moral principles in placing children. "This is based on national trends that faith-based adoption agencies are being forced to choose between religious mission and the requirements of the state," he said. Forced placement of children with unmarried and same-sex couples is at the heart of the controversy.

REMEMBERING ABORTED CHILDREN.

In several Detroit-area cemeteries, people gathered to lay flowers and light candles at gravesites for aborted children. The event was coordinated by Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, Priests for Life and Pro-Life Action League, and was the first time in 40 years of legalized abortion that nationwide memorials were conducted simultaneously. Participants noted the irony of people expressing outrage at the slaughter of children in Syria while ignoring the ongoing slaughter of children in the womb in our country, Al Kresta, president of Ave Maria Radio and host of his radio show "Kresta in the Afternoon," contrasted the "satanic strategy" to belittle human life, with the "Samaritan strategy" to demonstrate that all life is precious. He added that in the musical "Les Miserables," the hero Jean Valjean sings "to love another person is to see the face of God." He went on to say, "The Samaritan strategy is a strategy in which we treat people — other human beings — with love and dignity and respect. It's where we embrace those who are different, disabled, deformed, inconvenient, less than lovely; 'irregular people,' you might call them."

BISHOP PAPROCKI ON CHRISTIAN BURIALS.

Noting the trend toward cremation and the scattering of ashes in poetic or memorable places for the deceased, Bishop Paprocki of Springfield, Ill., reminded Catholics that proper burial is a sign

of faith and hope in the resurrection of the body. While cremation is permitted, the ashes must be reserved in a sacred place where the deceased are included in the prayers offered there for the dead.

ARCHBISHOP WENSKI AND THE IMMIGRANT QUESTION.

Noting, as many do, that our immigration system is broken and that large numbers of people live and work in the United States without a legal path to citizenship, Miami's Archbishop Thomas Wenski in a homily during Immigration Week, called for fixing the immigration dilemma and avoiding the tendency to demonize the "illegals."

He was particularly heartened by then-President-elect Trump's "apparent opening to the 'dreamers,' undocumented immigrants, who entered the United States as minors." While President Obama deferred action against them by executive order — and gave them a two-year, renewable deferment from action from deportation and eligibility for employment — the end of his presidency put this deferment in question. So Archbishop Wenski looks to Trump with hope that he will come through on his promise to find a solution that will make people "happy and proud."

"Granting legal status to 'dreamers' is the right thing to do," he declared. "It would certainly allow these young people to dream like Americans."

BISHOP BAMBERA GREETS SEMINARIANS.

Seminarians Nicholas Jennings, William Beechko, II, Shawn Simchock, Kevin Miller, Mark Watrucki, Robert Dogal, William Asinari, Andrew McCarroll, David Sebolka, Jonathan Kuhar, the Bishop, Ryan Glenn were given the Admission to Candidacy as seminarians by Scranton's Bishop Bambera at the Project Andrew Dinner, where priests, deacons and seminarians greeted the new candidates.

STO LAT TO ... Recipients of the Pro-Vita award for their tireless labor in the pro-life cause: Maria Suchyna, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish, Williamsville (Youth category); Cheryl Zielen-Ersing, St. Gianna Molla Outreach, Buffalo (St.); Fr. Jeffrey Nowak, St. Vincent de Paul parish, Niagara

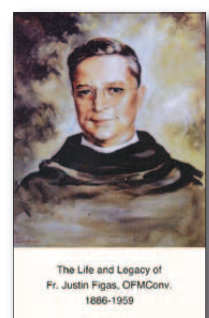
Falls (Religious). The awards will be presented at the Mass marking the 44th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, at St. Christopher Church, Tonawanda.

Fr. Matt Nycz on being named pastor of Blessed Sacrament parish, Kenmore, N.Y. Fr. Nycz is a native of Rzeszów, Poland and was ordained in 1994. Also Fr. Gary Szczepankiewicz on his reappointment as pastor of Our Lady of Częstochowa parish. He has been a priest for more than 40 years.

Gerard and Barbara Mazurkiewicz on being named chairs of the 2017 Catholic Charities Appeal for the RC Diocese of Buffalo. Members of Queen of Heaven parish in West Seneca, NY, the Mazurkiewiczzes have been active for many years in community organizations and parish activities.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Prime Bishop Mikovsky who celebrates his 10th Anniversary as Bishop of the P.N.C.C. Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, celebrated the anniversary Mass at the National Church Center Chapel in Scranton, Pa., with Most Rev. John F. Swantek, Prime Bishop Emeritus of the P.N.C.C. celebrating and Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr. assisting. Also celebrating their Anniversaries of Consecration to Bishop of the P.N.C.C. on November 30th were Rt. Rev. Thomas Gnat - 38 years (1978); Rt. Rev. Thaddeus Peplowski - 26 years (1990); Rt. Rev. John Mack - 10 years (2006). Sto lat to all!



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A north side view of St. Mary's.

The end of the nineteenth century saw a shift in the economy of Western Pennsylvania. As new industries exploded around Pittsburgh ever more space for factories and their immigrant employees was needed. To compensate for the lack of space, industrialists purchased huge tracks of land and built entire towns around their mills. When the Burrell Improvement Company developed New Kensington, in Westmoreland County along the Allegheny River, Poles flooded in to work at the Pittsburgh Reduction Company, Stealing Lead, and Bradley Stove. As the Polish population grew, priests from Pittsburgh would visit to celebrate Mass, but soon a parish of their own was needed. As they began campaigning the Bishop the Burrell Improvement Co. donated two lots in 1892 to the fledgling Society of Our Lady of Czestochowa and a future church was well under way.

With land and money from a fundraiser, the society raised a 35 by 25 foot church building that visiting priests would use twice a month. By mid-1893 there were 56 families living around the church and the Bishop saw that a parish would be sustainable. On October 11, 1893 Father Henry Cichowski was sent to New Kensington and St. Mary of Czestochowa parish was born.

With three years of growth, a parish school was opened and the

church was enlarged by 900 square feet. Father Cichowski was transferred out of St. Mary's and the parish would be without a resident pastor until 1902, when Father Mlynarczyk arrived. Five years later Father Francis Pilulski would be in charge and he began laying the ground work for a magnificent 1,000 seat brick church decorated with stained glass and murals. Despite his dedication to the project, it would be his successor Father Poszukanis who would dedicate the new church in 1912.

Father Poszukanis would oversee the expansion of St. Mary's campus building a convent for the Felician Sisters who took over teaching in 1914, and the addition of eight classrooms in 1922. It would be in these classrooms that a young Stephanie Kwolek would learn reading and writing, basic arithmetic and even a little bit of chemistry. From this educational foundation she would go to New Kensington High School and Margaret Morrison Carnegie College, eventually winning the National Medal of Technology and Innovation for one of the twentieth century's greatest inventions, Kevlar.

Father Anthony Baron, took over

the church in 1925 and added to the parish's holdings by purchasing the land that became St. Mary's Cemetery in Lower Burrell. Father Baron would see the parish through the Great Depression while Father Casimir Orlemanski would see it through the Second World War. During his tenure, Father Orlemanski paid off all the parish debt, built a new convent, and in 1944 started the mission parish of Our Lady of Victory in Harwick. Father Orlemanski, as well as his predecessors maintained strong relations with a number of community organizations including Polish Falcons Nest 41, Polish Lancers' Group 19, the Polish Literary Musical Society, and others.

Since the parish became part of the Diocese of Greenburg in 1951 it has maintained a healthy and now ethnically diverse congregation. Hungarians, Ukrainians, Croatians, Irish, and Americans now make up the parish.

In 1995 it lost the school, but 2008 it gained a church when St. Joseph was joined to St. Mary's.

You can still attend Mass at St. Mary's with a Saturday, 4:00 p.m. service, and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.



The interior of St. Mary's in the mid-1960s.

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydowski

Will the Groundhog See his Shadow?

February 2 is Candlemas Day, still a major celebration in some countries. Candlemas was the time when the candles were blessed for the year in observance of the Purification of the Virgin and the Presentation of Christ at the Temple.

Rural celebrations of Candlemas Day in Poland, are remnants of old-Slavic protective rituals involving the "thunder candle" (*gromnica* in Polish).

Candlemas Day marks the end of carnival (*zapusty*). That day is also officially the last day of the Christmas season in Poland and the last occasion to sing the traditional car-

ols together. It is also the day when all the remaining Christmas decorations should be removed (in Poland the Christmas trees are very often kept in houses even until February).

That day has a distinctive name in Poland, connected to ancient Slavic beliefs and rituals: Święto Matki Boskiej Gromniczej, translated literally as a Festivity of the Holy Mother of the Thunder Candle.

Important and symbolic accessories on that day are the so-called

right: The faithful hold their (*gromnica*) thunder candles at St. Peter's in Ciechanow.



BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

Senator Stanley Haidasz: A Statesman for all Canadians

SENATOR STANLEY HAIKASZ
A Statesman for all Canadians
by Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm
Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada, 2014, 214 pps.
3479 Rue Peel
Montréal, QC H3A 1W7
Canada
Polishinstitute.org

On Thursday, August 12, 2009, Stanley Haidasz passed away. For over forty years he was a Liberal member of Canada's Parliament, senator, and cabinet minister. In this biography Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm, examines the life of the first Canadian with Polish heritage to serve in Canada's Parliament.

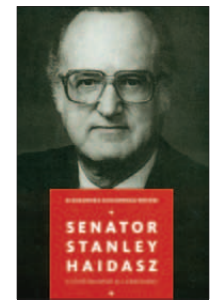
Spurred to search for a better life in Canada, Stanley's parents emigrated from Stanisławów, Poland in 1910. They settled in the Queen Bathurst area of Toronto, which was an area to which Ukrainians, Slovaks, and other Polish people had moved. Thirteen years after the Haidasz arrived in Canada, Stanley was born.

In his neighborhood and within his family everyone spoke Polish; Stanley did not learn to speak English until he started first grade. Once he learned English, he excelled in school. He also learned he had a gift for public speaking and even competed in public speaking competitions. In high school he had his first taste of politics when he worked for the campaign of Arthur Roebuck, a liberal member of the House of Commons. Roebuck won the election.

Though Roebuck's campaign was successful, Stanley decided to pursue a different path; it would take many years for Haidasz to return to politics. He briefly attended seminary but then transferred to the University of Ottawa where he earned his bachelor of philosophy degree. Medical school came next

followed by a career as a physician. During this time he met and married Natalia Gugala with whom he later had four children.

In 1957 everything changed when Haidasz was convinced by prominent members of his community to run for election to the House of Commons, representing an area of Toronto that was heavily populated by immigrants.



Despite strong conservative leanings in the rest of the city, he won the election. During his time in Parliament, he staunchly advocated for immigrants, helped to pass Medicare, as well as the Clean Air Act. Stanley eventually retired from politics in 1998. His worsening health convinced him to move to a retirement home in 2005. When he died four years later, he was lauded for his tireless efforts to improve the lives of those striving to be and those who already were Canadian citizens.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. *Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm was born in Łódź, Poland and earned her master's degree in Literature from the University of Łódź and a Ph.D. in Humanities from the University of Warsaw. She has lived all over the globe including England and Toronto, Ontario before finally settling in Wilmington, Del., where she lives with her husband, Norman Boehm and son, Thomas.*

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THE GEORGE M. ESTABROOK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION held its 56th annual Distinguished Service Award Luncheon at the Hofstra University Club, Hempstead. This is one of the oldest alumni awards given annually to five leaders who

are pillars within their respective communities. I had the pleasure of attending this luncheon. Congratulations to the recipients: **William Grabowski**, John Mullen, Paul Flora, Steven Rhodes, and Laura Schaefer.

THE PULASKI ASSOCIATION of Business and Professional Men will be honoring Gregorz Wisniewski for his outstanding achievements on Saturday, February 4 at a Testimonial Banquet. He is the founder of Integrate Comfort Systems, a heating, cooling sales and repairs business in New Jersey.

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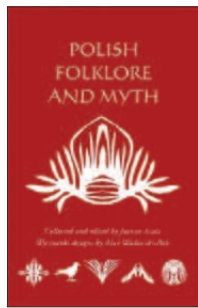
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118 pp., pb.

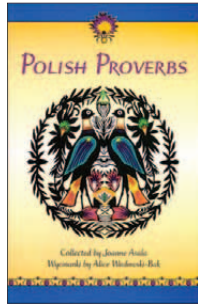
This book of engaging folk stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowski-Bak.



POLISH WYCINANKI DESIGNS
by Frances Drwal
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In Poland, the art of creating beautiful designs by cutting paper into intricate shapes—called wycinanki—has been one of the national pastimes.

In this book, wycinanki is discussed and illustrated with patterns. The designs in this book can be used in many different ways, from applique to wall-paper.



POLISH PROVERBS
by Joanne Asala
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6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord."

The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowski-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND
by Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz
\$19.95
Item 2-604
183 pp., photos, pb.

A midnight knock at her

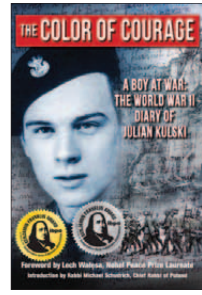
door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.

WEARING THE LETTER "P"
Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945
by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
\$19.95



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pb. 304 pages
6 x 9 inches

An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation—all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



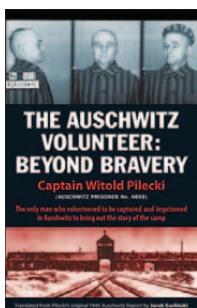
THE COLOR OF COURAGE
by Julian E. Kulski
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Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012
496 pp., 6" x 9", pb.

"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.

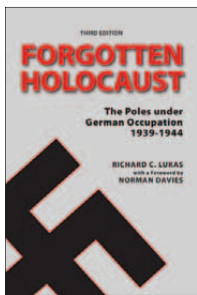
THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER
by Witold Pilecki
Translated by Jarek Garlinski
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Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014
460 pp., 6" x 9", pb.

In 1940, the Polish Underground

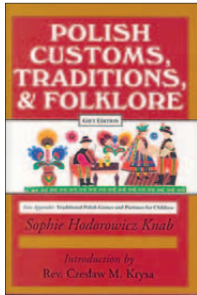


wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz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



FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition
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358 pp., pb.

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 ŻEGOTA, 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
\$24.95
Item 2-643
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
340 pp., hc.

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning 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, name-day celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.

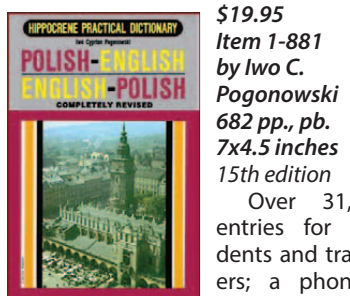


POLAND: A HISTORY
by Adam Zamoyski
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pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

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."

