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WEAK ECONOMY GIVES NEW IMMIGRANTS SECOND THOUGHTS • POLAND'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATED
MURDER OF MARINE AND WIFE RECEIVES LITTLE NATIONAL PRESS • PRESERVING HERITAGE CHURCHES
TAKE A CULINARY TOUR OF POLAND • SIEDLECKI RETIRES AS YALE'S HEAD COACH • PAN ZAGLOBA ALIVE AND WELL

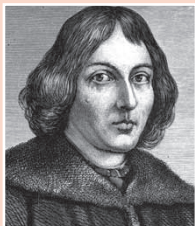
PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES



SPECTER APOLOGIZES FOR POLISH JOKES— PAGE 4

NEWSMARK

COPERNICUS' REMAINS IDENTIFIED. In November, Polish archaeologist Jerzy Gassowski told a news conference that researchers used DNA to identify the remains of Nicholas Copernicus, or in Polish, Mikolaj Kopernik, the priest and astronomer whose theories put the Sun, not the Earth, at the center of the universe.



COPERNICUS

Like something out of science fiction novel, the evidence was collected by comparing two hairs found in a book kept in a library of Sweden's Uppsala University that Copernicus owned, with bones from a skeleton located under the floor tiles of the Frombork Cathedral, where he served as canon and was believed to be buried. The excavation commenced in 2004 at the request of the regional Bishop, Jacek Jezierski.

A forensic facial reconstruction of the remains bears a striking resemblance to existing portraits of Copernicus. The reconstruction shows a broken nose and other features that resemble a self-portrait of Copernicus, and the skull bears a cut mark above the left eye that corresponds with a scar shown in the painting. Moreover, the skull belonged to a man of around 70 years old, Copernicus's age when he died in 1543.

A true man of the Renaissance. Copernicus was a mathematician, astronomer, physician, classical scholar, translator, artist, Catholic cleric, jurist, governor, military leader, diplomat and economist. His final thesis was only published, however, in the year of his death. His ideas challenged the Bible, the church and past theories, and they had important consequences for future thinkers, including Galileo, Descartes and Newton.

POLAND FURIOUS AS GERMAN PAPER DESCRIBES CONCENTRATION CAMP AS "POLISH." Poland has threatened to sue Germany's DIE WELT newspaper for referring to a Nazi-run concentration camp as a "Polish camp."

Polish Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Ryszard Schnepf said this was "scandalous." Die Welt had made the reference about the Majdanek concentration camp in a report about an Israeli visit to site. A correction was published in an Internet version of the report, where Die Welt explained that Majdanek was "a German concentration camp installed by the SS in Poland."

Over 360,000 people perished there during World War II.

BALCEROWICZ WARNS A TOUGH YEAR IS AHEAD OF POLAND. Professor Leszek Balcerowicz, Poland's former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, and the architect of Poland's free market reforms in the early 1990s, believes 2009 will be a difficult year for Poland. PULS BIZNESU writes, based on reports from the Polish Press Agency.

Even though the former Finance Minister has positively evaluated the corrected forecast for economic growth in 2009 (3.7%, earlier 4.8%), he added that even a 3% growth rate would be a "decent achievement," the newspaper reports.

"European GDP growth is expected to drop over 1% which means a recession in the EU," the economist said. "There is a lot of uncertainty about the future pace of economic development. Not only for Poland but for the whole world. It may happen that Poland's economy will grow even slower. The next year is going to be a difficult one for the country," Balcerowicz said.

POLAND WILL NOT SPEND ITS WAY OUT OF DEBT. (Financial Times)— Poland has no intention of trying to spend its way out of the looming economic slowdown, Donald Tusk, the prime minister said.

His comments align the country with Germany rather than the United States and the UK as international divisions grow over how to handle the financial crisis.

"When I talk to European politicians, who boldly tell me how much money they are going to pump into the economy, I pose the question, 'Where do you have the money for that?'" Tusk told the FINANCIAL TIMES. "We aren't saying that because we don't have gigantic sums of money. I don't think that borrowing money on a huge scale is a good method of resolving the crisis."

Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, criticized the United States and other countries for making "cheap money" a central tool of their recovery strategies.

Poland announced an economic stabilization package amounting to \$30.6 billion, although it contained almost no new spending.

The largest items were guarantees to revive the interbank market and a series of measures to make it easier for Poland to gain access to European Union funds.

A Banner Anniversary



PHOTO: STAS KMIEC

GALA PERFORMANCE HELD AT WARSAW'S WIELKI TEATR. The internationally acclaimed Mazowsze Polish State Song and Dance Company celebrated its 60th anniversary in Warsaw in November. A special Gala concert, entitled *The Colors of Poland*, commemorating their first performance in 1948 at Warsaw's Polski Theater. PAJ Culture Editor Stas Kmiec travelled to Poland to cover the event and present the group with a memento, honoring its Anniversary Jubilee. *Story on page 7*

Storozynski Elected KF President

NEW YORK—Kosciuszko Foundation Chairman Witold Sulimirski announced the election of Alex Storozynski as president and executive director of the Foundation. Storozynski fills the post that was held by Joseph E. Gore, Esq. who retired after serving as the Foundation's president for 23 years. Gore remains a trustee and consultant of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Alex Storozynski is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, a former member of the New York DAILY NEWS editorial board, founding edi-

tor of AMNEW YORK and former city editor of the NEW YORK SUN. He has also been published in the European edition of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, THE NEW YORK POST, NEWSDAY and other publications.

His biography of Thaddeus See "Storozynski," page 4

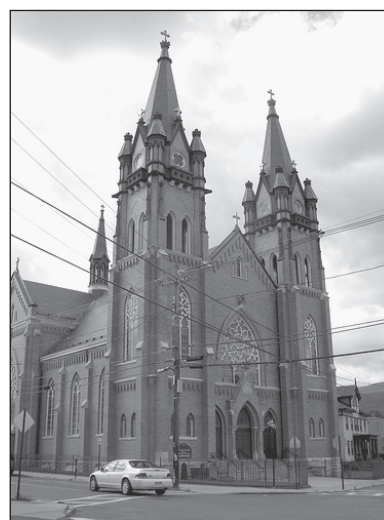


STOROZYNSKI

In Adams, Parishioners Make Their Plea Public

ADAMS, Mass.—Parishioners of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church learned last August that their church home was slated to be closed and incorporated into Notre Dame parish in what has become a familiar story across the United States. They refused to give up hope, and after an unproductive meeting with a representative of the Diocese of Springfield in November, parishioners took their case to the public. They took up a collection, and paid \$1200 to erect a billboard on Route 8 featuring a giant cross and the simple plea "Save Our Church."

Monsignor John Bonzagni, director of pastoral planning for the Diocese of Springfield, reiterated to members of the three Adams congregations recently that the bishop has ruled the churches will be consolidated in the Notre Dame parish as of Jan. 1, 2009. Bonzagni said Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell



ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA CHURCH

cited three reasons for moving the three churches into the Notre Dame building: Notre Dame seats more people, about 600; there are more buildings on the Notre Dame campus that can be used for a variety of

General Sikorski's Death May Be Accidental After All

(thenews.pl)—The preliminary results of the examination of the remains of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, exhumed in Krakow, show no signs of an assassination.

There were injuries, say experts, in keeping with having died in an air accident found on his body, however.

For decades, it was believed that Sikorski died from a plot by British, Soviet or other agents as many have believed in Poland for decades. An examination by the British in 1943 could not establish, for sure, the cause of death, but only that, "the aircraft became uncontrollable for reasons which cannot be established."

But many have never accepted that this was simply an accident. Sikorski had become an obstacle to alliances forming between Moscow and London in 1943 and simply had to be gotten out of the way, they believe.

Only the final report including all the findings, to be issued later this month, will answer the question on the exact cause of Sikorski's death in Gibraltar in 1943.

According to unofficial press information, Sikorski, one of Poland's most revered World War II generals—who was prime minister of the Polish Government-in-exile in London—suffered multiple fractures of shin bones, ribs, thigh bone and a serious skull injury. These most likely came from an impact against the plane's cockpit.

The Institute of National Remembrance in Katowice, southern Poland, responsible for the See "Sikorski ..." page 4

ministries; and Notre Dame's location is too prominent to abandon. "We spent a lot of time making the pastoral plan and there is no need to reinvent the wheel," Bonzagni said at November's gathering.

The status of the consolidation was not known at PAJ press time.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church was founded in 1902 on Summer Street for the Polish Catholic population of the factory town, less than a quarter mile from the site of Notre Dame Church on McKinley Square. Generations of Polish Americans have worshipped in this church home. Mark Dupont, a spokesman for the Diocese of Springfield, said officials will wait for a ruling from the Vatican before continuing with the consolidation.

For more information, or to donate to their appeal, visit the parishioner's web site at www.adamscatholics.org.

ALMANAC

January • Styczeń

Be always at war with your vices,
at peace with your neighbors,
and let each new year find you
a better man.
—Benjamin Franklin

- 1 **Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!**
Happy New Year!
Na Nowy Rok
Przybywa dnia na zajęczy
skok.

On New Year's, the day grows
longer by a hare's leap.

1919. Birth of
Polish American
actress
Carol Landis
(right).



- 3 **1795. Third Partition** of Poland.

- 6 **THREE KINGS**

On this day, the initials
K+M+B and the year are inscribed
by one's priest above the home's
main entry.

1785. Death of Polish-born **Haym Salomon** (Lissa, 1740), Revolutionary War patriot, financier, in Philadelphia.

- 7 **1882. Death of Ignacy Lukaszewicz**, inventor of the kerosene lamp. (b. 1822). The widespread availability of cheaper kerosene was the principal factor in the precipitous decline in the whaling industry in the mid-to late-19th century, as the leading product of whaling was oil for lamps.



- 8 **1918. President Wilson** announces his **"Fourteen Points,"** the 13th calling for a free Poland.

- 9 **1797. Jan Henryk Dąbrowski** organizes his legion in Italy, and thus honored by having his name included in the Polish National Anthem.



- 11 **1953.**
Death of opera
singer **Marcella Sembrich-Kochanowska** (b. 1853), left.

- 15 **1949.**
Death of Polish
American historian
and founder of
the Polish Museum
of America in Chicago,
Mieczysław Haiman.

- 18 **1945. Krakow** liberated almost without a shot and, compared to Warsaw, without too much damage to the town and people.

- 20 **1320. Władysław Łokietek** (Ladislaus the Short) crowned King of Poland.

- 23 **1793. Second Partition** of Poland.

- 25 **1913. Birth of pianist and composer Witold Lutosławski.**

- 27 **1986. Death of Poznan-born Lilli Palmer** (Lillie Marie Peiser), 71, actress, in Los Angeles.

1842. Birth of **Fr. Jozef Dąbrowski**, educator and founder of Orchard Lake Schools. (d. 1903).

1919. Birth of **Bishop Alfred Abramowicz**, auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and national director of Liga Katolicka (Catholic League).

- 29 **1846. Birth of Karol Olszewski**, scientist who liquified gases. (d. 1915)

- 31 **1887. Death of Włodimirz Bonawentura Krzyżanowski**, Civil War general. In Washington, D.C., Krzyżanowski enlisted as a private two days after President Lincoln called for volunteers in early 1861. He recruited a company of Polish immigrants, which became one of the first companies of Union soldiers.

This paper was mailed on or before **December 27, 2008**. The February 2009 edition of the paper will be mailed on or before **January 31, 2009**.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

Happy New Year to all our readers! We wish you health, happiness and prosperity in 2009!

We thank you for your support and encouragement through the years, and hope your fascination with our shared heritage never wanes. Your interest in things Polish continues to be the driving force behind the Polish American Journal.

We send Happy New Year wishes to newscletters, advertisers, and the fraternal benefit societies who make the Polish American Journal their official publication. Your untiring dedication to this publication has given the paper an outstanding reputation, not only within American Polonia, but across globe.

STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT. The beginning of the New Year is time to consider our "Polishness." Our continuance as an identifiable ethnic group in the United States is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

Do not "be Polish" only at Christmas, Easter, or during Heritage Month. Our ancestry has far more to

offer and can easily be a year-round endeavor.

Here are just a few things you can do to make your ethnicity a part of your day-to-day life:

- Take steps to learn more about your ancestry. There are several universities and colleges across the United States that offer Polish Studies or mini-courses on Polish history. Many fraternal benefit societies, cultural organizations and Polish American museums offer classes on myriad Polish topics. Whether you enroll as a full-time student or sign up for a pisanki-making workshop, the knowledge you gain will underscore your passion which can then be shared with others who are interested in Polonia.

- Support Polish American businesses. This cannot be overemphasized. When dealing with a Polish American merchant, let that merchant know you chose his or her services or products because of your common heritage.

- Attend Polish American functions. Planning a family outing to the ball park? Then go on "Polish

American Night." Is there a Polish film series or exhibit at your local library or university? Then by all means, stop by. When was the last time you went to a polka dance? Maybe its time to dust off your shoes and get some exercise!

If these types of events aren't your cup of tea, there are countless other Polish-flavored events happening across the United States every week. A call to a local Polish club or organization in your area will undoubtedly prove fruitful.

- Join a Polish club. You don't have to run for president at your first meeting. Your support—just by your presence—tells Polonia's leaders their efforts are not in vain. There are Polish-based cultural, sports, veterans, religious and many, many other organizations that would welcome you as a member. From there it is easy to grow within the organization, perhaps volunteering to help run one of their functions. Call one today.

Your Polish American heritage—make it a year-round celebration!

Storozynski is a Perfect Choice

Congratulations to Alex Storozynski, new president and executive director of the Kosciuszko Foundation. Storozynski fills the post that was held by Joseph E. Gore, Esq. who retired after serving as the Foundation's president for 23 years. Gore remains a trustee and consultant of the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Storozynski is a perfect choice to head this venerable organization: He a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist; a historian; served as chairman and vice-chairman of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union; and is well-known within the Polish and American communities. He has all

the talents one would need to see the Foundation continues its mission.

Founded in 1925, the Kosciuszko Foundation promotes and strengthens the understanding and friendship between Poland and the United States through educational, scientific and cultural exchanges. It awards fellowships and grants to graduate students, scholars, scientists, professionals and artists, and helps to increase the visibility of Polish culture by sponsoring events, publications, film festivals and performing arts.

For more than 80 years the Kosciuszko Foundation's activities have

grown to include scholarship and exchange programs, the Teaching English in Poland program, and cultural programs at its New York townhouse headquarters and throughout the country. It has chapters in eight other cities and members across the nation and around the world. Many of its grantees occupy important positions in Polish academic life. Thanks to its members and benefactors, the Foundation is able to disburse \$1 million annually to Polish Americans and others involved in Polish studies.

The organization is in good hands with Storozynski at the helm.

Weak Economy Gives New Immigrants Second Thoughts

NEW YORK—The troubling economic times here are making some immigrants think about going home.

Nineteen years after the collapse of communism and four years after joining the European Union, Poland is booming, and young Poles in the United States want to profit from these changes. They're following the example of Irish immigrants who have been lured home by the Irish economic miracle.

For undocumented immigrants the decision to return is sped up

by anti-immigrant sentiment that is forcing out foreign workers from many parts of the world.

Although not immune to international fiscal woes, "the Polish financial sector is truly strong," said Jacek Rostowski, the finance minister.

Slawomir Skrzypek, who heads the National Bank of Poland, offers one explanation why: Defaults on mortgages are just 1.1 percent—far lower than in the United States.

The banks are well-managed and subject to tougher regulations than

those abroad.

Polish demographic specialist at the Center for International Relations, Professor Krystyna Iglicka, claims that, "Shortly, Poland can expect the return of 400,000 immigrants."

But, she warned, such a wave of returnees could be disastrous for the Polish economy. Iglicka said that most of those returning will find themselves standing in line to collect unemployment insurance.

Kwasniewski to Head NATO?



KWASNIEWSKI

BRUSSELS—Former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski is being considered for the position of Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

However, official announcements are to come in Spring 2009 when NATO summits will be held in Baden-Baden and Strasbourg.

"I would readily agree to such an international position," stated Kwasniewski.

The current Secretary General, the Dutchman Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, has initiated discussions regarding the appointment of his successor, which are to be continued next week at a NATO meeting of foreign ministers and confirmed next Spring at the NATO's celebratory summit in April 2009.

Kwasniewski added that there is a good chance that a Pole will become a candidate for the NATO position—and he would wholeheartedly support Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, the other Pole being considered for the position.

"In the European structure, we have a chance at four seats: EU president, head of the European Commission, EU Foreign Ministers, and NATO Secretary General," counted the former president. "It would be a great success if Poland were to receive these posts."

The former head of state added that he has no personal ambitions, but would certainly not say "no" if offered the chance to represent Poland to NATO.

The **Polish Christmas season** stretches all the way from the start of Advent to Candlemas (*Matki Boskiej Gromniczna*) celebrated February 2. The *gromnica* is a beeswax candle lighted during thunderstorms and at the bedside of the seriously ill.

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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

A Matter of Opinion

Dear Editor:

I rarely answer the opinion of another, but in the case of the lady from Florida (Speak Up, PAJ, Nov. 2008), I make exception.

She criticized Robert Strybel's political opinion about [then candidate] Barack Obama, which was—in my opinion—on the money. Then she writes her own opinion in support of the 100% pro-abortion candidate.

She then goes on to extol her "Polishness." Since when does one equate "Polishness" with voting for pro-abortion people?

Robert Strybel is a most informative correspondent and stand-out writer. I look for his column straight-away when I receive the PAJ.

E.J. Kalinowski
Portland, Connecticut

PRO-LIFE DEMOCRAT? "Pro-Life Democrat?" I don't think so—not unless the Democrat officially opposes the Democratic Party's Platform and votes against most of the Party's slate of candidates. Don't let Jagoda Urban-Klaehn in "Baba Jagoda's Corner" (PAJ, Nov. 2008), cast a spell on you.

No political party or candidate that defends, and even promotes the "right" to abortion from the moment of conception to the moment of birth (in a grizzly procedure properly termed "partial-birth abortion"), embryonic stem cell research, and assisted suicide is pro-life—no matter what other programs they may propose. As the American Catholic bishops have eloquently pointed out, the right to life takes precedence over all other rights; for without the right to life, all other rights are meaningless.

To paraphrase Illinois Rep. Dan Lipinski in an interview in CHRISTIANITY TODAY before the party's convention in Denver last year, the Democratic Party is not going to

have a pro-life platform. It's not going to happen.

Thomas Napierkowski
Colorado Springs, Colorado

ARE POL-AMS WEALTHY? I would like to know the current financial status of Polish Americans. Information I have found indicates our group to be third in family income, but that data is dated.

Anthony Guyda
Oil City, Pennsylvania
Editor's note: The Piast Institute, the only independent think tank and research center in North America devoted to Polish and Polish American affairs, has been compiling this data. Contact it at: 2926 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck, MI 48002; (313) 664-0321; info@piastinstitute.org. The Institute's website is www.piastinstitute.org.

PLAY BALL! I always enjoy reading the PAJ, and pass it on to interested parties. I was especially interested to read Robert Strybel's "How About a Game of Palant?" in the October issue. Besides the Jamestown Poles, I also played the palant in the 1930s during gym classes at Dabrowka High School in Poznan, Poland. I loved it—as I did all the sports, exercise classes, and folk dancing. The game developed my running skills, so that I became the fastest running girl of thousands of students at Dabrowka. Later, in 1953, I won the women's tennis championship at Harvard University Summer School in Cambridge, Mass. My newly-wedded husband, Kamil, taught me the game, but it was so much easier to hit a bigger (tennis) ball with the racket, so much wider than the thinner bat. However, I was never good at the tennis backhand, because it does not exist in the palant.

At Dabrowka we did not throw the ball up in the air. In order to hit it (as shown on the drawn picture in



Coal miner Joseph Jorski, at age 25 in 1921.

the article), we hit it from back to front, like the man in the photo. I wonder which way is correct?

I was so happy to see that article with the pictures of "niebo" and "piekło," the names I remember, too.

Ada Dziewanowska
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

ROOTS REMEMBERED. As reading "Northeast Pennsylvania Remembers its Roots" (PAJ, Oct. 2008), I remembered that my father, Joseph Jorski, was one of the hard-working miners coming from Poland to the "Land of Opportunity."

He worked in the Shenandoah mines of the anthracite regions. After five years, he became sick with miner's asthma. He moved to the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia, became a tailor and a craftsman, and lived to the age of 93.

Leona Cronin
Cinnaminson, New Jersey

Praise for Walesa 25 Years After Nobel Peace Prize

GDANSK, Poland (Polish Radio)—A dressing an international conference "Solidarity for the Future" in Gdansk, which marks the 25th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize for Lech Walesa, the Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama praised Walesa for his role in Solidarity, a movement which, as he said, acted with courage and determination "under difficult circumstances."

He said that the Polish people never lost hope. The Dalai Lama also called for "external disarmament" which must begin with "inner peace."

The president of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso said that if it had not been for such outstanding leaders as Lech Walesa "we would not have lived in a united Europe."



Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama (left) praised Lech Walesa for his actions "under difficult circumstances."

"It was here in Gdansk," he said, that "you changed the course of European and world history," adding that the Solidarity movement rightly became the symbol of freedom and struggle against oppression.

Prime Minister Tusk said that Lech Walesa will for ever remain the hero of Poland's national legend. He recalled the words of Pope John Paul II: "There can be no solidarity without love," adding that Poland achieved its victory over communism in a peaceful way.

