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

MAJEWSKI: HAMTRAMCK'S CHIEF CITY REPRESENTATIVE AND SPOKESPERSON • POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE QUIZ CLAIMS OF RADIO MARIA ANTI-SEMITISM UNFOUNDED • KRUPA: THE GREATEST DRUMMER OF ALL TIME "BRACHA – A BLESSING" AT THE CONSULATE • PRO-LIFE, PRO-CHOICE POLITICIANS • WINTER AND MARDI GRAS CAKES

NEWSMARK

MILITARY AGREEMENT SIGNED. Poland and the United States have signed a delayed Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) allowing Washington to station its troops and military hardware on Polish territory. Following 14 months of grueling negotiations, the deal paves the way for the installation of U.S.-pledged Patriot missiles and American troops to man on Polish soil as part of a NATO air-defense upgrade plan. SOFA will require American troops to pay taxes in Poland and be tried by a Polish court for any off-base crimes they commit. Last September the Obama Administration reneged on a long-standing pledge to install parts of a missile-shield in Poland and the Czech Republic.

MEIR SAID "NO" TO SICK JEWS FROM POLAND. Israel didn't want sick Polish Jews, a recently found message by Milwaukee-raised Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir told the Polish government in the 1950s. It was written during the second wave of post-war emigration from Poland (1956-58), when some 40,000 Polish Jews, mainly Holocaust survivors, moved to Israel. "Poland certainly did not intentionally send handicapped and aged people to Israel," said Professor Szymon Rudnicki, the Warsaw University historian who uncovered the letter. He feels it showed Meir to be a cynical politician more concerned about Israeli state interests than people.

PIAST INSTITUTE CORRECTS GLENN BECK. On Dec. 8, 2009, Glenn Beck of Fox News made a hash of pronouncing the surname of U.S. Congresswoman Janet Schakowsky. "It is obviously a name that originated in Poland. American names come from all over the world and it is incumbent on all of us, especially those in the media, to learn to pronounce them correctly," said Virginia Skrzyniarz of Hamtramck's PIAST Institute. "Ms. Schakowsky's name is only three syllables long and its original spelling was altered to make it easy for English speakers to say."

"Our names are a key to our identity, self-esteem and our pride in our heritage and family. To fail to pronounce them correctly, especially on national television, is a mark of disrespect. This is a serious matter. The prejudice the Polish-Americans have suffered has usually begun with the mockery of our names. We would ask Mr. Beck and all others in the media to make the effort to pronounce our names correctly. All television stations have guides for pronunciations of foreign names and places. We ask that they also develop a handbook for the correct pronunciation of Polish American and all other American names," said Skrzyniarz.

APPLEBAUM'S CAR NOT BOMBED. Despite reports to the contrary, the car of Anne Applebaum, wife of Poland's Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski, did not explode in the Warsaw suburb of Jozefow.

"Some of you may be deeply disappointed to hear this, but let me begin by reassuring all of my readers that no, my car did not blow up last weekend. I'm afraid it simply isn't true that the Russian mafia are out to get me either."

The car died on the way home from a friend's house. When she tried to restart it, it caught fire. Within hours, gossip spread that a bomb was placed in the car.

Applebaum is a noted American writer and journalist. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 2003 for her book, "Gulag."

REPOSE ON PAUSE. Bears in Poland's Tatra National Park delayed hibernation as unusually warm weather kept them active. As the winter season begins, tourists often report seeing bears wandering near tourist trails. Other reports reveal sightings of bears eating apples remaining on trees and the destruction of beehives as the hungry bears root for honey.

Marek Peksa of the Tatra National Park does indeed blame it all on the weather, saying that frequent unseasonably mild temperatures "...cause the bears to be active, instead of getting ready for their winter hibernation."

Polish Americans to President: Veto Health Care if it Finances Abortion

NEW YORK — A group of Polish Americans from across the country are calling on President Obama to end support for government financing of abortion as part of health care reform. In an open letter to Mr. Obama released December 8, 2009, the group states, "we urge you to veto any legislation containing public financing of abortion."

"This letter was the result of an energetic grassroots effort by an ad hoc group of Polish American community activists," said Ava Bak of New York, who helped prepare the

letter. "Many of us were concerned that the Polish American community's voice was not being heard on health care reform, which is an incredibly important issue for our society." These activists drafted the letter and found support for it among Polish communities in 17 states. "Such a wide response shows that many Polish Americans share the same concerns as we do," she added.

This sentiment was echoed by one fourth-generation Polish American from

See "Letter to President," page 4

Valuable Pleyel Piano Donated to the Chopin Foundation in Miami

MIAMI — The Chopin Foundation of the United States is proud to announce it is now the owner of the Pleyel piano, model E #13555, built in 1847 in Paris. Frederic Chopin's signature is inscribed on the piano, thought to have been at the request of the purchaser, Mme de Reymont, a student of Chopin. The composer himself selected the piano and received a commission from Pleyel.

The much-traveled piano is unique in musical history.

Shipped from Paris to the Reymont home in Romania, in the mid-twentieth century it was then sent to Milan, Italy, to be sold.

Bought by Stephen B. Tanner, the American Consul in Milan at the time and brought to the United States, the piano was purchased lately by Professor William W. Langebartel (emeritus, Temple University, 1980).



CHOPIN'S PLEYEL PIANO. Similar model donated to Chopin Foundation.

See "Chopin Pleyel Piano," page 3

Tczew English Camp Persists Despite Budget Cuts

by Jeannine M. Pitas

TCZEW, Poland — It's a Friday afternoon in July, and about eighty high school students from all over Poland are gathered in a school gym. Most are sitting on the floor and watching; one group of ten comes to the front, at which one student pulls out his guitar and begins to strum a familiar tune: "House of the rising sun." On cue the rest begin to sing; however, their words are a little different from the original.

"There is a place in far away Tczew/ It's called the English camp / And here you will meet many new friends/ I'm sure I have some now." The song continues on with an array of hilarious verses recalling Halloween parties, Hawaiian luaus, weekend trips to local cultural sites, and of course, English lessons.

After the song and many other skits have finished, students line up to receive a certificate of participation in the UNESCO/Kosciuszko Foundation "Camp," page 4

Polish Museum's Paderewski Room Re-opened



Artifacts and mementoes of I.J. Paderewski's life are once again on display at the Polish Museum of America, which undertook a 14-month renovation to the Paderewski Room.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The most major renovation of the Polish Museum of America (PMA), that of the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Room, was completed, and benefactors, Museum staff members, and generous contractors, tradesmen and artisans had the opportunity to see this renovation prior to opening the historic room to the public. On November 6, a gala re-opening took place in which those supporters enjoyed an evening of fine dining and celebration.