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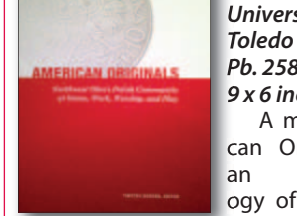
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by Iwo C. Pogonowski
682 pp., pb.
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15th edition

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

AMERICAN ORIGINALS

Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play

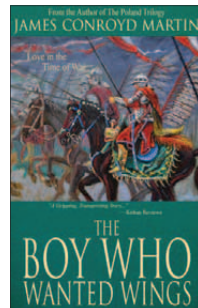
Editor: Timothy Borden



\$22.95
Item 2-676
University of Toledo Press
Pb. 258 pp.
9 x 6 inches

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 Toledo's Polish community, 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*.



NEW! THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS
by James Conroyd Martin
Author of "Don't Push the River"
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paperback / Item 2-612 pb
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Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11, in 1683). As a Tatar and a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of a noble, winning her love seems just as unlikely a quest. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

PUSH NOT THE RIVER

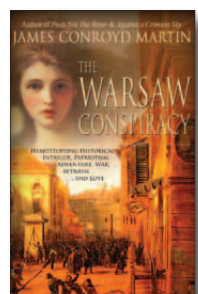
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Item 2-609
St. Martin's Press. 496 pp.
pb. *Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide*

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
Item 2-610
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
Item 2-611

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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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Modernization Issues in Poland to be Discussed

CHICAGO — Professor **Michał Paweł Markowski**, Hejna Family Chair in Polish Language and Literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and Professor **Keely Stauter-Halsted**, Hejna Family Chair in the History of Poland at UIC, are organizing their departments for the 4th Annual Polish Studies Conference of the University of Illinois at Chicago. The conference is scheduled for April 24 -25, 2017, at the Chopin Theatre, 1543 West Division Street, Chicago.

In the past, Poland has often been the focus of modernization theories, schemes, and projects. From Enlightenment travellers critiquing Poland's backwardness to communist ideologues who were intent on revolutionary transformation of society. Over the past two centuries, there have been frequent debates regarding the modernization of the country.

This conference will serve as part of a broader series of Polish Studies activities at UIC. The organizers are interested in examining Central Europe from a comparative perspective, and will include Austrian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Russian, Ukrainian, and Jewish cultures. In many ways, the development of these cultures has been related to the development of Polish culture. Conference organizers are welcoming proposals for papers written from within this perspective, especially those using unique methods and the media.

What has modernization meant to Poland and its Poles? How can scholars understand the ways in which modernization schemes have affected Polish society? Modernization of Poland through modern Polish history and its past deserves scholarly investigation.

The conference will examine what has happened in the last 150 years and concerns for the future of Poland. Several suggested topics might include the perceptions of Polish backwardness; modernization as a political tool; European and American models of modernization in the Polish context; Jewish modernization projects; and generational tensions in modernization campaigns.

Abstracts submitted must not exceed 300 words in length and must be received by February 10, 2017. Participants will be notified of their acceptance by March 1, 2017. For more information regarding this conference, contact Anna Szawara, at szawara@uic.edu.

PIEROG DROPS TO CELEBRATE 2017. The world may have been watching the famous crystal ball as it dropped in New York's Times Square to welcome in 2017, but the **Knights of Columbus, Council 1696**, in Whiting, Indiana, was preparing to drop a foam pierog to welcome in the new year. As part of the New Year's celebration, the Knights of Columbus featured a 10-foot wide illuminated pierog outside of its hall. By using a crane, the foam pierog was dropped from 90 feet into an especially illuminated pot with a 2017 banner attached to it. The Whiting Knights of Columbus hosted this public New Year's Eve party that was highlighted by this pierog drop at the stroke of midnight.

Whiting, Indiana, just south of Chicago, is the home of the internationally-known **Pierogi Fest**, held each year with over a quarter-million people in attendance. This year will be its 23rd anniversary and it

will be held from July 28-30, 2017.



Ms. Kot

PMA'S MANAGING DIRECTOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD. On Saturday, December 17, **Małgorzata Kot**, managing director of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), was honored with the prestigious "Person of the Year" award from the *Dziennik Związkowy*, Chicago's Polish daily newspaper. To be recognized by the newspaper's editorial board and staff was a well-deserved honor for Kot. She thanked everyone at the *Dziennik*, but also stated that this award would not be possible without the support of her family, the PMA Board, its staff and volunteers, and friends of the PMA. She considered this a very special Christmas gift.

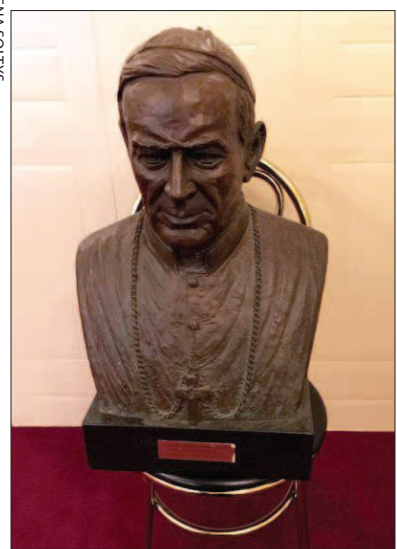


Ladies at Legion's Christmas Tea

LEGION WILL HOST 78TH BALL. For 78 years, the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW) has successfully served the Polish and Polish American community through its charitable works. Established at the start of World War II, the LYPW has provided funding for those in need in Poland, the USA, and throughout the world. Its goal is to raise money through its **White and Red Ball**, **Bal Amaranowy**. This is a debutante ball in which young women are formally presented into the Polish American community. The event helps the Legion raise funds to support its mission. The Ball will be held on March 4, 2017 at the Hilton Chicago.

The Legion sets the tone of the Ball by hosting teas at which prospective debutantes and their parents meet past debutantes and Legion members to learn more about the Legion's mission and history. The last tea was held on December 11. This year's Ball chair is Cherylyn Denisiuk, and the Legion's president is Bożenna Hasztrakiewicz.

Those interested in attending the **Bal Amaranowy** should contact Bożenna Hasztrakiewicz at (847) 902-0406.



Bust of Wyszyński

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND CARDINAL WYSZYŃSKI DEDICATION. The Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC) held its annual Christmas Luncheon on December 10 at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge, Illinois. Ninety guests were treated to an outstanding piano performance by Victor Santiago Asuncion, who performed three works of Chopin. Following the performance and lunch, guests got in the holiday spirit by singing Polish and English Christmas carols. The festivities ended with the PACC holding a raffle of gourmet delights donated by members.

Less than two weeks later, the Polish Arts Club held a special dedication of a bronze bust sculpture



PHOTO: BARBARA CIEPIELA

of **Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński** created by the late Polish sculptor **Klemens Kwapiszewski**. This dedication took place on December 18 at St. Hyacinth Basilica after the 12:30 PM Mass. The bust was donated to St. Hyacinth by the PACC. Kwapiszewski's bust of Lech Waleśa was donated to Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) by the PACC, as well, and it can now be viewed at NEIU's Waleśa Hall.

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION AT POLISH CONSULATE. **Peter Janicki**, newly appointed Polish consul general in Chicago, hosted the Consulate's annual Christmas reception for invited members of the Polish community on December 7. The evening began with a formal receiving line in which Consul General Janicki greeted the guests. The reception began with welcoming remarks by Janicki and Vice Consul **Konrad Zieliński**. The Consulate was overflowing with guests from Polish and Polish American organizations, including businesses, the



Nuns welcome newly-appointed Polish consul general in Chicago, Peter Janicki

media, the medical community, as well as clergy and nuns.

After the sharing of the traditional *opłatek* among all present, Zieliński invited all to gather together to sing traditional Polish Christmas carols led by **Eliza and Arkadiusz Górecki**, directors of *Collegium Cantorum Polonia*, and the Chicago Nightingales, a children's choir.



Poster image from "The Cross and the Crown."

CONSULATE HOLDS SPECIAL FILM SCREENING. On December 4, the Polish consulate general in Chicago and **Robert Rusiecki**, deputy consul general, held a special screening of the one-hour documentary, "**The Crown and The Cross**," which marked the 1050th anniversary of Poland's statehood beginning with the adoption of Christianity in 966. The film was screened at the Chopin Theatre, located in Chicago's Polish Triangle area. In the film, the award-winning filmmaker, **Zdzisław Cozac**, traces the baptism of Mieszko I, the Christianization of the Polish State with the first Piast dynasty from pre-Christian times to the coronation of Bolesław, the Brave, in 1025. The film features renowned historians offering new perspectives to shed light on dramatic live action scenes. Following the film, guests were treated to a

wonderful piano performance by **Jana Pavlovska**, and a reception hosted by the Chopin Theatre's proprietors, **Zygmunt and Lela Dyrkacz**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PRCUA. The **Konopnicka Adult Culture Group** of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) will hold its annual fashion show on March 26 at the Glendora House in Chicago Ridge, Illinois. For information, contact the PRCUA at (800) 772-8632.

Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company of the PRCUA will celebrate its 40th Anniversary by providing a program on April 2 at Mother McAuley High School on

Chicago's South Side. All Wesoły Lud alumni are asked to contact **Ania Kraszewski** on Facebook (Wesoły Lud Alumni) or at wesolylud@gmail.com for details.

The **Polish Hall (PRCUA St. Stanislaus Society #1004)** will

be celebrating its 100th anniversary with a polka dance on April 30, 2017. This event is open to PRCUA members as well as the public. The dancing will be from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Members of the Good Times Band, which performed 400 consecutive Sunday night engagements, from 1975 to 1984, at this Polish Hall, are scheduled to be there. The Polish Hall is located at 826 Greenwood Street in Madison, Illinois. The updated Dave Hylla's Good Times Band is scheduled to perform. Admission is only \$2.00, and there is no charge for children 12 years or younger. Polish-style food will be available, and more is planned. Proceeds from this event will be used to maintain the aging building. For additional information contact Beverly Bargiel at stanisla@sbcglobal.net or check Facebook at Polish Hall Madison.



Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

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

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

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Trefil Undergraduate Scholarship in the Natural Sciences

The Kosciuszko Foundation is currently accepting scholarship applications for the Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Scholarship in the Natural Sciences. One scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 will be awarded to an undergraduate student for full time studies in the U.S. for academic year Fall 2017-Spring 2018.

Eligible applicants are United States citizens of Polish descent and Polish citizens who have legal permanent residency status in the United States and who evidence

exceptional talent in the natural sciences. Qualified applicants will have a minimum GPA of 3.5. The Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Scholarship will be awarded for tuition towards undergraduate freshman, sophomore, junior or senior year of studies. The Natural Sciences include studies in physics, chemistry, geology, biology, and other sciences that study of the physical world.

Applicants must complete the on-line application form, submit an essay, two letters of recommendation, transcripts, proof of Polish descent, photo/headshot and a \$35 application fee. For more information on eligibility, selection criteria and a full list of supporting materi-

als please see: www.thekf.org/kf/scholarships/tuition/science. Applications and supporting materials are accepted through March 10, 2017.

The Kosciuszko Foundation is a 501 c (3) not-for-profit organization whose mission focuses on supporting higher education among Americans of Polish extraction and on educational exchanges between Poland and the United States. Each year the Foundation awards grants and scholarships via Tuition Scholarships for studies in the United States, Year Abroad scholarships for Polish language studies in Poland, Tomaszkiwicz-Florio Scholarships and Wisconsin Study in Poland Scholarships for summer language

studies at the Jagiellonian University, Graduate/Postgraduate Study and Research in Poland Scholarships and Exchange Fellowships to Polish citizens for research and teaching in the United States.

PACCF Majer & Lakowski Families Memorial Scholarships

CHICAGO — The Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation is accepting applications for the Majer & Lakowski Families Memorial Scholarships. Scholarships will be granted to full-time undergraduate or graduate students majoring in either engineering or business ad-

ministration at a public state university or college. Preference will be given to juniors, seniors and graduate students.

The amount of the scholarship will be equal to the total annual tuition charge, not including fees, for a student classified by the institution involved as a state resident. That amount will also be awarded to a student classified as a state non-resident. Applications can be obtained at www.pacccf.org, by written request to PACCF, 5711 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60646, emailing to pacccf@pacccf.org, or by phone at (773) 763-9942.

Deadline to apply is March 15, 2017.

Lenten Customs. Lent was observed more severely in Poland than in many other European Catholic countries

continued from cover

Ciolek brought a papal dispensation from Rome to eat meat on Wednesdays, scarcely a subject could be found in his diocese who would avail himself of the privilege. It remained for King Zygmunt August (1520-72) to set a precedent and change the regulations. Out of consideration for the German Protestants dining at the royal table, meat appeared for the first time on a fast day in the palace of Krakow. From that day, meat was consumed even on Palm Sunday. The regulation was relaxed it was said, to express joy that only one week remained before the Savior would rise from the dead.

IN A SENSE, Lent was observed more severely in Poland than in many other European Catholic countries but where the others paid more attention to the quantity consumed, the Polish people were primarily concerned with quality. A French priest who spent some time in Poland during the life of King Jan Sobieski (1624-96) wrote: "Fasting for the Polish people consists in abstaining from meat and butter, but they eat and drink the entire day."

Barszcz, a sour soup, was cut with olive oil. Bread was smeared with olive oil, sprinkled with poppy seed, sugar or salt and baked over hot coals. Toasted bread with toasted beer constituted a Lenten supper. A beer broth consisting of toasted beer with egg yolk was a Lenten favorite served in large glasses called *szklanice*. Another favored Lenten dish was *mnichy* "monks" because it had its origin in monastery kitchens. These were twisted cakes, cut in squares, boiled in scalding water on a little tin sieve and basted on a platter swimming with butter and onions.

The Lenten fast gave rise to a popular custom observed in the Middle Ages and carried over to the present day. An old useless crock is filled with peelings and ashes in the early morning of the Wednesday in mid Lent. Pounding on the door or window of a sleeping neighbor to make sure he is awake, the crock is flung against the door. The city dwellers throw the crock under each others' feet saying: "It is mid-Lent, dear sir (or madam)."

IN THE EVENING OF GOOD FRIDAY, or the early hours of Holy Saturday, servants tied a herring with a thread to a long, thick rope suspending it over a path on a tree. The herring was being punished for having reigned over meat-starved appetites during the past six weeks.

Zur, a mess of slightly fermented light oatmeal, was carried out of the kitchen as no longer useful. One of the houseboys was cajoled into carrying the dish of oatmeal on his head, or in a bag on his back. Be-

hind him, another servant carried a shovel for the purpose of digging a grave for the *zur*. As they reached the courtyard, the shovel bearer would suddenly whack the container of oatmeal and the entire mess would cascade over the carrier evoking gales of laughter from the "mourners" accompanying the "funeral."

In the early morning of Good Friday, parents placed their children in a circle and proceeded to lash each child with the words: "Rany Boskie" ("God's wounds"). In some sections of Poland, the custom is observed today and is called "płacze Bóg" ("God weeps"). Mirrors are covered with a black cloth as a sign of mourning and children are warned not to peek into them lest they see the devil.

Water drawn from streams and ponds before sunset on Good Friday takes on significance. It is believed that people and animals washed in this water will be protected from skin diseases.

Farmers sow peas on Good Friday in the belief that what is sown on this day will be free from insects. Old straw is thrown from the barns because the new straw of Good Friday will not be liable to infestation by vermin. And one can assure himself happiness and good fortune if he takes a handful of dirt from a neighbor's property on Good Friday and carries it to his own land.

