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HAMTRAMCK'S MAJEWSKI  
RISES ABOVE THE FRAY  
PAGE 2

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

PAC TAKES STANCE AGAINST JUST ACT • CHURCH ATTENDANCE DROPS SLIGHTLY • ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR EXAMINED  
PRICELESS FOLK COSTUMES STOLEN • FINE DINING, À LA POLONAISE • MARCH 11 CONCERT TO HONOR CHOPIN  
STOCH WINS SILVER AT SKI FLYING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS • USING THE INTERNET FOR GENEALOGY RESEARCH

## Newsmark

**PENCE, MORAWIECKI DISCUSS CENTENNIAL, TRADE, AND NATO.** U.S. Vice President Mike Pence spoke by phone, Jan. 12, with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. The vice president congratulated Morawiecki on his appointment as prime minister and the people of Poland on the 2018 centennial of Poland's reassertion of its independence. The leaders expressed their desire to increase bilateral trade and investment on the basis of market principles and shared democratic values including the rule of law. The vice president thanked Poland for its leadership on burden-sharing at NATO and its support for the U.S. troop presence in Poland, and the leaders looked forward to working together to combat threats to international peace and security during Poland's term on the UN Security Council.

**VOX POPULI.** Poland's ruling Law & Justice, and Hungary's Fidesz parties are both enjoying high ratings in national opinion polls conducted in each country.

Mateusz Morawiecki (Poland) and Victor Orban (Hungary) have mutually strong economic policies, tough anti-migrant policies and both stand strong against recent decrees by other EU member countries. Both Hungary and Poland stand firm against and adamantly reject charges that their policies undermine both the rule of law and democracy. During a joint news conference after their talks in Budapest, Orban and Morawiecki voiced their mutual agreement on what they view as the EU's infringement on sovereign decisions of individual states.

Prime Minister Morawiecki was recently appointed to his current position. Orban is widely expected to win another four years in Hungary's upcoming April election.

**FINDING: EXPLOSION DESTROYED WING OF ILL-FATED PLANE.** A commission investigating the fatal crash of the Polish president's plane in 2010 said the jet's left wing was destroyed as a result of an explosion on board. The explosion had "several sources" on the plane, which crashed near the western Russian city of Smolensk on April 10, 2010, killing Polish President Lech Kaczyński and 95 others.

"These conclusions were adopted by the members [of the commission] and constitute one of the key conclusions of [its] technical report," the commission said.

In April of last year, the commission said that the presidential plane was probably destroyed by a mid-air explosion, and that Russian air traffic controllers deliberately misled Polish pilots about their location as they neared the runway.

A Russian report placed all the blame on the Poles.

**WILSON COMMEMORATED.** The American embassy in Warsaw presented a plaque honoring former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and his contribution to Poland's independence.

The plaque, which U.S. Ambassador Paul Jones presented to the city of Warsaw, was designed to commemorate Wilson for his role in championing the independence of Poland, regained in 1918 after more than 120 years of foreign rule.

The presentation was made January 8, 100 years since President Wilson's famous "Fourteen Points" address to the U.S. Congress, in which he called for Poland's independence.

Point 13 of President Wilson's Fourteen Points Declaration spoke of the need to establish an independent Polish state, "which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish population, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant."

The United States was the first country to recognize Poland's independence after World War I. In 1919, President Wilson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and in 1922 Poland conferred upon him its highest state distinction, the Order of the White Eagle.

## The Right Direction



Grace Zofia Alberti (right), 16,, speaks to cast members during her directorial debut. The Saratoga Springs, N.Y. high school junior will present a play this summer based on the young women of the Warsaw Uprising.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Grace Zofia Alberti, 16, is a junior at Saratoga Springs High School, but that hasn't stopped her from starting her own theatre company.

Alberti formed Ad Astra Theatre Troupe, Ltd. in 2017 in order to give area teens an opportunity to take leadership in direction, play-writing, acting, set and costume design and stage management. Last May, Ad Astra successfully staged Jeremy Bloom's *Peter/Wendy* at the Saratoga Springs High School Teaching Auditorium. *Peter/Wendy* was Alberti's directorial debut.

After searching for the right 2018 project, Alberti and troupe member, Catie LeCours, a senior at Niskayuna High School, teamed up with SUNY Adirondack professor, Lâle Davidson, to create

an original play based upon the young women who fought in the Warsaw Uprising during World War II. Auditions for the play will be held on February 3, 2018 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Bloom Fitness Boutique, 153 Regent St., Saratoga Springs. There are 13 roles for teen girls and boys, and there will be a small ensemble. To register for the auditions, see the Ad Astra Theatre Troupe web site, www.adastratroupe.org or email adastratroupe@gmail.com.

Alberti, who is of Polish and Italian heritage, is fascinated by Polish history. She has been a volunteer and performer at the Latham, N.Y. PolishFest for many years and it was there that she met the historians who are reviewing and advis-

See "Alberti ...," page 2

## "Constructive" Talks Held Between Poland and EU

BRUSSELS — Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker held what officials hailed as a "constructive" meeting amid concerns over the rule of law in Poland.

During their meeting in Brussels, Morawiecki said he explained to Juncker "very clearly" Poland's justice system reforms aimed for "more transparency, more independence, more objectivity and more cost efficiency."

The European Commission in December took the unprecedented step of triggering Article 7 of the EU Treaty against Poland, stepping up pressure on Warsaw over controversial changes to the judicial system by the country's ruling conservatives.

The move means that the EU's executive wants the bloc's member states to declare that the rule of law in Poland is under threat.

Poland has reformed laws governing district courts, the Supreme Court and the influential National Council of the Judiciary, a body that nominates

## Pączki Perfect!

by Staś Kmieć

Even though *pączki* can be translated as "doughnuts," don't be fooled!

They are simply not the same.

*Pączki* have a much richer flavor because the yeasty dough is egg-rich to produce a texture that won't collapse when you bite into it. Their shape is more like a sphere and is bigger and plumper. Any claim to them being "just a jelly doughnut," probably means the eater hasn't had the real thing.

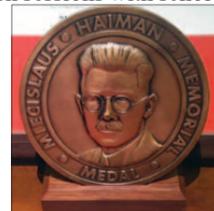
Walking through Greenpoint — Brooklyn, still predominantly a Polish enclave, I am struck by the number of bakeries still in operation. New York City's "Little Poland" is rapidly gentrifying, but its rich culture and history has yet to be completely expunged.

It's February 28, 2017 — "Fat Tuesday" — or as many Polish-Americans

## PAHA Presents its 2017 Awards at 75th Annual Meeting

LOS ANGELES — During its 75th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. (January 4-7, 2018), the Polish American Historical Association announced the winners of its Annual Awards. The PAHA Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the 132nd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, also featured eleven sessions with scholarly presentations about diverse aspects of Polish American history and culture.

After a welcome by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of



Poland, Prof. Piotr Wilczek, the awards were presented by PAHA president, Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz of the University of Gdańsk, assisted by Dr. Pien Versteegh, PAHA executive director.

The **Oskar Halecki Prize** recognizes an important book or monograph on the Polish experience in the United States. Eligibility is limited to works of historical and/or cultural interest, including those in the social sciences or humanities, published in the two years prior to the award. The 2018 Halecki Prize has been presented to **Dr. Joanna Wojdon** for her book *White and Red Umbrella: The Polish American Congress in the Cold War Era 1944-1988* (Helena

See "PAHA Presents ...," page 3

joyfully proclaim "Pączki Day!" I am on a mission to gather up a representation of these delicious pastries for a taste test. It is not rare that wherever I may be in my travels, if there is a *pączek* to be found, I'll try it. But today, I'm stocking up not only to expand my waistline in anticipation of the 40-day fast period of *Post* (Lent), but for research.

The area has many fine establishments for such as quest. **Syrena Bakery** is an Old-World dessert and bread haven with a sizable storefront area situated within an immense "factory" kitchen building — where behind the curtain, the magic occurs. It's like time travel

into the past to experience the baking of my beloved *Babcia*. The authentic **Old Poland Bakery** — a very small shop, has a large assortment of excellent breads, *babka* and pastries. **Rzeszowska**

See "Pączki Perfect," page 4

See "Poland, EU ..." page 6

## Viewpoints

**(Not) Politics as Usual**

What made Karen Majewski's swearing-in speech so memorable

by Michael Jackman

2017 was something of a rough year in Hamtramck, politically speaking. In 2016, the council became majority-Muslim, and international news media descended on the city in search of the sort of world-collide conflict they no doubt hoped to find. Instead, what they found was a city with many different minorities, all prepared to work together to solve common problems.

If only they'd stuck around for a year, they'd have found the conflict they came looking for. A slight majority of members, consisting of Almasari, Hassan, Miah, and Musa, began flexing their political muscles a bit, as in May, when they demonstrated they were prepared to let City Manager Katrina Powell's contract expire and initiate a search for a new city manager. In spring and summer, meetings ended with screaming, swearing, and finger-pointing, as well as allegations that the state's Open Meetings Act had been violated.

What a difference an election makes. With Hassan losing the mayoral election to Majewski and Fadel Al-Marsoumi taking his seat on council, it put a stop — for the time being — to the sort of high jinks the majority had seemed prone to.

But in giving her swearing-in speech, Mayor Karen Majewski did not gloat, and again urged all Hamtramck office-holders to work for their people, and gave a hearty cheer to that Hamtramck spirit of wanting to work together (and, presumably, of being wary of those appearing to work solely for themselves).

Majewski said, "We've come a long way together — struggled and hoped together in bad times and good — and that shared path bonds us to each other, no matter who we are, where our families come from, what language we speak, who we love, or how or even whether we worship. We are family. We are neighbors. We are Hamtramckans."

The mayor later said, "If you're like me, you have moments when this place frustrates you, when it annoys you, when it maddens you. But I know that, like me, you also have moments when something you witness here simply takes your breath



**HAMTRAMCK MAYOR KAREN MAJEWSKI** took the high road after a year of vicious politics in the once-predominantly Polish Detroit township.

away. More often than not it's a simple thing — an act of neighborliness, a moment of intercultural understanding, an odd anachronism, a cool encounter on the street. That is when you smile to yourself and think, 'This is my city. This is my city.' It's pure Hamtramck, and there is no place like it."

As a longtime resident, I know what Majewski is talking about. It's

in unlikely city scenes where people wear 10-gallon hats or leather jackets next to those wearing thawbs, saris, and kufis. It's in the way the Yemeni family that runs the donut shop still serves Romanian bureks alongside danishes and longjohns. Or, on a weekend evening, hearing the sounds of birds, sirens, and the call to prayer mixing with the chants of soccer fans down at Keyworth stadium. It's so multicultural that it's almost a parody of itself sometimes.

Fittingly, Majewski's speech also began to sound almost over-the-top as it concluded, with the mayor giving thanks to the many ethnic communities that embrace Hamtramck.

"Thank you for coming," she said, adding, "Dziękuję. Shukran. Faleminderit. Dhonnobad. Hvala. Djakuju."

That's "thanks," of course — in English, Polish, Arabic, Albanian, Bengali, Bosnian, and Ukrainian.

Kind of makes you wish more politicians in this country showed such respect.

Michael Jackman ([mjackman@metrotimes.com](mailto:mjackman@metrotimes.com)) is an award-winning editorial columnist for the Detroit Metro Times.

**PAC Takes Stance Against JUST Act**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a letter to House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce, Frank Spula, president of the Polish American Congress (PAC), called for removal of Poland in the list of countries named in the JUST Act of 2017.

The legislation requires "reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues, and for other purposes."

This would require the United States Government to observe and monitor compliance by Poland and other countries that participated in the Prague Holocaust Era Conference's Terezin Declaration (2009).

Poland is the principal target of the JUST Act of 2017, because the largest portion of private property formerly owned by Jews (which amounts to 20% of the total of spoiled and nationalized private

property) — and now claimed by Jewish individuals and organizations — is located in today's Poland. This private property on conquered Polish territory (called World War II era private property), was first spoiled by Nazi Germany and then nationalized by the communists.

"Compensation payments to redress these crimes against private property should be sent to Berlin and Moscow, not Warsaw," said

John Czop, the PAC's Director of Policy Planning.

The full title of this resolution is: "Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act of 2017." This resolution, the JUST Act of 2017 has two components: Senate Resolution 447 (S. 447), and House of Representatives Resolution 1226 (H.R. 1226). The United States Senate passed S. 447, unopposed, Dec. 12, 2017. H.R. 1226 is currently under consideration by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House.

"Poland already satisfied, by acceding to a 1960 bilateral treaty, all claims for private property in Poland owned by United States citizens before September 1, 1939," said Spula. "Today, the United States Congress and the Office of Holocaust Issues in the Department of State is pressuring Poland to pay lump-sum compensation on behalf of transnational Jewish organizations like the World Jewish Congress, and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The World Jewish Congress recently opened an office in Warsaw. This pressure on Poland is unwarranted."

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Because the holiday falls the on first Sunday in April this year, we urge groups and individuals sponsoring Easter Sunday and Dyngus Day (Easter Monday) events to advertise these in the **March** edition of the paper. Deadline for that edition is February 15. All other greeting and well-wishing adds will appear in the April Easter edition.

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

**Alberti**

continued from cover

ing the writing team. Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, author of *Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945*, and Alina Nowobliska, a Poland-based history blogger are working with the writers to ensure historical accuracy of the play.

Other students (Tess Davidson-Brown, Saratoga Springs High School, and Kathleen Rembish, Waldorf School Junior) are involved in the show's design, as are teen musicians and choreographers, who will bring the production to life. Ad Astra Theatre Troupe Board member, Emma Willard Junior, Georgia Berry, will be part of the music planning. Alberti will be directing the production.

The play will be performed in mid-May, 2018 in Saratoga Springs, and scenes from the play will be performed at PolishFest in Latham, June 1-3, 2018.

## Almanac

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## February Luty

- 1 1733. Death of **August II the Strong**.
- 2 **CANDLEMAS**  
*Gdy w Gromnicę z dachów ciecze, zima jeszcze się przewlecze.*  
*Melting roofs on Candlemas, Winter's time has yet to pass.*
- 3 1899. Death of painter **Juliusz Kossak** (b. 1824).
- 4 1746. Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer **Thaddeus Kosciuszko**.
- 6 **ST. DOROTHY**
- 7 1810. Birth of **Marcin Odlanicki Poczobutt**, Polish-Lithuanian Jesuit astronomer and mathematician. He was professor of Vilnius University for over 50 years, serving as its rector form 1780 to 1799. The Poczobutt crater on the Moon is named after him.
- 8 **TŁUSTY CZWARTEK** (Fat Thursday) festivities mark the end of celebrations before Lent.
- 9 1940. Birth of **Bohdan Paczynski** (d. 2007), Polish-born American astrophysicist. In 1999, he became the first astronomer to receive all three major awards of the Royal Astronomical Society, by winning the Gold Medal, having won the Eddington Medal in 1987 and the George Darwin Lectureship in 1995.
- 10 1925. Poland make an accord with the Vatican and the **Archdiocese of Vilnius** was revived as one of five Polish dioceses.
- 11 1945. **Yalta Conference**. Soviets receive Poland's Eastern lands.
- 12 1867. Death of **George Sokolowski**, first Polish American graduate of West Point Academy and Civil War veteran.
- 13 **PAŃCZKI DAY** (U.S.)
- 14 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- 15 **ST. VALENTINE**
- 15 1903. Death of **Fr. Jozef Dabrowski**, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).
- 16 1704. **Warsaw Confederation** formed.
- 17 1386. Marriage of **Polish Queen Jadwiga d'Anjou** to **Wladyslaw Jagiello** of Lithuania.
- 18 1914. Birth of **Juliusz Kuczynski**, better known by his stage name, Pee Wee King. ("Tennessee Waltz").
- 19 **PRESIDENT'S DAY** (U.S.)  
1473. Birth of **Mikolaj Kopernik**, Polish astronomer known by his Latin name Nicholas Copernicus, in the city of Torun, Poland. Copernicus is the Father of Modern Astronomy, known as the man who "moved the earth and stopped the sun."
- 20 1941. Nazis order that **Polish Jews** are barred from using public transportation.  
1530. **Zygmunt II August** crowned King of Poland.
- 21 1820. Birth of **Apollo Nalecz-Korzeniowski**, dramatist, poet and father of Joseph Conrad.
- 22 1810. Recorded birth of **Fryderyk Chopin**, Polish composer, pianist, in Zelazouwa Wola, Poland (d. 1849).
- 23 1884. Birth of biochemist **Casimir Funk**, father of the vitamin. (d. 1967)
- 25 1926. Poland, an original member of the **League of Nations**, demands a permanent seat on the League Council. It was given a semi-permanent seat.
- 26 1832. Polish constitution abolished by **Czar Nicholas I**.
- 28 1750. Birth of **Ignacy Potocki**, Polish minister and nobleman.

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## PAHA Presents its 2017 Awards at 75th Annual Meeting

continued from cover

History Press).

The **Micislaus Haiman Award** is “offered annually to an American scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans.” The Award commemorates a historian, writer, journalist, translator and Polonia activist, Mieczyslaw Haiman (1888-1949), who was the first director of the Polish Museum of America, and the first historian of American Polonia. The 2017 honoree was **Dr. Joanna Wojdon**, associate professor, the Institute of History, University of Wrocław. The history of Polish Americans after World War II is one of her major research interests, alongside the history of education under communism. Her research in the Polish American archives was made possible thanks to a Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship (2003) and a Fulbright Senior



**Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka** (left), recipient of the James S. Pula Distinguished Service Award, and PAHA president, **Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz**.

Award (2014).

The **James S. Pula Distinguished Service Award**, given occasionally to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization, was presented to **Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka**. This award was renamed in 2017 to honor Prof. James S. Pula, a long-time editor of the *Polish American Studies*, PAHA’s past president, current treasurer, and awards recipient. Professor of English at Cazenovia College in New York state, Dr. Kozaczka is a long-time PAHA board member, PAHA president in 2015-2016 and a faculty member at Cazenovia College since 1984. She played a leadership role in securing trademarks for PAHA’s logo and name, organizing PAHA conferences, and representing the organization at international events.

The **Swastek Prize** is awarded annually for the best article published in a given volume of *Polish American Studies*, the journal of the Polish American Historical Association. This award, established in 1981, is named in honor of Rev. Joseph V. Swastek (1913-1977), the editor of *Polish American Studies* for many years, and a past president of PAHA. The editorial board of *Polish American Studies* recommended that the Swastek Prize be presented to **Dr. Marta Cieślak** for her article “Crossing the Boundaries of Modernity: The Post-Abolition Journey of Polish Peasants to the United States,” partly based on research for her doctoral dissertation of 2014.

The **Amicus Poloniae Award** recognizes significant contributions enhancing knowledge of Polish and Polish American heritage by individuals not belonging to the Polish American community. The 2017 recipient, **Therese Clarke** of Buffalo, N.Y. is a founding member of Po-most International, a local organization sending volunteers annually to Rzeszów, Poland, Buffalo’s Sister

City. Therese went to Rzeszów 16 times as leader of the program.