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

Murder of Marine and Wife Receives Little National Press

"If it was a robbery, why didn't they come when nobody was home instead of the dead of night, armed to the teeth? ... What was it about my son and daughter-in-law that inspired such hatred and loathing?"

—**Henryka Pietrzak-Varga**, in her letter to President-elect Obama. Pietrzak-Varga is mother of Marine Sgt. Jan Pawel Pietrzak, 24, a Polish immigrant, who was murdered with his African-American wife in Winchester, Calif. by four African American Marines, two under Pietrzak's command.

Both were bound gagged and shot execution style in the head, and Quiana Jenkins-Pietrzak, 26, was raped. A fire was set in the home, apparently to destroy evidence of the crime.

❖ ❖ ❖

"In the weeks since the brutal [October 15] murders, the media has been largely silent about the grisly incident. Would that be the case had the (alleged) perpetrators been white? Don't be silly."

—BALTIMORE SUN columnist **Ron Smith**, who argues the Pietrzaks were victims of a hate crime. The Riverside County prosecutor's office says the crime was motivated by robbery.

The Marines pled not guilty to the murders.

"At least the first signals that we have received indicate that our new partners are thinking about this issue and do not simply plan to rubber stamp the plans."

❖ ❖ ❖

—Russian President **Dmitry Medvedev**, toning down initial provocative remarks about the Bush Administration's plans to place U.S. missiles on the Polish-Russian border, after learning President-elect Obama wants to review the proposal.

❖ ❖ ❖

"President Sarkozy has expressed his own point of view ... [but] it will have no impact on the future

of the project. The question of the anti-missile shield is governed by an agreement between Poland and the United States. It is above all an American project ... I don't think that third-party countries, even such good friends as France, can have a particular right to express themselves on this issue."

—Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk**, on French President Nicolas Sarkozy's calling for both the U.S. and Russia to stop the deployment of missiles in Europe. Sarkozy, a "self-appointed mediator of the missile crisis," [THE KRAKOW POST], said "deployment of a missile defense system would bring nothing to security ... it would complicate things, and would make them move backward."

❖ ❖ ❖

"The effects of this crisis are not particularly visible in Poland. If there are negative effects, that is mainly because things are not always that good with our neighbors."

—Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk**, on how the world financial crisis is affecting his country.

❖ ❖ ❖

"I see no advantage in increasing the deficit and just finding that this is chewed up by increased debt service payments."

—Prudent Polish Finance Minister **Jacek Rostowski**, on why Poland will not borrow money to stimulate its economy.

❖ ❖ ❖

"I will not withdraw anything until the experts tell me what the cause of the death was."

—Historian and journalist **Dariusz Baliszewski**, who has studied the mystery of World War II Polish General Sikorski's death for almost 20 years. Baliszewski remains skeptical about the preliminary results. He claims that the general was not on board the plane during the crash, but was strangled earlier. Sikorski died 4 July, 1943 in a plane crash in Gibraltar.

LEARN POLISH

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—The Polish American Cultural Center at 308 Walnut Street announces its winter/spring semester Polish Language Classes. Two levels of the Polish language focusing on conversation will be offered. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-8:30 p.m. beginning on February 11, 2009. The cost of the twelve week program is \$135 plus book fee.

If you are interested in enrolling, call for an application, Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., (215) 922-1700. You can also download an application at: PolishAmerican-Center.org/LanguageClasses.html.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

A One-month Intense Polish Language Immersion Course at the Polish Consulate will be held January 5-28. The class will meet three times a week – on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:10 p.m. There will be twelve classes conducted exclusively in Polish, during which attention will be focused on conversational skills. Texts, games and other material will be provided by the instructor.

Using language immersion techniques and tools, the instructor will create an environment allowing a total language learning experience, while practicing four major language skills: speaking, understanding, reading and writing.

A variety of interesting materi-

als will be used: visual—film and TV program clips; audio—songs, poetry, interviews; mind and word games; as well as interactive scene playing and improvisation games. Students will be exposed to a wide range of stimuli all focused on building the complex understanding and command of a language.

Requirements: a completion of at least two semesters of Polish. Price: \$425

Interested students please e-mail Barbara Bernhardt at basiabernhardt@yahoo.com

The Spring semester of Polish Language and Culture at the Polish Consulate start on Monday, February 2 and end on Thursday, May 14. There will be fifteen (15) classes during the Spring session.

Beginners Polish I is designed for students with little or no previous Polish language training. Class focuses on developing the basic speaking, writing and reading skills that will help the students communicate in fundamental everyday situations. Elements of Polish grammar will be also introduced. Class meets on Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:10 p.m.

BEGINNERS POLISH II is the continuation of the current Beginners I class. Class focuses on expanding the knowledge of Polish by practicing the basic speaking, writing and reading skills. It will also focus on developing better

comprehension skills and getting more comfortable while communicating in fundamental everyday situations. Students will continue to work with more advanced grammatical concepts of the language. Class meets on Mondays, 6:30-8:10 p.m.

Intermediate Polish I, is the continuation of the current Beginners II class. Class focuses on building conversational and comprehension skills. More complex grammatical concepts and writing rules will be introduced. Class meets on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:10 p.m.

Intermediate Polish II, the continuation of the current Intermediate I class, focuses on expanding vocabulary; the class will also be also enriched with more advanced reading materials. Class meets on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:10 p.m.

Classes will include discussions about aspects of Polish history, culture, customs and traditions. Students will have a chance to share their own knowledge, insights and experiences with Polish culture.

Cost: is \$450 for new students and \$425 for returning students. Those interested in joining should contact basiabernhardt@yahoo.com.

The Consular Division of the Polish Embassy is located at 2224 Wyoming Ave., N.W., Washington DC, 20008-39992. The closest metro station is Dupont Circle.

For information about our Fraternal, its history, and the kinds of plans that we offer, visit our website at

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Senator Arlen Specter Tells Polish Jokes at Prestigious Dinner

Later Apologizes to Polish American Congress

NEW YORK—With a re-election race looming on the horizon, you would think an incumbent senator would be careful about unnecessarily offending one of his state's largest ethnic groups.

Or so you would think.

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) told a series of Polish jokes—deemed “tasteless” by the New York Post—at the Republican Party of Pennsylvania's annual Commonwealth Club Luncheon during Pennsylvania Society Weekend in New York City, Dec. 12.

He asked first if there were any Polish people in the audience. When about ten people raised their hands, he went on.

Specter deemed the number insignificant and forged ahead with some supposedly funny Polish jokes, including the old one about the man who interrupted him once, saying, “Hey, careful. I'm Polish!”

The senator responded by saying, “That's OK—I'll tell it more slowly.”

Specter also told two other tasteless jokes in the same Polish vein. “No one walked out, but it was offensive,” one person told the Post. “I was offended, and I'm not Polish.”



FAST TALKER. Senator Arlen Specter says if you are Polish, he will speak more slowly.

Specter's Washington office is located at 711 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510; tel. (202) 224-4254.

The Pennsylvania Society was founded in New York by Pennsylvanians wishing to promote the commonwealth. It is a non-profit, charitable organization with nearly two thousand members. It is not affiliated with any particular political party, business or profession.

ISSUES APOLOGY. During the evening hours of December 15,

2008, Frank Spula, the president of the Polish American Congress (PAC), received a phone call from Specter in regards to the jokes he made by the Senator.

After exchanging pleasantries, Specter expressed his regrets and said that he was “out of line” in his remarks and that he “apologizes profusely.”

Spula explained to the Senator the deepest concern voiced in recent days by the members of the Polish American community, as well as by numerous Americans with no Polish heritage, and who considered the remarks equally offensive.

Spula emphasized that the concern cannot be eased by mere words and urged that a written statement of apology and explanation be issued by the Senator's office. The Senator confirmed that the written apology would be issued shortly, which was delivered to the PAC the next day.

“It would be equally unthinkable if any elected official made similar remarks in regards to any other group,” said Spula. “It really does not matter which group is targeted—all jokes ridiculing people based on their ethnicity, religion or race are unacceptable!”

In his letter, Specter said “In retrospect, I can see that they were inappropriate and I regret having made them. You may be sure I will never make the same mistake again.”

Rochester PHS Celebrating 90 Years

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester is about to celebrate its 90th Anniversary year.

As an initial event in a year-long festival, the society will present readings by the co-author of *Jadwiga's Crossing*, a novel of early Polish immigration, Friday evening, January 23.

The novel, in English, chronicles a year in the life of Pawel Adamik and Jadwiga Wdowiak, sweethearts

—and then newlyweds—in conflict over what he considers “the crazy notion of travel to an unknown land.”

The novel is the product of a father-and-son team. Aloysius A. Luczkowiak (later, Lutz, after a family name change) began the work in the 1950s, drawing on the many stories of immigration he had heard as a child and young man growing up in a Polish neighborhood of Dunkirk, N.Y.

Jadwiga's Crossing was introduced last year in a special public reading at the Polish Consulate in New York.

The January 23 event in Rochester is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Rochester Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Avenue. Additional information is available from Alexander Johnson, the membership chairman of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester, at (585) 342-5248, or by e-mail to belcoda@gmail.com. The website for the novel is <http://JadwigasCrossing.com>.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

In 1971, a voluntary fund-raising campaign was launched by a group of loyal readers of the Polish American Journal entitled “We Love the Paj Press Fund” in order to help cover rising postage, material and production costs.

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

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

A sincere “THANK YOU” for their donations to the **PAJ PRESS FUND:** Eugene Hoey, Washington, D.C.; Leopold Potsiadlo, Las Vegas, Nev.; Louis Rakszawski, Churchville, Pa.; Robert W. Salankiewicz, Vestal, N.Y.; Thaddeus Trzeciak, Appleton, Wis.; Viola Family, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Henry J. Wladkowski Boxford, Mass.; Fred Wozniak, St. Petersburg, Fla.; and four “Friends of the PAJ.” Dziękujemy! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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SGT. DMITRY NOVAK ran the recent Marine Corps Marathon in honor of a fallen Polish soldier, PFC Dawid Pietrek, killed in Afghanistan last summer. He was part of a team supported by the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, and all the donations made to Sgt. Novak go to this benevolent organization that helps spouses and children of fallen soldiers. You can still donate to the memory of PFC Pietrek by visiting the donation page at www.active.com/donate/MC-LEF-CS/SgtNovak.

Sikorski: Findings Question Suspicions

continued from cover

exhumation, is reluctant to confirm the findings: “If we have waited for 65 years, we can wait two months more, as there is no point in publishing incomplete information,” the institute said in a statement.

According to the Institute of National Remembrance, the findings will not allow us to dispel all doubts concerning general's death. Even if the examination indicates death from a plane crash, it will not explain why the plane crashed in the first place.

Kuklinski Subject of CIA Symposium

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On December 11, 2008, the CIA held a symposium titled “Preparation for Martial Law Through the Eyes of Ryszard Kukliński,” organized by Historical Collections Division. Speakers were: Zbigniew Brzezinski; CIA Director Michael Hayden; David Forden, CIA officer who handled Kuklinski's activities; Aris Pappas, CIA analyst who processed his information; Ben Weiser, author of “A Secret Life,” Kuklinski's biography. Among those present were Kuklinski's

grandson Michael; from the Polish Embassy: Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, Deputy Chief of Mission Wojciech Flera and his wife, Counselor for Culture and Public Affairs Mariusz Brymora, Col. Andrzej Gorzynski of the Military Attaché Office; from the CIA, several dozen officers from Warsaw station and analysts who processed Kuklinski's information. In total, about 300 people were present.

The event, held at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, was by invitation only.

Storozynski New KF President



Storozynski has interviewed many world leaders, such as Lech Walesa, above, right.

continued from cover

Kosciuszko, “The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Era of Revolution,” will be published in April 2009 by St. Martin's Press, and his essay “From Serfdom to Freedom: Polish Catholics Find A Refuge,” was published in the book “Catholics in New York, Society Culture, and Politics, 1808-1946,” to coincide with the exhibit on Catholics at the Museum of the History of New York.

Storozynski has also served as chairman and vice-chairman of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union, which has more than \$1 billion in assets and 70,000 members, making it the largest ethnic credit union in the United States. He is a frequent guest on New York's Polish radio stations and a contributor to *Polskie Radio 1*, the largest radio station in Poland.

In 2006, Storozynski traveled to Iraq to write about the Polish troops running the multinational zone in the provinces of Diwaniyah and Wasit near the Iranian border. More recently he interviewed Polish President Lech Kaczynski for the NEW YORK SUN.

In 2004, the Polish magazine PRZEGLAD called Storozynski “a new type of leader in the Polish community,” and even though he was born in Brooklyn, they named him one of the “100 most influential Poles living abroad.” In 2005, the POLISH

AMERICAN WORLD named him “Man of the Year.” In 2006, the President of Poland awarded him with the “Gold Cross of Service” for his articles about Poland. And in 2007 the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, D.C. awarded him for his “distinguished achievement in the field of journalism.”

Storozynski hailed Gore's achievements. “Joseph Gore has brought gravitas and sophistication to the Kosciuszko Foundation for more than two decades. He has changed the lives of scores of scholars and students who have received scholarships from the Foundation. He has helped teach Americans about the rich culture and history of Poland. Mr. Gore is a tough act to follow,” said Mr. Storozynski.

Gore said, “The Foundation is facing enormous challenges due to the downturn of the economy and we will need a great deal of help from our current members. It will also have to find new sources of donations and funding to continue the Foundation's important work.” nation and around the world. Many of its grantees occupy important positions in Polish academic life. Thanks to its members and benefactors, the Foundation is able to disburse \$1 million annually to Polish Americans and others involved in Polish studies.



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Assessing the Present Crisis in World Economics



PROF. BALCEROWICZ LECTURE AT POLISH EMBASSY. Professor Leszek Balcerowicz, veteran Polish economist and politician, is shown above-right being interviewed by a bevy of Poland's news media following his lecture entitled "The Financial Crisis and Emerging Countries."

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Honorable Leszek Balcerowicz, Ph.D., Professor at the prestigious Warsaw School of Economics—formerly the Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Finance of the Republic of Poland, and President of the National Bank of Poland—delivered a very insightful economic lecture, Dec. 1, 2008, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

Ambassador Robert Kupiecki introduced Balcerowicz, and moderator Dr. Grzegorz Kozłowski, First Counselor and Head of Economic Section. The specialized and very attentive audience consisted mainly of economists and financial personnel from Washington embassies and think tanks; and notably in attendance was Latchezar Petkov, Ambassador of Bulgaria.

Balcerowicz presented his scholarly lecture—"The Financial Crisis and Emerging Countries"—which was illustrated with projected charts and graphs that made the complex subject matter of macro/micro economics easier to grasp. The professor's keen sense of humor well served to make the heavy subject matter a bit lighter now and then.

Today's volatile econometrics were examined and explained in detail. The world's past financial meltdowns were revisited in relation to our present monetary woes and panicked stock markets. The socialist caused economic problems of the formerly communist controlled Eastern Bloc countries were laid out. The good news is that the Czech Republic and Poland are two of the emerging capitalist countries now best situated to suffer the least, and to recover sooner rather than later, from the present industrial downturn. Balcerowicz was loathe to give any time lines for the eventual world-wide markets recovery, saying with a sly smile that he unfortunately didn't possess a crystal ball to make such predictions.

During the extensive Q&A session, Balcerowicz made some very interesting pronouncements, with a sampling as follows:

"Regulate, regulate, regulate"—to fix the crippling housing mortgage crisis and the resulting international banking and investment meltdown.

"They must privatize and downsize"—if Poland's shipyards are to

survive and prosper in the European Union.

"It is imperative to stimulate the economy and production"—is advice given to the incoming President Obama administration during its first 100 days in office in order to restore the American consumers' confidence.

At the reception, when a confessed economics-challenged person told Prof. Balcerowicz that he found the whole matter of world economics to be very complicated and difficult to understand, Balcerowicz, with a wave of his hand, sublimely condensed his entire lecture into one understated remark:

"Really its not ... actually it's just a matter of common sense."

NEWSWIRE

BERNARDINES BUILD HUGE CHRISTMAS CRIB. Bernardine Brothers at the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Sanctuary in southern Poland set up the huge Christmas crèche made up by about one hundred and fifty figurines, and including tens of moving elements, making it one of the largest Christmas cribs in Poland.

The oldest parts date back to the 19th century.

The crib is located inside the basilica and is set against a background of the painted panorama of Bethlehem from the first half of the 20th century.

The Franciscan Monastery of Greccio, Italy, where St. Francis set up world's first Christmas crib, is a major influence for the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska display, which traditionally does not have any modern elements.

The Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Sanctuary is one of the main centers

Wallenberg Foundation Searches for Polish Rescuers

NEW YORK—The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, whose mission is to honor, preserve and divulge the legacies of the saviors of the Holocaust, is looking for any information regarding Polish citizens who saved persecuted people during World War II.

Recently, and following in-depth research conducted by the Foundation, Polish rescuer Stanisława (Stasia) Sławinska has been declared Righteous among Nations by Yad Vashem. Sławinska sheltered ten Jews during 1942-1945. One of them was Esfira Maiman, who managed to escape from the Warsaw Ghetto.

The Foundation has also paid tribute to several other Polish rescuers, among them Irena Sendler, rescuer of dozens of children condemned to certain death by the Nazis; Jan Karski, hero of the Polish Resistance; and Janina Klein Dylag, member of the underground Polish Army with the rank of sergeant major, who saved a Jewish mother and daughter.

The Foundation has launched a campaign among the leaders of the secular and religious communities so that they consider proposing to the parents of newly born children, the possibility of choosing the names of the Polish Rescuers for their newborn children.

Anyone who can provide testimonies and information is kindly requested to contact the organization at 34 E 67 Street, New York, NY 10065, (212) 737-3275, or visit www.raoulwallenberg.net for more information.

of the Marian Devotion in Poland. It was founded in the 17th century by the Zebrzydowski family. The Way of the Cross path was erected right next to the monastery.

POLISH COAL MINE WILL SUE GREENPEACE. Owners of Poland's Konin mine will sue the activist organization Greenpeace, claiming \$121,000 in losses after about twenty Greenpeace activists blocked production for two hours. The protesters entered the Konin mine without the owner's permission, using ropes for the descent from an escarpment into the mine. The activists demand that Poland reduce its reliance on coal and want a plan in place that by 2020 will see the country derive fifteen per cent of its energy from renewable sources. Coal currently supplies Poland with more than ninety percent of its energy. The Greenpeace activists face up to a year in jail time.

Archbishop, Ambassador and Provincial Celebrate Parish's 25th Anniversary

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Archbishop Donald Wuerl, Polish Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, and Society of Christ North American Provincial Paweł Bandurski joined hundreds of Polish Americans in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish on November 23. The parish, located in Silver Spring, Maryland, serves the Polish community throughout the Washington, D.C., area.

Archbishop Wuerl began the celebration by blessing a monument dedicated to Pope John Paul II erected to mark the anniversary. Our Lady Queen of Poland Pastor Jan Fiedurek inspired the monument, which was authored by Polish American artist Gordon Kray.

Archbishop Wuerl concelebrated Mass with Provincial Bandurski, Fr. Fiedurek, and several Polish and Polish American priests. "Bogurodzica," the oldest Polish hymn, opened the service. In his homily, the Washington Archbishop emphasized the connection between Catholicism and Polishness. He illustrated this point by relating a story of how Pope John Paul II once asked a group of young Poles where the spirit of Polonia resided. None in the group could answer. The Polish Pontiff responded "it is carried in the heart." Archbishop Wuerl stressed that there too, as part of their heritage, Poles carry their Catholic faith.

The Mass was followed by a banquet at the nearby Fr. Rosensteel Knights of Columbus Hall. Here parishioners and guests viewed a display documenting the history of the parish prepared by Parish Council member Sylwia Korzan. Local Polish artists also presented works by Cyprian Norwid and other au-

thors. Commenting on the anniversary, Fr. Fiedurek emphasized the "great amount of good" that Our Lady Queen of Poland had accomplished. He urged the parish to "renew in ourselves the desire to build our lives on a strong foundation of faith



... (to) look more deeply to what we are and to what we should be in the future."

Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish began as a mission in 1977. Then Washington Archbishop, Cardinal William Baum, created the mission in response to the request of the local Polish American community. A letter of support from then Krakow Archbishop, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła (later Pope John Paul II), played a key role. In 1983, Cardinal James Hickey raised the mission to the status of a parish.

A quarter of a century later, Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish continues to be a cornerstone of the Polish community in our nation's capital. Some Polonians travel over 30 miles one way to attend Mass at the parish.

JASELKA AT SHRINE. The Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Language School will present its "Jaselka" Christmas Program, Sun. Jan. 4 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road, Doylestown, Pa. during the 12:30 p.m. Mass. For info call the Shrine (215) 345-0600 or www.PolishShrine.com.

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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. would like to thank all of our generous supporters, who, for over 28 years, have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. Many children have been brought to the United States for life-saving heart surgery, which was not available to them in their own country. This year, we sent therapy equipment and medical supplies to an Orphanage, also an EKG machine was sent to a rehabilitation center. We provided much-needed medical equipment and supplies to several hospitals in Poland. A 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitor with software, cuffs, battery charger and batteries, an ambulatory Doppler machine, and a pulsometer was sent so that more children can be helped. Your financial support will allow us to continue to give Polish children the precious "gift of life." Thank you.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Preserving Heritage Churches

"Domes and Spires," a book published by the TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT and JOHNSTOWN MAGAZINE, features significant architecture in the Johnstown, Pa. area. Among the subjects in the book are several of the churches slated for closing in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese's downsizing plan. For information call 532-5101 or visit .

