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

PELOSI, DELEGATION, VISIT AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU • BENATAR SNUBBED • GENEALOGY: BASICS ARE A MUST
 KIDOŃ “DAZZLES” FANS • “BUSIA” VOLUME II • KOZLOWSKI LEADS THE FIGHT AGAINST ELDER ABUSE
 “DAY OF SERVICE” HONORS BISHOP • PITTSBURGH PIEROGI ROAD TRIP • MINNESOTA’S IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

NEWSMARK

Jabłoński: Soviets did not Liberate Warsaw in '45 but Brought “Communist Slavery”

WARSAW — The Soviets did not liberate Warsaw 75 years ago but brought in years of “communist slavery,” Poland’s deputy foreign minister said, the latest salvo in a war of words between Poland and Russia over World War II history in which top Polish leaders have accused Moscow of lying.

Speaking to reporters 75 years after the Soviets entered the Polish capital towards the end of World War II, Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Paweł Jabłoński hit out at what he said were Russian attempts to twist historical facts.

“On January 17, 1945, the Red Army entered a Warsaw left ruined after the Warsaw Uprising [of 1944], during which the Red Army stood and watched from the other bank of the Vistula River as Warsaw was being destroyed,” Jabłoński said.

“This was not liberation, it was bringing in new communist slavery, and we must remember that, while of course respecting individual soldiers.”

Russian President Putin recently suggested that Poland was partly responsible for the outbreak of World War II.

Ambassador, Diplomats Leaves Iraq

Following Iran’s attack on two U.S. bases in Iraq, Poland evacuated its ambassador in Iraq, according to Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz.

Czaputowicz told Radio ZET that Beata Peksa, the Polish ambassador to Iraq, has been evacuated and returned to Poland.

It was also reported that the evacuation took place at the request of British diplomats, because the Polish embassy is located in the international zone of the British embassy’s premises.

Prominent Israeli figure critical of Jerusalem Holocaust forum

Shevah Weiss, Israel’s former ambassador to Poland, criticized a Holocaust forum hosted by Jerusalem’s Yad Vashem Institute. “The initiative to organize the forum did not come from Yad Vashem, which I had headed for seven years. It was the work of a man named Kantor and amounted to bartering with history. That’s not the way to go,” Weiss said. He was speaking at a meeting between Polish President Andrzej Duda and members of Poland’s Jewish community. Weiss’ words seem to suggest that the Israeli side was provided with “incentives” to go along with the project designed to white-wash Russia’s complicity with Hitler in unleashing World War II.

Poles Show Kindness to Iranian Driver

An Iranian driver who was stranded after his truck broke down in Poland received a helping hand from locals who launched a crowd-funding initiative for a new truck to take him home.

Within a few days, an appeal on the website zrzutka.pl had drawn more than \$65,000 (USD) in donations for Fardin Kazemi.

The self-employed driver was forced to sleep in his truck after it broke down in early December near the southern city of Czestochowa after travelling 3,450 miles.

Locals provided him with food and a roof over his head a few days after the vehicle broke down.

“I am very thankful to the great Polish nation for (their) hospitality,” Kazemi said.

He was delivering raisins to Poland and was supposed to continue on to the Czech Republic to pick up goods to import to Iran, according to local media.

Polish truck-drivers joined forces to help him repair the vehicle, and when that proved impossible, they decided to crowd-fund him a new one.

The Rest is History



Historians, researchers, board members, award winners, and guests pose at the Polish American Historical Association’s award ceremonies, January 4 at the Kosciuszko Foundation. In addition to the award presentations, researchers met for three days of panels and discussions on more than 40 topics of importance to American Polonia.

This was the Polish American academic society’s 77th Annual Meeting. It was held in conjunction with 134th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Society in New York City.

Story on page 10

Putin Blames Poles for Start of World War II

(THE GUARDIAN) — Poland’s prime minister has launched a furious response to claims by Russian President Vladimir Putin that Poland was partially responsible for the outbreak of the second world war.

Mateusz Morawiecki issued a four-page statement accusing the Russian president of “repeated lies” over the history of the conflict. Earlier, the Polish foreign ministry said Putin’s words resembled “propaganda from the time of Stalinist totalitarianism.”

Morawiecki was responding to a speech by Putin at a summit of heads of former Soviet states in St. Petersburg on December 20, 2019. Putin gave the assembled leaders an hour-long history lecture, drawing on a sheaf of archival documents he had brought with him. The Russian president has also raised the issue at a number of other meetings, including a gathering of top army generals in which he called Poland’s ambassador to Nazi Germany “a scumbag and an antisemitic pig.”

Morawiecki said Putin was playing with history in order to distract from international pressure over issues such as sanctions and a doping ban for Russian athletes.

The Polish foreign ministry also

summoned the Russian ambassador to complain to him about Putin’s comments.

Putin is particularly angry about a recent European parliament resolution that said the Soviet Union bore responsibility for starting the second world war, alongside Nazi Germany. That, in turn, came after a concerted effort from the Russian foreign ministry in 2019 to

Statement by Poland’s Prime Minister on Putin’s Outrageous Claims

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rehabilitate the 1939 Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact, which 10 years ago Putin had called “pointless, harmful and dangerous.” This year, Russia’s culture minister called it “a triumph of Soviet diplomacy.”

Putin, in his recent speech, insisted that the pact was born of Soviet defensive requirements and only came about after other western powers, including Poland, had signed their own agreements with the Nazis. Putin pointed to Neville Chamberlain’s 1938 Munich agreement in particular, saying war became inevitable after this point.

The key difference, glossed over by Putin, is that the 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact

See “Putin,” page 2

Ed Pinkowski, Historian and Author, Passes at 103

PHILADELPHIA — Edward G. Pinkowski, historian, author, and journalist, passed away peacefully during his sleep on Jan. 11, 2020 at his home in Cooper City, Fla. He was 103 years old.

Pinkowski was responsible for the identification and establishment of the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial under the auspices of the National Park Service in Philadelphia. He also identified the final resting place in Savannah, Ga. of Casimir Pulaski, Polish American hero of the American Revolution and founder of the United States Cavalry.

On the occasion of his 95th birthday in 2011 and his 100th birthday in 2016, he was honored by official proclamations from Broward County, Fla. and Cooper City, Fla. in recognition “as a national authority and among the greatest Polish-American historians of our century.”

Pinkowski was born August 11, 1916 in Willimansett, Mass. to Felix Andrew Pinkowski and his wife Aniela Barbara (Sobiek), immigrants from Poland.

When he was 14 years old, the family

See “Pinkowski,” page 10



ALMANAC

February 🌙 Luty

*Chmury w lutym ku północy,
to są ciepła prorozy.*

*February clouds from the north,
warmer weather coming forth.*

- 1 **1411.** Signing of the First Peace of Thorn (Toruń) concludes the Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic War
- 2 **CANDLEMAS**
Candlemas (also spelled Candlemass), also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ and the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple.
*Gdy na Gromniczną mróz,
chowaj chłopie sanie, szykuj wóz.
If freezing on Candlemas, ready
the wagon, put away the sleigh,
warmth's on its way.*
- 3 **1899.** Death of painter **Juliusz Kossak** (b. 1824).
- 4 **1746.** Birth of Polish and American patriot, freedom fighter and military engineer **Thaddeus Kościuszko**.
- 5 **1909.** Birth of **Grazyna Bacewicz**, Polish composer and violinist.
- 6 **ST. DOROTHY**
1962. Death of **Władysław Dziwulski**, Polish astronomer and mathematician. He spent his life performing astronomical research and published over 200 papers. Dziwulski has a crater on the moon named after him as well as the planetarium in Toruń, Poland.
- 7 **1810.** Birth of **Marcin Odlanicki Poczobutt**, Polish-Lithuanian Jesuit astronomer and mathematician.
- 8 **1807.** At Iława (Eylau), Poland, Napoleon's Marshal Pierre Agureau attacked Russian forces led by Aleksandr Suvorov, in a heavy snowstorm.
- 9 **1940.** Birth of **Bohdan Paczynski** (d. 2007), Polish-born American astrophysicist.
- 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
- 15 **1903.** Death of **Fr. Józef Dabrowski**, founder of the Orchard Lake Schools. (b. 1842).
- 16 **1919. Greater Poland Uprising** ends.
1952. Death of **Felix Witkowski**, last Polish American veteran of the Confederacy.
- 17 **PRESIDENT'S DAY**
- 18 **1914.** Birth of Julius Kuczynski, better known as **Pee Wee King**.
- 19 **1473.** Birth of **Mikolaj Kopernik**, Polish astronomer known by his Latin name Nicholas Copernicus.
- 20 **TŁUSTY CZWARTEK**
(Fat Thursday) festivities mark the end of celebrations before Lent, which strictly forbids loud parties and meat dishes.
1941. Nazis order that Polish Jews are barred from using public transportation.
1530. **Zygmunt II August** crowned King of Poland.
- 21 **1574.** Coronation of **Henry Valois**
- 22 **1810.** Birth of **Fryderyk Chopin**.
- 24 **1986.** Birth of NHL hockey player **Wojciech "Wojtek" Wolski**.
- 25 **PAŃCZKI DAY (U.S.)**
- 26 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- 28 **1944.** **Huta Pieniacka Massacre.** An estimated 500 to 1,200 Polish inhabitants of the village Huta Pieniacka (today in Western Ukraine), murdered by Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), a Nazi SS division, and other barbaric units.

This paper mailed on or before **January 31, 2020**. The March edition will be mailed on or before **February 28, 2020**.

VIEWPOINTS

“We Must Preserve the Truth”

Statement by the Prime Minister of Poland on Putin's Outrageous Claims

by Mateusz Morawiecki

The 20th century brought the world inconceivable suffering and the deaths of hundreds of millions in the name of twisted, totalitarian ideologies. The death toll of Nazism, fascism and communism is obvious for people of our generation. It is also obvious who is responsible for those crimes and whose pact started World War II — the most murderous conflict in the history of humankind.

Unfortunately, the more time passes since these tragic events, the less our children and grandchildren know about them. That is why it is so important that we continue to speak the truth about World War II, its perpetrators and its victims, and to object to any attempts at distorting history.

For Poland — the war's first victim — the memory of this evil is particularly salient. Our country was the first to experience the armed aggression of both Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, and the first that fought in the defense of a free Europe.

However, resistance against these evil powers is a testament not only to Polish heroism — it is something vastly more important. This resistance is the legacy of the now free and democratic Europe that fought against two totalitarian regimes. Today, when certain individuals wish to trample the memory of these events in the name of their own political goals, Poland must stand up for the truth — not for its own interests, but for the sake of what defines Europe.

SIGNED ON AUGUST 23, 1939, the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact was not a “non-aggression pact” — it was a political and military alliance, dividing Europe into two spheres of influence along the boundary formed by three Polish rivers: the Narew, Vistula, and San. A month later, the dividing line was moved to the Bug river as a result of the “German-Soviet Boundary and Friendship Treaty” of September 28, 1939. It served as a prologue to the unspeakable crimes that were committed on both sides of the line over the course of the following years.

The pact between Hitler and Stalin was immediately put into effect — on September 1, 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west, south and north, and on September 17, 1939, the USSR joined the assault, attacking Poland from the east.

On September 22, 1939, a large military parade was held in Brest-Litovsk — a celebration of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia's joint defeat of independent Poland. Such parades are not organized by parties bound to a non-aggression pact — they are organized by allies and friends.

And this is exactly what Hitler and Stalin were — for a long time, they were not only allies, but, in fact, friends. Their friendship flourished so much that, when a group of 150 German communists fled the Third Reich to the USSR before World War II broke out, Stalin handed them over to Hitler as “a gift” in November of 1939, thus condemning them to a certain death.

The USSR and the Third Reich cooperated closely with each other throughout the entire war. During a conference held in Brest on No-

ember 27, 1939, representatives of both countries' security services discussed the methods and principles of cooperation used to fight Polish independence organizations on occupied territories. Other conferences organized by NKVD and SS officers on the matter of cooperation were held inter alia in Zakopane and Krakow in March of 1940. These were not talks on non-aggression, but on liquidating (that is, murdering) people, Polish citizens, and on joint, allied action to bring about a total destruction of Poland.



Morawiecki

“Today, when certain individuals wish to trample the memory of these events in the name of their own political goals, Poland must stand up for the truth — not for its own interests, but for the sake of what defines Europe.”

Without Stalin's complicity in the partitioning of Poland, and without the natural resources that Stalin supplied to Hitler, the Nazi German crime machine would not have taken control of Europe. The last trains loaded with supplies left the USSR and headed for Germany on June 21, 1941 — just one day before Nazi Germany attacked its ally. Thanks to Stalin, Hitler could conquer new countries with impunity, imprison Jews from all over the continent in ghettos, and prepare the Holocaust — one of the worst crimes in the history of humankind.

Stalin engaged in criminal activities in the east, subduing one country after another and developing a network of camps that Alexander Solzhenitsyn, a Russian, called, “the Gulag Archipelago.” These were camps in which millions of opponents of the communist authorities were mercilessly exterminated through murderous torture.

THE CRIMES OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME started even before the outbreak of World War II — the starvation of millions of Russians at the beginning of the 1920s; the Great Famine, which led to the deaths of millions of inhabitants of Ukraine and Kazakhstan; the Great Purge, during which nearly 700,000 political opponents and ordinary citizens of the USSR, mostly Russians, were murdered; and the NKVD's so-called “Polish Operation,” in which, primarily, USSR citizens of Polish descent were shot to death. Children, women and men were all destined to die. According to NKVD data, over 111,000 people were deliberately shot to death by Soviet communists during the “Polish Operation” alone. Being a Pole in the USSR at that time meant a death sentence or many years of exile.

This policy continued through crimes com-

mitted after the Soviet Union invaded Poland on September 17, 1939 — the crime of murdering over 22,000 Polish officers and representatives of the elite in places such as Katyn, Kharkiv, Tver, Kyiv, and Minsk; the crimes committed in NKVD torture cells and in forced labor camps in the most remote parts of the Soviet empire.

THE GREATEST VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM were Russian citizens. Historians estimate that between 20 and 30 million people were killed in the USSR alone. Death and forced labor camps awaited even those for whom every civilized country provides necessary care — prisoners of war who returned to their homeland. The USSR did not treat them as war heroes, but as traitors. Soviet Russia's “gratitude” for prisoners of war, the soldiers of the Red Army, was death and imprisonment in forced labor camps and concentration camps.

Communist leaders, especially Joseph Stalin, are responsible for all of these crimes. Eighty years after World War II started, attempts are made by today's President of Russia to redeem Stalin for political goals. These attempts must be met with strong opposition from every person who has basic knowledge on the history of the 20th century.

President Putin has lied about Poland on numerous occasions, and he has always done so deliberately. Such slander usually occurs when Russian authorities are pressured by the international community for their actions, and that pressure is exerted not with regards to the historical geopolitical scene, but with regards to the contemporary one, instead. In recent weeks, Russia has suffered several significant defeats — it failed in its attempt to take complete control over Belarus, and the EU has once again prolonged sanctions imposed on it for the illegal annexation of Crimea. The so-called “Normandy Format” talks did not result in the lifting of these sanctions, and further restrictions were simultaneously introduced, this time by the U.S., significantly hindering the implementation of the Nord Stream 2 project. At the same time, Russian athletes have just been suspended for four years for doping-related incidents.

“President Putin has lied about Poland on numerous occasions, and he has always done so deliberately.”

I consider President Putin's words as an attempt to cover up these problems. The Russian leader is well aware that his accusations have nothing to do with reality, and that there are no monuments of Hitler or Stalin in Poland. Such monuments stood on our soil only when they were erected by the aggressors and perpetrators — the Third Reich and Soviet Russia.

The Russian people — the greatest victim of Stalin, who was one of the cruelest criminals in the history of the world — deserve the truth. I believe that Russians are a nation of free people, and that they reject Stalinism, even when President Putin's government is trying to rehabilitate it.

We cannot accept turning perpetrators and those responsible for committing cruel crimes against both innocent people and invaded countries into victims. Together — in the name of those who perished and for the good of our common future — we must preserve the truth.

Putin: Russian Revisionism at Work

continued from cover

had a secret protocol in which the two powers divided up territory. The Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east two weeks after the Germans attacked from the west.

“Without Stalin's complicity in the partition of Poland, and without the natural resources that Stalin supplied to Hitler, the Nazi German crime machine would not have taken control of Europe,” wrote Morawiecki in his statement, printed above.

Over his two decades in charge of Russia, Putin has turned victory in the second world war, still referred to there as the Great Patriotic War, into the foundation stone of his rule, calling on all Russians to be proud of the immense Soviet sacrifice in the war and railing at western nations who downplay the Soviet war effort. Victory Day, 9 May, has become one of the main holidays in the Russian calendar, and is accompanied by nationalistic tub-thumping and a military parade.

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USE FORM ON PAGE 13 TO ORDER

Pelosi, Delegation, Visit Auschwitz-Birkenau



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi places a memorial light on the monument to victims of the World War II Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau during a visit to the site of the former camp just days before the 75th anniversary of its 1945 liberation by the Soviet troops, at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, in southern Poland, Jan. 21, 2020.

OŚWIĘCIM, Poland — (PAP) En route to the 5th World Holocaust Forum at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and six members of Congress paid a visit to the site of the Nazi German concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Pelosi was accompanied by a bipartisan delegation, as well as her Polish counterpart Elżbieta Witek and the Speaker of the Polish Senate, Tomasz Grodzki.

Pelosi wrote in the museum's commemoration book "in the memory of every individual who was murdered in Auschwitz — may you rest in peace and may we all commit to our vow which is Never Again."

The delegation entered the former concentration camps under the infamous gate with the sign saying "Arbeit Macht Frei." The delegation saw traces of the heinous crime, such as the Cyklon-B canisters, which once contained the gas used to kill prisoners, items stolen by the Germans from the inmates, and suitcases with people's names on them.

The Speaker of the Polish Senate, Tomasz Grodzki, later wrote on twitter "It's difficult to find words describing the horror in this place of industrial killing of the innocent who had been stripped of their humanity."

The two speakers of the Polish parliament met Pelosi for private meetings in the evening.

The German concentration camp was opened in 1940. In total, 1.1 million people, mainly Jews but also Poles, Roma, Soviet POWs, Jehovah's Witnesses, and political dissidents from across Europe, perished in the camp, which was liberated January 27, 1945.

Pat Benatar Snubbed by Hall

LOS ANGELES — This year's six inductees for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame were announced, and they are Whitney Houston, Depeche Mode, the Notorious B.I.G., Nine Inch Nails, the Doobie Brothers, and T. Rex.

Notably absent from the Class of 2020, however, was Pat Benatar.

The fact that Benatar — one of the most successful female artists of the 1980s, who undoubtedly set the template for female hard rock singers at a time when few female hard rock singers had a presence on the charts or at rock radio — had never been nominated before had been a subject of annual Hall protest. She was widely predicted to be a lock this year, especially considering that last year's inductee, Janet Jackson, had implored in her Rock Hall acceptance speech to thunderous applause: "Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, please, 2020: Induct more women!" (Only three female artists total were on this year's Hall ballot, the other two being Houston and passed-over-four-time nominee Rufus featuring Chaka Khan. Women make up less than 8 percent of all Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductees.)

