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AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

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GORTAT KEEPS HERITAGE DAY GOING • "100 FOR 100" PROJECT • PAHA PRESENTS AWARDS AT ANNUAL MEETING**

Newsmark

Gdańsk Mayor Dies After Stabbing



Paweł Adamowicz

GDAŃSK, Poland — A well-known Polish mayor died in hospital, January 14, following a knife attack that shocked the country.

Paweł Adamowicz, 53, the mayor of Gdańsk, was stabbed several times Jan. 13 during a high-profile annual charity drive in the northern

Polish city. Surgeons said Adamowicz sustained a wound to the heart, a diaphragm injury and multiple abdominal wounds. He underwent a five-hour operation at the University Clinical Center in Gdańsk.

"Despite all the efforts, it wasn't possible to save him," said Dr. Tomasz Stefaniak of the Center.

Top politicians in Poland and abroad have condemned the attack. Poland's president invited party leaders to discuss holding a joint march against violence.

Adamowicz, who served as mayor of Gdańsk from 1998, was re-elected to a sixth term in November.

The country's interior minister said that the 27-year-old knifeman was a repeat offender who was in the past convicted of armed robberies. He ran shouting onto a stage during a high-profile fundraiser called the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity.

Katyn Memorial to Stay

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — A Polish memorial statue that was the center of an international furor when a New Jersey mayor proposed moving it from its waterfront location will stay put.

Jersey City's council voted in December to keep the Katyn memorial where it has stood for more than 25 years. The vote ended a nine-month saga that featured protests, a federal lawsuit, and heated words between Mayor Steven Fulop and Poland's Senate Speaker.

Polish President Andrzej Duda visited the memorial in May.

The statue shows a soldier blindfolded and stabbed in the back with a bayonet. It commemorates the estimated 22,000 Poles massacred by Soviet troops in 1940.

Officials had considered moving it to make way for a waterfront redevelopment project.

Wild Boar Cull Prompts Protests

WARSAW — Hunters and activists have united against the Polish government's decision to cull most of Poland's wild boar population in an effort to curtail health risks related to African swine fever (ASF).

"There is no scientific basis for this, it is barbarism," said Katarzyna Karpa-Swiderek, a spokeswoman for animal rights organization World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Poland.

In December, the government called on all licensed hunters to kill most of the wild boar population in order to prevent the further spread of African swine fever. ASF is a highly contagious disease that affects pigs and wild boar and has spread in Eastern Europe in recent years. It does not affect humans.

Hunters branded the cull as an excessive measure.

High-Speed Rail Coming to Southern Poland

WARSAW — Poland's Infrastructure manager PKP PLK signed a \$48 million contract at Podłęże station for design work for a new route linking Podłęże with Tymbark and Mszana Dolna, as well as modernization of the Chabówka-Nowy Sącz route. PKP PLK says that the new route would allow journey times between Kraków and Zakopane to be reduced to less than two hours, with journeys from Kraków Główny to Nowy Sącz taking less than one hour. The project will also relieve some freight routes in Góry Śląsk.

Box Office Gold in Black and White



PHOTO: AMAZON STUDIOS

"COLD WAR" EARNS THREE OSCAR NOMINATIONS. Paweł Pawlikowski's story follows the passionate love affair between two young people living in Poland just after World War II. The writer / director based Zula (Joanna Kulig) and Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) on his own parents.

LOS ANGELES "Cold War" — a love story between two people of different backgrounds and temperaments, set against the backdrop of the Cold War in the late 1950s and early 1960s — has been nominated for three Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film, Cinematography & Best Director categories.

Other nominees in the Best Foreign Language Film category included: "Roma" by Alfonso Cuarón, "The Guilty" by Gustav Möller,

"Shoplifters" by Hirokazu Koreeda (awarded in Cannes), "Burning" by Chang-dong Lee, "Capernaum" by Nadine Labaki, and "Never Look Away" by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck.

Since "Cold War" appeared on the big screen around the globe, the film was mentioned as a possible Oscar nominee. It did not, however, end up being nominated for a Golden Globe, which is considered a

See "Cold War," page 4

Polish Parliament Pays Tribute to President Wilson

WARSAW (Radio Poland) — The Polish Parliament adopted a resolution in commemoration of U.S. President Thomas Woodrow Wilson.

"The Parliament of the Republic of Poland pays homage to the 28th President of the United States of America, a person who deserves special praise for services for Polish independence, the recipient of the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize," read the resolution in part.

The resolution recalls that in the last year of World War I, in an address to Congress, Wilson outlined The Fourteen Points, a set of principles on which the post-war peace was to be based.

Wilson's 13th point said "an independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, 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 resolution also said Wilson "consolidated friendship between the Polish and American nations, by referring to the common values of the nations' unquestionable right to self-determination, freedom and equality."

In November 1922, President Wilson received the Order of the White Eagle, the highest Polish state distinction, for his services to Poland.

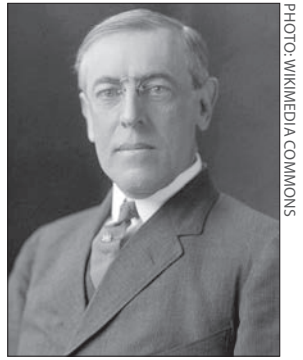


PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Wilson's call for an independent Poland cited on its 100th anniversary.

Heritage Center to Tell the Story of Immigration

PANNA MARIA, Texas — In early December, 1854, nearly 100 Polish families from the region of Upper Silesia sailed into Galveston on the Texas gulf coast, sailed further south to Indianola, and then trekked inland more than 200 miles to acreage secured for them by their kinsman, a Polish priest named Father Leopold Moczygemba. They finally arrived on December 24 at a place they named Panna Maria and celebrated Midnight Mass under the sheltering branches of a great oak tree which still stands today. Panna Maria is honored as the first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in America and is listed in the US Register of Historic Places.

The story of the Polish immigration to Texas, full of toil, tribulation and triumph, is the focus of the Polish Heritage Center (PHC) as envisioned by its founder, Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta, a great-grandson of the initial immigrants.

"We have to preserve our inherited values, share them with new generations of our



Polish Heritage Center will celebrate the original settlements of Polish immigrants in Texas.

families, and with pride and thanksgiving share them with the whole world," said Bishop Yanta.

Located in Panna Maria, which is about 55 miles southeast of San Antonio, the Polish Heritage Center will celebrate all of the original settlements, including Panna Maria, Bandera, St. Hedwig, Yorktown, Częstohowa, Kosciusko, Falls City, McCook, White Deer, Inez, Las Gallinas and St. Michael's in San Antonio. The mission of the Polish Heritage Center is to "keep vibrant and relevant the history, values, beliefs,

customs and traditions of the Polish settlers and their descendants...and to inspire, engage, and educate our visitors."

A NATIONAL TREASURE.

The PHC is for all of American Polonia, the eighth largest ethnic group in the United States, and our brethren in Poland. The Center is rapidly gaining national attention and support. John Czop, director of policy planning in Washington D.C. for the Polish American Congress (PAC) sent this endorsement to his fellow PAC national

directors in December 2018: "Established before the Civil War, the Panna Maria Colony of Polish pioneers in Texas is a true story of triumph over adversity. We need to preserve the record of their achievements by supporting the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria." The PAC, the Polish National Alliance, and the Polish Falcons of America have also highlighted the PHC in their newsletters and magazines. Detroit and New York Polish radio stations

See "Heritage Center," page 4

Almanac

Viewpoints

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February Luty

Na Oczyszczenie Marii Panny, zbliża się koniec sanny. On the Virgin's Purification Day, comes an ending to the sleigh.

- 1 1733. Death of August II the Strong
2 CANDLEMAS
At Candlemas, honoring the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple...
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...
8 1296. Assassination of Przemysl II
9 1940. Birth of Bohdan Paczynski (d. 2007), Polish-born American astrophysicist.
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 Sokoloski, first Polish American graduate of West Point Academy and Civil War veteran.
13 1416. A delegation of Lithuanians and Poles read their grievances against the Teutonic Knights at the Church Council at Constance.
14 ST. VALENTINE (Dzień Świętego Walentego or Walentynki)
15 1903. Death of Fr. Jozef Dabrowski, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).
16 1952. Death of Felix Witkowski, last Polish American veteran of the Confederacy.
17 1772. First Partition of Poland between Prussia, Russia and Austria.
18 PRESIDENT'S DAY (U.S.)
1914. Birth of Pee Wee King, nee Julius Kuczynski, writer of the "Tennessee Waltz."
19 1473. Birth of Mikolaj Kopernik, Polish astronomer known by his Latin name Nicholas Copernicus
20 1941. Nazis order that Polish Jews are barred from using public transportation.
21 1574. Coronation of Henry Valois.
22 1810. Recorded birth of Fryderyk Chopin, Polish composer, pianist, in Zelazowa Wola, Poland (d. 1849).
23 1891. Death of Fr. Leopold Moczygemba, patriarch of American Polonia.
26 1861. Russian troops fire on a crowd in Warsaw protesting Russian rule over Poland.
28 TLUSTY CZWARTEK
Thusty Czwartek (Fat Thursday) starts the last week of the carnival (pre-Lenten) celebration. In Poland, almost everyone consumes large amounts of paczki with rose hip jam filling (and more) today. According to one superstition, if someone does not eat a single paczek on a fat Thursday, the rest of their year will not be successful.

This paper mailed on or before January 31, 2019. The March 2019 edition will be mailed on or before February 28, 2019

A Winter Project — Can You Help?

At press time, we learned of a project by the Polish American Historical Association to collect information on Polish historical sites. The results of these compilations will be published by Hippocrene Press as a book titled "Guide to Polish Historical Sites in North America."

As we well know, Polish immigrants and their descendants made innumerable contributions in their communities and left their visible marks through monuments, bridges, churches, cultural centers, cemeteries, and other such ethnic evidence. Before these identifiers disappear, it is vital to create a guide to interesting and informative sites to showcase Polish-American contributions as a guidebook for Polonia as well as to introduce Americans to the important contributions of Polish immigrants.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

- Include the name of the person, organizational affiliation, or name of group involved in submitting entries and a contact Email and/or phone number.
• Entities suggested (such as buildings, monuments, churches, libraries, galleries, museums, plaques,

- tombstones, etc.) should be significantly existing and accessible to the general public. There is a maximum 200-words description for each entry.
• Indicate if you are submitting an entity which is not open to the public or if special permission is needed to access or use it (e.g. some libraries require prior permission to see materials).
• Are there any buildings, churches, monuments etc. that were historically critical to Polonia in this area but have either been transformed or demolished? only mention the most significant as the focus is on currently accessible resources)?
• Is there any little-known fact, saying or curiosity pertaining to your region about Polonia that might be of interest to other readers? (Max 200 words)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Only images that are 300 dpi or greater with no copyright restrictions will be accepted with entries.

DEADLINE

We were suprised to learn about this project so close to the March 1, 2019 deadline, but that is no reason to let that be a deterrent. Please let PAHA know of sites in your area as soon as possible. This will allow the editors to assess their importance, and / or let you know if someone is or has already written about a site. For more information or to submit an entry, please contact Dr. James Pula of Purdue University Northwest at polamguide@yahoo.com.

Stars in Their Eyes

WARSAW — A letter requesting a joint U.S.-Poland manned space flight has been given to the American embassy in Warsaw. It was signed by former Polish President Lech Walęsa, who said such a journey "would be an emphatic highlight of friendship between nations."

The appeal — a citizens' initiative was represented by PO Senator Jan Rulewski (above, right) and former president of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Michał Kleiber (above, second from right) — was read at a press conference in the Sejm. It outlined the history of relations between the United States and Poland, and asked for President Trump's support for joint space research, and the inclusion of a Polish astronaut as part of the flight program organized by NASA.

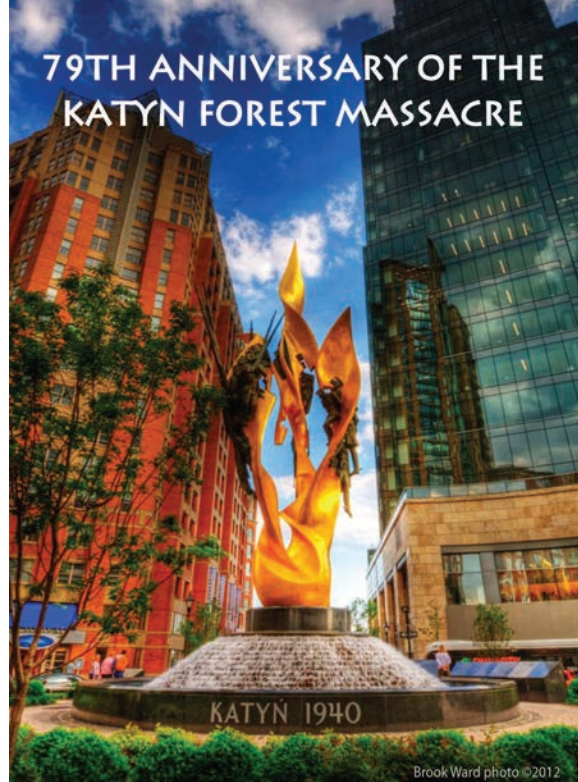
The only Pole who flew into space, General Mirosław Hermaszewski, went into orbit with the Soviet Union in 1978. After this event, for a long time, the



Senator Jan Rulewski (above, right), and former president of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Michał Kleiber (above, second from right) address questions following Rulewski's appeal to Washington for U.S.-Poland joint space research, and the inclusion of a Polish astronaut as part of the flight program organized by NASA.

Polish space program had little success, and Hermaszewski's flight was considered Soviet propaganda event. In recent years, Poland's space program has grown. The country's flag settled on the surface of Mars, thanks Poland's participation in the InSight mission. The first Polish photograph of Earth was made by a Polish satellite, constructed by PW-Sat2 students.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL KATYŃ REMEMBRANCE



Sponsored by The National Katyn Memorial Foundation, with The Embassy of the Republic of Poland www.katynbaltimore.com

Sunday, April 7, 2019

- 10:30 am Mass at Holy Rosary Church 408 S. Chester St., Baltimore, MD 21231 (off the 2100 block of Eastern Ave.)
11:45 am Coffee/Pastry Reception Holy Rosary Church Undercroft
1:00 pm Ceremonies at the National Katyn Memorial Baltimore Harbor East at Katyn Circle 600 block of President St. (at Aliceanna St.) Baltimore, MD 21202

"SHOULD I FORGET THEM, MAY GOD IN HEAVEN FORGET ME." ADAM MICKIEWICZ

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International

St. John Cantius Fraternal Aid Society Donates \$100K to University of Manitoba Polish Studies Program



Author Ewa Stachniak (right) signs one of her books for Dr. Zbigniew Izdorzyc (left) and wife, Marta, at the University of Manitoba Polish Studies Endowment Fundraiser.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada — The fourth annual University of Manitoba Polish Studies Endowment Fund Fundraiser was held on Sunday, October 14, 2018. The Canadian Polish Congress Manitoba branch Fundraiser Committee was established to engage the local Polish community to strengthen the financial sustainability of the Polish Studies Endowment Fund and support the academic program.

This year the Keynote Speaker was award winning author Ewa Stachniak. To date, she has written four novels in English. Her first book, "Necessary Lies" is a fictional study of the experiences of a new immigrant. In her address she reflected on her transition from a University academic to writer.

The sold-out audience was also entertained by local young musicians. Special guests included provincial government members and representatives from the General Consulate of Poland in Toronto and local Polish organizations.

University of Manitoba Dean of Arts, Dr. Jeffery Taylor, acknowledged the successful events of the Fundraiser Committee with a certificate presentation.

The donation of one hundred thousand dollars to the University of Manitoba Polish Studies Endowment Fund by the Polish Fraternal Aid Society of St. John Cantius was the fundraiser highlight.

Iran Summons Diplomat Over Planned Conference

TEHRAN — Iran's foreign ministry has summoned a Polish diplomat to protest a global summit focused on the Middle East that is due to be held in Warsaw this month.

Poland and the United States are jointly organizing a conference in Warsaw on February 13-14 to focus on stability and security in the Middle East, including the "important element of making sure that Iran is not a destabilizing influence," according to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. An Iranian foreign ministry official told Poland's *charge d'affaires* in Tehran

that Iran saw the decision to host the meeting as a "hostile act against Iran" and warned that Tehran could reciprocate, the Reuters news agency reported, citing Iran's state news agency IRNA.

"The international community has the right to discuss various regional and global issues, and Poland [has the right] to co-organize a conference whose goal is to develop a platform for actions promoting stability and prosperity in the Middle East region," said the Polish foreign ministry.

Suspect Charged in Escape Room Tragedy

KOSZALIN, Poland — Polish prosecutors charged the man who designed an escape room entertainment site where five teenage girls were killed in a fire January 5. Prosecutor Ryszard Gasiorowski said the man, identified only as Milosz S., had been charged with intentionally creating a fire danger, and with unintentionally causing the deaths of the girls.

Fire chief Leszek Suski said the escape room was in a private house, and the location's heating system was faulty. There was no emergency evacuation route, according to the prosecutor.

The arrest came after Polish officials shut down 13 other escape rooms, a form of entertainment where players are locked inside a room or building and must solve puzzles and find clues to escape. Officials shuttered the sites over what they described as safety flaws.

Huawei Equipment May be Restricted in Poland

DONGGUAN, China — Poland is considering prohibiting the use of Huawei products after one of its employees was arrested on suspicion of espionage.

Two men working in the Polish telecommunications industry were detained; a Chinese man employed by telecommunications giant Huawei, and a Polish national who is reportedly a former counter-intelli-

gence officer.

The Chinese foreign ministry said it was "highly concerned" about the arrest of its national Wang Weijing — formerly an attaché at the Chinese consulate in Gdansk — and said that countries should end their "fabrications" about security risks posed by Huawei.

The Chinese firm quickly terminated Weijing's employment contract following his arrest, saying he had brought the firm into disrepute.

Karol Okonski, the Polish minister in charge of cyber security, said Poland would review whether sensitive government enterprises could use Huawei equipment.

Humanitarian Aid for Refugees in Greece

WARSAW — Some 188 tons of Polish humanitarian aid is expected to reach refugee camps in Greece by the end of this year.