To preserve the churches after they are closed, parishioners are selling a DVD featuring the threatened churches. Proceeds will go to maintain the buildings. "We want to make sure the buildings aren't torn down," said group member Marie Mock. "Our goal is to keep the buildings intact and tastefully preserve their history."

Parishioners of St. Barbara's RC Church in Brooklyn Centre, in west Cleveland, are trying to save their church from being closed. Two of the five parishes clustered together will be closed in the near future. The parishioners are stressing its sound financial status and stable and safe neighborhood as arguments to keep it open over the other churches in less favorable circumstances. Only two other Polish parishes remain in Cleveland, St. John Cantius and St. Stanislaus.

The St. Joseph History Society of South Camden, N.J., is selling CDs of its April 6, 2008 recording of "Eucharistic Adoration with RoSewig Vespers" sung by St. Joseph's St. Lucia Choir. The history society is dedicated to preserving the hundred-year-old church and its rich cultural heritage. The vespers were composed by Philadelphia composer Albert H. RoSewig in 1896. For information about the CD, call (856) 963-1285 or contact Michael Matulewicz at .

St. Hedwig's RC Church in Toledo, Ohio, hosted the Toledo Symphony in a concert in the church of Henryk Górecki's "Symphony No. 3." The concert was a fundraiser for repair and preservation of the church's pipe organ.

SHADOW CAST OVER PNCC-RC DIALOGUE. The "Declaration of Scranton," issued by PNCC bishops in April, cast a shadow over

the ongoing dialogue between that church and the Roman Catholics at their recently concluded meeting in Baltimore. The Declaration solemnly rejected as "innovations" the teachings on papal infallibility and the dogmas of the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of Mary into heaven. At the same time the Declaration rejected the innovations in the Anglican and Old Catholic churches of the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate as well as the blessing of same-sex unions. While the Roman Catholics also reject the last mentioned practices, the teachings on the pope and Mary are considered articles of faith.

In this connection **Bishop Joseph Adamec** of Altoona-Johnstown reminded the pastors and faithful in his diocese that union between the two churches has not yet been achieved. Until then, Roman Catholics may not receive sacraments from PNCC clergy, except in cases where there is no access possible to Roman Catholic clergy. Likewise, Roman Catholics do not fulfill their obligation to attend Mass if they attend Mass at a PNCC church. The dialogue between the two churches is continuing and the Declaration can be seen as a restatement of PNCC beliefs to clarify matters in the course of the discussions.

STO LAT TO... Fr. Pawel Kryszkiewicz on his appointment as pastor of St. Bridget RC Parish in Glassboro, N.J. He is currently administrator of St. Casimir Church in Woodbine. He was born in Chodziez, Poland ... **Msgr. Thaddeus (Ted) Malinowski** on being featured in the "My Favorite Priest" section of the Catholic Journal "The Homiletic and Pastoral Review." He was recommended for the honor by Ms. Jana Carpenter of Clearwater, Fla.

Jennifer Lipinski, of Our Lady of Good Counsel RC Parish in Plymouth, Mich., who joined a group of other runners in the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar marathon to raise money to feed the poor ... **Adam Egan** on his ordination to the priesthood in the Polish National Catholic Church at St. Stanislaus Cathedral,

Scranton, Pa. ... **Archbishop Sambi** on being awarded a Doctor of Humanities degree from the Felician-sponsored Madonna University in Dearborn, Mich.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... Holy Cross PNCC Parish in Johnstown, Pa., on their 90th anniversary. **Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski** of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese was joined by Pastor Fr. Paul Zomerfeld in celebrating the anniversary Mass.

Sisters of the Holy Family Jubiliarians: **Sr. Medarda Synakowska, CSFN**, from Utica, NY (80 years); **Sr. Salvatore Samko, CSFN**, for Worcester, Mass. (70 years); **Sr. M. Constance Sabalauskas, CSFN** of Philadelphia, (50 years); **Sr. Loretta Theresa Felici, CSFN**, of Philadelphia, (25 years).

Divine Child HS in Dearborn, Mich., on its 50th anniversary. The school was started in 1958 with 84 students, two Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, and one athletic coach. Today, it has about 855 students and a staff of 68. Bernardine Franciscan sisters still serve at the school and live on the campus.

St. Stanislaus Kostka RC Church in Staten Island, N.Y., on its 85th anniversary. The church was featured as the set for the wedding of Melanie Griffith and Alec Baldwin in the 1988 film "Working Girl." Fr. Marek Suchocki not only led the renovation project of the church and catechism classrooms but he also works to keep Polish culture, traditions and language alive among the parishioners.

SISTERS SERVING AT HOME, ABROAD. A monument in Washington, D.C., on the corner of Rhode Island and Connecticut Avenues, honors the more than 600 RC Sisters for their Civil War services. The Sisters served the wounded on both sides of the conflict and their religious habit allowed them to pass unchallenged through the battle lines. The nuns worked at battlefield hospitals as well as in general hospitals behind the lines throughout the North and South. One of the nuns, **Sr. Veronica Klimkiewicz**, a nun for 75 years in Baltimore, was given a military funeral with full honors when she died in 1930.

MODLITWY

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

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

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that



CZESTOCHOWA RELICS VISIT TURNERS FALLS. Fr. Charles DiMascola leads prayers before a shrine of relics after the special mass celebrating the Feast of the Relics, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Turners Falls, Mass., November 5, 2008. This unusual feast is generally celebrated in those churches which have notable relics and commemorates the Saints whose relics are preserved in that church. Our Lady of Czestochowa has over 400 relics.

After nursing **Fr. Marek Bzinkowski** back to health after a severe leg injury, the Polish Sacred Heart Sisters in Cresson, Pa., were inspired to join Fr. Bzinkowski when he returned to his work among the poor in Jamaica. There, the sisters provide catechetical instruction, health services, and other forms of spiritual and material outreach to improve the physical and moral lives of the people.

The phone at the Vatican City number is not answered by a machine but by volunteer sisters, among them Poles. "I like to think this is the most human call center there is," said Andrea Mellini, director of the Vatican's telecommunications department.

POLAND'S CRITICAL CLERGY. **Fr. Andrzej Romanowski**, a literature professor at Kraków's Jagiellonian University accused church leaders of promoting an "infantile" attitude toward Pope John Paul II with excessive statues and monuments. "I am not mocking the pope, only his cult, a cult that has begun to look dangerous," he explained. "For all our prayers, John Paul II has not yet been declared blessed; even less,

despite the shouts of 'Santo Subito' is he a saint. So these monuments cannot be a testimony of our faith; they rather testify to our paganism." Writing in the newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza he also criticized plans for the Altar of the Third Millennium, to stand outside Kraków's cathedral, as degrading the church's baroque foundations and be a "triumph of kitsch and gigantomania."

Fr. Wacław Hryniewicz, one of Poland's top theologians in the field of ecumenism, was told by the Vatican to retract and rewrite an article he recently published in which he discussed universal salvation and criticized the Vatican's attitude toward other Christian churches and denominations. The now-retired, 72-year-old priest who is suffering from cancer refused to publish the "approved retraction" and could now face a publication ban and suspension. He noted, "I am close to death and do not see how I can now go against my conscience by writing an article with clarifications and rectifications.... What worries me most of all is that this judgment may now be expanded to cover all my previous work as well, in which I expressed similar views and convictions." Fr. Hryniewicz headed the Catholic University of Lublin's Ecumenical Institute and has published more than 320 books and papers. He is a member of the Order of Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Vatican's letter outlining "scientific and methodological" deficiencies" as well as "emotional language perceived as showing little respect for the authority" of the Church was addressed to the order's superior in Rome.

POLISH CRECHES ON DISPLAY. The Casatellani Art Gallery on the campus of Niagara University in Lewiston, N.Y., has included the Polish crèche of the Krysa family. **Fr. Czesław Krysa**, pastor of St. Hyacinth and Hedwig parish in Dunkirk, N.Y. has put the crèche together.

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KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Mazowsze Celebrates 60 Years Gala Performance held at Warsaw's Wielki Teatr

For 60 years the Mazowsze Polish State Song and Dance Company has been ambassadors of culture to the world. A special Gala concert, entitled *The Colors of Poland*, commemorating their first performance in 1948 at Warsaw's Polski Teatr, was held on November 6 at the Wielki Teatr (Great Theater and National Opera House) in Warsaw, Poland.

Millions of audience members have opened their hearts to the beauty of Polish folklore, as envisioned by the founders Tadeusz Sygietyński and his wife Mira Zimińska-Sygietyńska, who sought to protect the diversity, richness and beauty of Poland's folk culture following the ravages of World War II. The songs and dances of 41 ethnographic regions have been represented in their programs, and the tradition continues with the enthusiasm and direction of Witold Zapala, who remains the relic to the continuity of Mazowsze's history.

The beautiful, heart-felt concert included favorite dance suites from the regions of Opoczno, Wilanów, Kaszuby, Rozbar-Śląsk, Szamotyły, Jurgów, Kurpie, Podgrodzie, Lublin, Szczawnica, Podhale Mountains, Żywiec Town; songs from Kurpie, Cieszyn and Łowicz; the national dances Krakowiak, Kujawiak; the folk scenes: Carnival in Wilamowice, Pre-Lenten Kusoki Świętokrzyski, and Lubuskie Winobranie; the classic Mazowsze region finale and a Jubilee Walc.

Dignitaries from throughout Poland's government and cultural circles attended this incredible event. Directors and representatives from Poland's folk dance companies, such as The Folk Dance Ensemble of Marie Curie-Skłodowska University, and the The Song and Dance Company, "Lublin" – im. Wandy Kaniorowej showed their respect and support.

The many levels of the theater featured enlarged photographs documenting the company's historical performances, and New York City-based artist Beata Drozd exhibited her collection of Mazowsze photo paintings, which have been featured at the Kościuszko Foundation in New York last year.

Patrons of the Jubilee Year included Tubądzin Ceramic Tile Company, Wódka Żołądkowa Gorzka-Lublin, and A. Blikle Confectionary. The concert was sponsored by TVP – Telewizja Polska, Jedylna Polskie Radio and Poznaj Świat Magazine.

During the intermission in the theater's guest chamber, dignitaries were treated to a reception of pastries by A. Blikle, cordials, and the extraordinary new premium vodka – Orkisz by Wódka Żołądkowa Gorzka. Gift bags containing commemorative memorabilia, including a 2009 Mazowsze calendar tile made exclusively by Tubądzin, were distributed to special guests.

The honorary patrons included President of Poland Lech Kaczyński, Bogdan Zdrojewski (Minister of National Culture and Art), and Adam Struzik (Marshal of The Voivodeship of the Mazowsze Region).

Poland's first lady Maria

Kaczyńska was the honored guest and an enormous basket of red and white roses from the President and his wife was presented to the company at the conclusion of the performance.

As Culture Editor of the POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL and on my own behalf, I presented Mazowsze with an embedded glass token memento, honoring its Anniversary Jubilee.



On the occasion of Mazowsze's 60th Anniversary Jubilee, PAJ Culture Editor, Staś Kmieć presented Chief choreographer Witold Zapala with an embedded glass token memento; also pictured are dancers Piotr and Magdalena Zalipski.

Travelogue— Adventures in Poland

I have traveled to France, Italy, Mexico, Belgium, Ireland, England, Holland, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Switzerland, Kenya, and throughout the United States and Canada, and there is nowhere else that makes my heart skip a beat, brings a tear to my eye, a smile to my face and gives me such great joy and excitement than Poland. Although I was born in the United States, my heart and soul are alive in Poland. With 14 visits (including extensive study time), I have seen Poland change through the Communist era, Martial Law, the transition to Democracy and the fluctuating circumstances of the "New Poland."

With two weeks notice, my return trip, after a five year absence, came together quickly. I had a full itinerary of museums, and visits with old-time friends and dance company directors from my past scheduled. Once in Poland, it soon became apparent that this impromptu trip was to become a magical experience—one I would like to share with the readership of the PAJ. With advance notification of my status as a journalist to certain venues, I was afforded many unique opportunities.

A lot has changed, since many have traveled during the time of Communist Poland, while some things remain the same. There is a lot to recommend to those considering a visit. Also there is information, such as how to travel first class from Warsaw to Krakow or travel by van service. In the coming issues I will offer practical "ins and outs" and what to watch out for as a traveler.

To save time in my schedule, I flew into Warsaw and out of Krakow. The itinerary was: Warsaw-Lublin-Warsaw-Krakow. The trip was an adventure with many unexpected surprises along the way. Having voted in the early morning, I departed

on Election Day and arrived to the news of our President-elect.

ARRIVAL AT FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. After the KLM flight via Amsterdam, I arrived in the Frédéric Chopin International Airport in Warsaw. In 1992, the terminal, with capacity for an annual 3.5 million passengers, was built to replace the aging post-war terminal.

As a close friend to the company, I was the only foreign dignitary and journalist invited to the Mazowsze Jubilee celebration; I was once again privileged to be allowed an exclusive insider's perspective of the workings of this famed company.

I was picked up by Mazowsze's Executive Production Manager, Krzysztof Kurlej. We last met when the company was on tour in the United States one year ago. Kurlej, who has been a friend for many years, was handling preparations for the Jubilee performance the following day.

I was to stay in a private apartment in the Mazowsze complex in Karolin (approximately a ½ hour from Warsaw), but before I was to reach that location, we made a couple of stops in the ultra-modern and bustling city center of Warsaw to pick up programs, gift bag inserts, and to finalize a contract agreement with the performance venue. On route we stopped at the drive-in window of KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken), and then to a compact neighborhood grocery store, with incredibly fresh produce, which reminded me of the Polish deli/import stores of New Jersey, Greenpoint, and Hamtramck, only more comprehensive.

UNEXPECTED SIDETRIP. Krzysiek was going crazy with never-ending phone calls from government officials wanting last-minute tickets. Along the way he found out that he would need to travel 2 hours away to a factory location near Łódź to pick up an item for the Jubilee gift bags. What better way to catch up on the past year than to accompany him? With a brief stop in Karolin and quick exchange with Mazowsze's technical and costume personnel, we were on our way through country roads, farmland, and glimmering candle-lit cemeteries (it was a few days after All Soul's Day) to our destination.

At the Tubądzin Ceramika, we were greeted by the Company President, Andrzej Wodzyński. A wild game hunter, Mr. Wodzyński's office was elaborately decorated with a large wooden antique desk, table and chairs, cabinet and large taxidermically-stuffed animals and animal heads from his pursuits in Africa. I was treated to a cup of strong, rich coffee and pleasant conversation. Honored repeatedly as Poland's "Choice of the Year," the firm is one of the leading manufacturers of ceramic tiles with factories in Tubądzin and Ozorków (on either side of Łódź) and is widely known for its patronage of culture and the Arts.

Next month: Warsaw's Old Town, After the Jubilee Celebration, and a Night at Teatr Sabat.

ART SCENE / Staś Kmieć

To Be or Not to Be on Broadway

Review: To Be or Not To Be on Broadway



Steve Kazee, Jan Maxwell as Maria Tura, and Kristine Nielson in Broadway's "To Be or Not to Be," set in 1939 Warsaw.

The Manhattan Theatre Club presented the world premiere production of Nick Whitby's *To Be or Not To Be*, a play, based on the 1942 motion picture, which starred Jack Benny and Carole Lombard.

At the Polski Theatre in 1939 Warsaw, Josef and Maria Tura are about to open yet another smash with their theatrical troupe. As the German invasion gets underway, the theatre is closed by the censors, forcing the troupe to face desperate times. But when a handsome young bomber pilot Lieut. Stanisław Sobiński enlists their help to catch a spy, what is a group of actors to do? This hilarious black comedy is an ingenious commentary on the World War II era and an inspired tribute to the timeless joys of the theatre.

The limited engagement, featuring slick direction by Casey Nicholaw, opened on October 14. The tour de force performance by Jan Maxwell as Maria, is worth the price of admission alone; she embodies the noble stature of the Polish actress with beauty, humor and elegance.

With the exception of the rounder pronunciation tones of Ms. Maxwell, the incorporation of flat American accents and elocution of Polish words and names are jarring. The use of Polish instrumental tunes during the scene breaks adds significantly to the mood and feeling of the play, and the recurring motif of the tune, "Góralu Czy Ci Nie Żal"—first on the violin and sung at the conclusion is significantly poignant.

Polish Representation and Themes at Musical Theater Festival in NYC

Now in its fifth year, The New York Musical Theatre Festival is the largest musical theatre event in America, NYMF takes over midtown Manhattan for three weeks with a slate of over 30 productions and more than 50 concerts, readings, workshops, seminars and other special events. This year's offering's had a Polish American representation and a musical set in Poland during the Nazi occupation.

As part of the Special Events series, performer/choreographer Ryan Kasprzak presented a preview excerpt of *Time Step* in an evening of works entitled *Freshly Tossed*. In November he presented the full work at The Joyce Theater-Soho.

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul per-

formed in concert in *Overexposed* and *Underloved*. After becoming the youngest songwriters ever to win the Jonathan Larson Award last year, they have been touted as two of the most refreshing voices in contemporary musical theater today.

Mira Spektor, no stranger to visits to Poland with her husband, born in Łódź, penned the music, along with collaborating on the lyrics and book for Villa Diodati. Allan Kozinn of The New York Times stated that it "recalled the more lyrical parts of Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*."

Review: A Musical about The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising



Holly Ann Butler portrays Margalit in the musical *To Paint the Earth*, about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Inspired and loosely based by first-hand accounts of the Jewish Underground in the Warsaw Ghetto, *To Paint the Earth* (book and lyrics by Daniel Frederick Levin and music by Jonathan Portera) tells a fictional account of the resisters and their families, exploring how a broken community was brought to one of history's most stunning and unimaginable decisions—to fight a last battle they had no chance of winning.

In 2004, the musical was selected for the prestigious Richard Rodgers Development Award, administered by the Academy of Arts and Letters and chosen by a committee chaired by Stephen Sondheim. The Award led to 7 staged readings in December of that year.

Performed in a full production, as part of New York Musical Theatre Festival, the musical recalls *Les Misérables*, as a group of characters get caught up in the tumultuous events leading to heroic rebellion. The concept echoes Broadway's current Spring Awakening with its juxtaposition of period and contemporary music style.

To Paint the Earth weaves a tapestry of plotlines and characters as a story of the events leading to the resistance, as systematically the world crumbles. This intense ambitious musical contains many potent moments; however the considerable number of characters and plotlines lessen the focus. The first act sets each relationship in motion, allowing the second act its power and motion.

Most compelling are the soaring ensemble choral harmonies, while the "Sewing Song" and the title song command the stage. With adjustments from this first staging, I expect the musical should have a continued life on stage in the near future.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Poland's Independence Celebrated

CHICAGO—On Veterans' Day, the Polish Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Zygmunt Matynia, and his staff hosted a very special event at The Polish Museum of America (PMA) to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Poland's independence. A standing-room-only crowd of more than 300 filled the Great Hall of the PMA. Even though this event was conducted in the Polish language, greetings from PMA Pres., Maria Ciesla, included that "music transcends all languages." Consul General Matynia gave a summary of Poland's historical struggle for independence, its turbulent years from 1918 through World War II, the communist years, the *Solidarność* years until 1990—and beyond. Matynia, also, noted that the importance of the Polish settlers in Jamestown and their "no vote, no work" demand was the foundation of a new democracy.

Dignitaries from Poland, attending this event, were Renata Wisniewska, Director of the Cabinet of the President of Warsaw, Małgorzata Naimska, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Culture of the City of Warsaw, and Andrzej Matusiak, Director of *Stoleczna Estrada* of Warsaw. Also attending was Robert Ogródnik, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in St. Louis, MO. On behalf of the President of Poland, Mr. Matynia presented the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit to Danuta Cwiklinska Gołąb and Tomasz Gołąb, and the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit to Wojciech Białasiewicz, editor of the *Dziennik Związkowy*. After these presentations, the Consul General invited all to a vocal concert performed by renowned Polish operatic singers, Iwona Tober, Leszek Świdziński, Anna Cymmerman and pianist Małgorzata Gora. The concert, a repertoire of Polish songs—well known to the majority of the guests,



I. to r.: Wiesław Chodorowski, Zygmunt Matynia, Marian Prusek, Dr. Adam Poszel, and Janusz Zadarnowski.



Standing-room-only crowd.

was filled with heart-wrenching, patriotic, and sentimental songs. The crowd, at times, sang with the performers. These songs produced smiles and tears, along with salutes from Polish soldiers of the Battle of Monte Cassino and members of *Armia Krajowa*. The concert included a song especially written by Jan

Ignacy Paderewski for Polish Army recruitment in the United States during World War II. Veterans of all wars were asked to send their war time experiences to the PMA to be archived for future generation. Jan Lorys, Museum curator, mentioned that all experiences in English and Polish are welcomed.

AUTHOR HONORED BY PAC. The Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress honored novelist James Conroyd Martin at their annual Veterans' Day Luncheon, November 9. Martin is the author of "Push Not the River," a novel based on the diary of a countess who lived through the chaotic years of the Third of May Constitution, and "Against a Crimson Sky," which takes the story's characters into the fascinating Napoleonic era. Both books have proven bestsellers in Poland and "Push Not the River" has been optioned for film by a Polish producer in Hollywood.