In the area surrounding Krakow, it is believed that impure spirits and witches have special powers on Good Friday. Since the Lord is dead, they hold meetings with the devils themselves on this day. In years gone by, guns were fired in cemeteries to disrupt the meetings but today altar boys armed with clappers, pots and pans can be seen running through the cemeteries raising a great hue and cry to drive out the evil spirits.

It was believed that an egg laid on Good Friday would never decay and constituted a good remedy against fever. It also was considered a miraculous fire extinguisher if cast into a blaze caused by a bolt of lightning. Others maintained that the eggs laid on Good Friday were to be consumed raw on Easter Sunday if illness was to be prevented during the entire year.

IN CENTURIES PAST, Poland, too, had its penitential brethren who scourged themselves publicly during Lent but especially on Good Friday. While making the Way of the Cross, a different penitent would flay himself at each station until he drew blood.

At Poland's Shrine of the Black Madonna, a time-honored ceremony begins at 4:00 a.m. on Holy Thursday. The Pauline Fathers in charge of the Shrine meet behind the closed

doors of the main church in order to avoid the crowds already streaming onto the grounds. Covered by the darkness of the early hour, the monks hurry to the sacristy. They open a safe and descend stairs to a small cubicle situated behind the top of the altar. All kneel as two priests



"**Półpoście! Półpoście!**" In a popular custom carried over from the Middle Ages, an old useless crock was filled with peelings and ashes in the early morning of the Wednesday in mid-Lent. Pounding on the door or window of a sleeping neighbor to make sure he is awake, the crock was flung against the door. When answered, the prankster would shout loudly "Półpoście! Półpoście!" ("It is mid-Lent!").

vested in surplices and stoles, take down the miraculous picture. They place it on a table covered with a cloth and surround the picture with lighted candles. Prayers are begun under the leadership of the prior. The crown and precious garments are removed and taken to the safe from which fresh garments and crown are brought. The picture is thoroughly dusted. Various religious and devotional articles are touched to the sacred image. The crown and clean dresses are sealed in place. The prior recites the Litany of Loreto and two monks replace the picture on the altar.

"**THE WAY TO CALVARY.**" Meanwhile, at Poland's Shrine of Our Lady of Calvary, tens of thousands of pilgrims are entering the grounds. They will be present for the Passion Play enacted annually on Good Friday by the clerics of the Franciscan monastery and the local peasants. The Play is dramatic and instructive. The scenes correspond with the Gospel in depicting the different stages of the Passion. The chapels with their paintings and sculptures harmoniously arranged, according to the Gospel narrative serve as settings.

"The Way to Calvary" begins with the Chapel of St. Raphael the Archangel, which stands before the great Church of the Crucifixion. Next is the Church of the Cenacle and the bridge leading to the chapel "on the Cedron." There is the "Way

of the Agony in the Garden," the "House of Annas," the "House of Caiphaz," and 28 "Holy Steps" leading to the "Throne of Pilate." There are also the "Palace of Herod," the "Return to Pilate," the chapels of the "Scourging," "Jesus accepting the Cross" and three chapels com-

decorated the scene. 8,700 quarts of honey produced in Breza, representing the hours of the year, were for the servants of the castle.

The nobles sought to emulate their king. A large table covered with a snow-white cloth was loaded with stuffed sucklings, hams, smoked tongues and baked lambs. Like a phalanx of soldiers surrounding the quiet dignity of their general, this succulent display surrounded an "Agnus Dei," which stood poised with the banner of the Resurrection. At the extremities of the tableaux stood *babki* towering above the scene, arousing the admiration of the onlookers by their texture and size. This sweet bread was the pride of every housekeeper. The dough was snowy, light and puffy evoking praise from the men and envy on the part of the women who either did not know the secret of the baking or were too stingy and lacked diligence in the preparation of the dough. At the furthest ends of the table were mosaic-like pancakes, of the most fantastic designs. And everywhere, crowning the culinary heroes and heroines of the day, were pyramids, towers and turrets atop the walls of a fortress.

It is said that there are deep, sunken ravines where the sun seldom penetrates. On the days when it is to appear on the horizon, the villagers hurry forth at daybreak, carrying all manner of dishes overflowing with omelet. Amid songs and the clanging of brass instruments, they joyfully consume the eggs at the appearance of the sun.

As it was then, so today the eating of the blessed egg is of the essence, the principal symbol of the entire celebration. The custom is ancient and not limited to Poland, for reaches back into the pre-Christian era when the forces of nature were worshipped as gods. Worship of the sun was common to all early religious. The egg, symbol of life's initial stages, was offered to the sun-god which with its warmth had introduced life into the egg. As with the breaking and sharing of the wafer on Christmas Eve, so too on Easter morn every member and every guest of every household shares the egg, wishing each, in turn, a Blessed Easter.

❖ ❖ ❖

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memorating the three falls of the Savior. There are also the chapels of St. Veronica and the "Denudation." All feature appropriate paintings and sculpture executed by famous Polish artists.

THE POLISH "ŚWIĘCONKA," blessed food, of Holy Saturday dates back through many centuries. Chroniclers from the reign of King Ladislaus IV describe the *święconka* which stood on the royal table. Four skins of huge wild boars, one for each season of the year, were crammed with pork, hams, sausages and a suckling. Twelve deer with golden antlers, for the twelve months of the year, stood in tandem surrounding each boar. The deer were stuffed with meat of rabbits, grouse, bustards and pheasant.

Fifty-two enormous cakes, representing the weeks of the year, surrounded the deer. Each was filled with pancakes, sweetmeats, dumpplings, and *bakalia* (delicacies). On a table were 365 *babki*, a special sweet bread, for the number of days in a year. Each was adorned with impressive inscriptions and flourishes. Four goblets of liqueur represented the four seasons. Twelve silver buckets of wine, arranged in tandem, represented the twelve months of the year. Fifty-two silver barrels arranged in tandem, representing the weeks of the year, were filled with wine from Cyprus, Spain and Italy. For each day of the year, 365 bottles of Hungarian wine

TRAVELOGUE – 5 Days in Poland / Staś Kmieć

Rooms that Sang and Danced

PART XXIII. Following a moving concert at Swiebodzice Exhibition Center, we were on the bus once again for an overnight trip back to Karolin ... and my last day in Warsaw. A quick stop along the way at the petrol station to refuel the buses allowed for a break and quick dinner. Along the motorways and super highways, there are ultra-clean fuel stations – where not only can you fill your tank, but you can eat a delicious homemade meal. Krzysiek had *kotlety*, while I had to partake in a plateful of tasty *pierogi*! Once back at the *Mazowsze* headquarters, I settled for yet-again a short night's rest.

fire department was pressuring the company to finally demolish this piece of history.

The ballet room had a special significance to me and I needed to see it one last time. First, I entered the choir room, where Tadeusz Sygietyński taught the eager young talent to sing and play instruments, and where he and Pani Mira brought his compositions to life. Many a distinguished visitor was treated to a mini concert of songs. The famed pianist Artur Rubinstein (born in Łódź) returned to Poland in 1981, and was honored with a performance that included “Laura i Filon.” Was it me, or could one hear



Mazowsze members with legendary Polish American pianist Arthur Rubinstein in 1981.

dance. The purpose of that trip to Poland was to complete post-graduate studies at the *Stydium Folklorystyczne* at the University of Marie Curie-Skłodowska in Lublin. I had started the course study before my professional career took flight, and before the period of Martial Law was imposed, and had returned to finish during the prior summer – graduating with highest honors.

Having been enchanted by *Mazowsze* all my life, first by the Monitor and Muza label recordings and later by live performances, I had a secret desire to join the ranks

and dance that glorious choreography to that entrancing music. So, a trip to Karolin was arranged. At the *barre* and then *centre* led by choreographer and ballet master Witold

bums was cordial, sweet and endearing. She told me that based on my dance ability I was a perfect candidate of acceptance. But beyond talent, there was one crucial



A beautiful morning and I was off to view the *Mazowsze*'s historic main building before a reconstruction process was to take place. From the very beginning, the ensemble was based at this palace in Karolin, far from the noise and turmoil of Warsaw. In this structure is where over 60 years of arduous rehearsals were held every day; where music and singing could be heard until the early hours; where the marvelous dances were created; and where the repertoire assembled and became enriched. The heart and soul of *Mazowsze* took place in two rehearsal rooms – the ballet hall and the choir room. Each morning there would be two separate ballet classes – men's class and women's class. Rehearsals followed in the two rooms for vocal and dance repertoire staging and refinement.

The rooms were constructed to suit the artistic needs of the new company during its original inception, but were never intended to be permanent structures. With the building of the new state-of-the-art facility *Matecznik* in 2009, the old space was no longer used, except during showings, exhibitions and tours. As the rooms were built hastily, not to code restrictions, and with an untreated wooden floor – excellent for dancing, but not-so-excellent should a spark ignite, the local



the music coming from the walls?

The *sala baletowa* was bathed in a misty chiaroscuro created in part by the morning sunshine through the many white-framed window panes, reflective mirrors, and the projection of lights through cloud-like, honey-comb shaped fixtures. I took my place at the *barre*, where so many years ago I took class with *Mazowsze*.

I HAD JUST COMPLETED a five-year tenure with *The Boston Ballet* and had plans to move to New York and pursue musical theater and



Zapała, it was standard ballet fare; and later it was a place in the exquisite Elwira Kamińska *Krakowiak*. It was a magical moment. I was in heaven ... almost a dream come true.

A meeting over tea with Pani Mira – a woman I only knew from the photographs on the record al-

qualifying element to be a member of *Mazowsze* – Polish citizenship. That could be achieved in two ways: being born in Poland or marrying a Polish citizen. Pani Mira wished me well in Lublin, invited me back and told me to consider my options. I returned many times, and stood in first, second, fourth and fifth position at that *barre*, danced dances, but pursued my career of dance in New York.

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NOW, SO MANY YEARS LATER, I stood again at the *barre* and danced my own choreography on the floor that is soaked with the sweat of generations of *Mazowsze* dancers. I pondered how this room full of artistry and history could be demolished?

At the Otrębusy train station back in 1948, bewildered young boys and frightened girls alone, or in the company of their elders made their way to Karolin and entered these rooms with their hearts jumping to their throats. They came from different parts of Poland – from the smallest villages and large cities. They came to learn, they came to sing, they came to dance. Country ducklings became graceful swans and storks took on masculine vigor and vitality.

In these rooms, thousands of dancers and singers achieved a virtuosity of physicality, time and space. An underlying vision was communicated. Intricate instructions were painstakingly worked out and then seared into the brains and bodies by sheer repetition. Dance had its own heartbeat and rhythms, its own internal music — and the music danced.

to be continued

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

A Few More Different Cold-Weather Comfort Foods

continued from last month

BREADED PORK CUTLETS (kotlety schabowe). This is nearly everyone's favorite! Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick. Pound with meat mallet on both sides until 1/4" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press bread-into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil, drain on paper towel and serve immediately. Serve with boiled or mashed potatoes and stewed sauerkraut (see below).

STEWED SAUERKRAUT (kapusta duszona). Drain 2 qts sauerkraut reserving juice. If too sour to your taste, swish sauerkraut around in pot of cold water and drain well. If it turns out not tart enough, the reserved juice will enhance its tartness. Transfer kraut to colander and press out moisture. Chop coarsely, place in pot scald with 3 c boiling water, bring to boil and cook uncovered 15 min. Add 3 bay leaves, cover and cook on med-low 30 min. Add 1 mushroom bouillon cube and 1/2 t bruised caraway seeds (optional). Dice and fry 1/4 lb pork fatback or thick-sliced bacon. When pale-golden add a chopped onion and simmer until browned. Stir in 1 heaping T flour, brown lightly and add to sauer-

kraut. Optional: Add 1-2 t sugar. Cook 30 min or until very tender.

HOME-MADE KIEŁBASA (kielbasa domowa). Coarsely grind 4.5 lbs pork butts and combine with 1 lb ground raw hamburger. Re-grind 2/3 of the meat and combine with the once-ground mixture. Sprinkle with 3 T salt and 1 t pepper, 3 buds crushed garlic. (Optional: For Poznań style kielbasa add 2 t heaping t marjoram. Work by hand, gradually adding 1 c ice-cold water and continue working until it is completely absorbed. Refrigerate over night in a thin layer in pan covered with clean dish towel. Next day, rinse hog casings well and stuff with meat mixture, either by hand or using meat-grinder with sausage attachment. Twist sausage into 12" links and tie them with white twine. Hang up in cool place to air-dry several hrs or overnight. To cook, boil or bake. But first prick with pin in various places so it doesn't burst during cooking. Serve with stewed sauerkraut (above).

COMPOTE, HOME-MADE FRUIT DRINK (kompot). Although most kids are crazy about fizzy, syrupy soft drinks (Sprite, Fanta, Coke, etc.), a healthier alternative is a home-made compote containing fresh fruit. This is like the syrup in canned peaches, pears, cherries, etc., only thinner and home-made. You can make it as intense (lots of fruit) or thin (lots of liquid) as you like and sweeten it heavily or lightly. There is no recipe

as such, just a rule of thumb and a bit of common sense. For instance, take a 2-3 c of fresh fruit (at this time of year washed, pitted plums, peeled and/or cored and sliced apples or pears. (You can also use frozen strawberries or cherries or other frozen fruit). Place fruit in saucepan, add 4-6 cups water and cook on med-low until fruit is fully cooked (5-10 min). Sweeten to taste and serve room temp. or chilled with a little of the fruit in each glass. A sprinkling of lemon juice will provide added zing, and a tiny pinch of cinnamon or a grating of nutmeg may also be added.

APPLE CAKE (szarlotka). Combine 2 3/4 c flour with 1 c confectioner's sugar, 4 egg yolks and 1/4 t salt and blend ingredients into a uniform dough. Do not knead! Roll into ball, wrap in foil and refrigerate at least 30 min. Meanwhile, in pot combine 1 lb tart cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced, with 1/2 c sugar and simmer on low heat until apples are tender. To cooked apples add 1 1/4 lb peeled, diced or sliced uncooked apples. Add 1/2 t vanilla extract and a pinch of cinnamon. Divide chilled dough in half. Roll one half out thin into a rectangle or square to fit your baking pan and come up the sides. Pierce with fork all over and bake in preheated 390° oven 10-15 min. Add apple filling and spread it out evenly. Roll out remaining dough half and cover apples. Reduce heat to 350° and bake about 45-60 min. Dust baked cake with confectioner's sugar.

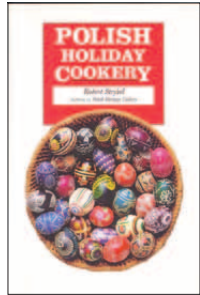
Pączki Day is Tuesday, February 28



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

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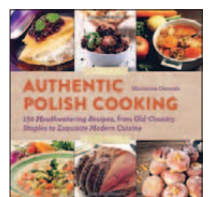
COOKBOOKS



POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY \$16.95 by Robert Strybel Item 2-644 248 pp., pb., Hippocrene Bks. Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

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

AUTHENTIC POLISH COOKING



by Marianna Dworak \$15.99 Item 2-677 7.5x7.5 in., 176 pp., p.b. Polish cuisine is hearty and filling, and though some may think the Polish diet is all meat and potatoes, that is far from the truth. With its rich soups, innumerable salads and side dishes, tasty fish and vegetarian meals, colorful and delectable desserts, and yes, meat and potato fare, this cuisine consists of a wide variety of dishes incorporating a broad selection of cultural and regional influences that will have you licking your lips.