This historic Room and its artifacts

had been unavailable for public viewing for almost three years. And considering that the Room was in need of updating and much repair, the PMA's Board initially approved the installation of a new heating and air-conditioning system. Then, in the early part of 2008, the ductwork for the Room was concealed for safer and more efficient air flow. But the remodeling pace was slow. Thus, in the summer of 2008, the Museum's Board approved the formation of a committee whose sole purpose would be to remodel this Room. This "work in progress" project

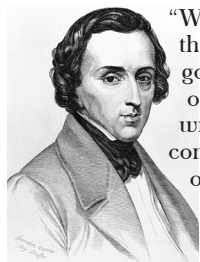


Included is a protective glass partition surrounding the display of Paderewski's furnishings from the suite in the Buckingham Hotel in New York City, his last residence.

was a 14-month venture, in which the Paderewski Room Renovation Committee promised that the renovation would be completed and the Room re-opened on the 149th birthday of Maestro Paderewski. This promise was kept. The Committee, which was comprised of Board members Geraldine Balut Coleman, Chair, along with Joan Kosinski and Richard Owsiany, staff members Richard Kujawa, Barbara Mirecki and Jan Lorys, Stan Bernacki of Bernacki & Associates, and PMA's President, Maria See "Paderewski Room," page 4

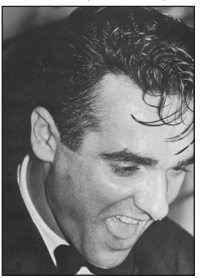
ALMANAC

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"When one does a thing, it appears good, otherwise one would not write it. Only later comes reflection, and one discards or accepts the thing. Time is the best censor, and patience a most excellent teacher."

—Frederic Chopin, born 1810

- 1 *Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku! Happy New Year!* 1919. Birth of Polish American actress **Carol Landis**.
- 3 1795. **Third Partition** of Poland.
- 6 **FEAST OF 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.
- 7 1882. Death of **Ignacy Lukaszewicz**, inventor of the kerosene lamp. (b. 1822).
- 8 1918. **President Wilson** announces his "Fourteen Points," the 13th calling for a free Poland.
Na bezrybiu i rak ryba.
When fish are few, a crab will do.
- 9 1797. **Jan Henryk Dabrowski** 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).
- 15  1890. Birth of swing and jazz drummer **Gene Krupa**. 1919. **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, 58, pianist, composer, becomes first premier of the newly created Republic of Poland.
- 17 1734 Coronation of **August III the Saxon**
- 19 1967. Death of **Casimir Funk** in Albany, N.Y., Polish-born biochemist who discovered vitamins.
- 22 1863. The **January Uprising** in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth against the Russian Empire. It began this day in 1863, and lasted until the last insurgents were captured in 1865.
- 23 1793. **Second Partition** of Poland.
- 24 1507. Coronation of **Sigismund I the Old**
- 25 1913. Birth of pianist and composer **Witold Lutoslawski**.
- 27 1842. Birth of **Fr. Jozef Dabrowski**, educator and founder of Orchard Lake Schools.
- 28 1753. Signing of the **Warsaw Confederation**, an important development in the history of Poland and Lithuania, is considered the formal beginning of religious freedom in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
- 29 1846. Birth of **Karol Olszewski**, scientist who liquified gases.
- 30 1018. The **Peace of Bautzen** was a peace treaty signed by Emperor Henry II and Great Duke Boleslaw I the Brave of Poland. The peace, achieved at the Ortenburg castle in Bautzen, ended 15 years of warfare between the two rulers, as well as ending negotiations Henry had begun in 1003 with the heathen Liutizians.
- 31 1887. Death of **Włodzimierz Bonawentura Krzyżanowski**, Civil War general.

This paper mailed on or before **January 2, 2010**.
The February 2010 edition will be mailed on or before **Jan. 30**.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Wesołego Nowego Roku!

Happy New Year to all our readers! We wish you happiness and health in 2010! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and trust that Sw. Mikolaj was good to you. 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 newscleppers, 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. 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 type 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 vane. 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!

HOUSEKEEPING. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of **Frederic Chopin**. In addition to features and reports of commemorations throughout the year, we plan to top each month's Almanac with a quote by the world renowned composer and musician.

In 2011, the PAJ will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Plans for year-long observances will be announced shortly, and the October 2011 edition will be anniversary paper.

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

Obama Credits Pope John Paul II, Lech Walesa

"In light of the Cultural Revolution's horrors, Nixon's meeting with Mao appeared inexcusable — and yet it surely helped set China on a path where millions of its citizens have been lifted from poverty, and connected to open societies. Pope John Paul's engagement with Poland created space not just for the Catholic Church, but for labor leaders like Lech Walesa. Ronald Reagan's efforts on arms control and embrace of perestroika not only improved relations with the Soviet Union, but empowered dissidents throughout Eastern Europe. There is no simple formula here. But we must try as best we can to balance isolation and engagement, pressure and incentives, so that human rights and dignity are advanced over time."

— **President Barack Obama**, from his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, on the necessity to face adversaries to initialize change.

◆ ◆ ◆
"I was baptized here. I may stop going to church altogether."

— **Ray Kasperski, 81**, who is among the 100 Polish Americans who met in front of a chain-link fence that surrounds boarded-up St. Casimir Catholic Church on Cleveland's East Side.

The gatherings, growing in size each week, protest Bishop Richard Lennon's closing of the ethnic church.

"We're here indefinitely."

— **Laurin Zepka**, one of the regular vigil keepers inside the decaying St. Stanislaus Koska in Adams, Mass. St. Stan's was ordered closed at the end of 2008 part of a consolidation in the Springfield Diocese and a trend in Catholic communities across the nation. St. Stan's members immediately protested the decision, establishing an around-the-clock vigil days before the final Mass. The vigil keepers are pinning their hopes on the Vatican and praying for a rare reversal of a diocesan decision.

◆ ◆ ◆
"There are a lot of people here with Polish roots, but it is not the majority. However, our connection is so important. Not only were Jewish Poles actively involved in establishing the state but also because we were once two people living on the same soil."

— **Polish Ambassador to Israel Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska**, calling on Israelis and Jews to embrace the centuries of Jewish thought and philosophy that once flourished in Poland.

◆ ◆ ◆
"... I still have moments of numbness."

— **Lech Walesa**, still feeling the effects of a back injury suffered in November at the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The

Nobel Peace Prize winner suffered a concussion after a German photographer bumped into him after Walesa knocked over some dominoes symbolizing the Wall.

◆ ◆ ◆
"The administration has now explained its position more thoroughly, and we are now satisfied and want to go where the U.S. is leading, toward a more adaptive and more proven system. [The new system] will take longer to construct, but will create fewer tensions in our region. I think we're now on the same page with the U.S., and we are ready to address the details and the amendments to the agreements I signed with the previous administration."

— **Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski**, from an interview in *Foreign Policy*, on the new missile system the United States will install in Poland.

◆ ◆ ◆
"Our athletes are students first."
— **Harvard women's swimming coach Stephanie Morawski**, stressing the school's focus on academics.

◆ ◆ ◆
"I would argue its more mathematics than it is English."

— **John Kalicki** of the High School for Engineering and Science in Philadelphia, on the word game *Scrabble*. City schools are experiencing a jump in the number of

after-school *Scrabble* clubs, which now meet in competitions through a city-sponsored league.

◆ ◆ ◆
"Doctors eat here on a regular basis just because of the way the food is prepared and how fresh it is."

— **Jon Holt** of *Parma, Ohio's Little Polish Diner*. His partner, Poland-born **Zofia Hart**, makes everything from scratch, and doesn't cook with salt. She uses soy oil, which contains no trans fats or cholesterol.

◆ ◆ ◆
"To us, the Pulaski mystery is nothing but a made-up story."

— **Stanley Pulaski, Sr.** of *Depew, N.Y.*, who claims to be a descendant General Pulaski family, and who maintains the Revolutionary War hero was buried at sea, not in the Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia.

◆ ◆ ◆
"It wasn't in his interest to have him see out, or to have anybody be able to see in."

— *Spokeswoman for the National Zoo* **Karin Korpowski-Gallo**, on why a tarp was placed over the crate of *Happy the Hippo*, who traveled 18 hours from Washington to his new home in Milwaukee. Keepers feared a crowd would have riled the hippo.