Don Pienkos, president of the Wisconsin Division of the PAC, honored Martin for "his invaluable interest in building knowledge of the Polish experiences in our [native] country." The occasion underscored the 90th anniversary of Poland's Declaration of Independence in 1918. The end of Poland's independence in 1795 was chronicled in "Push Not the River" when Poland fell to Russia. The true life heroine of the story was present at the Praga Massacre when 12,000 Polish souls were cut down trying to escape the Russians by crossing the bridge that would lead them from the suburb of Praga to the city walls of Warsaw.

Martin and two other writers, Douglas Jacobson ("Night

of Flames") and Paul Valasek ("Haller's Army in France") were also presented with commendations



Zygmunt Matynia (left), Consul General of the Republic of Poland, congratulates author James Conroyd Martin.

from the Milwaukee City Council, the Milwaukee County Board, and from Zygmunt Matynia, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, who had traveled from Chicago to attend the event at the beautiful Polish Center of Wisconsin.

James Conroyd Martin plans to complete his Polish trilogy with "The Warsaw Conspiracy," a novel highlighting the Insurrection of 1830 and attempted abduction of the Russian Grand Duke by Polish cadets. For more about Martin's books, visit www.JamesCMartin.com.

FRIENDS OF JOHN PAUL II. Friends of the John Paul II Foundation, Chicago Chapter, celebrated 25 years of its founding by holding a solemn Mass at St. Richard's Church on Chicago's Southside. Mariusz Han, S.J. of the Jesuit Polish Mission Church of the Sacred Heart, celebrated this Mass and offered a special homily for the occasion. After Mass, almost 100 guests traveled to Szala's, a well-known Southside Polish Highlanders' restaurant. Honored at this event was Bishop Thomas, J. Paprocki, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago; hosting this celebration, was its Chair, Marian Skawski. The John Paul II Foundation was established in 1981 as an ecclesiastical not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to support and implement initiatives, which are scholarly, religious, and cultural in nature, and were closely associated with John Paul II. The Foundation has 42 chapters, nationwide; the Chicago Chapter is the largest with approximately 120 members. Understanding that Polish/Polish American history must be preserved, the Chicago Chapter has begun to undertake a documentary and photographic history project of its chapter. All are welcome to contribute.

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Loyola Professor Addresses CEP

MAREK SUSZKO'S PRESENTATION. The Council of Educators in Polonia (CEP), while holding its monthly meeting and celebrating 90 years of Poland's independence, hosted Dr. Marek Suszko, History professor from Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Suszko presented an enthusiastic and enlightening overview of Poland's struggle for independence. Coordinating this event was Angie Bartoszek, Programs Coordinator of the CEP.

(photo, right):

I. to r.: Dr. Lidia Filus, Dr. Marek Suszko, and Angie Bartoszek.



Polish Museum Honors Millennium and Legacy Members

The Polish Museum of America (PMA) held its fourth and final bi-yearly black tie gala honoring the Museum's final group of Millennium Life Members, as well as ushering in its "Legacy Life Members." Life and Legacy Members, both past and present, made major monetary commitments to "preserve the past for the future" of the PMA. Those attending the evening's event were given the opportunity of viewing hard copies (originals), as well as a slide presentation of an array of literary, documentary and photographic treasures in which many of these rare gems were being viewed for the first time. Kudos to Halina Misterka, Leonard Kurdek, Julita Siegel, Monica Nowak, Richard Kujawa, Małgorzata Kot, Bar-



Sabina Logisz, Founding Member (1936); Maria Ciesla, Pres. PMA; and Thad Jakubowski, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Chicago.

bara Mirecki, Krystyna Grell, Mark Sorbi, Agnieszka Migiel, and Jan Lorys. These Museum staff members were available to give invaluable expertise commentary regarding the Museum's rare, important, and priceless documents and photos. The Chair of this event was Joann Ozog, the Museum's Membership and Events Coordinator and a PMA volunteer.



2008 Museum Life Members

KOŚCIUSZKO CELEBRATION.

The Kościuszko Foundation, Chicago Chapter, celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 22 with a soirée held at the Polish Consulate. The guest of honor was Mr. Joseph E. Gores, Executive Director of the Kościuszko Foundation. Also in attendance were members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and its Academic Advisory Council. At this event, well-deserved recognition was given to Zygmunt Drykacz, owner of Chicago's popular Chopin Theater, to Krzysztof Kamyszew, Executive Director of the Society for Arts,

and founder of Chicago's Polish Film Festival, to Lucyna Migala, Artistic Director of the Lira Ensemble, and to Mira Puacz, owner of the Polonia Book Store. Pianist Pawel Checinski presented a recital featuring the music of Chopin and Szymanowski. During the past quarter century, the Chicago Chapter has supported numerous cultural events in the metro-Chicago area, distributed a number of scholarships to well-deserving Chicago area students, and, over the past 16 years, promoted the Kościuszko Foundation's Chopin Piano Competition auditions.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Hochul A Frontrunner for U.S. Attorney

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The members of Polish National Alliance District IV chose **Ann Holby** of Erie, Pa. to serve as district secretary and Eleanor Karlis of Lackawanna to serve as district treasurer at the group's recent convention in Syracuse ... **Bill Hochul**, the Buffalo U.S. Attorney's Office Anti-Terrorism Chief, is a frontrunner for the position of U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York ... The State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYab) Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy presented a program on "Violence Against Women: International Perspectives" which included a discussion of domestic violence with visiting scholar **Dorota Trypens** of Warsaw and a screening of **Joanna Kos and Krzysztof Krauze's** film "Plac Zbawiciela / Saviour Square" on December 3 ... Also on the 3rd, the **Professional and Businessmen's Association** elected Ron Sygnatur, Greg Mazurowski and Walter Stepien to its board of directors at its Christmas Party / Election Meeting. Acting NYS Supreme Court Justice John Michalski swore in the new directors.

The **Advocates Club of WNY** honored NYS Senator Bill Stachowski and attorney Richard Kwiecek at its Christmas Party at the Polish Villa II Restaurant in Cheektowaga on December 4 ... The Blacksmith Shop on Route 39 in Collins Center offers one of the largest selections of **Polish pottery** in WNY ... On December 6, Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka administered the oath of office to the incoming officers of the **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and WNY**: Al Ziemecki (president), Marty Bochinski (first vice president), David Gorski (second vice president), Walter Kantorski (third vice president), Mike Stack (secretary), Ron Skotnicki (treasurer), Paul Manno (financial secretary) and Jerry Imiola (sergeant-at-arms) ... December 6th also brought the SUNYab **Polish Student Association's** 36th Annual "Wigilia" to Buffalo's St. Stanislaus Social Center, the **Chopin Singing Society's** "Wigilia" to the Fr. Justin Knights of Columbus Hall in Cheektowaga, **Polish Falcons Nest 52** Christmas Party to Camp Eastman in Rochester and the **Polish Heritage Society** of Rochester's Krakow Creche Display and "Wigilia" to the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

Binghamton once again beat out Buffalo in Mrs. T's "**Capital of the Pierog Pocket of America 2009**"

competition ... **Polish Singers Alliance of America District IX** hosted its 28th Annual "Christmas in Polish Song" featuring the Chopin Singing Society, Symfonia Singing Society, Kalina Women's Chorus, Ludowa Nuta and a combined chorus under the direction of Dr. Thomas Witkowski at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo on December 7 ... Also on the 7th, Greg and Lynn Chwojdak of the "Polkamotion" radio program on WXRL (1300AM) held their annual food drive to benefit **Sr. John's Response to Love Center** and the **Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society's** "Wigilia Dinner and Koledy" took place at the Polish Nook Restaurant ... SUNYab's **Dr. Kazimierz Braun's** new play, "Tales of Pola Negri," had its American premiere at the American University's Greenberg Theatre in Washington, D.C. on December 9.

The "**Krakow—The Magic City**" photographic exhibit was on display at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario until December 11 ... **Sandy Starks** and **Rev. Anselm Chalupka** of Corpus Christi Parish gave a "Wigilia" demonstration at the historic Broadway Market on December 13 ... **Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral** in Lancaster hosted its Advent / Christmas Evensong Service, **Assumption Parish** in Black Rock presented the Canisius High School Chamber Singers' "Carols and Lessons" and the **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** held its "Wigilia" at the Protocol Restaurant in Williamsville on December 14 ... The Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle joined with the Corpus Christi Parish Choir, American Serbian Club "Braska Sloga" Lodge 248 and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church to celebrate "**A Slavic Christmas**" on December 21 ... On December 27 and 28, the **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** performed in the Lancaster Opera House's production of "Polish Christmas in the Village" which is based on Rev. Czeslaw Krysa's book "Polish Christmas Eve."

"**Sylwester / New Year's Eve**" celebrations were held at the Syracuse Polish Home, Dunkirk's Kosciuszko Club, Mississauga's John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, Rochester's Polish American Citizens Club, Kitchener's Dom Polski 2000 and North Tonawanda's Madonna Council of the Knights of Columbus ... Buffalo's **St. Adalbert Parish** is planning a reunion for April of 2009. Please contact Ma-

ria Slomczewski at (716) 892-1369 for more information ... The **Polish Cultural Foundation** will hold its Annual Meeting the afternoon of Saturday, January 31, 2009 at the Butler Library on the Buffalo State College Campus on Elmwood Avenue. For more information, please visit www.polishculturalfoundation.com.

Szczesliwego Nowego Roku! Happy New Year to all my friends and readers!

♦ ♦ ♦

If you have any item for this column, please send the information to me by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. January 6 for the February edition) at: POL. E.G.L., P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: [pietruska@verizon.net](mailto:pietruszka@verizon.net). For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: www.polegl.org.

Kozlowski Named Dean of UB School of Public Health and Health Professions

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Lynn T. Kozlowski, professor and chair of the Department of Health Behavior and interim dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions since September 2007, has been appointed dean of the school after a national search.

Kozlowski's appointment was announced by David L. Dunn, vice president for health sciences.

He succeeds Maurizio Trevisan, founding dean of the school, who left UB to become vice chancellor and chief executive officer of the University of Nevada Health Sciences System, the Nevada System of Higher Education.

An international leader in the field of smoking cessation, Kozlowski joined the faculty of the School of Public Health and Health Professions in 2006 to head the then-new Department of Health Behavior. He previously was professor and head of biobehavioral health in the College of Health and Human Development at Pennsylvania State University.

Kozlowski's primary interest is smoking and health. He has published more than 100 papers in the field, and research in that area is a major component of the UB Department of

St. Nicholas Makes Visit



In celebration of St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6), Swiety Mikolaj visited with several children of the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble. The children were given traditional gifts of oranges, gingerbread cookies, candies and prayer cards.

BUFFALO, N.Y.—On his way to Poland, St. Nicholas stopped by to visit the children of the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble. He came bearing traditional gifts of oranges, gingerbread cookies, candies and prayer cards for all. The children were told the legend of St. Nicholas and reminded that in Poland, St. Nicholas visits the children on his

feast day and not on Christmas day.

The feast of St. Nicholas is on December 6th. On this day, Swiety Mikolaj (as he is called in Poland) visits the homes of people in the village, dressed in his bishop's robes. When St. Nicholas visits the children, he gives them gifts for being good and to remind them of the gifts given to the Christ Child by the Three Kings. Celebrating the feast day of Swiety Mikolaj remains popular with Polish people living all over the world.

Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble's mission is to promote and sustain Polish heritage within the family, through study and performance of the traditional folk dances of Poland and cultural enrichment sessions. They are a family ensemble spanning several generations with nearly 60 performing members.

Harmony is a member of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas.

For more information, visit www.harmoniypfe.org, or call Kim Arent at (716) 200-7543.



KOZLOWSKI

Health Behavior.

Prior to his tenure at Penn State, Kozlowski taught at the University of Toronto for ten years and was on the staff at the Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto for 11 years. He was head of the foundation's Biobehavioral Research on Tobacco Use unit when he joined Penn State's biobehavioral health faculty in 1990. He was named head of the department in 1993.

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PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

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 \$30.00.

I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

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118th Anniversary CELEBRATION!

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HAMTRAMCK BEAT / Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

Take a Virtual tour of Hamtramck via the Web

There's nothing like exploring a new city with all of its inimitable sights and sounds. However, if you're not able to visit in person, the next best thing is to get an inkling of it on the Web.

Here are a few Web sites to gain a glimpse of what makes Hamtramck the unique place that it is.

CITY SITES. From Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski and other city officials comes the greeting: Welcome to "Hamtramck—A Touch of the World in Hamtramck." Previously, the slogan was "Hamtramck—A Touch of Europe in America." Find out much more on the city's website www.hamtramck.us.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. Eve Doster Knepp, the interim downtown development manager for Hamtramck reports about business development and media coverage of the city. One such item is that four street signs on Conant Avenue were renamed Bangladesh Ave. in honor of the Bangladesh community and their businesses that have sprung up on that major thoroughfare. The top of each sign reads: Bangladesh Ave. and the bottom reads: Celebrate Diversity. DDA news may be accessed at www.downtownhamtramck.com.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION. The Hamtramck Historical Commission has been busy with fund-raising events, working toward the goal of eventually having a city museum. This year, they drew from their archival photos and compiled a calendar titled, "Hamtramck, 2 square miles rich in History..." which was sold around town. Commissioners

are Chairman Greg Kowalski, Cindy Cervenak, vice-chairwoman, Hillary Cherry, secretary, Joan Bittner, Dennis Orlovski and Jonathan Richards. An associate group is the Friends of Historical Hamtramck. The Commission has collected materials ranging from a 1792 letter relating to Colonel John Francis Hamtramck to advertising fliers of current businesses throughout the city. Visit www.hamtramckhistory.org.

HAMTRAMCK PUBLIC LIBRARY. For programs and activities sponsored by the Hamtramck Public Library, Albert J. Zak Memorial, check online at www.hamtramck-publiclibrary.com. The library houses a large collection of foreign language books and magazines. The library's Web site also features links to the Hamtramck Heights Community Garden, Ukrainian American Archives & Museum of Detroit, the Detroit Zen Center, the Arab American and Chaldean Society, and others.

NEWSWORTHY SITES. A mainstay in covering city news, THE CITIZEN may be viewed online at www.hamtramckcitizen.com. MAIN STREET is a complimentary newspaper distributed around town. For information, e-mail publisher George Kristy at gkristy@gmail.com. HAMTRAMCK STAR is available only online at www.hamtramckstar.com. THE POLISH WEEKLY/TYGODNIK POLSKI has been serving the Polish American community since 1904; e-mail them at polishweekly@comcast.net. THE POLISH TIMES / CZAS POLSKI is available online at www.polishtimes-czaspolski.com.

ST. FLORIAN. At www.stflorian-parish.org, read about the imposing church, its history, Mass schedule, parish groups and view photos from different events. A Centennial anniversary book is being sold to commemorate the 2008 milestone year. Historian Thaddeus Radzilowski, Ph.D., of the Piast Institute wrote the update to the parish history for the keepsake publication. For more information about the anniversary book, e-mail the office at office@stflorianparish.org. In addition, Detroit's prestigious "HOUR DETROIT" magazine featured a historic photo of St. Florian on its page, The Way It Was, written and developed by George Bulanda. The photo depicts the dedication of the church on Oct. 21, 1928. By the way, interim Detroit Mayor Kenneth Cockrel Jr. is a 1983 graduate of St. Florian school.

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, MICHIGAN DIVISION. Find out what is going on in terms of political issues to over one million Americans of Polish descent. Go to www.pacmi.org. The PAC is an umbrella organization for many Polish groups.

POLISH DAY PARADE. Sponsored by the PAC, Michigan Division, the Polish Day Parade Committee operates its own Web site. Their parade coverage may be seen at www.polishdayparade.org.

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE. For information about the local fraternal Polish National Alliance lodge and council, e-mail PNAldodge1758@Comcast.net. To find out about the national PNA in Chicago, view www.pna-znp.org.

PIAST INSTITUTE.

At www.piastinstitute.org, cull information about the Piast Institute, which is one of the official Census Information Centers (CIC) in the United States.

POLISH ART CENTER. As a treasury of Polish Heritage, the Polish Art Center has an extensive array of Polish items, many not found anywhere else, available online. In addition, the Bittner family offers on their Web site: www.polartcenter.com, many links to such groups as Polish dance and language schools.

CAFE 1923 HAMTRAMCK. With outstanding cups of Joe, this coffeehouse attracts artists, graphic designers, musicians to perform and display their work. Guide yourself to www.cafe1923.com.

HATCH. The Hamtramck Art Collective may be discovered via www.hatchart.org.

H-CAT. Cat lovers can reach the Hamtramck Cat Assistance Team at hamcat.org.

PRESERVE OUR PARKS. Learn about plans for the Hamtramck Bike Trail at www.preserveourparks.org. Since 1996, Preserve Our Parks has as its goal the maintenance of the city's public park land.

PERSONAL MUSINGS. With 2009, I'm looking forward to the next reunion of Alliance College alumni and faculty held at the Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania. I had a wonderful time in 2007 at the last get-together. For more details about the Alumni Association, check out their site at www.alliancecollege.com.

Until my next column, Happy New Year and Happy Trails to you from Hamtown!

INTERNATIONAL

Auschwitz Blueprints Found

BERLIN (Reuters)—The original construction plans believed used for a major expansion of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz in 1941 have been found in a Berlin flat, Germany's BILD newspaper reported.

The daily printed three architect's drawings on yellowing paper from the batch of 28 pages of blueprints it obtained. One has a room marked "Gaskammer" (gas chamber) that was part of a "delousing facility."

No one from the federal government's archives was immediately available for comment on the authenticity or importance of the documents.

The plans include a crematorium and a "L. Keller"—an abbreviation for "Leichenkeller" or corpse cellar.

A drawing of the building for Auschwitz's main gate was also found in the documents that BILD said were believed to have been

discovered when a Berlin flat was cleaned out.

The newly found blueprints are dated October 23, 1941 and could offer historians earlier evidence of Nazi plans to kill on a mass scale, BILD said.

"These documents reveal that everyone who had even anything remotely to do with the planning and construction of the concentration camp must have known that people were to be gassed to death in assembly-line fashion," BILD wrote.

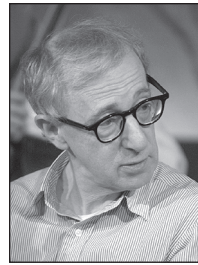
"The documents refute once and for all claims by those who deny the Holocaust even took place," it added.

Auschwitz I was set up in May 1940 in an old army barracks in Poland. The first victims were gassed in September 1941. Auschwitz II, or Birkenau, opened in October 1941.

Four large gas chambers were added to the camp in January 1942.

Woody Allen Tours Poland

KRAKOW—In recent years, descendants of Poland's once thriving Jewish community have been making their way back to Poland, almost exclusively as tourists.



ALLEN

The Polish government is encouraging this and the old Jewish quarters of Warsaw and Krakow are now thriving again as throngs of tourists rediscover the history of a culture all but completely destroyed.

Poland's Jewish community numbered 3.5 million prior to the start of World War II and during the Middle Ages was the largest and

most significant Jewish community in the world. Notable Jews of Polish descent include Sigmund Freud, Steven Spielberg, and Mel Brooks. The Holocaust hit this community particularly hard and at the end of the war only a fraction, estimated at 10%, were still alive.

The latest celebrity visitor to Poland was Woody Allen (born Allan Stewart Koningsberg). Reportedly excited about the trip, Allen performed a sold out show at the Kongresowa Hall in Warsaw on December 28th with his New Orleans Jazz Band. Rumor has it that Allen would perform a few Klezmer style numbers: this style of music is currently popular in Poland where nostalgia for the Jewish culture is currently all the fashion.

ACPC Announces \$5K Pulaski Scholarships

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has announced it is accepting applications for the 2009 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies. The \$5,000 award, which was initially endowed by the Conrad R. Walas family, is administered solely by the ACPC. Qualified applicants must send all of the material so that it is received on or before March 15, 2009 (faxes not accepted). Original copies of all materials must be mailed to the Chairman and duplicate copies to the other four ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee members: Mr. Marion V. Winters, Chairman, 51 Camile Rd., Webster MA 01570; Deborah M. Majka, 812 Lombard St. #12 Philadelphia PA 19147; Peter J. Obst, 67 Lower Orchard Dr. Levittown PA 19056; Anna-Mae Maglaty, 35 Fernridge

Rd., West Hartford CT 06107; or Carolyn L. Meleski, 10020 Reese Rd., Clarkston MI 48348.

At least one scholarship grant of \$5,000 is available for the 2009 competition. The application requirements may be obtained by visiting the ACPC website: www.polishcultureacpc.org or contacting Mr. Winters at e-mail mvwinters@charter.net or tel. (508) 949-0160. Questions concerning the requirements should be directed to Mr. Winters.

All materials submitted by applicants will become part of the records of the ACPC and will not be returned. Late, incomplete or unsigned applications will not be accepted or returned for correction. The decisions of the ACPC Pulaski Scholarships Committee are final and not subject to review.

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



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Please enroll me as an individual member in the American Council for Polish Culture! Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly publication *Polish Heritage*.

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How Will You Be Remembered?

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. The National Polish Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that needs your help and legacy.

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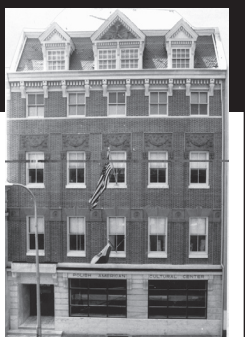
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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

IPA Presents Festival of Bands, January 18

CHICAGO (PMN)—For the last forty years the International Polka Association has held its Festival of Chicago Bands, and continues to do so this year. This all-day affair will be held, Sunday, January 18, 2009, at Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem Avenue, Chicago Ridge, Illinois. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. with music commencing at 11:30 a.m.