The **Skalny Civic Achievement Awards** honor individuals or groups who advance PAHA’s goals of promoting research and awareness of the Polish American experience and/or have made significant contributions to Polish or Polish American community and culture. The 2017 Skalny Awards honor **Jerald Rachfal** and **Robert Synakowski**. Jerald “Jerry” Rachfal has been a recognized leader of the Rochester, N.Y. Polonia. He has been associated with the Polish Historical Society of Rochester, N.Y. and currently serves as its board member, taking an active role in promoting Polish history and culture. As a close associate of Dr. Frederic Skalny, he has also been associated with the Skalny Foundation and Charitable trust, as well as other charitable causes.

Skalny Award recipient Robert Synakowski has dedicated his life to promoting Polish American culture and serving Polish American communities in New York State and nationwide. As the president



The **Amicus Poloniae Award** was given to **Therese Clarke** of Buffalo, N.Y. (left). **Sarah “Moxy” Moczygemba** (right) was presented with the Graduate Student Travel Grant.

of The Polish Home in Syracuse, NY he works tirelessly to both secure the physical well-being of this historic home and to make it into a welcoming educational space for Polish Americans and their friends. Under his directorship, the Polish Home became a new location for the Polish Heritage Society which he also leads as its president. Mr. Synakowski also serves as a PAHA board member and the first vice president of American Council for Polish Culture.

The 2017 **Creative Arts Prize** was bestowed on **Dr. Czesław Karkowski**, a philosopher, journalist, novelist and an academic, author of novels, memoirs, collections of essays, and creative nonfiction. Editor of New York’s Polish language newspaper, *Nowy Dziennik*, Karkowski wrote several books in Polish: a contemporary interpretations of *The Iliad by Homer*, a historical novel entitled *Drugi w Sztuce*, novels of immigrant experience *Kamienka Drabina Dziennik Jednego Roku* and *Na Emigracji*. Using his own emigrant/immigrant experiences, Karkowski provides a sensitive commentary on immigrant identity and the immigrant connection to the home country.

The **Graduate Student Travel Grant** was presented to **Sarah “Moxy” Moczygemba**, a Religious Studies doctoral student at the University of Florida. Her dissertation will focus on ethnic identity, historical memory, and Catholicism in the Silesian Polish Texan community. Ms. Moczygemba presented her research on the contemporary Polish American Catholic community in South Texas associated with the Panna Maria settlement.

Dr. Iwona Drag Korga, presi-

dent and executive director of the Piłsudski Institute in New York, served as the chair of the Awards Committee for 2017. The Awards Reception was held on January 6, 2018, at the residence of the Ambassador of Poland, Prof. Piotr Wilczek and also included a presentation by Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, “Poland 1918-2018: Remembering Ignacy Jan Paderewski.” Trochimczyk commemorated the role of pianist-composer-statesman in restoring Poland’s independence in 1918 by reading laudatory poems by notable American writers, accompanied with recordings of Polish music performed by Paderewski himself (piano rolls and film recordings).

The Program of PAHA’s 75th Annual Meeting included eleven sessions on diverse aspects of Polonia’s culture, presented from historical, sociological, anthropological, and literary perspectives. The meeting started with a roundtable on “Teaching Polish and Polish American History” on Thursday, January 4, 2018, and ended on Sunday, January 7, 2018, with a session on new books on political activism of Poles. In between, sessions focused on teaching, researching, and promoting Polish American history and culture; discussed issues in immigration history, identity and gender studies. Participants learned about how Americans saw Poland and represented their views in novels and on stamps; discovered the unique artistic activities of Władysław Benda, art group Sztuka, Henryk Mikołaj Górecki and Ignacy Jan Paderewski; and found out about the role of Poles in the American Civil war, the daily lives and memoirs of Polonia members, female friendships portrayed in writing, and much more. See the attached full program for further details.

The Polish American Historical Association is a non-profit, tax-exempt, interdisciplinary organization devoted to the study of Polish American history and culture as part



Ambassador of the Republic of Poland **Prof. Piotr Wilczek**, welcoming guests to PAHA’s 75th Annual Meeting.

of the larger Polish diaspora. Founded in 1942 as part of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, PAHA became an autonomous scholarly society in 1948 and is an affiliate of the American Historical Association. PAHA publishes a newsletter and a semiannual scholarly peer-reviewed journal, *Polish American Studies* (University of Illinois Press, ISSN 0032-2806; eISSN 2330-0833; with past issues on JSTOR). PAHA has over 600 international members, including both individuals and institutions. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the fields of Polish American history and culture, and immigration studies. You may join PAHA and subscribe to PAS via the website of the University of Illinois Press: <http://uillinois.edu/journals/pas/subscription.html>.

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## Pączki Perfect! Additional yeast, give treats a higher-than-typical rise, and lends a sweet, lightly fermented flavor

continued from cover

**Bakery** is a no-frills, old-fashioned institution – known for its traditional poppy seed *makowiec*. A huge array of decadent cakes can be found at the immaculate **Jasłowiczanka Bakery**. I continue wandering through the neighborhood, and at each location, I purchase two *pączki*.

There is quite a difference between Polish and American *pączki*. As similar to many other things made in America, bigger is better, and that's no different with American made *pączki*. In Poland, these pastries are generally smaller than ours, with only a little bit of filling inside them.

**THE FILLING.** For my taste test, I chose what I consider the quintessential filling – *konfitura z płatków róży* (rose petal jam); to me the true essence of *pączki*. This traditional jam can be bought quite easily in Poland and in some better stock Polish shops in other countries. A pestle and mortar is used to grind the flower petals with sugar until the grains disintegrate. Sealed in a sterilized jar, it is cooked for 2 hours in the same water the jar was sterilized in. The key is a fragrant, flavorful jam, not a perfume-gluey mix. I've had both.

Wild rose hip jam mixed with finely chopped or ground almonds is sometimes used, but is entirely different, and does not taste like roses. Another popular filling is *powidła śliwkowe* (prune/plum jam), which is often mixed with a bit of rose petal jam or scented with rose water – aroma upon aroma, yet surprisingly subtle.

Sometimes, a cheese filling is used, and no jam is also traditional. The right amount of jam in the middle will

make you “feel” the doughnut clearly, but will not flow out when taking a bite. Some home bakers fill a few *pączki* with almond paste instead of jam and encounter – ing such a filling is said to bring good luck.

**THE DOUGH.** *Pączki* were favored for using up the last of the *verboten* foods of Lent. As a result, they tend to be heavier on the eggs than most doughnut recipes, using plenty of yolks, which give the doughnuts a brioche-like quality. The addition of plenty of yeast, give *pączki* a higher-than-typical rise, and lends a sweet, lightly fermented flavor to the dough.

According to confectioners, the ideal *pączek* should have over 400 calories, weigh from 2 to 2 ½ ounces, and fit in your hand. They should be made from yeast dough enriched by egg, fried in lard/oil, slightly flattened and characterized by a light strip around the middle – which indicates that it was fried in a fresh fat. The orb-shaped pastries are airy and flavorful – fluffy and at the same time a bit sunken. Slightly crisp on the outside, yet soft and yielding on the inside.

A small amount of grain alcohol (traditionally, *Spiritus*) is added to dough before cooking. As the alcohol evaporates, it prevents excessive absorption of oil deep into the dough during frying, so the pastry is not greasy – this adds to the flavor and texture. This rectified spirit is 95% alcohol; however, if this is not something you have at hand, use a clear vodka or rum instead.

Maria Ślezańska, the famed author of Polish cookbooks at the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th, recommends in her recipe for “perfect doughnuts” to sprinkle them, just after frying, with sugar mixed with grated lemon peel.

Some *pączki* are dusted with powdered sugar; others are covered with icing. A fondant glaze sprinkled with bits of dried orange zest – hails from the café society period before World War II, and make them extra special. Some make them as puffy dough balls without filling and roll them in granulated sugar. For less of a calorie load, try baked *pączki*.

**A BIT OF HISTORY.** The history of doughnuts goes back to Ancient Rome, when they were greasy and not sweet at all. “*Thusty Czwartek*” (Fat Thursday) is derived from paganism. That day, the departure of winter and the arrival of spring were celebrated, and the feast was based on eating greasy foods, especially meats and drinking wine. The first doughnuts were prepared from bread dough, stuffed with *boczek* (bacon) or meat, and were very hard. In the poorer households, they were not deep fried, because there was not enough lard. The puffs were baked in a bread oven or fried on a baking sheet. To preserve the tradition of eating greasy, the doughnuts were sprinkled with pork crackling.

As in other Catholic countries that celebrate the last day before the fasting season of Lent begins, Poland has its own version of the French *Mardi Gras* (Fat Tuesday). With Lent forbidding sweets and treats, Fat Thursday is a similar celebration of gluttonous indulgence. Making *pączki* was an effort to empty the pantries of excess ingredients such as lard, sugar, and eggs before the fasting of Lent began.

The last Thursday before Ash Wednesday and the great fast initiated *Zapusty*, known as a time of play, dancing, merriment, fun and sumptuous food. The abundance was to provoke fertility and prosperity for the whole year.

It was Polish King August III (1696-1763) who revolutionized these pastries from savory to sweet, thanks to his indulgent spirit, and the French cooks who worked in his castle. The dough was improved – becoming lighter, spongier, and more resilient.

In the past when preparing doughnuts, a small walnut or almond was hidden inside (hence the evolution of its name in English). It was believed that whoever would find the nut in their *pączek* would have prosperity and happiness in life.

According to proverbs and superstition, eating a *pączek* on a Shrove Thursday will ensure prosperity and happiness for the whole year. If you don't eat at least one, “you will not happen until the end of the year.”

**THE WORD.** “*Pączki*” (pronounced POHNCH-kee) is the plural form. There is no need to add an English “s” to further pluralize it. “*Pączek*” (POHN-chehk) refers to just one lonely confection, and is a diminutive of *pał* (plant bud). The word derives from “*pęcznić*” (that which swells).

In *English usage*, “*pączki*” tends to serve as both the singular and



The “Perfect *Pączki* baker,” Spyros Peter Sifakos of Peter Pan Donut and Bakery & Pastry Shop in Greenpoint-Brooklyn. In addition to doughnuts and exclusive “one day only” *pączki*, he makes Strudel and Danish.

plural term. Whereas sometimes the Polish spelling with the Polish letter “ą” (with the hook on the bottom) is retained in English language, it is many times anglicized to “paczki” which translates to little packages, not doughnuts.

**THE IMPOSTERS.** Boxes of *paczki*, not *pączki* can often be found at your local supermarket. Beware! – they are not only full of preservatives – sitting on the grocery shelf since after New Year's Day, but are counterfeits preying upon the nostalgia of Polish-Americans with American jelly doughnuts in disguise.

Dozens of hours of preparation and work from the pale dawn, into the air intoxicating smell of fat and flour and great frying go into making *pączki*, they are not easily mass produced.

People will come indiscriminately to buy *pączki* regardless. Even Polish bakeries can vary on many counts. Even the best recipe or the master of confectionery will not always create a unique product.

### The *Pączki* Capital of America

by Robert Strybel

My hometown of Hamtramck, Michigan is an enclave-suburb surrounded by the City of Detroit. It became a Polish boom town after the Dodge Brothers built their auto plant there in 1914, attracting successive generations of job-seeking Polish immigrants. PolAms still account for a significant share of the population, but now share their two-square-mile town with newcomers mainly from the Balkans, Middle East, and Asian subcontinent.

Like PolAm communities everywhere, Hamtramck has celebrated the *pączek*. Apparently under French *Mardi Gras* (Fat Tuesday) influence, Shrove Tuesday became known as *Pączki Day*. In Poland, it is the preceding Thursday that is celebrated, with a follow-up on the pre-Lenten Tuesday known as *Ostatki* (the final fling).

Originally, the Good Sisters in Hamtramck's parochial schools would let schoolgirls off early on that day to help their mothers prepare *pączki*. In time, outsourcing became popular, and people would queue outside local bakeries for a few dozen of the Polish treats. They come in boxes correctly la-

beled “*Pączki*” with the ogonek (.) firmly positioned beneath the letter “ą”. Without it, “paczki” is the Polish word for parcels or packages, whereas “*pączki*” (pronounced: paunch-key) are the filled doughnuts.

Back in the 1990s, *Pączki Day* really took off. “One year, former Hamtramck Mayor Gary Zych hired a helicopter for a ‘*pączki drop*,’” recalled current Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski.

Attractions have included a *Pączki Day* Parade led by Mr. *Pączki*, someone dressed up as a big brown *pączek*. A *pączki*-eating contest is a standard feature, the winner being the one who can consume the most in 15 minutes. A fairly recent addition is the *Pączki Run*, a five-kilometer (three-mile) foot race around the city where each finisher gets a *pączek* and a beer. (Incidentally, “*pączek*” is the singular of “*pączki*.”)

Local banks and other businesses treat their customers to free *pączki*. A dozen Hamtramck taverns lay out Polish food and free *pączki* to all comers as well as providing free live entertainment. One pub, Small's Bar, actually features a *Pączki Bomb*, an alcohol-filled *pączek*. There is a heated tent with

**PETER PAN PĄCZKI.** I stumble upon more *pączki* along my way in Greenpoint, until I reach the final destination – a non-Polish bakery that sells *pączki* only one day each year ... today! This exclusive nature was quite intriguing.

**Peter Pan Donut and Pastry Shop** (727 Manhattan Avenue) dates to the 1950s, and the current owners, Donna Sifakos and her Greek-born husband, Christos, purchased it in 1993 after meeting in a different doughnut shop in Queens; she was a waitress, he was a baker.

The look and design harkens back to the year the place first opened – nothing has changed. A retro addition is that the attendants and waitresses wear “I Love Lucy”-style green dresses with pink collars and cuffs. “Everyone always thinks we're a Polish restaurant, but it's only because our girls are Polish,” says Donna, an Italian-American.

I purchased my sampling, along with their signature sour cream doughnut and was on my way back to Manhattan for the taste test comparison. Famished from the lengthy excursion, I decided to have a taste of the non-Polish doughnut – it was excellent, far surpassing the offerings of popular donut franchises.

In my kitchen, I arranged, measured and documented the *pączki* purchases. Peter Pan was an impressive 2” high, 4” diameter and 13” circumference. Now to taste each one!

There is nothing quite like the taste of a still-warm, bouncy *pączek* with a delicately fragrant filling melting in your mouth. This is the

reason I generally place the pastry in the microwave for no longer than 12 seconds to freshen its flavor and replicate the initial freshness. All of the *pączki* had distinct qualities and were great, but rising high above them all were the creations of the 24-year old Italian-Greek American – Spyrothos Panagiotis Sifakos (shortened in English as Spyros Peter Sifakos) – the “Peter” in Peter Pan doughnuts.

**I HAD FOUND** the perfect *pączek*! A balance of dough and generous aromatic filling, its natural, high quality ingredients affected the taste and smell, and this significant difference could be experienced in every bite.

Sifakos took over the baking passion and responsibilities from his father Christos, who taught him the secrets of the trade. In addition to the space and the fixtures – the mixers, a checkerboard floor, a black-and-white menu board, the former Italian owner offered his recipes and the *pączki* recipe was among them. In an effort to incorporate new things, he decided to cater to the Polish neighborhood and its traditions with this pre-Lenten treat.

“Through trial-and-error we perfected the Polish doughnut of today,” said Sifakos. “I follow the same process, but with minor tweaks. The feel and weight is different with a breadly texture and more eggs and butter in the recipe; and as the size is thicker, it needs to be fried longer.”

As far as the filling? “We order cases of Polish rose jam – the *konfitura*, but make our own prune-plum jam. The raspberry is most popular, but the rose jam is the favorite of Polish customers.” In addition, Bavarian cream filling is an option. The Polish waitresses are eager to be taste-testers and offer their enthusiastic encouragement.

◆ ◆ ◆

The bakery is a family business. Peter Sifakos and brother Dimitri, who is the shop's manager, work alongside their mother. Their pride in their “labor of love” is evident in their product. I have found the elusive perfect *pączek*, and on “*Thusty Wtorek*,” I will make a pilgrimage back to Greenpoint and stop only at Peter Pan Bakery.

music and polka dancing. Entertainers include the local Polish Muslims, a joke band that specializes in spoofing well-known existing groups. Another band calls itself Polka Floyd. Their speciality is performing Pink Floyd hits to a polka beat.

Some people actually take a day off from work to enjoy the daylong festivities that run into the night. Others head for Hamtramck at the end of their shift. Many come from outlying cities, neighboring states and even Canada. It's no wonder then that Hamtramck can rightly claim the title of America's *Pączki* Capital.

If interested in launching similar festivities in your town, you would do well to first attend Hamtramck's *Pączki Day* 2018 on February 13th to see for yourself. And maybe, rather than quibbling over whether the real *Pączki Day* is Fat Thursday or Shrove Tuesday, an ultra-long, six-day *Pączki* Weekend could be introduced. Such a *Pączki* Festival would provide loads of pre-Lenten merriment to a wider audience, popularize the Polish custom among fellow-Americans of different backgrounds and drum up much more business for the local economy.

## Zapusty

21st Anniversary  
Pączki Ball

LORAIN, Ohio — The Pączki Ball, always held on the second Sunday before Fat Tuesday, is scheduled for February 3rd, 2018 at DeLuca's Place in the Park, Lorain.

Organizers moved the event to Saturday to avoid conflict with the Super Bowl.

The Pączki Ball is family-friendly ball, with a traditional Polish dinner and all the pączki you can eat. Music will be provided by Ed Klimczak & his Band of Renowns. There will be the presentation, prizes, and more.

The event is BYOB. Soda and coffee will be available.

A buffet dinner includes sausage and sauerkraut, cabbage and noodles, potato and cheese pierogi, green beans with bacon, and Polish sweet bread. Pączki are available at each table.

Admission is \$30.00 for adults. Children under 12 are admitted for \$10.00 each. A Prime Table of 10 is \$350.00. There are only 12 of these tables available.

Tickets are available at from: Kiedrowski's Bakery, 2267 Cooper Foster Park Rd., Amherst, Ohio; (440) 282-2700.

DeLuca's is located at 6075 Middle Ridge Rd. in Lorain.

PHD Present Its 21st  
Pączki Party

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

The Polish Heritage Dancers will host its 21st Annual Pączki Day, the group's largest fundraiser for the year, Sun., Feb. 11, at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Auditorium, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster from 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Special Delivery will play all

your favorite polkas, waltzes, and dance music from 2:00-6:00 p.m. The Polish Heritage Dancers will take the stage at 3:00 p.m. Our Polish kitchen will be open for all your favorite Polish foods. Dinners as well as *a la carte* items, desserts and of course Pączki will be on the menu. Polish beer will also be available. There will also be a Theme Basket Raffle, as well as a crowning of the Pączki king, queen, prince, and princess.

This event is a perfect opportunity to bring children and grandchildren for a fun afternoon. There is plenty of free parking and buses are welcome. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance, \$10.00 at the door. Children under 12 can get in for only \$2.00. Tickets are limited. For tickets, table reservations, or more information, call Michelle at (716) 983-5084 or Debbie at (716) 681-3526. Tickets are also available at the Am-Pol Eagle Newspaper, 3620 Harlem Rd. Cheektowaga (Phone: 716-835-9454), and at Salt Lamps Etc. 5274 Broadway, Lancaster, at 564-9286. Get your tickets early as there will be no pre-sale tickets held at the door. Visit [www.phdofwny.com](http://www.phdofwny.com) for more information.