Benatar actually came in second in this year's online Fan Vote, following The Dave Matthews Band. It marks the first time the top vote recipient was not included in the



BENATAR. Predicted to be inducted into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in first year of eligibility.

class of inductees since the Rock Hall first introduced the fan ballot several years ago. Only one of the top five vote getters (The Doobie Brothers) is among the 2020 inductees.

Mandy Smith, the Director of Education at the Rock Hall, said she wasn't surprised by the induction outcome because so many performers were first-time nominees.

"That just shows you how the fan vote doesn't always match up with what the rest of the voters are doing."

She also reminded fans that these performers always have another shot.

"I love Pat Benatar, and I think that all of the nominees still have their day," Smith said. "This isn't the only year that they're going to be eligible."

Benatar was born Patricia Mae Andrzejewski on January 10, 1953, in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York City. Her mother, Mildred (née Knapp) (1928–2016), was a trained opera singer who worked as a beautician, and her father, Andrzej Andrzejewski (1926–2009), was a sheet-metal worker.

Benatar is a songwriter, actress, and four-time Grammy Award winner. She has two RIAA-certified multi-platinum albums, five platinum albums, three gold albums, and 15 Billboard Top 40 singles, including the Top 10 hits "Hit Me with Your Best Shot," "Love Is a Battlefield," "We Belong," and "Invincible."

A Roman Catholic, Benatar married her high school sweetheart Dennis Benatar at the age of 19 in 1972. The couple divorced in 1979. She has been married to her second husband, guitarist Neil Giraldo, since 1982. They have two daughters and live in Los Angeles, California.

WORTH REPEATING

"I'm trying to find the moment in my life when at the flick of a switch everything became different, less nuanced, simpler. The world's whisper fell silent, to be replaced by the din of the city, the murmur of computers, the thunder of airplanes flying past overhead, and the exhausting white noise of oceans of information (...) It has turned out that we are not capable of bearing this enormity

of information, which instead of uniting, generalizing and freeing, has differentiated, divided and enclosed us in individual little bubbles."

— 2019 Nobel Prize laureate in literature **Olga Tokarczuk**, *complaining about life in the in the internet era. The Polish author thinks a new sort of fiction may be needed to counteract the modern era's tendency to isolate and divide people.*

POLONIA PLACES

St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle, Indiana

by Gregory L. Witul

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish
55756 Tulip Road, New Carlisle, Indiana
Status: Open

In the Great Lakes Plains region that stretches across the northern end of Indiana, is a great scattering of Polish parishes. In the western part of the state, between South Bend and Michigan City, you'll find one of these churches: the parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka in the Terre Coupee area of New Carlisle.

In the 1870s, Indiana had been explored and surveyed, but not fully settled. It was into these wilds of northern Indiana, that the Poles began moving after escaping the persecution of the Russians and Prussians in Europe. While many headed further west, those in the know got off the train at Terre Coupee station knowing that Fred Miller would give them work in his sawmill.

As the lands were cleared, they were transformed from woods to farms. As more Poles moved into

the area they traveled extensively to attend churches in Otis or South Bend. Occasionally a traveling priest would celebrate Mass in the homes of the Delecki, the Gondek, and the Mackowski families.

In 1884, Father Czynzewski of St. Hedwig's in South Bend took it upon himself to help the Poles of New Carlisle establish a parish. After the Catholic families of the area raised \$1,800 and Mr. Miller donated a stock of his lumber, the cornerstone of St. Stanislaus Kostka was dedicated on August 31, 1884. The wooded church was dedicated less than two months later.

Traveling priests celebrated Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka until 1888 when Rev. Wladyslaw Zborowski was assigned to the parish. Father Zborowski would build a rectory, acquire some of the surrounding properties and head the mission church of St. John Kanty in Roll-

ing Prairie in the short time he was there. His death in 1890 led to a succession of priests at the parish. In 1901, Father Alexander Buechler was sent to New Carlisle and found a church bursting

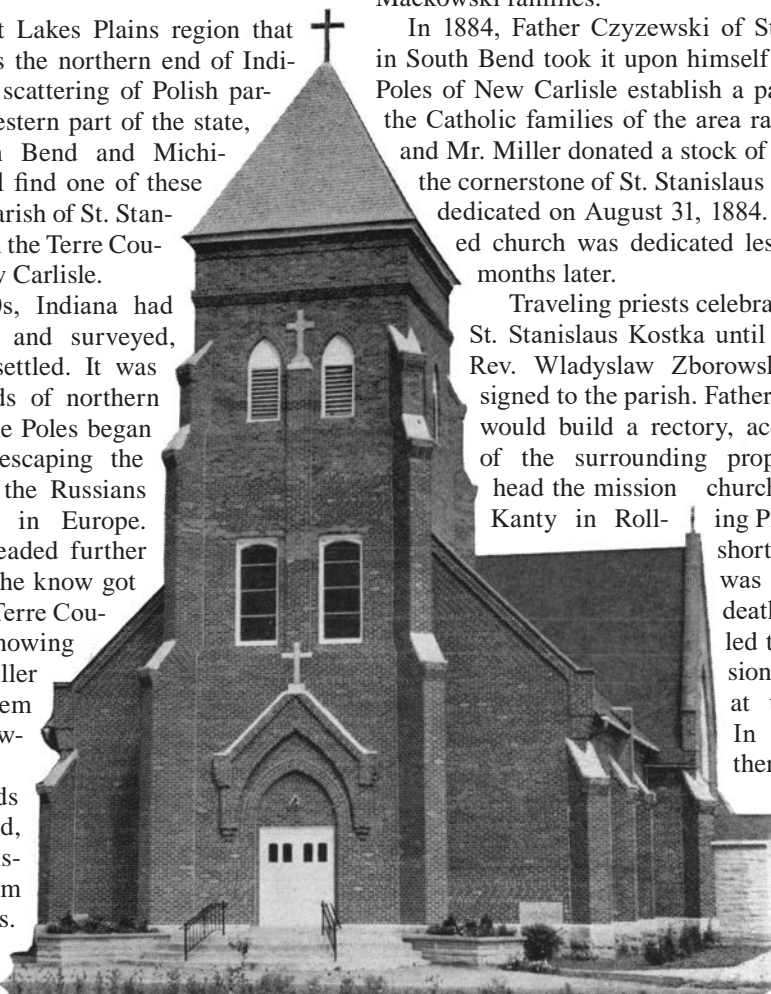
at the seams.

With 126 families, Rev. Buechler began raising funds for a new church and on August 30, 1903 it came to fruition with the dedication of a cornerstone. It took three years for the brick gothic church to be constructed. The stained-glass windows were purchased in Michigan City and delivered by horse drawn carts while the bricks were sourced from Plymouth, over thirty miles away. On Labor Day 1906 the Very Rev. Urban Raszkievicz, the oldest priest in the state, dedicated the completed St. Stanislaus Kostka.

Father Alexander left the church in 1908 and after another succession of priests; Father John Wroblewski was assigned to the parish. Over the next 25 years Father John added six stained glass windows, painted the church, repaired the roof, updated the electrical system, added oil furnaces, and created the grotto located behind the rectory.

When Father Thomas Depa was named pastor of St. Stanislaus in 1956, more changes and updates came to the parish. A parish council was created, land for a parking lot was purchased, and, after a debate as to whether the parish should be relocated closer to New Carlisle was settled, the church structure was renovated and expanded.

Over the next half century St. Stanislaus added a new parish hall, built a religious education center, replaced the old steeple with a fiberglass one, and erected a small chapel to be used for daily Mass. Now in the second decade of the new millennium, St. Stanislaus Kostka continues to meet the spiritual needs of the Polish Catholics in and around Terre Coupee.



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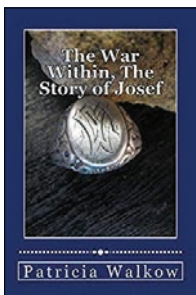
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BOOKS IN BRIEF

A Journey that Will Stay with You Long After You Put the Book Down

reviewed by Mary E. Lanham

THE WAR WITHIN, THE STORY OF JOSEF
by Patricia Walkow
Create Space,
2017, 357 pgs.



Writer, editor, and journalist Patricia Walkow has delivered a harrowing story with her debut historical novel, *The War Within, the Story of Josef*. A fictionalization of her father-in-law's journey from a forced laborer in Germany, to the limbo of early post-war Europe, and finally America, Walkow proves to be a deft writer as she seamlessly stitches fully developed fictional characters into the tapestry of Josef's life. Patricia breathes further life into the text by sourcing details, the ones she couldn't glean

from family and friends, from some of the great minds and experts of twentieth century Polonia.

Opening with a tragedy and a budding but forbidden friendship, Walkow exercises natural dialog and broad descriptive strokes as she traces the life of Josef Walkow. A slave laborer in southern Germany, skills Josef was imparted with as a child and his natural talents save his life again and again. After an almost fatal accident, a German man named Willie saves Josef's life. Josef's personality and situation endears him to Willie's family.

"Sonya knew Hans would have been proud of the young man their eldest son had become. Now twenty-three Willie was tall, handsome, blond, had blue eyes and was working in the community as an ambulance driver and medic ... He considered being German a gift and she was certain he understood and appreciated the idea of Aryan Germans being a supe-

rior race. But the attention he was expending on this slave laborer surprised her..."

This slip of German protocol would allow Josef to find recovery and love.

"The sky was a steely gray when Joseph ... saw the girl who lived in the house behind Willie's come outside in the snow ... She seemed to be drinking in the cold, fresh air, bundled up to her nose in a blue coat and thick black scarf and hat ... Joseph looked intently at the girl for a while. She was slight, though bundled up. There was something about her that unsettled him."

Perfectly executed, the fictional text is peppered with Josef's family photographs, historical documents, maps, manifests, and artifacts. These images perfectly complement Walkow's writing in obscuring the line between fact and historical fiction.

The last section is the perfect dessert to the feast of the novel: a section of chapter

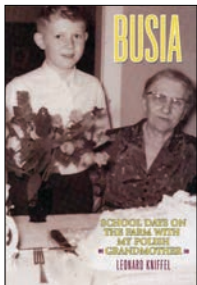
notes and a bibliography. Although only a few pages, it demonstrates the depth of research Walkow performed to get the details just right. You see her referencing Alexander Janta's *I Lied to Live* a number of times as well as Richard C. Lukas's *The Forgotten Holocaust: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-1944*; *Did the Children Cry: Hitler's War Against Jewish and Polish Children, 1939-1945*; and *Forgotten Survivors: Polish Christians Remember the Nazi Occupation*, all of which are part of my personal library's permanent collection.

Despite being 357 pages on the horror of war, the struggle for freedom and personal trauma, *The War Within, the Story of Josef* is an easy read. Every word written is needed and is not needlessly verbose. Most importantly, the text imprints on you the life of Josef Walkow, a journey that will stay with you long after you put the book down.

NEW BOOKS

"Busia" Second Volume Sales to Benefit Museums, Church Restoration, Journalism Foundation

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — This past December saw the launch of Leonard Kniffel's second book about growing up in his grandmother's home. The Hamtramck Historical Museum hosted the popular author for the release of *Busia: School Days on the Farm*.



His first book, *Busia: Seasons on the Farm with my Polish Grandmother*, was released in 2018.

The Hamtramck Historical Museum is just one of the organizations that will benefit from sales of the book, which documents the history of the city where the author's grandparents immigrated in 1913 and where they spent the first decade of their lives in America, and where the author's mother was born.

"In this brilliant memoir, Leonard Kniffel brings to life his childhood growing up with his Polish grandmother in rural Michigan," said Hamtramck Museum Director Greg Kowalski. "Anyone who has ever spent time in a Polish American family will instantly feel the draw of his memories. From *czarni-*

na soup to the classic Christmas Eve celebration to a Polish grandmother whose love and kindness shaped the world for one little boy."

Both *Busia* books are available online from the Polish American Journal, the Polish Art Center, the Polish Museum of America, and St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church in Chicago. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit sellers.

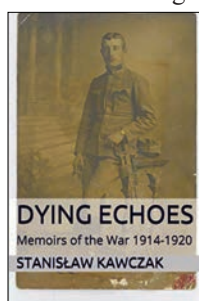
Proceeds from the book purchased from the Polish American Journal benefit the PAJ Foundation. The newspaper and foundation are currently offering both books at \$15.00 each, however, buying both books together will save you \$10.00.

Kniffel is a librarian and writer living in Chicago. His other books are: *A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home*; *Reading with the Stars: A Celebration of Books*; and *Libraries, and Musicals on the Silver Screen*. He is the immediate past president of the Polish American Librarians Association and the former editor of *American Libraries*, the magazine of the American Library Association.

Memoirs of World War I Soldier Now Available in English

OTTAWA, Canada — Andrew Kavchak's grandfather, Stanislaw

Kawczak, was a Polish officer in the Austrian military during World War I. In 1936 his memoirs, "Milknaçe Echa: Wspomnienia z Wojny 1914-1920," were published in Poland. According to Prof. Julian Kzyrzanski, a leading authority on the history of Polish literature, these memoirs were "the best" of the war memoirs. Kavchak's grandfather was also among the Polish officers



captured by the Soviets and held at Starobielsk. He was murdered in 1940 in what became known as the Katyn Forest Massacre.

Kavchak has arranged for a translation of his grandfather's chronicle. "Dying Echoes: Memoirs of the War 1914-1920" is now available on Amazon (free on Kindle Unlimited). The memoirs tell the story and experiences of a young Polish conscript in the Austrian army who fought during World War I wearing the Austrian uniform against the Russian army on the Eastern Front and the Italian army on the Southern Front. Kawczak began his military career as a corporal, and was promoted to officer cadet, lieutenant,

and finally captain. From the beginning of the war, his heart was in the struggle for Polish independence and the defeat of the three occupying powers (Germany, Austria, and Russia), which had partitioned Poland since the 1790s. Kawczak was among the founding members of a secret organization among Polish officers known as "Freedom" (Wolność).

At the end of World War I the empires of the three occupying powers collapsed while the Polish State was reborn. It immediately faced hostilities and border disputes with neighboring countries. Kawczak describes his experiences fighting against the Ukrainians, Czechs and Russians.

The narrative is vivid and gives the reader an image of the life of a soldier on the march and in the trenches, as well as an account of the political debates about national interests during the "Great War."

This book is considered in Polish literature among the best of the World War I memoirs and an authentic historical account of the plight of Polish soldiers in the Austrian army and nascent Polish forces.

Zarzynski's New Book on Lake George Colonial Shipwrecks Published by SUNY Press

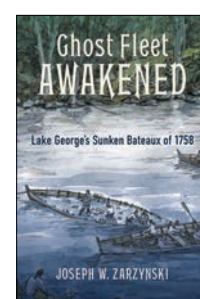
ALBANY, N.Y. — SUNY Press has published Endicott, N.Y. native Joseph W. Zarzynski's latest book, *Ghost Fleet Awakened—Lake George's Sunken Bateaux of 1758* (softcover, 262 pages, \$24.95). This is the author's sixth book.

Ghost Fleet Awakened tells the story of a little-recognized sunken fleet of Lake George, N.Y. warships—bateaux—from the French & Indian War (1755-1763). When several of these British bateau-class shipwrecks were found by two teenage scuba divers in 1960, newspapers called them the "Ghost Fleet." From 1987 to 2011, Zarzynski directed Bateaux Below, the nonprofit organization that studied colonial bateau-class shipwrecks in the 32-mile-long Lake George.

Zarzynski, a maritime archaeologist and former educator, was born in Johnson City, N.Y. He resides with his wife in Saratoga County, N.Y. The author is a 1969 graduate of Union Endicott High School in Endicott, N.Y. He received a B.A. degree in History from Ithaca Col-

lege, a M.A.T. degree in Social Sciences from Binghamton University, and a M.A. degree in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester (U.K.).

The story begins more than 250 years ago, when *bateaux* (bateau in the singular) first plied the waters of Lake George. These wooden vessels were flat-bottomed, pointed at bow and stern, were generally rowed, and were typically 30 to 35 feet long. Zarzynski enlightens readers with a history of these utilitarian vessels, considered the most important vessels that transported armies during the 18th century wars in North America, and includes their origins and uses. By infusing the book with underwater archaeology doctrine, Zarzynski shows the nautical significance of these colonial craft.



In the autumn of 1758, the British command at Lake George made a daring decision to deliberately sink two floating batteries (*radeaux*),

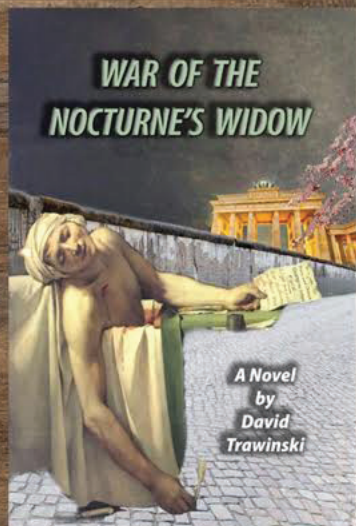
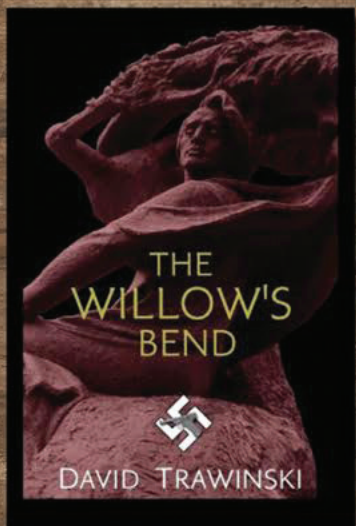
some row galleys and whaleboats, a sloop, and 260 *bateaux*, thereby placing the warships into wet storage and protecting them from marauding French during the coming winter. In 1759, many submerged boats were raised but some were not. Then, in 1960, two divers rediscovered several sunken *bateaux*, dubbed the "Ghost Fleet." These shipwrecks were the focus of underwater archaeological investigations that provided archaeologists with opportunities to gain unprecedented insight into 18th century lifeways. Zarzynski explores and explains shipwreck preservation techniques, the creation of shipwreck parks for scuba enthusiasts, and the many multifaceted programs developed by the nonprofit corporation Bateaux Below to help protect these finite cultural resources.

Today, Joseph W. Zarzynski serves of the board of the French & Indian War Society at Lake George, a nonprofit organization that develops exhibits for Lake George Village's Fort William Henry Museum.

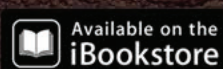
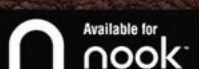
For more information about *Ghost Fleet Awakened*, or to order it online, visit www.sunypress.edu.

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GENEALOGY

Do Not Forget to do Basic Research

by Stephen M. Szabados

When I was in grade school, I asked my grandmother where she was born and the names of her parents. I wrote down the information but had lost my notes by the time I returned to my genealogy research at age 55. By then, all my grandparents had died and I had only vague memories of where they left in Poland. However, I used basic genealogy research skills and found their ancestors and their ancestral homes.

The first step was to find their birthplace, and I found clues in the United States, documents such as their marriage application, passenger manifests, and naturalization petitions, I also reviewed these documents for the brothers. For my grandmother, I found the names of five places - Andrzejewo, Przedzicko, Ostrow, Pierzchaly, and Lomza. Using gazetteers and maps, I found the locations of eight towns with the name Andrzejewo but only one that was near Ostrow and Lomza. When I found this town on a map, I saw that it was near a small village with the name Przedzicko-Pierzchaly. These results led me to documents that listed the names of my ancestors back to 1730.