Bands scheduled to entertain polka fans include Rick Rzeszutko & the Music Company, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Downtown Sound, Stas Bulanda & the Old School Review, Joe Walega & the Happy Hearts, Jimmy Kilian, Ampol Aires, Jake Mikrut & the All Stars, Freeze Dried and Stas Golonka & the Chicago Masters.

Tune in to the IPA radio show on WPNA (1490 AM in Chicago) or via www.wpna1490am.com on Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for more information.

IPA Fest Moves

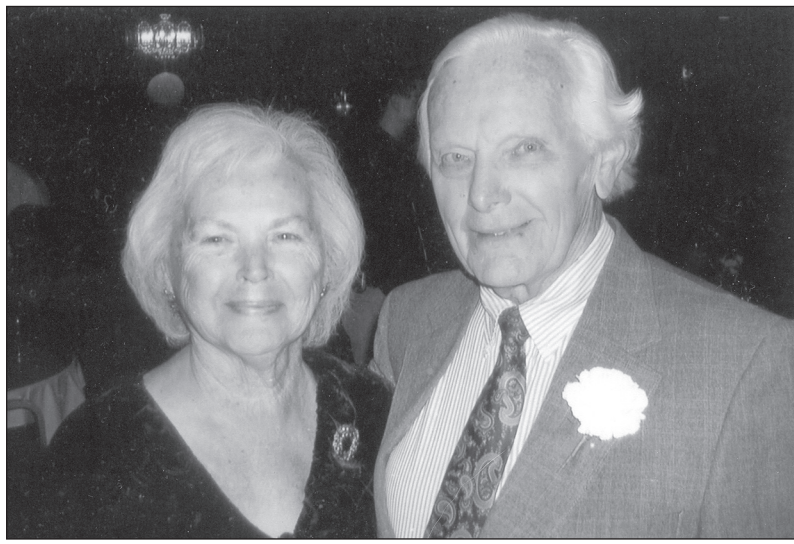
CHICAGO (PMN)—As was determined at its last convention, the 41st Annual International Polka Association (IPA) Polka Festival and Convention will be held in the Cleveland, Ohio, area in both 2009 and 2010. The location is the Doubletree Hotel Cleveland South in Independence, Ohio. In 2009 it will take place from August 6-9.

The festival includes many pool and lounge parties, as well of some of the nation's top polka bands in the convention hall throughout the weekend.

As always, the highlight of the festival is the gala Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards banquet held on Saturday morning, August 8, 2009.

For the children the IPA hosts a Mini Polka Princess Pageant and an Art Contest. Sunday boasts a Polka Mass along, with the annual convention meeting and election of officers, which is limited to IPA members.

"Silver Fox" Moves to FM and Internet



SYRACUSE, N.Y.—The Bob Pietrucha Polish Radio Show has moved to FM and the Internet. The change started December 7, 2008.

The veteran radio broadcaster, known as the "Silver Fox of Polkas," and his wife, Virginia Grey, broadcast live every Sunday afternoon on WVOA 103.9 FM, based in East Syracuse, N.Y., 2:00-4:00 p.m. The program can also be heard

on 95.3 FM, 98.1 FM, 101.5 FM, and on the internet at WVOAradio.com.

Pietrucha started in radio in 1961, and is now celebrating his 47th year on the air with polka music.

Bands and organizations can send their CD releases and news items to: Bob Pietrucha, 105 Armitage Dr., North Syracuse, NY 13212, or call (315) 458-1054.

Polka Grammy Nominees

LOS ANGELES—For the first time, nominations for the annual Grammy Awards were announced on prime-time television as part of "The Grammy Nominations Concert Live!—Countdown To Music's Biggest Night." The one-hour special was broadcast live on CBS from Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

Nominees for the Best Polka Album category are:

- **El Maestro Del Acordeón Y Sus Polkas**, Paulino Bernal [Urbana Records]
- **Speechless**, LynnMarie & Charlie Kelley As The Boxhounds [Squeeze Records]
- **Back To Back Hall Of Fame Polkas**, Walter Ostanek & His Band, Jerry Darlak & The Touch And Bob Kravos & His Band [Sunshine Diversified Ent.]
- **Hungry For More**, Polka Family

Band [Polka Family Music] • **Let The Whole World Sing**, Jimmy Sturr And His Orchestra [Rounder].

The 51st Annual Grammy Awards will be held on "Grammy Sunday," Feb. 8, 2009, at Staples Center in Los Angeles and once again will be broadcast live in high-definition TV and 5.1 surround sound on CBS from 8-11:30 p.m. (ET/PT).

Join Lenny and Mitch

Lenny Gomulka and Mitch Biskup will tour Poland May 28 through June 7, 2009. This will be their third visit. For a printable flyer and full itinerary go to <http://www.chicagopush.com> or e-mail any questions to chicagopush@aol.com.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Forty Years on the Beat

Forty years of writing! It began by sending news shorts to Stan Saleski's Polka News and then, with the help of Adele and Rose, we created the Polka Press News Bulletin for the Polka Paraders Club of Binghamton. That led to the "Accordion to Steve" by-line, which eventually migrated to the "Polka Insider" column which is now exclusive to the Polish American Journal. Proving that he will do anything for a laugh, Mark Kohan named me Polka Editor and now I sit here, four decades later, wondering where the time has gone.

Writing about polka music, musicians, festivals, figure dances, recordings, and sometimes items not even closely connected to the aforementioned, I've often thought "I've written this column before." Truth is, there are times I've thought I shouldn't write another column.

I've learned to despise deadlines, avoid certain subject matter and sneak secret messages into sentences of a column. (now, I suspect the

readers will be searching for those messages?) There have been times I've written a column in less than ten minutes and other times I've worked on one for ten days. The column that takes ten days to write ends up never being published.

The first columns were pounded into an old Underwood manual typewriter and hand mailed to the PAJ offices. Next came floppy disks and finally email and the internet. I still have the Underwood in the attic, somewhere, but have gone through at least four computers since then. Perhaps that's a subject for a future column?

Forty years is a long time and a major portion of my life. Writing I've made many friends and a few enemies, but I only remember the friends. I was asked recently when am I going to retire from writing. Actually, I think about that every month, especially near my deadline for copy. Apparently I'm not retiring yet so as long as you keep reading, I'll keep writing.

JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Bulanda Delivers a Great Honky Style Christmas

Christmas is still in our memories so here's "A Honky Style Christmas" by Stas Bulanda and the Old School Review on a new CD on the Chicago Polkas label.

Sixteen tracks feature a complete variety of new and old Christmas polkas, Christmas obereks, and koledy. There are originals from the musical pens of Stas Bulanda and Steve Fornek as well as melodies familiar to all.

Making this package even more festive are the vocals by Steve Fornek, Chet Kowalkowski and Stas Bulanda. Fornek's work on "Cicha Noc" (Silent Night) and "Lulajze Jezuniu" (Lullaby Sweet Jesus) can be felt deep within your Polish heart and will take you back to those days when you first heard and sang these songs.

Of course there is also "Kubus The Polish Reindeer," "Hej Koleda" with Stas and Steve on vocals, and Chet and Stas with the Wally hit, "Christmas Oberek."

Making this entire package work is Stas Bulanda on concertina, Bernie Gorak on drums, Steve Fornek on clarinet and vocals, Paul Dudasik on piano, Marty Drazek on trumpet, Chet Kowalkowski on vocals and a dynamic job by Jim "Chainsaw" Kucharski on bass fiddle and tuba.

And, if this isn't enough, there is also a snowman on the cover playing a concertina along with the rest of the snowman band.

It's on the Chicago Polkas label and it would be a great after-Christmas Christmas gift.

WVIA Puts "Pennsylvania Polka" on Hiatus

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—As reported in the Times Leader, public broadcasting television station, WVIA will be "Pennsylvanian Polka" and the "WVIA Ballroom, two dance live programs on hiatus until Sep-

tember as part of a cost-savings measure. Broadcasts of the shows will continue throughout the Summer, but tapings have been stopped until September. Layoffs at WVIA represent 8.4 percent its work force.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Polkaman Jack E. Zolnierowski is "Wackie Jackie 'Z'"

Jack E. Zolnierowski's love affair with Polkas began in Rochester, N.Y., his birthplace. His father, Ed Zolnierowski loved to polka dance and loved to listen to polka band recordings. Since Jack's birth, Ed has passed down his love of music.



At the age of four, Jack was encouraged to learn a musical instrument, and he chose the drums after watching a movie about Gene Krupa. He quickly excelled and went on to win one amateur contest after another. At age five, he played in front of 10,000 people at Red Wing Stadium in Rochester at their annual Polish Night.

As a result of this event, Jack would later be invited to sit in as a guest drummer with polka bands who performed in Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse. These groups included: The Connecticut Twins, Happy Louie, Ray Budzilek, and Marion Lush, to name a few. He was also involved with a performing group called the Rochester JC's and performed over 60 dates a year for charity events.

By age seven, Jack's father put together a duo with Jack's cousin Johnny and "Jackie Z and the Polka Tots" were born. Later they added a trumpet player, Mike DiMartino, and went on to win the City of Rochester Talent Contest and win the key to the city award with the Laughing Polka. The trio performed over 70 dates a year and performed on live TV and radio.

At age 12, Zolnierowski joined a larger band with older musicians and played locally and throughout New York state. Joining the The Hy-Tones at age 16, he recorded his first record seven months later, entitled Hudson Ave. Style Polkas. Six months later, Zolnierowski recorded the Wabash Cannonball Polka with the Polka Land Band. The original 45 is a polka collectable.

Since then, Jack has recorded with a number of pbands including: Li'l Wally, Joe Oberaitis and Rick Piotrowski, to name a few. He also wrote the lyrics to "Polkaitis" on the Joe Oberaitis Polkaitis recording. The song was written about Zolnierowski's father, Ed, to honor him.

Zolnierowski has been the drummer for Joe Oberaitis since 1994, providing Jack the opportunity to learn the classic styles of many

drummers due to Joe's recorded collection and Joe's attention to polka drumming details.

The newest addition to the Polka Party Express, www.polkaparty-express.com, is Mrs. Wackie. Mrs. Wackie has had of years experience in live theatrical productions as a union professional "triple threat." She has starred in various musicals throughout the country's professional regional theatres. In between these theatrical productions, Mrs. Wackie has been a studio vocalist, singing for dozens of recordings.

Wackie Jackie & his wife, Mrs. Wackie, are grateful for the opportunity to host the live weekly Polka Party Express on WMNF 88.5FM in Tampa, Florida every Sunday from 2-4 p.m. on the internet at: www.wmnf.org. He modeled the show after long-time DJ and Polka Musi-

cian, Ray Serafin of Rochester, N.Y. who has been on the air since August 1981.

Where did the name Wackie Jackie Z come from? Zolnierowski has a great sense of humor. While living in Winter Haven, Florida he became involved with the church choir and instigated a secret rehearsal with the church band doing "In Heaven There is No Beer polka." During a church concert, he took over the band and dedicated the song to the pastor and visiting clergy. The crowd laughed until they cried. At the end of the song the piano player leaned over to Jack and said, "It's Wackie Jackie and the Polkateers, we're a hit!"

Jack's greatest thrill in music to date, was having Li'l Wally the World's Polka King invite him to play drums on Wally's last Jay Jay recording.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

OstaneK-Darлак-Kravos Combination Nets Nomination

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Hi everyone! My sincerest wishes to all of you for a very happy, healthy and successful New Year 2009. May it be filled with good luck, good friendship, love and laughter.

How quickly times flies! Another year has gone by already. The lyrics to our Polish song "Jak Szybko Mijaja Chwile," are so true.

TEAMWORK PAYS OFF. Buffalo-band **Jerry Darlak & the Touch** received an early Christmas present in the form of a Grammy nomination. By hooking up with Walt OstaneK, Darlak's band got its third nod, this time for the recording "Back To Back Hall of Fame Polkas."

The Touch includes Jerry Darlak, Ken Machelski, Tadj Szymczak, Mike Nowakowski, Ray Barsukiewicz, Rick Pijanowski and Steve Michael.

This is sixteenth try for the award for Mike Nowakowski, who owns the band's record label, Sunshine Diversified Entertainment.

The awards will be presented at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, February 8, 2009.

AROUND THE TOWN. Since I was hosting Thanksgiving dinner and had a lot to do, I did not make the pre-Thanksgiving party at the Polish Villa II on Nov. 26 with the **Knewz**, but I heard there was a very good turnout and the Kutas cooks put out a great buffet.

The after-Thanksgiving Dance on Nov. 29 at the Lily of the Valley Hall with the **Concertina All Stars** was a good time with a nice attendance. The band sounded super! Mike Kurdziel from Crownview Catering served a complimentary sandwich platter which was enjoyed by all.

It was nice to see accordion player extraordinaire Kevin Solecki,

formerly with Polka Family, out our way, partying with Steve Brown and company.

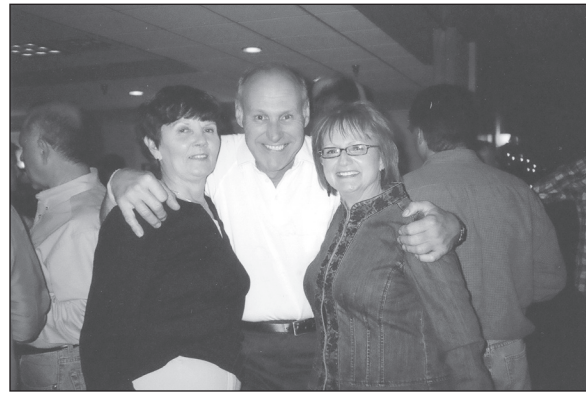
At the dance, I reminisced with the Polka Pals, Ron Polak and Ed Gawron, about their prior years of running a koledy night at this same hall when it was called the Knights of St. John. That was such a special night with a zlobek set up in the hall and Msgr. Gabalski blessing the stable, along with singing of Polish and English carols.

Jenny Kurdziel mentioned to me that her husband Richie, and **Dave Miesowicz** of the Bedrock Boys drove to Detroit the day before to see the Dynasticks reunion. She said Rich reported it was awesome, as you can well imagine.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO ... Sandy and Bob Krawczyk, managers of the Lamm Post Grove in Williamsville, on the passing of Sandy's mom, Christine Decz, Nov. 25 ... the **Juszkiewicz** and **Zaporowski** families on the passing of Joe Juszkiewicz. Joe was part of the East Side's Top Hill group, which was very active in Buffalo's polka scene in the 1960s and '70s ... the family and friends of **Michael "Mikey" Hochulski**, a regular at the old Broadway Grill ... the family of **Tom Hajduk**, who died from injuries after being struck down by a drunk driver. He was 51. Hajduk was an engineer and musician at the former Squire Studios in Buffalo. Among his projects were recordings by the Dynatonnes and Steel City Brass ... to the family of **Henry S. "Spike" Chudzik**, who passed away December 16, 2008. He and his wife Lorraine attended many polka events in Western New York. Chudzik was a member of American Legion Matthew Glab Post #1477, OLSH Seniors and the Polka Variety Club.



Dave and Joanne Picciano having a ball at the Lily of Valley Banquet Hall.



Lucy, Jim and Judy love the music of Polka Family which performed at the Lily of Valley Hall, Nov. 8.



Polka Family is one band that always draws a crowd wherever they perform.



Ronnie, Bob, and Bob, taking a break from dancing to Polka Family.

May they rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ... Danny Potts on his recent engagement to **Chris Palka**. We wish them the best of luck and happiness ... **Robin Pegg**, on earning his CSO certificate. The home and business security expert is now qualified to service accounts in 32 states, including Idaho.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 1. Lily of the Valley Hall. 6th Annual Hangover Dance from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Jerry Darlak & the Touch and Nickel City.

Please note that the Polka Variety Club does not have a meeting in

January.

Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30. Friday polka nights at the Polish Villa II, 1085 Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. with Jerry Darlak & the Touch from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Jan. 15. Polka Boosters Club meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music and refreshments. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Chris at 892-7977.

Jan. 24. Snowball Dance at Potts Banquet Hall, South Ogden St., Buffalo, with Phocus.

May 23-24. Dave Sychtysz, promoter from Cicero, N.Y. wanted

everyone to know about the Adirondack Polka Festival on May 23 and May 24, 2009 at the Hildebrandt Recreation Center on North St. in Old Forge, N.Y. Music will be by the Maestro's Men and Eddie Blazonczyk & the Versatones on Saturday, and Polka Family and the Knewz will play on Sunday. Polish and American food and refreshments will be available. For more information, please contact Dave at (315) 699-1708.

Thanks for supporting as many polka doings as you possibly can! We don't want to lose them.

A New Polkas for Charity CD

FALLSTON Md. (PMN)—Ted Borzymowski has announced the second offering from Polkas For Charity titled "Polka Fever." This CD is very different from the first in that most of the CD is a compilation of recordings from over 20 various, talented groups of musicians from all over the country representing numerous styles of Polka Music.

Borzymowski started Polkas For Charity to bring musicians together to raise money for specific charities. Like the first CD, "Let's Get This Party Started!," all the proceeds from Polka Fever will go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. St. Jude's is a pediatric treatment and research facility and has completely changed how the world treats children with cancer and catastrophic diseases. All patients at St. Jude are treated without regard to the family's ability to pay. After just one year, with the support of so many in the polka music community, Polkas For Charity has made contributions totaling \$20,000.00 to St. Jude.

After he started this project and the songs started coming in, Borzymowski says he was amazed at how truly diverse the polka world really is. He points to the smooth push style of Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, the progressive sound of John Gora & Gorale and the powerful sound of the Polka Country Musicians. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra, Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men and Eddie Forman Orchestra are all Eastern style bands, but they each

have a distinct sound that has made them wildly popular. He states that he "learned to love Slovenian style Polkas and there's a lot to love here with the aggressive style of Klancnik and Friends, the pure Cleveland sound of the Eric Noltkamper Band and the wonderful button box and accordion mix of Verne and Steve Meisner."

You can name a lot of bands on the new CD after only a few measures of the music: Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Polka Family, Dynabass and Henny & the Versa J's. All four, says Borzymowski, are among everyone's list of the most popular bands in the polka music industry. However, he has also included some music from some bands with which not everyone may be familiar. He notes, though, that Freeze

Dried has been wowing audiences for many years, Brave Combo has been touring across the country like no other polka band entertaining their huge fan base and The Crawdaddies are a Baltimore based band that has performed alongside some of the great Cajun and Zydeco acts in the United States. The album also includes Gary Brueggen & the Ridgeland Dutchmen. Another band that might be new to some is the Polish Connection, although they've been appearing across the Midwest for many years.

"Polka Fever" is available from bands on the CD or a CD distributor. Borzymowski may be contacted at Polkas For Charity, PO Box 835, Fallston, MD 21047-0835 or <tedborzymowski@comcast.net>.

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We believe the following information to be correct, but it should always be verified before traveling long distances or expending funds.

EVERY TUESDAY

- **Illinois.** The Major Pensionaires at Major Hall, 5660 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, Ill., 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

- **Illinois.** Tony Paliga's Morning Stars at the Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill., 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., \$4.
- **Illinois.** The Midway Cavaliers at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7840 S. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Ill., 7:00-10:00 p.m., free admission.