Organized by course, this cookbook features more than one hundred recipes, including beet soup, cucum-

ber salad, potato pancakes, Hunter's Stew, pork and rice stuffed cabbage leaves, traditional "babka" cake, and of course, pierogi! Numerous recipes for veal, chicken, kielbasa sausage, pork, and beef dishes make this a great and thorough cookbook that is a fantastic addition to any kitchen.

With easy-to-follow instructions for simple as well as more intricate dishes, a section on traditional holiday meals, estimated cooking times, and suggestions for healthy ingredient substitutions, this cookbook will teach anyone how to cook delicious Polish food. For those wishing to re-create their grandmother's favorite recipe, or those wanting to experience a new cuisine, Authentic Polish Cooking will bring a bit of Eastern Europe to your home.

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES



by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95 Item 2-678 5-1/2 x 3-1/2 inches 160 pp., spiral bound

This cookbook features a great variety of flavorful regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, Polish hunter's stew, stuffed baked turkey, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas.

Readers will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

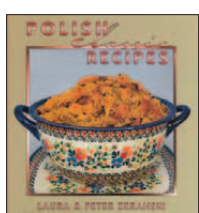
PIEROGI LOVE



New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food By Casey Barber \$19.95 Item 2-675 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 pierogi and fried apple pierogi to worldly fill-

ings 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.



POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES \$16.95 by Laura and Peter Zeranski Item 2-656 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 COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK by Sophie Knab \$19.95 Item 2-632 337 pp., sc; From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes

are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Lovely illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book.

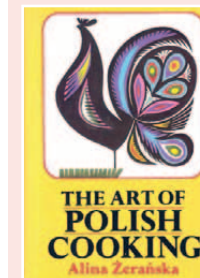


POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS \$16.95 By Laura and Peter Zeranski Item 2-654 2013, 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100 color photos

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.

INVENTORY BLOWOUT!

While supplies last! **THE ART OF POLISH COOKING** by Alina Zeranska Pub. at \$22.95 PAJ Bookstore Price: \$6.95 Item 1-1404



384 pp., hc. 8 1/4 x 5 1/2 illus., Index 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 descriptions of 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 recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

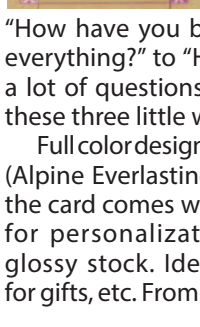
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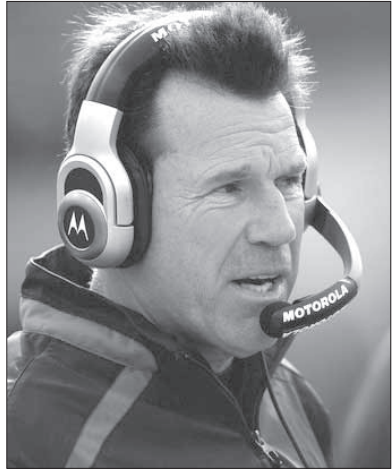
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Kubiak Calls It Quits

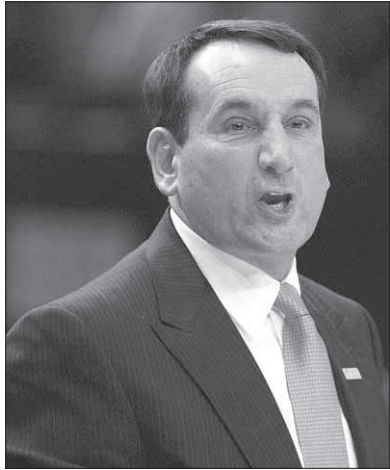


Concerned about his ability to maintain his health and do the job the way he has always done it, **Gary Kubiak** (above) said it is time for him “to step away from coaching,” less than a year after leading the Denver Broncos to a Super Bowl championship. Kubiak said that he realized this season that if he stayed a head coach, he was going to have to change how he worked.

Kubiak, 55, had spent a night in the hospital after the Broncos’ Oct. 9 loss to the Atlanta Falcons and left the stadium that night in an ambulance. Kubiak was diagnosed with a “complex migraine condition,” and was away from the team for a week. He also suffered what was called a “mini-stroke” in 2014 when he was the Houston Texans’ head coach. Since that time Kubiak has said that he was trying to improve his sleep habits to avoid further issues.

Kubiak drew praise from many in the Broncos organization, including All-Pro linebacker Von Miller. “He was a leader who was believable, a man of high character who always had a plan,” Miller said in a letter, “It’s understandable that he would walk away from the game the moment he felt he couldn’t put 100% effort into preparation. For him, coaching is an all-or-nothing deal, and he’d rather walk away than offer less than his best.”

KRZYZEWSKI TAKES A BREAK. Duke head coach **Mike Krzyzewski** (photo, next column) took a leave of absence of about a month to recover from successful surgery to remove a fragment of a herniated disk from his lower back. In October 1994 Krzyzewski underwent back surgery, and took a leave for the remainder of the season in January 1995. Duke was 9–3 at the time



and finished the remaining games 4-15. Krzyzewski, 69, had surgeries during the offseason to replace his left knee, repair his left ankle and fix a hernia, while also leading the U.S. Olympic team to the gold medal in Rio. Coach K holds the Division I wins record with 1,055 victories in his 41 seasons as a head coach. He has led Duke to five NCAA championships.

BULAGA, RIPKOWSKI LEAD PACKERS. Tackle **Bryan Bulaga** and fullback **Aaron Ripkowski** played big roles in Green Bay’s late season surge. Bulaga was the Packers’ first round pick out of Iowa in 2010 and later that season he became, at 21 years, 322 days, the youngest player to start in a Super Bowl. This season he’s been relatively injury-free, and it’s helped his performance. “I think this is going to be his best season when it’s all said and done,” said Packers Head Coach Mike McCarthy.

Ripkowski was a 6th round pick out of Oklahoma two years ago, and became the starter this season. He became a bigger part of the offense during the Pack’s playoff push. “Along with being a capable blocker, he’s shown a knack for running the ball,” wrote **Wes Hodkiewicz** at Packers.com.

BETTER LATE ... The International Weightlifting Federation will award Polish weightlifter **Szymon Kolecki** a gold medal for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing at 94 kg. Kazakhstani weightlifter Ilya Ilyin was stripped of his gold medal after samples from the Beijing games were retested for drugs. Kolecki, who had previously won Olympic silver in 2000, is now retired.

Drug tests also caused a change

in the 103-kg class, as Poland’s **Marcin Dolega** was awarded a bronze medal.

A couple months earlier 2016 Olympic hammer throw gold medalist **Anita Włodarczyk** got another Olympic gold from the 2012 games. That’s because the Russian woman who won gold in the hammer throw in London was disqualified in 2016 for doping and Włodarczyk, who finished second, was retroactively given the gold.



BUGGING HIS OPPONENTS. His style of play may be “old school,” but **Andrew Chrabascz’s** (above) wide-ranging talents have helped Butler become one of the nation’s top teams this season. The 6’7” 230-lb. senior “point forward” is demonstrating the versatility and toughness that make him one of the Bulldogs’ key players.

Andrew scored 2,268 points during his prep career at Portsmouth High School and Cushing Academy, and was named the top Rhode Island high school player by ESPN in 2013. Recruited by former Butler coach Brad Stevens, he was named to the 2013-14 Big East All-Rookie Team. Last year he had career bests in field goal percentage, assists, rebounds, and steals. As a senior he has significantly improved his three-point shooting and his assist numbers have gone way up.

Andrew certainly has the ability to play after college, as did his father. **Carl Chrabascz** was a Division I player for Lehigh and then Penn State in the mid-1980s, then played pro ball in Luxembourg, England and Ireland. He averaged nearly 45 points per game in Luxembourg in 1988. Carl then decided to use basketball as a vehicle to see

the world by agreeing to play against the Harlem Globetrotters. He played for the Washington Generals, touring the world with the Globetrotters in late 1988 and early ’89. He enjoyed it, despite the losing, but his knees couldn’t handle the schedule — games every day, two on week-ends. He coached a bit before opting to get a “real” job: selling polyethylene storm sewers in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

It was while doing sales that Carl discovered the meaning of his name. A nurse pronounced it with a perfect Polish accent and then asked, “You know what Chrabascz means?” “I’m thinking ‘Lion King,’ something like that,” Chrabascz says. “She says, ‘Little bug.’” “I go, ‘Is it a scary little bug? Does it have at least pinchers or anything?’” Nope. Chrabascz means “little bug.”



FENCING STANDOUT. Polish born **Dagmara Wozniak** (above) is one of the top saber fencers in the United States, and is ranked as one of the top 10 in the world. She represented the United States at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio, and was a member of the bronze medal winning team coached by Polish native Ed Korfanty. After going to the Beijing Olympics in 2008 as an alternate, Wozniak qualified for her first team as an individual in 2012 and placed eighth in her Olympic debut.

She’s also won bronze medals with Team USA in the team competition at the 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015 World Championships, and gold in 2014. That gold medal win marked the team’s first title at the event since 2005.

“Daga” came to the U.S. from Wrocław as a one-year-old with her parents, Gregory and Irena Wozniak, and her older sister, Zuzanna.

She began fencing by the age of nine at the Polish American Fencing School in Linden, N.J., and excelled as a junior athlete. Along the way she earned a degree in biology from St. John’s.

Wozniak’s Rio teammate, Ibtihaj Muhammad, was the first Muslim American woman to wear a hijab while competing in the Olympics. However, Wozniak also attracted a lot of attention—for her purple hair. It was the work of Niki Klaczany, stylist and founder of “Up & Out Salon” in Hoboken, N.J., and Dagmara’s best friend. “My dad and Daga’s parents grew up together in Poland and moved to America together, so I’ve known her since I was born,” Niki said.

THAT’S DENNY. **Denny McLain** is remembered for winning 31

games in a season, which he did in 1968. There hasn’t been a 30-game winner in baseball since. That year he earned his first of two Cy Young Awards and an MVP. His Detroit Tigers also won their first World Series championship since 1945. McLain later served time in prison for cocaine possession, embezzlement and money laundering.

Denny’s mother, the former Betty Koss, was of Jewish Polish heritage, while his father was Irish American. With that in mind, McLain had some interesting comments in his 1975 book, *Nobody’s Perfect*, written with Dave Diles.

McLain talked about how his strained relationship with his younger brother, Tim, was not good: “He’s more Irish than Polish. Timmy doesn’t care much about anything or anybody, even himself. He’ll help people, if he can, but he lives a day at a time...”

SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

Cheating the Kazakhs, Winter 1942

“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.

PART XX. So we were resting in the Kazakh’s station on the way to Kostanay, a local capital, with Polish recruits. Early in the morning, one of the Polish boys came to me and Lusia, and asked us to take one of the knouts, which was hanging above my head on the ceiling. I did it very carefully, put it into my breeches and wrapped with a belt around my hips. Then we went to have a breakfast. Kazakh shepherds



A knout is a heavy scourge-like multiple whip, usually made of a bunch of rawhide thongs attached to a long handle, sometimes with metal wire or hooks incorporated. gave us a good breakfast, a real tea and *lepyoshki* (flat bread).

I was quite nervous about the knout and eager to leave. Suddenly one of the hosts noticed that the knout is missing and started looking for it. There was lots of hustle and bustle. Kazakhs tried to communicate with us in their language, but I did not understand them. They

started inspecting us: boys were ordered to take off all cloths, I and Lusia had to take off our coats. Of course, they could not find it. Then they inspected the horse cart, finally they let us go and they gave us some hay for the horse and dry bread.

Our boys were cautious. “Please, be patient, do not pull it out from your breeches,” they said. “They will catch to us and inspect us again.”

This really happened. After we travelled about 3-4 km, two local men caught up to us, they took off everything from the cart and inspected it again, but they could not find the knout. After this encounter, I could not decide to pull out the pinching knout. I need to add that our travel was not nice; the horse was starving and tired. There could be only two people in the same time on the cart, since the horse could not pull anything more. We had to

change frequently, so that some of us were walking or jogging along the cart, while two could rest in the cart.

The frost was reaching -40C, but at least there was no wind. When we reached Kostanay, we met plenty of Polish recruits. There was a doctor, he examined the recruits, looked at their falsified papers and was laughing at these papers. Edek, one of our boys, was sent back home. The doctor found that Edek was too weak, suffered from malnutrition, and had the beginnings of tuberculosis.

After ten days we came back to our village. I was glad that Edek was with me, since I would be afraid of going home alone through this deserted road. But, Edek, who was preparing to be a future soldier, was crying constantly, that he could not serve.

Almost a year passed since the German-Soviet fighting started. The

local population had very little information what was going on. The locals became even more tight-lipped and quiet. During some of the conversations, we overheard people saying “if Hitler would come to us, it could be easier to live here.”

I was terrified and angry that they wanted Hitler, such a terrible enemy that destroys and kills the whole populations of people.

“How you dare to wish Hitler to come!” I said.

They explained they could manage Hitler. According to their logic, Stalin was their local enemy, he was more difficult to deal with, since there is no way to conquer him or get rid of him without destroying their own neighborhoods.

Continued next month

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 32nd year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

New Officers for Area PolAm Organizations

BUFFALO, N.Y. — **Potts Banquet Hall** in Cheektowaga hosted the "Hangover Dance" featuring PhoCus on New Year's Day ... Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone named **Rev. Matt Nycz** as the new pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Tonawanda ... The **Syracuse Polish Home** hosted its "Oplatek Dinner Dance" featuring the John Gora Band at its clubrooms, Jan. 7 ... Also on the 7th, the **Chopin Singing Society** performed at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville; and **Ludowa Nuta** performed "koledy" at the Wawel Villa retirement facility in Mississauga, Ontario.

Gerard and Barbara Mazurkiewicz have been named chairs of the Diocese of Buffalo's 2017 Catholic Charities Appeal ... **Walter Stepien** was named the Professional and Businessmen's Association Man-of-the-Year ... The **Consul General of the Republic of Poland** in Toronto sponsored a "Bog Sie Rodzi, God is Born" Christmas concert featuring the Novi Singers, Toronto Sinfonietta Instrumental Ensemble under the direction of Maciej Jaskiewicz, with soprano Ana Wojcik and the Bells of St. Matthew at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Toronto, Jan. 8.