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SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

Overplaying "Anti-Semitism"

Dear Editor,

I would like to add "moje trzy grosze" to the exchange between Mr. Kiseleski and Mr. Strybel regarding the Jewish participation in communist parties in the Soviet Union and Poland. (PAJ, September 09, p. 3)

Looking at the facts, not at "opinions" often expressed in this part of the world, accusing practically all Poles of "anti-Semitism," one must say that from the historical point of view it is Mr. Strybel who is right. Communist parties both in Soviet Union and Poland had disproportional number of Jews. Perhaps conditions in the Tsarist Russia contributed to it; perhaps the precarious situation of Poland in the short inter war period (a crazy racist Hitler on one side, mass murderer Stalin on the other) caused the rise of nationalism, which made some people look with suspicion at all minority groups. No country would be perfect in such circumstances. It is also true that Minz, Berman and Zambrowski/Nussbaum (all Jewish) had for a period of time total control over the infamous police apparatus (UB) in the communist Poland after World War II.

I find it particularly unfortunate on the part of Mr. Kiseleski — in response to factual information — to accuse Mr. Strybel of being "a supporter of Jewish Communist theory," a theory which originated in Germany and is linked to Hitlerism. One could also object to Mr. Kiseleski's suggestion that Christian workers in Poland had a lower level of education than Jewish members of the communist party; which allegedly resulted in the workers' low participation in the party, a convenient hypothesis based on the idea that it required more brains to be a communist than not. Mr. Kiseleski's tendency to link the Catholic Church to extremism is offensive to all Catholics; it appears to follow the recent publications by a sociologist, Dr. Gross. These suggestions do a great injustice to the Catholic clergy in Poland, whose efforts to fight Nazism and save the Jews were truly inspiring.

One can add that although the inter-war Poland had many shortcomings, many Jews in it held prestigious positions (see Prof. P. Wandycz, "Prize of Freedom") and in no way could be considered a persecuted minority. The historians mentioned by Mr. Strybel (to whom I would add Z. Brzezinski, M.J. Chodakiewicz and R.V. Burks) are not only "credible" but universally respected as reliable scholars.

Finally, one should also remember that in the long history of Poland, there were many Jewish Poles who through their efforts contributed to the country's political and cultural development and prestige.

Anna R. Dadlez, Ph.D.
Saginaw, Michigan

LEARNING HISTORY. Rather than lament the omission of the history of a Polish neighborhood in books related to the American Dolls' line marketed by Mattel, the writer might want to redirect her energy and encourage young 8-18-year old boys and girls to learn about the history of their Polish American neighborhood and share it with others.

Irena Szeziola
North Hills, California

ENJOYS THE PAJ. Enclosed is a check for two new subscriptions. Your paper is very information and not too wordy. Excellent taste!

Especially enjoyable are your accounts of our great war heroes; the monthly short calendar of famous Poles, and not the least, great Polish recipes.

Keep up your good work, for the Polish people are of good stock and very devoted to Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Sr. Regina Maria, MICM

GERMANY'S NAZIS. Robert Strybel wrote that most young people do not know who the Nazis were, and it is up to us to get the message out.

I noticed in the October edition, the PAJ did not call out Nazi Germany.

You can program your computer to put in Germany whenever the word Nazi appears in an article.

Young people think Nazis were Poles as the German camps were in Poland.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Nazi is a word used to describe the National Socialist German Workers' Party under Adolf Hitler, and the policies adopted by the dictatorial government of Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945. As a rule, we refer to Germany as Nazi Germany when discussing Hitler's rise to power until the end of war. However, within the context of an article where it has been established the Germany being written about is Nazi Germany, the word Nazi is sometimes substituted.

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE. This update and correction is in regard to an article in the May 2009 (page 5) edition of the Polish American Journal titled: "Re-enactors to Tour Poland."

Your article was a great read. However, there is an erroneous point of fact in need of correction. The article states "The Tour was developed by Eryk Jadaszewski of the Czarniecki Division Re-enactment Group based in New England."

There is an important issue involved in the inception of Jadaszewski's Husaria tour. Shortly after the 2002 New York City Pulaski Parade, my late father and I discussed creating a tour to Poland that could be held exclusively to pertain to the museums, castles and all sites specifically pertaining and relating to the winged hussars of Polish History.

At that time, in early 2004, while still on friendly terms with Jadaszewski, I telephoned him. During that call, I mentioned my idea of a plan as to creating a tour to Poland to visit all hussar-related museums and sites. The initial response I received from Jadaszewski was that such a tour "won't work."

A short time after, I had found out that not only had Jadaszewski run with my idea of creating a Husaria Tour, it was being met with great interest. When I had telephoned Jadaszewski about his taking my

idea and not even rendering the due credit as to where it originally came forth, he denied any such credit was due to myself.

To some, this might sound silly, but at the root of it all, what we have here is a classic usurpation and larcenous action of a concept commonly referred to as "Intellectual Property."

The point of this is to render to the readers on the truth of where and how the Husaria Tour was born.

Rik Suligowski Fox
America's First Winged Hussars
Los Angeles

SOBIESKI CLAIM FABRICATED.

This is in regard to a brief article about the actress Leelee Sobieski found in the June 2009 edition of the PAJ (page 16), under the heading "Changing Times."

It was erroneously stated there, that "The actress (Sobieski) is a distant relative of Poland's King Jan Sobieski..."

While he was alive, I asked my late father, Polish heraldic researcher, Leonard J. Suligowski, if there was, indeed, any blood ties between actress Leelee and the great Polish King.

The King's royal bloodline, I was informed, died out without issuance of any heirs to carry on the male side of the bloodline. Any similarity to the name Sobieski is purely coincidental, and actress Leelee Sobieski is not, related in any manner to the royal bloodline of King Jan III Sobieski.

Furthermore, the actress's very own publicist publicly admitted to fabricating such a relation between the actress and the great Polish Monarch to be a publicity marketing ploy, and without foundation to the truth.

Rik Sulima-Suligowski Fox
America's First Winged Hussars
Los Angeles

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

Edward Poniewaz sees the correct history concerning the fall of Russian Communism in Central Europe. The real actors were Pope John Paul II and Poland's Solidar-

ity Trade Union. The latter put their lives on the line. This is not the first time Poland saved Europe from Russia. Check the Russo-Polish War of 1920.

Most history books ... do not give Poland any credit. Even so-called Conservatives like Pat Buchanan fail to do so. Thank goodness there are writers like Norman Davies, Iwo Pogonowski, and Alex Storzynski, who correctly credit Poland. Storzynski's "The Peasant Prince" tells us that the state of Kosciuszko is second only to George Washington's in the United States.

Claude Kalinowski
Portland, Connecticut

A BETTER WAY. I read your article regarding "The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko" and found the reviewer's pronunciation wrong. It should be "kosh-CHEW-shkoh."

Dolores Baldyga Conlon
Walpole, Massachusetts

MISSILES A MISTAKE. U.S. missiles on Polish soil: While a noble idea, but a very dumb and stupid move by the Polish government. Poland should not become a military "buffer" between Russia and the United States. Given recent military worldly blunders and failures by the United States, (Poland) should speak for itself.

Bernard E. Helinski
Baltimore, Maryland

LOOKING FOR CHELBINSKIS.