EVERY FRIDAY

- **Illinois.** Joe Walega & the Happy Hearts at the New Warsaw Restaurant and Banquets, 6250 W. 63rd St., Chicago, Ill., 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$5.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

— NEW YEAR'S EVE

- **Arizona.** Don The Polish K8id and Lorraine at Florence Gardens, 3830 N. Florence Blvd., Florence, Ariz., from 10:00 p.m.
- **Connecticut.** Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., Colchester, Mass., dinner 7:00 p.m., music 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., \$35.
- **Florida.** Melotones at the General Pulaski Citizens Club, 6221 SE 113th St., Belleview, Fla., 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
- **Florida.** Northern Sounds at Campers Village, Ocala, Fla. Check locally for details.
- **Illinois.** Ampol Aires at Fairway Banquets, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, Ill., cocktails 7:30 p.m., dinner 8:30 p.m., music 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., \$65.
- **Illinois.** Gawle & Company and The Borow Big Band at the VFW Post, Lockport, Ill., 8:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m., \$25 per couple with beer, soda and meal.
- **Michigan.** Natural Tones at the Bad Axe K of C Hall, 1038 S. van Dyke, Bad Axe, Mich., 8:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
- **Michigan.** New Brass and DynaBrass at the PRCUA Hall, 1430 Oak St., Wyandotte, Mich., 8:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m., \$45.
- **Michigan.** Coachmen at the American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Ln., Sterling Heights, Mich., 8:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m.
- **Michigan.** Steve Dzewicki at Pulaski Hall Bar, Farrgut St., Bay City, Mich., 8:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m., no admission charge.
- **Michigan.** Big Daddy Lackowski at the Polka Boosters of America, Msgr. Hunt K of C Hall, 7080 Garling, Dearborn Heights, Mich. For details call (734) 422-1901
- **New Jersey.** Polka Country Musicians and DJ Bruce Z at the Bayway Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 8:00 p.m.-1:30 a.m., \$55. For details call (908) 862-2335.
- **New York.** Bedrock Boys at the St. Gabriel Parish Hall, 5271 Clinton St., Elma, N.Y., 7:30 p.m., For details call (716) 668-4730.
- **New York.** Jacek Kloczek & Salt City Brass at the Syracuse Polish Home, 915 Park Ave., Syracuse, N.Y., 8:00 p.m. For details call (315) 471-9348.
- **New York.** City Side and Sound Sational Systems at Madonna Coun-

- cil K of C Hall, 755 Erie Ave., North Tonawanda, N.Y., \$45. For details call (716) 731-3629
- **Ohio.** Ethnic Jazz at St. John Byzantine Church Hall, 1900 Carlton Rd., Parma, Ohio, 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
- **Ohio.** Frank Moravcik at the American Czechoslovakian Club, 922 Valley St., Dayton, Ohio, dinner 7:00, music 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
- **Ontario.** John Gora & Gorale at the Polish Alliance Hall, 1015 Barton St., Hamilton, Ont., Canada. Check locally for details.
- **Pennsylvania.** Jolly Joe (Alex Truskowski) & the Bavarians at First Night, Hazelton, Pa., 6:00-10:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY

- **Connecticut.** Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at the Bristol Polish Club, 541 Main St., Bristol, Conn., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Massachusetts.** Eddie Forman Orchestra and Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men at Polish American Citizen's Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-9:00 p.m.
- **Michigan.** Big Daddy Lackowski and the Martin Brothers at the Utica K of C, Utica, Mich. Check locally for details.
- **Pennsylvania.** Henny & the Versa J's at the Moon Run Firemen's Club, 5624 Steubenville Pike, Pittsburgh, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

- **Florida.** Gennie 'O' & the Next Step at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla. Check locally for details.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

- **California.** Polka Family at Sons of Italy Hall, 9420 Sierra Ave., Fontana, Calif., 6:00-10:00 p.m., \$10, children under 16 free.
- **Pennsylvania.** Walt Wagner & the Serenaders at the Kosciuszko Scholarship Ball, Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes Barre, Pa., 3:00-9:00 p.m., reservations required.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- **California.** Polka Family at Sons of Italy Hall, 9420 Sierra Ave., Fontana, Calif., 2:00-6:00 p.m., \$10, children under 16 free.
- **Florida.** Sounds of the South at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30-4:00 p.m., \$7.50; music 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
- **Ohio.** Duane Malinowski at a International Music Association dance, Conn Weissenberger Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Dupont VFW,

- Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Pat Zoromski & the Boys From Polonia at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X Rd. and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Prime Time Band at Wander Inn, Hwy. 161, Amherst Junction, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

- **Ohio.** The Knewz at the Hangover Dance of the United States Polka Association (USPA), Doubletree Hotel Cleveland South, 6200 Quarry Ln., Independence, Ohio. Check locally for details.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- **Florida.** B-Sharps at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30-4:00 p.m., \$7.50; music 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
- **Florida.** Gennie 'O' & the Next Step at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Michigan.** Polka Music Sound at a Polka Boosters of America (PBA) dance, Msgr. Hunt K of C, 7080 Garling, Dearborn Heights, Mich., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **New Jersey.** Jolly Joe (Alex Truskowski) & the Bavarians at St. Stephan Church, Pert Amboy, N.J., 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- **New York.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany, N.Y., 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Jude's Polka Band at the VFW Hall, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Eddie Derwin & the Polka Naturals at a Ukrainian New Year Party, Timmer's Grove, Port Phillips, Pa., 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Roger Majeski & the Harmony Kings at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X Rd. and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

- **Florida.** John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Lake Sumter Stage, The Villages, Fla., 5:00-9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

- **Florida.** John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., 7:00-11:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

- **Connecticut.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at Russian New Year, Aqua Turf Club on Mulberry St., Plantsville, Conn., 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
- **Florida.** John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Polish American Pulaski As-

- sociation, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla. Check locally for details.
- **Illinois.** Freeze Dried with the Icicles and Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze at Fitzgerald's Night Club, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn, Ill., from 8:00 p.m., \$10.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

- **Florida.** John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Florida.** Florida Honky Band at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30-4:00 p.m., \$7.50; music 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
- **Illinois.** Chicago Festival of Polka Bands presented by the International Polka Association (IPA). Bands include Music Company, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Downtown Sound, Stas Bulanda & the Old School Review, Joe Walega & the Happy Hearts, Jimmy Kilian & Honky Chicago, Jake Mikrut & the All Stars, Ampol Aires, Freeze Dried and Stas Golonka & the Chicago Masters. Glendora House, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, Illinois. Doors Open 11:00 a.m.; Music from 11:30 a.m. Tickets \$10 advance; \$12 at door; \$1 door discount for IPA Members.
- **New Jersey.** Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra and Eddie Derwin & the Polka Naturals at the Bayway Polish Home, Elizabeth, N.J., 2:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Ohio.** Touch of Brass at a Toledo Area Polka Society dance, Conn Weissenberger Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Ohio.** Squeeze Box at Bavarian Haus, Rte. 65 and Rte. 18, Deshler, Ohio, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Stanky & the Coalminers at the VFW Hall, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Duane Burclaw at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X Rd. and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Florida.** Northern Sounds at the Six Lakes Country Club, 9151 Littleton Rd., North Fort Myers, Fla., 4:00-8:00

- p.m.
- **Massachusetts.** Eddie Forman Orchestra at a dinner-dance, St. Mary Church, Ware, Mass., dinner 6:15 p.m., music 6:30-10:30 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Jolly Joe (Alex Truskowski) & the Bavarians at the VFW, Stroudsburg, Pa., 7:00-10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

- **Florida.** Pan Franek and Zosia & the Polka Towners at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 N. US 1, Vero Beach, Fla., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Florida.** Northern Sounds at the Polish American Society of St. Petersburg, 1343 Beach Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 2:30-4:00 p.m., \$7.50; music 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
- **Illinois.** Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones and Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze at a National Polka Month Celebration, Glendora House, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, Ill., 1:30-7:00 p.m., \$12.
- **Massachusetts.** Eastern Sound at the Polish American Citizen's Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Michigan.** Glass Town Sound at a Polish dinner-dance, Mount Carmel Church Gymnasium, Wyandotte, Mich. Check locally for details.
- **Pennsylvania.** George Tarasek & the Polka Partners at VFW Hall, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Paper City Sounds at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., County X Rd. and Weston Ave., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Wisconsin.** Squeeze Box at Oneida Casino Lounge, 2020 Airport Hwy., Green Bay, Wis., 4:00-8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

- **Michigan.** Misty Blues at a Poor Man's Party, American Polish Citizens Club, 33204 Maple Ln., Sterling Heights, Mich. Check locally for details.
- **New York.** PhoCus at a Snowball Dance, Potts Banquet Hall, 694 S. Ogden, Buffalo, N.Y., 3:00 p.m.
- **Pennsylvania.** Jolly Joe (Alex Truskowski) & the Bavarians at the Amvets, Milford, Pa., 7:00-10:00 p.m.

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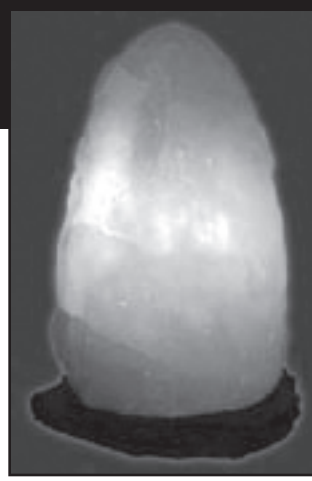
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Poland Culinary Vacations Launches New Cooking Trip and One-Day Cooking Classes

BOZEMAN, Mont.—Poland Culinary Vacations, Inc. has opened registrations for two exciting new “foodie” adventures: A seven-day cooking vacation in the Lesser Poland region—“Cooking Your Way From Krakow To Zakopane”—and one-day cooking classes, a cooperative venture with The Culinary Institute in Krakow. Dates for 2009 culinary vacations in Lesser Poland and the cooking classes are posted on the company’s website: www.PolandCulinaryVacations.com

“Cooking Your Way From Krakow To Zakopane” was custom-designed by Malgorzata (Sarna) Rose, a native of Poland now living in Montana, and founder/president of Poland Culinary Vacations, Inc. “Only a native can help you discover and fully experience the authentic Poland,” says Rose, who creates her itineraries in collaboration with local people.

Guest accommodations are in a

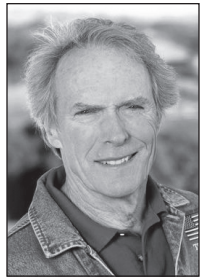
small palace, now a four-star hotel and resort, and in a luxurious four-star hotel in Krakow. In addition to learning the secrets of Highlander cuisine, participants will cook with the head chef of a prominent culinary institute. The itinerary also includes visits to cultural and historic sites.

For travelers who are already in Poland and want a quick introduction to Polish cuisine, Poland Culinary Vacations offers one-day cooking classes designed to teach preparation of a 3-course gourmet meal.

See a map of Poland, regional descriptions, and detailed itineraries for 2009 cooking vacations in Lesser Poland and Silesia regions, plus a short video of scenes from a 2008 trip, at www.PolandCulinaryVacations.com/vacations.php. Registration is easy, using a three-step process available on the company’s secure Web site.

Plays PolAm Curmudgeon in New Film

LOS ANGELES—Clint Eastwood directed “Gran Torino,” a film about the Hmong immigrant communities in the United States. Filmed in Detroit in August 2008,



EASTWOOD

the cast features a Hmong cast and Eastwood, who plays a character called Walt, a Polish American man who has lost his wife and is estranged from his children. The screenplay follows Walt as he becomes dissatisfied with the increasing numbers of Hmong immigrants moving into his neighborhood. When one Hmong young man steals his Grant Torino, Walt extracts work from him to pay back his loss. In the process Walt learns about Hmong culture and learns to

overcome his prejudices and fears.

Hmong immigrants—who began arriving in the U.S. in 1975 after fighting alongside the CIA in the secret war in Laos—have previously had almost no presence in Hollywood; their appearances have been limited to colorfully costumed voiceless hill tribes in the backdrop of Southeast Asian war movies. Eastwood hasn’t commented publicly on his motivations behind doing “Gran Torino,” but in a 2006 interview with Charlie Rose he said: “I feel I learn something on every movie—about actors, about storytelling, about myself... The exciting thing about movie making for me is the fact that you do learn something new every picture”

This is not the first time Eastman has played a character with Polish roots. In “Pink Cadillac” he played Tom Nowak, and in “The Rookie,” he was Nick Pulovski.

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

• The most famous and influential Poles according to CNN are Copernicus, Chopin, Madame (Skłodowska) Curie, Karol Wojtyła, film directors Andrzej Wajda and Roman Polański, Lech Wałęsa, racing driver Robert Kubica, model Joanna Krupa and scandal-mongering pop singer Doda (Dorota Rabczewska). The ranking was compiled as part of CNN’s week-long “Eye on Poland” series which focused on various aspects of Polish history, culture and economic life. It will be followed up

by a series of spots running on into December.

• A Polish Marketplace was again featured at Disney World’s Epcot Center in Florida during its annual food and wine festival (September 26-November 9, 2008), showcasing the delicacies of 25 different countries. The Polish treats were: Wild Forest Mushroom Soup (\$2.75), Kielbasa and Potato Pierogi with caramelized onions and sour cream (\$4.50), and Chopin Vodka Raspberry Cocktail (\$8.25).

—Robert Strybel

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

There’s Nothing Like Warm Soup on a Cold Day

January is the perfect time for these hot, hearty and satisfying Polish-style soups which many Pol-Ams consider among the “comfort foods” of their childhood. A little Polish-style dried-vegetable-based flavor enhancer (known under such trade-names as Jarzynka, Vegeta, Warzywko or Kucharek) may be added to all savory soups, but use only 1/3 or less the amount recommended by the manufacturer. Otherwise your home-made soups will acquire that canned-soup, soup-mix or cafeteria-style taste.

TART RYEMEAL SOUP (żurek):

In pot combine 1 diced smoked kielbasa and/or ham or other smoked pork, 1 diced onion, 1 bay-leaf and 5 c water cook 1 hr. Add 1-2 rehydrated, cooked, diced dried mushrooms and their water, 1 c or more ryemeal sour (available at Polish delis), bring to boil and simmer several min. Dissolve with 1-2 T flour in 1 c cold water and add to pot. Gently bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer several min. Season with salt, pepper and marjoram. In the Kraków area, żurek is traditionally served with a side dish of hot mashed potatoes garnished with skwarki (crunchy fried salt-pork nuggets).

EASY TART RYEMEAL SOUP (łatwy żurek):

In pot combine 1 c diced smoked kielbasa and/or ham or other smoked pork, 1 diced onion, 1 bayleaf and 6 c water and cook 1 hr. Dissolve 1-2 T flour in 1 c cold water and stir into to pot. Add ½ a mushroom bouillon cube and simmer several min. Season to taste with salt, pepper, marjoram and 2-3 T vinegar.

WHITE BARSZCZ (biały barszcz):

Prepare żurek as in either of the preceding recipes. Instead of dissolving flour in water, fork-blend it with ¾-1 c sour cream and use mixture to cream soup. Simmer briefly without boiling. Sliced or diced hard-cooked eggs may be added to soup bowls

(allowing 1 egg per serving).

VEGETABLE-BARLEY SOUP (krupnik):

Soak 4 dried mushrooms in 1 c warm water several hrs. Wash ½ lb or so meaty beef or pork bones and place in soup pot containing 7 c



You may want to add sliced or diced hard-cooked eggs to your biały barszcz.

water. Add the mushrooms and liquid and cook 60-80 min, skimming off scum. Add 1 portion soup greens, 5 peppercorns, 2 grains allspice and 1 bay leaf and cook until vegetables are tender. Strain soup. In separate saucepan cook ½ c pearl barley in 1 c strained stock. Dice vegetables, mushrooms and any meat attached to bones and return to soup together with the cooked barley and 2 peeled, diced potatoes. Cook until potatoes are tender. Salt to taste and garnish with 1 t chopped parsley.

SAUERKRAUT SOUP (kapuśniak):

Prepare stock by cooking ½ -¾ lbs meaty pork bones in 8 c water 1 hr, skimming off scum. Add 1 t salt, 2 small carrots, 1 stalk celery 1 onion, 1 bay leaf and 5 peppercorns and cook until meat comes away from bone. Drain 1 pt sauerkraut (reserving juice), rinse in cold water and drain, chop and add to strained stock. Cook on med heat uncovered 30 min. Dice meat from bones, and add to pot then reduce heat and cook covered until sauerkraut is very tender. In skillet fry up 4 slices diced bacon with 1 chopped onion, stir in 3 T flour and simmer until browned, stirring constantly. Dilute with several T soup and stir into a smooth

paste. Add to pot, stir and simmer several more min. If soup is not as tart as you like, add some reserved sauerkraut liquid. Salt & pepper to taste. A t sugar and 1/2 t caraway seeds may be added.

CABBAGE SOUP (zupa ze słodkiej kapusty):

Shred and parboil 1-lb head of cabbage. (Bring 1 qt cold water and cabbage to boil, cook 5 min, then drain). Cook cabbage and 1 large chopped onion in 6 c meat stock 40 min. Add 1 T tomato concentrate (or 1 c canned stewed tomatoes), a bay leaf, several peppercorns and 1 t caraway (optional) and cook in 6 c meat stock another 30 min or until cabbage is very tender. Dissolve 1 heaped T flour in 1 c cold water and stir into soup. Simmer another few

min. Variation: Together with the spices and tomato concentrate add 2 med potatoes, peeled and diced, and cook until potatoes are done. For a tarter flavor, sour to taste with 2-3 pinches citric acid crystals or 1-2 T vinegar.

SPLIT-PEA SOUP (grochówka):

In soup pot combine 8 c water, 2 c yellow split peas, 1 portion soup greens and 1 extra onion, diced, ½ -¾ lbs diced smoked kielbasa and/or ham, 1 bay leaf, and 8 peppercorns. Cook covered on low heat 2 hrs, or until peas completely disintegrate. Add 1 c peeled, diced potatoes and cook until tender. Make a roux by frying up 4 slices diced bacon with 1 chopped onion and browning 2 T flour in the drippings. Stir into soup. Add 2 buds crushed garlic, 1 heaping t marjoram and salt & pepper to taste. Simmer a few more min., then switch off heat and let stand for flavors to blend at least 15 min. before serving. Note: This soup can be made with smoked ribs, smoked or fresh pork hocks or a hambone.

DILL-PICKLE SOUP (zupa ogórkowa):

Peel ½ lb brined dill pickles (ogórki kiszzone), grate coarsely and simmer in 1 T butter 5 min or so until tender. Add to 6 c meat or vegetable stock together with 1 c dill-pickle brine and bring to boil. Cream soup with ½ c sour cream fork-blended with 1 heaping T flour. Simmer briefly, salt & pepper to taste and garnish with a little chopped fresh dill. Variation: 2 c peeled, diced potatoes may be cooked in soup until tender. Note: Bottled dill-pickle purée is available at Polish markets and delis.

TOMATO SOUP (zupa pomidorowa):

Wash, hull and quarter 1½ lb fresh vine-ripened tomatoes and simmer covered on low heat with several T stock and 2 T butter 15-20 min. Sieve into 6 c meat or vegetable stock and season to taste with salt, pepper and a little sugar. Cream with 1/2 c sour cream or 1 c milk fork-blended with 1 heaping T flour. Simmer briefly and serve over noodles or rice. Variation: When fresh vine-ripened tomatoes are out of season, simply stir 4-5 T tomato concentrate directly into hot stock and proceed as above. Canned tomato juice cooked with an equal amt of stock is also very good. Serve over cooked egg noodles or rice.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Stories from the Backwaters of the North Country

TWELVE BELOW ZERO

by Anthony Bukoski
Holy Cow Press, 161 pp., \$14.95.

Bukoski's collection of short stories from the backwaters of the North country are full of hope and despair. People in Wisconsin or Minnesota living out meager lives, full of love and despair. Baseball player, Matt Folner, is on the road for the summer, missing his family and girl friend, who wants to get married. His coach is pushing him to the big leagues. Frustrated, Matt decides, (sort of) to stay in the league.

Luther Craft, the local radio announcer, runs *The Night Train* easy listening show at 3:00 a.m., where 60 % of the population is elderly, receive meals-on-wheels and play canasta at the senior center. Craft provides the news, the weather and commercials, reminding his insomniac listeners of their love and adventures, relived through the songs

of yesteryear.

Everyone meets at *The End of the Line* café. It is a place to eat, drink, fight and die. Events at the café are colorfully described, with cold woodsmen trying to warm their bodies and hearts with whiskey. Tom, Betty and Augie become entwined, a triangle of misfits. Augie is ostracized because he has kissed Tom and ends up with a bell around his neck to warn others of his presence. That is, until he is found frozen to death. Betty has retaliated.

The twelve tales have eccentric characters, living on the edge of life, dreaming of more, slipping into an emotional deep-freeze. Some find a way to survive in the frozen north.

THE CABINET OF WONDERS

The Kronos Chronicles: Book I
by Marie Rutkoski, FSG, 2008
258 pp., ages 10 and up, \$16.95

Twelve year old Petra Kronos

lives in an era of the Hapsburg dynasty, when princes ruled the land and magic was a part of life. Her father, Mikel, owns a workshop where he makes unusual toys and things that come to life. Prince Rodolpho ordered her father to make an unusual, one-of-a-kind clock. When he had finished, the prince ordered Mikel's eyes be removed and he be sent home, blinded. The prince thought if he wore Mikel's eyes, he would see how to put the "heart" of the clock together and make it work.

Petra runs away to Prague with her magical spider, Astrophil, in search of her father's eyes. The people she meets along the way are an interesting group, some sympathize and others mock at her quest. Her new friend, Neel, who has a few tricks of his own, helps her get a job in the Prince's castle and eventually to the Cabinet of Wonders, where

the prince keeps his unusual and rare items. Will they be able to find her father's eyes and will it restore his blindness?

POLAND, AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

by Iwo Cyprain Pogonowski
Hippocrene Books, 2008
full color photographs,
index, maps, charts,
282 pp., \$19.95.

This book, first published in 2000, contains a wealth of information and a new eight-page color insert of a Polish coast of arms. The color photographs are sharp and detailed, while some of the black and white illustrations are foggy.

This hard cover edition appears in a smaller size, making it an easily-transportable book for students and travelers. However, its small print makes it a little more difficult to read.

Covering a century of history in 250 pages is challenging. It is concise, providing dates and events to encourage the reader to further pursue an era. The many maps illustrate the growth and decline of the country over the centuries. Hippocrene, known for publishing translations and dictionaries of various languages, continues to provide the reading public with Polish-related materials. At last, a publishing company that supports Polish American writers.

HELLO, DAY!

by Anita Lobel
Greenwillow Books, 2008, \$19.99

This oversized colorful book is full of barnyard animals. They greet the sunrise in their own language, except the owl, who ends the day by saying "Whoo-ooo." The shapes of the animals fill each page. A neat book for infants and children to age three.

Poland's Armia Krajowa and German V-2 Rockets in World War II

by Douglas W. Jacobson

Part Two of Two

The V-2 rocket developed by German scientists during World War Two was the most lethal weapon known to man at that time. Traveling at more than 2,000 miles per hour, at an altitude of over 18 miles, with a range of 250 miles, the V-2 rocket would descend on its target without warning carrying a ton of high explosives.

Based on secret reports provided by the Polish Home Army (Armia Krajowa or AK) revealing the existence of the V-2 rocket and the German testing program near Blizna, Poland, Allied intelligence experts were desperate to learn as much as they could about this potentially devastating new weapon.