It includes foodstuffs, school supplies and detergents, and is destined for refugee camps in cities such as Salonika, Alexandroupolis and Katerini, public broadcaster Polish Radio's IAR news agency reported.

According to Poland's Humanitarian Aid Minister Beata Kempa, the project may benefit some 4,000 families, or around 20,000 people in total, in refugee camps in Greece, both on the islands and the country's mainland.

The 1 PLN million (EUR 230,000) project has been financed by the Polish Prime Minister's Office together with the Father Werenfried Foundation and the Orthodox Church in Poland.

Italy's Salvini and Poland's Kaczyński confer on Europe's future

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — The leader of Italy's conservative League party Matteo Salvini recently traveled to Warsaw to confer on Europe's future with the head of Poland's Law and Justice Party and other politicians. With Britain's gradual withdrawal from the European Union, Poland and Italy are the continent's two biggest conservative-ruled nations.

Currently social democrats, socialists, and liberals dominate the European Parliament (EP), as well as the European Union leadership. That began to change after German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced an open-door policy, which triggered waves of Middle Eastern and African migrants to Europe's borders. Since then, conservative, right-wing movements have gained in prominence across the EU.

Following years of liberal domination, Poland and Italy have revived their traditional attachment to God, family, and country, and emphasize their countries' sovereignty threatened by unelected EU bureaucrats. Current leadership in both countries also view Muslim migrants as a threat to Europe's cultural identity and security.

The conservative revival promoted by Salvini's League party has been growing in popularity. It enjoys considerable support in not only the four Visegrad countries (Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic), but in Austria, the Baltic states, and Balkan nations. Similar movements have sprung up in Germany, France, Holland, and Scandinavia. Salvini hopes to win their support for a major voting bloc that could tip the balance in favor of Europe's conservatives during

May's EP elections.

According to Law and Justice Party spokesperson Beata Mazurek, Kaczyński and Salvini saw eye-to-eye on most issues during their first personal encounter. But they also discussed their differences, notably the divergent approach to Putin's Russia by Warsaw and Rome. After 45 years under the Soviet boot, Poles are understandably wary of Russia's neo-imperial designs and aggressive potential. Italy, on the other hand, once had one of Western Europe's biggest Communist Parties and views Moscow as an interesting trading partner.

It remains to be seen whether those divergent perspectives will prove an insurmountable obstacle preventing the creation of a viable Polish-Italian political alliance, or if each side will be sufficiently flexible to achieve a meaningful compromise and proceed with their project.

Abducted Seamen Free after Three Months

The crew of the German-owned container ship *Pomerania Sky*, hijacked by pirates last October have been set free, Polish Radio reported recently. It said the Polish foreign ministry had thanked the ship owners for their handling of the case, and the Nigerian authorities for their assistance. No mention was made of the amount of ransom paid to secure their release. Eight Poles had been among the 11 kidnap victims seized by pirates in motorboats who took control of the ship some 60 nautical miles off the Nigerian coast. Such pirate attacks are not uncommon in that part of the world.

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US!



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

YES! I wish to support the PAJ by placing an ad in the EASTER 2019 EDITION. Please find a contribution in the amount of:

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

Wesołego Alleluja!

Send greetings to family and friends across the miles with a patron ad in our Easter 2019 edition

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

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

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

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

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Website above for reservation form and details

Send your reservation before March 1st, 2019. After that date, check if space is available

Matthew Stefanski Join PAJ Staff



MATTHEW STEFANSKI has joined the staff of the Polish American Journal.

Matthew been involved in Polonia for the past dozen years. Born and raised in the peninsula city of Bayonne, New Jersey, he was active in his local community before moving to Washington, D.C., where he organized Polish-American students on his university's campus. Most recently he served as the public relations advisor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, where he led digital diplomacy efforts and served as the Ambassador's speechwriter,

among other tasks.

Matthew is passionate about commemorating the past and enjoys photography, good movies and learning new things. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in digital media cultures in the Netherlands.

"Cold War" also nominated by British Academy

continued from cover

measure of a movie's chances at the Academy Awards. The film was received very enthusiastically by critics and audiences around the world.

Pawlikowski's previous film "Ida" won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2015. Moreover, in a surprising turn of events, Pawlikowski is also nominated in the Best Director category. This comes after winning Best Director at the 71st edition of the Cannes International Film Festival – he was the first Pole to win the prestigious Cannes award.

Much credit for the film's success is due to the lead actress Joanna Kulig's incredible charisma and magnetism. Despite the expectations of many Polish fans, she was not nominated in the Best Actress category.

"It isn't, however, really all that surprising," said Nitzan Reisner of culture.pl "as members of the Academy do not usually nominate actors playing in foreign language films. Even those who, just like Kulig, received her Best European Actress award a couple of weeks ago.

Even without her own nomina-

tion, it seems obvious that "Cold War" will be quite a boost to Kulig's career in America and that soon we will see her in several Hollywood productions, said Reisner

"Cold War" also received four nominations for the prestigious British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs). Apart from the nomination for Pawlikowski as director, the film is in the running for awards for "Film Not in the English Language," "Original Screenplay" (Janusz Głowacki and Paweł Pawlikowski), and "Cinematography" (Łukasz Żal).

The BAFTA Awards take place on February 10, at London's Royal Albert Hall. The Academy Awards gala in Los Angeles is February 24.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The Whiting, Indiana Knights of Columbus held a Pierogi Drop to bring in 2019. A giant, illuminated pierogi was lowered from a 90-foot crane at midnight. Entertainment for the party was provided by Mr. Pierogi / Underground Prophets, and a fireworks display at midnight. The event aired on regional television stations and included New Year's greetings in Polish.

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.

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New Netflix Docuseries profiles Polish-American Medal of Honor Recipient

by Matthew Stefanski

The online movie streaming platform Netflix has released a new documentary series which presents the heroic accounts of Medal of Honor recipients. Through a combination of reenactments and testimonials, the series, aptly named "Medal of Honor" familiarizes viewers with nine stories of incredible gallantry from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

The very first hero to be portrayed is Army Sergeant **Sylvester Antolak**, a Polish-American from Eastern Ohio who served with the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II.

As a member of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Sgt. Antolak took part in the fighting near Anzio. On May 24, 1944, Sgt. Antolak's name would go down in history for actions which would be posthumously recognized as above and beyond the call of duty. "During the second day of the offensive which broke through the German cordon of steel around the Anzio beachhead" reads Sgt. Antolak's Medal of Honor citation, "he charged 200 yards over flat, coverless terrain to destroy an enemy machinegun nest."

The citation continues: "Three times he was struck by bullets and knocked to the ground, but each time he struggled to his feet to continue his relentless advance ...

By his supreme sacrifice, superb fighting courage, and heroic devotion to the attack, Sgt. Antolak was directly responsible for eliminating 20 Germans, capturing an enemy machinegun, and clearing the path for his company to advance."

Due to the bravery and determination of men such as Sgt. Antolak, the Allied breakout of Anzio was successful, the German Caesar C Line captured, and Rome liberated shortly thereafter.

"Medal of Honor" shines a light not only on Sgt. Antolak's battlefield gallantry, but also on his upbringing and Polish heritage. As one of 11 children, Antolak's childhood



Sgt. Antolak. His bravery cleared a path for his company's advance.

on the family farm was probably not unlike that of many other Polish families who settled in the countryside at that time. Viewers learn that when military personnel arrived at the family farm to notify of Sgt. Antolak's death, his mother Mary had to call her children in from the field to translate because she did not speak any English.

Later, during a ceremony at Fort Hayes, Major General James Collins would hang Sgt. Antolak's Medal of Honor around the neck of his grieving mother.

It is moving to see that during a recent commemorative ceremony dedicated to Sgt. Antolak, which the series recorded, the flags of the United States and Poland are positioned side by side, capturing the essence of what one of the Antolak family members declared, "I'm very proud of the Polish heritage we are a part of, and I'm sure Sylvester was as well."

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Heritage Center. Next phase ready to start

continued from cover

have already broadcast interviews. Also, last December, PHC board members, volunteers, and donors welcomed Robert Rusiecki, the Polish Consul General in Houston, as a guest speaker to a fundraising event where he encouraged the efforts of all. Piotr Wilczek, Poland's Ambassador to America, has also been briefed on the project.

WHAT IS A HERITAGE CENTER?

Though it incorporates elements of a museum where historical objects of lasting interest are collected and displayed, a heritage center "typically dedicates itself to informing and educating visitors about a particular group of people, their customs, beliefs, traditions, material traits, and religious and social forms," noted principle PHC designer Steve Harding, of Steve Harding Design in Houston. "In many instances the customary or traditional process used by these groups for handing down patterns of thought, action, beliefs, and customs has been by word of mouth or by example without written instructions." Harding said the challenge of the Polish Heritage Center will be to preserve customs and traditions for posterity, keeping alive those beliefs and values in today's constantly changing world.

EXTERIOR MEDALLIONS.

Construction on the 16,500-square foot Center commenced on April 11, 2016 and the building's shell is now complete. Two majestic steel porcelain enamel medallions placed to the left and right of the front entrance provide a beautiful focal point. On the left, *From Poland to the United States of America* features the white Polish eagle, the symbol of Poland, on a red field surrounded by a blue ring with white copy, thereby capturing both the colors of Poland (red and white) and America's red, white and blue. On the right, *From Silesia to Texas* tells the story of the people who immigrated and features images of the Blessed Virgin, Panna



Consul General Robert Rusiecki (3rd from left) from the new Polish Consulate General in Houston was the featured speaker at the December 13, 2018 fund-raising event. Also in attendance were (l. to r.): Al Notzon, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors; John Cebrowski, the Center's vice president of Development; board members George and Betty Kowalik; board member and Sam Kotara, and his wife, member of the Campaign Steering Committee.

Maria's Immaculate Conception Church, a cross, a bell and a plow on a field of blue ringed with yellow.

INTERIOR WORK BEGINS.

Work on the office/administration area and library is complete. The next phase of this \$14 million project will focus on developing the archive, gallery, theatre, and exhibit spaces that will provide high-tech interactive and immersive experiences from early Polish history to the present. This will include self-guided tours in English, Polish and Spanish. The Archive and Collections area will house and preserve artifacts and documents, while the Genealogy Room and Oral History Collection will offer opportunities for visitors to access family records and photos. In addition, books in Polish and English on a variety of subjects will be available for reading and research, while the theatre and a conference room will accommodate lectures and workshops.

Currently, exhibit design and copy are being finalized, contributing historians continue to be interviewed, and music and language sessions with people from the various communities are being scheduled. Work also continues on collecting the artifacts, photographs,

documents and stories that will be featured in the Center. The stories will be presented in a series of recorded segments that will be part of the audio experience.

MEMORIALIZE YOUR ANCESTORS.

As work on the interior and exhibits progresses, the Polish Heritage Center Board of Directors and its Campaign Steering Committee are focused on fundraising, with over \$8.6 million of the \$14 million already donated or pledged. The PHC is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit foundation. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Out Tax ID# is 46-0561240. Donations to the *Polish Heritage Center Foundation* may be mailed to PO Box 28125, San Antonio, TX 78228.

Donors of \$1,000 or more can have ancestors memorialized in the Center. Sponsorships for larger donations are also available. All donations will be recognized.

For more information on memorials and sponsorships, call John Cebrowski, director of development, at (210) 370-3953.

Visit the Center's website at www.polishheritagecentertx.org. The Center also has Facebook and Twitter pages.

Across American Polonia

Annual Ball to Celebrate Poland and Hungary

MIAMI — The American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc. will host its 47th International Polonaise Ball, this year celebrating the alliance between Poland and Hungary.

The annual event has become one of Polonia's most elegant social affairs. VIP guest for this year's Ball include: Ambassador of Poland Piotr Wilczek; Ambassador of Hungary László Szabó; Polish Senator Maria Anna Anders; Minister Marek Grobarczyk, Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation; and Captain Rafal Szymanski, *Dar Młodzieży* tall ship.

The AIPC will present awards to the following: Alicja Bachleda-Curus, actor and singer from Poland and Hollywood; Beata Drzazga, healthcare entrepreneur; Kevin Kenner, internationally renowned pianist and recording artist; Mariusz Kotowski, director, choreographer, and author; Bozena Kaminski, community leader and mentor, and Coleen Paderewski, promoting Ignacy Paderewski's legacy.

The Ball will be held February 9-10, 2019 at the Eden Roc in Miami. For tickets and more information, visit www.ampolinstute.org.

Additional special events include the 60 Million Congress, Fri., Feb., 8, a Networking Brunch on Sun., Feb., 10 11:30-2:30, and visit of the tall ship *Dar Młodzieży*.

Polonia Foundation Scholarships Awards

GARFIELD HEIGHTS, Ohio — Polonia Foundation of Ohio President Monica Sochecki presented awards at the Fifty-Fifth Pulaski Scholarship and Recognition Awards Banquet. In 2018, there were 16 scholarships awarded to college students of Polish descent.

The recipients were: Noah Appel; Caroline Cyraneck; Emily Day; Adam Holtz; Patrick Holtz; Samantha Illius; Cassidy Leinweber; Emma Lipkowski; Audra Mahon; Julia Mondarski; Jessica Morrow; Mikayla Morrow; Allison Routhier; Alexis Thompson; Emma Thompson; and Joanna Turolska.

At the presentation, the Foundation also presented its 2018 Heritage award to the following for their contributions to the area's Polonia: Stephen G. Bansek, past president of United Polish Club of Lorain, Ohio; Thomas O. Matia, Jr., vice president of the Polonia Foundation of Ohio, Inc.; Carol Stafinski, vice president of the Cleveland Society of Poles; and Andrzej Stepien, president of the Polish American Cultural Center.

The Polonia Foundation is a non-profit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio to provide assistance to Americans of Polish descent in advancing their education through the form of scholarship grants and fellowships.

To learn more, write to the Polonia Foundation of Ohio, 9999 Granger Rd., Garfield Hts., OH 44125, or email its president, Monica Sochecki, at msochecki@hotmail.com.

Annual Chopin Concert to feature Wei Luo

PHILADELPHIA — The Annual Chopin Concert sponsored by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, will be held Sun., March 10, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. at Settlement School in Germantown. This year's guest artist is Wei Luo, recipient of 2018 Gilmore Young Artist award. Luo showed interests in music and began piano lessons around age

Winter's Balance Hangs on Concord Casimir's Call

CONCORD, Ohio — Punxsutawney who?

There's a new cat on the weather scene, and his name is Concord Casimir.

Attendance is expected to be in the hundreds, as Concord's favorite new weather prognosticator will make his prediction at noon, on February 2, 2019 at Ellison Creek Knob.

And just how does Casimir make his call?

It's all in the way Casimir eats his pierogi, says Master of Ceremonies John Niedzialek. Last year, Casimir was seen eating his game day pierogi, with the sour cream covering his whiskers.

"This isn't rocket science" says Niedzialek. "White whiskers mean cold whiskers, so be prepared."

To date, Concord Casimir has been on the mark with his feline forecasts. A most heated debate came in 2017, when Casimir "refuted the varmint in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania" said Niedzialek.

Casimir was found abandoned as a kitten on the footsteps of St. Casimir Polish Church on Cleveland's East side at what many are now calling "Cleveland's Miraculous Polish Church" after it reopened on July 15, 2012. Perhaps it is just a coincidence, but Concord Casimir shares the same birthday of July 15.

Is it divine intervention, or is Casimir just that good?

five, and gave her debut recital in Hong Kong at age six. The winner of numerous competitions in China, Wei also claimed first prize in the 11th Chopin International Competition for Young Pianists in Poland and the 2nd Rachmaninov International Piano Competition for Young Pianists in Frankfurt, both in 2010. Wei is also the 2016 winner and recipient of the "Salon de Virtuosi" Carrer Grant in New York. She is now studying at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia.

For tickets and info contact Debbie Majka at (215) 627-1391.

A Site for Sore Eyes

AMHERST, N.Y. — Atwal Eyecare in Amherst, N.Y. has completed the \$350,000 renovation of its location at 4590 Main Street. The complete interior was gutted and re-

modeled with new walls, windows, ceilings, carpet, electrical and heating and air conditioning units.

Atwal's Ephraim Atwal, M.D. received his doctorate from Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

Attending the grand opening were: Atwal Eye Care Administrator Deborah Davis; Atwal Eye Care CEO David Korzak; former Assemblyman Ray Walter; Amherst Chamber President A.J. Baynes; Dr. Nina Gelfond, ophthalmologist and oculo-plastic and orbital reconstructive surgeon; Dr. Daniel P. Schaefer, Atwal Eye Care chairman; founder Dr. Amar Atwal; Legislator Edward Rath; Amherst Highway Superintendent Pat Lucey; and Amherst Town Clerk Jeffery Zepolwitz.

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Books in Brief

An American in Warsaw

reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

AN AMERICAN IN WARSAW: Selected Writings of Hugh S. Gibson, U.S. Minister to Poland, 1919-1924
Edited by Vivian Hux Reed with M. B. B. Biskupski, Jochen Böhler, and Jan-Roman Potocki
University of Rochester, 2018, 546 pgs.

In 1919, the Great War was over for Americans, but the conflict was not over for Poland. Early in the year, the Polish-Soviet War began and the nation's borders were still in flux. In an effort to stabilize central Europe, President Wilson appointed Hugh S. Gibson to the position of Minister to Poland. His prolific writings help give another perspective to this tumultuous period of time.

Drawing from numerous letters, diary entries, cables, and dispatches to the U.S. State Department, many of which were previously unpublished, Vivian Hux Reed along with Biskupski, Böhler, and Potocki, brings to light a first-hand account of a Poland trying to define itself as a nation from an American diplomat's point of view.

At the young age of 36, Gibson was already experienced in working with the American federal government. He had worked closely with Herbert Hoover and indeed it was Hoover's recommendation to President Wilson that got him appointed to his position as Minister to Poland. One of his tasks was to find out whether newspaper reports in America about violence against the Jewish population in Poland were true. Gibson's analysis of these acts is that they were true but exagger-



ated. Gibson was known to have a keen sense of humor, which helped to ease tension in many instances. His descriptive writing and humor show through

his numerous letters to his mother which he wrote almost every day until her death in 1930. Below is an excerpt.