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Claims of Radio Maria Anti-Semitism Unfounded

(Catholic Information Agency) — Poland's *Radio Maria* is not anti-Semitic, it does not propagate National Democratic (a pre-World War II nationalist party) ideology, and the type of piety it promotes is deep and authentic, and not ritualistic, collectivistic or superficial.

These were the conclusions reached by a group of sociologists from Warsaw University who, under the direction of Professor Ireneusz Krzemiński, investigated the station's broadcasts to its listeners in August, 2007. The conclusions, published in book form under the title *What Does Radio Maria Teach Us? (Czego nas uczy Radio Maryja?)* (Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Akademickie i Profesjonalne, 2009), caused a shakeup of many stereotypes which, for years, have created the negative PR regarding Father Tadeusz Rydzek's radio station.

The book's authors analyzed all Radio Maria transmissions in August, 2007, a month abounding in religious and patriotic festivities, and in which the annual commemoration of the Warsaw Uprising and the "Miracle on the Vistula" (Poland's defeat of Soviet Russia in 1920) is observed. Based on this analysis, they formed an opinion about Radio Maria's vision of the world and

the Church.

"As the author of this analysis I must admit that I began with the hypothesis that Radio Maria's religiosity was much more superficial, ritualistic and traditional in its form," stated Professor Krzemiński.

"Our examination of Father Rydzek's broadcasts provides proof that its listeners present, express, and describe a religiosity which in all certainty is testimony of an authentic religious experience. ... those who pray and talk about their prayers are people who have witnessed an authentic faith experience, and Radio Maria broadcasts provide insight into such experiences, while providing an opportunity to deepen one's faith," the sociologist adds.

During the period under review, there were no anti-Semitic statements on the part of either the broadcaster or the audience. Only occasionally do listeners' comments show a dislike of Jews, states the sociologist.

"Generally speaking, however, such comments were not promoted, rather, on the contrary, every effort was made to quiet such comments or to avoid them by changing the topic or even by putting a somewhat different interpretation on them," Krzemiński stressed.

Pleyel Piano Donated to Chopin Foundation

continued from cover

Immediately following the purchase, Professor Langebartel donated it to the Chopin Foundation of the U.S. on behalf of himself and his late wife Imelde Della Valle, who died in 2008.

The Chopin Foundation is loaning the Pleyel piano to the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw for showing at a special exhibit in its new Chopin Museum.

"There is no better place for the piano touched by great Frederic than his hometown, Warsaw," said Blanka Rosenstiel, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland and Founder of the Chopin Foundation. "I am happy that, thanks to the generosity of Prof. Langebartel, we are able to contribute to the worldwide celebrations of the 200th Anniversary of Chopin's birth."

The Chopin Foundation in Miami is known mostly for its quinquennial U.S. National Chopin Piano Competition, the winners of which are then sent to the International Chopin Competition in Poland.

The Eighth Competition will be held in Miami from February 20-28, 2010. In the years between competitions, the Foundation assists talented young U.S. pianists by offering them scholarships and public concert opportunities in South Florida and across the country.

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Paderewski Room Reopens at Polish Museum

continued from cover

Ciesla, were actively involved in planning the "new look" of this Room. They took on the arduous task of determining which additional and important improvements were needed. After examining the entire scope of the Room, the Committee concluded that the walnut display cases were in need of upgrading; the carpeting needed replacement or cleaning; the valuable Paderewski upholstered furniture required stabilizing and cleaning; and the decorative stencil work which surrounds the Room needed conservation and repair. Also, the Room's five windows needed repair and updating. In addition, some of the exhibit's artifacts needed conservational treatment. The Committee also decided that the Room needed some form of security which was lacking in the old design, including a protective glass partition surrounding the display of Paderewski's furnishings from the suite in the Buckingham Hotel in New York City, his last residence. This glass partition would allow the Museum to display more of Paderewski's possessions and to better secure the area.

The Committee asked Richard Kujawa, the Museum's Operations Manager, to be the "in-house" Project Coordinator. His responsibility was to report directly to the Committee's Chair regarding the progress of each and every aspect of the renovation work. Understanding that this major project required experts in the area of renovation work, the Committee sought qualified and dedicated contractors, tradesmen, craftsmen, and artisans. After much research, bidding, and meetings, the Committee selected Mr. Christopher Jaworowski, president of The Discovery Builders, Inc. of Chicago, as the project's General Contractor. The Museum was most fortunate, as Mr. Jaworowski specializes in the renovation of landmark buildings, and brought a multi-talented, experienced, organized, and conscientious perspective to this project.

With Mr. Jaworowski's acceptance in January 2009, the Museum made great progress. The Museum is most fortunate that, through the dedicated efforts of Mr. Jaworowski, considerable *pro-bono* labor was donated by tradesmen, artisans, and craftsmen and numerous *gratias* supplies were donated by various companies. It was Jaworowski and Discovery Builders, Inc. who generously installed the new oak floor, and repaired and updated the five existing windows and replaced the old window glass with UV-orientated glass. Twenty-first century technological electrical installations were put into place through the *pro-bono* work of Dariusz Gancarz and Mirosław Praczuk of MGD Electric, Inc., Chicago. Jan Zelazko, a talented wood cabinet maker, updated, repaired and renovated the Room's walnut display cabinets and, in some cases, created matching walnut cabinets. Through the volunteered work of Mark Kosciuszko of American Classics Enterprises of Chicago and the supplies donated by Chester E. Taurence of Painters Supply, Inc. of Taylor, Michigan, the walls, ceiling and stucco were repaired and painted. Mike Ratulowski of Chicago's Holland Glass & Art Studio provided his services in the beveling and polishing of all new glass used in the partitions, cabinets and doors in the Room. Well-known Chicago artist, Wojtek Glinkowski, repaired and conserved the original decorative stencil artwork, and designed and painted a new logo honoring the Legion of Young Polish Women for its consistent and generous support of the Museum and the Paderewski Room. Then Peter Buczynski of Colorphonic, Inc. created five digital photos from the Museum's archives to be placed on the Room's windows. Brothers Robert and Jack Gibes of Advanced Window Corp. of Chicago supplied the Museum with the custom-made laminated glass needed for the en-

tire Paderewski Room. Marian and John Gorzelany of Chicago's well-known John's Upholstery graciously agreed to repair, stabilize and clean the original Paderewski's furniture. Dariusz Stankowski, owner of Audio Video Life Style Security of Northfield, IL installed the security system. Other updates included the tuning, cleaning, and repair of the Maestro's personal Steinway piano and the conservation and preservation of one-of-a-kind paintings, important Paderewski documents, papers, photographs, and other Paderewski-orientated memorabilia.

Thanks to the Museum's Archivist and Photographic Specialist, Halina Misterka and Julita Siegel, important materials were cataloged and made ready for the re-opening of this historic Room. Through the Museum's Registrar, Barbara Mirecki, objects of art were conserved and time-line texts and wall-object labels were created to make the Room more reader-friendly. Through the combined efforts of Mr. Kujawa, Mr. Jaworowski and Kevin Ryba, Information Technology Director of the Polish Roman Catholic Union, "touch screen" computers were installed and are now available for those wishing to do additional research on Paderewski and his contributions. Thus, the newly-redesigned exhibit focuses



© The Polish Museum of America

The Paderewski Room as it appeared before remodeling.

on Paderewski's roles as statesman, artist, and friend. The Room will now enable visitors to visualize Paderewski, in depth, and to better understand how he developed into a patriot, pianist, and humanitarian.

Paderewski's musical achievements and legacy are now presented through audio-visual means. A noted author, musician and Paderewski enthusiast, Mr. Jeffrey Wagner, provided commentary on the Maestro's performing style and on his compositions.