Envision a map of the area around the birthplace of your ancestor. Each clue that you find is a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that has a picture of this map on it. Once you fit all of the clues together, the image on the jigsaw puzzle comes together and you will be able to recognize where the area is located and where to look for your ancestors.

Once you have located where your immigrant ancestors left, you can usually find their records on numerous websites such as Family Search, Metryki, Geneteka, or the Polish Archives. PGSA.org has a

very useful page that lists over forty-five valuable websites.

I ALSO WANT TO GIVE YOU a warning about DNA testing because DNA testing has become a popular topic at genealogy meetings. The DNA testing companies have flooded the market with many promotional ads that promise to unlock our family trees. The result of the promotions has generated large numbers of people taking DNA tests. However, their test results do not magically give your family history. In some cases, DNA results have been powerful in producing clues and knocking down brick walls, but in many other cases, the results have been confusing.

Genealogists, who I talked to, gave me the following list of reasons why they submitted DNA samples:

- They were curious about what the results would show.
- They were curious about their origins and ancient ancestry.
- They were hoping to find matches and possible distant relatives to exchange information.
- They doubted their paper trail and wanted to prove or disprove their oral history.
- They wanted to test relationship theories.

Please remember that DNA test results are not a substitute for basic genealogical research. DNA testing is just another tool that a family historian can use to unlock secrets or add information to the story. Use it wisely, and you do not have to contact every DNA match to find out how you are related. Do not focus on your DNA results and forget to do basic research. You need to use all your tools and skills.

Also, remember to have fun and find a way to share your discoveries with your family.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Judith Kozlowski: Leading the Fight Against Elder Abuse

Responsibilities: The initiative combats financial exploitation of older Americans and elder abuse and neglect.

Current priorities: Working with the Corporation for National and Community Service to train its 220,000-plus Senior Corps volunteers to recognize elder abuse and financial exploitation.

Age: 67

Hometown: Garfield Heights, Ohio

Time in office: DOJ consultant since 2016

Personal: Married with two daughters and helps care for her father, 98

Background: Kozlowski has fought to protect older folks from rip-offs through four decades. She was a federal criminal prosecutor for 20 years and a securities regulator and trial lawyer for 10 years for agencies including the Securities and Exchange Commission. She frequently trains FBI agents, prosecutors and judges on elder financial exploitation. Testifying before the Senate Special Committee on Aging this year, she recalled how a late uncle, Howard Shaft, lost about \$200,000 in the '90s in a penny stock scam targeting residents of a Leisure World community in Orange County, Calif. When he was swindled, the World War II veteran and retired restaurateur was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. That inspired her to become a prosecutor.

Another career highlight: helping set up the Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) in 2011. Kozlowski



PHOTO:STEPHEN VOS

Elder Justice expert Judith Kozlowski

graduated from Oberlin College in 1974 and New York Law School in 1978.

WHAT SHE SAYS:

On the scope of the problem: "Elder financial exploitation remains the most pervasive and fastest growing form of elder abuse in this country and the world."

On recruiting others to the cause: "I'm one of those people, if I end up talking to you on an airplane, I'll hoodwink you into doing something for me, but in a nice way. In this field, when you ask someone to do something, they will, because they know it's so important."

On what she told jurors in closing arguments: "This isn't just a crime about taking money. It's really, truly a crime about ending a life. It can't be repaired. Let's say you lose half of what have — \$2,000 or \$200,000. Your life is upended."


You may need to find a new place to live. You may need to find medical care. You may or may not have family that can help you. You may have cognitive issues. You can't just get another job and be a greeter at Walmart or pack groceries at Publix."

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

"She is a professional of the first order. She's a friend. She's fun to be around. I just know she has been at this a long time and she continues to do it. God bless her for doing that," says Hubert H. "Skip" Humphrey III, her former boss at CFPB.

"Through her more than four decades of experience working to prevent elder financial abuse and exploitation, Judith has made a real difference in the lives of countless seniors," says Sen. Susan Collins, (R-Maine), chairman, Special Committee on Aging.

— AARP



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Annual Chopin Concert

PHILADELPHIA — On Sun., March 22, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., the Annual Chopin Concert sponsored by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia will be held at the Settlement Music School in Germantown, Pa. Featured artist is Martin Labazevitch. For tickets contact Debbie Majka at (215) 627-1391 or email: Dziecko2@comcast.net.

Ruda is Grammy Finalist


LANCASTER, N.Y. (WKBW) — Lynne Ruda, a Lancaster High School music teacher, was among the 10 finalists for this year's Grammy Music Educator Award. The honor "recognizes teachers who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools."

This year, more than 3,300 educators nationwide were nominated for the award.

"I think every student has music in them — whether it's them performing or whether it's them listening to music or going to concerts — all of that just builds a community of music." Ruda told WKBW's Eileen Buckley.

Ruda was nominated by a former student for the award. Although she did not win, the nomination is a feather in the cap for this young and dedicated teacher.

The Grammy Music Education Coalition says 3.8 million students in the United States have no access to music education.



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If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$14 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Each order includes a genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information please contact: strybel@interia.pl.



THE KORWIN COAT OF ARMS was shared by the nobles of several dozen Polish families including: Bieńkowski, Chrzanowski, Gałczewski, Gosiewski, Jagodziński, Joachimowicz, Karaczyński, Kossakowski, Krukowski, Lisowski, Materna, Michalski, Orzeszkowa, Piotrowski, Prendowski, Sakowicz, Sereżyński, Terajewicz, and Wendrychowski.

Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

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

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

Polish American Historical Association
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050
www.polishamericanstudies.org

Congratulatory Exchange



BUFFALO, N.Y. — Former Fillmore District Councilman **David Franczyk** is congratulated on his retirement by **Rev. Jan Kolmaga** at Corpus Christi Parish's Oplatek and Wigilia Dinner, held in the parish hall, January 12, 2020. The annual event features the Polish Folk Carolers Ludowa Nuta, from Hamilton, Ont., Canada. The celebration began with Mass in English and Polish with kolędy; followed by the sharing of oplatek, a dinner, and kolędy with Ludowa Nuta at Corpus Christi Hall.

Mon., Jan. 13 was Fr. Jan's birthday. All in attendance joined Nowa Luta, which saluted him with a wholehearted version of "Sto lat." He is a member of the Pauline Order, which took over control of the East Buffalo landmark parish, along with nearby St. Stanislaus, in 2015. Fr. Michał Czyżewski, OSPPE, is the current pastor of both parishes.

In 2019, after 32 years of service to the City of Buffalo, Franczyk announced he would not run for re-election. Council President during his tenure, he was also a member of the Finance and Civil Service Committees. In 1994, Franczyk was both the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party nominee in a closely-watched United States House of Representatives race for New York's 30th congressional district.

A Western New York native, Franczyk earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the State University of New York College at Buffalo and a Master of Arts degree, also in History, from Niagara University. He also did graduate study at the City University of New York and at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design as a Loeb Fellow.

He served as the editor-in-chief of the *Polish-American Journal* from 1983 until his election in 1986. He is professor of history and has taught at several regional colleges and universities.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

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

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RELIGION

"Day of Service" Honors Bishop

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Bishop Joseph Bambera of the RC Diocese of Scranton joined students from Holy Redeemer HS for a Day of Service at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. As they prepared food for cooking, the students remarked that "it's really humbling because a lot of time we take for granted the food we have and how easy and accessible it is to us." After celebrating Mass at the school in September, the Student Leadership Council made a gift of a "Day of Service" in the bishop's honor. The bishop made it a priority to join them for the entire morning. Senior **Rebecca Revitt** noted, "He's such a down-to-earth guy. He's really intrigued and interested in our lives." Junior **Peter Khoudary** added, "It really demystified the position of bishop by having him here. He's just a regular man who is serious about his faith."

Caring for Others with Mental Illness

Joanne Kolodzik, of Appleton, Wisc. Found early in her life that she had mental health challenges. With proper medication and help from psychologists and counselors she has been able to create a meaningful career for herself and earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Her work in a library at UW-Milwaukee gives her the routine that helps her control her mood swings. Several times a week, she volunteers and oversees a desk at Ascension NE-St. Elizabeth Hospital where she escorts people to their destination and transports the wheelchair-bound. Reaching out to others with mental health challenges, she also assist the elderly and those with visual impairment. Among her life lessons are, "Kindness. It's a Christian thing. 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.' I've hurt other people in times of depression or mania. The more you pray, the Lord will always convert your heart to be docile."

Removal of Water Damaged Organ Reveals Church Window

Once the pipe organ at St. Joseph's Church, Detroit, Mich. was removed due to irreparable water damage from a roof leak, parishioners were treated to view of a stained-glass window of the Crucifixion that had been obscured by the organ pipes. **Fr. Gregory Tokarski**, the pastor of Mother of Divine Mercy Parish who oversees St. Joseph's and nearby Sweetest Heart of Jesus Church, laments the loss of the organ and cannot for now see a way to replace it. Meanwhile, the newly uncovered window provides an experience that the church offered at its start 118 years ago. Fr. Tokarski declared that, even if another pipe organ is acquired, he will be sure that the organ pipes do not obscure the window.

Celebrating the Epiphany

Members of St. Ferdinand and St. Ladislaus parishes celebrated Three Kings Day with a procession down Belmont Avenue in Chicago. The annual event celebrates the Epiphany, when the three wise men visited the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. The procession started with Mass at St. Ferdinand and ended with a Mass and blessing at St. Ladislaus. Men portraying the Kings rode on horse-



THE NEW ALTAR at St. John Paul II Divine Mercy Shrine in Salem, Mass. features a large, hand-crafted image of the Divine Mercy, two golden angels, and two original portraits of John Paul II and St. Maria Faustina, each hand-crafted in Poland.

Bishop Mark O'Connell blessed and dedicated the altar Sun., Jan. 5. It is the last stage of renovation, which began a year and a half ago. The project removed the small statue of St. John the Baptist from the altar in the upper church and replaced it with a large hand-painted image of the Divine Mercy. The image is encompassed in red and gold detail work, as well as golden flames extending in a cross behind it and an arrangement of gold flowers, leaves and vines. The red and white light showering off the painting extends to the images of John Paul II on the left and St. Faustina on the right, who holds a set of rosary beads.

Seven relics — or physical remains of a saint or venerated person — rest on top of the altar. Bedzinski says the shrine houses the relic of the blood of John Paul II, the first Polish pope who served from 1978 to 2005, as well as the relic of the bone of St. Faustina.

back amid floats and participants on foot.

In Detroit, Mich., chalk was blessed at St. Hyacinth Church and was then taken by parishioners to their homes, where they marked the lintel above the entry to their houses with the initials of the Three Kings (C or K for Caspar, M for Melchior, and B for Balthazar) along with the year. Thus 20 + C + M + B + 20. CMB has also come to mean *Christus mansionem benedictat* or May Christ bless this home." **Fr. Janusz Iwan** at St. Hyacinth noted that along with the blessed chalk, instructions and prayers are included on an accompanying sheet of paper. In **Fr. Michael Burzynski's** parishes in the RC Diocese of Buffalo (St. John Gualbert, St. John Kanty, and St. Adalbert), he distributed packets with chalk as well as incense to burn during the blessing and a facsimile of a gold nugget. In the Pittsburgh RC Diocese, **Bishop Zubik** held the Epiphany blessing ceremony at St. Paul Seminary and the downtown Pastoral Center. During the blessing, he and the staff prayed for hearts that live, learn, and love Jesus more deeply in 2020.

Sto Lat to....

Student winners of the National United Choirs Music Scholarships for 2019-2020 in the Polish National Catholic Church: **Tyler Bagshaw**,

The shrine on St. Peter Street was the former home of the Polish parish St. John the Baptist Church, which closed in the summer of 2017. The Archdiocese of Boston converted the site into a shrine. At that time, Rev. Robert Bedzinski was named rector of the shrine, which has a congregation of 100 parishioners. Rev. Bedzinski said parishioners hosted a number of fundraising events to collect the \$60,000 needed to renovate the altar.

"They're so dedicated," he said. "They work together well; it's a good community who is open to growth."

Pointing to the peeling paint on the wall, the reverend noted that further renovations still need to be done. As part of a larger effort, he says the church raised \$110,000 of their \$175,000 goal to install an elevator in the building to make the upper church accessible.

Rev. Bedzinski says the change altar feels right.

"The image of Divine Mercy is now at the center," he said, gesturing toward the painting inscribed with the words, "Jesus, I Trust in You."

— From article originally published in The Salem News

Holy Family Parish, McKeesport, Pa.; **Kaitlyn Gingerlowski**, St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, Pa.; **Claire Gitner**, All Saints Parish, Sterling Heights, Mich.; **Madison Gradlowski**, All Saints Cathedral, Chicago, Ill.; **Devin Junko**, Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, Pa.; **Victoria Konicki**, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Schenectady, N.Y.; **Matthew Moritz**, St. Mary's Parish, Parma, Ohio; and **Christina Supinski**, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Schenectady, N.Y.

Happy Anniversary to ...

Rev. Felix Pyzowski on the 60th anniversary of his ordination in the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese of the PNCC. After service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he followed a call to the priesthood at the Savorarola Seminary in Scranton, Pa.. He continues to serve as pastor to St. Joseph's Mission parish; he and his wife reside in Washington, Pa.

MODLITWY

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE

African-American Community Welcomes Polish-Owned Supermarket

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — On December 11, a long-anticipated grocery store, Local Market, located at 71st Street and Jeffery Boulevard on Chicago's South Side, opened. Customers lined up for blocks to be the first to patronize this new

store. It is located in an area where approximately 14,000 South Shore residents have experienced a "food desert" — an area defined by the city as more than a mile from a full-service grocery store. Fresh food products became non-existent in the neighborhood since the grocery chain, Dominick's, closed its store in 2013.

Residents will now enjoy a modern grocery store offering premium meats, fresh produce, a halal section, made-from-scratch soups, prepared entrées, and organic foods, along with a special community room. Customers will also experience a wine and beer bar, juice bar, and a large seating area to meet with friends. The store will even sell smoked Polish sausage and unique Polish teas and will offer unique food items from local Chicago vendors, including meat products from the 100-year-old family-owned Parker House Sausage. Thus far, nearly 200 South Shore residents have been hired to work at Local Market. Ewa and Cezary Jakubowski, owners of six Shop and Save stores in Chicago and the suburbs, want their store to become an integral part of this community and to offer exceptional quality and affordable prices to meet the needs of residents.

The ceremonial grand opening of Local Market was attended by Leslie Hairston, 5th Ward Chicago alderman, Maurice Cox, Chicago's Commissioner of Planning and Development, Cezary and Eva Jakubowski, owners of Local Market, and Marvin Brown, the store's manager.



Ceremonial Grand Opening



Geraldine Balut Coleman

A COLORFUL TRADITION CONTINUES. Chicago's 10th annual Christmas Ornament Workshop, held on December 14, was hosted by The Polish Museum of America (PMA). Children and adults filled the PRCUA's Social Hall, all looking forward to creating eye-catching Polish-style Christmas ornaments and decorations. Straws, beads, tissue paper, ribbons, sticks, cotton, sequins, and a colorful variety of fabrics were used to create dazzling ornaments.

Under the attentive eyes and guidance of artistic-volunteer instructors, Mirosława Link, Lidia Kowalewicz, Halina Misterka, and Anna Rafacz, participants created paper angels, reindeer, miniature *choinka* (Christmas trees), and colorful Highlander fabric balls. This year's workshop concluded with the lighting of the Peace Light of Bethlehem under this year's slogan: "Seek Peace and Pursue It." The symbolism of the round table

at which beautiful things were created and wonderful conversations took place is the understanding that peace was present there.

These annual workshops give, not only Poles and those of Polish heritage, but also non-Poles, the opportunity to enjoy an afternoon participating in Polish tradition by creating beautiful objects of art. This event is in keeping with the Museum's mission of preserving the present and the past for the future. The PMA's managing director, Malgorzata Kot and its president, Richard Owsiany welcomed everyone to this annual Polish Christmas Decorations Workshop.

POLISH PHOTO-JOURNALIST'S DOCUMENTS OF POL AM LIFE IN CHICAGO. Even though Jerzy "George" Skwarek has photo-documented some of the most significant events in the history of Chicago's Polish immigrant community, including Pope John Paul II's 1979 visit, soon a much larger collection of his photos will be archived at The Polish Museum of America (PMA). His work will constitute the largest photographic collection of Chicago's Polonia community life. In addition, Skwarek will be actively involved in the archiving process.

Jerzy survived a childhood in Nazi-occupied Poland and life as a young adult behind the Iron Curtain before eventually fleeing to Chicago, where he became one of the foremost photojournalists while documenting Polish and Polish American life in Chicago.

Following his arrival to Chicago in 1971, the now 84-year-old Skwarek worked as a photojournalist, author, and travel guide. He led Polish immigrants on tours of America and across the globe and published Polish-language travel books focusing on the U.S. National Parks, Florida, and an "Around The World" guide. Today, he continues to lead domestic and international tours.

In 1971 while working in the photo lab in Chicago's Prudential Building, Skwarek gambled that he could get a job at the *Dziennik Związkowy* (Polish Daily News). In the hiring interview he mentioned that he was a photojournalist and

had experience in Poland, and he was accepted as a freelance photographer. Some of Skwarek's most significant works were for the Polish Daily News. He photographed many Polish gatherings, including parades and a variety of events, showcasing life in all of the Windy City's Polish enclaves. For decades his photos chronicled the changes in Polonia's lifestyles, on Chicago's North Side and in other parts of the city as well.

Julita Siegel, the PMA's photographic curator, is thrilled with Skwarek's donation of his photography. "It's a great record of that time, and there are so few records of that time."

Highlands where he began his photographic and tour-leading careers. Life behind the Iron Curtain in Soviet-occupied Poland was not easy, and Skwarek dreamed of a better life. While working as a ski instructor in the Tatra Mountains, Skwarek met an American who offered to send him a written invitation to visit the United States. Using that invitation, he sought entrance into the United States, knowing that he had no plans to leave the United States once he entered. With some family members already in Chicago, his managed to make it there and stayed.

Skwarek's work can be seen in the Public Television WTTW docu-



Jerzy "George" Skwarek

While he has spent much of his life documenting other peoples' existences, Skwarek's own life reads like a novel and is the embodiment of the American dream.

Skwarek was born in Warsaw in 1935, four years before the Siege of Warsaw. As a young boy, he vividly remembers the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943. As he recalls of the conflict, "Everyone was running. You literally had to run under the machine gun fire to escape."

After the war, Skwarek worked as a ski instructor in the Polish

mentary "A Night Out On Milwaukee Avenue," that documented Polish entertainment venues along that famous Chicago street. His photographs also served as material for the book "Avondale and Chicago's Polish Village," co-written by Dan Pogorzelski.

With Skwarek taking an active role in archiving his collection, the PMA plans to have his photographs also become available on the Internet at www.PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org.

IN BRIEF

A MICHIGAN MAN was recently identified as the newborn snatched from his mother in 1964 by someone posing as a maternity nurse. A commercial ancestry test found the now 55-year-old man living in rural Michigan was the 2-day-old child of Chester and Dora Fronczak, abducted from a Chicago hospital. He was able to reunite with his mother, now in her 80s.