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## Church Attendance Drops Slightly

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Church attendance has fallen slightly in Poland, according to Roman Catholic officials. Around 37 percent of Catholics in Poland went to Sunday Mass regularly last year, some 3 percentage points down on 2015, according to the Catholic Church Statistics Institute.

"Polish Catholicism is stable, and strong institutionally and in parishes," Father Wojciech Sadłoń, head of the statistics institute, said during a January press conference in Warsaw, which presented the results of research carried out across Poland last autumn.

About 93% of Poles declare themselves to be Catholics.

Fr. Sadłoń said that Poland was a highly religious country compared to Western Europe, but compared to Eastern European countries, where Orthodox Christianity prevails, "Poland is not so different," he added.

BLESSED MARY ANGELA  
TRUSZKOWSKA MUSEUM  
OPENS

A 14th-century building in Kraków (at the corner of Mikołajska and Holy Cross Streets), donated to the Felician Sisters in 1860, houses Blessed Angela's personal effects, as well as a library of the Truszkowska family's books, a reading room, and other exhibits. While a visit to the museum by those going to Kraków is best, others can make a virtual visit by going to [www.muzeum-mat.cssf.opoka.org.pl](http://www.muzeum-mat.cssf.opoka.org.pl).

**SLAVE LABOR DETAILED.** Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, the author of several popular books *Polish Traditions & Folklore*, *Polish Herbs, Flowers and Folk Medicine*, *Polish Wedding Customs and Traditions*, *Polish First Names*, and *Polish Country Cookbook* most recently published an account of Polish female slave laborers in Germany during World War II. With an aunt already imprisoned in Auschwitz where she died in 1943, Knab's mother presumed that was to be her fate when she was rounded up along with other women. Instead they were shipped to Germany, made to wear the insignia "P," and forced to work for German industry and agriculture. She was just one of some 1.7 million Poles forced to leave Poland and work for the Germans. Subject to curfews, with no cultural entertainment, able to attend Mass only once a month, and despised as a member of an inferior people by the German public, she survived the war never to return to Poland again.

She and her family first lived in a Displaced Persons camp near Hannover, then in a town outside Paris in a former barracks, before finally migrating to the United States.

The book is entitled *Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany 1939-1945* and is available from the *Polish American Journal*.

PROTECTION OF UNBORN BILL  
PASSED. Rep. Daniel Lipinski,

representing the third congressional district of Illinois, cosponsored the bill and voted yes to prohibit abortion of children in the womb 20 weeks and older. Only two other Democrats voted for the bill which was questioned or outright condemned at Planned Parenthood, NARAL, CNBC, CNN, all of which were fearful of granting personhood status to the pre-born child instead of a clinical designation as a zygote.

DEFUNDING OF PLANNED  
PARENTHOOD STOPPED.

Three Republican senators, among them Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, pledged to vote against the bill to defund Planned Parenthood, effectively killing the motion before it got to the Senate floor for a vote.

ORIGINAL IMAGE OF DIVINE  
MERCY IN VILNIUS.

Although the well-known image of Jesus the Divine Mercy stands enshrined in the Basilica of Divine Mercy in Kraków, the first image of Jesus as the Divine Mercy has long been enshrined in the chapel of Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn (Ostra Brama) in Vilnius, Lithuania. It is there that the painting was displayed after it was completed in 1934 by Eugene Kazimierowski, following the directions of Sr. Faustina from the image she saw in her prayer. Her spiritual director, Blessed Fr. Michal Sopoćko urged her to have this done.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... St.  
Michael the Archangel Church

in Niagara Falls, N.Y., celebrating 100 years. Bishop John Mack of the PNCC Pittsburgh-Buffalo Diocese joined church pastor Rev. Francis Kadryna for the Jubilee Mass. ... The Riverhead Polish Hall in Riverhead, N.Y., on 110 years. The Hall, once closed to the general public, now serves as a catering facility. It was started by Polish immigrants in what became Polish Town by a society under the patronage of St. Isidore the Farmer, the patron of the Catholic Church across the street ... St. John Kanty Church in Buffalo,

N.Y., completed the celebrations of 125 years of service with a Mass of Thanksgiving and a banquet. Fr. Michael Burzynski, Ph.D., current parish administrator noted in the program booklet that "This great educator and champion of charity [St. John Kanty] is a saint for our times. In his own words: 'Beware disturbing: it's not sweetly pleasing. Beware speaking ill: for taking back words is burdensome'."

STO LAT TO... Fr. Walter  
Grabowski, newly installed as pastor

at St. Gabriel Church in Elma, N.Y. Fr. Grabowski had been the long-time pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Eden, N.Y. and Holy Spirit Church in N. Collins ... St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville, N.Y. under the leadership of Fr. Leon Biernat, on receiving the Generous Giving Award; Ray Nowicki, CPA, Partnership award; and Ron Gurbacki, Outstanding Individual award. All the awards were given at the 2017 Response to Love Center 8th Annual Benefit of Love Fundraiser. The response to Love Center is a community outreach center in a poor area of Buffalo that offers food, clothing, high school equivalency education, English language for new immigrants, and services for Veterans. It is directed by Sr. Johnnie Rzakiewicz, CSSF and her team of Felician and lay associates.

## Modlitwy

**PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS.** The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** O Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily give you the just dues of praise and thanksgiving, you who by the wondrous assent of your will rescued a fallen world? What songs of praise can our weak human nature recite in your honor, since it is by your intervention alone that it has found the way to restoration? Accept, then, such poor thanks as we have to offer here, though they be unequal to your merit; and, receiving our vows, obtain by your prayers the remission of our offenses. Carry our prayers within the sanctuary of the heavenly audience and bring forth the gift of our reconciliation. Take our offering, grant us our requests, obtain pardon for what we fear, for you are the sole hope of sinners. Holy Mary, help the miserable, strengthen the fainthearted, comfort the sorrowful, pray for your people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God. Be ever ready to assist us when we pray and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it your continual care to pray for the people of God, you who, blessed by God, merited to bear the Redeemer of the world who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen. M.J.D.

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The "Kronika Bukowsko" (historical non-fiction) is a transcript in both Polish and English of a diary kept by the principal of the Bukowsko, Poland, school from 1945-1977. It records school and civic events in the village and includes many illustrations and photographs. Of particular interest, however, is the history of the village during the postwar period when the area was dealing with the conflict between the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the new Communist controlled Polish government, which ended with Akcja Wisła.

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## Poland, EU Hold Talks

continued from cover

new judges and is tasked with safeguarding the independence of courts.

Poland's ruling conservatives have been criticized for trying to stack the courts in their favor.

Morawiecki and Juncker agreed to meet again this month when the Polish prime minister is expected to be in Brussels for an EU summit.

They also discussed migration, as Poland has not accepted a single migrant under a 2015 EU program

that obliged member states to relocate from camps in Italy and Greece a quota of migrants who had fled the war-torn Middle East and Africa.

Morawiecki admitted that Poland's asylum laws were "unusually strict."

He also said that Poland had accepted Chechen refugees who had fled their homes after two Russian invasions, and that "at least tens of thousands" of more than one million Ukrainian people living in Poland had escaped war-afflicted areas.

— *Polskie Radio*

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## Origins of the Cold War

by Mary E. Lanham

**FRANTIC 7: The American Effort to Aid the Warsaw Uprising and the Origins of the Cold War, 1944**  
by John Radzilowski and Jerzy Szczesniak  
Casemate Publishers  
2017, 208 pgs.

In 1944, Operation Frantic was carried out. It was mainly a series of bombing missions meant to attack certain areas controlled by Germany. The seventh mission sought to help the Warsaw Uprising. *Frantic 7* is one of the first books of its kind to closely analyze this mission.

Drawing on mission reports, witness testimonies and diaries, correspondence, military records, newspapers, books, and articles, the authors paint a vivid picture of the failed mission of Frantic 7. American B-17s dropped much needed supplies such as ammunition and food over the city of Warsaw. Unfortunately for the Home Army, only a small percentage of supplies actually reached their target. Over 1,220 airmen were involved in this

mission to aid the uprising, with several losing their lives.

One plane in particular that is focused on in the book is "I'll Be Seeing You." It was shot down and many of crewmen died in the process. The excerpt below explains the hazard faced by the crew.

"When 'I'll Be Seeing You' was hit, the crew attempted to bail out, but due to the damage suffered by the aircraft and fatal wounds suffered by some of the crew, not all made it out of the burning plane. But crew members who made it out were not out danger. Parachutes could be damaged even before being deployed or malfunction on their own. As eyewitness reports on the ground show, German forces in the area were firing into the air with every weapon available."

Within the book are photos of the fighter crew, illustrations of the planes used, and a diagram of the formation of B-17s on the approach



to Warsaw. There is also an extensive bibliography and orders of battle of Operation Frantic 7.

*Frantic 7: The American Effort to Aid the Warsaw Uprising and the Origins of the Cold War, 1944* by John Radzilowski and Jerzy Szczesniak is a valued addition to the catalog of books and articles about the Second World War.

Jerzy Szczesniak's previous book "*Frantic 7: Amerykanska Pomoc Dla Powstania Warszawskiego*" was one of the first books to reveal the American mission to Polish readers. He currently lives in Warsaw.

John Radzilowski, Ph.D. has written several books and articles on U.S. and Polish history. He is associate professor of history at the University of Alaska. He previously taught history courses at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Minnesota and the University of St. Thomas. He is a fellow at the Piast Institute and past president of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. In 2006 the Polish American Historical Association awarded him the Oskar Halecki Prize for his book *Poles in Minnesota*.

## American Polonia At A Glance

### Polish Doctor in U.S. for 40 Years Detained by ICE

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — A doctor of Polish descent has been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Michigan, despite having lived in the U.S. for 40 years and being in possession of a permanent green card.

Lukasz Niec, an internal medicine doctor for Kalamazoo's Bronson HealthCare, was taken into custody on Jan. 16.

Niec emigrated from Poland with his parents when he was three years old, according to his wife, Rachele, who told reporters she believed the arrest may have stemmed from two unrelated misdemeanor convictions Niec, now 43, earned when he was in high school: one for destruction of property of less than \$100 and the

other for receiving stolen property.

"He pleaded guilty," she told MLive of the *Polish Citizen*. "He was not notified it could ever be used in a deportation."

Kalamazoo County court records also show Niec pleaded guilty to a 2008 operating impaired by liquor offense, the conviction of which was later set aside as part of a plea agreement, per local media reports.

In addition, he was charged with domestic violence in 2013 but a jury found him not guilty after a trial, records demonstrate.

Lukasz and Rachele Niec have been in a relationship for about four years, marrying in 2016, local journalists say. They have one daughter each.

An ICE statement said Niec was arrested for "administrative immigration violations."

The statement, released by Khalid H. Walls, an ICE communications director, also said the Niec will remain in custody pending the outcome of removal proceedings.

Speaking from his jail cell said he was perplexed by his arrest.

"I'm not sure of anything," Niec said. "I mean, I don't know what's going to happen. It's hard to say, but ... there's a quite a few people in here with different stories. That blew me away. Mine is probably one of the more extreme ones."

— *From Polish Citizen, Washington Examiner, and WWMT releases*

### MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR — "Spoor" ("Poker"), directed by Agnieszka Holland and Kasia Adamik, will be presented in Polish with English subtitles, Sun., Feb. 4, 4:00-6:00 p.m. on campus, 500 S. State St., in the Michigan Theater. The event, sponsored by the Copernicus Program in Polish Studies is free and open to the public. "Spoor" (2017) is about an elderly woman, Janina Duszejko, who lives alone in the Klodzko Valley where a series of mysterious crimes are committed. Duszejko is convinced that she knows who or what the murderer is, but nobody believes her.

Free and open to the public.

### NEW YORK

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation presents "Paderewski and World Politics," a lecture by Marek Zebrowski, director of USC Polish Music Center, pianist, composer, and historian, Thur., Feb. 8, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

The event at the Foundation, 15 E 65th St., is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Registration required. Call (212) 734-2130.

BUFFALO — Since the mid-1980s a small group of parishioners has been getting together at **Saint John Kanty Parish** on Buffalo's East side to make pierogi; the tradition has continued and grown for over 30 years. Under the capable

leadership of Diane Czajka, a graduate of Saint John Kanty School, more than 20 volunteers are busy making pierogi, and when Lent starts, baking placek. Cheese pierogi and 'kraut pierogi are boiled and frozen and sold in packages of six. People come from all corners of the city as well as the suburbs to take home some Polish comfort food. The sale takes place in the school cafeteria, "Kanty's Kitchen," Saturdays and Sundays starting February 17, before and after weekend Masses: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday through Palm Sunday, March 25. On Palm Sunday, a light lunch is available and a basket raffle takes place. Proceeds benefit the ongoing needs of the parish's 125-year-old church building. For further information: [www.saintjohnkanty.com](http://www.saintjohnkanty.com)

### VIRGINIA

ARLINGTON — JTG, Inc. is seeking a **Polish Level II Language and Cultural Instructor (LCI)** to teach a class from Feb. 20, 2018 to August 13, 2018 at Department of State FSI, Arlington. The candidate must have a minimum of three years' experience teaching adult learners in a classroom setting with at least two or more students. Must have a BA/BS, MA/MS, or PhD or foreign equivalent degree in any field (related to language or education is preferred but not re-

quired). Three years' experience teaching proficiency-based or task-based curricula and a minimum of one year's experience administering proficiency-based assessments (DLPT, ACT-FL, OPI etc.). Last, at a minimum the LCI must have an English proficiency level of 2:2 on the ILR proficiency scale.

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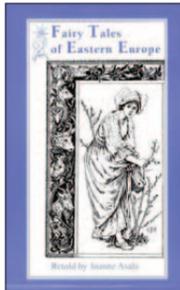
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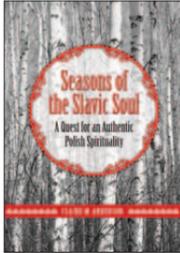
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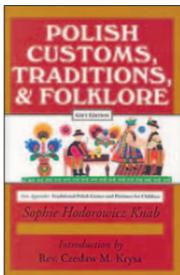
Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world. An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.

**SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality**



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ACTA Publications  
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

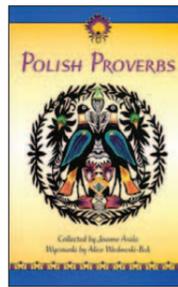
What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire Anderson, of Polish descent and currently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Wisconsin, explores this tradition and expands it by connecting these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.



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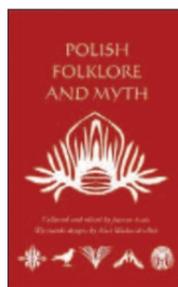
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs 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.



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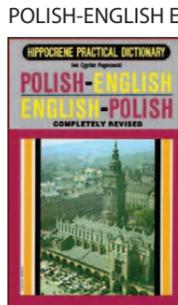
Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord." The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



**POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH**  
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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 Wadowsky-Bak.

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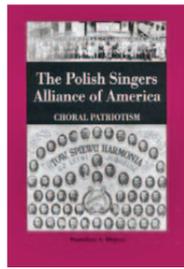


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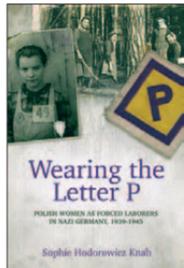
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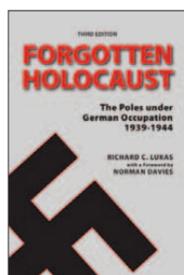
This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

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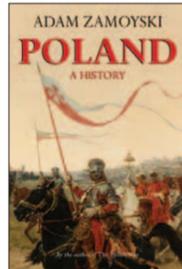
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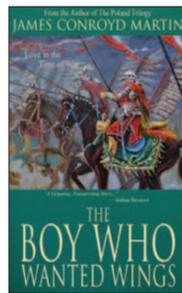
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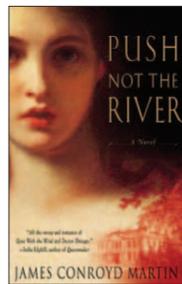
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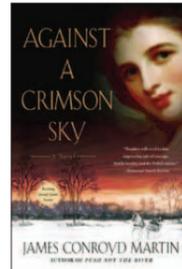


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## Happenings: Chicago Style

# Priceless Polish Costumes Stolen

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — This past Christmas Eve, as everyone was preparing to celebrate the holiday, **Marlena Dzis** (inset) walked to her car and received a shock that she never expected. Five priceless Polish costumes packed in a garment bag that she had left on the back seat of her car, were gone in a “smash-and-grab” robbery.



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

Dzis frantically spent the day wandering the alleys of her Chicago Wicker Park neighborhood, searching through dumpsters and garbage cans for the Lira Ensemble Polish costumes. She even followed a garbage truck in hopes of finding them. She contacted the Chicago Police Department, which is investigating the case.

The police stated that the car was broken into between 8:00 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 23, and 9:00 a.m. on Sun., Dec. 24. Marlena has since contacted resale and pawn shops and is hoping that nearby security cameras might offer some clues. Statistically, her chances that these priceless costumes will be recovered are poor.

Each of these costumes is hand-beaded and hand-embroidered in Poland with each representing a different region of Poland. They are so unique that they are virtually impossible for someone else to wear or even sell. The value of each costume is approximately \$600, but to Marlena they really are priceless. Unfortunately, it is likely that they were discarded by the thief.

The costumes were on loan to Dzis from the Lira Ensemble, for

which she is a vocalist. She doesn't care who stole the outfits or why. She just wants them returned. No questions asked. They could be dropped them off at any police station.

Donna Makowski, a Chicago criminal defense lawyer, on behalf of the Advocates Society, an association of Polish American attorneys, has offered to pay a cash reward of \$1,000 for the safe return of the costumes. Additionally, Cassie Fullem of St. Charles, Illinois, has offered to donate six hand-embroidered vests once worn by her older sister, who was a member of the “Polka Dolls” dance troupe during the 1960s and 1970s. Marlena has graciously accepted Fullem's offer, but acknowledges that she has learned one important lesson, “Never leave anything in my car.”



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

(l. to r.): Bridget Ascenzo, Marlena Dzis, Linda Saballus, Reba Bagazinski.

**LIRA ENSEMBLE'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT: A DELIGHT.** As a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season, the Lira Ensemble, artist-in-residence of Loyola University Chicago, performed the first of three Polish Carol concerts at St. John Brebeuf Church in Nilis, Illinois, on December 17. An audience of almost 300 filled the acoustically sublime church to hear traditional

and lesser-known carols. The Lira Singers, Dancers, and Chamber Players, under the guidance of artistic director **Lucyna Migala**, conductor **Mina Zikri**, and choreographer **Iwoma Puc**, guided the performers in a celebratory Christmas performance.