Since the Paderewski Room constitutes the original Museum space, the Committee designated an area in the Room in memory of the PMA's first curator, Mieczysław Haiman.

His desk, published books, and other items are also displayed. The Museum believes that Paderewski would have approved.

Finally, the Committee wishes to express its sincere gratitude and the warm and generous responses to its requests for financial support of this endeavor. One of America's most valued treasures has been beautifully preserved. The Committee hopes that all will share its enthusiasm. Understanding the invaluable legacy of Paderewski's contribution to Polonia and the world, the Museum hopes that this renovated exhibit will be a treasure in the eyes of those who visit the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Room.

English Language Camp Opens Despite Budget Cuts

continued from cover

dation English immersion camp – a three-week opportunity for Polish students ages ten to nineteen to improve their English under the guidance of visiting American teachers and college or high school aged teaching assistants. Camp activities include English lessons based on various aspects of American culture and a wide range of sports and other extracurricular activities. Ever since the Foundation initiated the program in 1991, about seventeen hundred American teachers have traveled to Poland to teach English, and over ten thousand Polish students have benefited from the program.

Having been fortunate enough to teach in two previous camps in Limanowa (a small town in the south of Poland) I was eager to go back and do it again after a four-year hiatus. However, my application to the Foundation was met with some very bad news: due to the global economic crisis, the Polish Ministry of Education — who had previously funded a large part of the program — decided to withdraw their support. All of the camps were cancelled, and the Foundation had no choice but to suspend the camp for one year.

I couldn't help but feel disappointed and even angered by this news. Of course the crisis is serious and demands budget cuts on all sides, but why should these camps — which have a solid tradition in Poland — be the first thing to go?

In early June I received quite a surprise: a letter from Teaching English in Poland program director Christine Kuskowski informing me of surprise openings for teachers in the high school camp at Tczew, a city in the North of Poland. In the absence of government support, this particular school decided to take matters into their own hands.

"The greatest advantage of this camp for Polish students is that

it puts them in contact with U.S. citizens so that they can use the language on a daily basis," states Jerzy Cisewski, who is principal of the Tczew School of Economics and camp director for the past three years. "The camp's program as prepared by the American staff is constructed so that it is easier for them to acquire knowledge of the linguistic and cultural elements. One cannot learn a language only by reading a textbook. Students need to learn where the language comes from — language in context and contact with native speakers."

Cisewski comments that after his first year as Polish director of the camp, he was immediately impressed by the American staff's professionalism and use of many methods to help students to improve their English. When he found out that this year's camp had been cancelled, he was immediately disappointed. However, he soon came up with a plan. "Some parents called asking about the camp, saying that they would really like to send their children to the camp again. We spoke with UNESCO, which has always supported the camp, and we asked the Kosciuszko Foundation if there could still be teachers — even if that meant having a smaller group. It's very important for us."

Instrumental in this process was Jan Sherry, a teacher and theme coordinator at a technology magnet school in Las Vegas who has been participating in the TEIP for nine years — seven as staff leader. Sherry says that she first came across the Kosciuszko Foundation program through a work colleague who found an ad in a Polish American newspaper.

Thanks to the camp leaders' dedication, many previous TEIP teachers now had the opportunity to return to Poland and spend time with some excellent students; others were able to participate for the first time.

Jerzy Cisewski is determined to continue running the camp next year, with or without government funding. However, he adds that it is difficult to offer a high-quality camp on such a tight budget. "We hope that information about our camp will reach the Ministry of Education. We hope to convince them that there should be twenty such camps in Poland, and we hope that they will resume funding. Government scholarships allow young people who normally could not attend such a camp to come and improve their English by taking classes offered by native speakers."

Cisewski and Sherry remain determined to uphold the camp's tradition and to continue offering Polish students with this excellent opportunity — no matter what decision the government makes.

Letter to President

continued from cover

Minneapolis, who supported the letter because "it's just not right to force us to use our tax money to pay for abortions." He, a father of three, added, "the letter to the President proves that the Polish community has something to say on real issues, not just polkas and pierogi." Other supporters cited their moral beliefs and the teaching of Polish Pope John Paul II as reasons for backing the letter.

The letter is supported by a representative cross section of the approximately 10 million Polish Americans. A total of 16 states (including New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin and Maryland) have more than 3.5 percent Polish Americans in their populations. In the 2008 election, a clear majority of Polish Americans voted for Barack Obama.

For more information contact Ava Bak at polam.act@gmail.com.

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Consulates in Chicago, New York, and Washington Observe Independence Day

CHICAGO — With almost 400 guests in attendance, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Zygmunt Matynia, and Mrs. Matynia hosted a reception and an anniversary concert on November 11, Veterans' Day, in the Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America (PMA). This event was a celebration of the 91st Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Poland and 90 years of Polish – U.S. diplomatic ties. The evening began with the singing of the Polish and United States national anthems, followed by welcoming remarks from the Museum's President, Maria Ciesla, and its Chairman of the Board, Wallace Ozog, along with greetings from Mr. Matynia. Prior to the celebratory concert, Consul General Matynia, on behalf of the Republic of Poland, presented the following four medals: *Krzyz Oficerski Orderu Odrodzenia Polski RP*, *Krzyz Komandorski Orderu Zaslugi RP*, *Krzyz Kawalerski Orderu Zaslugi RP*, and *Awans Na Stopien Porucznika*, respectively, to these four outstanding individuals: Filip Ozarowski, Robert Ogrodnik, Jozef Zyza, and Jerzy Cercwaze Wardisjani.

The concert, presented through the generosity of the Office of the Marshal of *Pomorskie Voivodeship*, featured the vocal talents of soprano Grazyna Bieniek Zaak, baritone Adam Zaak, and tenor Romuald Spychalski. Their outstanding performances included an array of Polish songs such as *O Mój Rozmarynie*, *Czy Pani Mieszka Sama?*, *Piechota*, and *Rozkwitały Pąki Białych Róż*, along with *Granada*, *Habanera* from Bizet's *Carmen*, *La Spagnola*, and finally *Time to Say Good-Bye*. The audience gave these talented artists a long standing ovation.

In the midst of this concert, an unexpected guest arrived, Illinois' Governor Patrick Quinn. After the concert, Quinn gave a short speech which included remarks of thankfulness to Polish Americans for their cultural and political contributions to the State of Illinois, their belief in the work ethic, and their strong commitment to service in the Armed Forces.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman



TIME FOR REFLECTION. "Since the gloomy days of November begin to mark the end of the year, we traditionally use our National Independence Day for the reflection of the time-passing and the joy of where we came to and what we achieved."

— Consul General Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk, New York.

NEW YORK — The National Independence Day of the Republic of Poland (*Narodowe Święto Niepodległości*) was celebrated at the Polish Consulate in New York. "Since the gloomy days of November begin to mark the end of the year, we traditionally use our National Independence Day for the reflection of the time-passing and the joy of where we came to and what we achieved," said Consul General Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk.

Independence Day is a public holiday in Poland celebrated to commemorate the anniversary of the restoration of Poland's independence in 1918. "We face the same challenges as entire global community but we look into the future with self-confidence and our collective pride of the unprecedented achievements of the past 20 years of freedom and progress," said Kasprzyk.

The Consul General recalled the seventy year anniversary of the horrific event of November 6, when the Nazi Gestapo entered Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Aimed as an exter-

mination of the Polish intellectual elite, 144 distinguished professors and scholars were deported to the concentration camps of Dachau and Sachsenhausen. A small exhibit was on a display in the main foyer.