THE APPEARANCE OF THE INVASIVE ASIAN FISH with no natural predators is not good news for Lancaster County, Pa., waters. The first before-and-after study of northern snakehead populations in two rivers on Maryland's Eastern Shore

has found that of 21 species of fish captured before snakeheads were introduced by humans seven years ago, 17 have declined since then — by 30% to 97%, according to the study by Maryland and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service scientists.

Keeping an eye on the snakehead's trek into Pennsylvania waters is Tyler Grabowski, an area fisheries biologist with the Fish & Boat Commission.

FOLKS WERE ONCE AGAIN DANCING to polkas at the Polish-American Social Club of Vero Beach on Saturday Jan. 4, 2020, in Indian River County, Fla. Over the past year, polka and ballroom dancing returned to the club after a long legal battle.

In 2015, new leaders changed the club's charter and renamed the building the Vero Social Club. In January 2019, Circuit Court Judge Janet Carney Croom sided with the original members.

The club currently has more than 250 members.

AUTHORITIES IN EASTERN POLAND said bird flu killed at least 25,000 turkeys in poultry farms near the country's border with Ukraine and Belarus. The chief veterinarian for the Lublin province confirmed the deadly H5N8 virus responsible.

Move to Suburbs Diminishes Political Clout

CHICAGO — A feature in *Chicago Magazine* asks "Where Have All the Polish Poles Gone?"

At one time, politicians with names ending in -ski dominated the state congressional delegation. In the 1960s, the Chicago area was represented by Roman Pucinski, Edward Derwinski, John Kluczynski, and Dan Rostenkowski, a musical polonaise of names asserting Poles as the second most vital cog in the Chicago Machine, after the Irish.

Now Lipinski, who inherited his name and his congressional seat from his father, Bill, is on the verge of being run out of the Democratic Party, which considers his conservative views on abortion and gay rights anachronistic. This fall, he'll face a rematch with Marie Newman, the socially liberal challenger he barely beat in 2018. This time, Newman has more support among Lipinski's colleagues.

Lipinski's unwillingness to conform to the 21st Century party line

is an example of why Polish pols — and white ethnic politicians in general — are disappearing from Chicago. The defeat of the last Polish American congressman would be a big comedown for a group that helped found the Chicago Machine, way back when Anton Cermak was running for mayor in 1931.

"The old urban ethnic neighborhoods broke up, and like other white ethnics, Polish Americans moved to the suburbs, diluting their once powerful political base."

— Prof. Dominic Pacyga

When Cermak put together the Machine, the Poles played a very important part," says Dominic Pacyga, a retired Columbia College professor and author of the new book "America Warsaw: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of Polish Chicago."

"They were allies of the Czechs. The Germans had moved out, as-

similated. The Poles and the Irish were still around. They kind of reconnected with their ethnicity."

Poles had long been a player in Chicago politics, exhibiting considerable influence on both the Democratic and Republican Parties, said Pacyga. "As the twentieth century counted down, Polonia's political power had declined: it had, in short, lost its clout. Nowhere can this be seen more startlingly than on the city's Northwest Side. Once the home of powerful Polish politicians such as Dan Rostenkowski, that clout quickly faded as demographic shifts brought a very different Chicago into being," said Pacyga

"The old urban ethnic neighborhoods broke up, and like other white ethnics, Polish Americans moved to the suburbs, diluting their once powerful political base. Many Polish Americans intermarried and no longer identified primarily with their ethnic group. Others had become Reagan Democrats."

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ROAD TRIP

Pittsburgh Pierogi Edition

by Matthew Stefanski

Just hearing the word *pierogi* can put a smile on the face of anyone who knows and loves their delicious taste. From the caramelized onions topped “Russian” style potato and cheese pierogi, to the sweet blueberry pierogi sprinkled with sugar, pierogi are a staple in Polish cooking. Versatile in their serving, easy to cook (once made) and most of all, absolutely delectable – when done right, that is. Many families have trusted recipes handed down from generations, others still have hard working and loving matriarchs who make these little pockets of love from scratch in their kitchens.

While by no means do I consider myself a pierogi expert, nevertheless as a Polish-American I certainly am a connoisseur due to the amount of pierogi I consume annually. So, when I set off on a road trip to Pittsburgh earlier this fall, I made an effort to enjoy as many as I could while visiting the unofficial pierogi capital of America.

One would be hard pressed to find a city more in love with pierogi than Pittsburgh. The Pirates baseball team features a 280-yard dash of life-sized pierogi mascots after the fifth inning of each home game. The city holds the Guinness World Record for the largest *pirog* (singular) ever made – a 123-pound behemoth cooked up in 2014. And gift shops around the city even sell “pierogi-on-a-ropes” soaps. That being said, I was determined to munch my way through Pittsburgh’s pierogi scene.

MY PIEROGI TOUR BEGAN before even arriving in Pittsburgh. After touring Kentuck Knob, the Frank



VISITORS TO POLISH HILL, the historic Polish neighborhood in Pittsburgh, are welcomed by a festive sign.

Lloyd Wright designed house in Pennsylvania’s Laurel Mountains, I stopped in Farmington, Pa., about sixty miles south east of Pittsburgh, at the **Stone House Restaurant** and hotel which dates back to 1822. There I enjoyed wild boar pierogi, which were filled with, “wild boar sausage, buttery potatoes, caramelized onions, and smoked gouda, simmered till tender then sautéed with more onions and beef broth.” This dish immediately caught my attention, although truthfully my expectations were initially quite low, as this description seemed like a stomach ache waiting to happen. To my great delight the dish was excellent, and the flavors comple-

mented each other perfectly, creating a harmonious dish. I rated it 4/5 stars, with points for originality, tastefulness and good execution.

MY NEXT SERVING of pierogi was the day after at the University of Pittsburgh’s **Cathedral of Learning**, where a Polish Festival is held annually on Veterans Day weekend. Amongst all the vendors and exhibitors, which included a “pierogi toss” station, was, naturally, a food stall serving up Polish platters which included

pierogi. The food was prepared by catering company, and unfortunately, these pierogi hardly deserved 1/5 stars. They were simply not good. The potato and cheese filling had no definition and the texture resembled a processed paste. While realizing that these pierogi were prepared in large quantities for consumption at a festival, they did not give pierogi, and thus Polish food, a good name. Period. Tastes palates differ, and how one grades pierogi depends on what type of cooking you are used to. But these did not pass my muster.

NEVERTHELESS, later that day I continued my pierogi journey to



S&D Polish Deli in the Strip District was bustling with customers including many non-Poles coming to enjoy some Polish fare.

the **Stuff’d Pierogi Bar** – a modern establishment in downtown Pittsburgh, just across the bridge from the Andy Warhol museum. There I had the fried Reuben Pierogi, which were corn beef and sauerkraut stuffed pierogi served on a grilled marble rye and topped with more sauerkraut and melted Swiss cheese. They were enjoyable, but the dish had about as much in common with pierogi as fruit salad does with a Caesar salad. I consider pierogi to be a standalone dish, where the dough, filling and any garnish combine to be a wholistic experience, each working together to create a complete dish. Here, it was a tower of food with a pierogi somewhere in there. I give it 3/5 stars – interesting and edible but stretching the versatility of pierogi to make it into a different dish entirely.

MY LAST PIEROGI STOP was **S&D Polish Deli** in the Strip District, which sells Polish produce and also

has a small eating area in the back with a kitchen serving up Polish lunchtime fares. The place had very friendly service and was bustling with customers including many non-Poles coming to enjoy some Polish fare. The four-piece potato and cheese pierogi plate was simple but tasty. While not measuring up to the best pierogi I’ve had, they were traditional pierogi that stood on their own merits, 3.5/5 stars.

ONE OF THE MAIN RESTAURANTS I wanted to visit while in Pittsburgh was **Apteka**, a hip vegan Polish establishment with a rotating menu of freshly prepared dishes. However, by this point in my trip, I was pierogi-ed out, so I settled for vegetable soup. However, the duo behind Apteka were recently invited to Washington, D.C. by the Polish Embassy to host a cooking workshop for kids, so their reputation precedes them, and I look forward to returning soon to try their vegan pierogi.

So, what are the conclusions of my Pittsburgh pierogi road-trip? Pierogi are popular, can come prepared in all kinds of unique ways, and should be enjoyed more often! The spectrum of pierogi spans the breadth of America, ranging from delectable to a tasteless dumplings masquerading as pierogi. I am no pierogi purists, so I think if you like your pierogi with jalapenos or other non-Polish concoction, then go right ahead and enjoy.

But please, if you’re making pierogi, and more importantly if you’re serving them to others, make sure they are good.

As Polish Americans, let’s always put our best foot, or pierogi, forward!

DID YOU KNOW?

There might have been no Silicon Valley were it not for Polish chemist **Jan Czochralski**? He invented the Czochralski process, which is used for growing single crystals and in the production of semiconductor wafers. It is still used in over 90 percent of all electronics in the world that use semiconductors. In 1916, when he accidentally dipped his pen into a crucible of molten tin rather than his inkwell. He immediately pulled his pen out to discover that a thin thread of solidified metal was hanging from the nib.

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How Mom-Mom’s Kitchen is working to spread the good word on Polish food

by Jason Wilson

The Philadelphia Citizen

Ryan Elmore has learned a few lessons about pierogi in the four years since he and partner Kaitlin Wines started Mom-Mom’s Kitchen, first as a Polish food cart and then as a stand-alone restaurant in Bridesburg.

First, Elmore says: “Never make pierogi alone.”

He and Wines learned quickly that there’s a reason pierogi-making has long been the domain of clusters of older Polish women in church groups during the holidays. “It’s a group project, a family project. It’s really labor-intensive. To make 200 to 300 takes about four to five hours.” At this point, Mom-Mom’s Kitchen makes about 3,000 to 4,000 hand-pinched pierogi each week.

The next hard truth: “You don’t make as much money on pierogi as you do on ravioli,” he says. In the unjust dumpling economy, a pierogi costs slightly more than a Chinese dumpling or an empanada, but significantly less than a plate of stuffed pasta in an Italian restaurant.

WHETHER IT’S DUE TO LABOR intensive methods or cultural chauvinism, there’s an egregious lack of awareness of Polish cuisine. “Polish food is really underrepresented,” Elmore says. “There’s not many

young people making Polish food.” Wines and Elmore have made it a mission to correct this.

Named after Wines’ 97-year-old grandmother, Mom-Mom’s Kitchen began as a 4-by-8-foot food cart in 2015, often parked at the Garden Variety beer garden in Northern Liberties or late night in Fishtown at Frankford and Girard.

They finally opened their stand-alone location in 2018, in what was a shared kitchen associated with Bridesburg Commissary, which operates next door with 60 other small food businesses. “Bridesburg is thick with Polish Americans,” Elmore said. “Port Richmond is kinda ‘up-and-coming’ but Bridesburg is the total opposite.”

Philadelphia’s River Wards, particularly Port Richmond, have been a Polish American enclave for decades. Going to Czerw’s for *kielbasa* or Stock’s Bakery for a brick of dense pound cake, or stopping at my favorite, The Dinner House, for a meal of pickle soup, stuffed cabbage and pierogi are all classic stops for lovers of Polish food.

The community has been affected by a shutdown of the Richmond Street trolley in 2012, and then by recent construction on Richmond Street and Allegheny Avenue. In 2018, longtime Polish favorites Syrenka Luncheonette and Krakus Market both closed. But with trolley service expected to return next

year, Port Richmond will be much more accessible and there’s optimism things will pick up again.

Meanwhile, a little further northeast, Mom-Mom’s Kitchen is pushing the boundaries of tradition. Next to classic potato pierogi, spicy kielbasa from Czerw’s, pickle soup, beet salad and golabki are non-traditional offerings such as, yes, the Philly Cheesesteak Pierogi.

“The old people in the neighborhood say, ‘This is fancy for Polish food,’” Elmore says. “It’s not really that fancy. We just happen to put fresh dill on it. We’re creative but we’re still making home-style comfort food.”

WITH FEET FIRMLY in both traditional and non-traditional, it’s no surprise that the next move for Mom-Mom’s Kitchen was to raise more than \$13,000 on Kickstarter to open a new takeout location on South Street, next door to iconic dive bar Bob & Barbara’s Lounge, a Philadelphia drinking institution. Elmore and Wines already knew that Polish food was a hit with the drunken after-bar crowd in Fishtown. A throwback spot like Bob & Barbara’s seems like a good fit for updated Polish food, which will pair very well with a Citywide Special.

“Bob & Barbara’s is a relic. It hasn’t changed in my 15 years of drinking in this city,” Elmore says.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 35th 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 seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

Kaleidoscope project aims to spotlight Minnesota's Polish immigrant experience

by Mark Dillon

A new privately-funded oral history project in Minnesota aims to showcase the state's post-World War II Polish immigrant experience with the help of a world-renowned Polish photography professor.

Grzegorz Litynski, head of the Department of Travel, Documentary Photography and Photojournalism at the Technical University of Katowice, was expected to visit Minnesota in late January for a month to work on what the project's organizers are calling Kaleidoscope.

The endeavor aims to fill an educational gap between the well-documented 19th century and early 20th century Polish immigrant experience in the state, and the perspective of later arrivals, says lead organizer Dr. Katarzyna Litak, president of the Polish American Medical Society of Minnesota.

Stereotypes about Polish immigrants, both within the Polish American community and the state's more politically-dominant ethnic groups, have made it challenging for recent immigrants to be fully appreciated for their high level of education, skills, diversity and affinity for modern culture, she adds.



Anna Urbanczyk hopes to build a coaching career in Minnesota after emigrating from Poland.

promotional brochure called *Kaleidoscope: Spotlight on Polish Americans in Minnesota*. Various fund-raising options for an exhibit and storybook printing, including an on-line campaign, are being considered as the project unfolds.

Project volunteers, in the midst of in-depth interviews with several dozen Polish immigrants and their children, plan to assemble a public exhibit and anthology. Among the project's initial sponsors is Polesom, a Minneapolis-based private school that teaches Polish to preschool and elementary children whose parents include both immigrants and non-Polish speakers.

Photographer Litynski's role is to create photo essays about each interview subject as well as photograph personal archival material from each interview subject. Currently, he is also working on a visual arts project in Germany to teach high school students about Polish-German relations, an endeavor of the Deutsches Polen-Institut in Damstadt. He will be in Minnesota through Feb. 18, Litak said.

One would not know that Minnesota has more than 200,000 persons of Polish descent by looking at publicly-funded sites such as mndigital.org, a website supported by the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Of the approximately 800 oral history videos currently on the site labeled "Minnesota's immigrants - Explore the stories of people who have immigrated to Minnesota" only four are of Polish immigrants and only one is a post-World War II story, that of someone in New Jersey. (See chart).

One video misclassifies a Polish immigrant as being from Russia and describes the Russian partition as "present day Poland." Another video is in German while another says a family left Poland "to escape anti-Semitic persecution" without explanation while showing a burning synagogue scene from the Nazi occupation period.

Within Minnesota, immigration patterns shifted over the past two generations thanks to increased prosperity in Central Europe, the emergence of the European Union

and Poland's entry into the EU, as well as federal and Minnesota refugee policy that has encouraged and funded more non-European immigration.

Dr. Litak says some first generation Polish Americans in Minnesota feel marginalized and find themselves combating both old and new educational, cultural, political, racial and economic stereotypes. The project is an opportunity to show, in a positive way, that Polish life, presence and impact in the state is much more than "festivals and folk customs."

LEGAL NOTICE

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OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2020-2021 academic school year ends on 4/1/2020 at 5 p.m. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school, at www.NHASchools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on 4/7/2020 at 11 a.m. in the staff lounge. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

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Scholarship Funding Established at CCSU



NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — Central Connecticut State University has just received funding for a permanent scholarship for a deserving Polish American student who attends CCSU. The scholarship has been funded by Alexander and Patricia Koproski of Stamford, Conn.

Students from Connecticut and others attending CCSU are eligible. The scholarship of \$5000 is provided by the Koproski Family Foundation.

Al and Patricia Koproski have been active in Polonia for the last 60 years and have donated generously to many causes. They are the Founders of the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington D.C., which is now the D.C. branch of the Kosciuszko Foundation. Both are members of several Polish American organizations. Al Koproski was recently included in Who's Who in America and is a Knight of Malta, American Division.

Pictured are (l. to r.): Dr. Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski, chairman of the Polish Studies Program at CCSU, Alexander Koproski and Patricia Koproski.

Kosciuszko Foundation Announces Exchange Program for Study in Poland

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation announces that applications for 2020-2021 edition of the Exchange Programs to Poland — the Year Abroad Scholarships, and Graduate Studies & Research in Poland Grants program — are now open to American students and researchers:

The **Year Abroad Scholarship** supports Polish language studies at the Jagiellonian University's Center of Polish Language and Culture in Krakow, Poland. Scholarships are awarded under the auspices of the Foundation's Exchange Program with Poland. Students who are awarded a scholarship are accepted to attend the Center for Polish Language and Culture program at the Jagiellonian University. The scholarship includes a tuition waiver and 1,600 zloty (approx. \$425 USD) per month for living expenses as well as \$900 per semester in additional support.

Airfare is not covered by the scholarship. Please note that the Scholarship Selection Committee may elect to award semester-only grants.

The **Graduate / Postgraduate**

Studies and Research Scholarship supports research at various universities in Poland by American graduate students and university faculty members. Scholarships are awarded under the auspices of the Foundation's Exchange Program with Poland. The scholarship provides a stipend of 1,600 zloty per month for housing and living expenses. In addition, scholarship recipients receive \$300 per month of approved study/research as an additional supplement for living expenses.

Candidates who intend to study/attend classes must apply to the university for admission and submit proof of acceptance/admission to the program. The Studies & Research scholarship does not cover the cost of tuition nor airfare to Poland.

Studies and Research projects may be conducted from October through June at state-funded universities and institutions of higher learning in Poland.

To learn more, visit www.thekf.org/kf/scholarships/exchange-poland/; ExchangeToPoland@thekf.org; or call (212) 734-2130.

Top 10 Countries as Represented by Minnesota Oral Histories on mndigital.org

Rank	Country	No. of Stories
1	Mexico	127
2	India	68
3	China	34
4	Somalia	32
5	Russia	31
6	Laos	25
7	Greece	24
8	Philippines	23
9	Vietnam	23
10	Tibet	22
25	Poland	4

Source: mndigital.org, a part of the Minnesota Digital Library, funded through the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund via the Minnesota Historical Society.

"I am afraid of isolation in the U.S." says Anna Urbanczyk, 26, originally from Pszczyna in Silesia. She holds a master's degree from The University of Physical Education in Krakow and is one of the project's Minneapolis interview subjects. She applied for a fiancé visa in January 2019 and is still awaiting approval.

For Minnesota, there is also an urgent need to document the stories of the remaining survivors of the generation of Poles who came to Minnesota in the mid-to-late 1940s, often as displaced persons and refugees. These include a veteran of the Battle of Monte Cassino, former slave laborers in German work camps, medical, scientific and arts professionals, and Poles deported to Siberia by Stalin after the Soviet Union's 1939 invasion.

"There are a number of fascinating Polish personalities in Minnesota" Dr. Litak says in a new

Cukier's Sweet Discovery

SCARSDALE, N.Y. — Wolf Cukier, 17, of Scarsdale, reached for the stars and discovered a planet.

he was only three days into his six-week internship at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland last summer when he discovered planet TOI 1338 b, some 1,300 light-years away.