On January 9, **Lucyna Dziedzic's** Polish language classes began at the Maryvale Binner Educational Center in Cheektowaga ... Vocalists Kaja Cyganik, Ilona Kowalik-Urbaniak, Anna Adamczewska-Niewulis and Jarek Garbowski; and musicians Wojtek Bochenek, Eugeniusz Calak, Bartek Kozminski and Marek Majewski performed **Polish Christmas music** in "Winter Wonderland" at Toronto's Orbit Restaurant, Jan. 13 ... Various Polonian organizations in Toronto, Mississauga and

St. Catharines, Ontario sponsored events to benefit the "**Wielki Orkiestra Swiatecznej Pomocy**" (Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity) the weekend of January 13 through 15

The **Polish Genealogical Society of New York State** elected the following leadership for 2017: Nicole Pohancsek (president), Sherry Sojka (vice-president), Denise Oliansky (secretary) and Chuck Pyrak (treasurer). The 2017 trustees of the group are: Pierre LaJoie, Elizabeth Nowak, Charles Penasack, Maria Slomczewski, and Sharon Voigt.

On January 14, **St. John the Baptist Parish** in Alden hosted a Polish Night, Polka Mass, and Dance featuring performances by Special Delivery and the **Polish Heritage Dancers** of Western New York to benefit St. John's Youth Group ... Also on the 14th, Special Delivery also performed at "**Polka, Piwo and Pierogi**" to celebrate National Polka Month at the Broadway Market in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District; and the Lakeshore United Football Club hosted its "**Bal Karnawalowy**" featuring "Impuls" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario.

Buffalo's Chopin Singing Society and Kalina Singing Society joined with Oakville, Ontario's "Cantabile" and Hamilton's "Symfonia" and "Stokrotki" choirs for the "**Koncert Koled**" at the Hamilton Dom Polski, Jan. 15 ... Also on the 15th, **St. John Kanty Parish** on Buffalo's East Side offered a Polish Platter Dinner at the parish hall, and **Corpus Christi Church** held its "Oplatek, Dinner & Koleda" featuring the Ludowa Nuta Carolers.

The **Professional & Business Women of Polonia** held its mem-

bership dinner at the Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga, Jan. 19. WGRZ-TV's Pete Gallivan was the guest speaker at the event ... Potts Banquet Hall also was the site of the **New Direction** CD release party for "Great Directions," Jan. 21 ... Also on the 21st, "Koniec Swiata," "Faza," "Konsorcjum" and "Natural Wers" performed Polish rock, ska and hip hop as part of "**Polish Show**" at the Rockpile West in Toronto; Ludowa Nuta hosted its "**Bal Goralski**" (Highland Ball) at the Polish Hall in Hamilton, Ontario; and the Canadian Polish Women's Heritage Fund held its "**Czarno Bialy Bal Maskowy**" (Black and White Costume Ball) at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre.

The **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** was the site of Art Bis' "Karnawalowy Kaprys" (Carnival Whims) on the 22nd ... The Salon of Poetry, Music and Theater, and the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto presented "**Teatr Bez Granic**" (Theater Without Borders) at the consulate, Jan. 24 ... The **Krew Brothers** played the Polka Variety Social Club meeting and the Leonard Post VFW in Cheektowaga on the 25 ... **Villa Maria College** in Cheektowaga held its "The Blizz" Raffle at the College Athletic Center, Jan. 28 ... The **IPA Festival of Buffalo Polka Bands**, featuring the Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Buffalo Touch, Knewz, New Direction, PhoCus, Special Delivery, and Rare Vintage was held at the Potts Banquet Hall on the 28th.

The **Polish Hunters Club** of Canada hosted its "Bal Mysliwski" (Hunters' Ball) at the Millennium Gardens Banquet Centre in Brampton, Ontario; and the **Lechovia**

Polish Canadian Folk Dance Company hosted its "Snow Ball" featuring Impuls at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, on the 28th.

The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** hosted its annual Installation and Scholarship Awards Luncheon at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca, Jan. 29.

The officers who were installed were: Charles Peszynski (president), Dr. Andrew Wise (vice-president), Marsha Ashton (membership secretary), and Thomas Zawadzki (treasurer). The group's new board members are Mary Jane Masiulionius, Christine Nowak and Danuta Nycz-Nakamura. Brandon Mellerski and Conrad Ziarniak were the recipients of scholarships.

UPCOMING. **Kabaret Pod Banka** will host "Kabareton 20" featuring Artur Andrus, Magda Papierz, and Wojtek Gawenda, at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre on February 3 and 4 ... **Szczep Wodny Bałtyk** will mark its 60th anniversary with a banquet at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church in Mississauga on February 4 ... "**Walentynki**" celebrations will be held at the Capitol Banquet Centre and the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga on February 11 ... On February 12, the comedy, "**Grube Ryby**" (Big Fish) will be staged at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre ... The West-



SINGERS and musicians performed after the sleigh rides at last year's *kulig*, sponsored by the Polish American Congress. This year's will be held again at Chestnut Ridge Park on February 19.

ern New York Division of the Polish American Congress will hold its annual "**Kulig**" at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park on February 19, and its "**Swieconka**" on April 23 ... The Polish Heritage Dancers of Western New York will host their "**Annual Paczki Day**" at Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish National Cathedral Parish Hall on February 26 ... The St. John Kanty Parish Community will hold its annual **Lenten Pierogi and Placek Sale** on each Saturday and Sunday from March 4 through Palm Sunday ... The **Polish Scholarship Fund** has announced that the 63rd Annual Syracuse Polish Festival will be held the weekend of June 23 through 25, 2017.

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REMINDER. Paczki day is Tuesday, February 28 this year.
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If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. February 6 for the March issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

RESISTANCE / Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

Report of Katyn

Resistance is a story about the conditions, which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzinski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER XI. Friday evening Michal was faced with eating dinner alone.

"They are at church for Stations," Janina informed him.

He picked through the meal, poured a tumbler of vodka and withdrew to his study.

Leona was evasive when she got home.

He let the incident slide in order to avoid a serious argument. He was sure that she had found a way to continue teaching, and he was certain that Father Lipinski had a hand in the curriculum.

He arrived at his office at his usual time; unlocked the door, and gathered the mail from its box on

the wall. Tucked directly under the lid, on top of the pile, was a copy of Poland's Journal. He looked up and down the street, expecting to see Kaminski hovering nearby. He flicked through the mail, separating the important looking addresses from the trivial. Poland's Journal was placed in his desk drawer; he was expecting a client.

Herr Klauffer entered the office before Michal had a chance to open one of the important envelopes.

"Good morning, Bednarek."

"Good morning." He wasn't ready for him. Klauffer's appointment was for eight-thirty, another twenty minutes away.

"One moment, Herr Klauffer, I've just arrived and I have yet to pull your file."

"Don't rush. Have you read the newspaper?" He handed him the *Nowy Kurier*.

"Not as yet. It's my practice to read it over lunch."

Klauffer held out the front page. Two headlines competed for attention:

**MASS GRAVES DISCOVERED
IN FOREST OF KATYN**

**POLISH GOVERNMENT IN EXILE
DEMANDS INVESTIGATION**

Michal's professional reserve was punctured. He tried to recover a neutral façade, but realized his attempt to cover up only verified the shock he felt. A twisted smile appeared on Klauffer's face.

Michal excused himself while he went for Klauffer's books. He had pushed his financial expertise to the limit. The books balanced.

"Well, I leave you to peruse the paper during your lunch hour." Klauffer laid the paper on the desk. He left Michal with that patronizing smile of his. "Good day to you, and I hope to see you at the cinema."

Citizens of Warsaw held a boycott over the German operated cinemas and entertainment venues. Anyone caught attending a German event was considered a collaborator. Michal would not be going to the cinema.

When he was sure that Klauffer was well on his way, he locked the door and grabbed the *Nowy Kurier*. Under the headline announcing mass murders in Katyn, he was horrified to read that between March and April of 1940, the NKVD, the Soviet intelligence operation under the department of Internal Affairs, had murdered over 22,000 of the Polish elite. Lavrenti Beria chief of the bureau had ordered the massa-

cre, and Stalin had signed the document. The victims had been incarcerated in the Kozelsk Prisoner of War Camp, not far from Smolensk, Russia.

In bold type was an advertisement:

Film, Soviet Massacre of Polish Officers, shown at the Cinema Warszawa, all this week.

Under the second heading:

POLISH GOVERNMENT IN EXILE DEMANDS INVESTIGATION

Michal had an impulse to contact Kaminski for validation, but he was too emotionally upset to continue in this vein. His greater impulse was to get home to Leona, who seemed to be more in touch with the reality of life under oppression than he. It would seem that she had every reason to defy his edict to stop teaching.

Janina was approaching the apartment with grocery packages in her arms just as Michal turned up the street.

"Here, Janina let me help you." He plucked two packages from her tight grip and appreciated the look of relief that showed on her face.

"Thank you, Pan. You're home early tonight."

"Yes, I worked through lunch. Is

Pani Leona at home?"

"She's been working in her office all day."

They unloaded the packages in the kitchen and Michal went directly to his wife's study.

"Michal, what are you doing home?"

"I rushed through my day. Grading papers, I see."

She put her pen down and swiveled the chair around to face him. There was a look of contrition on her face.

He found her demeanor touching. He knelt down beside her. "It's alright, dear. It would be just as ridiculous to ask the roses not to bud. I know your dedication to your work, but that leaves me with a great concern for your welfare."

She put her arms around his neck. "I'll be very careful, and you'll just have to trust God to get us through this horror. Please, Michal, don't work so hard at controlling things,"

continued next month

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Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

Good vs. Evil

There is probably some data on what percentage of the human race is good and how much of it is evil. In the Old Testament, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because ten righteous persons could not be found. If you are a Christian, you believe that evil exists in the world, and it is the power of the Holy Spirit that confronts and ultimately defeats it. Evil exists, but we also know there is the presence of good to counter it.

No country or people have a perfect record or monopoly when it comes to war and oppression. Despite Jan Gross' *Neighbors* — a book that compares the behavior of the Occupied Poland Poles to the Nazis — my feeling is that Poles have been a force for good in their region, on the European continent, and beyond. Here are four more you may not know about:

ROBERT MAZUR. If you have not seen the movie *The Infiltrator*, be warned: it is intense and action-packed and you will need a strong stomach for the constant impending danger and violence. The film is based on a book by the same name written by Robert Mazur, an agent in the United States Customs Department. *Infiltrator* is a true story about Mazur's undercover work to identify and prosecute the money laundering operation and people sustaining the Columbian drug cartel led by Pablo Escobar. In a very real way, the case can be made that Mazur, whose father's parents were born in Poland, is a true American hero and made a major difference in the drug war.

You can read more about him, the book, and the movie at <http://www.robertmazur.com>. Robert Mazur, a force for good.

EUGENE F. SOLTES, the Jakurski Family Associate Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School, was a guest on C-SPAN touting his new book, *Why They Do It: Inside the Mind of the White-Collar Criminal* (Perseus Books, LLC, 2016). Professor Soltes



Art Malik (left) stars as Akbar Bilgrami and Bryan Cranston as undercover U.S. Customs agent Robert Mazur in the new movie "The Infiltrator."

Mazur worked for the IRS, the United States Customs Service (now part of the Department of Homeland Security) and the Drug Enforcement Agency. He pulled off one of the biggest undercover operations of all time: He infiltrated Pablo Escobar's Colombian drug cartel for two years in the mid-1980s by pretending to be Robert Musella, a money-laundering, mob-connected businessman from New Jersey.



SOLTES. Examines the motives of white-collar criminals.

is very bright and articulate and I am eager to read his study on this subject. This "subject" is something that needs to be addressed. As a person who greatly values the role of business and economics in a free and market-based society, more interest in, and understanding of, the ethics of creating, owning, and managing an enterprise can't hurt. Much of the talk in our most recent election was about how the United States and other countries conduct their business. Eugene Soltes and *Why They Do It*, a force for good.



ANDRÉ JAKURSKI. What also intrigued me was the name "Jakurski Family" as the sponsor of the academic chair at so prestigious a place as the Harvard Business School. The history and background of the Jakurski Family traces to André Jakurski (above), an engineer and alumnus of the Harvard Business School. He was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and is the son of Polish parents that fought and survived World War II.

As part of the Polish underground resistance during World War II, Jakurski's father forged documents to help those in danger change their identities.

"My parents lost everything dur-

ing the war," explains the family's only son, adding that his father carried luggage for a year at the Paris train station to save enough money to move to Brazil. "My father was an engineer, and my mother was an entrepreneur," says Jakurski, who, like his parents, has achieved remarkable success seizing business opportunities in Brazil.

Jakurski gravitated toward the financial sector working for and owning banks in Brazil. In 1998 he went on to create JGP Asset Management and as of 2013 JGP manages an investment portfolio of \$3.8 billion.

Jakurski and his wife Maria have given generously to various charities and educational institutions including Rio's British School, John's Hopkins University, and the Harvard Business School. He likes to keep quiet about the donating, and "gives quietly, if not anonymously." He has said, "We give to organizations that will have a multiplier effect."

André Jakurski is an extremely talented and successful person. He is a force for good.

TATIANA MOROZ. Her website (<http://tatianamoroz.com>) says she is a "singer, songwriter, and revolutionary."

Is that all?

Tatiana Moroz is all that and is the Polish (with some Ukrainian and Sicilian), spokesperson and prominent "female singer-songwriter in the Bitcoin" community.

Bitcoin is a digital currency system, in which funds are transferred peer-to-peer; i.e., transactions take place between users directly, without an intermediary.

Moroz has taken Bitcoin a step further, creating the first artist Bitcoin cryptocurrency — Tatiana Coin.

When does this woman sleep?

Moroz appeared on the Fox show *Stossel* to explain the value of Bitcoin, especially in Third World countries where there is little monetary regulation and carrying currency actually can be dangerous. You can see the interview on YouTube and the example she gave was



MOROZ, a "singer, songwriter, and revolutionary."

how women in Afghanistan have gained access and freedom by using this cyber currency. Tatiana Moroz: singer, songwriter, revolutionary, spokesperson for Bitcoin, and, a force for good.

KOŚCIUSZKO, WE ARE HERE!

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (W Żłobie Leży), is one of the most popular Polish carols. Not only am I hearing it sung more and more at non-Polish Catholic churches in St. Louis during Christmas, but this song was featured at the 2016 Christmas program at the Manchester United Methodist Church in Ballwin, Missouri.

Manchester's program employed a hundred member choir, a bell ensemble, a twenty-piece orchestra, and a special guest soloist. It wasn't just a bunch of carolers from down the street. Most of the popular standards were performed and the arrangement and rendering of *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* was beautiful. We truly have finally arrived in America.

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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. 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.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund will be acknowledged in the paper unless otherwise directed by the contributor.

A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **Arline Hufstetler**, Dawson, Virg.; **Stanley Kush**, Sun City, Ariz.; **Regina McIntyre**, Bristol, Pa.; **Joseph Osowski**, Barnegat Light, N.J.; **George Pawlowski**, Virginia Beach, Virg.; **Dennis Piotrowski**, Torrance, Calif.; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; and four **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

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GROWING UP POLISH AMERICAN / Barbara Betlejewska

Growing up with "Polack" Jokes

PART I. As a child in the 1960s and '70s, I grew up labeled as a "dumb Polack" in a rural, mostly German-settled area of central Ohio. During my school years, I was forced to listen to hundreds of "Polack jokes," told to me by classmates. My parents were victimized in a similar way, so they just didn't know what to do to help me. I never mentioned the bullying to anyone else. I would feel constrained to smile and act like I thought they were funny, but inside I wondered if they were really true. This gave me a huge inferiority complex, which I am finally succeeding in overcoming. I can only imagine the depth of the inferiority that Native Americans or African-Americans must feel, because it must be many times more intense.