A sculpture exhibit — The Spirit of Polonia — a Legacy to Mankind — the work of artist and sculptor Tracy H. Sugg, was unveiled. These pillars of Poland's national identity, heritage and culture included Kopernik, Kościuszko, Pułaski, Chopin, Madame Skłodowska-Curie, Sienkiewicz, Modrzejewska, Plater, Mickiewicz, Paderewski, Queen Jadwiga, King Sobieski, and the beloved Pope John Paul II. With a lifesize statue tribute to Kościuszko for the Redbud Springs Park in Kosciusko, Mississippi, Sugg (who is not of Polish descent) began a passionate fascination with Polish historical figures and research.

Kasprzyk displayed to the audience the original copy of the invitation that the pioneering Consul General of Poland sent out in 1919, when the Consulate of the re-born Poland opened in New York.

Among the distinguished guests were Andrzej Towpik, Ambassador of Poland to the United Nations and Honorable Consuls General from several countries.

— Staś Kmiec

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It was definitely a harmonic convergence of luminaries not seen for some years, and they all graced the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to celebrate the 91st Anniversary of Poland's Independence Day, observed here on November 3, 2009.

The guests were received by Deputy Chief of Mission Wojciech Flera and Secretary Anna Barbarzak, his wife. The program opened with the singing of the Polish and American national anthems by Dr. Laura Kafka.

Ambassador Robert Kupiecki welcomed everyone, delivered some very pertinent remarks, and then introduced the American dignitaries: Lee A. Feinstein, ambassador to Poland; Daniel Fried, ambassador-at-Large; Edward Rowny, U.S.



LUMINARIES LIGHT UP EMBASSY OF POLAND. Ambassador Robert Kupiecki is pictured above/right after introducing Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski (center), who is addressing an assembly of officials, diplomats and distinguished persons in attendance in Washington, D.C.

General/Ambassador (Retired); Sir Walter Zachariasiewicz, a honored personage; Francis Spula, president of the Polish American Congress; and Bogdan Chmielewski, CEO of the Polish & Slavic FCU.

Also present was representatives from the U.S. Departments of State, Defense and the National Security Council. A cross section of the American Polonia was delighted to also be invited and welcomed by the Ambassador.

Polish dignitaries introduced were: Radosław Sikorski, Foreign Minister; Sławomir Skrzypek, president of the National Bank of Poland; Professor Leszek Balcerowicz, Economist/former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Former government officials recognized were Foreign Minister Daniel Rotfeld, Ambassador Jerzy Kozminski and Prime Minister Marek Belka.

Ambassadors included in the celebration represented many countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Macedonia, Portugal, Iceland, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the Charge d' Affaires of Russia.

F.M. Sikorski — the Guest of Honor — addressed the gathering,

beginning with the reminder that 91 years ago (1918) General Josef Pilsudski arrived in Warsaw to announce and establish a free and independent Poland. He then harkened back to 20 years ago (1989) when the Berlin Wall still stood, with Poland occupied by Soviet troops. "But the successes of Poland's democratic movement gave leadership and courage to the other peoples of Soviet controlled Eastern Europe. Poland has since risen from being a depressed and bankrupt nation to become the only country in the region that is growing right now."

Sikorski also said that the United States and Poland have many things in common, especially the shared value of promoting democracy. Poland has undergone a successful political and economic transformation, and now belongs to many western organizations. He ended with "On this Independence Day we can be very proud of our accomplishments."

And from his portraiture overlooking the speakers' podium, it seemed as though the iconic Ignacy Paderewski — first Prime Minister of Poland — was proudly witnessing the scene with a profound air of satisfaction.

— Richard Poremski

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

70 Years Ago This Month: The King, Zdzislaw Krasnodebski, Ranking Polish Commander of Squadron 303

Nicknamed "The King" because of his natural leadership abilities, flying ace Zdzislaw Krasnodebski (inset, right) was responsible for molding the famous Kozciuszko Squadron into one of the most formidable fighting units of World War II. But it almost never happened. At the outbreak of the war, Krasnodebski was the commander of a squadron of PZL-11 fighters that disabled some of the first German bombers attacking Warsaw. During one of those skirmishes Krasnodebski's plane was hit by enemy fire. As he slowly descended by parachute, the German pilot who shot him down circled around and tried to finish him off. But the squadron's second-in-command intercepted the German plane and Krasnodebski, while badly burned, lived to fight another day.

There are many myths about Polish military efforts during the



1939 campaign, and one of the most pervasive is that the Polish Air Force was destroyed on the ground. In reality, the commanders of the Polish Air Force had decided to deploy their fighter aircraft at dozens of secret airfields throughout the country to protect them in case of an attack by the German Luftwaffe. The plan was successful and when the war broke out, almost all of these aircraft took to the air and engaged the enemy. The Luftwaffe, however, had more than 3000 fighter aircraft against less than 400 for the Polish Air Force. But despite the disparity in numbers, and the fact that the Luftwaffe's modern fighter aircraft were faster, more maneuverable, and better armed than the

outmoded Polish aircraft, the Polish pilots managed to shoot down over 170 enemy fighters during the campaign.

But the enemy's advantage in numbers and superior equipment could not be overcome and Poland's Air Force was eventually defeated. While they no longer had the aircraft necessary to carry on the fight, the surviving Polish pilots were widely recognized as among the finest in the world. Thousands of them had escaped to Romania and Hungary but were being detained in internment camps. When General Władysław Sikorski took command of the Polish government-in-exile, one of his first orders of business was to get the Polish pilots out of captivity and transport them to France.

In their outstanding book, *A Question of Honor*, authors Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud describe in eloquent detail the clandestine network

established to free the pilots. Polish embassy employees in Bucharest forged passports and visas, provided money, clothing and shelter. At great personal risk, bribes were paid and local guides hired to assist the young pilots in their escape. Once again on the move, thousands of young Polish pilots snuck through forests, stowed away on trains and hitched rides on peasant wagons in their quest to reach the Black Sea ports of Constanza and Balic. At the ports more bribes were paid as the pilots boarded dozens of merchant ships, in some cases by diving off the docks and swimming to the boats. More than ten thousand Polish pilots and ground crewmen successfully evaded the German SS and Gestapo and arrived in France to again do battle with the enemy invaders.

After the fall of France, the Polish pilots and crewmen made their

way to England to join the Royal Air Force and carry on the fight. Among these daring and highly skilled Polish pilots was The King, Zdzislaw Krasnodebski, who became the ranking Polish commander of Squadron 303, the famed Kozciuszko Squadron. Future installments of this column will describe the exploits of the Kozciuszko Squadron, which had the highest kill rate of any squadron in the RAF during the Battle of Britain, one of the epic air battles of all time.



Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, *NIGHT OF FLAMES: A Novel of World War II*. Mr. Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and is currently finishing his second historical novel set in Poland during World War II.