"On the way home we went into the park and stopped for a moment at the canteen run by Mrs. Mather, Miss Downs and other American girls. [Herbert] Hoover has actually learned to how to talk to people and had the whole crowd of girls standing around with their eyes popping out of their heads. He also tackled some of Haller's soldiers and found that one of them was from Pittsburg and another from Chicago. He had his picture taken with them and acted as though he were running for governor. I am glad he had got over his awful shyness and has learned how to mix with people..."

By contrast, his official reports to the government though descriptive, were straightforward, with a political and economic angle. These two types of writing paint a very clear picture of this five-year period in Poland's history through an American's lens. Vivian Hux Reed, M. B. B. Biskupski, Jochen Böhler, and Jan-Roman Potocki accomplished an extraordinary task in editing these letters, diary entries and reports of an American diplomat in Poland.

New Books

A Wonderful Valentine's Day Gift

Polish Princess by Gail Engbretson is an easily-read gem of a book that would make a wonderful Valentine's Day present for pre-teens, teens, and all of us who are forever teens-at-heart.

As the cover states, "This debut novel by a talented new novelist takes you on a rollercoaster of emotions in 1968 as you follow 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski through her struggles with bullying, her difficult relationship with her mother, the loss of her father, the secrets of her family's past, and her first love."

Growing up, I never read a single story about a Polish American family, so this was a wonderful belated treat for me. I could barely put the book down once I started reading it. I have suspicions the author must have been "hiding" in the attic of our family's home watching the goings-on to describe

my own family so well. And, like me, the author is the granddaughter of Polish immigrants.

I could identify with much of the plot: the grouchy dad, the criticizing, dreams-unfulfilled mother, the lack of money, the bickering siblings, the constant bullying at school, and the escape into food for love and comfort, one of the few tools of escape readily available to emotionally traumatized children. In my case, I ran into the woods on our farm every chance I got to escape all the dysfunction — but sweets were a big comfort to me, too.

The book paints a wonderful panorama of survival and success that is available to all of us even more now than in the past. *Polish Princess* is a great way to continue to rediscover our beautiful Polish heritage.

— Barbara Betlejewska

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Religion

The Rush to Expand Abortion Worldwide

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

One of the first acts passed by the newly elected congress was a bill to overturn President Trump's executive order that prohibits the use of U.S. funds to expand abortion in countries overseas. Supporting the Democrats' bill were also seven Republicans including **John Katko** (NY-24, which includes Syracuse) and **Elise Stefanik** (NY-21, which includes Plattsburg). To Rep. Stefanik's credit, however, she had been influential in getting funding to establish Community Health Centers throughout her district. In addition to general medical care, the Centers provide pre-natal, midwife, and screenings for women's health. Pro-life Democrat **Dan Lipinski** (Illinois) worked against his party's abortion bill.

EWTN LAUNCHED IN POLAND.

The Polish version of Roman-Catholic Eternal World Television Network was officially inaugurated in Wrocław, south-western Poland.

The EWTN channel can be watched in Poland via the Internet and on cable operator networks. The next step planned by the broadcaster is to launch it on digital platforms. The new studio of EWTN Poland was blessed by archbishop Marian Gołębiewski.

"This is a great day for the Church in Poland and the whole EWTN family in the world. I believe that St. Maksymilian Kolbe and Mother Angelica [a nun, who was a founder of the channel - ed.] are looking at us from the heavens and smiling," Michael Warsaw, the CEO and the executive director said

at the ceremony of inauguration. He added that nobody believed in the attempt of Mother Angelica to establish this television channel.

Rev. Piotr W. Wiśniowski, the general director of EWTN Poland, said in a sermon during the Holy Mass prior to the inauguration ceremony that the "gospel has to be preached in new ways, which representatives of Polish EWTN understand. He quoted St. Maksymilian Kolbe, who said that "we can build many churches, but if we do not have our own media, these churches will be empty."

"The mission of the TV station is to evangelize, so we will have daily broadcasts of Holy Masses or documentaries about Church history. We will also have programs about the Bible in our schedule, as well as feature movies," he added. (*Our Sunday Visitor*).

AUTOCEPHALOUS PATRIARCHATE RECOGNIZED FOR KYIV.

During a four-hour ceremony in Istanbul, seat of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, **Patriarch Bartholomew**, a decree of autocephaly (independent governance) was handed to the newly appointed **Metropolitan Epiphanius** of Ukraine. This ceremony completed the long a slow process of separating the 50 million Ukrainian Orthodox believers from the governance of the Russian Orthodox Church centered in Moscow, ending a 400 year subjection. **Petro Poroshenko**, Ukrainian president, witnessed the transaction and declared this to be "another act of proclaiming Ukraine's independence. For Ukrainians our own church is a

guarantee of our spiritual freedom. This is the key to social harmony." Some 200 bishops and other church figures had gathered in St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv in December to select Metropolitan Epiphanius as the head of the autonomous Ukrainian Church. Those Ukrainians who wish to remain in unity with the Russian Church would have the opportunity for it, but all ecclesiastical personnel in Ukraine would be subject to Constantinople rather than to Moscow. Needless to say, Metropolitan **Hilarion Alfeyev**, Russian Orthodox Church foreign relations director denounced the move in Ukraine as purely political and destructive of the Orthodox Church's fullness in the face of a new role of primacy emanating from Constantinople's seat. Vladimir Putin declared it the common duty of Russians "to preserve spiritual and historical unity" and warned of "serious consequences" from this political maneuvering that is "doomed to fail." In fact, however, his occupation of Crimea and encouragement and support of separatists in Eastern Ukraine were no small part of the motivation for seeking further ecclesiastical independence in Kyiv. Hilarion had kind words for **Pope Francis**'s "very balanced position" during the intra-orthodox conflict. **Russian Patriarch Kirill** was quoted as saying his church will "have to break eucharistical relations with Constantinople as a result of this decision." The Orthodox Church came to Ukraine and subsequently Russia in 988 when Duke **Vladimir** accepted Christianity for himself and his subjects from the patriarch of Constantinople.

"POPE FOR UKRAINE" HELPS DISPLACED FAMILIES. Pope Francis, through his Undersecretary for Promoting Integral Human Development, Msgr. Segundo Tejado Munoz, collected 11 million Euros and distributed these and 5 million from the pope himself to aid families displaced by the fighting in Eastern Ukraine. Among the initiatives funded were providing heat and other winter-time necessities, medical infrastructures, food and clothing distribution, improvements in hygienic condition, and psychological support for children, mothers, and victims of rape.

APOLOGIES FOR ABUSE. Responding to revelations of past cases of abuse by clergy in Illinois, **Bishop Thomas Paprocki** of the Springfield diocese said, "Reviewing these past cases has also reminded us that many years ago people didn't publicly discuss the kind of salacious allegations documented in these files ... A virtuous intent to protect the faithful from scandal unfortunately prevented the transparency and awareness that has helped us confront this problem more directly over the past fifteen years. We are continuing to learn and strive to improve our assistance for those who are victims and survivors of child

sexual abuse."

Archbishop Bernard Hebda of St. Paul & Minneapolis, Minn., announced the creation of a new position within the archdiocese to ensure that "the voice of survivors of clergy sexual abuse will be regularly heard within archdiocesan leadership. He also endorsed the idea of creating lay-led mechanisms for investigating and assessing any allegations made against me or any other bishop."

TRUMP RELIEF FOR LITTLE SISTERS UNDER LEGAL ATTACK.

Although **President Trump**'s new rules are set to ensure religious exemptions to federal mandates requiring birth control and abortion-inducing drug coverage, Pennsylvania District Attorney **Josh Shapiro** has launched a legal challenge against them as an illegal rule not authorized by congress. He also claims that they violate the separation of church and state and allow employers to discriminate on the basis of sex.

As a result, the Little Sisters of the Poor as well as **Bishop Zubik** of the diocese of Pittsburgh will have to argue their case in court if the challenge goes forward. New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal joined the complaint.

Fr. Zuziak is Polish Ambassador Award recipient

Fr. Jozef Zuziak of the Salvatorian Fathers (Merrillville, Indiana) was named the 2018 recipient of the Polish Ambassador Award during a ceremony at the Polish Heritage Festival held Sept. 16th at Friendship Botanic Gardens in Michigan City, Ind.

Each year, a person who has shown extraordinary dedication to the promotion of Polish culture is selected for this honor.

Fr. Zuziak was born on Jan. 17, 1934, in Lipowa, Poland. He was ordained a priest on June 28, 1966, in Trzebinia, Poland, by then-Bishop of Krakow Karol Wojtyla. Fr. Zuziak arrived in Merrillville, Ind., on Oct. 7, 1969, and over the years served as Father Superior, treasurer, and rector at the Salvatorian Fathers Monastery. He was also pastor of the now-closed St. Hedwig's Catholic Church in Gary, Ind.

Fr. Zuziak founded the annual Polish walking prayer pilgrimage from Chicago to Munster to Merrillville in 1987, and the bicycle pilgrimage from Summit (Illinois) to Merrillville in 2014. He has served as the chaplain for several Polish Highlander clubs in the Chicago area.

During his visit to Chicago, Polish President Andrzej Duda awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland to Fr. Zuziak on May 19, 2018, in Millennium Park in recognition of his ministry and service to the Polish community throughout the Chicago area and Northwest Indiana.



Mark Kolasa, president of the Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City, Ind., presents Fr. Zuziak with the award.

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



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PAJF

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member. Membership levels start at "Friend

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

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 34th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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Happenings: Chicago Style

Glenview's Smoliga Thrills Swimming World With Record Gold



Olivia Smoliga poses with her medal at the FINA World Swimming Championships on Dec. 15, 2018 in Hangzhou, China.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The 2018 FINA (*Fédération Internationale De Natation*) World Swimming Championship was held in Hangzhou, China, from December 11-16. It was here that 24-year-old Glenbrook South High School graduate, **Olivia Smoliga**, one of the top-ranked athletes in the world, accomplished record status. She returned to the United States with eight gold medals, including the 50m backstroke and the 100m backstroke, as well as swimming on six winning relays for Team USA. Her accomplishments broke the previous records of Caeleb Dressel and Michael Phelps, who each won seven gold medals at previous FINA meets. Olivia even set an American record in the 50m backstroke.

On day one, Smoliga led the women's 4 x 100m freestyle relay to win a gold medal. On day two, she, along with her relay team, went on to win the mixed (women and men) 4 x 50m freestyle relay. That evening, Olivia led the women's 4 x 50m medley relay with her backstroke and helped her team win a world record. To make it an even more exciting day, she went on to win the 100m backstroke, beating out Katinka Hosszu, Hungary's "Iron Lady," who was the gold medal winner in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. At the end of Day Two, Smoliga had secured three gold medals.

On day three, Olivia led the mixed (women and men) 4 x 50m medley relay with her backstroke which enabled the USA to win the gold medal and set a world record. On day five, she continued her gold medal streak by setting an American record with the 50m backstroke. On the last day of the FINA competition, Olivia again won gold participating in both the women's 4 x 50m freestyle relay, and the women's 4 x 100m medley relay.

Thus, Olivia dominated the 2018 FINA World Championships, capturing more gold medals than any American woman ever. In fact, she struck gold in every event she entered.

In the autumn of 2017, Finis Swim announced that Olivia had signed a long-term commitment with Finis, through the 2020 Olympics. Finis Swim is an American manufacturer of swimwear and swimming equipment.

Olivia is currently training 24 hours a week at the University of Georgia, her alma mater, to prepare

for the 2019 FINA World Swimming Championship in South Korea. She said, "It took some time to adjust to swimming professionally," and hopes that "the experience in China is a springboard to more success in the future."

As a teenager, Olivia swam with the Glenview Titan Aquatic Club and, in her senior year at Glenbrook South, broke the U.S. national high school record in the 100m backstroke and the 50m backstroke.

Olivia's parents, Elżbieta and Tomasz Smoliga, immigrated to the United States from Poland in 1991. Her younger brother, Matthew, plays hockey.



Guests in Resurrection Hall

ST. HYACINTH HOSTS HOMELESS WIGILIA. Chicago's **St. Hyacinth Basilica** held its 20th Wigilia dinner for the homeless, the elderly, and the lonely. On Christmas Eve, several hundred people, including Poles, Latinos, and others, filled the Basilica's Resurrection Hall. The annual goal is to serve food and spread the joy of the holidays.

Father Stanisław Jankowski, CR, pastor of St. Hyacinth, began the Wigilia festivities with a prayer, followed by the traditional sharing of *oplatek*. A multitude of volunteers prepared the food, set the tables, and served the meals. The Polonia Song and Dance Ensemble, musicians from the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra, and the Brass Orchestra of St. Constance Parish provided Christmas entertainment. An additional performance was provided by Włodek Zuterek, well-known Chicago vocalist and multi-instrumentalist. The Wigilia would not be possible without the efforts of Jurek Arsenowicz, who, along with his late brother Krzysztof, established this annual Wigilia at St. Hyacinth.

One concern was that there would not be enough room for everyone at the tables, but members of Chicago-area Polish motorcycle

clubs kept the food lines flowing, making sure all those attending had an enjoyable Wigilia. When guests exited Resurrection Hall, volunteers handed out special packages for the homeless. In addition, small gifts handed to guests included items that would be needed during the cold winter days ahead.

This year's Wigilia again showed how many people in Chicago need help and how loneliness looms large during the Christmas season. Volunteers and entertainers, who took part in this event, understand what it means to give of one's time, especially during this special season.

EVENTS FILLED THE PMA'S DECEMBER CALENDAR. The **Polish Museum of America (PMA)** was a very busy place during the weekend of December 15-16, holding two events on December 15 and one on December 16.

On December 15, the PMA held its annual Christmas Ornament-making Workshop for children and adults. Expert crafters instructed participants in paper-cutting and folding techniques for making beautifully colored garlands, stars, peacocks, and other whimsical designs commonly found on the *choinka*, the Polish Christmas tree.

A few hours later, the PMA and

Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Piotr Janicki. An additional presentation was given by Filip Frackowiak, director of the General Ryszard Kukliński Museum, Warsaw, Poland.

War," which includes historic artifacts related to the Polish American efforts to help Poland regain its independence. The exhibit concludes on March 10, 2019.



Lira Singers and Migala

LIRA ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT PMA. The afternoon of December 16 was a great day for family and friends to visit the Polish Museum of America (PMA) to hear the **Lira Singers** and the **Lira Chamber Players** in a concert of various Polish and American carols, followed by singing ever-popular Polish patriotic music celebrating the rebirth of Poland after World War I.

The colorful Ensemble presented its program wearing costumes from Łowicz, Poland. **Mina Zikri**, Lira's resident conductor, led the Chamber Players with piano accompaniment by **Marek Rachelski**, music director of St. John Brebeuf Parish, Niles, Illinois. English language narration was provided by **Lucyna Migala**, artistic director and general manager of the Lira Ensemble, the only professional performing arts company in the United States that is devoted to Polish music, song, and dance.

The Lira is based at Loyola University Chicago as its first artist-in-residence. This appearance was partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Art Council.

Concertgoers were invited to arrive early and/or stay late to view the PMA's exhibit, "Polonia Goes to

CHICAGO SOCIETY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS. On December 19, members of the Chicago Society (CS) of the Polish National Alliance combined their December meeting with their annual Christmas dinner party. Held at White Eagle Banquets in Niles, Illinois, the members along with accompanying guests enjoyed an evening of camaraderie, the sharing of *oplatek*, and a wonderful meal. The festive group also enjoyed the beautiful voice of 12-year-old **Marianka Mosh**, a member of the Polonia Song and Dance Ensemble, as she performed



Mosh and Dzis

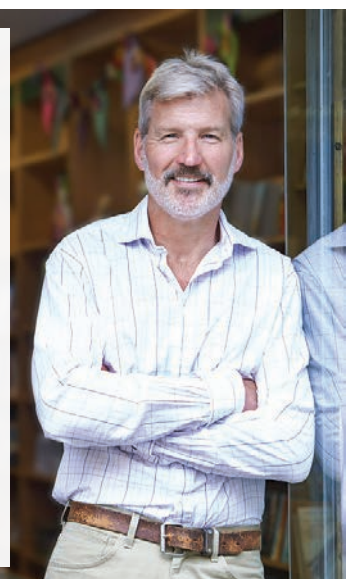
a selection of Polish and English language carols. **Mieczysław Dzis**, well-known Chicago area accordionist and accompanist for the Polonia Ensemble, joined in the entertainment. The evening ended with a raffle of assorted interesting prizes.

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Minnesota Voice

Reflections on Four Decades with Minnesota's foremost Polish Painter

by Mark Dillon

Art is life, says Minnesota impressionist painter, **Antoni Beltowski**.

After four decades in America creating a portfolio of work that has earned him a reputation as a Polish Monet, life is just getting started.

From a small apartment in St. Louis Park, the 71-year-old artist from Nowy Targ ponders how best to create a lasting legacy for dozens of his paintings. His repertoire includes landscapes of Minneapolis parks, the California coast and village scenes of 19th century Poland.

Beltowski's artistic career began as a student at the Akademia Sztuk Pięknych im. Jana Matejki (Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts) in Krakow from 1971 to 1976. There, he focused on pigments and techniques used by old Masters of the Renaissance, selling his first paintings in Krakow's Stare Miasto while earning a masters' degree in art. Claude Monet's use of color was his biggest artistic inspiration, Beltowski says.

"How color is used affects everything about visual perception," he explains.

The young artist's first big break came when he sold a landscape painting of an old wooden mill for the equivalent of \$4,000 at a show in Dusseldorf, Germany in 1978. Life was still tough in then-Communist Poland. After martial law was imposed from late 1981 to 1983, Beltowski decided that America would be a better place to develop his skills and express himself more freely in oil and later, acrylic.

The youngest of 11 children, Beltowski comes from a family where hardship was the norm. One of his older brothers was murdered by the Gestapo in 1941 after he failed to show up for work one day.



Dome of the Cathedral of St. Paul, seat of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis

COMING IN FROM THE COLD.