Wolf along with his self-discovered planet will be the subject of a

research paper put out by NASA naming the high school senior the official founder.

"Cukier," is the Polish word for "sugar," and is a common surname — along with variations — for Polish Jews and Catholics. Approximately 2,268 people bear this surname in its root form, with most instances, almost 1000, reported from Poland.

PAHA Meeting Focuses on Changing Identities

by Mark Dillon

How do historically Polish neighborhoods from Greenpoint, Brooklyn to Hamtramck, Mich. to Chicago maintain identity amid changing demographics and perceptions of what is Polish?

How are staples of Polish cuisine such as pierogi being modified and marketed for more modern and upscale tastes?

How can the historic role of Polish American women be interpreted in a new light?

Researchers from California to Krakow gathered at the New York Hilton last month for the Polish American Historical Association's 77th annual meeting to discuss these and other questions. Through 11 panels over three days and presentations on more than 40 topics, participants shared Polish history that authors felt deserved to be remembered.

One of the more compelling personal stories was presented by Kristina Kwacz of Albany, N.Y., who recounted how a Polish couple who were to become her parents reunited in 1959 after a 20-year separation that began eight months before the 1939 German-Soviet invasion, a separation that continued under postwar Communism.

Entitled Mining "The Twenty" Via Memory Work: Reinterpreting Story; Rewriting Identity, Kwacz explained that she also created a public photo panel exhibit about her family as she pursued a master's degree program at SUNY's Empire State College.

"My parents' story was a dramatic one, weaving war, totalitarian regimes, and the union and ultimate reunion of veritable strangers," she said. "Each of my parents experienced their own unique trauma during their forced separation."

Kwacz added that she was able to complete her research with the help of a Skalny scholarship for Polish Studies from the American Council for Polish Culture.

Most PAHA presentations this year were of a traditional academic variety and included themes such as The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of Polish Chicago, Polish Responses to Global Modernity and the Impact of the 1945 Yalta Conference in shaping an "Intellectual Cold War."

On the evening of January 4 at the Kosciuszko Foundation, PAHA also held its annual awards ceremonies. Among this year's recipients were:

- **Dr. Iwona Korga**, the James S. Pula Distinguished Service Award
- **Fr. Spencer Howe, Fr. Stanislaw Poszwa, Dr. Geoffrey Gyrisco and Michael Retka**, the Skalny Civic Achievement Award
- **Dr. Grazyna J. Koszczka**, the Oskar Halecki Prize in Recognition of Outstanding Scholarly Work on the Polish Experience in the United States
- **Dr. Norman Kelkar**, the Amicus Poloniae Award

A complete list of conference topics and presentations can be found at <https://pahanews.blogspot.com/>.

Witness of History Awards Presented

WARSAW — The president of the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), Dr. Jaroslaw Szarek awarded the "Witness of History" prize to six individuals and one organization for their outstanding achievements in preserving and promoting knowledge of recent Polish history.

The ceremony took place at the Royal Łazienki Park in Warsaw in October 2019.

The "Witness of History" is an honorary distinction established in March 2009 by order of the IPN's president and conferred by the Institute. It is granted to individuals and organizations in recognition of their outstanding contribution to commemorating the history of the Polish Nation and supporting the IPN in its statutory activities in the field of education and research.

Since 2014 the award was made available to individuals and institutions active outside Poland.

Laureates of the IPN's 2019 "Witness of History" awards included:

Svetlana Filonova and Olena Udovenko (Ukraine) — Both laureates work for the same cause, the Katyn Massacre, through participation in the activities of Polish exhumation teams in Katyn, Mednoye, Kharkiv and Kiev-Bykivnia. In that capacity, they present exhibitions, publishing articles on the subject in the media, organizing, conducting lessons on the theme of Katyn, popularizing knowledge on the Katyn heroes, organizing events commemorating the victims of the crimes in Katyn.

Malgorzata Miedwiedewa (Ukraine) — who in her activities aimed at reviving the Polish lan-

guage, culture and history, devotes special attention to nurturing and commemorating places in Bar related to the martyrdom of the Polish nation, including the commemoration of the victims of the NKVD's "Polish operation" and caring for the burial sites of Polish soldiers.

The Polish Hearth Club in Turin (Italy) — the oldest Polish community organization operating in Italy promotes Polish history and culture, especially taking into account the memory of soldiers of the 2nd Polish Corps in Italy through numerous publications and the organization of exhibitions and conferences. The organization also takes care of burial places of Polish soldiers in Italy.

Maria Sulima (Belarus) — is active in the field of teaching Polish, popularizing Polish culture and knowledge of our national history. Thanks to her activity, numerous monuments, plaques and crosses commemorating Polish history have been erected in the Brest region.

Attila Szalai (Hungary) — longtime editor of "Glos Polonii," the magazine of the Hungarian Polonia, as a witness to history. The author of an extensive and extremely valuable publication "Na polskiej ziemi - zapiski z lat 1976-1990" / "On Polish soil - notes from 1976-1990", which documents his stay in Poland

Aleksandra Ziolkowska-Boehm (United States) — the author of popular books devoted to figures significant for the recent history of Poland, familiarizing the American reader with Polish history in an accessible way.

Pinkowski. Identified what is now Kosciuszko National Memorial

continued from cover

moved to the hard coal fields of Pennsylvania, where his father and grandfather previously worked in coal mines of the Mount Carmel area. There he started a writing career while still in high school. During World War II, he was a writer in the U.S. Navy and rose to the rank of Chief Specialist (X).

In 1967 he received the Kosciuszko Sesquicentennial Medal in Toronto from the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) for locating General Kosciuszko's last residence in America, saving it for the purpose of creating a national monument, and placing an historical marker at 3rd and Pine Streets in Philadelphia. In 1976 the house-museum opened as the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial under the auspices of the National Park Service.

He was a member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission from 1969 to 1985, and earlier was president, for four years, of the Spring Garden Civic Association in Philadelphia. He was the first lay chairman of the nominating committee and vice president of PAHA. He was chairman of the Ethnic Council and vice president of the Philadelphia 1976 Bicentennial Corporation. He was a founder of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), and the person who created the name of that local organization. He served as a board member of the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, DC.

He erected a monument at the



Pinkowski was a writer in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and rose to the rank of Chief Specialist (X).

gravesite and a roadside marker in Douglassville, Pennsylvania to Anthony Sadowski, a Polish American frontiersman, 300 years after his birth. In 1989, he earned the Mieczyslaw Haiman Medal from PAHA "for outstanding Contribution in the field of Polish American studies." In 1997 the ACPC recognized his lifetime of contributions to research in Polish American history by awarding him the Distinguished Service Award.

SELECTED PINKOWSKI BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

- Lattimer Massacre, 1950; (monograph)
- History of Bridgeport, Pa., 1951; (monograph)
- Washington's Officers Slept Here, 1953; (book)
- Forgotten Fathers, 1953; (book)
- Chester County Place Names, 1955, 62; (book)
- John Siney - The Miners' Martyr, 1963; (book)
- Anthony Sadowski - Polish Pioneer, 1966; (monograph)
- Pills, Pen and Politics: The story of Gen. Leon Jastremski, 1974; (book)
- General Pulaski's Body, 1996; (monograph)

In 1996 he proved that General Pulaski's remains were buried in a brick vault under the monument

in Savannah, Georgia and was recognized by the mayor of Savannah with a key to the city for literally "rescuing Pulaski's body from oblivion." This was documented with DNA evidence in research sponsored by the Smithsonian Channel and broadcast as a documentary during 2019. Over the years, he devoted countless hours to research on Kosciuszko and Pulaski, not to mention hundreds of other figures, and is the author of several books and many articles.

In 2001, Edward Pinkowski was a recipient of the Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Merit (Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Zasługi RP) awarded by President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski. Among the awards in recognition for his work are the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2004), the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal (2006), and the Pride of Polonia plaque (2009). He was presented with the Distinguished Service Award from the American Institute of Polish Culture in Pinellas County, Fla. (2003). He received international recognition for his work at the Museum of Kazimierz Pulaski in Warka, Poland.

To continue his lifelong commitment and dedication to the Preservation of Polish Heritage in America, Edward and his son, Jack Pinkowski, Ph.D., established the Poles in America Foundation, Inc., www.poles.org. It is a repository of his research and resource materials related to the Polish American experience and contributions to America.

He lived in Philadelphia for most of his life with his wife Connie (Rosiello), before moving to Florida in 1998. He is survived by two sons, James E. Pinkowski, of Fairfax Station Virginia, and Jack Pinkowski, of Plantation, Florida; and five grandchildren.

Commemoration of life remembrances were held at T.M. Ralph Funeral Home in Plantation, Fla., Jan. 15, 2020 and at the Cathedral of St. Peter & Paul in Philadelphia Jan., 18, followed by mass and burial at St. Augustine's Cemetery in King of Prussia, Pa.

Polish zoo aiding Australian rescue effort;

The Zoological Gardens in the southwestern Polish city of Wrocław are supporting a worldwide effort to rescue the wildlife of flame-scorched Australia. Raging bush fires have claimed dozens of lives, destroyed millions of acres of woodlands and incinerated millions of wild animals. Many kangaroos, koala bears and other typically Australian wildlife have been affected. Poland's State Fire Service has also expressed its readiness to aid in containing the blaze. In 2018, Polish firefighters distinguished themselves while helping extinguish forest fires raging in central Sweden.

Ireland's Ryanair expanding operations in Poland

Ireland's budget airline Ryanair plans to service 14.2 million passengers in Poland in 2020, a million more than last year, the Polish business daily *Puls Biznesu* reported recently. The paper compared this number with statistics of Poland's national airline LOT, which serviced some 10 million passengers in 2019. LOT hopes to increase its business this year by 15 percent. Ryanair has been the largest passenger air carrier operating in Poland since 2013. Poland lacks a budget airline of its own.

Documentary on war hero Pilecki to be released this year

Work on a documentary devoted to one of Poland's greatest war heroes is currently under way.

"Witold Pilecki's life provides enough material for a couple of movies," remarked Marcin Zarzecki, head of Polish National Foundation, which is co-producing the film.

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MINNESOTA VOICE

Polish Women in Baseball Highlighted at PAHA Conference

by Mark Dillon

In 1944, the same year Stan Musial led the St. Louis Cardinals to a World Series championship, another Polish American was having a great rookie year.

Her name was Connie Wisniewski, ace pitcher for the Milwaukee Chicks.

Wisniewski was one of many Polish Americans in the newly founded All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) who “recruited its players primarily from among athletic blue collar young women” of the Midwest, said Dr. Neal Pease, history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

“So by dint of geography and class its rosters naturally became heavily weighted with surnames of Polish and East European origin,” Pease told an audience

of historians and cultural leaders assembled at the Polish American Historical Association’s 77th annual conference meeting January 3 to 5 in New York City.

Pease’s presentation was part of one of 11 panel discussions held over three days. The panel was entitled “Searching for a Voice: Searching for a Place,” that looked at unusual ways Polish Americans sought to make their mark in culture and society. Other topics included talks about 19th century actress Helena Modjeska, Lemko community radical Dymytry Vyslotsky and Stanislaw Gutkowski, who led military training of Polish Americans in New England during World War I.

In discussing Wisniewski’s career, Pease said she excelled as both a right-handed pitcher and later a star left-handed hitter for the Chicks, earning her the nickname *The Polish Rifle*. In fact, Wisniewski had the best lifetime winning percentage (.690 with 107 wins and 49 losses) of any pitcher in the AAGPBL – a group of 10 teams in five states that became the basis for the fictionalized 1992 movie – *A League of Their Own*. The League operated from 1943 to 1954.

“A native of Detroit who had gained notice as a softball pitcher, Wisniewski joined the Chicks at age 22, and quickly became a standout. She led the Chicks to the league championship in her debut

season, with the notable feat—unprecedented in men’s or women’s major league professional baseball alike—of being the winning hurler in all four of her team’s victories in the series that settled the title,” Pease said.

The next two seasons, with a

effort to attempting to appease prevailing social attitudes that women playing sports was an affront to established ideas of femininity, and deflecting suspicions of the taboo of lesbianism,” Pease said.

One example, according to Pease, was that when Wisniewski

The Polish Peaches

In the *League of Their Own*, which focused on the Rockford (Ill.) Peaches team, Hollywood generally ignored the Polish ethnicity of players. Yet the Peaches had some of the best Polish women in the game. Among the team’s Polish players

er-hitter from West Virginia, Pease said. She faced a Babe Ruth-like trade by the South Bend (Indiana) Blue Sox early in her career. The Sox manager considered her Polish-Ukrainian ethnicity and lack of English language skills a liability and traded her to the Peaches. Two

Canadian sisters of Polish heritage, Anna and Lee Surkowski, also played on the Blue Sox.

As with Ruth at the New York Yankees after being traded by the Boston Red Sox, Gacioch’s career took off in Illinois. During her first year in Rockford, Gacioch set a league record of 31 outfield assists. She became one of the most consistent AAGPBL players, starring on three championship teams for the Peaches, according to the AAGPBL Players Association Memorial website

Peaches manager

Bill Allington moved Gacioch from the outfield to pitching in 1948, where she had a 14-5 win-loss record her first year. She also remained an outfielder on days when she was not pitching. At age 38, the last year of the League, she had a .304 batting average, according to the AAGPBL website.

Swift Sophie Kurys

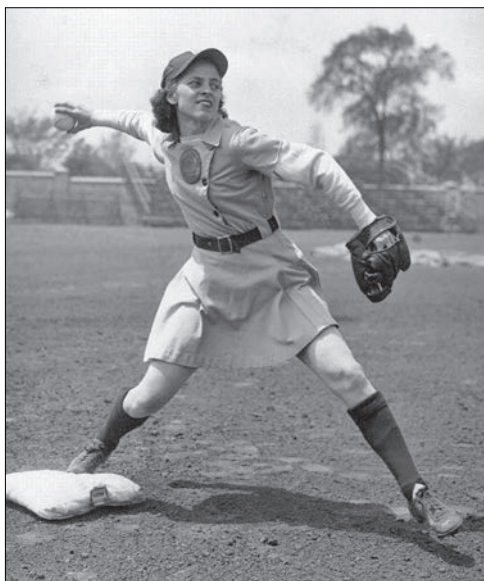
Another Polish player that Pease highlighted in his presentation was second base player Sophie Kurys of the Racine (Wisc.) Belles. A native of Flint, Michigan, Kurys was the League’s best base all-time stealer. She was nicknamed *Tina Cobb* and the *Flint Flash* for her agility and averaged 150 steals per season between 1944 and 1950. Her lifetime record of 1,114 stolen bases was more than Ty Cobb (892) and Lou Brock (938) and is eclipsed only by Yankee and Oakland A’s player Rickey Henderson (1,406). Her 201 stolen bases in a single season is a record, collecting 71 more than Henderson (130), who set the men’s single season record in 1982.

“They wanted us to look like Marilyn Monroe and play like Joe DiMaggio,” Kurys told the Associated Press in a 2003 interview. Kurys’ mother was Polish and her father Ukrainian.

Following their baseball careers, many of the Polish players got blue collar jobs. Gacioch became a press operator for Amerock Corp. in Rockford, IL while Wisniewski worked in a General Motors factory. After baseball, Kurys initially worked as a secretary at a Racine, Wisc. machine parts manufacturer and rose to vice president of the company, according to her 2013 obituary in the *Los Angeles Times*.

In Minneapolis, none of the Millerettes self-identified as Polish. One small success for the Millerettes was that pitcher Annabelle Lee threw a perfect game on July 29, 1944 against the Kenosha (Wisc.) Comets, something that had not been accomplished in men’s baseball since 1922, and that would not happen again until Don Larsen’s 1956 World Series perfect game.

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CATCH THE FLINT FLASH: Sophie Kurys was one of the best base stealers of all-time among both men and women baseball players, setting a record surpassed only by Rickey Henderson.



ROCKING IN ROCKFORD: Rosie Gacioch was an excellent outfielder for the Rockford Peaches and played until age 38.



MEET THE POLISH RIFLE: Connie Wisniewski of the Milwaukee and Grand Rapids Chicks winding up to throw a pitch.

70 mph underhand delivery, Wisniewski dominated the pitching categories of the AAGPBL. She was named the league’s outstanding player for 1945. However, as the League shifted from an underhand softball-style of pitching to overhand hardball, she lost her edge and transitioned to a title-winning successful hitter and outfielder. Pease said Wisniewski retired in 1952 “at the top of her game.”

Drawing Fans Tough in Minneapolis

A major challenge facing both the Chicks and another League team, the Minneapolis Millerettes, was major city competition for fans and sponsors with men’s teams in the midst of World War II, Pease explained. Both the Chicks and Millerettes lasted only one season in their original cities.

The athletically successful Chicks relocated to smaller Grand Rapids, Michigan while many of the Millerettes, whose first-year record was a dismal 45 wins and 72 losses, the worst in the League, moved to Indiana to become Fort Wayne Daisies. Minneapolis newspapers stopped reported Millerettes’ box scores in the second half of their first season.

In his presentation, Pease said Polish women players faced challenges off the field as well as on.

“During its existence, the Girls League devoted much attention and



Chicago chewing gum tycoon and Chicago Cubs owner Philip P. Wrigley organized the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in 1943 in five states, Minnesota would be cut after just one season. This map shows team locations.

asked the Chicks’ manager if she could cut her hair very short, she was advised that she would be cut from the team if she did.

League compensation was generally comparable to male ball players but low compared to modern standards. Star players earned about \$100 a week, but only during the baseball season, so many women supplemented their income with other jobs. The U.S. median annual income in 1940 was \$956, or \$80 a month and \$3,300 in 1950, or \$275 a month (Source: U.S. Census Bureau).

was catcher/third base player and coach Jenny Romatowski of Wyandotte, Michigan.

She was the first woman from the league to be elected to the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame, in 1999. Pease note that Wisniewski has yet to be inducted.

Other Peaches with Polish and Central European surnames included Rose “Gaspipie” Gacioch Helen Filarski, Betty Moczynski, Irene Kotowicz and Dorothy Kamencheck. In the film, a character based on Kamencheck is named Dottie Hinson.

Gacioch was a successful pitch-

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SPORTS

Kidoń “Dazzles” Fans, Ramczyk Recognized

by Tom Tarapacki



Pawel “Dazzle”

Kidoń is the first Harlem Globetrotter player ever from Poland, discovered during a Globetrotter pre-game event in his homeland.

The native of Zubrzyca Dolna was actually discovered by the team at one of their pre-game Magic Pass events during a tour stop in Poland last Spring. The team regularly holds meet-and-greets before their games where they interact with their fans. The 5-11 guard stopped at one of the stations where the Globetrotters teach ball-handling tricks, and then “dazzled” everyone by demonstrating his own amazing talents. Afterwards he revealed that he was actually a world freestyle basketball champion. The YouTube video of his performance has been viewed nearly a million times, and the Globetrotters signed him up.

“I’d dreamed about wearing a Harlem Globetrotter jersey one day, and I wanted to show the world my skills as a Harlem Globetrotter,” he said. “For me, this is really a dream come true.”

“I was very shy as a little boy, and basketball helped me express myself and overcome my weaknesses,” said Dazzle, as he’s now known. “Also, performing basketball freestyle helped me overcome my stress before performing in front of an audience, and thanks to that I was able to visit many countries.”