The program featured carols, such as *Bóg się rodzi*, *Dzisiaj w Betlejem*, *Koleda Goralska*, an audience favorite, *Luclajze*, *Jezuniu*, and *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*. Two musical pieces, composed by **Marek Rachelski**, music director of St. John Brebeuf, were premiered at this concert. They were a version of the 14th century prayer, *Anima Christi*, and a revised version of *W Dzień Bożego Narodzenia*.

The St. John Brebeuf Children's Choir, under the direction of **Ewa Kowcz-Fair**, a member of the Lira Ensemble, sang *Dance and Sing*,

*For The Lord Will Be With Us*, based on an ancient Hebrew Folk Melody, and *Alleluja*. In addition, the Lira dancers performed the Polonaise by Wojciech Kilar.

On December 19, the Lira performed another concert at the sold-out Metropolis Performing Art Center in Arlington Heights, Illinois. This was followed by an additional concert on January 7 at Calumet



Skłodowski-Curie Exhibit

City's St. Andrew the Apostle, a church scheduled to be demolished.

**CS REMAINS ALL-MALE.** Despite its shrinking membership and the fact that a majority of members voted to invite women into the all-male Polish American professional organization, the **Chicago Society** of the Polish National Alliance (CS), will not be opening its membership to the ladies.

The proposed amendment to enable women to become CS members surfaced several months ago due to the group's declining membership. The final determining vote took place at the November 15 general meeting at the White Eagle Restaurant and Banquets in Nilis, Illinois.

Although CS had been a men-only organization since its inception in 1912, members attending the meeting voted 29-18 to invite women to join. However, this vote fell five votes short of the two-thirds super-majority needed to amend the group's constitution.

Considering this defeat of the proposal, CS President, Steve Rakowski has requested that each current member, especially those who voted not to change the membership policy, sponsor a much-needed newcomer in 2018. This will enable the CS to continue its current level of benefits to both its members and

the community. The future survival of the Chicago Society, PNA, may depend on the recruitment of new members.

**EXHIBIT HONORS MADAM CURIE.** An exhibition dedicated to **Maria Skłodowski-Curie** on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of her birthday was on display on the ground floor of the James R. Thompson Center in Downtown Chicago. The exhibition was on view until January 8, 2018.

To this day, she is called the “Mother of Contemporary Physics.” Maria won a Nobel Prize in physics for her discoveries in radioactivity, which contributed to the development of treatments for breast cancer and other cancers. She won a Nobel Prize in chemistry for discovering the elements of radium and polonium. As a physicist and chemist, she is the only woman to be twice awarded the Nobel Prize. She was also the first woman to receive a professorship at the Sorbonne, a famed French university.

The Chicago exposition was made possible by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and was prepared by the Polish American Breast Cancer Awareness Program (Amber Coalition) and the Warsaw Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International.

## Chicago Polonians You Should Know

# Maria Bronny Ciesla

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

The next individual in the series “Chicago Polonians You Should Know” is **Maria Bronny Ciesla**. From a displaced persons camp, to a rural town in West Central Illinois, to her roots in Chicago's Polish American community, Maria's presence in Chicago Polonia has, at times, gone unnoticed. But her relentless commitment and sincere passion for preserving Polish culture has made her an outstanding diplomat for Chicago Polonia.

Maria Bronny's life began in Butzbach, Germany, a displaced persons camp 40 miles north of Frankfurt am Main. At the age of 20 months, on October 30, 1948, Maria and her parents, Dr. Joachim Bronny and Irena Bronny, arrived in New York City (NYC) aboard the USS General W. M. Black, a converted troop carrier. They were among the first arrivals under the Congressional Displaced Persons Act of 1948. Their immigration to the United States was sponsored by the Caritas Organization. Soon they became stranded in NYC, even though Dr. Bronny had been offered the opportunity to practice medicine in Fairchild, Wisconsin, a doctorless rural community. He was told that the Wisconsin State Medical Board barred him from practicing medicine in that state. However, through the sponsorship of the Polish Immigration and Relief Organization (*Rada Polonia*), the Bronny

family settled in Chicago. They soon moved to the small rural town of Williamsfield in West Central Illinois after Dr. Bronny received his American certification to practice



Maria and Richard Ciesla

medicine.

Following her high school graduation, Maria came to the Chicago area to attend Rosary College (now Dominican University) where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology in 1969. It was during her college years that she became involved in Chicago's Polish American community where she has remained active for over 50 years. She was not only a leader in her community, but as a survivor of ovarian and breast cancer, she was and still is an advocate for ovarian cancer awareness.

In 1982, she was named an “Outstanding Young Woman of America.” She received the Community Service Award from the Council of Educators in Polonia and the Northeastern Illinois University Office of Alumni Affairs, and she and her husband, Richard, were the 2009 Award of Merit recipients of the Advocates Society, an organization comprised of attorneys of Polish heritage. Maria has been an active member of the Legion of Young Polish Women and has held numerous offices for over 50 years.

**MARIA RECEIVED THE BRONZE Gloria Artis** medal from the Republic of Poland for her contributions to the cultural life in the Polish American community, and in 2011, she was the recipient of the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division Heritage Award. In 2012, Maria was honored as one of the 10 Outstanding Women in Non-Profits by clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Dorothy Brown. She also was honored by the Keep On Keeping On Foundation, which

raises funds for equipment for physically challenged young people, as its 2012 Woman of the Year. In May 2012, Maria received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit, Poland's highest civilian honor awarded by the former Polish President Bolesław Komorowski on his visit to Chicago for a NATO Conference.

Perhaps Maria's greatest achievement has been her volunteer work and genuine love for The Polish Museum of America (PMA) — a commitment she started in the mid-1970s. For over a decade, she served as the president of the PMA. Under her leadership and guidance, the Museum renovated its Paderewski Room into the 21st century; the fourth floor, left vacant for years, became the state-of-the-art Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery; the friendly and welcoming new Augusta Avenue entrance was reconstructed; the PMA Gift Shop was moved from its obscure third floor location to an eye-pleasing, prominent, and spacious room adjacent to the new entrance; and the badly-needed Rare Books Room was added to the PMA Library. She increased the PMA membership, increased grants from the Polish Ministry of Culture and Heritage, and was instrumental in the return of archival documents and artifacts that had been missing. All of these accomplishments and many others were realized through Maria's commitment, determination



PHOTO: MARIA BRONNY CIESLA

The Bronny family arrived in New York City, on October 30, 1948. Their image was captured and published in the Nov. 22, 1948 issue of LIFE magazine.

and leadership.

Maria, a former piano teacher for 35 years, and her husband, Richard Ciesla, also active in Chicago's Polish American community, celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on Dec. 28, 2017; they have four children and eight grandchildren.

Even with her retirement from involvement in organizations, too many to mention, she had tirelessly worked for and with, **Maria Bronny Ciesla** continues to be a Polish American community leader *par excellence*, keeping Polonia connected and vital within Chicago's ethnically diverse community.

## Minnesota Voice

## A Well-Told Tale of Two Men at the Crossroads of History

by Mark Dillon

A Review of  
"The Emperor and  
the Peasant"

*Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire*  
by Kenneth Janda  
Available on amazon.com  
ISBN-13: 978-1476669571

Many Polish Americans know that Point #13 of Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points of Peace address, delivered to Congress 100 years ago last month, called for the rebirth of an independent Poland. In the same speech, Slovaks and Czechs got support with the less direct and vague Point #10, which said only that the "people of Austria-Hungary" should be "accorded the freest opportunity for autonomous development."

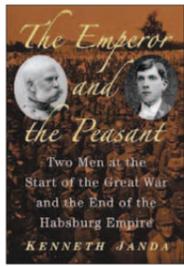
In his new non-fiction book *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire*, retired Northwestern University political science professor Kenneth Janda of Roseville, Minn. chronicles the tragic prelude to freedom in Slovakia. It's a compelling, highly readable World War I research narrative told through of world lens of the aged Austria-Hungarian Emperor Franz Jozef and Samuel Mozolak,

Janda's grandfather-in-law from the Slovak village of Krajne, which is south and west of Zakopane on the southern side of the Tatras.

For Polish Americans whose third or fourth generation ancestral roots are from Austria-Hungarian province of Galicia, Janda's work is especially noteworthy because it provides timely regional context, meaning and insight into the experience of a generation of conscripted men who stayed behind in Europe while thousands of their peers in what is now Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic boarded steamships from Hamburg and Bremen to America, never to return.

Mozolak also made the transatlantic journey in 1902, but then returned in 1906 and again in May 1914 so that his U.S.-born children could be raised in Slovak traditions, Janda writes. The timing of the second visit could not have been worse as the consequences of an assassin's bullets in Sarajevo sparked continent-wide war. Conscripted into a Hungarian *Honved* unit of the Austria-Hungarian army, Janda tells the story of how Mozolak gave his life in June 1918 on the Italian front.

I found Janda's thoughtful, well-researched perspective fascinating at multiple levels, in part because my own maternal great grandfather, Michael, emigrated from the Slovak



village of Kutý, which is a short train ride to the southeast in 1892. His brother, Konstantin, would die in the autumn of 1914 near Sanok, Poland during the Austria-Hungarian 1st Army, V Corps' response to Russia's invasion of Galicia. At the same time, my Polish fraternal grandfather's cousin was also conscripted in a Lviv-based Austria-Hungarian unit. Wounded by a Russian sabre around the same time in 1914, he would become a POW and get shipped off to Moscow and then a farm labor camp in Omsk.

Janda skillfully blends seldom-seen economic data, political analysis and scholarly research to produce a unique volume. I like how he discusses the overall body of work in American literature and film that over the past century has informed, and in many ways, misinformed Americans about the Eastern Front. If all one knows about World War I is from PBS-American Experience's *The Great War*, Hemingway's novel *A Farewell to Arms*, or the novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*, this is the book to read.

From a Polish perspective, the

Habsburg monarchy prior to 1914 was generally viewed as the lesser of three evils in a land partitioned since the 1790s — an incompetent, sclerotic bureaucracy whose policies generated hardship, much loss of life and frustration. However, Habsburg rule was still seen as not as biased and heavy handed as Imperial Germany's *Kulturkampf* or as brutal and outwardly oppressive as everyday life in the Russian partition.

Janda takes Franz Josef's 1848 to 1916 autocratic rule to task, discussing the royal family's history, political tensions within the Dual Monarchy (Austria and Hungary), Franz Josef's personality and effects of his directives. Family deaths related to politics apparently created a bitter old man, including the 1892 assassination of Franz Josef's wife, Empress Sisi, by an Italian anarchist and the 1867 execution of his younger brother Maximilian by the Mexican government. (Maximilian became Emperor of Mexico in July 1863, the same month as the Battle of Gettysburg in the U.S. He was later deposited in a revolution led by Benito Juarez).

Franz Josef was oblivious to the war and suffering that his decisions created. Hundreds of thousands of his troops died under the command of the bombastic Field Mar-

shal Conrad Von Hotzendorf, whom Franz Josef's successor Karl I would fire in 1917. One fact that leaps out from Janda's bar charts is that the Austrian-Hungarian Army suffered a 90% casualty rate — killed, wounded and missing — the highest rate of any army in the First World War.

With poor rail links to the battlefield, weak food, and supply chains, outdated rifles and ill-fitting uniforms, soldiers were forced to march 20 miles a day on foot with 65 lb. packs. In autumn 1914, they were exhausted by the time they met the invading Russians in southeastern Poland and what is today western Ukraine. Relief would not come until the Germans pushed the Russians out in May 1915 in the Gorlice-Tarnow Offensive, the same week as the sinking of *SS Lusitania*. Then the campaign moved to the Italian Alps for men like Janda's Mozolak

**"BEST BAR" REOPENS.** On Jan. 11, Nye's Piano Bar opened in Minneapolis, a successor to Nye's Polonaise Bar at the same Northeast location. The original establishment was rated as the best bar in America by *Esquire* magazine in 2006. In last month's Minnesota Voice column, the original Nye's was described as merely being the best Polish bar in America. We regret understating *Esquire's* rating.

## Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

## WNY Polish Groups Receive Grants

by Michael Pietruszka

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Erie County Legislator John Mills announced that the Western New York Division of the **Polish American Congress** will be awarded a grant of \$10,000 and the **General Pulaski Association** will receive a grant of \$20,000 in the county's 2018 budget ... The **Polish Genealogical Society of New York State** announced its leadership for 2018: President Nicole Pohancsek, Vice-President Maureen Gleason, Secretary Denise Oliansky, Treasurer Charles Penasack, and Trustees Pierre LaJoie, Dolores Ferguson, Sharon Voigt, Elizabeth Nowak and Maria Slomczewski ... **Roger Heymanowski** and **Stan Bolas**, both members of the Professional and Businessmen's Association, recently passed away ... On Jan. 3, the **Association of Priests for Polish Affairs** held its Annual "Oplatek" ... **Theresa Clarke**, a WNYer, who is very active in the Pomost International and Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities organizations, received the 2017 Amicus Poloniae Award, and **Robert Synakowski** was the recipient of the Skalny Award for his work with the Syracuse Polish Home, from the Polish American Historical Association at a reception held at the residence of the Polish Ambassador in Washington, Jan. 6.

The Cantible Choir presented its "Yuletide Joy Christmas Concert," featuring sopranos **Kinga Mitrowska** and **Marta Paczkowska**, baritone **Tadeusz Cielinski**, pianist **Oksana Skira**, flautist **Khrystyna Skira**, violinist **Mart Skira**, and double bassist **Tadeusz Druzdel** under the direction of **Maria Lesniak**, at the Central Baptist Church in Oakville, Ontario ... Also on the 7th, **Ludowa Nuta** performed Polish Christmas carols at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church and the Polish Alliance Hall in Hamilton, Ontario ...

**St. Casimir Parish**, in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood, held an indoor Procession of the Three Wise Men as part of its observance of the Feast of the Three Kings, Jan. 7 ... **James Lawicki II**, president of the Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress, presented a \$500 scholarship to the Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School ... The **Novi Singers**, Toronto Sinfonietta Instrumental Ensemble and **Majeranki Polish Children's Ensemble** performed a concert of Polish Christmas carols entitled "**Christ is Born - Bog Sie Rodzi**" at the Islington United Church in Toronto, Jan. 7 as well ... The Lancaster Opera House presented a production of **Tom Dudzick's** "Over the Tavern," Jan. 12-21 ... On Jan. 13, the Syracuse Polish Home hosted its **Oplatek Gala Dinner Dance** at its Park Avenue clubrooms ... Also on the 13th, Buffalo's Historic **Broadway Market** marked National Polka Month with its "Polka, Piwo and Pierogi" celebration featuring the music of The Touch, and St. John Parish in Alden held a **Polish Night**, including a Polka Mass, to benefit its youth group.

The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** held its Installation and Scholarship Award Luncheon at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca on the 14th. **John Szablewski**, a graduate student in art education at Buffalo State College, was the recipient of the club's 2017 \$1000 scholarship ... The **Symfonia Choir** hosted a "Koledy Concert" at the Hamilton Polish Canadian Legion Hall, and the Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress sponsored its "**4th Polish Winterfest**" at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park, Jan. 14, as well ... On the 17th, the Professional & Business Women of Polonia heard **Julia Szprygada** speak on the early detection of Alzheimer's disease at their dinner meeting at the Forestview Restau-

rant in Depew ... Forgotten Buffalo offered its "**Polish Tavern Christmas Tour**," and Sonet performed at the "**Zabawa Karnawalowa**" at the Polish Hall in Brantford, Ontario, Jan. 20 ... Also on the 20th, Buddy Knaus Post in Depew hosted a **Polka Night** with the New Direction Band ... On the 21st, **Ewa Cybulska**, **Bartosz Hadala** and **Piotr Cieslikowski** were heard in "Hej Koleda, Koleda," a winter concert at the Studio Merlot in Brampton, Ontario.

On the 26th, the **Rodzina Dancers** held polka dancing lessons at the Polish Cadets of Buffalo Hall in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood ... Potts Banquet Hall hosted the **Third Annual IPA Festival of Buffalo Polka Bands** featuring performances by the Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Buffalo Touch, New Direction Band, PhoCus, Rare Vintage and Special Delivery, on the 27th ... Also on the 27th, the Polish Hunting Club in Canada hosted its **Bal Mysliwski** at the Millennium Gardens Banquet Centre in Brampton ... On Jan. 28, **Jennie Smith**, the daughter of Irena Gut-Opdyke, spoke on the "Righteous Among the Nations" at Canisius College.

**UPCOMING.** The BPO Chamber Orchestra will perform at **St. Stanislaus Church** in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, Feb. 2 ... On Feb. 3, the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario will host its **Odlotowy Bal Karnawalowy**, featuring violinist Vasyl Popadiuk and the Marek Majewski Band ... Also on the 3rd, Ludowa Nuta will sponsor its **Bal Swistaka - Zbojnika** ("Peoples' Ball") at the ZPWK Hall in Hamilton ... Impuls will perform at the **Ostatki** at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga on the 10th of February ... The Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY will host their **21st Annual Paczki Day Celebration** featuring

Special Delivery at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, Feb. 11.

The General Pulaski Association will hold its **Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony** at the Pulaski statue in downtown Buffalo on March 2nd, to be followed by the group's Installation Banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga ... On March 9, the Polish rock group **Perfect** will perform at the Meeting House in Oakville ... The **Polish Scholarship Fund** has announced that the 64th Annual Syracuse Polish Festival will take place June 22- 24 in Clinton Square in Downtown Syracuse

... The General Pulaski Association will hold its **80th Annual Pulaski Parade** in Cheektowaga on July 22nd ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team's **Polish Festival Night** will be held on August 7th at Coca-Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo. The Bisons will play the Gwinett Braves that evening.

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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 6th for the March issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

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

## Polonian Places

# Fine Dining, à la Polonaise

by Gregory L. Witul

**Polonaise**  
230 East 51st Street  
New York, N.Y.  
Status: Closed

Valentine's Day is almost here and while they say the key to a woman's heart is jewelry and flowers, the real secret is that it's actually a fine meal. In New York City, Delmonico's or Gargiulo's could make that special someone happy, the Polonaise in Midtown would send her over the moon.

Paul Pawlowski opened the Polonaise on his birthday, September 13, 1947. With his restaurant the former owner of Warsaw's Oaza wanted to bring the continental European flavors he knew in Poland to the elegant dining scene flourishing in midcentury Manhattan. With ruby walls, white chandeliers and sconces, and Polish art, Pawlowski's restaurant of distinction boasted a cocktail bar, lounge, and dining room. Paul truly knew how to set the mood in the main room.

The Rosner brothers, a violin and piano duo, played gentle back-

ground music while the chandeliers were dimly lit and each table had a single candle to create some intimacy for the diners. While the rooms were beautiful, the food was the real reason the masses showed up.

The appetizers offered a stuffed fish Polonaise, prosciutto with melon, and beluga malossol caviar, and everyone at the table received an amuse-bouche of liver pirozhki. The soup options included a hot cabbage borscht with sour cream, beet soup, a Polish Vichyssoise and a green turtle soup au Sherry. While the opening courses hinted at some Slavic delicacies, the Polish flavors truly shined in the entries. One could order kielbasa with potatoes and sauerkraut, gołąbki topped with sour cream, zrazy stuffed with eggs, mushrooms and onions served with a side of kasha, and even a big bowl of bigos for those cold February nights. For the less adventurous, Polonaise also served a fine selection of steaks and chops. While most of the deserts were continental or American there were a few Polish sweets to enjoy. There was naleśniki, as well as Polish cream with crushed strawberries, but even if you didn't order a dessert everyone walked away with a comple-



mentary chruscik at the end of their evening. Despite the rich menu, the Polonaise was popular with Greta Garbo and her "nutritionist" friend Gayelord Hauser.