Being a painting street vendor near the Krakow Barbican was Beltowski's gateway to America in 1986. One of his art patrons, a Frenchman with a Polish spouse in Yonkers, N.Y., not only bought some of his paintings while in Krakow, but helped him get his footing in the United States, providing a plane ticket to Minnesota.

Overstaying his tourist visa, Beltowski connected with his mother's sister, Antoinette Carlotta, in her 90s at the time in Columbia Heights, Minn. The senior citizen community where she lived gave permission for him to remain. U.S. citizenship would not come until 2008, but with it the public warmth of admirers of his work.

"I remember that first winter in Minnesota. It was so cold, minus 35 with the wind chill," he said, adding: "It was such a relief to finally



Lake Harriet, Minneapolis, on a mid-summer's day.

put those years of being an illegal behind me. And I was so happy to see that some of the people who knew my art came to see me take the oath."

With the help of the late Czeslaw Rog, editor of the then-independent, Minnesota-based Polish-American



The artist's self portrait.

newsletter *PolAm*, Beltowski held his first U.S. art show was at a gallery at the University of Minnesota in 1987. It featured a 24-painting collection of rural landscapes of the Carpathian foothills called *Memoirs of My Countryside*.

The financial results were mixed, as the audience didn't seem to fully appreciate the subject matter, the depth of his talent, or his work's pastoral and historical dimensions.

"People at the time thought Polish meant kielbasa more than art," Beltowski says.

GOD'S BRUSHSTROKES. In his landscapes, Beltowski draws from his Catholic faith, seeing the spiritual dimension of nature and the environment, then expressing it with humility and grace. Historically, he has worked in high-quality oil outdoors, usually with a large umbrella positioned over the canvas to adjust light. Beltowski does not like reworking paintings in a studio, preferring to visit a location on multiple occasions, on different days and atmospheric conditions, trying to finish a work outdoors.

"I value the presence of God in my life, and my art. I open myself up to His presence," he says. "Art saved my life."

As Poland was reborn as a democracy in June 1989, Beltowski's career blossomed, taking him to the coast of La Jolla, California in 1991 with the help of wealthy patron John Wilkie, who allowed him to set up a Pacific seaside studio. Refreshed by the opportunity, Beltowski would return to Minnesota a year and half later and more profitably focus on subjects more familiar to Minnesotans — Minneapolis parks and skyscrapers, and lakes.

Notable works include *Lake of the Isles*, *Lake Harriet*, and the former *Lake Calhoun*, last year renamed *Bde Maka Ska*, mean-

ing Lake White Earth in the native Dakota language. *Maka* also means flour in Polish, and in the late 19th century Minneapolis was a hub of flour mills staffed by Polish other Central European immigrants.

Beltowski's Minneapolis work seems particularly sought after by non-Polish Americans in the Twin Cities, as his floral impressionist style seems to take the city's built environment — brown, grey and bleak in the bone-chilling depth of winter, a steamy, congested, imperious mass in summer — and transform it into Paris on a gentle, warm spring day.

Colors typical of the Beltowski palette include: white, chrome yellow, lemon yellow, vermilion, Prussian blue, cobalt blue, emerald green, viridian, chrome green, cobalt violet. In early paintings, he also used black with yellow ochre, burnt, sienna, and ultramarine.

One Minnesota painter who considers Beltowski his mentor and inspiration is Michael Vrudny, who has become a successful artist in his own right, operating the ARTSCOOL studio in St. Paul to teach basic impressionist techniques to children.



Three views of downtown Minneapolis created by Beltowski were on display this summer at an art booth at the Twin Cities Polish Festival. The taller buildings are the 57-story IDS Center, the city's tallest building, and the Wells Fargo Center.

FROM SUCCESS TO SEARS. The painting Beltowski considers his best work is a landscape featuring Claude Monet's first wife Camille Doncieux and their son Jean, who were the subject of a number of paintings by Monet, as well as Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Édouard Manet.

Beltowski's roadside landscape recalls Camille's time in Gloton, a small scenic village near Bennecourt, France. At the time Monet's family was hounded by creditors and evicted for non-payment of rent. Camille and Jean found someone to take them in the countryside,

while Monet tried to obtain funds for survival.

In recent years, Beltowski has faced his own challenges, although not as bad as Monet's.

Still, at a time in life when seniors start collecting distributions from IRAs, Beltowski has gone back to manual labor to make ends meet. Last year, he took a warehousing/fulfillment job at a Sears store at a suburban mall, only to see the store

audiences, and considering charity benefit auctions for some paintings.

In Minnesota, the Beltowski family was originally part of the late 19th century migration to Northeast Minneapolis from Southern Poland. In fact, his grandfather's relative, sculptor George F. Beltowski, was noted Krakow-born Minnesota church architect Victor Cordella's roommate and business associate for two years at 222 University



Beltowski poses with his work of sunflowers outside his apartment.

close as part of Sears nationwide re-trenching this past holiday season, and then get assigned the job of dismantling shelves at the store as well as Sears' Mall of America location.

"It's always been a struggle with materialism. I've had to push myself physically, and it has taken time away from my work," he laments.

In 2018, Beltowski displayed some works at an art show in Stillwater, Minn. and the Twin Cities Polish Festival, but neither venue delivered on expectations. One challenge perhaps, Beltowski speculates, is that festival crowds often fail to appreciate the quality of materials and techniques in his art, and see the price tag of his works

Ave., when Cordella first came to America in the 1890s (Source: Minnesota 1895 census). Cordella was also a struggling painter before he set up shop as an architect.

A struggle for recognition and initial rejection is something that now famous 19th century Polish impressionists also faced in their careers, notably Olga Boznańska, Józef Pankiewicz, and Wladyslaw Podkowiński.

In the 1880s, Boznańska overcame discrimination in Krakow by advancing her art career in Paris and Berlin, accepting a life of poverty in the process. At the time, the National Academy of Fine Arts did not admit women. In 1893, Podkowiński came under much criticism for his painting *Frenzy of Exultations* (Szał uniesień), which depicts a nude redhead woman riding a black, snorting horse. The work, while overtly sexual, is also said to be symbolic of the exploitation of Poland by Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary while Poland was partitioned. The work is currently on display in the National Museum in Krakow.

FIN FEATHER FUR OUTFITTERS

of Ashland, Ohio, located at the I-71 interchange, held its third annual Eat Wild event, free and open to the public, Jan. 12, 2019. Demonstrations of harvesting, processing and preparing your own wild game were ongoing. Venison steaks, jerky, and sausage, pheasant, elk and rabbit were all served up as samples. The Fin was founded by **Mike Goschinski**, currently the president of the company, which is now employee-owned.

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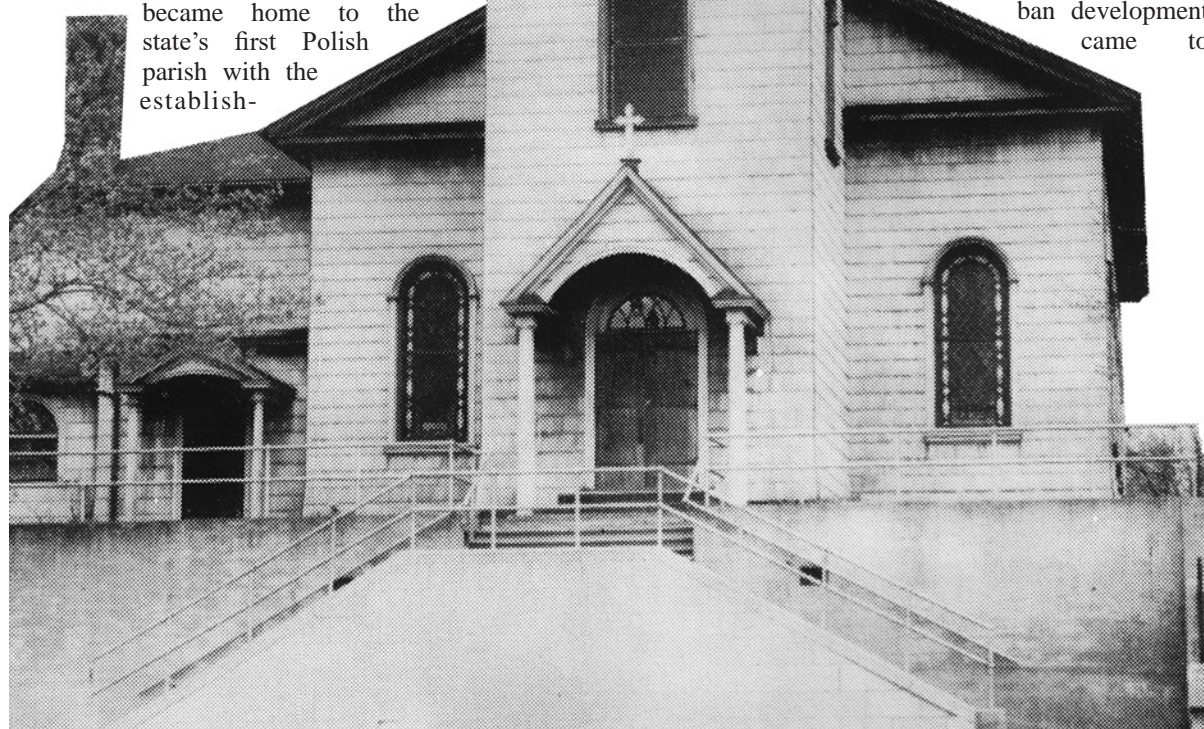
St. Hedwig's in Providence, Rhode Island

by Gregory L. Witul

St. Hedwig Church
571 N. Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island
Status: Closed

When digging into Polish American demographics you can find some surprising and not so surprising stats. It would astonish few to learn that New York State, with American's largest city, has the highest Polish American population nearing one million people. Those familiar with Midwestern Polonias would also not be shocked to learn that ten percent of Wisconsinites are of Polish decent. But playing around with the numbers, one interesting fact emerges: at its height, Rhode Island had the highest concentration of Polish Roman Catholic parishes in the United States with one per 202 square miles. Of the six parishes that called Rhode Island home, the last one to be established was St. Hedwig's in Providence.

While there were only a couple thousand Poles in Rhode Island in 1900, the population increased nearly fourfold over the next twenty years, with the city of Providence seeing the largest growth. In 1902, the city became home to the state's first Polish parish with the establish-



ment of St. Adalbert's at the north end of the Olneyville neighborhood. When Poles began developing a community on the east side of the Moshassuck River, they found St. Adalbert's too difficult to reach and began attending Mass in the basement of the cathedral downtown. By the summer of 1916 there were enough Poles living near North Main to warrant their own parish and on August 19, 1916, Bishop Harkins established St. Hedwig's, appointing Rev. Dr. Michael Dutkiewicz as its organizer.

The next day the first Mass of St. Hedwig's was cel-

ebrated in the basement of St. Patrick's church while Father Dutkiewicz set up a rectory on Benefit Street. Over the next four months, the congregation looked for a permanent home until December 6th when they purchased the abandoned Church of the Redeemer on North Main near Lippitt. After a little remodeling and redecorating St. Hedwig's was ready to be dedicated on January 7, 1917. The new parish grew at a slow but steady pace and by 1919 the house next to the parish was purchased to serve as the new rectory. Father Dutkiewicz guided the parish until 1928 when Reverend Francis Wilk took over. It would be under his tenure that the parish would see both the Great Depression, the Second World War and celebrate its silver jubilee. With the passing of Father Wilk in 1950, Reverend Casimir Andruszkiewicz became administrator of the church. Father Andruszkiewicz would run the parish for just over a decade when urban development came to

Providence.

In the 1950s the Lippitt Hill State Housing Project began looking to revitalize the neighborhood and decided to level the area, forcing the closing of St. Hedwig's. A somber last Mass was held June 11, 1961 with the building being razed a short time later. Over its 45 years history, St. Hedwig saw 995 baptisms, 400 marriages, 425 funerals and saw two parishioners become ordained priests.

Today this sliver of Rhode Island's Polonia is marked with a Starbucks and Whole Foods.

Piastr Board Names New Members

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piastr Institute is pleased to welcome three new members to its board of directors: **Judge Alexis Grace Krot; Levi F. Smith, J.D.;** and **Dominik A. Stecula, Ph.D.**

Judge Krot is the current presiding judge at the 31st District Court in Hamtramck. She attended Tulane University in New Orleans, La., where she received a B.S. in management and acquired a M.A. in business administration from the University of Detroit-Mercy. She obtained her Juris Doctorate from Loyola University in New Orleans, LA. Judge Krot is a supportive and involved member of HDFCC and the Hamtramck community.

Levi Smith has served as a commercial real estate broker and has been involved in corporate real estate and real estate development for most of his career. He was responsible for developing 100K sq. ft. of office \medical buildings, as well as over 200 residential condominiums. He received a B.A. in American history from the American University in Washington, D.C. He furthered his education by attending Wayne State University in Detroit where he obtained his Juris Doctorate. Smith is a seasoned presenter, negotiator and business person with the ability to forge solid relationships with partners and key stakeholders.

Dominik Stecula, Ph.D. currently is a Martin Fishbein Postdoctoral Fellow in the Annenberg Center for Advanced Study in Communication, Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania, as well as a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Public Opinion and Political Representation, Simon Fraser University. He received a B.A. in political science and history from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and continued his education with an M.A. in political science

from McGill University, Montreal. He obtained his Ph.D. in political science from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Stecula, who has himself written extensively, collaborated often with Dr. Radzilowski, co-founder of the Piastr Institute.

The Piastr Institute, which is celebrating 15 years of service, is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) research and social resource organization devoted to Polish and Polish American affairs. It is also one of fifty-two United States Census Information Centers (CIC), and one of two located in Michigan. The Institute develops conferences, seminars, publications, public programs, lectures, and exhibits that provide information about Poland, Poles, and Polish Americans. A key element of its community service is the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC) which the Institute founded in 2007 to serve the immigrant, racial, and ethnic groups of the community and its youth.

For information about the Institute, call (313) 733-4535 or visit www.piastrinstitute.org.

THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER in Philadelphia is looking for new members. The Center, with its Museum Exhibit Hall, is at the heart of the city's Polonia. General membership is \$50.00 (other membership categories also available), which includes a one-year subscription to the *Polish American News*, published six times annually, and notices of special events at the Polish American Cultural Center and Museum. The Center is located at 308 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106; phone: (215) 922-1700. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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Customs and Traditions

Ground Hog Day, Candlemas, and Matki Boskiej Gromnicznej

by Barbara Szydłowski

February, the only month with 28 days, is the second and shortest month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendar. However it is an interesting month: on the 2nd day of February is Groundhog Day or Candlemas, World Radio Day is on 13th, Valentine's Day is on the 14th and of course, Lincoln and Washington Birthdays. Let's look at this date, which has many different meanings to many groups.

TRADITION. The Pennsylvania Dutch, immigrants from German-speaking areas of Europe, already had a tradition of marking Candlemas (February 2) as Badger Day. On that day, if a badger emerging found it to be sunny day, thereby casting a shadow, winter would be prolonged by four weeks or more.

Candlemas is primarily a Catholic festival but it is also known in the Lutheran church. It was the day when all the candles that were to be used in the church during the coming

year, were brought into church and a blessing was said over them. Candles were important in those days, not only because there was no electric lights — some people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine.

Various traditions and superstitions continue to be linked with Candlemas, although this was discouraged by the Protestant Reformers in the 16th century. While the weather predicting animal on Candlemas was primarily the badger, regionally the animal could be a bear or fox.

In Croatia and Serbia, Orthodox Christians continue to have a tradition that on Candlemas Day February 2 or February 15, (*Sretenje* — Meeting of the Lord) the bear will awaken from winter dormancy, and, if it sees its own shadow in this sleepy and confused state, it will get scared and go back to sleep for another 40 days, thus prolonging winter. However if it is cloudy, a good sign that winter is about to end.

According to known records, Groundhog Day and its observances in the United

States, first occurred in German communities in Pennsylvania. The earliest mention of Groundhog Day is a February 2, 1840 entry in the diary of James L. Morris of Morgantown, Pa., in Pennsylvania Dutch country. This was a Welsh enclave but the diarist was commenting on his neighbors who were of German descent.

IN POLAND, Candlemas is called *Matki Boskiej Gromnicznej*, which is translated literally as "Mother of God of the Thunder Candle." The candles blessed this day are called *gromnicy* or thunder candles because they are kept in the home for use especially in time of thunderstorms to protect the house from being hit by lightning. They are also a protection against other natural calamities such as floods, fire, and drought. The blessed candles are also lit at the bedside of the dying to protect the individual from Satan, and to light the way to heaven. It was believed by many that at the time of death there was a contest for the soul of the dying between angels and the devil.

At the Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan there is a beautiful painting hanging in one of the halls which depicts Mary walking at night through the snows of the Polish countryside, carrying a large candle in her hands as if it was a sword. At her feet wolves can be seen running fearfully away from her and from the small cottages of the townsfolk she is protecting. Polish legend says she walks across Poland with her *gromnica* aglow, protecting homes and farm animals from many packs of hungry wolves, that prowl about looking for prey during the harsh Polish winters.

LEGEND. The Snowdrop Flower appears in February as a symbol of hope. According to legend, the snowdrop became the symbol of hope when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. When Eve was about to give up hope that the cold winters would never end, an angel appeared. She transformed some of the snowflakes into snowdrop flowers, proving that the winters do eventually give way to spring.

Sports

Gortat Keeps Polish Heritage Day Going

by Tom Tarapacki

Just because **Marcin Gortat** got traded from the Washington Wizards to the Los Angeles Clippers, that didn't mean the end of his annual Polish heritage day celebration — it just got moved to the West Coast.

The 34-year-old Gortat is the fourth NBA player born in Poland and the only one now in the league. Back home he runs the MG13 Foundation that employs nearly a dozen people and supports four schools that develop young athletes. In the U.S., he promotes Poland with the Polish heritage celebration and various other activities.

"It's a huge responsibility," he said. "I'm like an ambassador of my country showing the culture and the history of my country to the American people."

Earlier he arranged for a catered lunch of traditional Polish food at the team's Playa Vista facility and explained the dishes to teammates, and held a reception in Beverly Hills. When a Polish tall ship docked near Long Beach before Christmas, Gortat visited the boat and bought nearly 100 Clippers tickets for the students sailing the vessel to attend the Dec. 26 game.