I realize that when one ethnic group bullies another, it is often because the former wants to steal something that belongs to the latter. The British-American frequently said, "The only good Injun is a dead Injun" because the British-American invaders wanted to steal Native American land and instigated a genocidal campaign to do so.

British-Americans denigrated Africans because the British-Americans wanted to steal African land, resources, and human labor, also genocidal. The American Eastern seaboard was developed using slave labor. Even the White House was built by slaves.

After slavery was abolished, immigrants — mainly from Southern and Eastern Europe, such as my Polish grandparents — were exploited as a source of cheap labor, sometimes as inexpensive to exploit as the former slaves, and sometimes even cheaper. The result was tragic: badly damaged children re-enacting their childhood trauma on another generation, another group. Hurt people hurting people. Child victims become adult victimizers.

Polish jokes first appeared in large numbers in the border areas between Poland and Germany 250 years ago. Germany was landlocked and wanted to enlarge its eastern borders by stealing Polish land. Conflict between Poles and Germans dates to at least the 9th Century, generally over land and power. Otto the Great (912-973

AD), a German Emperor of the remnants of the Roman Empire, was considered a bully. He captured and enslaved many Slavic people. The English term "slave" derives from the ethnonym "Slav."

Frederick the Great (1712-1786 AD), another bully, described Poles as "slovenly Polish trash similar to the Iroquois," thus ridiculing two groups in one inappropriate outburst of misplaced anger. Bullies always ridicule to try to justify taking more than their fair share. And they often become genocidal mass murderers, if they can get away with it.

continued next month.

❖ ❖ ❖

Barbara Betlejewska left her childhood farm area in Ohio at age 18, and lived in many places throughout the United States and abroad for nearly 30 years. Her grandparents, who had emigrated from the partitioned areas of Poland in the 1910s, purchased the farm during the Great Depression to grow food to feed their family. Barbara gained enough emotional healing to come full cycle and return to the family farm 15 years ago.

Tourists Take On Tatras

KRAKOW — More than 3.5 million visitors flocked to Poland's southern Tatra mountains last year, setting a new record.

In 2015, 3.2 million visited the Tatra National Park. Ten years ago, the figure was over 2 million.

Park director Szymon Ziobrowski said the record tourist traffic had not had a negative impact on wildlife, as hikers in the mountains are required to stick to marked routes.

"This is very important, because as long as visitors remain on trails, the impact on fauna is not very problematic," Ziobrowski said.

He also said rangers have not seen drastic changes when it comes to animal behavior, and that native populations "are doing quite well."

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GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Leaving Their Villages and Traveling to the Ports

The decision to leave their home was a difficult choice for our ancestors. Preparations required mending clothes, packing their belongings and buying tickets. Leaving their village was a life-changing experience because many had never traveled outside of their market area before. Saying goodbye to family members was heart-breaking and came with many tears. The challenges they would endure during their journey would further strengthen their character. The journey to the port was their first step into the unknown, and it did not come with the comforts we enjoy today when we travel.

By 1850, most Poles had access to a train line. Our ancestors traveled by foot or wagon to the train station. Most emigrants were able to take trains to the port, but some had to walk most of the distance to the port because they could not afford the train ticket or they had to avoid the border guards. All left with what they could carry.

The immigrant train cars were designed to carry more passengers and were always crowded. The cars had simple wooden benches and were dimly lit. Immigrants who were contract workers traveled to the port in boxcars or open cars hired by their future employer. Train travel was not a simple process. Many Polish emigrants had to change trains along their route. They felt lost at the train stations. They needed help from fellow travelers to guide them to the right train because they did not speak or read German. Women who were traveling alone or with their children had to be very careful not to get lost.

For the Polish emigrants leaving from the Austrian

and Russian partition, their first obstacle was the German border. In 1892, the German officials began setting up control stations at its eastern borders to prevent immigrants infected with cholera from entering Germany. In 1897, the Germans passed immigration regulations setting procedures and standards that required medical exams before departure. Shipping lines performed these exams to protect themselves from the costs of returning the immigrants denied entry into the United States. The new strict American health regulations made it necessary to deal effectively with illness and other physical or mental deficiencies at the departure ports and the German frontiers. In 1907, German authorities rejected almost 12,000 people at the German border and nearly 20,000 at various ports.

The Polish immigrants somehow made the trek and arrived at their port of departure. If their departure was from Bremen or Hamburg, they were directed to the barges or trains that took them to the shipping company's compound. There, their documents were examined, and they received medical exams. At the other ports, such as Le Harve or Antwerp, they had to find the emigrant boarding houses. Here, they rested and waited for their day of departure. Hopefully, the wait was short because the cost of the room and food would tax their meager funds which they needed to make a start in America.

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."

"I was afraid. However, I knew I had to leave."

My grandmother said "I was crying, and my brother gave me his last hug and helped me onto the train. I found a seat next to another woman, and a nice older man helped store my suitcase. I took my seat and held close to me the bag that had the food we packed for my trip. I was prepared for a long trip to the harbor. The train stopped at Warsaw, and I had to get off and find the train for Hamburg. The train stopped at the German border where doctors examined us, and officials looked at our documents. We stopped in Hamburg, and some passengers left. I and others continued to Bremen. The trip took three days. In Bremen, another train took me to the compound at Bremerhaven where officials from the shipping company put me into a room with many beds while I waited for the ship to leave. I was sorry to leave Poland. I did not know what awaited me in America and I was afraid. However, I knew I had to leave."

GENEALOGY NOTEBOOK

Pula to Present "Guess Who's Polish?"

Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) Meeting. Feb. 19, 2017. 2:00-4:00 p.m. The United States has been characterized as "the Great Melting Pot." In a melting pot the identity of individual ingredients is lost in the new product that is created. In this same way, the contributions of Poles and Polish Americans to the development of the country has often vanished. This presentation will highlight people of Polish ancestry who made contributions to American culture, or those who invented well-known products, whose Polish ancestry is often un-

known or overlooked.

Presenter James S. Pula is a professor of history at Purdue University. He has authored more than a dozen books and is the editor of the *Polish American Encyclopedia* and the former editor of the academic journal *Polish American Studies*.

This meeting will take place at the Algonquin Public Library (NW), 2600 Harnish Dr., Algonquin, IL 60102.

To register for the webinar go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5658171878320564737> After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME. The PGSA is looking for volunteers to help staff its exhibit at various events and conferences. (See list below.) If you live near any of these venues and would like to help out, please email PGSA at: PGSAmerica@pgsa.org, Attention Richard Lach, for the particulars and to volunteer.

• **Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Conference.** April 6-8, 2017. Chula Vista Resort, 2501

River Rd., Wisconsin Dells, Wisc.

- **Milwaukee County Genealogical Society Biennial Workshop.** April 22, 2017. Best Western Plus Milwaukee Airport, 5105 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee.
- **Polish Fest.** June 16-18, 2017. Henry W. Maier Festival Park Summerfest Grounds. Milwaukee. Volunteers get free parking and admittance to Polish Fest
- **German-American Genealogical Partnership.** International Germanic Genealogy Conference. July 28-30, 2017. Minneapolis Marriott Northwest, 7025 Northland Dr., North Brooklyn Park, Minn.

FEE MORE THAN TRIPLED. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) significantly increased its fees for genealogical searches and document retrieval, effective December 23, 2016.

The two-step process of first searching the index to identify the documents and then retrieving and copying them used to cost \$20 each. Now the price has been raised to \$65 each. For more details on their services and fees, go to: <https://www.uscis.gov/>




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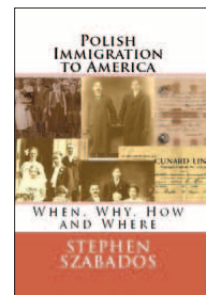
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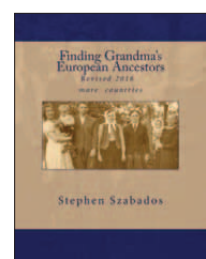
GENEALOGY

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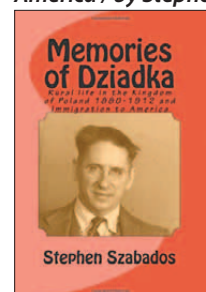
When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully clear up your confusion why your Polish ancestors listed that they were born in other countries on early U.S. documents. Brief histories of most of the ports that were used by Polish immigrants for departure and arrival; life in steerage; and the process of examination to gain admittance.



FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS
by Stephen Szabados
Item 2-653
\$19.95
210 pp., pb.

This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed practical steps that will help you find the success and the records that you need. The author uses his experiences to give tips on what to avoid and what works; how to find and use critical records; and how to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records. This book gives you the tools to find your European family.

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



Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.

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.

POLISH GENEALOGY: Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95 / Item 2-668
164 pp., pb.



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.

OBITUARIES

Rev. Anthony J. Kuzniewski, 71, Historian and Chaplain to Sports Teams

WESTON, Mass. — Rev. Anthony J. Kuzniewski, S.J., professor emeritus of history at the College of the Holy Cross, died, Dec. 19, 2016 at the Campion Health Center at the age of 71 after a swift battle with cancer.

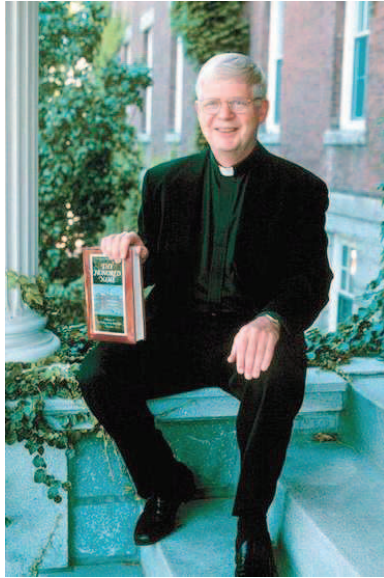
A member of the Holy Cross community for 37 years, Fr. Kuzniewski was regarded for his distinguished scholarship and exceptional teaching, as well as his mentorship and ministry to Holy Cross athletes.

Born in Carthage, Mo. on Jan. 28, 1945, to the late Anthony J. and Alice E. (Tomaszewski) Kuzniewski, Fr. Kuzniewski grew up surrounded by the strong Catholic Polish American community in Milwaukee, Wisc., where he was instilled with both an enduring interest in the story of the Polish in America and also a lifelong devotion to the Green Bay Packers.

He studied history at Marquette University, graduating *magna cum laude* in 1966. He went on to earn a master's in 1967 and doctorate in

1973, both from Harvard University, where he studied and taught as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and a Harvard Graduate Prize Fellow. Fr. Kuzniewski entered the Society of Jesus in the New England Province in 1972, and was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood on June 9, 1979, at St. Joseph Memorial Chapel at College of the Holy Cross by The Most Reverend Bernard J. Flanagan, D.D., J.C.D., Bishop of Worcester. Just prior to his ordination, he received a master's of divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago.

Fr. Kuzniewski was widely regarded for his scholarship in American urban 19th century social and political history, particularly for his work on the history of the Polish church in Wisconsin in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, for which he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Polish American Historical Association. The manuscript from his 1981 book, "Faith and Fatherland:



The Polish Church War in Wisconsin, 1896 – 1918," was named best manuscript in American Catholic Studies by Notre Dame's Center for Studies in American Catholicism in 1978. He was also an expert in Jesuit history in the United States, and is best known within Jesuit higher

education for his monograph "Thy Honored Name: A History of the College of the Holy Cross, 1843 – 1994."

Known affectionately as "Father K" by the generations of students who were inspired by his notable teaching, mentorship and passion for history, Fr. Kuzniewski taught many sought-after courses, including "The Age of Jackson," "Lincoln and his Legacy," "From Kennedy to Watergate," and particularly popular seminars on the Civil War and the history of Holy Cross. Fr. Kuzniewski encouraged Holy Cross students outside the classroom as well, particularly through his service as chaplain to numerous athletics teams each season for over 20 years. His guidance and support engendered such gratitude and respect among Holy Cross alumni and student athletes, that the crew team was moved to name a shell after him. Additionally, an anonymous donor family named the lacrosse field in his honor in April 2016. The field is

now officially named "Kuzniewski Field."

Fr. Kuzniewski served as Rector of the Jesuit Community at Holy Cross from 1998-2004 and on the boards of Loyola University of Chicago, Cheverus High School in Portland, Maine, and The Nativity School in Worcester, Mass. He was also past president of the Polish American Historical Association and served as archivist for the New England Province of the Society of Jesus in the 11 years prior to his death.

While he formally retired from his tenured position in Holy Cross' Department of History in May 2016, Fr. Kuzniewski continued to teach part time as well as to maintain his roles as athletics chaplain and College historian. He also served as an assistant director and alumni chaplain in the office of advancement.

Donations can be made in his memory to The Nativity School of Worcester, 67 Lincoln St., Worcester, Mass. 01650.

Jerzy Gruszczyński, Ph.D., Holocaust Survivor

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Jerzy Stanislaus Gruszczyński, 91, a Holocaust survivor, who later earned two Ph.D. degrees in engineering.

He was born October 20, 1925 in Warsaw, Poland to Maria and Boleslaus Gruszczyński,

As a teenager in German-occupied Poland during World War II, Gruszczyński was active in the Polish underground, having survived three interrogations by suspicious Gestapo officers by persuading them that he knew nothing about the resistance.

"In Warsaw, you never knew what could happen," he told the students during one of his speaking engagements at a high schools in the

Greenville, S.C. area. "You could be stopped, searched, accused of something, put against a wall and shot. If somebody shot a German, they would put 100 of us against a wall and shoot them. So you tried to avoid confrontations."

In August 1943, at age 17, he was arrested and sent to the Auschwitz. There, he saw Jews and others deemed "undesirable" by Adolf Hitler's regime being led to their deaths in wash rooms, where shower heads dispensed not water, but poison gas. Afterward, he was forced to haul carts full of corpses to crematoriums for destruction.

"I thought only of how to survive, hoping the war would be over

and I would be free," he said.

Gruszczyński said he was liberated from a concentration camp in Germany in May 1945, alone in the world because his parents were deceased. In the years after the war, he studied in Italy and England.

He came to the United States in 1953.

Gruszczyński, fluent in five languages, worked over four decades for General Electric.

After his retirement, he became a consultant to Hitachi Corporation.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dorothy, four children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Zygmunt Bauman, Polish-born Sociologist

LEEDS, England — Zygmunt Bauman, one of the most prominent and prolific European sociologists of recent decades, died at the age of 91. The Polish-born left-wing thinker's works explored the fluidity of identity in the modern world, the Holocaust, consumerism and globalization.

Renowned for an approach that incorporated philosophy and other disciplines, Bauman was a strong moral voice for the poor and dispossessed in a world upended by globalization. Whether he was writing about the Holocaust or globalization, his focus remained on how humans can create a dignified life through ethical decisions.