RAMCZYK RISES. For someone who wasn’t too sure that he wanted to play pro football, **Ryan Ramczyk** (above) has certainly come a long way in the NFL. This year, the third-year pro was named to an AP First Team All-Pro selection.

According to *Pro Football Focus*, the New Orleans Saints right tackle played 1,058 snaps and did not give up a single sack. Ram-

czyk got a 91 rating, which is considered elite. The former first-round selection only committed six penalties all season.

The Wisconsin native was lightly recruited despite earning all-state honors as an offensive tackle at Stevens Point High school as a senior in 2011. He wasn’t sure if he wanted to play pro football or pursue welding, law enforcement or another occupation (*PAJ September 2017*).

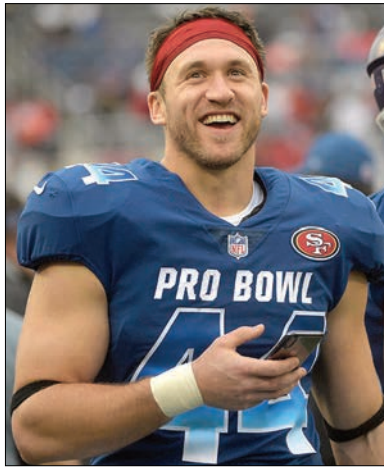
After some time away from the game Ryan “realized what I had given up, what football truly meant to me.” He then played two seasons at Division III UW-Stevens Point then transferred to Wisconsin, where he earned consensus first-team All-America honors. He entered the draft after his junior year and, despite just having just 14 D-1 starts, was considered one of the top O.L.s. New Orleans took him in the first round (32nd overall), and Ramczyk was named Second Team All-Pro last year.

Ramczyk is 6-6, 315-lb. with athleticism, quick feet, long arms and strong hands, and clearly one of the best.



Ramczyk

STEFANSKI TO LEAD CLEVELAND. Minnesota Vikings offensive coordinator **Kevin Stefanski** was named the new head coach of the Cleveland Browns. Stefanski, 37, will be the sixth full-time head coach since owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam bought the team in 2012. Cleveland recently fired coach Freddie Kitchens after one season



Juszczuk

and a 6-10 record. They also fired Rob Chudzinski after one season in 2013.

Stefanski has worked in the Minnesota organization since 2006, with this year being his first full season as an offensive coordinator. The Vikings ranked eighth in the NFL in the regular season with 25.4 points per game and 16th with 353.5 yards per game.

Stefanski was a defensive back at Penn but has spent his entire coaching career on the offensive side of the ball. His father, Ed, is a long-time NBA executive and currently a senior adviser with the Detroit Pistons.

ANOTHER PRO BOWL FOR JUSZCZYK. San Francisco fullback **Kyle Juszczyk** was named to the Pro Bowl for the third straight year. In 2017 Kyle signed as a free agent with San Francisco, and has been an important part of the 49ers’ rise to elite status. His talent and versatility are unique for a fullback, especially his pass-catching ability. As 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said when Juszczyk was out with an injury. “I mean, you don’t replace Kyle. He’s kind of one of a kind at fullback.”

The Medina, Ohio native was a two-time All-American at tight end and H-back who caught 125 passes for 1,576 yards and 22 touchdowns for the Crimson. Tough and smart and versatile, and Baltimore drafted him in the fourth round in 2013. He was the first fullback drafted from Harvard and only the tenth player in school history to be drafted. Kyle was the second highest selection in school history, only behind Isaiah

Kacyvenski, who was selected in the fourth round (119th overall) in 2000 (*PAJ June 2013*).

HALL OF FAME VOTING UNDERWAY. Voting is underway for the 2020 Class of the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. New on the ballot are former All-Star catcher **A.J. Pierzynski**, basketball great **David Meyers**, rodeo standout **Lynn Jonckowski**, and speed skater **J.R. Celski**.

Joining Pierzynski and Meyers in the high visibility category are **David Legwand**, the all-time leader in numerous offensive categories for the NHL Nashville Predators; **Joe Dudek**, the only Division III football player to finish in the top ten in the Heisman Trophy voting; Dallas Cowboys great **George (Andrzejewski) Andrie**; NBA stand-out **Frank Brickowski**; 14-year baseball pitcher **Mark Gubicza**, and long-time hockey defenseman **Craig Wolanin**.

In the other sports category are Olympic rower **Meegan Musnicki**; wrestler and strongman **Ivan Putski**; Duke lacrosse coach **John Danowski**; fencing champion and coach **Ed Korfanty**; basketball All-American **Sue Rojciwicz**; and college hockey coach **Leo Golembiewski**.

Pierzynski caught for 19 seasons, was twice an All-Star, and played a big part of the Chicago White Sox 2005 World Championship. He’s remembered for his colorful personality and competitiveness, as well as his talent behind the plate and with the bat. Meyers was a member of two national championship basketball teams with UCLA in the 1970s, earning All-American honors in 1975. That year he was the second overall pick in the NBA draft, and he played five productive seasons before retiring due to a back injury.

Jonckowski was a rodeo pioneer who twice won the Women’s National Bull Riding title in the 1990s. She was also the first woman ever to compete in the Men’s Bull Riding championships. Celski was the top U.S. short track speed skater of the past decade, winning three Olympic medals and setting two world records. He was also known for a unique chest tattoo that depicted a

Polish eagle inside of a five-pointed golden yellow star found on a Filipino flag, representing both sides of his ethnic heritage.

COLLEGE HOOPS UPDATE. A native of Michigan who grew up in Houston, **Quinn Slazinski** was a highly recruited 6’8” forward now playing his freshman year for Louisville ... **Nate Laszewski** is a sophomore forward for Notre Dame. His father, **Jay**, played hoops for Wisconsin ... **Greg Malinowski** is a senior guard for Georgetown who transferred from William & Mary ... **Thomas Dziagwa** is a senior guard for Oklahoma State, considered one of the team’s top shooters ... Polish native **Maciej Bender**, a West Virginia transfer, finished with 19 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks in a loss to Furman ... **Alex Olesinski** is a 6’10” forward for UCLA. His brother, **Marek**, was a four-year basketball player at the Air Force Academy ... Penn’s junior forward **Kuba Mijakowski** is emerging as a top player ... **Krystian Kopec** is a 6’5” senior forward for Staten Island ... **Kuba Karwowski** is a 7’2” 230-pound center for Utah State ... **Przemyslaw “Shem” Golek**, who was born in Piastow, Poland and played for the U16 Polish National Team, is now a freshman guard for Fairmont State ... 7-ft. Florida State center **Dominik Olejniczak**, is a graduate transfer from Ole Miss.

PERKOSKI’S NOTEBOOK. The Polish national football squad defeated Slovenia 3-2 in their last Euro 2020 qualifier, having already secured a spot in this summer’s tournament. Midfielder **Sebastian Szymański** opened the scoring for Poland, and captain **Robert Lewandowski** and **Jacek Góralski** also scored ... Speaking of Robert Lewandowski, Bayern Munich’s No. 9 scored an incredible four goals in just fifteen minutes in a 6-0 win over Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League... Hopewell High School in Western Pennsylvania just inducted its first Sports Hall of Fame, and it included **Stan Posluszny**. The former baseball standout is the older brother of former NFL linebacker **Paul Posluszny**. Stan was a baseball standout, one of the best hitters to play at Hopewell.

BOOK REVIEW

MR. TOWNSEND & THE POLISH PRINCE:

An American story of race, redemption, and football
by **Mike Gastineau with Joe Purzycki**
239 pages
Independently published

This book tells the remarkable story of how Joe Purzycki became the first white coach at a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) institution and helped turn around the football fortunes of Delaware State.

In November 1980 the troubled Delaware State College football team suffered one of the worst defeats in college football history, losing a game 105 to 0. The national embarrassment prompted the school to make a radical move: hire a white man to coach at an HBCU school.

Joe Purzycki grew up in Newark, N.J. with a large extended family that included grandparents Antony and Stella Purzycki, both Polish immigrants who spoke little English. “There was not much in terms of material goods, but the house was full of love,” recalled Joe. He was on the small side but excelled in sports, and eventually followed his



Purzycki

older brother Mike, a star receiver, to the University of Delaware. There Joe developed into a star defensive back with the Blue Hens, earning All-American recognition.

In 1971 Joe launched a great high school coaching career in Delaware, including leading Caesar Rodney HS to an undefeated record and the state Division I title. In 1978 Purzycki returned to his alma mater as Delaware’s defensive backfield coach, and the next year the Blue Hens won the Division II title.

Joe had great name recognition in the state of Delaware. He was also young (just 33 years old) and knowledgeable, as well as a dynamic and charismatic motivator. Athletic Director Nelson Townsend and the Del State board thought that his ability, along with his ties to the state of Delaware, made it worth the risk of hiring a white coach. For his part, Purzycki felt that a college head coaching job was important at that point in his career, and his low pay as an assistant made it difficult to support his wife and two children. He felt that he was up to the challenge.

The reaction to his hiring at Del State was immediate and angry. Players quit, students protested, and Purzycki was derisively referred to as “the Polish Prince.” But Townsend was in his corner, telling him early on: “We are not letting a bunch of 18-year-old kids tell us what to do ... Joe, you and I have bigger things to accomplish here.”

There were other challenges. Back at Delaware the annual recruiting budget was about \$50,000; in Joe’s first year at Delaware State it was \$300. Purzycki joked that Delaware State had “a locker room with no lockers, a stadium with no fans, and a weight room with no weights.”

In Purzycki’s first season he lost the first six straight games before getting his first win. Del State’s final record was same as the year before, 2-9, but the Hornets held opponents to 226 fewer points. The team’s record then improved each year, from 4-7 to 7-3-1 to 8-2.

Purzycki eventually won over the players, according to the author, primarily due to three things: “He was authentic, he had a vision for the program, and he was a spectacular orator.”

Joe was selected 1983 MEAC Coach of the Year and named National Coach of the Year in Black College Football by the Washing-

ton D.C. Pigskin Club. By that time bigger schools began recruiting Purzycki, and he left for James Madison University in 1984. However, Del State continued to excel under new coach Bill Collick, who had been Joe’s defensive coordinator. Townsend later went to Florida A&M, and then to the University of Buffalo. He died of a heart attack in 2015 at the age of 73.

Purzycki coached at JMU through 1990, leaving with a record of 34–30–2. He left coaching to become a successful banking and credit card executive. He’s now retired at 72, but is in much demand as a speaker.

An interesting side note: Joe’s older brother, Mike, who played briefly for the New York Giants, is currently the mayor of Wilmington. He has proclaimed September as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Month over the last few years. Last year the event garnered much national attention when ESPN’s “First Take” production team came to Wilmington for a live broadcast.

It’s a fascinating story, not just about Purzycki and Townsend, but about an entire community that found common ground and came together to take a beleaguered program to national prominence.

— Tom Tarapacki

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POLISH CHEF

Polish Food 101 — Kielbasa

by Magdalena
Kasprzyk-Chevriaux

Sausage has always been an important part of Polish culinary culture, and top chefs and amateurs alike are now going back to its roots and rediscovering all its subtleties.

Polish sausages in the past

Meat preserved by smoking was mentioned by the medieval Polish chronicler Jan Długosz in the 15th century. The first known Polish cook book, published by Stanisław Czerniecki in the 17th century, contains several recipes for smoked hams, sausages and head cheeses. The look, shape, texture and taste of those ancient products was notably different from that of today. Pork was uncommon. Sausages and head cheeses were made from veal, but also from capons or venison — thanks to hunting in plentiful forests. Surprisingly, the dominant flavour was sweet and sour, and a wide range of exotic spices was added. For ages, sausages were made at every manor house. It is said that in the 18th century every renowned cook should know how to make at least 12 types of sausage. Commercial production began in the 19th century only was due to industrialization and urbanization. Today, Polish sausages are primarily made of pork meat. Other types of meat are also used, like goose, beef, lamb or venison although these sausages are not so easily available to the public, but rather at food festival or events catering to foodies.

Were sausages better during communism?

It is widespread belief that communism had an adverse effect on Polish culinary culture. Did this also affect the long-standing Polish tradition of sausage-making? A lot of Poles are of the opinion that the quality of sausages did not deteriorate during communism. At least according to Stanley Mariański, an author of Polish origin, who wrote in his book “Polish sausages – authentic recipes and instructions”:

In 1945 the government standardized Polish meat products using traditional and time proven recipes. In 1959 the government published an official guide for making meat products and sausages. Before the fall of the Berlin Wall, only the Polish government and local sausage makers knew the secrets to making the finest Polish sausages. When the political climate changed, so did the sausages, as Polish manufacturers

competing in the world market opted for faster and cheaper production over quality.

Those recipes, according to Mariański, were written by the best Polish professionals in meat science. The quality of sausages deteriorated after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Why is that? The meat industry started to use chemicals, meats of low quality and preservatives. Today an increasing number of Polish foodies are in search of the old taste and quality. They visit food festivals or urban markets seeking for small local producers making honest food.

When and how do Poles eat sausages?

On weekdays, parties or during Christmas or Easter, Polish cold hams and sausages are traditionally served in cuts with cold side accompaniments: pickled mushrooms, gherkins, spicy horseradish, ćwikła (a mixture of shredded beets and horseradish), tartare sauce, mustard, root vegetable salad. A lot of people eat open faced sandwiches (kanapki) and they top them with ham or sausages.

Some sausages are tastier when fried. Some say that a sausage is at its best when fried on a stick over a campfire — a habit which still persists in the summertime. However, barbecue became the new national sport after the fall of the Berlin Wall. In large cities, small towns and in the countryside, everyone grills all types of sausages.

Sausages are added to various soups, such as, for example, żurek (sour rye soup) or kapuśniak (cabbage soup).

Some versions of bigos – the traditional and delicious hunter’s stew with sauerkraut – call



for good quality sausage, in addition to other meats.

Kielbasa - Poland's Best-Known Fare

While in American English kielbasa refers to a specific smoked variety, in Polish it simply means sausage. The various denominations usually derive their name from the region they were originally made or the name of its main ingredients (kielbasa krakowska is

a Kraków-style sausage).

Because of climate conditions, Polish sausages (and hams) have been traditionally preserved by smoking. Sausages may be cold smoked dry and semi dry; hot smoked dry and semi dry (poached or baked); hot smoked and emulsified. There are other categories such as fresh sausages (called “white” sausages), head cheeses, liver sausages, liver pate sausages, and blood sausages.

What are the most famous varieties?

Lisiecka sausage (kielbasa lisiecka): it is smoked and baked, seasoned with pepper and garlic, made from high quality gammon. It has been made in the Lesser Poland region for at least 100 years. It is under the PGI protection since 2010. Its name comes from the name of Liszki, a small village located close to Kraków, the former capital of Poland.

Krakowska sausage (kielbasa krakowska) – one of the best sellers of Polish sausages: it is made from lean pork meat and is smoked, baked or boiled and dried. It usually is eaten in thin slices. It is available in food stores all over Poland, but originally comes from Kraków which, before World War II enjoyed a good reputation for sausages not only within the Polish territories but also abroad.

Kabanos - a very long and thin dry sausage. Its name comes from the “kabanek”, a young pig of no more than 250 lbs. in weight. Originally, kabanos was made from horsemeat, but today pork meat usually is used. It is eaten cold, as an appetizer for example.

Hunter’s sausage (kielbasa myśliwska) - hunting was common in the past and this sausage was the ideal snack for hunters. This sausage has quite a strong smoked taste and flavour, thanks to juniper berries.

Juniper sausage (kielbasa jalowcowa) - a sausage with the addition of crushed fresh juniper.

Metka - a cold, smoked, but not cooked sausage, used as a spread for bread.

Farmer’s sausage (kielbasa wiejska) – “wiejska” means rural in Polish language. Traditional recipes call for quality meat and spices; it should have large pieces of meat stuffing.

White sausage (biała kielbasa). A delicious sausage sold uncooked and unsmoked. It may be either boiled, fried, grilled (served with horseradish) or cooked in a sour rye soup (żurek). Some recipes – depending on the region - use spices such as garlic, marjoram, black and white pepper and salt.

Head cheese (salceson), has been made for years in Poland and was recognized as a delicacy in the past. Meat leftovers of butchering are used to make this type of sausage, which is very tasty and has a high nutritional value.

Blood sausage (kaszanka, kiszka, krupniok) - depending on the region; It is a mixture of pork blood, pig offal and groats (buckwheat or barley). It is flavoured with onion, black pepper or marjoram and traditionally served fried or grilled with the addition of onion, accompanied with sauerkraut or apples.

HOMEMADE SWOJSKA POLISH KIELBASA

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INGREDIENTS

- 4 1/2 lbs pork butt
- 1 lb beef chuck
- 1 lb pork belly; or back fat
- 3 garlic cloves; large, pressed
- 2 tsp dried marjoram
- 2 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 Tbsp kosher salt; plus more to taste, if needed
- 1 1/3 tsp Cure #1; see notes
- 1 cup ice water

INSTRUCTIONS

- Grind pork, beef and pork belly/back fat on a medium size plate, 3/16"-1/4"). Add the ice water, all of the spices and mix well.
- Stuff into small size hog casings (about 1 inch unstuffed), tie into rings and hang to dry at room temperature for 2-3 hours.
- Preheat smoker to 140°F, or 150°F-160°F max if your smoker can't get that low.
- Hang sausages in the smoker and dry for 30-60 minutes, until the skin is dry to touch. Then apply smoke for 3-4 hours.
- Remove sausages once the internal temperature has reached 154°F. If the internal temperature is not rising too well after 3-4 hours of smoking, raise the temperature to 170°F-175°F. You may have to go to 195°F if necessary.
- Alternatively, poach the sausages in 167°F water for 25-30 minutes or until the internal temperature is at least 154°F. Poaching is a much quicker and more effective method.
- Cool the sausage down and store in a refrigerator or a freezer.
- Cooling can be achieved by placing sausage in an ice bath to cool it down quickly. It will result in a fuller, more plump product.
- Alternatively, you may let the sausage cool down at room temperature and then refrigerate. This will result in the sausage less plump and slightly wrinkled, but this the preferred method. Ice water bath removes smoke residue from surface making the sausage less smoky in flavor and pale in color.
- A reader suggested another effective cooling technique — placing the sausage flat on a cool surface, like a counter top.

NOTES

Cure #1, also called pink salt #1 or Prague Powder is available from local sausage supply stores or online, for example here: Hoosier Hill Farm Prague Powder Curing Salt. Make sure it is Cure #1, not #2. Cure #2 is used for making dry cured meats and sausages, like salami, sopressata and similar.

NUTRITION

Calories: 735kcal | Carbohydrates: 0g | Protein: 64g | Fat: 51g | Saturated Fat: 18g | Cholesterol: 233mg | Sodium: 1975mg | Potassium: 1169mg | Fiber: 0g | Sugar: 0g | Vitamin A: 20IU | Vitamin C: 0.5mg | Calcium: 55mg | Iron: 4.7mg

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THE PONDERING POLE

Ewelina i Ewelina

by Edward Poniewaz

How about Ewelina for a Polish girl name? It can be Anglicized to Evalina or Evalena, Eve or Eva for short, and Evie or Lina as a nickname. Or, crazy I know, just leave it the way it is spelled in Polish. This edition is a tale of two Ewelinas.