"Like our fans, we have an incredibly diverse team and our Clippers heritage nights are even better when our players get involved," said Gillian Zucker, the Clippers' president of business operations, in a statement. "But I have never seen anything like this. Marcin has gone above and beyond with helping the strategy and planning."

"Everybody has pride in their country," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "I'm not sure if anyone has more pride than [Marcin], and I'm very serious."

Ignacy Zarski, the vice consul for public affairs at the Polish Consulate in Los Angeles, praised Gortat's "public diplomacy."

"From our point of view, he's a great star," Zarski said. "He's kind of a magnet."

Gortat was heavily involved in the event's planning, just as he was with similar celebrations during previous stops in Phoenix and Washington during his 12-year career. Special guests included singer **Edyta Górniak**, actress **Iza Miko**, and boxer **Andrzej Fonfara**. A video address from Polish President **Andrzej Duda** was aired before the game. The Polish folk group **Tulia** performed the American national anthem and their latest song "Pali się" (It's On Fire). Before tipoff,



Gortat: "I'm like an ambassador of my country showing the culture and the history of my country to the American people."

Gortat awarded jerseys to three Polish World War II veterans. After that he tallied eight points, six assists and 10 rebounds in a win over Orlando.

BASEBALL'S LOSS WAS HOLLYWOOD'S GAIN. If you watch Turner Classic Movies you might see some memorable films from the 1940s and 50s that featured **John Hodiak**. The Pittsburgh native passed up a shot at baseball stardom to make his mark on Hollywood, but suffered an untimely death that ended his promising movie career at age 41.

Born on April 16, 1914, Hodiak was eight when his family moved to Hamtramck, Michigan. His father, Walter, was born in the Ukraine and his mother, the former Anna Pogorzelec, was Polish. Hodiak appeared in amateur shows, often in Ukrainian, or Hungarian, or Polish, but was a talented football and baseball player as well. He was such an outstanding high school third baseman that the St. Louis Cardinals organization tried to sign him, but Hodiak wanted to pursue an acting career.

He broke into radio in Detroit and later Chicago before going to Hollywood. He worked on getting rid of his accent but refused to change his name. Known for his sensitive eyes, powerful voice and athletic build, he sometimes wore a thin mustache. When World War II broke out, he was unable to serve because of high blood pressure. However, as many movie stars went to war, Hodiak got his chance for movie stardom. His big breakthrough came when Alfred Hitchcock cast him as Kovac in the classic war drama *Lifeboat* (1944). That led to roles in hit movies like *Marriage is a Private Affair* (with Lana Turner), *A Bell for Adano*, *The*



Hodiak. His big breakthrough came when Alfred Hitchcock cast him in the classic war drama *Lifeboat* (1944). That led to roles in hit movies like *Marriage is a Private Affair* (with Lana Turner), *A Bell for Adano*, *The Harvey Girls* and *Somewhere in the Night*.

Harvey Girls and *Somewhere in the Night*.

Hodiak married and divorced actress Ann Baxter, with whom he had a daughter. He later built a home in California and moved his family there. However, his career declined when the war ended and the movie stars returned. Hodiak then went to Broadway where he enjoyed great success, which led to a big screen comeback. However, on the morning of October 19, 1955, the 41-year-old suffered a coronary thrombosis and died instantly while shaving in his bathroom. He was preparing to complete final work on his final film, *On the Threshold of Space*. He had never been diagnosed with a heart condition, but it was likely due to his high blood pressure.

JUSZCZYK — THREE IN A ROW. Today's NFL fullbacks don't run the football as much as they used to, but they still can play a vital role in their team's offense primarily by blocking and catching passes. One of the best and most used fullbacks today is **Kyle Juszczyk**. He recently earned his third-consecutive trip to the NFL Pro Bowl, and second straight as a member of the 49ers. A six-year veteran who signed with San Francisco as a free agent in 2017, this season he had six carries for 21 yards (3.5 average) and 29 receptions for 309 yards (10.7 average) and one touchdown. He finished ahead of all fullbacks in catches for the second straight year, even though late in the season the team mostly kept him in the backfield to block.

The Medina, Ohio native was a two-time All-American at tight end



49er's Fullback Kyle Juszczyk earned his third-consecutive trip to the NFL Pro Bowl.

and H-back who caught 125 passes for 1,576 yards and 22 touchdowns at Harvard, and was drafted by Baltimore in the fourth round in 2013.

Of course, most people struggle with the pronunciation of his name (basically YOOZ-check). In fact, when he was drafted Kyle said that he only encountered one person at Harvard who could say his name. "We had a Polish card-swiper at our dining hall," he said, "and he actually nailed it on the first try. But he's the only one."

Of course, he quickly got a nickname. "My freshman year," Juszczyk recalled, "the senior tight end there, he looked at my name and he was like: 'No, I'm not even gonna try. I'm just gonna call you Juice.' And it stuck."

FITTING IN WELL. Aron Struminski, a rugby coach and player with a community team in Great Britain, got a message on social media offering him a chance to become an international rugby player. "When I saw that message in my inbox, I thought 'this can't be for real'. I thought it was a bit of a hoax," Struminski said.

He was approached by Duaine Lindsay, head coach of the Polish national team, asking if he might qualify to play for the country. "But I did my research, and he was who he said he was. He asked me if I was Polish because my surname does sound Polish," said Aron. "He then needed some evidence to show that my grandad was born in Poland. But when my grandad moved over during the Second World War, he burnt his birth certificate and burnt his passport. Thankfully, my parents had a slip from his [arrival] in England, showing his full name, his date of birth."

When he first joined the team Aron crammed the basics of Polish, and worked hard to overcome the language barrier. "By the end of the week, it turned out they all spoke really good English. It was just a matter of gaining their respect."

Struminski made his international debut in a 33-0 win over Lithuania. "He fitted in really well. The guys took to him. He learned the first verse and the chorus of the national anthem," Coach Lindsay said.

TOP POLISH ATHLETES HONORED At the annual Polish Radio sports awards, Olympic ski-jumping champion **Kamil Stoch** was named athlete of the year 2018. Stefan Horngacher, the Austrian coach of the Polish national ski-jumping team, was named coach of the year.

The Polish men's national volleyball team was named team of the year, and volleyball player **Bartosz Kurek** was named athlete of the year in a poll by listeners.

Tennis player **Iga Świątek** was hailed as rookie of the year, while retired tennis star **Agnieszka Radwańska** won a career achievement award.

To mark the centennial of national independence, the public broadcaster named its Polish athletes of the century: Discus thrower **Halina Konopacka**, distance runner **Janusz Kusociński**, and track star **Irena Szewińska**. Boxing coach **Feliks "Papa" Stamm** was honored as coach of the century.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. **Trevor Bycznski**, a quarterback from Berea-Midpark High School in suburban Cleveland, committed to the University of Buffalo ... **Mariusz Czerkawski** was the highest-scoring Polish player in NHL history, with 215 goals, 220 assists and 435 points in 745 NHL games ... San Jose's **Joe Pavelski** was named an All Star for the third time ... former West Virginia forward **Maciej Bender** has transferred to Mercer University in Georgia, and will be eligible to play in the 2019-2020 season. Mercer added assistant **Paul Mroziak**, who coached Bender for two seasons at Mountain Mission School in Grundy, Virg. ... Mets' catcher **Kevin Plawecki** was traded to Cleveland for two players.



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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.

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Welcome Florek!



"FLOREK" was officially introduced to the Polish Heritage Festival crowd at Friendship Botanic Gardens in Michigan City, Ind.

The Festival Committee conducted a "Name the Stork" contest as a promotional endeavor for last year's festival. More than 300 contest entries were received, some from as far away as Texas and Delaware. The stork's winning name was submitted by Martha Colvin of Chesterton, Ind., who said "florek" (meaning "blooming") was a good name for stork at the Gardens.

An estimated 50,000 white storks migrate through Poland every year. They are considered to be a sign of good luck, and predict the arrival of newborns, according to Polish folklore.

Poland's "100 for 100" Project Benefits PNA Library

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Republic of Poland celebrated the 100th anniversary of its regained independence on November 11, 2018. The year 2018 was declared the centennial jubilee year of "100 for 100" — a genuine giant kaleidoscope of celebrations, events and programs.

On December 12, 2018 Vice President Richard Poremski and Secretary Malgorzata Bondyra, both of Polish National Alliance Council 21 in Baltimore, and Michael Carnahan, a member of PNA Lodge 339 were summoned to the Consulate of the Embassy of Republic of Poland. Upon arriving they were generously presented with a gift of various books, games, DVDs, music CDs and other such related materials from Poland's Foreign Ministry by Consul General Zygmunt Matynia. All the items were especially selected for the children's section of the PNA Council 21's Henryk Sienkiewicz Polonia Library in Baltimore, managed by accredited librarian Adam Mazurek, a member of PNA Lodge 339.

The educational bequest was a real honor for the PNA because it was the only library chosen by the Foreign Ministry in Warsaw from the Washington Consular Territorial Jurisdiction to receive the gift, with 10 libraries being nominated to the project in the jurisdiction comprising 11 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Virgin Islands, and other U.S. overseas territories. The other four Polish consular districts in the United States also conducted their own library projects.

The September 28, 2018 letter from Hubert Czerniuk, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Cooperation with Polonia and Poles



CONSUL GENERAL ZYGMUNT MATYNIA is flanked by grateful Polish National Alliance Council 21 officers Malgorzata Bondyra and Richard Poremski at the Polish Embassy's Consulate in Washington, D.C. They are receiving a donation of fifty items of various children's materials for the PNA's Henryk Sienkiewicz Polonia Library in Baltimore, Maryland as documented in the letter being displayed from Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs - *Ministerstow Spraw Zagranicznych*.

Living Abroad (translated by Malgorzata Bondyra) reads as follows:

"On the one hundredth anniversary of Poland regaining its independence, to celebrate this milestone together with you, the Department of Cooperation with Polonia and Poles Living Abroad prepared a jubilee project called "100 Libraries on the 100th."

"The collection includes contemporary literature, legends, required school readings and poetic works of classical poets like Adam Mickiewicz, Maria Konopnicka, Alexander Fredro and Ignacy Krasicki, which accompanied many generations of Poles throughout their lives. Well-known touching poems, logopedic nursery rhymes and lexicons of the mythical erudite will help the youngest go with ease through the effort of learning the correct Polish language. Excitable encyclopedias, lexicons and dictionaries will help you learn about Polish history, culture, culinary traditions and old customs. Educational games and quizzes will familiarize you with nature and the natural resources of Poland, the geography and history of Poland, and above all, what we would like to see is encouragement for you to come visit beautiful Poland.

"Knowledge of the Polish language is the foundation that keeps the national consciousness. The mother tongue is not only a tradition to pass on to future generations but also a tool to help access resources and expand knowledge of modern Poland. I hope that the collection of books and didactic aids handed over to You will contribute to broadening the horizons for Polish youngsters, and will highlight the beauty of Polish literature and the history of Poland.

Polish Chef

More Polish Karnawał Treats

by Robert Strybel

Part II

The long Polish Karnawał season stretching from Three Kings to Shrove Tuesday is a period of high-powered socializing and revelry: banquets, dinner-dances, balls and parties galore. Tasty Polish dishes ranging from gourmet to rustic peasant fare are an absolute "must." Here are some more dishes to consider:

HERRING IN HORSERADISH SAUCE (śledź w sosie chrzanowym). Drain jar of marinated herring (not creamed type). Plunge into cold water, drain and dry on paper towel. Cut into 2" pieces and arrange onrvng dish. Fork-blend 1/3 c sour cream, 1/3 c mayonnaise, 1 heaping T prepared non-creamed horseradish (or to taste), freshly squeezed juice of 1/2 a lemon and 2t confectioner's sugar. Pour over herring. Chill at least 1 hr before serving. Cover with plastic wrap if you plan to refrigerate it over night.

ROAST PORK LOIN WITH PRUNES (schab pieczony ze śliwkami). Rub a 4-5 lb pork loin with salt, pepper, marjoram, and 1-2 buds crushed garlic, place in roaster, smother meat with 2 sliced onions, cover and let stand at room temp 1 hr. Remove loin, pat dry, sprinkle with flour and brown on all sides in hot oil or lard to seal in juices. Return to roaster. Brown onions in the pan drippings and return to roaster. Add 1 c water and bake in 375° oven 1 hr. Meanwhile, soak 2 c unpitted prunes in water to cover 20 min and add to roaster. Bake another 90 min or until tender but not overcooked. Cut the loin in 2 to see if it is no longer pink inside. Serve with rice and a grated carrot, apple, horseradish salad.

ROAST DUCK WITH APPLES (kaczka pieczona z jablkami). Preheat oven to 475°. Rub a well-rinsed, dried 4-5 lb. duck with salt, pepper, marjoram and 2 buds mashed garlic. Place in covered

roasting pan and let stand at room temp 1 hr. Fill cavity with peeled apple halves or quarters tightly (unlike bread stuffing which expands, apples shrink during roasting.) and sew up. Return to pan and pop into oven. After 15 min reduce heat to 350°. Sprinkle duck with about 1/2 c water and then baste occasionally with pan drippings. After 1 hr add 1 c pitted prunes to drippings and bake another 45-60 min or until fork-tender. Serve with mashed or boiled potatoes or rice, garnishing them with the cooked prunes.

BREADED PORK CUTLETS (kotlety schabowe). Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" thick. (Freeze the bones for future soup stock). Sprinkle cutlets with salt, pepper, and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening, or oil, drain on paper towel and serve immediately. *Optional:* For super-tender cutlets, transfer cutlets to baking pan, add 2-3 T pan drippings and 2 T boiling water, cover and seal with foil and let simmer in 350° oven 30 min.

KIELBASA & SAUERKRAUT (kielbasa z kapustą). Preheat oven to 390°. Place 2-1/2 lbs fresh kielbasa in one layer in baking pan greased with 1 T lard or butter. Cut 2 onions into quarters and slice each quarter quite thin, spreading onions on and around the kielbasa. Bake 15 min, then reduce heat to 350°, add 1 c hot water and bake another 40 min. Meanwhile, drain 2-3 qts sauerkraut and rinse in cold water. Drain, press out moisture, chop coarsely, place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, add 1 bay leaf and cook uncovered 45 min. Drain and transfer to baking pan. Cut baked fresh

kielbasa prepared as above into 3" pieces and mix with sauerkraut. Season kielbasa pan drippings with 1 t liquid Maggi seasoning and add to sauerkraut. *Optional:* Sprinkle with 1/2 – 1 t caraway seeds. Bake in 350° oven 60 min or so. Leave in oven 30 min after switching off heat. Taste improves with reheating.

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, 1 c stewed tomatoes, chopped, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples. 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 over night. 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.

ANGEL WINGS, CHRUSCIKI (chrust, faworki). Sift 2c 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 place on paper towel. Fry in batches so they are not crowded and can float freely. When slightly cooled, dust with confectioner's sugar.

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Poland

by Robert Strybel

TAX FRAUDSTERS NABBED. Polish police have detained 17 members of a suspected organized-crime group which investigators believe used fraudulent invoices to claim value-added tax (VAT) refunds of more than 70 million zlotys (\$18.4 million).

A spokesman for the Central Police Bureau of Investigation — Poland's equivalent of the FBI— said the detentions followed a probe conducted in several cities together with prosecutors and tax inspectors. Property belonging to the suspects, including money, jewelry and luxury cars, has been seized.

Poland has cracked down on VAT fraud, which was widespread and went largely undetected under the previous administration.

PUTIN SUGGESTED RETURNING LWÓW TO POLAND. Russian President Vladimir Putin had suggested returning the city of Lwów to Poland, a recently published book alleged. "President Putin had remarked that 'Lwów is a Polish city' during official talks in (the Polish seaside resort of) Sopot," Radosław Sikorski, then Poland's foreign minister, wrote in his book "Polska może być Lesseps" ("Poland can be better"). During a stroll along the Sopot pier in 2009, Putin was said to have proposed to then Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk that Poland and Russia could "share influence in Ukraine" and stressed the benefits of "a deal with Russia."

According to Sikorski, that was a *de facto* proposal of a Russo-Polish partition of Ukraine. A more explicit suggestion came in 2014 when Russia was annexing Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. Pro-Kremlin nationalist MP Vladimir Zhirinovskiy wrote to the governments of Poland, Romania, and Hungary suggesting they hold referenda on annexing chunks of Ukrainian territory. Such over-

tures, disinformation, and shock effects are widely seen as part and parcel of Russia's neo-imperial arsenal including its hybrid war on the West.

ANTI-TERROR LAW PRAISED. The Hybrid Center of Excellence, a consortium of experts promoting international cooperation in countering hybrid threats, has praised Poland's anti-terrorist laws.

Jukka Savolainen, the director of its vulnerabilities and resilience group, highlighted Polish anti-terror laws at an international meeting and singled it out as "an example of best practices." Stanisław Żaryn, a spokesman for Poland's security services chief, said: "While working on the provisions of the anti-terrorism law, we were aware that we were creating modern legal solutions for the active combating of terrorist threats in Poland. We are pleased that the Polish regulations have been rated so highly by the Center. It is Poland that is today setting the pace in terms of anti-terrorism regulations in Europe."

WARSAW CITY COUNCIL "RE-COMMUNIZES" STREETS. Warsaw's City Council has angered war veterans and many patriotic Poles by re-communizing the names of 45 city streets. Under legislation passed in 2016 by the conservative-dominated parliament, several dozen streets named after Soviet agents and communist "heroes" were changed. The new names honored anti-communist patriots and included Lech Kaczyński Avenue, which replaced People's Army Street honoring a Soviet-created partisan group. The city council took the case to court which ruled in favor of the original communist-era street names.

*Św. Agata w zimę bogata.
St. Agatha's (February
5) is rich in winter.*

Forced Labor in the Third Reich

The Personal Account of a Polish Slave Laborer

Katherine Graczyk was captured by the SS and shipped to Germany. She shared her story with author Catherine Hamilton

by Catherine Hamilton

Part V

When I left the Nazi officer's suite, I hurried down the hall toward the second floor's female guard. I promised myself I would never go back to that suite. I could tell by the way he looked at me what his intentions were. Women were being raped and I prayed to God that I wouldn't be one of them. The guard was taking a group of women to the washroom to refill their buckets with clean water and I joined them. I filled my empty stomach with water from the faucet.