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Pol-Am Politicians: Pro-Life, Pro-Choice



While Michigan congressman **Bart Stupak's** (left) pro-life amendment won approval in the final vote for health care reform in the U.S. congress, Maryland Senator **Barbara Mikulski's** (below, right) proposed amendment to the senate version of the bill funds some Planned Parenthood services and opens the door for federally-funded abortions as part of health care reform. The U.S. Catholic bishops joined other pro-life organizations in expressing disappointment that the senators tend to move away from a position that would exclude funding for abortion services. **Bishop Wenski** of the Orlando diocese urged the senate to keep health care free from abortion neutral to avoid important legislation from being "hijacked" by "destructive agendas" like government-mandated abortion. He went on to explain, "Any final bill that does not maintain the well-established policy against federal funding of abortion would demand our vigorous opposition. We still advocate for genuine health-care reform—a bill that protects the life and dignity, the consciences and health of all, especially the poor and the vulnerable."



that ordered the removal of crucifixes from schoolrooms in Italy, the Polish bishops, in their plenary session in Częstochowa, expressed their protest against the Strasbourg court's decision. Crucifixes in Poland, banned from the time of Nazi occupation and through the period of Soviet domination, had been re-installed in public areas following the end of communism in 1989. The bishops observed that the crucifix "is not only a sacred sign for all Christians but also an important element of European cultural identity, among the symbols of many countries and organizations." Poland's recent ratification of the European Union's constitution has brought the country under the EU's regulations in political, economic, and social matters.

PNCC CATHEDRAL COMPLETES ART PROJECT. Bishop **Thaddeus Peplowski** of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh PNCC Diocese oversaw the installation of the final piece of a 15-year-long project by **Fr. Walter Madej** to decorate Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral with original carved wood sculptures and reliefs. Fr. Madej, 67, a native of Poland, has been carving for some 40 years and did the pieces for the Lancaster, N.Y., cathedral in his spare time while overseeing two PNCC parishes in Syracuse and New York Mills, N.Y. The last piece is 20 x 10 feet and depicts the 20 biblical and traditional mysteries of the rosary. All the sculptures are of wood, a typical form of decoration in churches in Poland. His other pieces in the cathedral include a statue of St. Paul, the stations of the cross, a lectern, the main altar and altar railing, and ambry for holy oils.

THE CRUCIFIX VERSUS THE EUROPEAN UNION. With a chorus of outrage in Italy and elsewhere in Europe over a ruling by the European Union's Human Rights Court

A MOBILE CATHOLIC PARISH. After a fire destroyed St. Joseph RC church in Coupon, Pa., in September 2008, **Walter Stasik** and his fellow long-time parishioners were urged to attend Mass at nearby Catholic parishes in the Altoona-Johnstown diocese. The parishioners were permitted to rebuild the social hall and hope that will lead to a reestablishment of the parish entirely. Until now, no priest has been assigned to the parish, and parishioners realize the difficulty they face, especially in light of the diocese's recent closings of churches and consolidations of parishes elsewhere, most notably in Cambria City where five churches have been combined into the newly-formed Resurrection parish.

NATIVITY SCENE SURVIVES OPPOSITION IN CHICAGO.

A Nativity Scene was erected in Daly Plaza in downtown Chicago, Ill., continuing a tradition that dates to 1985. The Scene was installed by "The God Squad," a group of local tradesmen and **Fr. R. Stephen Lesniewski** of Immaculate Conception parish blessed the crèche. The City of Chicago had erected a Nativity Scene in City Hall until opposition from the American Jewish Congress, led to a lawsuit which led to its removal. The plan to move the Nativity Scene to Daly Plaza also met opposition until a federal judge ruled that the Public Building Commission could not discriminate against all forms of religious expression and allowed the Nativity Scene. The AJC, ACLU, American Atheists, and other groups opposed the decision.

JEWISH FOUNDATION RE-UNITES SURVIVOR AND RESCUER. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous reunited Holocaust survivor **Joseph Bonder**, born in Faszczowska (now in Ukraine) and currently living in Monroe Township, N.J., with **Bronislaw Firuta**, whose family harbored him and his sister Joan from the Nazis from 1942-1944. They had not seen each

other for 64 years. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous arranges these reunions annually (see www.JFR.org).

PUBLISHING HISTORY MADE IN POLAND.

For the first time in the history of Poland and perhaps in the history of Christianity, the Catholic Church has published a new book co-authored by a Polish Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest. The *Introduction to Jewish Literature and Biblical Exegesis* carried the imprimatur of the Archbishop of Wrocław, **Marian Golebiewski**. In the book, authors **Fr. Mariusz Rosik** and **Rabbi Yitzchak Rapaport** provide both a Catholic and Jewish perspective on Jewish sources. Rabbi Rapaport is one of the three emissaries in Poland of *Shavei Israel*, an organization whose aim is to strengthen ties between the State of Israel and descendants of Jews around the world.

EXCOMMUNICATED PASTOR WILLING TO RESIGN.

Fr. Marek Bozek, excommunicated pastor of breakaway St. Stanislaus parish in St. Louis, Mo., expressed his willingness to step down if it would help restore the pastoral care and Catholic sacramental life. A lawsuit is scheduled for trial in February that is expected to resolve the legal matters of control of the parish funds and the status of the parish's bylaws. Some in the parish, such as **Diana Daley**, staunchly support Fr. Bozek while **Grzegorz Koltuniak** and other long time parishioners maintain their criticism of him and would welcome his resignation.

BOOK RECOUNTS GULAG HORRORS.

No Place to Call Home is the title of a book just released on Amazon.com which recounts the experiences of a 19-year-old Pole captured by the Soviets at the start of WWII and sent to the Siberian concentration camp in Kolyma. **Stanley Kowalski** was born in Jazłowiec in 1920, labored in the Siberian mines until the general release in 1941 when he trekked out of Russia to serve in the 1st Polish Armoured Division and fought in

Normandy, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He moved to England after the war and raised three children with his wife, **Joyce Fleming**. He moved to the United States in 1960 and after the death of his wife in 1965 he married **Maryla Garczynska** with whom he now lives in Auburn, Ind. He received the Siberian Cross on May 25, 2009. The Polish government instituted the Siberian Cross in 2004 to recognize the enforced deportations 1939-1956 of Polish citizens to Northern Russia, Siberia and Kazakhstan.

HEAVENLY PROTECTOR OF INFANTS.

Blessed Stanislaus Pappczynski, founder of the order of Marian priests, has been credited by concerned parents with intercessions on behalf of their sick children and troubled pregnancies. For a Blessed Stanislaus prayer card (B4-CPPC) all toll free 1-800-462-7426. Those who receive graces through Blessed Stanislaus' intercession are asked to contact **Br. Andrew Mączynski, MIC**, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263 (E-mail: graces@marian.org).

PARISH'S NEW START.

Resurrection RC Parish, the result of the merger of several Cambria City parishes, Johnston, Pa., has begun with great cooperation among its new members. Participation in the traditional ethnic festival brought a great outpouring of parishioner support. One concern is the need for accommodation of easy access for elderly and handicapped parishioners.

CHURCHTOUR.

Marie Coyne and Christine Sawalski Scriba go to a different Chicago-area church each Sunday. They've received warm welcomes in black churches as the only white worshippers, and have also visited Greek and Ukrainian Orthodox churches. In the course of their visits they have worshipped in Latin, Spanish and Polish. While not unhappy with their home parish, St. John of the Cross in Western Springs, they love the city of Chicago and the beautifully decorated churches there.

PRAYER ON THE AIR.

<http://www.radiomaria.us> is the address that will get internet users to the International Catholic broadcasting service whose aim is to spread Christian prayers, faith formation and human values throughout the globe. In addition to internet broadcasts, Radio Maria is also available on air in a number of U.S. locations as well as in 50 countries throughout the world.

PIELGRZYMKI WIARY.

Fr. Lawrence Hoppe, president of the Greensburg Fraternity of Polish Priests, announced the 30th annual "Pilgrimage of Faith" held in October at St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Everson, Pa.