The Pondering Pole is often described as featuring “interesting and successful people, places, and events that have a Polish connection.” Successful is an appropriate description when winning the 2019 Smithsonian American Ingenuity Awards for Life Sciences. **Dr. Ewelina Mamcarz** along with **Dr. Stephen Gottschalk** are the recipients of this honor for developing a treatment for babies born without an immune system. Kids with this kind of biological deficiency are typically described as having the “bubble boy disease.”

Mamcarz was born in Poland and received her degree at the Medical University of Silesia (Slaska Akademia Medyczna) in Katowice, Poland. She is a fellow in the Bone Marrow Transplant Department at St. Jude Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and led the clinical trial for this project. She has a number of publications on this and other topics, and is very optimistic about the results so far.

“All of these patients were able to come off of isolation and they’ve returned home with immune sys-

tems that were fully functional,” she said in an interview on BioSpace.com. “We had patients come to us with very severe infections and they cleared them through the emergence of this newly developed immune system...They are home, some have started daycare, and they are making antibodies in response to vaccines just like we all do.”

Congratulations to Dr. Ewelina Mamcarz for her great work in this important area of medical research and for her contributions to making our health and wellbeing better.

Searching for Ewelina Mamcarz in Wikipedia popped up a number of other Ewelinas and this one especially intrigued me. I have never read anything by the novelist Honore de Balzac, a famous and influential French writer in the first half of the 1800s, but his relationship and later love affair with **Ewelina Hanska** is super interesting.

Ewelina Rzewuska was a rich Polish woman of noble birth who married — more as a strategic arrangement than out of love — Wacław Hanski, also a Pole, who was very rich and a nobleman. Hanski’s estate comprised 21,000 acres near the city of Wierchowina in the Russian partitioned Kiev Governate in Ukraine. Already possessing an interest in literature and philosophy, Ewelina read and became infatuated with the writings of de Balzac and in 1832, she wrote an anonymous letter expressing ad-



Dr. Ewelina Mamcarz. Honored with pediatric hematologist-oncologist for developing a treatment for babies born without an immune system.

miration for him and praising his writing. “In 1833, they met for the first time, in Switzerland. Soon afterward he began writing the novel *Seraphita*, which includes a character based on Hanska.” Their relationship continued and then in 1841, Wacław Hanski, twenty years older than Ewelina, passed away.

The association between Balzac and Hanska began with inspiration

and eventually progressed to collaboration. At least one expert has maintained that his “greatness” only began after his relationship with Hanska and can be seen in a number of his works: She can be seen as the model for La Fosseue, Mme Claes, Modesta Mignon, Ursule Mirouet, Adelina Houlot, and especially Eugenie Grandet and Mme de Mortsauf. There is less agreement among scholars on whether she was also the inspiration for more negative characters such as Fedora and Lady Dudley, as Balzac seems to have used her mostly as a model for more positive personas. His works also mention numerous characters named Eve or Eveline, and have several dedications to her.

In 1850 Ewelina Hanska and Honore de Balzac married and moved to Paris where they lived until his death in 1860. Power comes in many forms but the power that Ewelina Hanska had with Honore de Balzac was immense. Theirs was a great love story that sparked unforgettable literary prose and characters. Maybe this is farfetched, but based on what I know now, Balzac is almost as much (at least indirectly) for the Poles as he is for the French and this is something I am curious to explore and confirm. If

you have already explored it, please share your thoughts.

Polish or not?

Wandering around in the Sam’s Club meat section, I saw packaged sausages with the name “Kiolbassa” stamped on them in a refrigerated case. I was thinking this was just Polish sausage but it is the name of the smoked meats maker, since 1949, in San Antonio, Texas (www.kiolbassa.com). Not assuming anything, I wrote them to inquire whether the founders of the company were Polish. They replied, “Yes sir, our founders are of Polish descent.” Check out the website and the sausage (I don’t know if all of the Sam’s Clubs carry it) which I recommend you try.



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

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

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WESTERN NEW YORK

Pulaski Police Present Scholarships

The **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo & Western New York** held its Annual Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew, N.Y., this past December.

Newly elected officers sworn in included: Dave Gorski (pres.); Marty Bochinski (v.p.); Jerry Imiola (2nd v.p.); Darryl Borawski (rec. sec.); Andrew Kozakiewicz (treas.); Paul Manno (fin. sec.); and William Glendinning (sgt.-at-arms).

Eight scholarships were also awarded. Recipients included: Shelby Simmeth (ECC – social science); Brandon Dunz (Univ. P.A. – engineering); Joseph Gnorek (ECC – mechanical engineering); Chloe Maciejewski (Geneseo – physical therapy); Alanna Dibble (Penn State – finance); Conner Fatzinger (ECC – engineering); Mark Konczal (Canisius – accounting); and Laura Zolnowski (ECC – general study).

Presidents Awards were given to David Dudzial and Donald Waddell for their outstanding and dedicated Service to the Association. The “Man of the Year” award was given to Darryl Borawski for his outstanding and dedicated service to the Pulaski organization and to the community at large.

Genealogy Group Finds New Home

The **Polish Genealogical Society of New York State** initiated meetings at its new home, The Erie 1 BOCES, Building “B” at 355 Harlem Rd. in West Seneca, in January.

The group will now meet there every second Thursday from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The BOCES complex is directly across the street from the new

SPCA facility. Building B is the building closest to Harlem Rd., and parking is directly in front of the building’s main entrance. The PG-SNYS meeting room is the first on the left upon entry.

Meetings dates and topics for 2020 include:

- Feb. 13. Research assistance
- Mar. 12. Denise Oliansky: “Visiting my Grandfather’s Relatives in Poland”
- Apr. 9. Holy Thursday. No meeting.
- May 14. Research assistance
- Jun. 11. Sophie Hodorowicz Knab: “Wearing the Letter P”
- Aug. 13. Sandra Porter: “Sharing Your Family History Research”
- Sep. 10. Regina Hanchak: “Tracing My Parent’s Steps From World War II and Beyond”
- Oct. 8. Jeanette Sheliga: “The ‘D’ in B-M-D”
- Nov. 12. Polish Christmas Craft
- Dec. 10. Member Christmas dinner

For more information, visit PG-SNYS.org.

PACWNY Receives County Grant

James Lawicki, president of Western New York Division of the **Polish American Congress**, announced Erie County has awarded the PAC a \$3,000 grant for community projects that promote Polish culture and topics relevant to Poland and the area’s Pol-Am organizations. Lawicki thanked Legislator John Mills, who advocated for the funding. Mills said the PACWNY “has done an incredible job celebrating and preserving the history of our region’s strong Polish roots.”

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

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or 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 of the PAJF” (Any amount up to \$49.99); “Individual” (\$50.00); “Family” (\$100.00); “Sustaining” (\$250.00); “Patron” (\$500.00);



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PAJF

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Wallace Kosinski, Fraternal Leader, Scholar and Athlete

Wallace Kosinski, 89, of Painesville, Ohio, died September 13, 2019 at TriPoint Medical Center in Concord.

He was born October 26, 1929, in Bloomfield, N.J., the youngest of John and Albina Kosinski's eight children. His parents were immigrants from Poland, and his father was one of the founders of the largest Polish fraternal organizations in New Jersey.

Kosinski graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1946. In fall of 1948, Kosinski left his native state to head for Ohio and Hiram College, and though he had never played high school sports, he starred as a quarterback on the foot-

ball team, eventually being inducted into the college's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989. Kosinski's powerful passing arm caught the attention of Paul Brown; he was also scouted as a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians. A contract with the Cleveland Browns was negated because the Korean War had broken out in 1950 and Kosinski faced military service upon graduation in 1952.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force. Kosinski was fluent in the Polish language and spent the bulk of his military years in Germany serving in an intelligence unit as a Polish language specialist in the USAF Security Service. Through her brother, Kosinski met

his future wife, Mary Fyllis Falcone, of Painesville. He came home from leave in 1955 and married his sweetheart in St. Mary's Church, Painesville. Before her untimely passing in 2004, the couple was married shy of 50 years.

The Kosinskis were frequent visitors to Poland. In 1980, they were living in Poland while the Professor was conducting research at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow on a Kosciuszko Foundation Grant. During this time, they witnessed the birth of Solidarity at the Gdansk shipyards and saw firsthand the crushing of the Polish freedom movement in December 1981 with the imposition of martial law. Ko-

sinski met and interviewed many influential Polish leaders, including Lech Walesa.

A 1952 graduate of Hiram College, Kosinski obtained a master's degree at John Carroll University and a doctorate from Case Western Reserve University. He began his teaching career at Chardon High School and later spent 30 years in the history department at John Carroll University. He had an active interest in the Cleveland Polish community and became involved in the Cleveland Society of Poles from 1977 to 1987, holding various offices including President. In recognition of his distinguished contribution to Cleveland's Polish American

community, Professor Kosinski received the Pulaski Award from the Polonia Foundation of Ohio, and in 1992 was honored as The Cleveland Society "Good Joe."

A professional photographer for 25 years, he was also a trained violinist and one of his greatest joys was listening to his extensive collection of classical music recordings.

Donations in his memory may be made to the St. Gabriel Church Marian Shrine, c/o St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 9925 Johnnycake Ridge Road, Concord, OH 44060, or Hiram College Athletic Football program, c/o Hiram College, 11715 Garfield Rd., Hiram OH 44234.

Daniel Buczek, Professor, World War II Veteran

Daniel Stephen Buczek, professor of history emeritus at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut died peacefully on Jan. 12, 2020.

Professor Buczek, the son of Polish immigrant parents, Jan and Marianna (Kubicki) Buczek, was born in Dunkirk, N.Y. on Sept. 9, 1923 and grew up in Dunkirk. He attended both St. Hedwig's Parochial School and Public School #6 and graduated from Dunkirk High School, class of 1941. He then matriculated to Canisius College, Buffalo, N.Y. for two years before being drafted into military service during World War II.

Because of his facility with the Polish language, he was chosen to be trained in Russian, a kindred language, at Oklahoma A&M university in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

After nine months of intensive training, he was assigned as a Polish-Russian Interpreter with the Military Police Prisoner of War Processing Company. His duty was to prepare the prisoners of war to

return to civilian life once hostilities ended.

After the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944, he was transferred to an infantry regiment of the Eighth Division. This division literally walked across Germany to await the meeting with the advancing Russian forces near the city of Schwerin.

Prof. Buczek was again assigned as a Polish-Russian interpreter for the regimental commander of his regiment. In conversations with the Russian commanders, he helped formulate agreements about temporary boundary lines between Allied and Russian Forces. He then spent the first four months of 1945 preparing displaced persons for return to civilian life.

He was discharged in December 1945 and in September 1946 re-enrolled at Canisius College from which he graduated in the class of 1948 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in History and the Classics. His post-graduate education was

pursued at Fordham University, the Bronx, New York City from which he completed studies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Medieval History in 1958.

Prof. Buczek began a forty-year teaching and writing career in 1950 at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ then in 1955 transferred to Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn. for the next thirty-five years. During his academic career, Prof. Buczek served as Kosciuszko Foundation Research Professor of History at Warsaw (Poland) University from 1970-71, then as Visiting Professor of History at St. John's University, Queens, New York City from 1973-74.

After retirement from active teaching in 1990, Prof. Buczek became interested in the history of the Polish immigration to the United States for the purpose of overcoming the stereotype of the "dumb Polack." He had published three books and a dozen articles on the subject in professional historical journals.

Raymond Wojtowicz, Retired Wayne Co. Treasurer

DETROIT — Former Wayne County treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz died Jan. 8, 2020 at the age of 90.

During his lengthy tenure, the Hamtramck native earned praise for working with distressed homeowners facing tax foreclosure.

Alisha Bell, chair of the Wayne County Commission, described Wojtowicz as "dedicated" to his job.

"He was a dedicated fiscal steward, overseeing billions of county tax dollars during his long run as Wayne County Treasurer," Bell said in an emailed statement. "He was a steady and stabilizing hand, helping guide Wayne County through some very tough financial times during his tenure."

Wayne County Executive Warren Evans also commented on the retired official's passing.

"I am saddened to hear of the passing of former Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz who admirably served our 43 communities for nearly 40 years, in-

cluding his beloved hometown of Hamtramck," Evans tweeted.

When seeking re-election in 2008, Wojtowicz touted his experience in The News, including working with 20 nonprofits to give assistance to people unable to pay their property taxes.

"Every day, there are issues that come up where people need assistance," he told the publication at the time. "I enjoy doing (the job) for the benefit for all of the people in Wayne County."

Wojtowicz retired as county treasurer Dec. 1, 2015, after nearly 40 years in office. He was 86 at the time. A Democrat, he was last elected county treasurer in 2012.

He previously served as mayor of Hamtramck.

A graduate of St. Ladislaus High School and Great Lakes College, Wojtowicz also served as a Wayne County Community College trustee. He was a married father of five children and a grandfather, according to *Detroit News* archives.

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Rev. Anthony J. Legarski, Navy Veteran, Served Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

The Rev. Anthony J. Legarski, 61, Hollidaysburg, Pa. passed away at UPMC Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh, after a brief illness.

He was born in Somerset, son of the late John G. and Yolanda B. (Lapina) Legarski.

Fr. Legarski graduated from Somerset Area High School in 1975, then Saint Francis University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in

political science. He completed his seminary studies in 1983 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity Degree and a Master of Arts Degree in systematic theology. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in 1983.

He attended the U.S. Naval Chaplain School in Newport, R.I., commissioned as a lieutenant ju-

nior grade in the Naval Reserves in 1990. For eight years, he served on active duty in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps with tours of duty at Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.; Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, N.J. He was honorably discharged from active duty March 1, 1999, with the rank of lieutenant commander. Fr. Legarski returned to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in March 1999.

Fr. Legarski served as a priest in the Altoona-Johnstown Catholic Diocese for more than 36 years, most recently serving St. Mary Catholic Church, Hollidaysburg for the last 14 years.

He was very active as Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Star of the Sea Council 4245 in Hollidaysburg, where he was a 4th degree knight. He also served as chaplain for the Catholic Daughters of America and served on the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal and Permanent Deacon Review Board.

Fr. Legarski enjoyed participating in many civic activities. He was honored with the presentation of an award for his distinguished service to country and community.

Donations in his memory may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church, 312 Clark St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.



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DANCE TIME

In with the New

by Jennifer Pijanowski

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo Polka Boosters welcomed members and guests for a beautiful Christmas party at Polish Falcons in Depew. A fantastic family style dinner was served as friends broke bread together celebrating their mutual love of polka music. **Special Delivery**



Deborah Peacock and Michael Kuber at Arty's.

kept the crowd dancing the evening away with polkas, waltzes, American music, and sing along Christmas carols and kolędy. The staff at Polish Falcons exceeded all expectations with décor, food, and friendliness. The club meets at the location for their monthly meetings, but the hall is transformed into a holiday wonderland for this banquet. Buffalo Polka Boosters is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year so keep your eyes open for upcoming celebration announcements to honor the landmark year.

HELPING ST. LUKE'S. **Special Delivery** spread their Christmas cheer by hosting a Kolędy Sing Along and Christmas Dance that encompassed the giving nature of Christmas. **St. Luke's Mission of Mercy** received several van loads of donations thanks to the generous hearts of those attending this event. Clothing, toys, personal care items, household items, and food were taken to the mission located on the east side of Buffalo to be distributed to many in need. St. Luke's is an independent mission that depends solely on volunteers and donations to over 10,000 families per year. The beautiful kolędy and upbeat polkas of **Special Delivery** had the crowd celebrating the Christmas spirit, especially as we were given the opportunity to share opłatek with one another. I have such an appreciation for **Special Delivery** that the band members utilize this event to benefit a worthwhile organization particularly during the holidays. I

cannot think of a better organization than St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. This Christmas season alone, they provided 20,800 people with seven meals each, 3,000 children with toys, and 1,000 adults with Christmas gifts. I would also like to send a special thank you to many of my polka friends who personally donated to help me fill 50 stockings for children of St. Luke's. This has become a favorite event for me as we begin celebrating the most wonderful time of the year.

NOT THE SAME. It was a bitter-sweet get together at Arty's for their yearly kolędy with the **Buffalo Touch** and friends as the band was mourning the loss of original band member **Mike Nowakowski**. The band carried on in the yearly tradition with Mike definitely watching over in spirit. The devastating loss of their bandmate and friend was obvious as he has been a stable presence in the polka community



Richie Kurdziel and father-in-law Casey Kliszak got a chance to play kolędy together at Arty's.

for over 50 years. Mike was known to all as a genuine, loveable, kind person who treasured polka music and the relationships he had devel-



Charlene Krauski and Jim Nowaczewski of Phocus, at Potts' New Year's Eve party.

oped over the years. Polka friends and family joined in cheerful spirit to celebrate Mike's life and the upcoming Christmas season. Arty's provides a welcoming environment — no one is a stranger once they walk into this corner bar. The ambience is reminiscent of a long-awaited family reunion as locals are jammed into the historic gin



Barb Pinkowski and Joe — Buffalo Polka Booster Christmas Party.

mill of Buffalo's Polonia. Thoughts and prayers remain with Mike's friends and family as they continue to mourn a life gone much too soon. Those memories that were made with him will continue to become some of our most cherished thoughts.

DANCING IN THE NEW YEAR. Polka music could be heard throughout Cheektowaga as a new decade arrived. Fans gathered at both **Potts Banquet Hall** and **Millennium Hotel** to welcome in 2020. **Special Delivery** and **Concertina All Stars** provided non-stop entertainment to those attending festivities at Millennium Hotel. The evening included an endless Polish buffet, open bar, polka music, and American standards to keep the diverse crowd on the dance floor all evening long. The hotel offered overnight accommodations and a spectacular brunch before guests departed home on January 1.

I talked to several people who attended the event, and they raved not only about the stellar entertainment but also the accommodating staff at the hotel. Millennium Hotel has come to know our polka family very well as the IPA Convention has been hosted there for the past several years as have annual Dyn-gus Day events. The staff looks forward to the familiar faces and says that polka events are some of their favorite events to work at the hotel.

Meanwhile, Potts banquet hall, a very familiar spot for any polka loving fan that lives or has visited Western New York kicked off their New Year's bash. The Potts family transformed the familiar hall into a festive New Year's cocktail party with music provided by **Phocus** and **DJ Tadj Szymczak**, from the Buffalo Touch. Besides six hours of non-stop music, attendees dined on prime rib, sea bass, chicken cordon bleu and a host of side dishes. Danny Potts and his family put their heart and soul into providing the utmost in hospitality to polka fans. The crowd danced into the wee hours of the morning as they beckoned 2020 with a champagne toast.

After a few hours of sleep (and probably even less for members of the band and staff), polka music was playing once again as the Potts



Chris Tanski and Pat Mazur — Buffalo Polka Booster Christmas Party.

Banquet Hall hosted a Hangover dance with **Phocus**. Many who attended New Year's events as well as those who spent a quiet evening at home, came out to enjoy some cheery polka music and bid friends a Happy New Year wish. The members of **Phocus** didn't show a lack of sleep as they energetically played for those taking to the dance floor.