During late 1943 and early 1944, Polish peasants, working closely with the AK, recovered hundreds of fragments from crash sites of the V-2 rockets being tested by the Germans. These fragments, along with photographs and sketches were smuggled out of Poland via Warsaw into the hands of Allied scientists in London. But it wasn't enough, and the fearsome potential of these weapons was still largely unknown.

Then, in late spring of 1944, a V-2 rocket launched from the Blizna

area fell to earth and landed in the Bug River eighty miles east of Warsaw without exploding. The rocket, with its fins protruding from the muddy waters, was discovered by local peasants and immediately reported to the AK. Agents rushed in and covered the exposed portions of the rocket with tree limbs, hiding it from the German SS.

Over the next several days, operating mostly at night and in constant danger of discovery by the SS and Gestapo, a team of local peasants and AK agents extricated the forty foot long, twenty-five thousand pound missile from the river and transported it to a local farm. A Polish engineer was secretly dispatched from Warsaw and supervised the dismantling of the intricate weapon. Photos and diagrams were dispatched to London, but the discovery so electrified Allied scientists that a plan was developed to transport all of the rocket's components to London.

By July of 1944 the Allies had established a foothold in southern Italy and it was now possible for an airplane to reach southeastern Poland. The AK went into action again and secretly transported the rocket components—concealed in sacks of flour, bushels of potatoes, and

hollowed-out hay bales—from the Bug River area to another remote farm near an abandoned airstrip at the confluence of the rivers Dunajec and Vistula.

On July 25th a C-47 Dakota took off from Brindisi, Italy bound for Poland. Kazimierz Szrajter, one of the co-pilots, remembered the mission this way:

"We took off at 1930 hours escorted by a Polish Liberator. It was mostly for our physical comfort since both planes were easy targets for German fighters. On board we had some equipment and four passengers, but strict regulations prohibited us from knowing their names. We crossed the Yugoslavian coast at nightfall when the Liberator departed. Our course took us over Yugoslavia,

Hungary and Czechoslovakia and into southeastern Poland. Near the confluence of the rivers Dunajec and Vistula we exchanged signals with agents on the ground and lights appeared on four corners of a landing strip.

"After only several minutes on the ground the crates were loaded on board and we were ready to take off again accompanied by a Polish engineer. But it turned out the field was oozy and our Dakota was stuck in the mud. We frantically tried to free the plane, all in vain. We were running out of time and discussed burning the plane. Finally, after an hour and five minutes on the ground, we succeeded in taking off only to discover that we had severed hydraulic hoses and could not

raise the aircraft's landing gear. We filled the hydraulic tanks with whatever liquid we could find, water, thermos tea, and by the time we crossed the Tatra Mountains we got the wheels up."

As a result of this incredible mission the ominous potential of the V-2 rocket was fully revealed to Allied intelligence and massive efforts were launched by American and British air forces to detect and take out V-2 launch sites in Germany, just seven weeks before the first V-2 exploded in London.

Douglas W. Jacobson is a World War Two history enthusiast and author. *The story of the AK and the V-2 rockets was memorialized in his award-winning book, Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two.*

DISCOVER YOUR POLISH LAST NAME!

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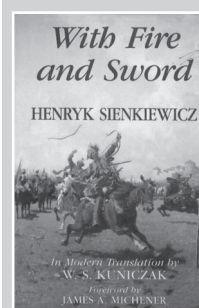
land's forested Mazury region and Wojcik was the village mayor's boy. Piotrowski was Peter's son, and Krawczyk was a tailor.

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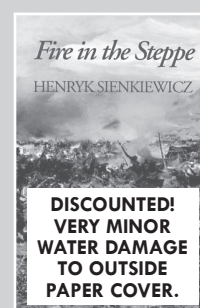
people share it, where they live and whether the name is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$16 check (adding \$7 for each additional surname) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland

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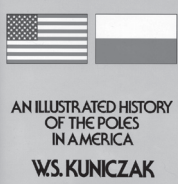


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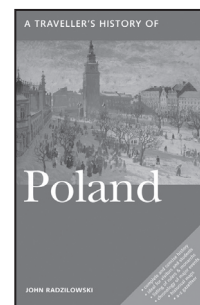


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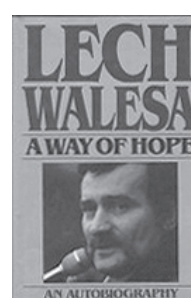
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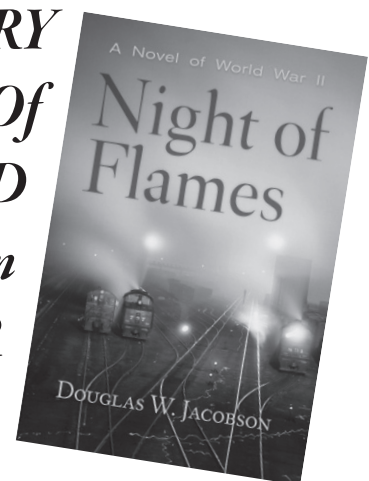
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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Siedlecki Retires as Yale's Head Coach

Yale football coach **Jack Siedlecki** has announced his retirement as football coach and has accepted a position as assistant director within the school's department of athletics.

Over the past 12 years he coached Yale Football to a pair of Ivy League Championships (1999, 2006) and has posted a 70-49 (47-37 Ivy) record. During his tenure, the team has been in late contention for an Ivy championship almost every year.

"I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished over 12 years, going from 1-9 to 9-1 in three years, winning two Ivy League championships and playing with the title on the line in the final game of the season the past three years," said Siedlecki. "I have been given an opportunity to stay affiliated with Yale Athletics for the balance of my career, and I deeply appreciate that."

Siedlecki is a 1974 graduate of Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., where he earned letters playing both running back and linebacker and earned a B.A. in history. His finest day in a Union uniform came in 1972 when he scored three touchdowns in a 38-21 win over RPI. He also coached (the youngest person



JACK SIEDLECKI, shown signing posters at the Scott Club of Scott Air Force Base earlier last year, He was one of five college football coaches to visit the base before embarking on a trip to the Middle East to see deployed servicemembers as part of Coaches Tour 2008.

ever to do it) and played for the Glove Cities Colonials, a semi-pro squad in New York. Siedlecki was also a three-sport star at Johnstown (N.Y.) High School, where his father served as head coach for more than 20 seasons. Jack's father, John, was a son of Polish immigrants who used athletics to pursue a college education. John Siedlecki was a three-sport star for Clarkson in the 1930s and at his induction into the Clarkson Athletics Hall of Fame was described as "one of the most determined athletes ever to attend Clarkson."

Jack Siedlecki has been a collegiate head coach for 21 years and owns a 126-71-2 record. He came to Yale from Amherst College, where he compiled a 20-11-1 record at the Division III school and was named the 1996 American Football Coaches Association District I Coach of the Year.

A MEMORABLE NAME. One of the great names in surfing is **Strider Wasilewski**—Strider Raspberry Wasilewski, to be precise.

Strider is a professional surfer and the captain of the Quiksilver surfing team, which is based in Huntington Beach, Calif. The 36-year-old native of Santa Monica was named for

the king of all mortals in the Lord of the Rings books.

Strider Wasilewski is a veteran pro surfer and surf industry insider. A product of the famed "Dogtown" Santa Monica surf and skate scene, Wasilewski came to prominence in 1994 when an iconic shot of him exiting a huge tube at Pipeline landed on the cover of *SURFER MAGAZINE*. He went on to become an influential Quiksilver team rider throughout the 1990s as a freesurf specialist in big, heavy barrels. After a near-death wipeout in Tahiti, Strider became the director of the surf marketing program at Quiksilver and has worked on guiding the careers of many of the brand's acclaimed athletes.

BIG KICK. A 56-yard field goal by junior place kicker **Chris Ulinski** was one of the highlights as Utah State defeated New Mexico State, 47-2, in the season finale for both teams. Ulinski's field goal was the second-longest in the WAC this season behind the 58-yarder by Kevin Goessling of Fresno State, and the fourth longest field goal in the NCAA this season. It is tied for the third-longest in USU school history.

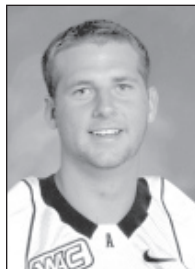
The captain of his soccer team at Nevada Union High School, Chris had been the place kicker for his high school football team for just one season. Even though he booted a 56-yard field goal, he didn't pursue a football career when he went to the University of Nevada campus in Reno. However, Utah State needed a kicker, and one of Chris' former high school teammates thought of him. The former teammate brought a highlight video of Chris' high school kicking career to Utah State University football coaches. A few weeks later, Ulinski was a member of the Aggies football program.

MOVING UP. Polish soccer club **Ruch Chorzow SA** rose 46 percent on its first day of trading in Warsaw. Ruch, the first soccer club from central and eastern Europe to be traded on a stock exchange, gained 0.79 zloty to 2.49 and closed at 1.84 zloty on NewConnect, Warsaw's market for smaller companies.

"In couple of years' perspective my dream is to move to the main market," Chief Executive Officer Katarzyna Sobstyl said in a statement. "It'll be like a promotion to the first division."

The 14-time champion of Poland, based in the southern city of Chorzow, sold new shares in a private placement in September, raising 1.81 million zloty (\$597,500) for an 11 percent stake. It will spend most of the money on new players.

Ruch, now seventh in Poland's 16-team first division, aims to win the championship again as early as in 2011, by which time it could more than double its revenue from 2007, to 16.5 million zloty. Average turnout this season at Ruch's 10,000-seat stadium is 8,407, compared with a Polish league average of 6,741. Overall, Polish soccer clubs had sales of 63 million euros (\$79.6 million) last season, up 47 percent from the previous year.



ULINSKI

THE PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Creeping Immorality

One of my curiosities when visiting a new church is to browse through the bulletin. I went to a small church in central Missouri this past November and in the bulletin was surprised to read "Father Fred's Notepad." Father Fred Elskamp is the pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Eldon, Missouri, and the theme of this notepad was about the diminishing attitude towards life. It began:

Creeping Immorality: In Nazi Germany, millions of people were killed simply because they belonged to a category of people judged by authorities as being "life not worthy to be lived." It included all Jews, Poles, Gypsies, and many others. Dr. Leo Alexander studied the testimony at the Nuremberg trials, seeking to discover how this could have developed.

Father Fred's point was that even something as sacred as life can be eroded through a consistent and continuous insensitivity toward it over time. It was a meaningful and well-written piece. Something else happened in November and in my own little way I found a connection. Perhaps this is something for you to ponder.

There is a business that sends out an eMail that lists of all the veterans working for the company for Veterans Day each year. This is a very nice gesture acknowledging the service of all of the vets. Of all of the names on the list, only one appeared to me to be misspelled. To give you an idea, I will use the old standby Polish name Kowalski for demonstration purposes. It was spelled on list as K-A-E-W-L-S-K. I had to shake my head and the first question asked by the Pondering Pole in 2009 is why? Maybe I should ask how? Why or how was this name so butchered for a top notch company that prides itself on doing the right thing and having high standards?

It reminded me of a famous quote that I think is attributed to Dale Carnegie, "The sweetest sound to any person's ear is the sound of his own name." There was a time in our country when a black man was commonly referred to as "boy." Women were commonly referred to as the "girls" or "girl" instead of by their names.

We Poles know a little about this. Instead of correctly and respectfully referencing the Polish, or the Poles, or Polonia, we are the "Polacks." Instead of actually spelling our names correctly, it is almost a given to slop down something for the person with "ski" on the end of their name. Instead of actually asking how the name is pronounced, it is accepted and cute to scream out, "I can't possibly pronounce that name!"

By extension then, it is not uncommon for the talk show host or DJ to make the knee-jerk crack (for comic relief of course) about how backward are the Eastern Europeans or how shabby and ugly are their women. I wonder how many opportunities have been lost or ignored or skipped over because of what has been subconsciously burned into someone's mind on the giving or receiving end of these attitudes. Isn't there in a sense a creeping immorality about all of the misspellings, mispronunciations, and the right-offs in actually addressing us by our real names? If we extrapolate the logic, perhaps somewhere down the line, a next step will be to tattoo

a number on an arm. I prefer not to ponder that thought.

On a lighter note and also in November, Douglas Urbanski did a fine job subbing for Bill O'Reilly on *The O'Reilly Factor*. I was not familiar with the name before hearing him on the show. Doug is the chairman of DMG, Douglas Management Group (www.douglasmanagementgroup.com/aboutUs/dubio.html) and he has quite a resume of accomplishments. Here is an excerpt from his biography page on the DMG web site:

For 25 years the name Douglas Urbanski has represented first class quality in the arts. For over a decade he and his companies dominated the New York, London, and Los Angeles stage with productions receiving over two-dozen Tony Award nominations, several Evening Standard Awards, Olivier Awards, the Los Angeles Ovation Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. His films have received British Independent Film Awards, Cannes Festival prizes, The Broadcast Critics Award, Academy Award nominations, and British Academy Awards.

Yes, quite a body of work. Not much else to add, but certainly I have at least one question, and in a way it sort of ties in with what I have discussed already and creeping immorality: How come the name of the management group is not "UMG, Urbanski Management Group?"

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

2008. For those of you who achieved all of your goals in 2008, here is a list of questions that went unanswered in the year just past. Polish or not?:

- Richard Lamparski, author, "Whatever Happened To?"
- Kelly Ripa, Regis and Kelly Show
- Sophie Monk, Australian Pop Singer
- Victor "Brute" Krulak, Marine and hero of the Vietnam War
- Ellen Barkin, actress
- Bill Janklow, former governor of South Dakota
- Lawrence Kudlow, economist and television commentator
- George Blanda, former NFL football star
- Bob Huggins, college football coach
- Sonia Rykiel, fashion designer
- Douglas Urbanski, Chairman, Douglas Management Group

In closing, here is a quote from Ted Turner, founder of CNN, billionaire, sailing aficionado, and big time character: "Don't worry about the wind; adjust the sails." It is my wish that you carry that sentiment with you throughout the coming year. Na zdrowie and have a Happy New Year!

If you have an answer to the question this month, a previous month's question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, Missouri 63139; e-Mail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

N.B. If you e-Mail me, put a reference in the subject line about the Pondering Pole. I will not open an e-Mail if I do not recognize the subject.

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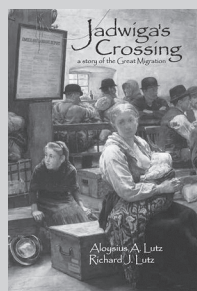
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Outstanding Float Award



PHILADELPHIA—On Sunday, October 5, the 75th Annual Pulaski Day Parade, sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, featured over 100 marching units and floats provided by Polish American organizations, parishes, schools, and musical groups. Many of the floats highlighted the parade theme, the

400th Anniversary of the first Polish settlers in America. This colorful display alerted parade and television viewers of all nationalities that Polish Americans were marking a historic milestone.

The Polish National Alliance Lodge #3106 from Cumberland County, N.J., received special recognition for its float, which offered

a tribute to the accomplishments of the first Polish settlers in 1608, who built the first glass house and factory in America.

The float featured enactors, members of PNA Lodge 3106 dressed in period costumes, manufacturing glass products and singing “Ojczyzna Ma” (my fatherland).

“Pan Zagloba” Found Alive and Well in Sierpc

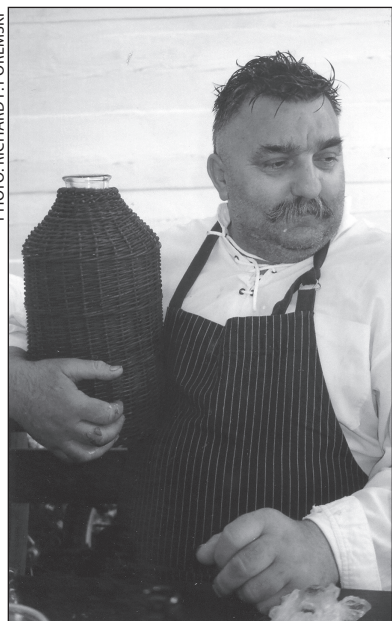


PHOTO: RICHARD P. POREMSKI

“Pan Zagloba,”
Tomasz Stelmanski

by Richard P. Poremski

SIERPC, Poland—Who could have ever imagined that, while visiting the Museum of the Mazovian Countryside here on July 30, 2008, we would encounter the personification of one of Nobel laureate Henryk Sienkiewicz’s most beloved, entertaining fictional characters—Pan Jan Onufry Zagloba, who appears in the 17th century-set Polish epic classics of “With Fire and Sword,” “The Deluge,” and other celebrated books by the author.

After touring the many authentic buildings in this amazing Mazovian open-air museum, located 75 miles northwest of Warsaw, three Polish friends and I retreated from the hot summer sun to the 18th century log-constructed, thatched-roof, karczma (inn/tavern), for refreshments.

We were immediately welcomed by proprietor, Tomasz Stelmanski (dubbed “Pan Zagloba”), who is pictured above. Excellent ice cold Kasztelan beer was served up, followed by much engaging conversation and many interesting anecdotes narrated by host Stelmanski, even as more guests arrived to us in the breezy shade of the tall oak trees.

Sadly, our schedule did not permit us to savor the many traditional Polish delights of the Karczma Pohulanka’s chlopskie jadlo (peasant’s kitchen). We were, however, served up platters of aircraft carrier-sized slabs of inch-thick hearty bread that was slathered with delicious, artery-clogging smalec (seasoned fat with bacon bits), and companion doll pickles.

Our “Pan Zagloba”—true to form—then appeared with a wicker-covered glass jar cradled in the crook of his right arm, which contained a very potent bimer (Polish moonshine). After downing it and gasping for breath, everyone agreed

that the bimer was probably a very good antidote for the smalec. Some persons found it necessary to administer more “antidote” than others did.

But drinker beware: The kieliszki (shot glasses) arrived lying together in a napkin-lined wicker basket. Only after the bimer is poured into it do you realize that the kieliszek in your hand has a rounded bottom and cannot be set down until it is empty! What a pleasant and contrived dilemma for each person to solve—along with the memorable experience of this very unique touch of old-world Polish hospitality.

It’s nice to know that even in these modern times the jovial spirit of Pan Zagloba can still be found alive and well in Poland.

Walesa Awarded the “Knight of Freedom” Award

WARSAW — Former President and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has received the “Knight of Freedom” Award from the Kazmierz Pulaski Foundation.

The distinction is given for outstanding contributions to the promotion of the ideals of freedom, democracy and justice.

Past recipients of the award include Polish politician and former Auschwitz prisoner Wladyslaw Bartoszewski and the prominent British historian Norman Davies, who has written extensively on the history of Poland.

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BABA YAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klaehn

Lost Generation?

Part II

Is my generation the lost generation, the last of the “Mochicanowskis” of the second half of 20th century? Many young people—my peers—left Poland in '80s since they did not see a hope that the political and economical system would ever change.

As I wrote in my previous article, we went through tumultuous times in Poland, especially in late '70s and '80s. My generation (people in their 20s) was the most affected: we were entering adulthood when our country was in a deep recession, marked by hyperinflation and a weak currency. Poland was stagnant or even in regress, both, politically and economically. The Solidarity workers' union, which was greeted with such great hopes in August 1980, was dissolved on December 13, 1981 when Martial Law was enacted. The Soviet system seemed stronger than ever before; the cracks in the system did not become visible until the end of '80s.

Our salaries, about \$1 dollar per day during the deepest of the crisis, provided us only basic needs such as rationed food. We were unable to save enough to take a loan to buy a house, or even an apartment. The contrast between Western Europe and Eastern Europe were more visible than ever before. Their stores were full of products they could afford. Our stores were either empty or full of people waiting in lines hoping to buy something of value. Many Poles, mainly young people of my generation left Poland for abroad, not seeing any chance for them in such a grim reality.

A new internet Polish social net-

work website called “nasza-klasa” (<http://nasza-klasa.pl/>) became an instant hit in the beginning of 2008. Comparable to the American networks “Facebook” or “Classmates,” one can create an account and sign on to the schools and classes he/she attended. In Poland, the education system was different than in the United States, and children and youth were grouped in the same class for eight years of primary schooling and four years of secondary education. Because of this, the bonds between us were much stronger.

If visa restrictions are not abolished, the United States will become distant to tomorrow's Poles.

It was really exciting to get in touch with some of the schoolmates whom I had not seen or heard from for thirty years. It was even hard to recognize some of my schoolmates from their current photos since we all changed so much! We are already middle-aged group rather than the youth we were at school. I learned that a couple of my schoolmates died due to addiction or suicide. Many others went through other turmoil in their lives; some were widows, some double divorcees, etc., much like everywhere else in the world.

The most striking was the realization that so many of us ended up living abroad. Many of my schoolmates—almost a half from my high school class and one third from the elementary class—left Poland and never came back. The biggest number live in Canada and in the United States. Others live in France, Sweden, Australia or Germany. They have dual citizenship and regular jobs. It is sad that so many people from my generation could not find a place in the country where they were born and educated.

The present generation, the generation that was born in '80s, does not need to commit to such a difficult choice. Since joining the EU, Polish unemployment went down sharply from 20% in late '90s to less than 10% in 2007. Many young people work legally abroad, usually for a temporary time. The first countries which opened their markets to workers from Poland were Great Britain, Ireland and Sweden. Others, like France and Spain followed. It is also easier to find a good job in Poland. Poland is a great country in which to invest since it has a relatively cheap but well-educated work force. Salaries in Poland are even comparable to those in Great Britain, since our currency is quite strong.

You can imagine how surprised I was to hear that a popular business network, CNBC, has launched a business channel in Poland. After the market crash in Russia a couple of months ago, the Polish economic news replaced some of the Russian channel news.