Paul would man the helm of the Polonaise with the help of his brother Kazik, for the first 10 years, opening at 3:00 p.m., having dinner service underway by 5:00 p.m. and closing up at 1:00 a.m. After the first decade, Pawlowski brought on Andy Anderson to help oversee the operation. Andy would be the face of the restaurant, even hosting a high profile 1957 Hungarian Relief luncheon at the Polonaise, while

Pawlowski recovered from a bout of bad health. By the end of that summer Paul and Andy still served as his wingman for a while.

Easter 1964 would be Pawlowski's last big holiday at the Polonaise. That April, the restaurant was sold to Joe Berger, who had previously run the Country Club Restaurant at Lake Success. Berger kept Chef Luigi Magnani onboard, but slowly added some Russian flavoring to the Polish dishes. The Polonaise would last almost another decade until 230 East 51st Street became home to Torremolino's Restaurant in the 1970s.

## The Pondering Pole

# Which leads to ...

by Ed Poniewaz

I watched the movie *Selena* again when it popped up on the cable network. It is a wonderful movie, and Jennifer Lopez nailed it in her portrayal of the famous Latina star. Seeing this story intrigued me to learn more about the super performer and beautiful person (inside and out apparently) Selena Quintanilla, known simply as Selena.

She was Mexican-American, but spoke only English growing up. The musical style she was famous for is called Tejano (tay-ha'-no, which is Spanish for Texas). An important thing about Tejano for us Polonians is at its core are the sounds of Central Europe. Here is a brief description from Wikipedia:

*Europeans from Germany (first during Spanish time and 1830s), Poland, and what is now the Czech Republic migrated to Texas and Mexico, bringing with them their style of music and dance. They brought the waltz, polkas, and other popular forms*

*of music and dance. However it was not until the Mexican Revolution (1910-1917) that forced many of these Europeans to flee Mexico and into South Texas, that their musical influence was to have a major impact on Tejanos.*

"Tejanos" are the people and Tejano is the music that became what it is from the blend of polka and waltz tempos and beats combined with other Mexican and Spanish cultural sounds like corrido and mariachi. The accordion became an important instrument in Tejano and I have noticed how much the mariachi horns sound like the brass section of a classic Polish polka band. This is an example of cultural aspects that we think are very different, but are in reality more linked than we imagine. If you follow the thread, Poland leads to Mexico, which leads to Texas, which leads to polka, which leads to Tejano.

Soon after watching *Selena* the movie, I watched a documentary film *Murder Made Me Famous*

about the murder of Selena by her fan club president Yolanda Saldivar. The documentary gave the details about Saldivar and how and why she killed her boss and idol. This led to Joe Nick Patoski who was interspersed throughout as an expert commentator in the film. Joe is a Texan, a huge Selena fan, and the author of a premier book about her, *Selena: Como La Flor* (Little, Brown & Company, 1996). He has written other books and articles about famous people and I would encourage you to check him out on his website <http://joenickp.com>. Joe is Polish, Lithuanian, and Greek, a real ethnic guy sportin' cowboy boots.

He is also very mindful of the roots of Tejano and the relation of polka in the development of this form of music. Joe and I discussed and lamented a bit about the waning interest among the young people for some of the traditional folk sounds that have come from the multi-cultural American landscape although he is optimistic and hopeful of a revival:

"I cohost the Texas Accordion Kings and Queens in Houston the first Sat of every June, a production by Texas Folklife. There are always conjuntos and zydecos, and one either Czech, Polish, or German ensemble. The free event draws over 5,000 people and the cool thing is, no matter what language is being sung, or what style is being played, all the bands have accordions and all their fans dance in the same counterclockwise direction."

Alas, only Brian Marshall and my friends in Brave Combo have carried on the Texas Polish musical traditions. But there's time.

Selena said she did not care for Tejano when she first heard it. She

also became huge in Spanish language music — this from a person who did not learn that language until she was a teenager. Consider her experience especially for Polish Americans who are not taught their language in their youth and also for those that reject the idea of Polish folk or American polka music. But, though the future might seem bleak, "there's time," as Joe Nick Patoski would say.

**POLISH OR NOT?** Which leads to another Polish rocker?

I don't know what led me to check out the rock band *Rush* (not my kind of music), but that generated another interesting Polish celebrity connection. Geddy Lee is one half of the brilliant (and some say genius) duo of guitarists in *Rush*. To hear the story of Gary Lee Weinrib, who changed his name legally to Geddy Lee, is neat for the ancestral history but also for the name. Geddy's parents were from Starachowice in Poland and survived the Holocaust after stays as teenagers in Auschwitz, Dachau, and Bergen-Belsen. His father "bribed guards to bring his mother shoes," and as you might expect, their experience had a profound effect on him.

The name "Geddy" comes from his mother's Polish rolled "r" when saying the name Gary which, as many of us know, can sound a lot like "Geddy." That is hilarious and beautiful Polish humor.

For the record, the bookend lead guitar sound to Lee's bass is Alex Lifeson who does not have a Polish connection but surprisingly an Eastern European one. Alex was born Alexander Zivojinovich also to immigrant parents but from Serbia. Another interesting twist in that he chose to change his name to "Life-

son" because his surname Zivojinovic means "son of life." Really interesting stuff for Slavophiles and lovers of things Eastern European are Lee and Lifeson.

**Which leads**

**to ...** one of the producers of *Rush* music throughout the years is **Nick Raskulinecz** (inset). He began his association with the band in 2007 with the production of *Snakes & Arrows*. Then, from Wikipedia:

*Rush brought back Raskulinecz to co-produce their 2010 singles "Caravan" and "BU2B," and then the album Clockwork Angels, which was released in June 2012. With Rush he earned the nickname "Booujzhe," from his description of how he wanted a particular drum beat to go in a song.*

Nick is from Knoxville, Tenn., and has worked with some of rock's best, including Foo Fighters, Ghost, We As Human, Evanescence, Marilyn Manson, Soil, Deftones, Coheed and Cambria, Stone Sour, Korn, and Mastodon, just to name a few.

His name has a Polish look to it. Nick Raskulinecz, Polish or not?

**IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION** or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com). N.B. If you send email, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an email if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.





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More Polish Karnawał (Mardi Gras) Treats

by Robert Strybel

**HUNTER'S BIGOS (bigos myśliwski).** Soak 1 oz dried bolete mushrooms in 1-1/2 c water several hrs, then cook in same water until tender, chop, return to liquid and set aside. Drain 3 qts sauerkraut, reserving liquid, rinse in cold water, drain again, squeeze dry and chop coarsely. Place in pot with 1 bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Transfer drained sauerkraut to baking pan and add some or all of the following: 2 qts various cooked cubed meat (beef, venison, pork, veal, turkey, duck), 3 c smoked Polish sausage, the mushrooms and their liquid, 1c stewed tomatoes, chopped, 1c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples. Toss in ingredients to blend and bake uncovered in 350° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs at 325°. After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate overnight. Reheat at 325° for 90 min before serving. If bigos appears too moist, dust with 1 or more T flour, mix well and bake another 15 min. If the bigos is not as tart as you want, stir in a little reserved sauerkraut juice. Season with salt, pepper, marjoram and crushed juniper. Serve with mashed or boiled whole potatoes or rye bread.

**PAĆZKI/POLISH DOUGHNUTS (paćzki).** Stir 2 (0.25 oz) packets active dry yeast into 1-1/2 C warm 110°F milk to dissolve and set aside. Cream 1/2 c sugar and 4 oz (1 stick) unsalted room-temp butter until fluffy. In bowl of stand mixer with paddle attachment combine the sugar-butter mixture with 1 room-temp egg and 3 yolks, 1 T 100 proof vodka or 80 proof cognac and 1 t salt and beat until well blended. To mixer bowl add 4-1/2 c all-purpose flour, alternating with yeast mixture and beat 5 min or longer until smooth. If dough is overly soft, beat in another 1/2 c flour until blended. Transfer dough to greased bowl turning to grease all sides. Cover with clean dish towel and let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk (from 60 – 90 min). Punch down and let rise again. Transfer dough to lightly floured bread-board and roll out 1/2" thick. Use drinking glass or biscuit-cutter to cut into 2-1/2" rounds. Combine leftover scraps, re-roll and re-cut until dough is used up. Cover and let rounds rise until doubled in bulk (30 min or longer). Heat to 350°F enough lard or oil to get a depth of 5" F and fry dough rounds a few at a time until bottoms are golden-brown (2-3 min), then flip over and fry another 1-2 min. Test one for doneness. Drain on absorbent paper. When still warm, glaze with icing or dust with confectioner's sugar. For filled paćzki, be-

fore glazing or sugar-dusting, poke a hole in the side of each paćzek and use pastry bag to fill with a dollop of rose-hip or rose-petal jam, powidła (plum butter) or other lump-free jam of choice.

**ANGEL WINGS, CHRUŚCIKI (chrust, faworki).** Sift 2 c flour onto board. Make well at center and deposit therein 5 egg yolks, 1 T butter, 2 T sour cream, a pinch of salt and 1 T 6% distilled vinegar or 190-proof grain alcohol. (Optional: 1/2 t vanilla or rum extract may be added if desired). Work into a dough and knead well (about 15 min) until dough is glossy and full of small holes when cut in half. Beat dough with rolling-pin on all sides – the more air forced into the dough, the lighter the pastries will be. Roll out as thin as possible on light floured board, sprinkling top of dough sheet with a little flour. With pastry-wheel or knife cut dough sheet into 1 to 1-1/2" strips, then cut strips at an angle into 5" pieces. Cut a 1-1/2" vertical strip down center of each piece and gently pull one of the ends through the slot to form a bow. Heat at least 1-1/2 lb lard or shortening (or oil) in deep pan or electric skillet to 350°. Deep-fry to a light golden-brown on both sides and remove to absorbent paper. Fry in batches so they are not crowded and can float freely. When slightly cooled, dust with confectioner's sugar.

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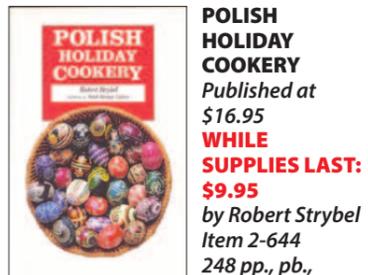
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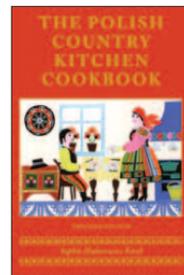
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Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 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.



**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. Illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") complement this book.

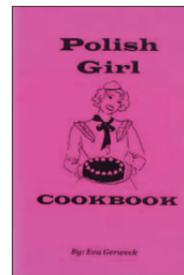
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\$8.95  
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5-1/2 x 3-1/2 inches  
160 pp., spiral bound

This little cookbook features a great variety of regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, bigos, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas. Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

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by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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## Travel

## Trains, Trolleys, and Polish Tradition

While Poland is changing rapidly, it has also retained its rich folk culture, traditional cuisine and many time-honored symbols of its proud history. As Poland modernizes, the Poles have also carefully preserved key elements of their former transportation systems that are now showcased in special heritage parks and featured in colorful excursions in the Polish countryside. As a result, Poland now offers some of the most unique collections of operating vintage train and trolley vehicles in the world.

**“Trains, Trolleys and Tradition - Panorama of Poland Tour 2018”** is a new tour offering that showcases the country’s cultural highlights while also providing a rare insight into Poland’s vintage transportation history.

This tour is the result of a collaborative effort between Polish American Szopka Artist Dave Motak and vintage transportation aficionados Dr. William Fronczek and Jack Samuels, volunteers with the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, which boasts one of the largest collections of operating vintage trolleys in the United States.

Motak has been organizing specialized small group tours to Poland and Central Europe since 2004. He began in response to requests from friends who knew of his extensive background in Polish history and culture; his popular tours continue to attract a large number of return travelers. “We try to keep our groups small,” says Motak, “so that we can offer a higher quality travel experience and personalized service.”

Motak’s tours have also become noted for their unique themes and specialized itineraries. He stresses that these are not “off the rack” tours, but carefully crafted and researched travel experiences.

During a recent trip to Poland, the three men decided to develop a specialty tour that would combine their passion for the country’s rich history and culture with their interest in vintage transportation sites. “Although Poland is acquiring a strong reputation as one of the hottest places to travel in Europe,” Fronczek observes, “its rich vintage transportation offerings are only now being discovered,

particularly among British transportation enthusiasts. This aspect of Poland is relatively unknown in the United States, even within Polonia. Our tour is probably the first one to showcase this unique part of the Polish tourist scene, while still offering plenty of the usual cultural sites.”

Although there are activities on the tour for “transportation buffs,” the *Panorama of Poland Tour* is organized so participants will have the option of participating in other activities.

Designed for both the “first timer” as well as the seasoned Poland traveler, the tour includes city tours of Warsaw, Gdańsk, Toruń, Poznań and Kraków. Guests will have the opportunity to ride Poland’s new *Pendolino* high speed train from Warsaw to the massive Malbork Castle, one of the largest Medieval fortifications in Europe. Guests will also be treated to a cruise on the historic 1844 Elbląg Canal, enjoy amber shopping and a city tour aboard a vintage trolley in Gdańsk and attend a concert on the 5,100-pipe Baroque organ in Oliwa Cathedral. The tour will also include a lively evening of traditional Polish food and folklore entertainment in Warmia, as well as a special dinner and stargazing evening in the castle hotel in Lidzbark where legendary Polish astronomer Nicholas Copernicus studied the heavens. Also included will be visits to Rogalin Palace, with its famous grove of 700+ year-old Polish oak trees and one of the largest collections of art from the Polish Romantic Period of the 19th century. Also featured will be lunch at the impressively restored Cistercian Monastery in Sulejów, as well as a stop at the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Częstochowa.

Special activities for transportation enthusiasts will include traveling by steam locomotive from Poznań to the Steam Locomotive complex and Heritage Rail Museum in Wolsztyn. Wolsztyn offers one of the largest collections of operating vintage steam locomotives in the world, including some of the oldest Polish-made steam loco-

motives. Participants will be treated to a special “hands-on” look at these operating relics of a bygone era, which will soon be phased out of operation. At the same time, other guests will have the option to tour Poznań, including the historic Old Town and the Stary Browar Shopping Complex. Built by Polish billionaire Grażyna Kulczyk, in which 50 percent of the Stary Browar development is devoted to art, this award-winning design was designated as the best medium-sized shopping development in the world.

After touring Poland’s ancient capital of Kraków, participants will travel south to enjoy an excursion on the Malopolska Scenic Railway in the foothills of the Tatra Mountains, which includes regional folklore entertainment. This will be followed by an old-time village *ognisko* (bonfire) folk evening at a country inn in Iwkowa Village. The *ognisko* will include specialty cured meats from a local company owned and operated by members of the Motak family who continue the time-honored practice of preparing regional specialties according to family recipes.

To complete this one-of-a-kind evening, guests will enjoy entertainment from the local *Iwkowianie* Folk Ensemble, who preserve their

Polish heritage through lively music, dance and song.

The 13-night tour is scheduled for September 10-24, 2018, and includes accommodations in fine hotels, transportation by deluxe air conditioned motor coach, professional English-speaking guides and 28 meals including welcome banquet and special folklore evenings.

*Panorama of Poland 2018* is being organized in collaboration with Chopin Express Tours of Toronto, specialists in travel to Poland and Central Europe.

For complete details including full itinerary, tour price, tour map, and hotels visit the tour web site at [www.janddtours.net](http://www.janddtours.net). For questions, email Dave Motak at [contact@janddtours.net](mailto:contact@janddtours.net) or phone (412) 835-0539. Further inquiries can be directed to Wanda Grzesik, Chopin Tours, email: [wanda@chopin-tours.com](mailto:wanda@chopin-tours.com) or at (800) 533-0369.

Supporting the Polish American Journal’s PAJ Foundation: You *Can* Make a Difference

by Eugene Trela

American Polonia is in transition. Many of our favorite churches, organizations, shops, and neighborhoods have either already disappeared or are perilously close to doing so. Except for the *Polish American Journal*, there are but a handful of English-language newspapers covering all things Poland and Polonia. Polish-language newspapers are also slowly but steadily waning.

Where does this leave us? We must — and I emphasize must — support our remaining institutions.

Several years ago, I help to establish the Polish American Journal Foundation. Its purpose was simple: to maximize the thousands of contacts the newspaper has to help Polonia. This is being done through scholarships, by providing academic and financial assistance to Polish American students and researchers, documentation of customs and traditions, and donations to other Polish American non-profits.

While our success, to date, has been fantastic, so much more can be done.

I would like to share these reasons why you should donate to the PAJF, and how it will benefit you:

- **Paying it forward.** By taking some of what you have and giving back to your community, you are supporting future Polish Americans who do not (or will not) have the benefit of growing up in rich culture we once enjoyed.
- **Setting an example.** A donation to the PAJF is a great way to set an example for your children, co-workers, family, and friends. Be a leader and let those in your circle follow in your footsteps and feel motivated by your acts of goodwill to do

the same.

- **Making Polonia — and ultimately Poland — a better place.** Through every donation made, someone benefits from that donation, causing a ripple of positivity that can literally transform someone’s life. This is all done in Poland’s good name, and improves our lot, from our ancestors in the Tatras, to our immigrant neighbors from Gdansk.
- **Leaving a legacy.** When you give to others, those around you will have a deeper respect and appreciation for you and your love for things Polish. Not only will you be building a legacy to leave behind, others will remember you for the differences you made through your selflessness and charitable giving.
- **A sense of empowerment.** By giving, you can find empowerment knowing you can make a difference. No matter how great or how small, making a donation puts you in the position to help change the situation. The empowerment gained through such a noble act can be both personally fulfilling and invaluable to those who benefit from your donation.
- **Chance to double your donation.** Some of us are fortunate enough to work for companies which will match donations. By utilizing this valuable resource, your act of giving can be as much as doubled,

making an even bigger impact for those in need. The Polish American Journal Foundation’s Federal Employee Number (needed for donations) is EIN: 46-4279861.



- **Showing gratitude.** Given our busy schedules and the hectic pace we maintain, we sometimes tend to take things for granted, forgetting the hard work and sacrifices of those who came before us. By donating to the PAJF, you can take solace in knowing that you did not turn your back on those who helped make us who we are today.
- **Supporting a cause.** Many people are passionate about certain causes. Giving to charities that work to make changes in the causes they support, is a great way to be a part of altering the bigger picture. Think of it as proactively helping a charity fulfill their mission.
- **Tax deductions.** When you make a charitable donation, it is tax deductible. And, surprisingly, charitable giving is one of the most commonly forgotten

tax deductions. This is truly a win-win situation: by helping someone else, you receive some compensation in the form of a deduction on your own personal income taxes.