He wrote more than 50 books, notably "Modernity and the Holocaust," a 1989 release in which he differed with many other thinkers who saw the barbarism of the Holocaust as a breakdown in modernity. Bauman viewed the mass exterminations of Jews as the very outcome of such pillars of modernity as industrialization and rationalized bureaucracy.

In the 1990s, Bauman coined the term "liquid modernity" to describe a contemporary world in such flux that individuals are left rootless and bereft of any predictable frames of reference.

In his books, he explored the frailty of human connection in such times and the insecurity that a constantly changing world creates.

In Poland, he was a controversial figure in some circles. In 2006, a right-wing historian uncovered

documents showing that Bauman served as an officer in a Stalinist-era military organization, the Internal Security Corps, which helped to impose communism on the nation by killing resisters to the regime.

Bauman acknowledged belonging to that unit, he insisted he only had a desk job. No evidence has surfaced linking him to any killings.

Beyond Poland, Bauman's theories were a major influence on the anti-globalization movement. He focused on the outcasts and the marginalized, describing how many people have seen their chances of a dignified life destroyed by the new borderless world. As a result, he found a following in Spain and Italy, where young adults were hit especially hard by economic dislocation in recent years.

Bauman was born Nov. 19, 1925, in Poznan, Poland. He was not yet 14 when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939 and World War II began. His family survived the Holocaust by fleeing to the Soviet Union. There, Bauman, still a teenager, joined a Polish army unit that formed under Soviet command, earning Poland's Military Cross of Valor for his bravery fighting the Nazis.

Though he was a vocal critic of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, once likening the West Bank to the Warsaw Ghetto, Bauman lived and taught for a short time in Israel. He lectured at universities in Tel Aviv and Haifa from 1969 to 1971, before he and his family settled in Britain.

Bauman headed the Department of Sociology at the University of Leeds until his retirement in 1990, but continued to write prolifically even after his retirement, often producing a book a year.

Among his numerous honors were the European Amalfi Prize for Sociology in 1992, the Theodor W. Adorno Award in 1998 and the Prince of Asturias Award in 2010. The University of Leeds also created the Bauman Institute in his honor, dedicated to many of his concerns, including ethics, consumerism, globalization and modernity.



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Clare Hollingworth, Author of "The Greatest Scoop" Dies At 105

Clare Hollingworth, the reporter for the British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph*, who broke the news of the start of World War II, died in Hong Kong at the age of 105.

In August 1939, while driving alone on the road from Gleiwitz, then in Germany, to Katowice, Poland — a distance of less than 20 miles — she watched as the wind lifted a piece of the tarpaulin that had been erected on the German side to screen the valley below from view.

Through the opening, Hollingworth saw, she later wrote, "large numbers of troops, literally hundreds of tanks, armored cars and field guns" concealed in the valley.

She knew then that Germany was poised for a major military incursion. Hastening back across the border to the Polish side, she telephoned her editor with the news, a world exclusive.

Her Aug. 29, 1939, would become, as the British paper *The Guardian* wrote in 2015, "probably the greatest scoop of modern times."

On Sept. 1, Hitler's forces invaded Poland, marking the start of World War II.

For the next four decades, Ms. Hollingworth (who over the years contributed articles to *The Tele-*

graph, *The Guardian*, *The International Herald Tribune* and *The Wall Street Journal*) covered World War II from Eastern Europe, the Balkans and North Africa; the Greek and Algerian civil wars; hostilities between Arabs and Jews in the waning days of the British mandate in Palestine; and the Vietnam War, among other conflicts.

Przemysław Wałęsa, Son of former Polish president Lech Wałęsa

Przemysław Wałęsa, a son of former Polish president Lech Wałęsa was found dead in his apartment in Gdańsk, northern Poland.

Local media reported that the body of the 43-year-old man was found by his son, who called an ambulance.

A preliminary investigation indicated that the death was due to natural causes, and no foul play is suspected.

In a statement on social media, Przemysław's brother Jarosław confirmed the death, asking people to respect the family's privacy in this time of grief.

He was third-born of Lech Wałęsa and wife Danuta's eight children — four sons and four daughters.

Przemysław Wałęsa left behind two teenage sons of his own.

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PACC Cites Siwicki as "Citizen of The Year"



LUDLOW, Mass. — Wilbriham's Edward "Bob" Siwicki (above), currently a member of Dennis Polisky's Maestro's Men, was chosen as the Polish American Citizens Club's "Citizen of the Year."

The accomplished trumpet player was honored at the club's annual Installation Banquet, Jan. 28, 2017.

Over the course of his 53-year musical career, Siwicki has performed with a number of musical groups, including The Maestro's Men, Larry Chesky, Eddie Forman, and Chet Kurr's Class Act. In 1966, Siwicki started his own band called The New Englanders, playing trumpet and flugelhorn, and vocalizing. The band recorded its first and only album in 1967 titled, "Polkas." He has recorded 10 additional albums and CD's with other musical groups, including the latest CD with Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men titled "Decade II."

Siwicki is also a member of the Heritage "Pops" Orchestra and occasionally performs with the Polish American Carolers. He has also sung with the Immaculate Conception Church Choir.

— Karen Olszewski

Polka Roots Lead to Hospital Gift

Contributed/South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation
PENTICTON, B.C., Canada — Ed and Lucille Propp could probably thank the polka for their 31 years of marriage. It all started one evening in 1985. Although they both lived in the small town of Kamsack, Sask., they had never met until they coincidentally attended the same singles dance — about 50 miles away in Yorkton.

Lucille recalled trying to teach Ed how to dance the heel-and-toe polka. "He didn't quite get it," she said with a laugh. "But what got me was his smile."

Ed was a heavy equipment operator for the area's rural municipality, while Lucille worked for 20 years as the assistant to the administrator of Kamsack's small hospital.

Shortly after their marriage, they decided to retire to Penticton where other family members were already residing. This was the second marriage for both. Ed has two children and two-stepchildren plus four grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren, while Lucille has three children, four grandchildren and eight great-grandkids.

Now the Propps have made a \$30,000 donation to the South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation's campaign to provide \$20 million in medical equipment for the Penticton Regional Hospital



IPA Benefit to Honor Golonka, Midura, and Connecticut Twins



PHOTO: MAESTRO'S MEN NEWSLETTER

In this rare photograph, Polka Hall of Famers John Przasnyski (left), and Stan Przasnyski (center), better known as the Connecticut Twins, are show recording in New York City for Stella records. At the right is Stella Records owner and fellow Hall of Famer Bernie Witkowski.

LUDLOW, Mass. — The International Polka Association will host its 12th annual IPA benefit at the Ludlow PACC, 355 East St., in March 11-12, 2017.

Saturday will feature The Boys (7:00-11:00 p.m.), and Sunday will honor most recent Hall of Fame inductees Stas Golonka and Richie Midura in two special musical tributes.

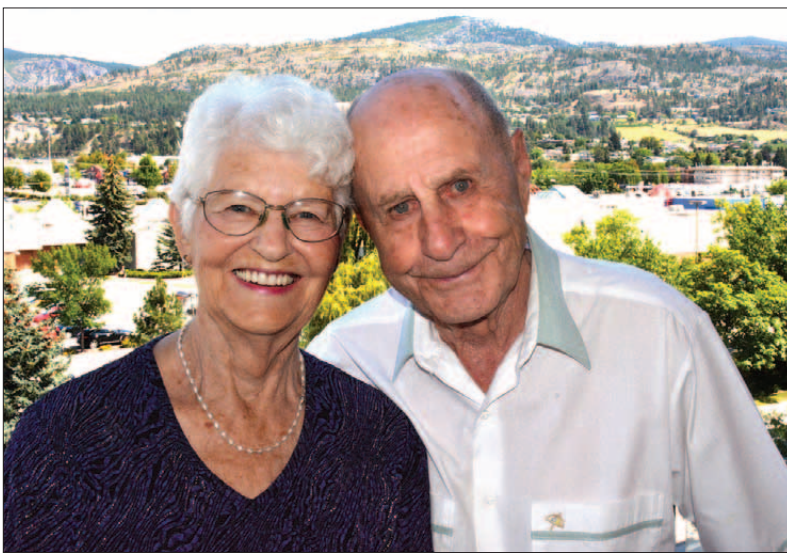
The Midura tribute will feature the music he recorded with the Connecticut Twins Orchestra, under the direction of Hall of Famers

Stas and Jas Przasnyski. Performing will be The Maestro's Men, Chicago Push, the Eddie Forman Orchestra, plus special guest musicians.

Saturday tickets are \$15, and Sunday's are \$20 each. There will be no ticket sales at the door. Advance tickets are available only while they last.

For tickets call Linda (908) 963-0890 or Ed (413) 567-1961. For tables of eight or more, call Carol (413) 549-6997.

— Karen Olszewski



Lucille and Ed Propp expansion.

"We use the hospital so much that we thought we should pay something back," he said. "We can't just keep taking and taking."

Lucille suffers from a blood disorder which requires her to undergo a blood transfusion every two weeks. "It takes four-and-a-half to five hours, but the staff are so caring," she said.

Ed suffered a heart attack several years ago and has undergone knee surgery at PRH. The couple have also been active long-time members of the Penticton Seniors Drop-In Centre Society.

Ed served for four years on the

Drop-In Centre board, including a year as vice president. He also helped the building committee fundraiser for their current South Main Street facility — a move from their previous home in the former Hansel & Gretel motel and restaurant at Skaha Lake Road and Green Avenue.

"We still make greeting cards for people who are ill or who passed away," Lucille added. "We've done that for many, many years."

Construction of the new patient care tower at PRH is now underway. It should be ready for patients by early 2019.

New Video and Website Spotlight Youth Movement

PITTSBURGH — A group of over 50 young musicians from the polka world participated in a "Youth Recording Workshop" at the 2016 Polka Fireworks weekend at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. This event created an opportunity for these youth to experience the process creating a studio recording and music video.

The Randy Koslosky-penned song, "As Long As I'm Livin'," tells of how some people question the future of pol-

kas, with these youths responding to that negativity, singing that: "As long as I'm livin', there'll be polkas playing...." John Zelasko recorded the vocalist and instrumentalists. He also mixed the recording and created the music video.

The song and music video are being released in conjunction with the launch of a new website: www.youthpolkas.com. This site is dedi-

cated to promoting and showcasing the talent of young polka musicians. The video can be seen at that site and the song can be downloaded for free. All are encouraged to share this song with others to offer a glimpse



at the future of polka music in action.

Those involved with both projects offered thanks to the people who helped make them happen, particularly the parents and families of the youths who participated.

Special thanks are also extended to the Blazonczyk family for their devotion to passing on polka music to the younger generation and for hosting the event, as well as others who made special contributions to this event, including Gene Swick, Frank Stetar, Kevin Adams, Bernie Koslosky, Ted Lange, Lisa Koslosky and the International Polka Association.

St. Valentine Polka Night at The Nite-Cappe

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Nite-Cappe, 1769 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, NY 14218, will hold its first polka night of 2017 — a St. Valentine Polka Night — on Saturday, February 18. The event at "the Cappe," 1769 Abbott Rd. (corner of Martin Rd.), will run from 7:30-10:30 p.m., and feature live polka and party music by Special Delivery.

The Nite-Cappe, owned by the Sabuda family, is well known for its outstanding dinner and lunch menus. It will feature a fare of Polish American favorites for the polka party.

For more information, call The Nite-Cappe at (716) 825-9488.

Sturr to Tape TV shows at Paramount Theatre

FLORIDA, N.Y. — "The Jimmy Sturr Show" will be recorded live at the Paramount Theatre in Middletown, N.Y., March 31-April 2.

Appearing with Sturr will be special guests and his 12-piece orchestra.

The Grammy winner was accompanied by local officials in making the announcement at the 1,100-seat Paramount Theatre.

Sturr's show airs weekly on the rural lifestyle network, RFD-TV, which can be seen on Direct TV and other carriers.

Tickets for the show (\$17.00 per day in advance or \$40.00 for a weekend pass) and can be purchased by sending a check to Jimmy Sturr Productions, Box #1, Florida, NY 10921; Middletownparamount.com; (845) 346-4195.

Kapuscinski Named Jozwiak Award Winner

The International Polka Association's Officers and Directors named Les Kapuscinski of Oakville, Ontario, Canada as the winner of the 2017 Joe Jozwiak Award.

The award is given to individuals who work to better polka music without seeking recognition or remuneration.

Over the years, Kapuscinski has taken thousands of photos at polka events — big and small — across North America. He puts effort into making every picture beautiful, "capturing the essence of what our this music and our culture is all about," said the IPA.

Chainsaw is Back on Polkajammer

SUGAR GROVE, Ill. — Jim "Chainsaw" Kucharski announced that after a two-and-a-half-year absence, he is back on the Polka Jammer Network.

His show, "Chainsaw's Polka Madhouse," airs live on the network Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., EST.

Kucharski also hosts a live show on WERG 90.5FM in Erie, Pa. on Sundays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. EST, which is simulcast on the Polka Jammer Network.

The Polka Jammer Network is located at www.polkajammer-network.org, and has recently launched a new mobile app for iPhone & Android.

To contact Kucharski, send email to his new address, chainsaw@polkamadhouse.com.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

A Polka Start to the New Year

As 2016 concluded, there was no lack of polka music to enjoy on New Year's Eve. The Millennium Hotel, which has been hosting an event for the past several years, had an impressive turnout once again. Those attending were delighted by the foot stomping beat of two honky

took advantage of January being National Polka Month by releasing their new CD, *Great Directions*.

The leader of New Direction, Ron Urbanczyk said, "The difference between a good band and a great band is one more practice session, one more verse, one more re-



Touch accordionist Mike Nowakowski playing concertina.



Special Delivery's Tom Goldyn and wife Sharon.

bands. Our own **Buffalo Concertina All Stars** and Cleveland's **Honky Express** provided the music as patrons bid farewell to 2016 in polka fashion. Eddie Biegaj was a special guest lending his robust vocal talents to these enthusiastic bands. With over 250 people in attendance, I can only imagine the amount of laughter and memories made at this year-end countdown.



Natalie Szymanski and Shannon Findlay.

Just a few miles down the road, at Potts Banquet Hall, polka fans celebrated with the music of **Phocus**. Guests were treated to delicious *hors d'oeuvres*, prime rib, sea bass, and all the trimmings before dancing the night away to the sounds of Phocus. Potts feels like a second home to many of us in Western New York, as they host so many events at their facility. Danny Potts and his staff show their appreciation for their guests at events like these, treating everyone like an extension of the Potts family. Those who attended raved about the food, atmosphere and music provided for the celebration.

Potts Banquet Hall didn't let the eager welcome of 2017 end there, either. On January 1st a hangover dance showcased the stylings of **Phocus** once again as the party continued. Even after playing late into the night, the band played with real passion. I welcomed this opportunity to celebrate the launching of 2017 with my Buffalo polka family.

NEW CD FOR ND. New Direction

cording and one more gig." When you listen to this CD, you'll agree that The New Direction Band plays songs that people like to listen to, sing to, dance to, and party to. Their third CD blends some traditional polka favorites with new arrangements, new lyrics, and new original tunes. You can visit the band's website at www.thenewdirectionband.com to find their upcoming schedule or to purchase a copy of the new CD. Congratulations to Ron and all of the guys in the band on this successful recording.