Unfortunately, this drastically slowed down a Polish emigration to the United States. Europe is much closer and is much more accessible than the U.S., and Poles still need a visa to enter this country. If visa restrictions are not abolished in the near future, Poles will continue to turn their eyes to Europe and the United States will become even more distant. Who will be reading Polish American Journal in twenty years if Polonia shrinks due to a lack of a new Polish blood?

Visit our newly formatted website at www.polishsite.us.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Lenin in Poland

Vladimir Lenin led the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. For the next 70 years, the United States would spend billions of dollars and sacrifice the lives of thousands of young men to contain the USSR and communism.

Lenin wanted his system to dominate the world. He tried to push westward, but Polish forces turned him back in 1920. Then the Allies after World War II handed Poland to Stalin, Lenin's successor. But in the 1980s Poland again saved Europe from communism, this time led by a shipyard worker's peaceful opposition. How ironic, then, that Polish soil had once given Lenin refuge and solace, if only for a brief time.

Under the czar in Russia, Lenin was a known agitator and he was kept under surveillance by the authorities. So in 1907 he and his wife moved to Switzerland, then Paris, home to many Russian socialist exiles. These men plotted revolution, spread propaganda and bickered. Though he emerged as leader of the communist movement, Lenin had enough of the infighting, so he and Mrs. Lenin moved to Kraków in June 1912 to be closer to Russia.

Poland was still partitioned and occupied by Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary. Kraków lay in Austria, just six miles from the Russian border. This closeness, and the fact that a neutral "free zone" existed along the frontier, meant papers and money could be readily smuggled across the border and illegal crossings by people were easy. Austrian authorities were lax in these matters, and did not bother the Russians. News from Russia reached Lenin faster in Kraków, the communists in Russia received a boost from the nearness of their main leader, and he was inspired by being closer to the struggle.

The Lenins took a room in the Zwierzyniec suburb, then moved to Lubomirski Street in town to be closer to the post office. Lenin's mother-in-law moved in with them. Lenin liked the city. He said it reminded him of Russia, though he called it "provincial and barbarous." He liked its żurek soup and strong liquor and was a regular at a café in the main square. His wife said Kraków mellowed him. He enjoyed walks in the city and countryside and ice skating in winter. Lenin could

speak only a little Polish, his wife knew the language better. He found a population, about four thousand of them Russians, with a hatred of the ruling class and the Russian czar.

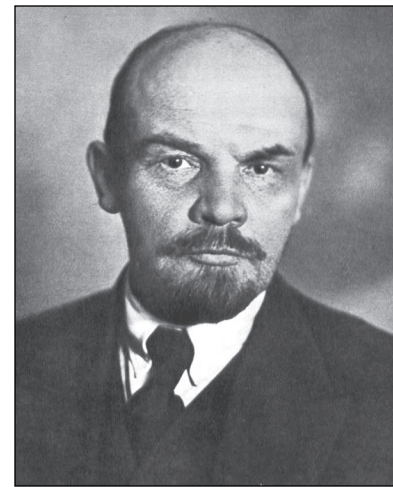
Lenin's two years in Poland were a preparatory time, where he struggled with solutions to economic and cultural problems. From Kraków, he guided Communist Party activities in Russia, ran the party organ PRAVDA, wrote essays and plotted strategy. He held party meetings with members who had come illegally from Russia, including Stalin, and traveled to Paris and Brussels for conferences.

When Lenin's wife took ill with goiter in 1913, a doctor recommended a move to the mountain air of the Tatras just to the south. In May, they rented a large villa for the summer with two other socialist couples in Poronin, five miles from Zakopane. They loved the awesome Alpine views, and Lenin enjoyed long hikes in the mountains. He swam in the Dunajec River and bathed in streams. He often biked to Zakopane to the post office, sitting outside to read his mail or play chess. Yet all the while Lenin

kept up his work shepherding the communist struggle in Russia. The Lenins returned to the villa the next summer. Lenin's fondness for the place was evidenced by the fact that years later he had a large photo of the house on the wall of his study in the Kremlin.

The hypocrisy of Lenin's communism was evident long before he controlled Russia. He was not a member of the working class, but a lawyer, scholar and writer. He received a small party salary bankrolled by rich anti-czarist supporters and robberies committed by communist thugs. Income from his writing and his mother's czarist-government pension also helped. Though funds were often short and income uneven, the Lenins had no problem hiring a Polish woman to clean house for them in Poronin, nor to spend summers in the beautiful vacation home. Hardly in the spirit of the working man or peasant.

On August 1, 1914 World War I broke out. Lenin was arrested in Poronin as a possible Russian spy and spent twelve days in prison in Nowy Targ. The Lenins knew they had to leave Austria-Hungary, now at



The hypocrisy of Lenin's communism was evident long before he controlled Russia. He lived a relatively easy life in Poland, enjoying the scenery, mountain hikes, and swimming in the Dunajec River.

war with Russia. As Russians, they were now under constant watch. They packed, took a hotel room in Kraków, and in short order received permission to leave for Switzerland.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

Przenosiny

The wedding ceremony was complete. A brand new life lay ahead for the married couple. Then a young bride had to make the transfer, from living at home all of her life, and then moving into her husband's house. This event was quite ceremonial.

The transfer took place in the evening. The whole wedding party and all the musicians lured the new bride away from her father's house. She resisted. She was leaving the comforts of the past for a new life—one of being a new wife, housekeeper, and that of a mother.

As she was being taken away, the groomsmen could be heard singing, "And as she sat down on the wagon Her father, her mother she called

Don't let them take me mother Don't let them take me "

The groomsmen literally had to drag the young bride away! She tried to grab hold of any furniture to avoid the upcoming fate.

Superstitions prevailed. It was a belief that the road between the two houses was fraught with dangers, so much noise accompanied the wedding party. The crack of a whip, and the ringing of bells would hopefully scare away any evil spirits.

Upon arrival at her new home, the new bride was greeted by her in-laws with bread and honey. It was most important that she entered her new home with her right foot first across the threshold, insuring happiness throughout her marriage.

YOUTH CORNER / Robert Strybel

How About Visiting Poland This Summer?

Doing the ancestral homeland when you're young enough

A great many of the Polish Americans visiting Poland in summer are of late middle age or elderly, but it is members of the younger generation that get the most out of it. Sure the older folks have a lot of fun, but they are already set in their ways. To many it is just another tourist trip from which you bring back snapshots and souvenirs and that's the end of it. By contrast, to Pol-Ams in their teens and 20s, who are more receptive to new things, a visit to Poland can be a truly eye-opening experience.

On the whole, such a visit doesn't even cross the mind of your average young U.S.-born Pol-Ams. Summer jobs, camping trips, summer school, going to the family college or just moping around the house is the way many spend their summers. If someone were to suggest seeing Poland, many teens and 20s might show surprise: "What's there to do and see in Poland anyway?" But take it from me—as a high-school and college teacher in Michigan, I have seen this happen time and again over the years. Those who do make it over to their grandparents' or great-grandparents' land of birth in their formative years come back as "born again" Polish Americans! Many Pol-Ams make new friends and take an interest in their Polish heritage they never had before.

A Detroit-area cousin of mine who visited Poland in his teen years, when the "Pollack" jokes were at their height, was literally blown away by Kraków's Wawel Royal Castle with its crown jewels, throne rooms, knights in armor and trophies of the Turkish wars. For whatever reason, some young Pol-Ams come expecting to see bare-footed peasants leading cows through the streets of Warsaw.

True, there is plenty of quaint-

ness around—ancient castles, palaces and cathedrals lining narrow cobbled streets and horse-drawn carriages giving visitors the grand tour. But young visiting Pol-Ams will also find skyscrapers, shopping malls, traffic jams and peers every bit as fashionably clad as those in New York, Chicago, London or Paris. Some might enjoy the club, pub, disco and rock-concert scene. And nowadays the language barrier is not a problem, since most Polish young people can communicate in English.

Pol-Am visitors often take a guided bus tour of Poland with an English-speaking guide. Popular stops include the sights of Warsaw and Kraków, Zakopane—the capital of "Polish hillbilly (góral) country," the Wieliczka salt-mine, the legendary Shrine of the Black Madonna in Częstochowa and the horrific Auschwitz museum, where the Germans put to death more than a million people during World War II. Many visitors also try to visit the villages and towns their ancestors came from and touch base with living relatives. Others attend youth camps that may include trekking, sailing, horse-back riding and cave exploring or sign up for summer courses in Polish language and culture.

I don't know if this has piqued your curiosity or even whetted your appetite, but sooner or later everyone will ask: how much would all this cost? Admittedly, that can be a problem, but there may be ways of getting around it. Hunt around and you may find a youth exchange program you can link up with. Or see if your locality has a sister-city in Poland. (That is a separate topic for some future column!) Maybe a grandparent or other relative, thrilled at the prospect of your visiting their ancestral homeland might help bankroll the trip. In some cases, it may turn into a family excursion. Whatever the case, it's not too early to give this some thought!

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- "Painted House" competitions were held in Zalipie during a) Advent b) Feast of the Kings c) Corpus Christi
- The wooden church in Debno was built without a) an altar b) nails c) windows
- The castle of Czorsztyn was destroyed by a fire caused by a) pillagers b) lightning c) extreme heat
- A rafting trip through the Dunajec Gorge takes about a) 30 minutes b) 2 hours c) one day
- In Wielezka, the monastery of the Reformati monks, has a tree whose twigs are identical to the twigs in a) Christ's thorn wreath b) a burning bush c) a cluster of palms
- St. Kinga's Chapel was furnished in a) 1806 b) 1917 c) 1896
- The Niepolomica Forest was

- once a) a peasant retreat b) no hunting allowed territory c) royal property
- Aurocks are now a) extinct b) an endangered species c) multiplying rapidly
- Salt mines are often used for those with a) sensitive skin b) rapid heartbeat c) respiratory problems
- The hunting castle of King Sigismund II August is decorated with galleries modeled on those found in a) Wawel Castle b) the Sistine Chapel c) Venice churches

ANSWERS. 1.c Corpus Christi 2.b nails 3.b lightning 4.b two hours 5.a Christ's thorn wreath 6.c 1896 7.c royal property 8.a extinct 9.c respiratory problems 10.a Wawel Castle

TRADITION SIX DECADES OLD.

For the past 60 years the Wereski family of Orchard Park, N.Y. has gathered to make pierogi for their wigilia. For Christmas 2007, 28 members of the family came together to celebrate and create.

This second generation of Wereskis ranged in age from three

to 89, and made their own oplatki as well.

"Doing this every year is what keeps us close," said Sandi Judkiewicz, who came from Dallas with her husband, Al. Their daughter, Beth Ricardo, and son, Allen Judkiewicz, came in from Dallas and Washington, D.C., respectively, with their families.

HONORS

PAA HONORS JEWEL-OSCO.

On Oct. 25, the Polish American Association (PAA) held its Annual Gala and Benefit Auction at the Donald Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Ill. Jewel-Osco, a Supervalu Company, was honored with the PAA's Presidential Award. This award is given to individuals or corporations which distinguished themselves in their dedication to Polonia, its causes, and to the mission of the PAA. For over a decade, Jewel-Osco generously donated monetary funds and gave in-kind donations which supported the PAA's "Turning Point" Homeless Day Shelter and Food Pantry. Its generosity helped to nourish hundreds of families and individuals who sought help from the PAA during these economically critical times. Additionally, Jewel-Osco donated more than \$40,000, food certificates along with ham and turkey donations to the PAA's hungry and homeless during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons. The emcee for this gala was the ever-popular Polvision and Polish Radio 1030 AM host, Jacek Niemczyk. Additionally, Oak Mill Bakery donated delicious and elegant desserts and Jewel-Osco donated the beautiful table centerpieces.

PAC SALUTES DONOHUE, LIPSKI, CHMIELEWSKI, AND DISTRICT SEVEN PSAA.

The Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress chose Dr. William A. Donohue, president and CEO of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, as one of its four distinguished honorees for 2008.

Honored with him at the Congress' 2008 Awards Banquet were Rev. Janusz Lipski, associate pastor of St. Hedwig's Church in Floral Park, and Bogdan Chmielewski, president and CEO of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union.

The Polish American Congress also selects one of its member organizations for special recognition. This year it is the Polish Singers Alliance of America, District Seven, the oldest Polish cultural organization in North America.

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation, together with the Majer and Lasowski families, announce a scholarship for Engineering and Business full-time students at state universities and colleges. Applications must be submitted by February 28, 2009. Recipients will be notified by May 31, 2009.

For specific terms and application contact the PACCF at (773) 763-9944

CHICAGO—The Polish American Association received a \$1,500 CVS Caremark Community Grant, which will be used to support the Association's health outreach efforts.

PAA is a non-profit organization with 501 (c)(3) status dedicated to serving the diverse needs of Chicago's Polish immigrant community through 31 programs and services in the areas of adult education, employment, social services and immigration. Its Health Outreach Program works to promote the health of low and moderate income, medically uninsured and limited English speaking Poles by providing free preventive health services and by facilitating their access to other resources and services designed to help them achieve and maintain good health.

PAA was selected to receive a grant through the CVS Caremark Community Grants application process. Grants were awarded to organizations that share a common interest with CVS Caremark of supporting programs for the uninsured, which help to make health services affordable and easy to access. The goal of the program is to provide relief for both adults and children who lack medical insurance to get the proper medical attention needed.

Despite the fact that Poles comprise the second largest immigrant group in the Chicago metropolitan area, PAA is the only human service agency in the region with the capacity to provide a comprehensive

range of free and low-cost services to Polish immigrants in their own language. However, PAA serves not only Polish immigrants but any and all who come through its doors in times of need. Each year, more than 13,000 individuals come to PAA to secure the services that will help them improve the quality of their lives; some other services offered include: ESL and computer literacy classes, vocational training for Certified Nursing Assistant, office skills training, career counseling and job placement services, counseling for families, individuals, victims of domestic violence and substance abusers, case management and interpretation, citizenship classes and immigration services, food pantry and programs for youth, seniors and the homeless.

FLORIDA

MIAMI BEACH—The 37th Annual International Polonaise Ball will take place Sat., Jan. 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Surf Club at 9011 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach. The Ball will be a tribute to Mexico, and to Polish-Mexican Relations. A special brunch will follow Sun., Jan. 2009 at 11:30 a.m. For information and reservations, call (305) 864.2349, or e-mail info@ampolinstitute.org.

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON—Mayor Thomas Mero officially recognized and named the area between Andrew Square and Columbia Road, connected by Boston Street and Dorchester Avenue, as Boston's Polish Triangle in a ceremony at that location on October 18, 2008. The proclamation ceremony was followed by a reception at the Polish Language School.

For over 100 years Poles have settled in this area of Boston; it is now home to over two dozen Polish businesses, organizations, and institutions that attract over 2,000 visitors a week. Well done, Boston, for recognizing the vibrant heritage of your Polish-American population!

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS—Join the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota in singing kolędy on Sunday, January 4, 2009 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Catholic Eldercare, 817 Main Street NE, Minneapolis. Meet in the Atrium at 1:00 p.m. to practice prior to caroling. People are also invited to attend a Christmas sing-along at River Village, 2919 Randolph Street NE, Minneapolis at 3:30 PM. Words and music provided by Bob Gacek and his accordion. If there is illness at Eldercare, we will immediately go to River Village. Call on Saturday to confirm. For more information, call Judith at 763-571-9602.

MINNEAPOLIS—The annual meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society-Minnesota will be held on January 17, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the Gasthof Restaurant, 2300 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis. The cost will be \$17.00. For reservations or more information, contact Terry Kita at (612) 927-0719 or terrykita@earthlink.net.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO—On December 6, 2008 The Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and Western New York held its Annual Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall on Columbia Ave. in Depew.

Among the nights Festivities included the election of Association Officers: Al Ziemecki (pres.); Marty Bochinski (v.p.); Dave Gorski (2nd v.p.); Walter Kantorski (3rd v.p.); Mike Stack (rec. sec.); Ron Skotncki (treas.); Paul Manno (fin. Sec.); and Jerry Imiola (serg.-at-arms).

The Oath of Office was administered by the Hon. Judge Michael Pietruszka (Erie County Court).

Eight scholarships were awarded: The Edward Penkalski Memorial Award went to Rebecca Gworek, who is studying Criminal Justice at Niagara University.

Other scholarships awarded were to: Jonathan Gworek (Canisus College, Computer Information Systems); Jason Gulczewski (SUNY at Buffalo, Electrical Engineering); Amy McDougall (D'Youville College, Health Services); Nicholas Kwiatkowski (Johnson & Wales University, Business & Culinary Arts); Christopher Seternus (Buffalo State College, Criminal Justice); Kristen Rohe (Medialle College, Business & Accounting); and William Dunz (Erie Community College, General Studies).

Ornament Workshop at Museum



CHICAGO—During the weekend of Nov. 15, the Polish Museum of America held its Annual Amber and Crystal Sale in conjunction with the Museum's Christmas Ornament Workshop. The Museum's Gift Shop invited all to view and purchase items from its entire collection of amber and crystal along from its additional inventory. Patrons, both young and old, attending the Workshop, had an afternoon of cultural fun by learning, hands-on, how to create traditional Polish Christmas ornaments.

Pictured above are (l. to r.): Maria Grzadziel, Workshop Instructor, and the Schenk Family

Other awards given were "Man of the Year" to Ronald J. Dombrowski of the DRIVE TIME POLKA SHOW on WXRL radio, and "Business Man of the Year" to Peter D. Stachowski, owner of Buszka Funeral Home.

Finally, Presidents awards were given to James J. Wiatrowski and Ronald E. Mayer for their outstanding and dedicated service to the Pulaski Police Association.

OHIO

YOUNGSTOWN—Poles, Pol-Ams, and those just interested in the Eastern European nation had their first Polish Happy Hour at the Imbibe.

"There are young Polish immigrants and Polish Americans here that have strong ties to Poland and its language," said Darek Chomczyk, the 32-year-old local chapter head who emigrated from Katowice in his teens. "But we are tired of people thinking it's always about polkas and pierogi."

Gregory Witezak, a 30-something who emigrated from Poland as a young child, started Polish Happy Hour (www.polishhappyhour.com) in Washington, D.C., eight years ago because he found the only way young Poles and Polish Americans were connecting was through events at the Embassy.

Chomczyk heard about Polish Happy Hours from a cousin living in Washington, D.C., and he contacted the organization. Like chap-

ters in other cities, the group is intended for people—those of Polish heritage and those who merely have an interest—to network and meet friends, dates or simply someone with whom they can secretly enjoy those pierogi.

"It's the same for us here in Youngstown," said Chomczyk, noting he bartended at recent Polish Day activities, but would "never own a polka CD."

"I envision our gatherings being a place where people can learn about the modern, hipper part of their Polish culture."

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—Sun., Jan. 11. Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture in the Polish language, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd., Northeast Philadelphia. 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Walentyna Adamczyk. Topic: "Dlaczego mlodzi i starsze pokolenie zyja w roznych swiatach? - Konflikt pokolen." Free. Info call (610) 532-2422 or 215-624-9954.

PHILADELPHIA—Sat., Feb. 14. Polish Police Association of Philadelphia 33rd Annual Founder's Day Banquet, King's Caterers II, 4010 New Falls Rd., Bristol. 6:00 p.m. to midnight. Continuous music by Plus Five Orchestra and Rick Gazda Band. Cocktail hour, surf and turf sit down dinner and a 6 hour open bar. Info call Edward McCloskey (215) 425-4783.

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"The Jeweler's Shop" Resonates with Catholics and Protestants

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A half-century after Karol Wojtyla penned "The Jeweler's Shop," churches continue to find meaning in the stories of three couples who struggle with love.

The play explores the trials and triumphs of the couples through the eyes of Adam, the jeweler who both crafts their wedding rings and weighs their love through several decades.

NEWSDAY called the acclaimed play by Pope John Paul II, "A message for our times." Drama critics have hailed it as "marvelous" and "entertaining theater."

Professional performances of "The Jeweler's Shop," held throughout the Fall of 2008, will resume in this Spring. In May 2009, Truro Church in Fairfax, Virginia will be the first Protestant church to sponsor the production.

Karol Wojtyla, who became

Pope John Paul II, wrote the play in 1959 while he was bishop of Krakow.

George Gordon, winner of the prestigious Outer Circle Critics Award for best Off-Broadway musical, produced the play at 11 churches in the New York Hudson Valley area last fall and he previously produced the show on tour with two off-Broadway companies for several years.

Gordon calls the play "a very moving experience. Every time we perform this play the audience is moved by the Pope's words to the point of joy and tears," he said. "Many don't realize that John Paul II was an accomplished playwright, director, and actor."

Alexandra Peeler, co-producer, said there is a hungry audience for this play and increasing interest among church groups in having the play staged. "Today's audiences

relate to the couples in the play and see the longing, heartache, and discovery in their love stories," she said.

To see a performance of The Jeweler's Shop, check the upcoming schedule and contact the listed number for tickets or information:

- February 14, 2009 8:00 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Triangle, VA
For reservations contact: (703) 221-4978, ext. 237 or margaretB@stfrancis.org
- March 7, 2009 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Church, Warrenton, VA
For information call: (540) 347-2922, x209.
- April 25, 7:30 p.m.
St. Leo's Church, Fairfax, VA
For information contact: Mary Adams, (703) 273-5369.
- May 17, 4:00 p.m.
Truro Church, Fairfax, VA
For information contact: (703) 273-1300 x220 or kboyd@trurochurch.org

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