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## There are three ways to become a member:

1. **Write to the PAJF** and request a membership application. The address is: The Polish American Journal Foundation, P.O. Box 198, Bowmansville, NY 14026.
2. **Download the membership application** and brochure from the PAJF’s website, which is accessible through [www.palamjournal.com](http://www.palamjournal.com).
3. **Donate online:** You can make a donation via PayPal from the PAJF’s website.

All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return.

It’s no secret that Poles and Polish Americans are known for their selflessness and generosity. Please contact us today and help make a difference.

## Sports

## Stoch Wins Silver at Ski Flying World Championships

by Tom Tarapacki

Poland's ski jumping star **Kamil Stoch** won a silver medal at the Ski Flying World Championships in Oberstdorf, Germany.

23-year-old Daniel Andre Stoch. "... nothing to complain about." Tande of Norway claimed the World Champion title in the flying hill individual competition, finishing 13.3 points ahead of Stoch.

Home favorite Richard Freitag was third in the individual event.

The fourth round of the competition, originally scheduled for four jumps over two days, had to be cancelled due to strong winds.

"I knew that I was able to jump even further (...). I was preparing for the fourth round and suddenly I got the information that it is called off," the Polish ski jumping star told reporters.

Stoch added: "Then I felt a slight disappointment. Yet I know that there is nothing to complain about."

Poland finished third in a team competition at the FIS Ski Flying World Championships in Oberstdorf, Germany.

World Champion Norway took a clear win in the team event and Slovenia placed second.

This year's individual gold medalist, Daniel Andre Tande, helped his country Norway to secure victory at the competition. The longest jump of the day (231 meters) was produced by his compatriot Andreas Stjernen.



Stoch. "... nothing to complain about."

next pick and drafted Gronkowski with it. Now, the All-Pro tight end is a load no matter which team he plays, but he always seems to do a little extra against Buffalo.

"Sorry to them for that," Gronkowski said of his dominance of Buffalo. "But I mean, I don't know. It's cool when your hometown team passes on you twice in that draft and you kind of remember it still. So, no lie, I remember that every single time I play them."



Ryan Ramczyk with his mother, Lori, and father, Randy, on the red carpet prior to the start of the 2017 NFL Draft.

Wisconsin in 2010 and three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year, who walked on as a transfer in 2008; and, **Ryan Ramczyk**, the offensive tackle who was a first-round draft pick in 2017, four years after he'd been enrolled in technical school and considered a career as a welder.

Another former walk-on was **Jack Cichy**, a senior linebacker who announced that he will decline to apply for a medical redshirt and will enter the 2018 NFL Draft. Cichy's father, Steve, was a standout at Notre Dame and the CFL and his grandfather, Sid, was legendary high school coach in North Dakota.

Wisconsin's players aren't prima donnas; when some griped about camp one summer, strength coach **Ross Kolodziej** handed out one of his training camp schedules from the 1990s when practices were run three times a day. That ended the complaints. "One thing we benefit from is not having a bunch of five-star guys that think they're going to go straight to the league," Kolodziej says. "You have guys who were under-recruited and have a chip on their shoulder."

Wisconsin is known as dairyland, of course.

"Out of that landscape, a stereotype of a Wisconsin football player has arisen: the massive, cheese-fed behemoth. He's blond, raised on a farm and he's playing lineman in Madison ... **Tyler Bidasz**, a native of Amherst (pop. 1,035), is 6'3", weighs 315 pounds and plays center. He's blond and

bearded, but he would like you to do know that he did not grow up on a dairy farm. He grew up across the street from one."

**SEVEN YEAR ITCH.** Nick Polly had two short stints in the big leagues but they were spaced, rather surprisingly, seven years apart. He made his major league debut at the age of 20 with the 1937 Brooklyn Dodgers. He played 10 games that season. After a long stretch in the minors and out of baseball, he returned in 1945 with the Boston Red Sox and played four more games. He hit .200 in 25 at-bats. The 5-11, 190-lb. right-handed third baseman was born **Nicholas Polachanin** in Chicago on April 18, 1917, to Joseph Polachanin and Stella (Zubovich) Polachanin. The family was listed in the 1920 census as coming

from Russian Poland and speaking Polish. Polly never married, and died in Chicago in 1993.



**HE'S GOT POWER.** When he was 11, **Joseph Sikora** (inset, left) told his mother he wanted to be an actor. The Chicago native did some commercials — including one with Michael Jordan — but by the time he entered Notre Dame High School for Boys in Niles he lost his focus. Eventually he got back on track and attended junior college before graduating from Columbia.

After working in Chicago theater, he pursued acting in Los Angeles and New York City in 2000, landing various small parts. Since appearing in the 2003 HBO film "Normal" work has been steady, including TV appearances in such shows as "Grey's Anatomy" and "Criminal Minds," and film roles in "Jack Reacher" and "Shutter Island." He also got meaty parts on HBO's "Boardwalk Empire" and "True Detective." Now he has a lead role in the Starz hit series "Power," in which he plays Tommy Egan, a hard-hitting, fast-talking drug dealer in New York City.

In a 2016 interview with *USA Today's* Jason Jordan, the 41-year-old Sikora talked about playing baseball, football, basketball, and volleyball in his youth. However, the sport he spent the most time with was boxing. His home gym was a place called Matador, part of the Northwestern University Settlement House. Joe, who fought in the Golden Gloves and had 32 bouts, used the sport to manage anger and channel his energy.

Now, despite his busy schedule he tries to work out 40 minutes to an hour a day, lifting weights and doing yoga. He also watches his diet, remembering his father Albin's advice: "All things in moderation, including moderation."

The *USA Today* interview also talked about President Obama's Secret Service code name, Renegade, and Sikora was asked what his code name would be if he were president. Joe's answer: The White Eagle!

**NICE GUYS FINISH LAST.** Polish skier **Pawel Babicki** finished last in a downhill race in Italy, but it may have been one of the greatest runs of his career. Babicki lost his left ski

less than halfway through, but kept his cool and completed the rest of the course on one leg. Despite finishing 67th out of 67, he drew an ovation from the race crowd.

Babicki later said he was inspired by American skier Bode Miller, who finished a race on one leg in 2005. "When I lost the ski I was like, 'Come on, I've seen Bode Miller's run so many times. I'm going to do everything I can to reach the finish.'"

## THEY SAID IT

"So far I've played right, left and first base, and I'm Polish. Does that make me a utility Pole?"

— **Frank Kostro**, who played parts of seven seasons in the major leagues in the 1960s, speaking to reporters after making the *Minnesota Twins* roster in 1968.



"When I was twelve years old I was working in the mines from seven in the morning to seven at night, six days a week ... There was nothing strange in those days about a twelve-year-old Polish kid in the mines for 72 hours a week at a nickel an hour. What was strange was that I ever got out of there."

— **Pitcher Stan Coveleski**, who emerged from the coal mines of Pennsylvania in the early 1900s to eventually earn induction into the *Baseball Hall of Fame* in 1969.



"Polish people are fun-loving people. We love life. We love the dignity of work. We believe in work. Work gives us dignity, and we believe in sharing our honors."

— **Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski**, in his 1991 induction speech for the *National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame*.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Buffalo United Charter School  
325 Manhattan Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14214-1809  
716-835-9862 PHONE  
716-408-9575 FAX

## OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2018-2019 academic school year ends on 4/9/2018 at 5 p.m. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school, at [www.NHAschools.com](http://www.NHAschools.com) or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on 4/19/2018 at 10 a.m. in the teachers lounge. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Buffalo United Charter School admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

**GRONKOWSKI LOVES GOING BACK TO BUFFALO.** A native of the Buffalo suburb of Williamsville N.Y., **Rob Gronkowski** enjoys returning home to play the Bills. The Bills don't feel the same way; over the course of his career, Gronk has made 66 catches for 1,027 yards and 12 touchdowns, while helping his New England Patriots go 11-2 against Buffalo in that time.

Rob, who grew up a rabid Bills fan, has a good reason for his productivity against his hometown: the Bills passed on him in the draft.

Coming out of Arizona in the 2010 NFL draft, Gronk was considered a top talent but had some injury concerns. The Bills had the No. 9 and No. 41 picks in the draft. They drafted running back C.J. Spiller at No. 9, who had a couple decent seasons during five years in Buffalo. In the second round, at No. 41, the Bills drafted defensive tackle Torell Troup, who didn't stay long in the NFL. The Patriots traded to get the



**HAMMER TIME.** Polish hammer thrower **Anita Wlodarczyk** won the *Track & Field News* Woman Athlete of the Year. It was the third time she received the prestigious honor in four years. The 32-year-old Pole, a double Olympic champion, is the first woman in history to throw the hammer over 80 meters. Her current world record is 82.98 meters. In August she defended her IAAF World Championship in London. She is widely considered the greatest women's hammer thrower of all time.

**BADGERS FOR LIFE.** *Sports Illustrated* recently reported that only three schools have won more games than Wisconsin since 2014: Alabama, Ohio State and Clemson. But unlike other programs that recruit five-star players, Wisconsin "stocks its roster with players who seem to come out of nowhere."

That includes a couple of unheralded players with Polish roots who became NFL stars: **J.J. Watt**, a second-team All-American at

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.

**Polish American Historical Association**  
Central Connecticut State University  
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050  
[www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)

## POLISH UNIVERSITY CLUB OF NEW JERSEY SCHOLARSHIP / STYPENDIUM 2018

APPLY TODAY!

Polski Klub Uniwersytecki NJ był założony w 1928 roku przez małą grupę Polsko-Amerykańskich studentów. Klub ten służy się wspieraniem młodzieży studenckiej. Przez te lata, klub wydał ponad \$900,000 na stypendia dla ponad 500 studentów.

Po więcej informacji w celu otrzymania stypendium, wejdź na stronę [www.pucfnj.org](http://www.pucfnj.org). Tegoroczne stypendia będą przyznawane studentom z NJ w ostatnim roku high school, będących na studiach, oraz studentów na studia magisterskie. Termin do 15 Marca 2018

The Polish University Club of New Jersey was founded in 1928 by a small group of Polish-American college graduates. The club takes great pride in supporting young adults who are striving for higher education. Since its start, the club has awarded over \$900,000 in scholarships to more than 500 students.

To find out more information on how YOU can apply, visit [www.pucfnj.org](http://www.pucfnj.org). This year's scholarship is open to all NJ high school seniors, college undergraduates, and graduate students. Due by March 15, 2018

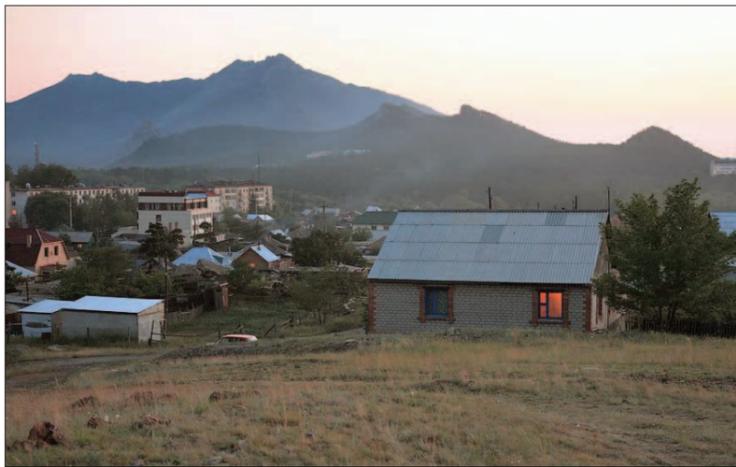
## Sybiracy

## Hunger Season and Trip for Cloth Supplies, 1944-45

"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 Kazakstan. 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 XXVIII.** Jedrek was an average student at primary school. We were surprised to realize that he talks about himself using female pronouns: "she was, she did, she played." This was an effect of being surrounded almost exclusively by women. We began to correct him and it helped. He started using male pronouns and verbs in sentences correctly speaking both Polish and Russian. Before the winter of 1944, I sewed a warm quilt coat for Tereska and also a warm wadding jacket for Jedrek. Jedrek grew, and he needed something warm to walk to school in. I was proud of my accomplishment, but initially, he did not want to wear this jacket. He screamed and complained that he would not walk to school with such



Borovoy (today called Borovskoy) is a town in South-East of Kostanay, a county seat, about 100 km away from Kostanay.



Borovoy's bust of Lenin, on a pedestal.

a "hairy" coat.... but he had to. The boy was very spoiled by Marysia, and my beggings or commands usually did not work. Marysia did everything for him, and I knew about it post factum.

The early spring of 1945 was really a hungry season for us. I went with two other women to search for potatoes in the exchange for something else. We were not able to get anybody to sell us potatoes. We were hungry and tired when we reached a place near our district office in the morning. I saw a woman leaving the house, she was throwing away some human droppings after the night. Then we noticed that something else felt hard down to the ground. We thought this might

be a potato. We ran about a hundred meters. We were competing for who would be the first. I won and reached a big potato. My companions looked at me with jealousy. I took a knife and divided the potato into three equal parts. They had tears in their eyes

when I gave them their parts. Without even cleaning it, we put the potato into the mouth. It was delicious, since hunger does miracles.

In May, I went again to Kostanay to Polish Patriots Section since they have more supplies for us. I received three huge sacks full of clothing. I searched for some transportation, and I found four tractors that were going to Borovoy, a town a half way to Krutoyarka. These were good men; they agreed

to carry each one sack and me also for no extra cost after I told them who is it for. It took two days to drive 140 km (87 miles). During the whole travel I worried whether all tractors are together and nobody would try to steal the sacks, but I didn't need to. Everything was fine except my behind that was swollen since I had to sit quite uncomfortably on a part of the tractor that did not have any real seat. I had problems with walking for the next couple of days. In Borovskoy I was able to catch a track and travel another 80 km ((50 miles) at no cost. Finally, I reached the district where there

were only Poles. Then I realized the degree of greed and rapacity of my countrymen. They demanded to give them clothing, shoes, and who knows what. I tried to explain that I need to deliver everything to the region first since I have a list I need to check it. Nothing seemed to work. These people have even threaten me that I would go back home with nothing. Fortunately, the postman came. He took two sacks into his wagon. Some women were hanging to the cart, trying to hold to the horse reins and yanking me. We escaped but with an effort.

Then we reached a village Pieszczanki (Pyestschankiy) where decent Poles resided. They let us



Borovoy's Russian Orthodox church.

use their wheel cart for me to drive home. The next early morning the postman took me to the district. I gave them all the clothes according to the list. I was able to obtain, although I had to fight for it, an old military coat for myself, since I lost the only one I had. The chairwoman took care of distributing the clothes. I was not interested how he divided all this stuff. I had enough brawls already behind me.

#### continued next month

—Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: [www.polish-site.us](http://www.polish-site.us)

## Resistance

## V-2 Rocket

by Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

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 XXIII.** The rain was pelting down and the wind was turning umbrellas inside-out.

Kaminski and Michal paused at the door of the café before deciding to make a dash into the street.

"Michal, let me drive you."

Once they had settled in the car, Kaminski, his hand on the gearshift, asked "Do you have some time? There is something I would like to show you."

Czerniakow, a blue-collar suburb of Warsaw, housed several industries within the community that provided jobs for skilled workers. Many of the homes had not been maintained for years. There were

parts of Czerniakow that exposed a long history of poverty. Kaminski parked in front of one of the better structures and produced a key to unlock the door. Some basic furnishings occupied the rooms. One small bulb nestled in the ceiling to cast a narrow column of yellow light on the floor. Kaminski led the way to the basement door, he flicked a switch on the wall and the area was flooded with light and the sound of an exhaust fan. They descended a flight of sturdy steps; evidently Kaminski had made some improvements.

Kaminski gestured with his right hand, "This is the home of the Polish Journal."

Shelves lined one long wall. A work-table, a desk, and a hand press printing machine fulfilled the necessary publishing equipment.

"Sometimes, it becomes my home as well. When I'm working late, the work-table becomes my bed."

He walked over to a shelf and reached for a bottle and two glasses. "I have no delightful black-market coffee to offer, but a good host always has a bottle of vodka on hand."

Michal shook his head and smiled.

"Have a seat." Kaminski offered the only chair in the room. "Na zdrowia!"

"Well," he raised his glass, "here's to the traitors we have dispersed. The traitorous trio that informed on Grot. May their god welcome them to an eternity in Hell."

He hopped up on the work-table and assumed the tone of a professional story teller.

"Now, I must share with you the latest story I am working on."

"Early this year, the Bureau of Intelligence received a packet of information from Trassenheide, the German Camp in Peenemunde..."

Michael interrupted, "Where is Peenemunde?"

"It's on the Island of Usedom in the Baltic," he said "Two Polish prisoners of war, who served as janitors, gathered information of a mysterious weapon the Germans were experimenting with. They managed to gather maps, sketches, and reports of a rocket launching site on the island. Somehow, they smuggled the contents to the Information Bureau."

"These were no ordinary janitors, Zygmunt. They must have been well educated to understand what the plans were about."

"Absolutely. Well, the Bureau gave the packet to Zamski to deliver to Churchill. In August, the RAF conducted an air raid over the living quarters of the scientists; the factory workshop; and," he smiled shrewd-

ly, "the experimental station."

"Does this shut them down?"

"For how long? If this weapon is truly groundbreaking, they'll start again."

He cocked his head to the side. "Unfortunately, the two Polish heroes were unable to escape. They were warned in advance, but there was no air-raid shelter available to the prisoners of the camp, and the SS security was very tight."

"They join the growing list of patriots who give their lives for freedom."

"Michal, I'm going to place an onus on you." He hopped off the table and walked over to his desk. He opened a drawer and removed a small object which he placed in his hand.

"I'm giving you a set of keys to my office. I have no one to inherit my lovely journal. The way the partisans are being wiped out, leads me to consider the inevitable possibility of this happening to me, as well."

"What will I do with these?"

"You'll become a publisher."

"Zygmunt!"

"Listen, there are times when I must travel outside of Warsaw, not only to sell my paper products, but also to cover important events. Peenemunde is an example. I'm following that story. Meanwhile, things are happening at home that

## March 11 Concert to Honor Chopin

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), announces its Annual Fryderyk Chopin Concert, Sun., March 11, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sister Franciska Onley Education Center (formerly the Holy Family University Education & Technology Center), 9801 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia.



Tartakovsky: outstanding performer at the 2015 Chopin International Competition.

Featured artist is Alexei Tartakovsky. Tickets are \$30.00 each; students, \$20.00, with appropriate ID, and may be purchased at the door. A light reception will follow.

Called "a thoughtful and serious musician" by the *New York Concert Review*, Russian-American pianist Alexei Tartakovsky is one of the most promising young virtuoso talents of his generation. His beautiful sound, profound musicianship, superb technique and exciting artistic approach have thrilled audiences worldwide.

In 2016, Tartakovsky was awarded the French Prize at the Cleveland International Piano Competition. A highlight of his career was his outstanding performance at the 2015 Chopin International Competition in Warsaw, Poland.

Tartakovsky did his undergraduate studies at Juilliard and CUNY Queens College, received his Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory, and an Artist Diploma from Yale School of Music. He is pursuing his doctorate with Richard Goode at CUNY Graduate Center, where he was awarded the coveted Graduate Center Fellowship.