... **AND AT THE YUKON SLOVENIAN HALL.** If you just haven't gotten enough of Lenny's high energy style, you can head down the PA turnpike to Yukon, Pa. where the band will be playing from 3-7 p.m. at the Yukon Slovenian Hall. This club is another treasured venue reminiscent of old-time polka dances. This small hamlet is nestled in the hills of Pennsylvania just south of New Stanton. Members of the community have worked diligently to keep this nostalgic club viable to continue the gathering of friends on a regular basis. I have great memories of dances at this same hall from when I lived in Wheeling, W.V. It served as a winter home to the dances which were typically held at Fiedor's Grove in the summer. Judy



Pulaski Princess Emma Arent and Marzena Wisniewski.

LENNY AT KUZMAN'S. There is no band that encompasses the true definition of polka music more than **Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push**. Lenny's genuineness, poetic lyrics, authentic pronunciation and joy that exudes when he plays is exactly what the fans love about him. The musicians that join him on stage strengthen that spirit with their sheer talent and obvious love of the music.

If you weren't lucky enough to attend his first performance of 2017, you have another chance this month. The band will be appearing for a double header in the Penn-Ohio area. On Saturday, February 18th you can catch them at Kuzman's Lounge in Girard, Ohio. This dance venue is located about five miles Northwest of Youngstown and is easily accessible via US 422W. Not only is it a worthwhile trip to see the band but this venue is one of a kind. Walking into Kuzman's is like taking a step into a time capsule. The dance hall features a beautiful sunken wooden dance floor with seating surrounding it. The raised stage offers a spectacular view of the band from anywhere in the hall. Towards the back is a long, beautifully preserved bar featuring any spirits you could possibly imagine. The owners, Larry & Dorothy Maffit, remain devoted to sustaining polka music and are happy to accommodate all of their patrons.

A trip to Girard is sure to be a memorable evening for this Chicago Push appearance.

The live music picks up again at 3:00 p.m. with **Henny & the Versa J's**, **John Gora Band**, and **The Boys** alternating until 12:00 a.m. Join in Sunday for Catholic Mass at 10:00



Helen Winiarz, Charlene Krasuski, Barb Bakowski, and Diane Kurdziel.

Stringhill has continued organizing polka events here for the surrounding community. You will be welcomed with open arms by the polka attendees at this Sunday affair.

WHEELING POLKA FEST. Speaking of my hometown of Wheeling: if you have not made plans, now is the time to prepare to attend the 6th Annual Wheeling Polka Festival. The weekend festival is held at the stunning hilltop resort of Oglebay Park. This 1,700 acre retreat offers a variety of entertainment including golf, museums, shopping, trails, horseback riding, and magnificent gardens. Also, just a short drive away, you can indulge in shopping, a variety of restaurants, and even a casino in the city of Wheeling. Festivities will be held at Wilson Lodge which is located in the heart of the resort overlooking a beautiful golf course and Schenk Lake. Facilities at the lodge include a spa, casual and fine dining, wireless internet, an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, and more.

The kickoff will begin on Friday, March 25th at 8:00 with **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**. Saturday starts with a Rise 'n Shine party from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with my soon-to-be brother-in-law, DJ **Michael Biela** spinning your polka favorites. Michael and his dad Rich host their own polka radio show in the Ohio Valley called "Polka Showcase" from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on 1370AM WVLY. You can listen online by visiting <http://www.watchdognetwork.com>.

The live music picks up again at 3:00 p.m. with **Henny & the Versa J's**, **John Gora Band**, and **The Boys** alternating until 12:00 a.m. Join in Sunday for Catholic Mass at 10:00

a.m. before polkas begin playing from 12:00-6:00 p.m. with **Lenny Gomulka**, and **Stephanie**. The beautifully appointed ballroom is stunning, with a superb dance floor and large windows overlooking the lush hill scenery.

You can make reservations by calling (877) 934-0734 or (304)243-4060. This spring weekend is a sure way to kick the winter blues and get ready for the upcoming polka festival season.

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POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to: ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 4

- Mike Surratt. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater, Md. 5-9. (410) 798-6807

FEBRUARY 5

- Penna Villagers. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Generations. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30 (727) 934-0900
- Nu Soundz. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. Polish Am. Soc. Club. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

FEBRUARY 11

- Dennis Polisky. St. Joe's Polish Club. Colchester, Conn. 6:30-10:30. (860) 537-2550
- Eddie Forman. Elks. Englewood, Fla. 5-9. (914) 474-1404
- Mike Surratt. Liederkrantz. Lancaster, Pa. 7-11. (717) 898-8951

FEBRUARY 12

- Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview, Fla. 2-6. (352) 245-9378
- Sounds of the South. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5.
- Northern Sounds. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jersey Polka Richie. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- Jeannie Music. Pol. Am. Soc. Club. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

FEBRUARY 13

- Eddie Forman. Rec. Center. The Villages, Fla. 6-9. (352) 2592463

FEBRUARY 17

- Eddie Forman. Ellie's Diner. Delray Beach, Fla. 7-11. (561) 276-7716

FEBRUARY 18

- Eddie Forman. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 5-8. (727) 934-0900

- Special Delivery. Valentine's Dance. Nite-Cappe. Lackawanna. NY. 7:30-10:30. (716) 825-9488

FEBRUARY 19

- Lenny Gomulka. Slovenien Hall. Yukon, Pa. 3-7. (412) 817-1438
- Dennis Polisky. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- John Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Northern lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Generations. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-6:30. (727) 934-0900
- TBA. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PAS Club. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

FEBRUARY 25

- Mike Surratt. Elks. Fairfax, Virg. 7-11. (202) 310-4691

FEBRUARY 26

- Special Delivery. Paczki Day. Holy Mother of the Rosary. Lancaster, N.Y. 4:30-7:30. (716) 685-5766
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Melotones. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (396) 259-7059
- Nu Soundz. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) -934-0900
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908

Polka Music Loses Key Sidemen

The Chicago polka scene lost two of its truly iconic sidemen in 2016 with the passing of bassist/drummer **Joe Dudek** at age 67 in late September and reed man extraordinaire **Eddie Madura** at age 78 on Christmas Day.

JOE DUDEK. Born Nov 14, 1948, Joe Dudek was an accomplished drummer, providing the beat for Chicago's Bal Aires orchestra from the late '60s through the mid-'70s, resulting in a pair of LPs: "A Groovin' Polka Style" and "The Modern Sound of Polkas."

A childhood friend, Polka Hall of Fame musician and bandleader Lenny Gomulka remembers Dudek from their formative years. "Joey and I are from the same neighborhood in Chicago and we went to the same Polish Catholic grammar school, SS. Peter & Paul," he said. "Although Joe played both drums and bass, he first played drums in a neighborhood band called Gene Pasky's Cavaliers. Later, he taught at Bel-Aire Music Studios while playing with the Bal Aires. He was a talented player and a really good guy."

It was Dudek's behind the scenes work as an upright bass player for Bel-Aire Studios, however, which really put him on the polka map. Working alongside piano player Rich "Sudsy" Cerajewski, the duo provided rhythm support for almost everyone recording on the Bel-Aire label — including Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones — throughout the '70s and '80s. Their contributions in this role resulted in what ultimately became known as the "Bel-Aire Sound."

He is survived by his wife Cheryl, four children, and grandchildren.

EDDIE MADURA. Saying Eddie Madura wrote the book on honky clarinet would not be hyperbole. His immediately recognizable, almost Dixieland-like style separated him from others early on in his musical career, resulting in him playing with mainstays such as Eddie Zima, Li'l Wally (he can be heard on Wally's biggest hit "Puka Jasiu") and others. In the 1960s after leaving Wally's band, Madura teamed up with Don Ptak, Joe Kania, and Jerry Stanley to form The Casinos. Built around Madura's trademark clari-

net sound, the group created some of the genre's most inspired honky music, including tunes like "Polish Jam Session," "Tin Lizzy," "Eddie's Polka" and more.

After the Casinos, Madura lent his prolific talents as a studio sideman, playing on most of Wanda and Stephanie's LPs, on Marion Lush's "Beer, Beer, Beer" LP and later provided backing on reeds for most of Stephanie's solo work.

Gomulka also remembers Madura's work from an early part of his musical history.

"I first played alongside Eddie at the original McCormick Place with Lil Wally when I was about 13 years old, and then I played gigs with him backing Li'l Richard through the early 60s," he said. "Later, Eddie played on my brother Richie's first few honky 45s in the late '60s then helped us out on with some great work on Eddie Blazonczyk's "Honky Volumes 2 and 3. He was an amazing player and he will be sorely missed."

Eddie Madura is survived by his wife Corinne; seven children, 13 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Walter Procanyn, Band Leader and Recording Artist, Dead at 81

NEW YORK — Walter T. Procanyn, 81, musician, band leader, recording artist, and polka DJ, died November 14, 2016.

The son of the late Stephen and Helen Procanyn, Walter was born November 24, 1934 in Queens, N.Y. A Grammy-nominated musician, he recorded over 40 albums with his polka and big band.

Procanyn began playing accordion when he was still in high school, and later recorded his very first album, "Ukrainian Polka Time" for Crystal Tone Records in New York City. He then recorded several albums for Arc International Records in Toronto, Canada and, at the time of his passing, was recording exclusively for Eastwind International Artists in New York City.

A member of the U.S. Navy's

Special Service unit, he placed first in the All-Navy Talent Contest and became a member of the prestigious official U.S. Navy Band.

As his band's popularity grew, Walt took to the airwaves: for many years the *Walt Procanyn Bandstand Big Band and Polka Show* was heard in and around the Baltimore-Washington-Delaware area.

A believer in giving back to the community, Procanyn often donated his talents for charity — one of his favorites was performing at the Zembo's Shrine Temple in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for the children's burn unit.

He leaves behind three children — Walter, Donna and Tracie Procanyn — as well as grandchildren Sophia, Ashley, Felicia, Autumn, Alyssa and Andrew.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

MASSACHUSETTS

SPRINGFIELD — Promotion of the Pioneer Valley's Polish heritage will get a boost, now that Governor Charlie Baker signed the **Polish Heritage bill**.

The legislation will form a special commission to report on the research, preservation, and celebration of the region's Polish ties.

Based on legislation originally sponsored by Reps. Peter Kocot of Northampton and John Scibak of South Hadley, the resolve creates a 10-member commission to "promote public support and funding of Polish cultural preservation activities in western Massachusetts" and "compliment activities that acknowledge the contributions people of Polish heritage have made and continue to make to the Pioneer Valley and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The group will also "evaluate the public and private resources available to preserve and research Polish language, history, culture, genealogy, music and the immigrant experience."

The first Polish immigrants reached Chicopee in 1880, Northampton in 1886, and Ludlow in 1892, according to Springfield Technical Community College's "Our Plural History" website. Many of the region's early Polish residents worked in mills and factories, and as hired hands on local farms.

According to the resolve (H 4562), the commission will be comprised of three members of the House to be appointed by the Speaker, including two Polish American representatives; two senators, appointed by the Senate president; three officers of Pioneer Valley Polish heritage or genealogical groups, appointed by the governor; a member picked by the Polish Discovery

Center in Chicopee; and one recommended by the chair of UMass Amherst's Slavic Studies Department.

Rep. Kocot filed a similar bill last session that was never reported out of House Ways and Means.

— Sam Doran/SHNS

MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL. February 25, 2017. **Bal Karnawalowy**. The Saint Paul Hotel, 350 Market St. 6:00 p.m.-midnight.

This carnival ball honors a pre-Lenten celebration dating back several centuries in Poland. Highlighting the Bal is an award ceremony recognizing strong contributors to the work of PACIM and the Twin Cities Polish Communities. The formal event also includes a multi-course dinner, dancing to live music, and a silent auction.

Each year, PACIM honors an individual or organization who excels in promoting and supporting efforts to preserve Polish culture and heritage, thereby enriching society with the best of Polish traditions and ideals.

See www.pacim.org for details.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — PACWNY **Kulig Winter Festival**. Sun., Feb. 19, 2017. Chestnut Ridge Park, MacKinnon Lodge. Noon-5:00 p.m. Sleigh rides offered from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Live Polish folk music; Polish food and beverages; outdoor activities; face painting and crafts for children. \$25 adults (includes sleigh, food, hot beverage, entertainment); \$15 adults without sleigh (food, beverage, entertainment); children under age 10 free. Ticket information call (716) 864-6110.

BUFFALO — **20th Annual Pączki Day**, sponsored by the Polish Heritage Dancers. Sun., Feb. 26. Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathe-

dral, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster, N.Y. 1:00-7:00. Performances by the Polish Heritage Dancers, live polka and dance music by Special Delivery, homemade Polish food, theme basket raffles, crowning of Pączki king, queen, prince, and princess, and paczki. \$8.00 advance. \$10.00 after Feb. 24. This is the PHD's most important fund raiser of the year. For tickets and information, call Michelle at (716) 983-5084 or Debbie at 681-3526, or visit www.phdofwny.com.

NEW YORK — The Honorable **Slawomir Platta** was sashed as grand marshal of the 2017 **Pulaski Parade**. The ceremony was held Jan. 19, 2017 at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland.

According to the General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee President Richard D. Zawisny, the number of people voting for this year's grand marshal was one of the largest in recent history.

Platta said he hopes to expand the event's outreach. In addition to unifying Polonia, he sees it as a way to demonstrate Poland's influence in the United States and across the globe. The New York attorney said he plans to add events around the annual show, including a concert with popular performers in Central Park following the parade.

This year's parade will be held Sun., Oct. 1. The day's activities start with a Parade Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral, and the Parade Breakfast at 10:30 a.m. at the 3 West Club. The parade will march up 5th Avenue (from 39th to 56th St.) starting at 12:30 p.m. A precursor to the parade is the annual banquet, this year being held Sept. 23 at the Marriott Marquis.

To learn more, visit www.pulaskiparade.org or www.facebook.com/groups/PulaskiDayParade; email: info@pulaskiparade.org.

Poremski Awarded the Kosciuszko Medal



RICHARD P. POREMSKI (left), chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, is presented with the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Medal by Prof. Dr. Janusz Romanski, chairman of Polonia Technica, the Association of Polish American Engineers in the United States of America.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At the Polish Independence Day celebration held November 16, 2016 at the residence of the ambassador — hosted by Ambassador Piotr Wilczek — an adjunct awards ceremony took place. There, Richard P. Poremski, chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation in Baltimore — and Polish American Journal staff member — was awarded the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Medal by Professor Dr. Janusz Romanski, chairman of Polonia Technica, The Association of Polish American Engineers in the U.S., headquartered in New York City.

The medal, featuring a relief bust of Kosciuszko, was awarded to Poremski "In recognition of his significant contribution to the prestige of Polish American community and over the years patriotic promotion of the martyr history of Poland in the United States."



Poremski expressed his thanks for the honor. He also accepted it on behalf of the Katyn Memorial Foundation, and for its Memorial, which stands in Baltimore's Harbor East.

Romanski also presented the Kosciuszko Medal to another PAJ staffer, Barbara Szykowski, president of the Polish American Museum in Long Island. (See page 3).

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