We were returning to the lobby on the lower level to clean the entrance floors again, but before we got half way downstairs, the building shook and sirens blared. The Allied air strikes were hitting Germany with more frequency, several times a day now. We all prayed the war would end before we died under a pile of rubble.

"Line up!" the guard called. Military personnel hurried toward the door, running for the bomb shelters in a stampede.

I pushed my way through the crowded atrium and joined the tail end of the prisoner's line. Suddenly, the building shook again. Everyone in the building was scrambling. The bomb hit close by, exploding into violent bursts of mortar and brick just outside the entrance. The prison guard blew her whistle and motioned us against the wall. "Don't you leave this building until everyone else is outside, do you understand? You'll be shot by the guards outside. I promise you!" She would not let us go outside, but she went out. She watched us from the street with her pistol pointed, watching us. You can't imagine the fear of being trapped inside a crumbling building, not being able to save yourself, while everyone else ran to safety.

When another bomb fell in the street near the guard, I scurried frantically over the rubble and into street raked with debris towards a cement bomb shelter. I was four steps down—half above ground and half below—when another bomb hit. I crouched down right on the stairs, not a foot from the entrance.

Dirt sifted down the stairway. The air was thick with dust and fear. The ground shook, again. And again. The stale thin air held its breath. The shelter was packed tight with people. Huddled against the wall, I tried to get down the steps and into the shelter.

"No room!" someone called. "There's room!" protested a German woman. "Let her in!" An elderly woman who could hardly make it down the steps entered and stood next to the woman who had spoken up for me.

I saw for myself that there were good people among the German people more than once. It was a glimmer of hope.

A MONTH LATER at morning headcount, one of the guard's came up to me and said, "Let's go."

"Go where?" I asked. "Back to the farm." "To farm number one?" He nodded.

"I am not going back to that farm! He beats me!" I told him.



Frank and Katherine.



Frank with son Kazimierz, age 1



The Graczyk wedding party prepares to give a toast.

Somehow the farmer and his wife found out I was in prison and he'd come after me.

"You're going! Now, move!" the guard ordered.

"If you take me there—I'll run away."

"You can run away. You'll end up back in the prison—or worse," he laughed.

I couldn't believe it, but I ended up back on that farm. The farmer took out his anger out on me. In some ways worse than ever because I had run away. But I didn't run away again. I thought to myself that maybe this was God's way of saving me from the officer's suite and the bombing of Berlin. It was the winter of 1944 by then and the Americans were defeating the Nazis. I believed the war would be over soon.

In early April, 1945, when we were working close to the neighbor's farm, we heard shouting. I looked up to see four American soldiers walking out of the brush. The other farmer had a gun on them. He can't shoot them, I thought to myself, it's against the Geneva Convention to shoot men in uniform. They were prisoners of war. I watched the Americans walk in front of the farmer's gun. Then he just shot them down in the field. He threw them on a wagon and dumped them in the woods. I was so angry. I wanted to report him. But there was no one to tell. I promised myself that I would tell someone someday. Now I have.

On April 13, 1945, the United States Infantry arrived and fought the Germans in the Battle of Magdeburg. I was rescued from the German farm April 18, 1945 by Americans. But before we rode off in those Army jeeps, the officer in charge ordered the farmer and his wife to fix us all a big supper. It was the first time I'd had meat and cheese in five years!

In May 1945, when the victory parades began, I still was not free to go home. I had no country to go home to. The Communists occu-

pied Poland, and Soviet operatives were rumored to be killing or arresting Polish people who attempted to return home. Sadly, not one Polish military man who had fought alongside the Allies to the very end of the war was permitted to march in single Victory parade in free Europe. Why? Because Roosevelt and Churchill didn't want to offend the Stalin!

I, along with forty thousand other displaced Polish (DP) persons, went to the Wildflecken Displaced Persons Camp, a British-run DP camp west of Magdeburg.

Just when I had given up hope of finding my friends, Frank found me. When Berlin had fallen, the U.S. freed the POW concentration camp where he'd been imprisoned since 1939. He told me he'd begun to search every DP camp in the area until he found me. He immediately proposed marriage. I tried to find my brother through the Red Cross because I wanted someone to walk me down the aisle, but my dear Frank didn't want to wait. His friend John found some white material for us. It was full of shrapnel holes, but it was fabric. I made myself a wedding dress, and Frank and I were married by a Polish priest—who had also been a prisoner. Two days after the wedding, my brother Antony found me in the DP Camp.

MY FIRST SON, Kazimeirz, was born at Wildflecken Displaced Persons Camp. And we waited on and on for the emigration papers we needed to get out of Germany. Little did I know that Kazimeirz wouldn't be going with us.

continued next month

Catherine Hamilton, a freelance writer in Beaverton, Oregon, recorded Katherine Graczyk's story during a series of interviews. Hamilton was honored to write the first-person account of these experiences; she and Katherine Graczyk are cousins.

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PAHA Presents its 2018 Awards at the 76th Annual Meeting

CHICAGO — At its 76th Annual Meeting at the Hilton Chicago, Jan. 3-6, 2019, the Polish American Historical Association announced the recipients of its Annual Awards for 2018.

The Meeting also included many scholarly presentations in nine sessions on diverse aspects of Polonia's culture, presented from historical, sociological, critical, and literary perspectives with a focus on immigration issues and the theme of "loyalties and communities." The meeting was held in conjunction with the 131st annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. **Dr. Anna Muller** (right) of the University of Michigan, Dearborn, PAHA's new President (for 2019-2020) presented the Awards at the Chopin Theatre, a Chicago landmark that celebrated its 100th anniversary last year.



Mazurkiewicz

AWARDS. The **Miecislav Haiman Award** is offered annually to an American scholar for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans. The 2018 Award was presented to **Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz** of the University of Gdańsk, the first Poland-based president of PAHA and an outstanding scholar who advances the field and is recognized on both sides of the Atlantic by various prizes and prestigious fellowships.

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 2018 Award was presented to **Dr. Stephanie Kraft** (left) a journalist who visited Poland



for the first time 28 years ago and, after that visit, decided to learn Polish. She is recognized as a translator of such novels as *Emancypantki* (*Emancipated Women*) by the 19th-century Polish novelist Bolesław Prus, and *Stone Tablets* by Wojciech Żurkowski, and co-translated *Marta* by Eliza Orzeszkowa (2018). In one of her interviews, Stephanie Kraft said "I really want Polish literature to be better known ... that's really why I got involved in this."

The **Joseph Swastek Award** is given annually for the best article published during the previous year in a given volume of *Polish American Studies*, the journal of the Polish American Historical Association. The PAS Editorial Board has decided to award the Swastek Prize to

Zbyszko, Polish Americans, and Sport in the 20th Century," by **Prof. Neal Pease** (right) PAS, 74/1 (2017): 7-26. This well-written and well-organized study of professional wrestler Stanislaus Zbyszko (Jan Stanislaw Cyganiewicz) makes a persuasive argument based on extensive use of primary resources



Bozena Nowicka McLees receives books from Moonrise Press's Maja Trochimczyk for Loyola University Chicago

The **James S. Pula Distinguished Service Award** is given to a member of PAHA who has rendered valuable and sustained service to the organization. The 2018 Award was presented to **Prof. Dorota Praszalowicz** of Jagiellonian University in Poland, who has been contributing to the success of PAHA for a long time, including her role in securing Polish grants for PAHA's 75th Anniversary Conference. The series of conferences titled "American Ethnicity" that she organizes every two years offers an outstanding opportunity for PAHA members to present their work, advance their expertise and knowledge, and connect with distinguished European scholars.

The **Creative Arts Prize** recognizes contributions in the field of creative arts by individuals or groups who have promoted an awareness of the Polish experience in the Americas. The 2018 Prize was presented to **Ken Peplowski** who, in the words of Russell Davies, is "arguably the greatest living jazz clarinetist." Born to the Polish parents in Cleveland, Ken grew up to the tunes of Polish music. In a 2013 interview, Ken Peplowski said: "When you grow up in Cleveland, Ohio, playing in a Polish polka band, you learn to think fast on your feet."

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 2018 Skalny Awards recognize five outstanding individuals.



Stephen Kusmierczak (left) made numerous contributions to the flourishing of Polish and Polish American culture: he serves on the board of the Polish Museum of America and together with his wife Jamie actively invests time and funds for its advancement. Among the various charitable organizations and cultural institutions are the Gift of the Heart Foundation and the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

Joseph A. Drobot Jr.'s devotion to the cause of sustaining Polish American communities spans more than 50 years. Born in Detroit, he serves a number of esteemed economic institutions in Michigan, including the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. He also serves as the chairman of the Executive Board of The Polish Museum of America.

Edward Rajtar has been the Artistic Director, choreographer and dancer for the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers in the Twin Cities area, Minnesota, for the past 22 years; he also established dance groups for children and teenagers. He served on the board of directors of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas. In the 1980s and 90s, Rajtar served as president of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM). Under his direction, PACIM represented the Polish community at the annual Festival of Nations in the Twin Cities and established a Polish Library.

Since 2008, Edward Rajtar became one of the founding members of a tremendously popular Twin Cities Polish Festival, which for a few days in August gathers audiences of several thousand people from Minnesota and elsewhere in the Midwest to celebrate the Polish culture. Rajtar served as both co-chair and chair of the Festival, which is now in its tenth year.



Mary Lou Wyrobek grew up in Buffalo's Black Rock section, the second Polish settlement in Buffalo. Throughout her life, she was imbued with the culture and music of Poland. While in grade School, in a welcoming group, Wyrobek welcomed Carol Cardinal Wojtyla to Assumption Parish in September 1969. She has sung with the Chopin Singing Society of Buffalo on and off since 1980 and currently serves on the board of directors. She also joined the Kalina Singing Society in 2017. She has served on the board of the permanent chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College for many years where she held the offices of chair and secretary. Similarly, she arranged for concerts by local and international artists, organized numerous exhibits held at Canisius College and the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. Mary Lou has been a liaison with Western New York's Jewish Community, serving on the board of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

Recently Wyrobek coordinated a very successful visit by Jeannie Smith, daughter of Irena Gut Opdyke, Righteous Among the Nations, which included a public lecture in conjunction with UN Holocaust Remembrance Day, and three lectures at local High Schools where 1200 students heard the amazing story of Mrs. Opdyke.

Since 2007, Wyrobek has been president of the Central Administration of the Polish Singers Alliance of America, an umbrella organization of Polish choirs in the United States and Canada. In her tenure, she has overseen three International

Conventions, chairing one of them, oversaw the activation of a scholarship fund, coordinated a new website, and streamlined the constitution and by-laws. Also as president, she serves on the National Council of the Polish American Congress. In the local Polish American Congress, she is currently involved with the planning for a Gala celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Rebirth.

Anne Gurnack has undertaken a number of efforts to mobilize both the Polish American community and to engage the Polish institutions to study, protect and promote Kaszub heritage in Milwaukee. She fostered cooperation between the Milwaukee Public Library and the Emigration Museum and contributed to the international cooperation between the Universities of Gdańsk and Wisconsin - Parkside. The hours of lobbying, perseverance and commitment extended to our students made this exchange a success.



Florence Vychytil-Baudoux and Weronika Grzebalska.

The **Graduate Student/Young Scholar Travel Grant** to young and promising scholars in the humanities or social sciences. The winner receives a travel grant to present the paper at the PAHA Annual Meeting. This year PAHA recognized two young outstanding scholars: **Weronika Grzebalska** and **Florence Vychytil-Baudoux**.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The 76th Annual Meeting also included the presentation of the new board of directors of the Polish American Historical Association, to serve in 2019-2020, under the newly elected President Dr. Anna Müller of University of Michigan at Dearborn. The officers include: **Dr. Neal Pease**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - first vice president; **Dr. Marta Cieslak**, University of Arkansas - Little Rock, second vice president; **Dr. James S. Pula** of Purdue University - treasurer; **Dr. Maja Trochimczyk** of Moonrise Press - secretary and communications director; **Dr. Pien Versteegh**, The Netherlands - executive director; **Dr. Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann** of Eastern Connecticut State University - editor of *Polish American Studies*. PAHA Council will also include **Dr. John Bukowczyk**, Wayne State University; **Dr. Mieczysław B. B. Biskupski**, Central Connecticut State University; **Dr. Mary Patrice Erdmans**, Case Western Reserve University; **Dr. Ewa Barczyk**; **Dr. Grażyna Kozaczka**, Cazenovia College; **Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz**, University of Gdańsk; **Dr. Hubert Izeniecki**, Purdue University Northwest, and **Dr. Kathleen Wróblewski**, University of Michigan.

St. Casimir Goes Green

CLEVELAND — St. Casimir Parish in Cleveland hosted a workshop sponsored by the Western Reserve Resource Conservation & Development Council to present the parish's just-completed Green Infrastructure project. The process took about two years to complete, making St. Casimir, 8223 Sowinski Ave., the first Green Infrastructure parish in the Diocese of Cleveland.

The parish received a grant in 2016 from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to make green changes to the infrastructure of the church, including installation of permeable pavers and bio-retention areas and the installation of rain barrels on parish grounds.

Both the permeable pavers and bio-retention areas are designed to collect water runoff that previously would have been collected in the sewers. They allow the water to be absorbed into the ground. In addition, the rain barrels provide an opportunity for water to be collected in a large barrel rather than the water being collected by a gutter and taken directly to the sewer system. By keeping water out of the sewers, the parish is helping to prevent overflow runoff.

These stormwater practices not only lower the parish's sewer bills, but also promote the mission of taking care of the planet, as espoused by Pope Francis in his encyclical "Laudato Si," which talks about the care of our common home. Much of the inspiration for the St. Casimir project comes from the belief that people should take care of the planet God has entrusted to humanity. Parish officials said they hope that this project will inspire others to become greener as well.

Among the entities that helped sponsor and make the project a reality are Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Bramhall Engineering, Licursi Construction Inc., Ohio Department of Agriculture, the city of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Lake Soil & Water Conservation District, Wilson Elementary School, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Western Reserve Resource Conservation & Development Council, Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, Ohio Interfaith Council and ProVision Impressions.

Tribute to the "Father of Polish Opera"

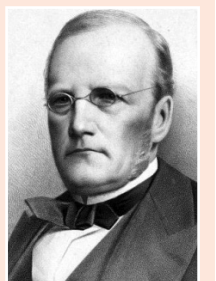
The Kraków-based Polish Music Publishers (PWM Edition) is planning several dozen publications to mark the bicentenary of the birth of **Stanisław Moniuszko** (inset), the father of Polish national opera.

They include orchestral materials for the composer's major operas (*The Haunted Manor*, *Halka*, *The Countess*) and cantatas (*Crimean Sonnets*, *Phantoms*).

PWM Edition is also going to bring out Moniuszko's songs, string quartets, music for piano and Latin masses, as well as books on the composer's life and work.

Special publications for children and a video guide to Moniuszko's legacy are also planned. Moniuszko was a prolific composer and a large part of his output remains unknown.

2019 has been declared Moniuszko Year by UNESCO and the Polish parliament.



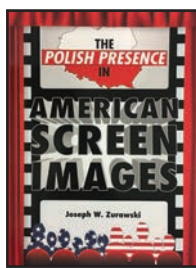
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POLONIA



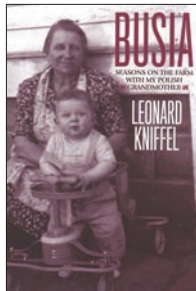
NEW! THE POLISH PRESENCE IN AMERICAN SCREEN IMAGES
by Joseph W. Zurawski
\$29.95
Item 2-682

Softcover, 355 pp., 6" x 9"; 2018

The most complete, objective and accurate analysis of the presentation of Polish Americans and their heritage as viewed on movie theaters and on television screens in America since 1894.

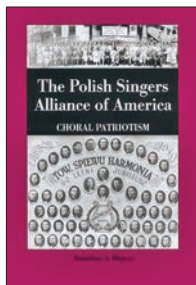
Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America.

BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER



by Leonard Kniffel
\$15.00
hc. 59 pp.; 2017,
6.25" x 9.25"
Item 2-702

The book chronicles one year in the life of a young boy and his grandmother on a farm in Michigan in the 1950s, a time without telephones and televisions. Instead, they cook and garden and work together to keep the stoves supplied and the cupboards filled. They prepare for holidays while Busia tells stories about life in the old country, Poland. Kniffel is the author of "A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home." He is currently president of the Polish American Librarians Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

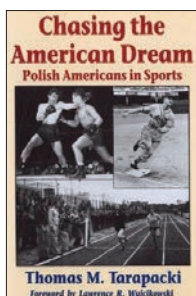


CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998
by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
Was \$22.50. Now \$14.95

Boydell & Brewer, 2005. 396 pp., ill. 6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

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.

"A superb treatment of the formation and expansion of the oldest Polish-American cultural organization in North America." — Frances Gates



CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM
by Tom Tarapacki
\$11.95 while supplies last
Item 1-701. h.c.; 151 pp.; 1995;
B&W ill.; 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.5 inches
New old stock.

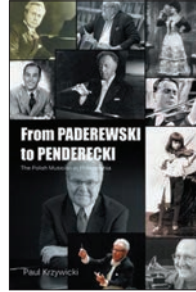
"Chasing the American Dream" provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unprecedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations involved.

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swim-

ming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the *Polish American Journal*.

FROM PADEREWSKI TO



PENDERCKI The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Pub. 2016;
pb. 396 pp.,
6"x1"x9"

Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music.

GENEALOGY

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER:

From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose Garden in America

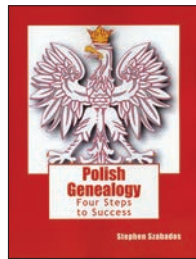


by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95 / Item 2-218
61 pp., b&w photos
2015

Anna was the youngest daughter of a Polish farmer and very small physically. However, she was always in command when she was in the room. This book describes the tragedies in her early life and the challenges she overcame to make a new life in America. It is different from many stories of immigrants because it is told from the perspective of a woman.