For additional concert details: Contact Debbie Majka, concert chairperson, (215) 627-1391 or [dziecko2@comcast.net](mailto:dziecko2@comcast.net).

need attention."

He poured another round of vodka.

"I need another journalist to write copy of underground events here, in Warsaw."

"I'm not a journalist. I wouldn't know where to begin."

"I employ a helper, Jerzy. He knows all about you and he will serve you well. He's another one of those patriots who will give their lives to freedom. He will martyr, if need be."

"Do I get to meet him?"

"Yes, I'll have him contact you. He extended his hand, "Do I have your hand on this, Michal?"

"Zygmunt, don't get carried away with this, but I'd give my life for you." He took the hand that was offered and the promise was sealed.

Kaminski threw his head back in a hearty laugh—he quickly sobered, "Do you still have the call-letters to contact Zamski?"

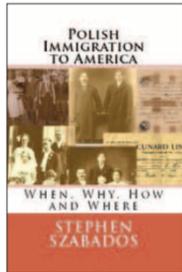
#### continued next month

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."

**PAJ BOOKSTORE**

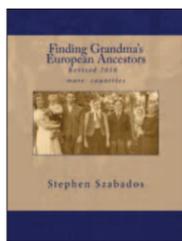
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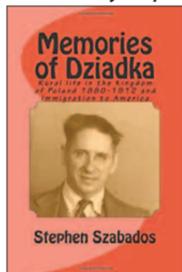
When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully clear up your confusion 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  
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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



\$14.95  
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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.



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

**Genealogy**

**Using the Internet for Genealogy Research**

by Stephen M. Szabados

The Internet has become an important source for our genealogical research. The records available on internet databases are not limited to those created in the United States. Records from many countries are now available due to the efforts of not only Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and Findmypast.com but also due to cooperation of the National Archives in countries such as Ireland, Canada, France, the Czech Republic, Poland and many others. Volunteers throughout the world have also donated many hours of their time to make these records searchable for our convenience. However, with the advances in the availability of Polish records, do not be tempted to begin your online research by searching Polish research.

Be patient, learn the American story of your immigrant ancestors before looking for Polish. You will not be able to find their Polish records unless you know where they left. The basic rule is to "search from the known to the unknown."

Start with U.S. census records found on Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org to find basic information such as the year of their birth, when were they married and when did they immigrate. Where were they married? In Poland or in the United States?

Other important documents to find are their marriage records that may list their Polish birthplace. Look for both the civil and church marriage records. If they were married in Poland, search for the marriage records for their children who were born in Poland. Also look for the marriage records for their friends and relatives who came from the same area. Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org are both important resources for these marriage records. The recent change by Familysearch.org to discontinue the film rental service has made obtaining online copies of the birth, marriage, and death records easier because the digital is now available in the Familysearch catalog for most of these records.

Use the information found in the census records to look for the pas-

senger list of the arrival of your ancestor. This record may list the town they left, relatives they left behind, and the friend or relatives that were joining in America. Ancestry.com is the best website to find copies of passenger lists.

Naturalization petitions can also yield significant information about your ancestors. Petitions created after 1906 list where the immigrants were born, when they arrived, the names of their spouse and children. Familysearch.org has recently added naturalization papers for many states and counties. If your records can not be found on Familysearch, request their papers from the U.S. National Archives using the online form at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

Many Polish church records are now available online, but we still need to know the location of the parish church. Groups have coordinated with the Polish Archives to digitize and index church records to make them available online. The three major websites are Geneteka ([geneteka.genealodzy.pl](http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl)), Metryki ([metryki.genealodzy.pl](http://metryki.genealodzy.pl)), and the State Archives of Poland (<http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/en/state-archives.html>). The Polish Genealogy Society of America has a webpage listing these websites and over 45 other useful websites (<http://pgsa.org/2014-polish-parish-records/>).

Remember to evaluate your data as you find the documents. What you find could be for your ancestor but it could also be for someone else. If you use erroneous data you will waste time researching people that are not in your family.

I am excited about the tremendous amount of information now available online. Use what you find to begin writing the story of your ancestors lives in America and add to the story when you find their Polish records.

Remember to "Search from the Known to the Unknown."

❖ ❖ ❖  
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."

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It will explain the name's meaning, how it originated, how many people share it, where they are from and whether a noble coat of arms accompanies it. If one is found, its image and the story behind it will be provided.

If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$13

for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also be able to check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives thanks to a helpful genealogical contact sheet included with each order.

For more information, contact: [resarch60@gmail.com](mailto:resarch60@gmail.com).

**Newest PLAV Auxiliary Member**



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

by Richard P. Poremski

BALTIMORE, Md. – Malgorzata "Gosia" Bondyra (right) was sworn in as an auxiliary member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans – Department of Maryland, by Commander Steve "Wojo" Wojciechowski, Dec. 21, 2017. The event took place during PLAV's monthly membership meeting (and annual Christmas Party) at the Polish National Alliance Lounge, with Judge Advocate Richard Poremski overseeing the ceremony.

Bondyra, 42, has a very interesting personal history. Hailing from Torun, Poland, she arrived here in 1995. While living in Torun she graduated from Zespol Szkol Ekonomicznych – a highly specialized business-focused high school, and studied economics at the Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika. Growing up at home, she joined the regional folk group ZPiT Toruniacy at age 14 as a member of its kapela. Years later, she toured the eastern United States with the group. She also studied visual and performing arts – violin performance at the University of Maryland Baltimore County Campus, and is an accomplished violinist and vocalist.

Bondyra has become a dynamic force in the local Polonia. Two years ago, after a long association with the Ojczyzna Polish Dancers, Inc. she became its managing director. In 2017 she became Ojczyzna's artistic director and choreographer after attending an intense summer program with certification at the prestigious Polonijne Studium Choreograficzne at the University of Rzeszow, Poland. Bondyra is also very involved with the Polish National Alliance, and holds elected officer positions in both Council 21 and Lodge 238. She is a leading PNA sales representative and a notary public for good measure.

Bondyra is employed as a Polish-English translator and interpreter. She is married, the mother of three children, and currently resides in Perry Hall, a suburb of Baltimore.

Bondyra has accomplished much since arriving here in the United States 22 years ago and eventually becoming a proud naturalized citizen in her newly adopted country. Such people serve to make America and our Polonia much stronger and more viable into the future, as well as representing a debt of familial gratitude to Poland.

**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: **Laura Andres**, Bethlehem, Pa.; **Helen L. Banko**, Auburn, N.Y.; **Joseph J. Bien**, Rome, N.Y.; **John Cieniawski**, Posen, Ill.; **John A. Daugela, Jr.**, Northampton, Mass.; **Helen Gancarz**, Freesoil, Mich.; **John and Ann Halley**, Roland Heights, Calif.; **Sandra Kapla**, Clinton Township, Mich.; **John T. Kazanski**, Scarborough, Maine; **F. Klecha**, Garfield, N.J.; **Irene Krzywinski Lane**, Los Angeles; **Rev. Maciej Melaniuk**, S. Plainfield, N.J.; **Mrs. Gordon Millar**, Port Orange, Fla.; **Raymond Morley**, Ankeny, Iowa; **Mary Ann Mujwid**, Chetek, Wisc.; **Frank Nice**, Derwood, Md.; **James Nowogrocki**, St. Louis, Mo.; **Walter Orlowski**, Scio, N.Y.; **Joseph Osowski**, Barnegat Light, N.J.; **George Pawlowski**, Virginia Beach, Virg.; **Mary Pizzato**, Manteno, Ill.; **Bob Radycki**, Chicago, Ill.; **Edward Zoladz**, Pittsfield, Mass.; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; and three **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

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## In Memoriam

## PNCC Bishop Emeritus Rt. Rev. Thaddeus Peplowski

Rt. Rev. Thaddeus S. Peplowski, Bishop Emeritus of the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Lancaster, N.Y., died Jan. 19, 2018.

Thaddeus Peplowski was born on Nov. 4, 1936 in Albany, N.Y., the youngest of 13 children born to Joseph and Sophia Peplowski. He was baptized into the Polish National Catholic Church, and as a youth, received his Catholic education at the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish in Albany, and his formal education through the Albany public school system.

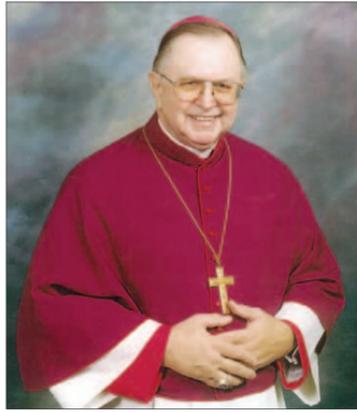
Peplowski entered Savonarola Theological Seminary in Scranton, Pa., in September of 1954, and completed a four-year program of priest-

ly formation. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 15, 1958, by the Most Reverend Leon Grochowski.

Father Peplowski's first assignment was at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y., where he served for nine years.

While at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, "Father Pep," as he lovingly became known, stressed the importance of youth involvement in the parish and organized a strong Youth Club.

After leaving Buffalo, Peplowski served at All Saints Parish in Rome, N.Y., St. Joseph Parish in Oshawa, Ontario, and in 1971, he organized St. Barbara's Parish in Houtzdale, Pa..



In July of 1982, Rt. Rev. John Swantek elevated Fr. Peplowski to Senior Priest, and he was assigned as dean of the Central Deanery of

the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese. Elected a bishop at the 19th General Synod, the Very Rev. Peplowski was consecrated on Nov. 30, 1990 by the Prime Bishop the Most Rev. Swantek, and became Bishop Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese.

Bishop Peplowski assisted in the formation of the Nordic Catholic Church and helped bring them into the Union of Scranton. Twelve new parish communities were organized in the Diocese during the bishop's term in Office in Texas, Pennsylvania, and New York states. He also was instrumental in the formation of the Nordic Catholic Church in Norway and Sweden, as well as parishes in Italy and Germany.

In 1993, the Cathedral Parish and Diocesan See were moved from the Buffalo site to a 72-acre location on Broadway in Lancaster, N.Y. The new cathedral and diocesan complex were built and dedicated during the observance of the 100th anniversary of the parish on August 8, 1995.

Bishop Peplowski was active in Polonia of Western New York and was instrumental in improving relations and cooperation with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo and with other Churches in Western New York. He remained as the Ordinary of the Diocese for 22 years, retiring from this office in October of 2012.

## Obituaries

## Charles A. Komosa, Chicago Polish Leader

Charles "Charley" Komosa passed away unexpectedly in his home on December 29, 2017, at the age of 50. Born in Chicago on March 10, 1967 to the late Edward and Marilyn (Rozmarek) Komosa, he lived with his family on West Wellington Avenue in the home once owned by his Rozmarek grandparents in Chicago's *Jackowo* (St. Hyacinth) area.



Komosa was the loving husband of Agata, the devoted father of Charles and Alexander, and the fond brother of Catherine and Marilyn. He was the grandson of late Charles Rozmarek, the co-founder and president of the Polish American Congress (1944-1968) and president of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) from 1939-1967.

Everyone knew Charles A. Komosa as "Charley." He was a warm, outgoing, friendly guy. No matter how busy he was, he always had time to talk to you. He was a jovial conversationalist, a person who kept his word, and a hard worker. Komosa was always there to lend a helping hand and to take on a task and complete it to perfection. His sudden death shocked all of Chicago Polonia.

Komosa spent approximately 13 years as an administrative assistant to the Illinois Supreme Court and represented The Illinois Funds for the Office of the Illinois Treasurer and Comptroller, the late Judy Baar Topinka. From there, Komosa was elected to the office of national secretary of the PNA.

He was a proud and devoted member of the Chicago Society (CS) of the PNA, and past president of the CS and the Chicago Society Foundation. Komosa co-chaired the CS Polish Constitution Day pre-parade brunches and chaired the CS Inaugural Ball. For several years, he chaired the Annual CS Golf Outing, as well as its Political Candidates

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, his favorite event. All aspects of the Polish American community were important to him.

Komosa attended St. Hyacinth Grammar School and Gordon Tech High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Russian and East European Studies from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and sharpened his Polish language skills with one year of study at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.

On January 2, 2018, at St. Hyacinth Basilica, almost 300 people attended Komosa's funeral mass, a celebration of his life. He was laid to rest at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Illinois.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Albert "Bud" Peter Rybarczyk, Navy Seaman

After a 73-year wait, Sister Mary Ann Rybarczyk, OP, an Adrian Dominican nun, and her family laid her brother, Albert "Bud" Peter Rybarczyk, to rest on Monday, December 11, 2017. St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joseph, Michigan, was filled to capacity



for the funeral service. Navy veterans from throughout the United States came to pay their respects as Seaman Rybarczyk was buried with full military naval honors.

Naval Reserve Aviation Radioman 2nd Class "Bud" Rybarczyk had been officially missing in action since September 8, 1944, when the Navy plane in which he was flying was shot down at sea by enemy fire. A member of the Navy Torpedo Squadron Eighteen (VT-18) on the *U.S.S. Intrepid*, he was on a bombing mission against Japanese positions on Babelthuap Island, Palau, South Pacific. According to reports, Rybarczyk's plane, with a three-man crew abroad, was to bomb an ammunition dump when it was struck. An explosion tore off the plane's tail and caused it to spin into

the water. Rybarczyk was 22 years old.

Project Recover and the Bent-Prop Project had been trying to reach the wreckage for more than a decade. These volunteer organizations are dedicated to finding the remains of World War II soldiers who went missing in action. In 2005, a wing from Rybarczyk's plane appeared near the original crash site and in 2014 the BentProp Project, the Scripps Oceanographic Institute, and the University of Delaware found the plane's actual crash site by using autonomous robotic vehicles and an underwater sonar system. In August 16, 2017 Rybarczyk's remains were finally discovered.

The Navy contacted the Rybarczyk family to get DNA samples to confirm the veteran's remains, and a positive identification was confirmed.

Bud was born in Chicago on March 27, 1923, to Albert and Sophie Rybarczyk. He graduated from St. Joseph Catholic High School (now Lake Michigan Catholic) in St. Joseph, Michigan. He was an active athlete, playing football, basketball, and running track. Prior to his January 1942 Navy enlistment, he was employed at Clark Equipment in Buchanan, Michigan. Bud Rybarczyk is survived by his sister, three nieces and three nephews.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Actress Rose Marie, best known for "The Dick Van Dyke Show"

Rose Marie, who gained fame as the wisecracking Sally Rogers of "The Dick Van Dyke Show," died Dec. 28, 2017. She was 94. A show business lifer who began as a bobbed-hair child star in vaudeville, she worked for nearly a century in theater, radio, TV and movies.

Marie had been resting in bed at her Los Angeles-area home when a caretaker found she had stopped breathing, said family spokesman Harlan Boll.

She was a child star of the 1920s and 1930s who endeared herself to TV fans on the classic '60s sitcom that featured Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore.

The subject of the 2017 documentary "Wait for Your Laugh," Marie often claimed she had the longest career in entertainment history. It spanned some 90 years, with co-stars ranging from W.C. Fields to Garfield the cat, though the highlight for many was "The Dick Van Dyke Show."

The sitcom was widely loved for its sophisticated writing, inspired casting and insightful view of the inner workings of the then-new medium of television. Van Dyke starred as Rob Petrie, head writer for a hit comedy-variety show and Mary Tyler Moore, in her first major role, played his wife Laura.

The blonde, raspy-voiced Marie teamed with her pal Morey Amsterdam as assistant writers.

Drawing on his experiences on Sid Caesar's shows, Carl Reiner created the series, wrote and directed many episodes and made occasional appearances as the surly star, Alan Brady. After an uncertain beginning in 1961, "The Dick Van Dyke Show" caught on with TV viewers, was still popular when it ended in 1966 and remained a favorite for decades in reruns.

Not only was "The Dick Van Dyke Show" an ideal vehicle for Marie's comic gifts, it was also a showcase for her singing, with Sally belting out "Come Rain or Come Shine" and other old favorites during nightclub and party scenes.

Marie was especially proud of playing a woman defined by her work, a rare sitcom character at the time who wasn't "a wife, mother, or housekeeper," she tweeted in 2017.

The actress did have conflicts with Reiner, resenting that Moore was given more prominence than her on the show. Reiner, speaking in "Wait for Your Laugh," bluntly pushed back. "I used real strong language," he recalled. "I said, 'You



Marie was born Rose Marie Mazetta in New York to Italian-American vaudeville actor Frank Mazetta, and Stella Gluszcak. When she was three, her mother entered her in an amateur talent contest in Atlantic City as Baby Rose Marie.

both have beautiful legs. They wanna look at her legs."

Nominated three times for Emmys, Rose Marie had yet to turn 40 when she joined the Van Dyke cast, but had already been an entertainer for more than 30 years.

Marie was born Rose Marie Mazetta in Manhattan, New York on August 15, 1923, to Italian-American vaudeville actor Frank Mazetta, who went by the name of Frank Curley, and Polish American, Stella Gluszcak. When she was three, her mother entered her in an amateur talent contest in Atlantic City as Baby Rose Marie.

"My mother was terrified," she recalled in a 1992 interview with The Associated Press. "But I went out and sang 'What Can I Say, Dear, After I Say I'm Sorry?'" and won the contest."

She began singing on radio and was a hit on "The Rudy Vallee Hour." NBC gave her a seven-year contract and her own show, 15 minutes on Sunday. Her powerful voice gave rise to rumors.

"Stories went around that I was really a 45-year-old midget," she remarked in 1992. "So they sent me on a year-round personal appearance tour of theaters across the country to prove that I was a child."

She received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2001. In 2017, she extended her reach to social media, her Twitter feed quickly attracting more than 100,000 followers.

"I was asked what I wanted my legacy to be," she wrote in one tweet. "My answer, 'That I was good at my job and loved every minute of it.' I wish that for everyone."

— Composed from AP and Reuters reports by Hillel Italie, Lynn Elber, and Bob Thomas.

## Kudos for Batory, "Father of Foundation"

PHILADELPHIA —On Sat., Jan. 20, 2018, Joseph Batory, a former Upper Darby School District Superintendent, was honored at the Upper Darby Gala as "Father of the Foundation" for his visionary creation of one of the only Arts and Education Foundations in the State of Pennsylvania.

Since its inception, the Upper Darby Arts and Education Foundation has returned more than two million dollars to Upper Darby School District teachers in the form of mini-grants for educational enhancements they could not otherwise afford.

This year's annual Gala featured just under 1000 student performers.

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## Dance Time

# Dance will Memorialize Polka Matriarch Veronica Wanderlich

by Jennifer Pijanowski



Veronica Wanderlich.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Polka music, especially in the Buffalo, N.Y. area, lost a true polka enthusiast on November 24, 2017 with the passing of **Veronica Wanderlich**, just one day shy of her 83rd birthday. Always early to the party to set up her video camera, Veronica lived her life as a lover of all music but especially polka. Married to a polka musician, it was only natural that her three boys would begin learning to play instruments at a very early age. A violin player herself, she disciplined **Sonny, Johnny, and Tommy** to practice their craft and passed along her gift of playing music by ear.