CPA-USPA TO FEATURE OSPB. **Cleveland Polka Association** and **United States Polka Association** announce their joint dance on Sat., Feb. 22, 2020. The event will feature **Old School Polka Band** with music from 7:00-11:00 p.m. The dance takes place at Holy Spirit Party Center 5500 W 54th St Parma, Ohio and admission is \$13.00. The venue serves up a wonderful variety of food and a vast array of beverages are available for purchase. Holy Spirit Party Center is located approximately 10 minutes from the Rockside Road area in Independence, Oh., so there are plenty of close hotels for overnight accommodations. You can find out more information or make table reservations by contacting Barb (440) 886-6157 or Elaine (216) 496-0223.



Mike Nowakowski

TOP SHELF PREMIER. **Top Shelf** is hosting its Inaugural Dance at Potts Banquet Hall, Sat., Feb. 8, 2020. Its appearance has been highly anticipated since the announcement of the newly-established band in 2019. An enormous amount of talent can be seen on the stage on Feb. 8 as the band roster includes Lenny Gomulka, Jackie Libera, Frankie

Liszka, Al Piatkowski, Larry Trojak, and Jimmy Weber. This lineup equates to a polka dream team and I am counting the days until this incredible event. Plan on arriving early as this is going to be a sell-out with polka fans traveling to Buffalo to be a part of the "Horn If Your Honky" Dance. Door will open at 6:00 p.m. with music beginning at 7:00 p.m. Admission is just \$13.00 and reservations can be made by calling (716) 826-6575. There are plenty of hotels located within walking distance of Potts Banquet Hall for those of you planning to attend from out of town. Hope to see many smiling polka friends to welcome this stellar band.

DEALING IN WHEELING. The 9th Annual **Wheeling Polka Festival** will be held March 27-29, 202 at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. The lineup includes **Lenny Gomulka**, **Ampol-Aires**, **John Gora & Gorale**, **Jimmy K's All-Star Band**, and **Polka Family**. Packages are available for the festival by calling Deb Jones (740) 310-7023 or emailing wheelingpolkafest@gmail.com. Polka fans rave about this festival as it is held at a beautiful venue in the northern panhandle of the state just south of Pittsburgh. Oglebay is a Wheeling tradition which has been known for its generous hospitality over the past 100 years. The property includes 2,000 acres of year-round activities including golf, horseback riding, tennis, museums, walking trails, and swimming.

Wilson Lodge, where the polka festival takes place, is perched on a hilltop section of Oglebay overlooking Schenk Lake and Crispin golf course. The hospitable folks of my hometown guarantee you a memorable weekend at the Wheeling Polka Festival. Make your plans now to attend this polka fan's dream weekend.

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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 Szec	1948		Musician / Vocalist (Dynasonics)	Pennsylvania
6	Ryan Lucotch	1980		Musician (Drummer)	Pennsylvania
7	Mike Turik	1955		Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
7	Eddie Biegaj	1962		Musician / Vocalist / IJ	New Jersey
12	Patty Jakubiak	1940	1/27/11	Musician / Vocalist / DJ	Connecticut
12	Walt Grollor	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	Chicago
20	Barefoot Becky			Bandleader / Vocalist / Bandleader	Iowa
22	Ray Malach	1941		Musician / Arranger (Malac Bros.)	New Jersey
23	Jo Jo Wisniewski			Polka D. J.	Irona, Pa.
23	Jerry Halkowski			Musician / DJ	Wisconsin
24	T.K. Frank Proszowski			Promoter / Distributor	Pennsylvania
24	Eddie Zavaski, Jr.	1954		Musician / Vocalist	Connecticut
24	Matt Lewandowski			Musician / Vocalist	New York
25	Casey Siewierski	1921	1995	Musician / Bandleader	Chicago
26	Ted Szymanski	1948		Musician / Bandleader (Special Delivery)	Buffalo
26	Joe Fiedor	1931	11/12/77	Musician / DJ / Promoter	Pennsylvania
26	Tom Andrasick	1961		Bandleader / Vocalist (PA Express)	Pennsylvania
27	Teresa Zapolska		5/8/12	Musician / Vocalist / DJ	New York
28	John Salov	1944		Musician (Polka Quads)	Pennsylvania
28	Joe Godina			Polka D. J. / I.J.	Pennsylvania
29	Joe Dipiat	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

- Golden Tones VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
- Polka All Stars Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Nu Soundz Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
- Jeanne Music Polish Social Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763

FEBRUARY 8

- Dennis Polisky St. Joe's Polish Society Colchester, Conn. 6-10 (860) 537-2550
- Top Shelf Potts Banquet Hall Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-11 (716) 675-6588
- Eddie Forman Elks Englewood, Fla. 5-9 (941) 474-1404
- Dan Witucki German Club Pinellas Park, Fla. 5-9 (727) 541-6782

FEBRUARY 9

- Joe Stanky VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
- John Stevens American Legion Mechanicsburg, Pa. (717) 766-4412
- Eddie Forman Polish Club Vero Beach, Fla. 2-5 (518) 429-8995
- Melotones Polish Club Belleview, Fla. 2-5 (352) 854-6193
- Sounds Of The South Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Polka All Stars Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
- Jeanne Music Polish Social Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763

FEBRUARY 10

- Eddie Forman The Villages, Fla. 6-9 (352) 259-5520

FEBRUARY 14

- The Knewz Plaza Hotel Wausau, Wisc. (715) 845-4341

FEBRUARY 15

- Eddie Forman Pulaski Club Holiday, Fla. 5-9 (727) 934-0900

FEBRUARY 16

- Dennis Polisky PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367

- John Stanky VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
- Polka Classics Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Northern Sounds Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
- Jeanne Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- Heroes. Polish Cultural Foundation. Clark, N.J. 2-6 (201) 694-2330

FEBRUARY 22

- Jimmy K Our Lady of Scapular Wyandotte, Mich. 7:30-11:30 (734) 324-2440

FEBRUARY 23

- Special Delivery Our Mother of Rosary Cathedral Lancaster, N.Y. 2-6 (716) 685-5766
- John Stevens VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
- Northern Lites Polish Club Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- Florida Generations Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908

FEBRUARY 27

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

FEBRUARY 28

- Joe Oberaitis Samsula Lodge New Smyrna Beach, Fla. 5-9 (386) 427-1410

FEBRUARY 29

- Joe Oberaitis Samula Lodge New

- Smyrna Beach, Fla. 1-6 (386) 427-1410
- Jimmy Sturr Polish Social Club Port. St. Lucie, Fla. 1-4 (772) 871-9551

MARCH 1

- Swingmasters VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
- Sounds of The South Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 894-9908
- Polka All Stars Pulaski Club Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30 (727) 934-0900
- Jeanne Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763
- March 7
- John Gora PACC Ludlow, Mass. 7-11 (413) 592-0367
- The Knewz Potts Banquet Hall Cheektowaga, N.Y. 8-12 (716) 675-6588
- Box On Pulaski Club Holiday, Fla. 4:30-7:30 (727) 934-0900

MARCH 8

- Dennis Polisky/Lenny Gomulka/Eddie Forman PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-7 (413) 519-7014
- Golden Tones VFW Dupont, Pa. 2-6 (570) 654-9104
- Box On Polish Club Vero Beach, Fla. 2-5 (518) 429-8995
- Polka All Stars Polish Club St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6 (727) 868-9908
- Melotones Polish Club Belleview, Fla. 2-5 (352) 854-6193
- Jeanne Music Polish Club Hudson, Fla. 2-5 (727) 868-9763



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Hrukus Hellraisers Nab IPA's Joe Jozwiak Award

COHOES, N.Y. — When the International Polka Association (IPA) instituted the Joe Jozwiak Award (then called the Special Achievement Award), its intent was clear: for the award to be “bestowed upon an individual or group of individuals who made a significant contribution or endeavor to enhance the promotion of polka music.” This year, 30 years after Connecticut’s Ann Stanko won the inaugural award, it is being presented — for the first time — not to an individual but to a group. And not just any group, but a select group from the Albany/Cohoes, N.Y. area who have endeared themselves to the hearts of polka fans and musicians around the country, epitomize what it is to be a polka supporter, and have gone to great lengths to keep polkas alive

their appearances. Side note: today, those Hellraiser pins, complete with member photo (which really underscore the years that have passed), are a literal badge of honor and are treasured by musicians nationwide.

THE CORE GROUP of Hellraisers grew to include Frank and Doreen Valcik, Jackie McBride, Ray Lis (Mr. Bad), Joe Kochan (Mr. Bad #2), Jim Kochan, Joe and Doris Brozowski, Tim Raymond, Gerry Rymanowski, George Czamara, Fred Bulinski, Gil Ziemski, Debbie Dobrucki, Linda Howansky, and more. Their presence at events was unmistakable (bells, whistles, and horns were a regular part of their accompaniment); their support was undeniable and came to be expected.



Charlie “Tuna” Strylka



Debbie and Gerry Rymanowski.

events, some 28 years ago they began bringing in out-of-town groups to the Ukrainian American Citizens Club (their home base) for their Halloween polka weekends. Those weekend are highly anticipated by locals and out-staters alike and have, in the past, served as great fund-raising opportunities for those in polkas who are in need of financial assistance.

Despite the high caliber of musicians at work in polkas today, there’s little doubt that the music could not survive without the support of a dedicated fan base. All those years ago, Hrukus Hellraisers chose polkas as their favorite genre of music and have continued to show unflinching support for it. Never asking anything in return for their efforts, and never doing things as individuals, it is truly fitting that they become the first-ever group to win the Joe Jozwiak Award.

IPA Director Mark Trzepacz



Mark “Big Staś” Clark, Doris Brozowski, and Linda Libera

will present the 2020 Joe Jozwiak Award to a group (of course) of Hrukus Hellraisers who will be attending Top Shelf Polkas’ inaugural dance at Potts Banquets in Buffalo on February 8th. One has to believe that Joe Jozwiak will be smiling down — maybe ringing a bell.



“The Captain” Bill Dobrucki (left) and Bill Bybel.

in New York’s Capital Region. They call themselves Hrukus Hellraisers and one would be hard-pressed to find a nicer, harder-working, more committed and, yes, “unique” group of people anywhere.

The roots of Hrukus Hellraisers date back to 1976 and a Halloween dance being held at the Albany Polish Community Center. There, the late IPA Hall of Famer Jan Cyman, started calling a rag-tag group consisting of Bill and Doris Dobrucki (The Captain and Mrs. Captain), Bill Bybel, Mark “Big Staś” Clark, and Charlie “Tuna” Strylka, “a bunch of Horilka (Ukrainian for vodka) Hellraisers.” The name morphed into “Hrukus Hellraisers” and seemed appropriate, so The Captain took it upon himself to make official looking pins for the group. Feeling that the bands they supported were at least as crazy as they were, pins were made for the musicians as well, and presented at

As mentioned, the Hellraisers loved to take their show on the road, becoming staples at literally every festival held within a five-hour drive of their home base. A friendship they’d struck with Hank and Pat Mazurek of Buffalo’s Broadway Grill fame, would result in the Hrukus calling “The Grill” their home away from home, making regular visits there for “East Meets West” weekends and prompting their attendance at and mention on “Live Wire,” where their name — and the Broadway Grill bell being rung by The Captain — will forever be remembered.

Today, some 43 years after their start, most of that core group of Hrukus Hellraisers still avidly supports polkas throughout the region and has drawn the respect of area polka lovers who appreciate all that they do for the music and its importance to the area. Not content with simply attending polka

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 This serves as the group's major fund raiser for the year!



“Welcome Home” Program Connects Americans with Roots in Poland

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The Polish American Foundation of Connecticut is based in New Britain and for over twenty years has provided administrative support to a variety of organizations serving the large Polish community in the New Britain area. The work of one of their members, Dorena Wasik, has expanded their scope to provide services to a small town in north-east Poland-Kadzidlo.

Wasik is the director of a PAF program called “Welcome Home.” It has the distinction of being the only PAF program directed toward Americans with Polish roots.

“For many years, I was the only person at PAF meetings who did not speak Polish, so they had to change the language of the meeting to English,” said Wasik. “I started the Welcome Home program because I was interested in my Polish roots, in particular genealogy and Polish language, but also all the other things such as food, traditions and folk art. No one else in the area was focusing on these things. In the eight years since I started my program, more people and groups are offering some of these things.”

Genealogy is gaining in popularity, not only in the United States, but all over the world, including Poland. It is genealogy that brought Kadzidlo and the Polish American Foundation together. In 2015,



The PAF trip arrived in Kadzidlo in time for the Kurpie Wedding.

Wasik journeyed to Kadzidlo in search of information on her grandfather, Adam Waszyk, who was born in the village of Gibalka in the church parish of Kadzidlo. She found nothing. The church records disappeared years before and no one in the village remembered her grandfather. With nowhere else to go, Wasik found herself in the office of the mayor of Kadzidlo, Dariusz Lukaszewski.

As it turns out, the mayor had family that went to New Haven, Conn. Over the years, the mayor’s family had lost touch with their American family. Upon her return to the Connecticut, Wasik found the mayor’s family and put them back

into communication. The mayor promised he would return the favor in the future. This is where the story begins.

IN 2016, AS PART OF THE WELCOME HOME PROGRAM, the PAF organized a trip to Poland, and included Kadzidlo in the itinerary. The mayor lived up to his promise and arranged a celebration for the group at the outdoor museum in Kadzidlo, which included regional food, drink, and entertainment. Over the next two years, Wasik visited Kadzidlo several times. As part of her Polish citizenship application, the mayor contributed a reference letter for her applica-

tion. In 2018, Wasik and her friend, Aleksandra Kacprzak, a Polish genealogist, decided it was time for another PAF trip to Poland, but this trip would spend several days in Kadzidlo learning about the folk art and culture of the area and attending the annual Kurpie Wedding event. PAF president Andre Blaszczynski agreed.

Part of the PAF mission is to promote the immigrant culture of Connecticut and spending several days in Poland learning about the Kurpie culture of that area of Poland fulfills that mission. Many of Connecticut’s Polish immigrants originally came from the area of Kadzidlo. Aleksandra then made another suggestion: would the Polish American Foundation sponsor a regional genealogy conference in Kadzidlo? Aleksandra is part of a newly formed group of professional genealogists, officially known as the Association of Polish Professional Genealogists. They would do the organizing if the PAF would be the sponsor. The church records for the parish in Kadzidlo are gone. The only genealogical information remaining is the cemetery, a few scraps of information such as a 1915 list of horses taken by the Russian army from the village, and scattered individuals who remember their family history. This was a harder sell to Blaszczynski to approve as a PAF project, but Wasik convinced him that it furthers Polish culture by providing a forum where she can connect second and third generation Americans with lost Polish relatives. A new Polish American Foundation mission is formed-to bridge the years and the distance that separated families.

The daylong conference was held in May 2019 at the library in Kadzidlo. The topics covered genealogy along with the history and traditions of Kadzidlo and Kurpie culture. Over 100 people attended the conference over the course of the day. Wasik gave a presentation instructing Polish genealogists how to find their family in the United States. She finished her presentation with a series of messages from Americans with roots from the area of Kadzidlo. These messages consisted of the names of the ancestors and the villages where they lived. Wasik hoped that someone at the conference would recognize a name.

In November 2019, her hope was fulfilled. One of the conference attendees contacted her that one of the Americans on her list was a DNA match to him and he was going to contact the American. Unfortunately, the conference was in Polish, but if you understand Polish, you can watch the conference on YouTube.



Dorena Wasik, who started the Welcome Home program, was given honorary citizenship for her work in bringing the American and Polish townships together.

In June of 2019, the PAF trip arrived in Kadzidlo in time for the Kurpie Wedding, a well-attended tourist event. Each year, a young couple from the Kadzidlo area has a traditional Kurpie wedding, and everyone is invited. At the Wedding, honorary citizenship to Kadzidlo is presented to several people. For the PAF trip, one of those honorary citizenships went to the Polish American Foundation’s Wasik.

After the Wedding, the group spent several days in Kadzidlo learning folk art and regional cooking. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the town library. The Americans came with piles of English language children’s books — a donation to the library which had no English language books. English is taught to the school children in Kadzidlo. The last day ended with a kielbasa cook-out. In preparation for the trip, Aleksandra located Polish family members for some of the PAF travelers. She invited them to the cook-out, which became a family reunion with lost Polish relatives.

THE POLISH AMERICAN FOUNDATION is continuing to strengthen its ties with Kadzidlo. The PAF is sponsoring a project to index the large cemetery in Kadzidlo, which will be helpful to anyone doing genealogy. Approximately 75% of the cemetery was photographed by Wasik in May 2019. The PAF is again offering another trip to Kadzidlo in 2020, hoping to reconnect a few more Polish and American families and to introduce Americans to the Kurpie folk art and traditions.

The Foundation and Wasik will continue to look for other projects to bring together Americans and the people of Kadzidlo. If you are interested in the Polish American Foundation or the Welcome Home program, you can reach Dorena Wasik at: dorena726@yahoo.com.

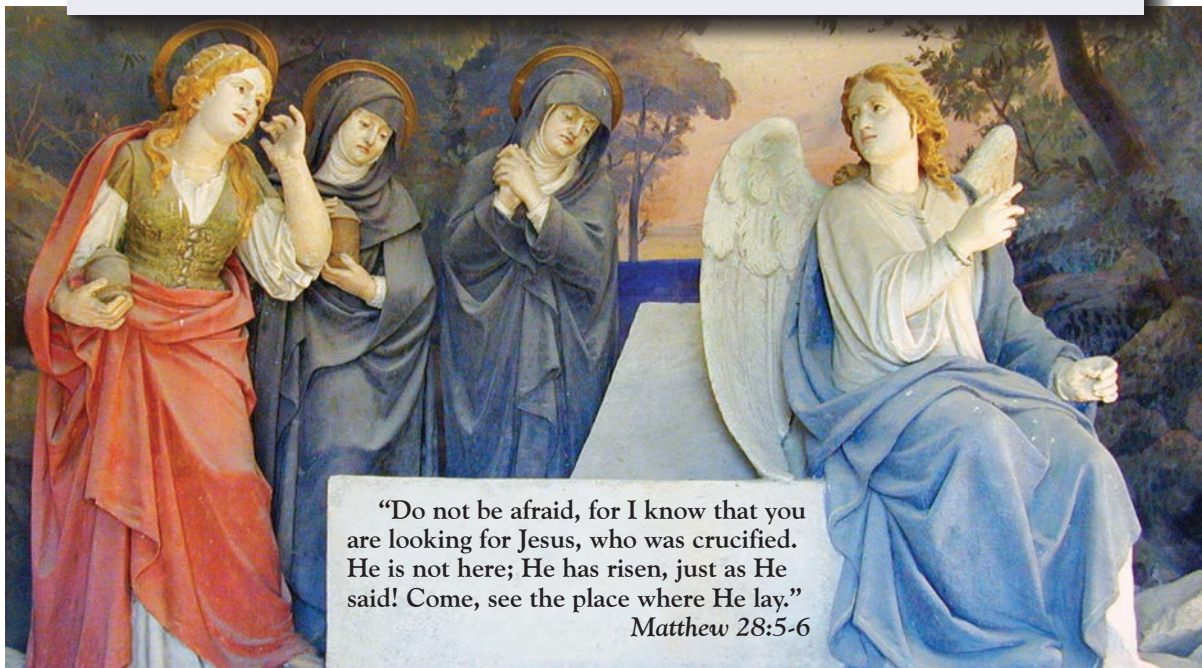


English language children’s books were donated to the Kadzidlo library by the group from the United States.

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Matthew 28:5-6

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