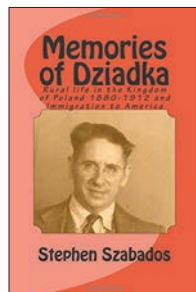
This book asks questions about her fears when growing up, immigrating to America, and making her new life. How did she face these fears? How did she overcome them? Szabados said by searching for answers, he found new insights about his grandmother.

As you read Anna's story, ask the same questions about your ancestors. If you do, your view of your family history will definitely change.



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

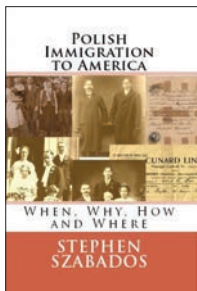
This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional 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.



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

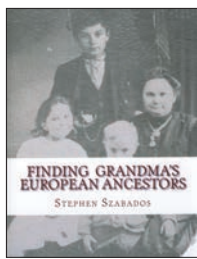
Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the Atlantic Ocean; his arrival 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 IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA
by Stephen Szabados
Item 2-271
\$17.99

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



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

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 steps that will help you find 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.

FOLKLORE



FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE
Retold by Joanne Asala
\$12.95
Item 2-636
6 x 9 inches
157 pp., pb.

Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world.

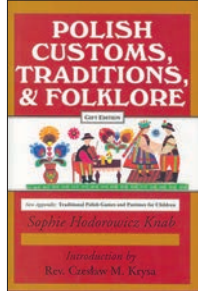
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.



SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A QUEST FOR AN AUTHENTIC POLISH SPIRITUALITY
by Claire M. Anderson
Item 1-675

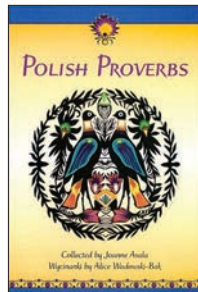
\$14.95
ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

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.



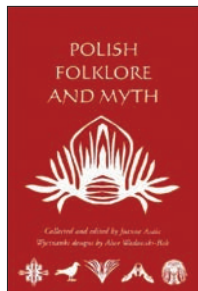
POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE
\$24.95
Item 2-643
by Sophie Hodorowicz
Knab
340 pp., hc.

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, name-day celebrations, and birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



POLISH PROVERBS
by Joanne Asala
\$14.95
Item 2-681
6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

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



POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH
by Joanne Asala
\$12.95
Item 2-679 / 6x9 in / 118 pp., pb.

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

HISTORY



POLAND: A HISTORY
by Adam Zamojski
\$19.95
Item 1-659
pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

A substantially revised and updated edition

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

THE MAGNIFICENT 100

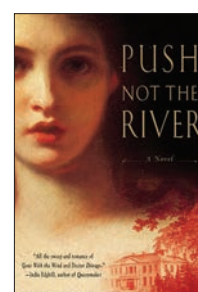


by Jaroslaw K. Radomski
\$24.50
2018, Buffalo Standard Printing
pb., 195pp., color illustrations.
Item 2-655

The Magnificent 100 presents — in an alphabetically organized lexicon — 97 illustrated vignettes popularizing the biographies and works of over 100 Polish artists and writers through the ages. It also contains numerous online links to galleries of the artworks of artists and books of writers described in it, so readers can significantly expand their knowledge through those sources. The idea of presenting artists and writers together shows the more complex picture of the connections and interactions among them that are often treated separately. The aspects of the lives of our Magnificent 100 are presented in this book to help understand the psychological "genesis" of their works.

MARTIN TRILOGY

PUSH NOT THE RIVER



Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin
\$15.95
Item 2-609
496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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

AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY



Book 2 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin
\$15.95
Item 2-610
St. Martin's Press
369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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

THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY



Book 3 of Martin's Poland Trilogy
by James Conroyd Martin
\$17.99 Hussar
Quill Press
508 pp., pb.
Item 2-611

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

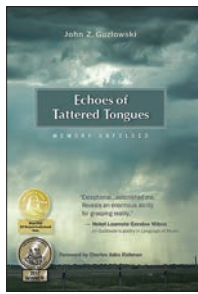
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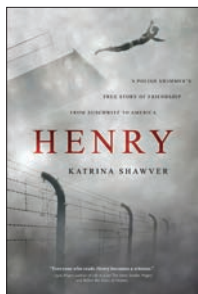
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WORLD WAR II



ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES
by John Guzowski
\$21.95
Item 2-667
hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches
200 pp.
Aquila Polonica / Language: English

Guzowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war in these straightforward, gut-wrenching narrative lyric poems. These snapshots of Nazi German rule illustrate that hardship didn't end with German surrender; the aftershocks radiated through successive generations. "Guzowski's simple language highlights the violence without offering any comment or consolation." — Publishers Weekly



HENRY. A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to America
by Katrina Shawver
\$19.95
Item 2-678
Koehler Books, 2017 / pb., 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches / 324 pp. / \$19.95

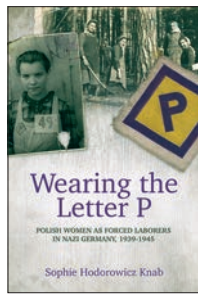
When Katrina Shawver met the eighty-five-year-old Henry Zguda, he possessed an exceptional memory, a surprising cache of original documents and photos, and a knack for meeting the right people at the right time. He relates in his own voice a life as a champion swimmer, interrupted by three years imprisoned in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Henry's path of resiliency and power of connection are as relevant today as they were in World War II.



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

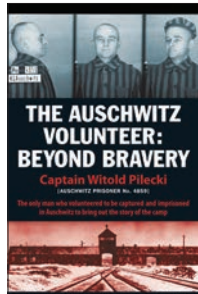
A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London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

medical school at only 17.



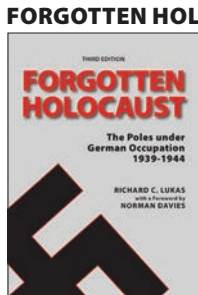
WEARING THE LETTER "P"
Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945.
by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab
\$19.95
Item 2-642

pb. 304 pages. 6 x 9 inches
An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation — all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER
by Witold Pilecki
\$34.95
Item 2-673
Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014
460 pp., pb. / 6x9 in.

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

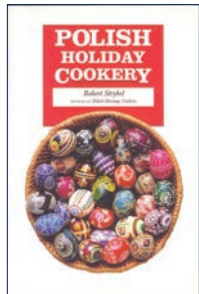


FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third Edition
\$19.95
Item 2-647
358 PP. PB.

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful correc-

tion." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

RECIPE BOOKS

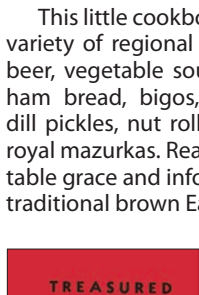


POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY
Published at \$16.95
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: \$9.95
by Robert Strybel
Item 2-644
248 pp., pb., Hippocrene Bks.

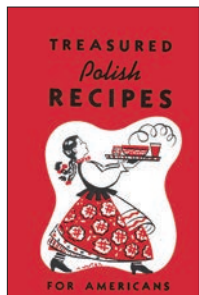
Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and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

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

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES
by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski
\$8.95
Item 2-678
5.5 x 3.5 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.

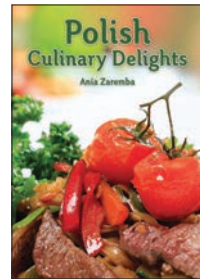


TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS
\$19.95
Item BK2364
hc 5.5" x 8.7" x 0.50"; 172 pp.; English language version with U.S. measurements
475 Recipes

Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski; Illustrated by Stanley Legun

First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language. Chapters on Appetizers, Soups, Meats, Poultry and Game, Fish, Vegetables, Mushrooms, Dairy Dishes, Pastries and Desserts. Recipes are included for famous Polish barszcz, for bigos, czarna, pierogi, naleśniki, paszteciki... and hundreds of other interesting Polish foods.

It contains brief stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Harvest Festival (Dożynki) and others.

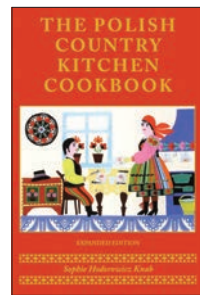


POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS
\$24.95
Item BK 2572
by Ania Zaremba
sc., 6.5" x 9.25" x 0.5"; 224 pp., color photographs, index;

English language version with U.S. measurements.

Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family (grandma, grandpa, uncle, etc.).

More than 175 recipes, from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare such traditional Polish favorites as pierogi, blintzes, sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, bigos, horseradish sauce, paczki, angel wings, mazurka cakes and many more.



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.

POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK
\$10.00

Item 2-302
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.



POLISH PIEROGIES
\$10.00
Item 2-303
by Eva Gerweck, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerwecki. Fillings, toppings, and a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from New York to California!

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK
\$10.00

Item 2-301
by Eva Gerweck
44 pp., sc.

Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

LITERATURE



POLISH PRINCESS
by Gail Engebretson
pb., 334 pp., English
5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches
\$18.95
Item 2-620

Tragedy and mystery surround the life of 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski. Ann is a gifted pianist growing up in middle America, yet her mother claims they are descended from Polish aristocracy. Anna struggles with insecurities that cripple her life until she meets a young Polish violinist. Together they find passion in their music and each other. When tragedy strikes Anna must find the courage to find face her past and her future.

Gail Engebretson is a native of Wisconsin and the granddaughter of Polish immigrants. She has been working in Early Childhood Development, teaching music for over 40 years.

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Genealogy

Talk to Your Family and Save the Stories

by Stephen M. Szabados

I write family histories to save the stories, pictures, and family history for my children, grandchildren, and all of my future generations.

A great deal of family history is passed down through the generations at family gatherings and the dinner table. You may hear stories of the immigration of the family to America, or it may be as simple as saving a family recipe. Of specific importance are the stories, anecdotes, and family traditions. Collect what you can, write down what you hear, and save them in a ring binder. Organize them by family and ancestor. I hated writing in high school and college but I love doing this. Please try to start. If we don't do it, who will?

Remember that you are seeking information from older members of the family and their memories are at risk of being lost to time. Talk to your grandparents, great-grandparents, granduncles, grandaunts, and older cousins. Even former neighbors may have information to add. Talk to them as soon as possible.

Family gatherings may provide unique opportunities to capture the memories of several people at one time. In this sort of situation,

introduce a discussion topic to the group, such as asking them to identify who is in a photo and where was the photo taken.

Also contact older relatives to set up individual meetings. When you approach them explain the purpose of your request. Meeting them at their home should help them feel comfortable, and there are minimal distractions. Their home will also give you access to any pictures and documents that your relative may have to share.

Remember your discussions should be an equal exchange of information. The questions should flow as normal conversation and not as an interrogation. Avoid questions that seek a "Yes" or "No" answer. Open-ended questions are better because they will generate more detailed answers and will offer the best chance to have your relative tell their stories. A question such as "What is your fondest memory of your grandfather?" can begin a string of stories about their interaction with their grandfather. Showing them pictures or heirlooms can also open their memories to tell more stories. Be sensitive about the questions you ask. Avoid topics that may be upsetting. Your goal should be to have your relative do most of the talking.

TRY TO BE A GOOD LISTENER

- Don't talk or interrupt while the person is speaking.
- Don't put words in their mouths and don't finish their sentences for them either.
- Let them speak until they have completed their thought before you go on to the next topic.
- Include pictures in your research and ask your relatives to help identify the people in the photos.

Also remember that memories often fade, and facts get confused with other points. However, the information you obtain may exist nowhere else, and you must take the information at face value. Treat the oral history that you hear as treasures. However, if some of the facts do not seem to be accurate, try to confirm the facts but record the story as told to you. Add your comments and concerns after the story. Future generations may be able to find more facts that sort out your concerns and resolve the problem areas of the stories.

SUMMARY

- Talking to older relatives is a critical early step in genealogical research. Do this as soon as possible. Don't wait until tomorrow

because your relative may suddenly not be there.

- Prepare a ring binder with your summaries, charts, and photos to show your progress to your relative
 - Discussions should be an equal exchange of information and should not be an interrogation.
 - Establish rapport with family members before interviewing them
 - Avoid questions that seek a "Yes" or "No" answer
 - Let your relative talk, do not interrupt them. Their conversation will make them feel comfortable.
 - Try to check the information from oral histories – treat information as clues.
 - Re-visit your relative after you have new and exciting information to show them. Seeing your material may turn on their memory for another story.
- Get started and your passion will grow!



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

The Pondering Pole

A Medley of Inspiration

by Edward Poniewaz

If you think the accomplishment of Alina Morse, creator of Zollipops and featured last month in the Pondering Pole was amazing, well, let me tell you about the rest of her family.

Alina truly is a brilliant young Polish American kidpreneur but as her father Tom pointed out in our subsequent email correspondence, she comes from a line of some very creative and enterprising people. Here is a sample.

Alina's grandfather Henry Starr (his father was originally named Starzynski) was 100% Polish and

also started and ran his own advertising agency in Detroit for approximately 20 years. He also invented several games, and most notably was the promoter of the first truck bed liners, which is still the leading brand in the space today.

Alina's great grandfather, Alex Root (Pop-Pop, originally named Alex Rysukewicz), from Pinsk, Poland, came through Ellis Island. He was an inventor, a cartoonist, a wrestler, and was a World War I pilot. In 1920, at 20 years of age, Alex opened the first Root's Garage. Then later in his early 30s he opened Mt. Elliot Tool & Machine Co., which was in business 48 years. It

made parts for automobiles – one of which was the "Root Shake-Proof Lock."

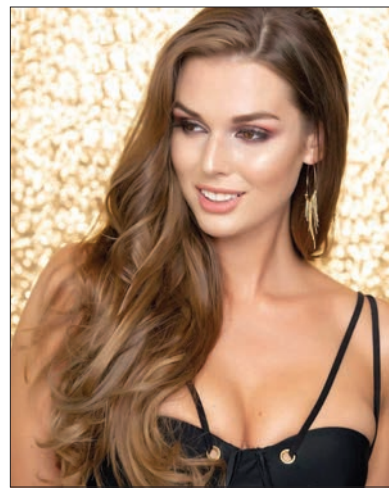
Alina's great uncle, George Root, opened Ramco Products, also automotive related, and was in business 30 years.

Her great aunt, Victoria Kowalska, opened Henry's Lounge Bar / Restaurant and owned that business for 30 years.

Okay, three comments about this particular family tree. 1) Alina is the product of some really great genes, 2) the people in her family understood and took advantage of American opportunity and the free market system to take risks, succeed personally, and contribute to the betterment of the country, and; 3) we are glad Alina and the Morse family are continuing with the same energy and enthusiasm for the American way and the way of her Polish ancestors that made America their home. Not everyone can come from the same kind of outstanding family but you can start your own. Put a pierogi board on your back and make it happen!

STAŚ. Netflix is featuring the Leonardo DiCaprio produced documentary *Struggle: The Life and Lost Art of Szukalski* about the life of the Polish born artist, **Stanislaw Szukalski**. There is a lot of information packed into this program and — suffice to say — Szukalski was a talented and complicated guy. Some say he was a genius. Some say a bigot. Some say both. After watching the show, I'm not sure how to judge his heart, but I urge you to watch this documentary at the least because he was a fascinating person and this is a fascinating story.

Struggle, directed by Irek Dombrowski is really about the rediscovery of Szukalski by artist Glen Bray and his wife Lena Zwalwe, who were made aware of his (largely unknown in America) work in the early 1970s. The Brays, along with George DiCaprio (the father of actor Leonardo) were amazed at the greatness and power of the work, and took steps to propagate his artistic legacy to the California and American public and fine arts community. Their interaction and inter-



crowned Miss Universe Canada 2018.

"She is a student of biomedical engineering technology at St. Clair College and is an applied researcher. She speaks French, Polish, German and English." Beauty and brains.

Marta garnered high praise from a commentator in the swimsuit competition who said "she has a great, easy, relaxed kind of glamor about her." After some very focused, easy, and relaxed research of her glamor and the glamor of the whole 2018 swimsuit field (and suffice to say it was an arduous assignment), I definitely would agree with that assessment.

The name **Victor Skrebneski** popped up on the Yahoo ticker last year for a reason I have since forgotten, but pegged him as a big deal and in a 2016 article he was called "Chicago's best-known advertising photographer." He "shot famous campaigns for Estee Lauder, Chanel, and Givenchy among others. He's also known for his black-and-white portraits of celebrities including Dennis Hopper, Betty Davis, and Sharon Stone."

In this same article, a then-small-time and not-very-well-known Cindy Crawford credits "Skrebneski with teaching her how to hold her body, show off the clothes, work with the camera, and pay attention to the light." He also told her she "didn't have an easy face to photograph" but she praised him as the "only photographer that knew how to make her look good."

Wikipedia says Skrebneski was born to parents of Polish and Russian heritage.



If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. If you send email, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line.

Gdy mróz w lutym ostro trzyma, tedy już niedługa zima.

When February's cold is very strong, Winter will not be here for long.

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THE NIEZGODA COAT OF ARMS was shared by the nobles of several dozen Polish families including: Baranowski, Klonicki, Uderski, Niezgoda, Bujewicz, Praznicki, Grochocki, Lewandowski, Gorsek, Łętowski, Tracewski, Marynowski, Bugwicz, Nutowć, Minkowski, Naganowski, Radziszowski, and Zdramowicz.

In Memoriam

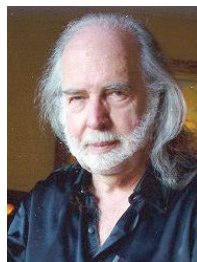
Author Wesley Adamczyk

by Leonard Kniffel

Born in Poland January 14, 1933, author Wesley Adamczyk, a career chemist and tax consultant who went on to write one of the most highly acclaimed books ever published about Poland and World War II, died peacefully October 13, 2018, at his home in Deerfield, Illinois, in the presence of family. He was 85.

Published in 2004 by the University of Chicago Press, Adamczyk's book *When God Looked the Other Way: An Odyssey of War, Exile, and Redemption* received universal praise from reviewers as a "finely wrought memoir of loss and survival" telling his family's story against the backdrop of a little known chapter of the Second World War—the forced exile of thousands of Poles by the Soviet government in the opening weeks of the conflict.