Through the years, “Mrs. W” got to know many musicians and was always quick to share her carefully edited DVD recordings of polka bands. It is easy to picture her smiling face behind that video camera, dancing, and just enjoying the music. It was obvious to any bystander that she adored polka music. Her three sons have played with many polka greats and have paved a path of recognition on their own. The bands they have performed with include Marion Lush, Dynatones, Stas Golonka, The Knewz, Wanda & Stephanie, John Gora, and dozens of others along the way. Their resumes speak for themselves but the credit goes to one special woman who will be missed dearly. She instilled in them the drive and importance of offering nothing less than your best effort. The years of critiquing and celebrating their talents will remain with each of them forever.

In an effort to pay tribute, a memorial is planned for Mrs. Wanderlich, Feb. 24, 2018 at Our Lady of Częstochowa Church, 23 Wilowlawn Pkwy, Buffalo at 9:00 a.m. To celebrate and remember Veronica the way she would all want us to, a dance will be held that evening

at Potts Banquet Hall 41 S. Rossler Ave. Music begins at 7:00 p.m. and will showcase **The Knewz** along with Veronica’s beloved sons **Sonny, Johnny, and Tommy**, and special guest vocalist **John Gora**. A portion of the proceeds raised at the dance will be donated to Hospice of Buffalo in memory of Veronica.

Don’t miss out on a rare opportunity to see these brothers perform together knowing their greatest and most dedicated fan will be beaming down from up above. She may be gone from this earth but the joy her sons’ capabilities have given many will carry her legacy forward.

**VISITORS FROM THE NORTH.** **Special Delivery** hosted **A Goral-skie Christmas Koledy Night** at Potts Banquet Hall. Polka music and Christmas classics were performed by the band, giving fans a chance to dance and sing along to their favorite Christmas melodies. Alternating was Toronto’s highlander group **Ted Zdybal i Hyr**, which provided tradi-



Mary Ann Grimm, John Mysliwicz, and Aunt Millie Mysliwicz

tional Polish carols.

The group, dressed in authentic costuming, showcased a violin, accordion and beautiful angelic voices, which instantly transported you to thoughts of Christmas time in Poland. The evening filled those in attendance with an authentic Christmas spirit that is missing from many of our modern day celebrations.

**Rev. Gary J. Spencer** of Holy Trinity PNCC, blessed opłatek to be shared with one another and afforded attendees the opportunity to bid good wishes for the coming holidays and New Year.

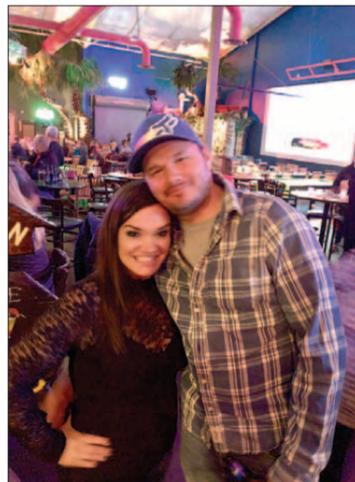
This enjoyable evening will be one that will be remembered for its warmth as each of these ensembles performed. I am hopeful that this will become a yearly event. It is a great opportunity for children to learn to appreciate those beautiful Polish carols we all love and cherish. This music has the ability to evoke wonderful Christmas memories spent with our loved ones. Events like this one keep those traditions and memories alive for all of us.

**IMPORTING FANS.** Potts hosted a Hangover Dance with **Phocus** on New Year’s Day featuring strong



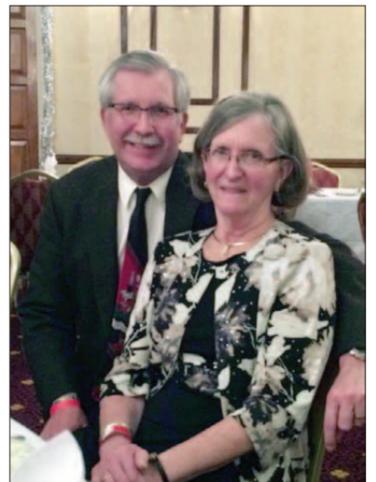
Tom and Karen Bijak got a few steps in before heading South.

Bloody Marys for those who celebrated the beginning of 2018 far into the morning. While listening to the band and spreading New Year’s cheer, I heard the band announce a song going out to someone from Wheeling, W.V. Of course, being the butt of many hillbilly jokes since



Cristin Filipski and Eric Bakowski at The Cove.

**MAKING LEMONADE.** Buffalo Bills fans were abuzz as the Bills entered the NFL playoffs for the first time since 1999. It seemed like the entire town held hopes of a Super Bowl appearance but it all abruptly ended when they were defeated by the Jaguars in the first round. As fans



Kevin and Judy Kwiatkowski enjoying the sounds of Christmas.

held at breathtaking Oglebay Park in Wheeling, W.V. The 7th annual festival will be held on March 23-25, 2018 in gorgeous Glessner Auditorium at Wilson Lodge. Start the weekend off right at the Kickoff Party starring Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push on Friday evening. The



Tad and Marcia Szymczak had Buffalo Bills’ fever.

moving to Buffalo from West Virginia, I presumed that the band was harassing me and I began laughing.

Well as I listened, they were actually sending the song out to another table who claimed to be from Wheeling. I immediately walked over to talk to this mysterious threesome and found out that they are polka fans from the Ohio Valley who came to Buffalo to celebrate New Year’s. I had the pleasure of meeting **John Mysliwicz**, his aunt, **Millie**, and friend **Mary Ann**, who had attended the Millennium New Year’s Eve gala the night before.

We got a chance to talk for some time and realized that although we did not know one another from living in small-town Wheeling, we have hundreds of friends in common because of polka music. I cannot tell you how wonderful this chance meeting was and it is just another reminder of how lucky I feel to be a part of the polka world. We chatted about the Polka Jammer Network, our favorite festivals, favorite musicians, and bands, all while enjoying the entertaining fun of Phocus.

I look forward to seeing my West Virginia gang at the Wheeling Polka Festival in March and possibly Dyn-gus Day back here in Buffalo.

lamented the tragic end of their Super Bowl dreams, they were cheered up by the energizing sounds of **Special Delivery** at Clinton Bar & Grill. Bills gear was in full force as the bar room and dance floor were packed for the monthly appearance at this local watering hole. Band members know how to charm the crowd by mixing up fan favorites and throwing a few new tunes into the mix. This group consistently adds new material and focuses on playing exactly what the crowd wants to hear. It is evident as their fans arrive early to get a seat to savor the music of Special Delivery. You can check them out this month at the **Annual Pączki Day Celebration**, Feb. 11. The event will be held at Holy Mother of the Rosary PNCC 6298 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance/ \$10 at the door. For more info contact Michelle (716) 983-5084. This event has been a long-standing fundraiser for the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY who provide Polish cultural education through ethnic dancing and music.

**SPEAKING OF WHEELING.** It is time again to make your reservations for the **Wheeling Polka Fest**

lineup for Saturday and Sunday includes The Nu-Tones, The John Gora Band, The Knewz, Ray Jay & the Carousels and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push. Ticket pricing is \$40.00 for a three-day pass or admission can be paid separately for each day. For room rates & reservations call 877-822-6045 and for tickets & information call

304-243-4064. Oglebay Resort offers many extras and amenities to roll your polka weekend into a luxurious weekend getaway. As spring begins, this resort presents beautiful gardens, mountain views, and wonderful hospitality that will make you feel welcome. This polka weekend lineup is one that you will not want to miss, so don’t delay making your plans.

## IPA Needs Your Help!



Zosia Dudek, Jolly Stan Lee, and Stan Jasinski, Buffalo, 1965.

In preparation for the International Polka Association’s 50th Anniversary Festival, the committee is looking for photos from previous IPA events. Scanned images can be sent to [christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net). Non-returnable prints can be mailed to: IPA 50th Anniversary Photos, P.O. Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60585.

## In Memoriam

### Edward and Jeanne Szela, Music Advocates



**Ed and Jeanne Szela.** IPA director and wife supported polka events across the United States.

**Edward F. Szela**, 81, of Longmeadow, Conn., a director of the International Polka Association and active in Polish American and polka organizations, died January 9, 2018 at Baystate Medical Center.

The son of the late Franciszek and Bronisława (Bernat) Szela, he was raised in Thompsonville, Conn., and has resided in Longmeadow for the past forty-five years.

A graduate of Enfield High School, Szela continued his education at the former Hampden College of Pharmacy, earning a bachelor of science degree in Pharmacy. He retired after a forty-five year career as a pharmacist at Baystate Medical Center. A communicant of St. Mary's Church, Szela was also an

avid sports fan, especially for New England teams, and greatly enjoyed gardening.

He and his wife **Jeanne**, who sadly passed away shortly after Ed, were dedicated polka music enthusiasts, supporting various festivals and polka bands.

In 1999, Ed Szela was elected a director of the International Polka Association (IPA) and was actively involved in fundraising for the organization. In 2012, he was honored by the IPA with the "Joe Jozwiak" award. In 2010, Szela was presented with the "Citizen of the Year" award by the Ludlow Polish American Citizens Club, where he served as a board member and dance committee chairman.

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## Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

### FEBRUARY 4

- SqueezeBox. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2-6. (352) 428-8340
- John Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Northern Lites/Joe Oberaitis. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Nu Soundz. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

### FEBRUARY 10

- Eddie Forman. Elks. Englewood, Fla. 5-9. (941) 474-1404

### FEBRUARY 11

- PA Villagers. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Dennis Polisky. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- Special Delivery. Paczki Day. Holy Mother of the Rosary PNCC
- 6298 Broadway, Lancaster, N.Y. 2-6 with folk dance show at 3. (716) 983-5084.
- Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview, Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9376
- Polka Classics. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Northern Sounds Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

### FEBRUARY 13

- Eddie Forman. Rec. Center. The Villages, Fla. 6-9. (352) 259-2463

### FEBRUARY 16

- Lenny Gomulka/DynaVersaStick-ToneAires/Music Connection. Plaza Inn. Stevens Point, Wisc. 6-12 (715) 572-9405

### FEBRUARY 17

- Dennis Polisky. St. Joe's Polish Club. Colchester, Conn. 5:30-10. (860) 537-2550
- Lenny Gomulka/DynaVersaStick-ToneAires/Main Squeeze/Music

Connection/Nathan's Old Time Band. Plaza Inn. Stevens Point, Wisc. 12-12. (715) 572-9405

### FEBRUARY 18

- Eddie Forman. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 5-8. (727) 934-0900
- Dennis Polisky. VFW. New Britain, Conn. 1-5. (860) 828-6231
- DynaBrass. St. Clements Hall. Dearborn, Mich. 2-6. (248) 444-7584
- Joe Stanky. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5. (570) 472-1152
- Polka Method. Ukrainian Club. Cohoes, N.Y. 1-5. (518) 233-9265
- Sounds of The South. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- To Be Announced. Pulaski Club. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Joe Oberaitis. Marion Oaks Ctr. Ocala, Fla. 1-6. (352) 347-9812
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

### FEBRUARY 24

- Piatkowski Brothers. Holy Spirit Ctr. Parma, Ohio. 7-11. (216) 228-1134
- AlexMeisner. German Club. Casselberry, Fla. 7-11. (407) 834-0574

### FEBRUARY 25

- Special Delivery. Clinton Bar & Grill, Buffalo, N.Y. 5-8. (716) 668-9101.



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- Sounds of the South. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

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10 Questions With ...

Steve Drzewicki

1. What is your first memory of polka music?

From an early age, I could always remember sitting on my dad Sal's lap when he used to drum at family functions. I grew up on polka music from birth

2. What was the last book you read?

A motivational book by Dr. Charles Stanley

3. What are your three favorite movies?

Rocky, Jaws, and The Passion of Jesus.

4. Spring, summer, fall, or winter?

Summer.

5. Besides polkas, what do you listen to?

Big Band, Country, Latin, Classic Rock.

6. What historical figure would you like to spend a day with?

Jesus.

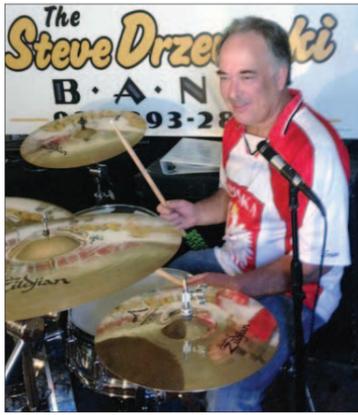
7. If shipwrecked on an island, what would you like an endless supply of?

Pretzels.

8. Where is your best place to relax?

Behind my drum kit.

9. What one thing — that no one



Steve Drzewicki of Bay City, Mich. is leader of The Steve Drzewicki Band. He has been playing professionally for 50 years. Steve, 62, is also leader of the Steve Drzewicki & Friends featuring Polka Stan Drzewicki. In addition to performances with his own groups, he has played for many Michigan State Polka Hall of Famers, including Jim Lepeak, John Lipinski, and Gene Gwizdala.

10. What one thing about you would surprise polka fans?

I was normally trained in drumming or singing.

knows about — are you afraid of?

Not living up to polka dancers expectations.

**Polka Musicians:** Share a little bit about yourself with your fans! Send your answers to these questions to: info@polamjournal.com. Responses are printed in the order received. Please provide photo.

**"10 Questions With ..."** is sponsored by the Polka Jammer Network, the World's Leader in Polka Entertainment.

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February Polka Birthdays

Birthdays courtesy of John Nalevanko, host of Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Live streaming at www.PA\_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

2	Tommy Reder	1939	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Michigan
2	Jody Maddie	1959	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
3	Joe Grenda	1953	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Pennsylvania
3	Joey James	1942	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Illinois
5	Freddie Bulinski	1947	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist / IJ-	Maryland
6	Richie Gomulka	1942	Musician / Vocalist / IJ	Illinois
6	Bobby Szelc	1948	Musician / Vocalist (Dynasonics)	Pennsylvania
6	Ryan Lucotch	1980	Musician (Drummer)	Pennsylvania
7	Mike Turik	1955	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
7	Eddie Biegaj	1962	Musician / Vocalist / IJ	New Jersey
12	Patty Jakubiak	1940	Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Connecticut
12	Walt Groller	1931	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
12	Eddie (Cuban) Kusiolek		Musician (Drummer, Polish All-Stars)	Pennsylvania
12	Mike Magdon III	1957	Musician (Drummer)	Pennsylvania
13	Eddie Grzyb	1935	Musician / Promoter / DJ	Massachusetts
13	Gerry Kaminski	1959	Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Michigan
14	Fran Sopkovich	1934	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
14	Freddy K. Kendzierski	1950	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / IJ	New Jersey
15	Paul Deardorff	1920	DJ. / Promoter	Pennsylvania
15	Happy Steffan	1942	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
15	Frank Stetar	1976	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
15	Li'l Lenny Klamet	1949	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
16	Jolly Joe Timmer	1930	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Pennsylvania
16	Rich Tokarz	1949	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Indiana
16	Lori Ebel		Musician / Vocalist	Minnesota
17	Bernie Goydish	1940	Bandleader / Musician / Promoter	New Jersey
18	Leo Stanek	1930	Polka D. J.	Pennsylvania
18	Al Volek Sr.	1949	Musician / Vocalist (Invictas)	Pennsylvania
18	Vinny Bozzarelli	1958	Musician / Vocalist (Sounds)	Pennsylvania
20	Eddie Zima	1923	Bandleader / Musician	Chicago
20	Barefoot Becky		Bandleader / Vocalist / Bandleader	Iowa
22	Ray Malach	1941	Musician / Arranger (Malac Bros.)	New Jersey
23	Jo Jo Visniewski		Polka D. J.	Irvona, Pa.
23	Jerry Halkowski		Musician / DJ	Wisconsin
24	T.K. Frank Proszowski		Promoter / Distributor	Pennsylvania
24	Eddie Zavaski, Jr.	1954	Musician / Vocalist	Connecticut
24	Matt Lewandowski		Musician / Vocalist	New York
25	Casey Siewierski	1921	Musician / Bandleader	Chicago
26	Joe Fiedor	1931	Musician / DJ / Promoter	Pennsylvania
27	Teresa Zapolska		Musician / Vocalist / DJ	New York
28	John Salov	1944	Musician (Polka Quads)	Pennsylvania
28	Joe Godina		Polka D. J. / I.J.	Pennsylvania
29	Joe Dipiatc	1952	Musician (Sounds)	Pennsylvania

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  2. Pie In Your Face—Polka  
— Instrumental (2:20) (H. Mancini (PD.) (arr. T. Waddell) / Jaggus Publ.
  3. Moon Over Moravia - Waltz  
— Vocal: J. Maras (G.01) (D. Klaczko) (M. Hermes—ASCAP) art. H. Will
  4. Happy Accordians—Polka  
— Instrumental (2:53) — Accordian solo A. Piskrowski/R. Osawinski (J. Starr—Jaggus Publ. BMI) art. H. Will
  5. Gonna Be Good Times—Polka  
— Vocal: F. Urbanewich (2:32) (R. Koslaczky/Hz 9 Jazz Publ) art. H. Will
  6. Straus Waltz Medley  
— Instrumental (2:26) (PD.) — Jaggus Publ) art. J. Perry
  7. Peanuts—Polka  
— Instrumental (3:00) (PD.) — Jaggus Publ) art. H. Will
  8. Shenandoah—Ballad  
— (2:25) (PD.) — Jaggus Publ) art. J. Perry
  9. Ring of Fire—Country  
— Instrumental, Guitar solo C. Coffey (2:28) (J. Cash) (M. Kliggert) art. T. Waddell
  10. Ice Cubes & Beer—Polka  
— Vocal: J. Starr (G.38) (B. Clavel) art. J. Starr
  11. Workingman—Ballad  
— Vocal: Andy Cooney (2:30) (PD.) — Jaggus Publ) art. J. Perry
  12. Pickles & Peppers—Polka  
— Instrumental (2:31) — Accordian solo A. Piskrowski/R. Osawinski (G. Newell—Chicago Publ) art. A. Flekowski
  13. The Stumble—Blues  
— Guitar G. Coffey (2:48) (F. King) art. J. Perry
  14. White Silver Sands—Polka  
— Vocal: K. Krauth (2:35) (PD.) (B. Rausch) art. H. Will
  15. What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life—Ballad  
— Trumpet solo K. Harbus (3:15) (A. Bergman/M. Gergman)
  16. Battle of New Orleans—Polka  
— Instrumental (1:40) — Fiddle solo F. Urbanewich (J. Duffwood) art. J. Perry
- BONUS CHRISTMAS TRACKS
17. Christmas—Waltz  
— Vocal: Andy Cooney (2:31) (A. Cooney) art. J. Perry
  18. Hark The Herald Angels Sing  
— (1:21) (PD.) art. T. Waddell

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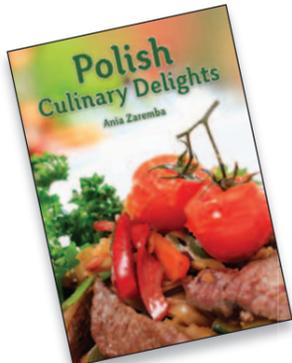


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