"I have devoted 15 years of my retirement to the dissemination of information about the tragedy of the Polish people at the hands of the Soviets during World War II through writing, speaking at public schools, private institutions, and interviews on television in English and in Polish, in the U.S. and Poland," Adamczyk said in a 2011 interview. "I have been in America for 60 years, and even though my training was not in journalism, you can see that one individual can do something, at least in this area, that no one else has done," namely deliver 'illumination and honor to the families of the thousands who suffered the same terrible fate,' as a Publishers Weekly reviewer put it."



Adamczyk's "When God Looked the Other Way" received great praise.

In the course of writing the book, Adamczyk amassed a sizeable collection of documents, photographs, and other memorabilia, most notably a series of what he called "memory books," pocket-size diaries kept by some of the children of the deportation and gathered from survivors. He mounted an exhibition in 2011 and gave private tours through his multimedia collection.

In 2010 Adamczyk was scheduled to be on the airplane to Smolensk near Katyń with Polish President Lech Kaczyński to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the massacre. Having visited the site of his father's murder in 1998, Adamczyk decided that once was enough and made a last-minute decision to decline the invitation to return for another memorial service. The plane crashed before reaching its destination, killing all 96 people on board.

One of Adamczyk's major points in all his talks has been a defense of freedom of speech. "One of the beauties of America," he said, "is that if you say something people don't like, no one ever gets sent to Siberia for what the Soviets called 'reeducation.'"

Donations in his memory be made to his favored organization for blind children in Laski, Poland. To donate: <https://www.laski.edu.pl/en/donate-now>.

Karuzela Chorus Begins Twentieth Year

PITTSBURGH — The Karuzela Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Neil Stahurski, began its twentieth year by performing on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, "Kościół Matki Boskiej" in Pittsburgh's Polish Hill neighborhood. The concert included traditional Polish kolędy and pastorałki such as "Wśród Nocnej Ciszy," "Dzisiaj w Betlejem" and "Pójdźmy Wszyscy do Stajenki," along with other notable carols. Children from Pittsburgh's Polonia community also performed along with the choir.

The Karuzela chorus is dedicated

to the preservation and perpetuation the rich heritage of the Polish people of Western Pennsylvania. It came into being in 1999 as an extension of the Karuzela Polish American Folk Dance Ensemble which was founded in 1986 by artistic director, Chester Wawrzonek. Presently, the chorus consists of 40 members and performs at a variety of events every year including religious concerts in area churches, cultural events and festivals.

For more information about the chorus, membership, and performances contact Dr. Neil Stahurski at drstahurski@comcast.net.

Educator Batory Speaker at PHS Meeting

PHILADELPHIA — Joseph Batory was the guest speaker at the General Membership meeting of The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, Jan. 27, 2019.

Batory has had an outstanding educational leadership career with the Upper Darby School District and has written several books on leadership. He is also founder of the Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation. The *Philadelphia In-*

quirer has described Batory as "a champion of children and education," and the *The News of Delaware County* has called him "a legend."

Batory has been recognized by the president of the United States, the United States House of Representatives, and both legislative bodies of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Obituaries

Virginia Sikora, Past PACC, PWA President

CHICAGO — Virginia Sikora (nee Gadomski), 90, was the former president of the Polish Woman's Alliance of America (1999-2011), and president of the Polish American Congress, a role she assumed after the death of Edward Moskal in 2005. Sikora had previously been elected as First Vice President of the Polish American Congress in November 2004. She also served as the President of the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation from 2005-2017.

Sikora was also the treasurer for the City of Detroit, treasurer of the Detroit Board of Education, and a trustee of the Detroit Police and Fire System. She was a 41-year member of Detroit Municipal Credit Union and was also the first woman elected to the Board of Directors as President of the Credit Union.

Donations in her memory can be made to the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation, 6645 N. Oliphant, Chicago, IL 60631.



Fr. Joseph C. Stec, Teacher for 37 Years

PHILADELPHIA — Fr. Joseph C. Stec, pastor emeritus of St. Hedwig Parish, served on the faculty at Cardinal Dougherty High School for 37 years as a much-loved teacher.

The son of the late Clement and the late Mary Kijac Stec, he was born in Philadelphia, and attended St. Adalbert Parochial School in his home parish and Northeast Catholic High School before entering St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Stec was ordained on May 11, 1957, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia.

He served as assistant pastor at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Lansford, St. Stanislaus Parish, Summit Hill, Pa., and St. Casimir Parish in Mahanoy City, Pa. In 1959, he returned to his home parish, St. Adalbert, as a pastoral assistant. In 1986, he became parochial administrator for St. John Cantius Parish in Bridesburg, and in June 1994, Father Stec was named pastor of St. Hedwig Parish in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia. He became pastor emeritus in 2000.

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Film

A Tale of the V-1 Rocket

by Joseph Zurawski

MISSILES FROM HELL (1958)

Original title: *Battle of the V-1 War, Drama*

U.S. Distributor: National
Telefilm Associates

Director: Vernon Sewell

Screenplay Writers: Jack

Hanley, Eryk Wlodek

Featuring: Michael Rennie (as

Stefan), Patricia Medina (as Zofia),

David Knight (as Tadek), Mille

Vitale (as Anna), Peter Madden (as

Stanislaw), George Pravda (as Ka-

renski), George Pastell (as Edyk),

Stanley Zevic (as Kubala), Gregory

Dark (as Framus), Jan Conrad (as

Wlodek), Tom Clege (as Anton)

In 1946 the British celebrated victory in World War II with a massive parade in London. The Poles, who were most instrumental in saving London during the war, were not included in that parade. Perhaps the film, *Missiles from Hell* produced in 1958, is a partial attempt to soothe this non-recognition of England's most dedicated ally during World War II.

Before the first scene in *Missiles from Hell*, an introductory comment is made: "To the heroes of the Polish underground (who delayed Hitler's attack on London) ... we owe our everlasting gratitude." The film is based on "incidents (that) are true" and is dedicated to the "unsung heroes of the Polish underground."

Two Poles in the underground get themselves sent to a concentration camp where the Germans are developing the V-1 rocket. As Poles are being packed on trucks for transport to the camp, Polish saboteurs infuriate the Nazis by re-wiring loudspeakers to play the Polish national anthem.

After the two Poles in the underground are cleared to work near the Nazi testing facility, reports start coming to London. A "missile (with) no pilot, no propeller... a guided bomb controlled by radio," has been developed by the Nazis. Allies prepare and execute a very successful bombing raid where the missiles are being built. The Nazis then decide to build another plant in Poland outside the range of Allied bombers in London.

A Polish fisherman and his young son are near the field where a V-1 rocket crashes in Poland. Prompt Polish ingenuity manages to hide the rocket in the river, hide the tracks left by the rocket, and, thanks to the attempted bribe of a piece of chocolate, sends the Nazis looking for their missile in the wrong place.

After the missile was detonated, "making" a landing strip safe at night (for the British aircraft that would take the missile back to England) shows the Poles at their resourceful best.

At the film's end, as the credits role, we hear a spirited Polish national anthem.

Although the film was made and released in England, it is being shown on U.S. television thanks to a U.S. distributor. Every Polish American viewing this very positive film, will, one suspects, feel justifiable pride in what their Polish brethren were able to accomplish for the Allies during World War II.

✦ ✦ ✦
Educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski is the author of "The Polish Presence in American Screen Images" (available from the PAJ Bookstore), and numerous historical and educational books.

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Dance Time

Polka Musicians, Clubs, Unite to Help Burn Victim

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Polka Boosters, and the Polka Variety Social Club, in coordination with several Buffalo-area polka musicians, hosted a fundraiser for a woman who was tragically burned in an act of violence last December in Tonawanda, N.Y.

On December 17, 2018, police said **Jessica Cameron's** ex-boyfriend texted her while she was working at Tim Hortons coffee shop in Tonawanda, asking her to come outside near the dumpsters "to talk."

The police allege Jonathon White, 28, of the City of Tonawanda, hid near the dumpsters. When Cameron arrived, he doused her with a flammable liquid and lit a fire, which also spread to him.

tertainer **Kenny Krew**.

Those wishing to help the family help with medical bills can make a donation at <https://www.gofundme.com/assist-woman-set-on-fire-in-tonawanda>; or send a check or money order to: Jim Harsztrak Foundation, 2452 Colvin Blvd, Tonawanda, NY 14150.

Donations can



Koledy Night at Pott's. (photo, left): Harmony Polish Ensemble members Karen Hammer, Doug King, and Nikki Horst; (photo, right): Ron and Kathy Urbanczyk and Marek and Mickey Gierczak.



New Year's Eve at the Millennium. (photo, left): Ed and Wanda Guca; (above) Greg and Lynn Chwojdak and Dale and Cheryl Wojdyla; (right) Laura and Dan Mateja.



Marsha Bulinski. This event is advance ticket sales only and no tickets will be held at the door. You can contact Linda K at (908) 963-0890 or Sue Szela at (413) 896-0433 for ticket information. Hotel accommodations are also available at the Holiday Inn Express in Ludlow for a group price of \$125/per night. The phone number for the hotel is (413) 589-9300 and the discount code is IPA2019. This event is typically a sellout, so don't delay in making plans to attend this unforgettable weekend.

DEALING IN WHEELING. Stunning Oglebay Park Resort remains the host venue once again for the Wheeling Polka Festival. This event will be happening on March 29-31, 2019 in the breathtaking hills of West Virginia, conveniently located in the Northern Panhandle between Ohio and Pennsylvania. Bands performing include: **Dennis Polisky & The Maestro Men, The Boys, Versa Js, Polka Family, and The Nu Tones.** You can make reservations and get more information by calling Deb Jones at (740) 310-7023.

Both were taken to the Erie County Medical Center Burn Unit. Cameron, 25, was placed in a medically induced coma as part of her treatment. She has received skin grafts, and has had surgery on her hands.

Cameron and White have three children between the ages of 2 and 4. The children are currently staying with a relative.

Police charged White with one count of attempted murder in the second degree and one count of assault in the first degree. Both are class B felonies.

A benefit, organized by **Ricky Krupski** of Buffalo's Phocus and Krew Brothers bands, was held Sunday, January 27, from at Potts Banquets, in Cheektowaga. Krupski, a burn victim himself, said he understands what Cameron would be going through, and asked the community for help.

Donating their talent for the event were **The Concertina All Stars, Special Delivery, The Buffalo Touch, Phocus, and DJ / En-**

also be dropped off at City of Tonawanda Fire Department, 44 William Street, Tonawanda N.Y., or at the Tim Hortons where Cameron works, 71 Niagara Street, Tonawanda N.Y.

KOLEDY FOR ST. LUKE'S A SUCCESS. Holiday spirits were alive and well as Special Delivery hosted a koledy night singalong at Potts Banquet Hall. Polish dancers from Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble added to the jovial atmosphere and, of course, the small children dressed in traditional Polish attire stole all of our hearts. Not only was this festive affair the chance to enjoy wonderful polka music and sing dearly loved Polish carols, but **Special Delivery** granted attendees the opportunity to spread Christmas cheer by offering a donation to a local charity. This year, donations and funds were collected for **St. Luke's Mission of Mercy** located at 325 Walden Ave in Buffalo.

The generous crowd filled Potts with an overwhelming amount of

donations which included clothing, bedding, toiletries, toys, as well as many monetary donations. Christmas joy was evident: as the crowd grew throughout the evening, so too did the stockpile of much-needed donations. The kindness of our polka population was truly heartwarming. **Amy Betros**, the director of St. Luke's was on hand to thank the crowd for their efforts and explain the mission of this Western New York organization. She was beyond overwhelmed as she called in St. Luke's cavalry to help transport the donations back to the center for distribution.

The Mission opened its doors on August 1, 1994 thanks to the partnership of **Norm Paolini** and **Amy Betros**, two faith-filled souls whose love and devotion for those less fortunate far outweighs any of their own needs. St. Luke's Mission of Mercy is an independent Mission in the Roman Catholic Tradition and does not receive money from the government or the Diocese. Its ministry depends on donations to continue its service to the community. The reach of the mission is incredible and it continues to grow as the need regularly rises and no one is turned away.

For more information on this wonderful organization, please visit their website <https://www.stlukes-missionofmercy.org>.

Congratulations and thanks go out to Special Delivery for donating their talents, and to our incredible polka fans for helping benefit those in need in our community.

NEW YEAR'S DOINGS. Polka music continues to be at the forefront

of New Year's Eve celebrations in Western New York. Polka lovers from far and wide packed into two venues to ring in 2019 with friends, fun, and fabulous music. **John Gora & Gorale** along with **Concertina All Stars** played to a sold out crowd at the Millennium Hotel and celebrated midnight with a huge red and white balloon drop. The pictures provided online by talented photographer Les Kapuscinski captured the sheer merriment of the overnight event.

Phocus provided the entertainment along with **DJ Tadj** from the Buffalo Touch for Potts Banquet Hall New Year's event. Online videos and photos filled my social media as I enjoyed seeing many of my polka friends indulging in the delicious meal and lively entertainment as the clock struck midnight and cheers welcomed 2019.

IPA BENEFIT IN MASSACHUSETTS. It is time to make plans to attend the 14th annual IPA Hall of Fame Benefit weekend on March 9 and 10th at the Polish American Citizen's Center in Ludlow, Mass. Saturday night festivities include dancing to the music of **The Boys** from 7:00-11:00 p.m. for the admission price of \$15.00. The fun continues on Sunday as **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, Eddie Forman Orchestra, and Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men** honor the music of **Wanda & Stephanie.** Admission is \$20.00 and music will be non-stop from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

The Benefit dance will also be remembering festival promoters of yesterday, including **Bernie Goydish, Dick Pillar, and Fred** and



Bryan and Kayla. She said "I do."

WEDDING BELLS. I also wanted to send congratulations to polka power couple Kayla Rosinski and Bryan Urbanczyk on their engagement. Their love is truly extraordinary and evident to anyone lucky enough to know them. They both come from musical families, and not only perform polka music in their own bands but constantly support the polka genre at local dances and festivals near and far. Congratulations on your engagement!

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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 / Badleader / 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 Szalc	1948	Musician / Vocalist (Dynamonics)	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 1/27/11	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 3/18/07	D.J. / 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 7/27/16	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Pennsylvania
16	Rich Tokarz	1949 4/22/14	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Indiana
16	Lori Ebel		Musician / Vocalist	Minnesota
17	Bernie Goydish	1940 6/28/15	Bandleader / Musician / Promoter	New Jersey
18	Leo Stanek	1930 2/10/12	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 7/28/66	Bandleader / Musician	Pennsylvania
20	Barefoot Becky		Bandleader / Vocalist / Bandleader	Chicago
22	Ray Malach	1941	Musician / Arranger (Malac Bros.)	Iowa
23	Jo Jo Visniewski		Polka D. J.	New Jersey
23	Jerry Halkowski		Musician / DJ	Irvona, Pa.
24	T.K. Frank Proszowski		Promoter / Distributor	Wisconsin
24	Eddie Zavaski, Jr.	1954	Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
24	Matt Lewandowski		Musician / Vocalist	Connecticut
25	Casey Siewierski	1921 1995	Musician / Bandleader	New York
26	Joe Fiedor	1931 11/12/77	Musician / DJ / Promoter	Chicago
26	Tom Andrasick	1961	Bandleader / Vocalist (PA Express)	Pennsylvania
27	Teresa Zapolska	5/8/12	Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Pennsylvania
28	John Salov	1944	Musician (Polka Quads)	New York
28	Joe Godina		Polka D. J. / I.J.	Pennsylvania
29	Joe Dipiatic	1952	Musician (Sounds)	Pennsylvania

Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

FEBRUARY 2

- John Gora. Polish Alliance. Hamilton Ont. (416) 532-2876
- Europa. German Club. Cassleberry Fla. 7-11 (407) 834-0574
- Alex Meixner. West Palm Brewery. West Palm Beach, Fla. 12-6 (561) 619-8013
- Stephanie. Pulaski Club. Holiday Fla. 2-6 (727) 848-7826

FEBRUARY 3

- Sounds of The South. Pulaski Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Nu Soundz. Polish Club. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
- Jeanne Music. Polish Club. Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763

FEBRUARY 8

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

FEBRUARY 9

- Eddie Forman. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 5-9 (727) 848-7826

FEBRUARY 10

- Eddie Forman. Moose Lodge. Vero Beach, Fla. 2-5 (772) 643-5822

FEBRUARY 14

- John Gora. Pott's Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga, N.Y. Polka Buzz Recording. (716) 675-6588

FEBRUARY 15-17

- Phocus. Polish Villa II, Cheektowaga, NY. 5:30-8:30
- Lenny Gomulka. Plaza Hotel. Wausau. Wisc. (715) 572-9405

FEBRUARY 17

- DynaBrass. Lyskawa Hall. Dearborn Heights, Mich. 2-6 (323) 274-4666

FEBRUARY 24

- Jimmy K. Holy Spirit Party Ctr. Parma, Ohio. 3-7 (216) 496-0223

FEBRUARY 28

- John Gora. (DJ only) Paczki Day. Scoobs Village Grill. Lancaster, N.Y. 5:00 p.m.

MARCH 3

- Special Delivery. Paczki Day. Holy Mother of the Rosary Hall. Lancaster, N.Y. 1:00-7:00 (Live music 2:00-6:00). (716) 983-5084 or 681-0813.

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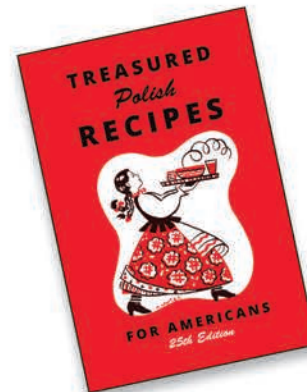


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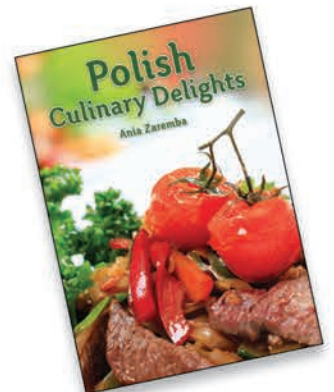


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