The day-long gathering began with confessions and Mass in Polish, followed by a time to eat, and concluding with Marian devotions. St. Joseph's is the third oldest Polish American parish in Western Pennsylvania.

Out of the Cross

The 108 Martyrs of World War II

A newly published book retelling the little-known story of the canonized and beatified martyrs of World War II.

Few people know of the Holocaust the Polish people and the Polish Church endured during World War II. This book points out how total Hitler's genocidal plans were for civilization and the Church.



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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.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE. Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who

invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. J.E.M.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN. (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. M.L.

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KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Travelogue – Adventures in Poland

Part XI The History of the Sukiennice

The *Sukiennice* was originally built in the 13th century as a row of trading rooms covered with a single roof; in the 14th century the first stone building was erected in the Gothic style.

After the fire in 1555, the upper part was rebuilt in Renaissance style by Italian sculptor-architect Giovanni Maria Mosca (known as 'Il Padovano,' after his Padua birthplace). He was employed by the royal court and adapted Renaissance architecture of his native land to the needs of Poland's harsher climate, creating in the process a distinctive national style.

The barrel vault and attic with its series of carved mascarons on high pedestals after designs by Santi Gucci were incorporated. These gargoyle-like decorative elements in the form of a face were originally intended to ward off evil spirits. This is the earliest example of the attic, known as the "Polish parapet," which later became widespread. The parapet is an outer ornamentation with aedicules, pediments, pedestals and pyramids.

The 15th and 16th centuries were the period of *Sukiennice's* greatest glory. Kraków was then a major trade center and the Cloth Hall was its heart. With the progressing political and economic ruin of Poland, the city and its commerce suffered.

The decline was hastened by wars and politics leading to the Partitions of Poland at the end of the 18th century. By the time of the architectural restoration proposed for *Sukiennice*



Inside the Sukiennice one can find a variety of goods, wonderful Polish art, and jewelry.

in 1870 under Austro-Hungarian rule, much of the historic city center was in a decrepit state.

A change in political fortunes for the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria and the newly established Legislative Assembly or Sejm, ushered in a local revival and the successful renovation of the Cloth Hall was one of the proudest achievements of this period.

The *Sukiennice* was transformed to its current shape following a vast renovation and remodeling in 1875-79. The process included the tearing down the masonry buildings, stalls and shops that had been annexed to the Cloth Hall from the 15th century onwards. A precinct of wooden stalls was arranged on the ground floor, and exhibition rooms on the first floor.

The halls present appearance is the result of a reconstruction and reshaping in 1875-79 by Tomasz Priliński with the famous painter and Krakowian Jan Matejko. The two long elevations were adorned with open characteristic Neo-Gothic inner arcades and oriel bay windows along the sides, which house wooden merchants' booths that sell local handmade crafts and souvenirs.

Prices are inevitably inflated, but one is able to find items difficult to find elsewhere.

On either side of the Cloth Hall is an old world café, each with turn-of-the-century decoration. The *Galeria Malarstwa Polskiego* (Gallery of Polish Painting) on the first floor, founded in 1879, contains the largest exhibit of important works by Polish painters of the 19th and 20th



Under the wide covered arches of the Sukiennice, one can enjoy lunch while taking in the wonderful sites of Krakow.

centuries.

The Cloth Hall was last refurbished in the 1960s and is maintained with frequent renovation; it suffered a decline in its wares during the Martial Law period. It was disheartening to see closed stalls; those open were half-full and some stalls were selling practical items over tourist souvenirs. The quality of the folk items was of inferior quality. Today the place is bustling and over-filled with attractive items.

Sukiennice has played host to countless distinguished guests over the centuries and is still used to entertain monarchs and dignitaries. Britain's Prince Charles and Emperor Akihito of Japan were welcomed in 2002. In times gone by, balls were held, most notably after Prince Józef Poniatowski had liberated the city

from the Austrian Empire in 1809.

Other, similar cloth halls have existed in other Polish as well as other European cities such as in Ypres, Belgium; Braunschweig, Germany and in Leeds, England; but the one in Kraków is the best-known and best-preserved. Aside from its grand history and great cultural value, the hall still flourishes as a bustling center of commerce, although offering items for sale that are radically different from those of previous centuries.

With acquisitions in hand, I was off to the hotel room. There was no way I could meet baggage weight limitations with all the books I had acquired during the trip, so I would collect my items and make a trip to the post office.

to be continued

ARTSCENE / Staś Kmieć

"Bracha – A Blessing" at the Consulate

Documentary producer and photographer Agnieszka Traczewska has been accompanying Hasidim arriving from all around the world, to the graves in Poland of old spiritual leaders (Tzaddiks). Her photo essay about Hasidim returning to not-to-be forgotten places, was recently displayed in an exhibition entitled *Bracha – A Blessing* at the Polish Consulate of New York.

"Agnieszka Traczewska's work captures the essence of Hasidism at its very best," said Rabbi David Singer.

Of three important messianic movements (including Sabbateism and Frankism) the only one to achieve widespread and deep significance was Hasidism. This popular movement of both a religious and mystical nature originated in Central Poland and the Galicia (Małopolska) area in the 17th century. Within the Jewish population the movement is regarded as Polish with its characteristic philosophy, traditional dress, music, dance, and joy of life.



Bracha – A Blessing on display at the Polish Consulate in New York City.

A travel to visit a Tzaddik, a spiritual leader, was in itself a religious experience, a blessing, and an integral part of the Hasidic movement from its very beginning.

PUBLIC THEATER'S FESTIVAL FEATURES POLISH TROUPE

The 2010 Under the Radar Festival at the New York City's Public Theater will feature *Versus – In the Jungle of Cities* produced by Poland's Teatr Nowy and directed by Radek Rychcik. In this exhilarating

adaptation of Brecht's *In the Jungle of Cities*, *Versus* traces a figurative wrestling match that arises inexplicably between two men in the big city. With only four actors, rising Polish directing star Rychcik reinvents the epic clash with pop music and explosive choreography. Performances play through Jan. 17.

WHITE CHRISTMAS'S POLISH CONNECTION. There were many red and white costumes on stage, but *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* is as American as it gets; however the production's Tony Award winning director, Walter Bobbie, despite his stage name is Polish through and through.

A Polish American born in Scranton, Pennsylvania and baptized *Wladyslaw Babij*, Bobbie has made a name for himself as a theater dancer, choreographer, director and actor. His production of *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* is back on Broadway for a second year. Based on the 1954 classic film, the book for the current musical is by Polish American David Ives and Paul Blake, with choreography by Randy Skinner.

"In mid-December, right after I finish *White Christmas*," Bobbie said, "I'll start rehearsing a two-character play by David Ives called *Venus in Fur*. We're doing it at Classic Stage Company beginning in January."

HYDZIK NAMED WEST SIDE STORY'S NEW TONY. The part of Tony, a Polish American in Broadway's

West Side Story will now be played by a Polish American. **Matthew Hydzik** (photo, right), who has been the understudy for Tony since the production opened at the Palace Theater, will assume the role take beginning on Dec. 15; Jeremy Jordan (of Broadway's *Rock of Ages*) will play the role on Wednesday evenings and Sunday matinees.

Hydzik was most recently seen as Kenickie in Broadway's *Grease*. Other roles include Marc/Roger in the tour of *Rent*.



REVIEW / John Skibiski

A Performance Brilliant and Memorable

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — The world premier of "**Modjeska's Voice**," the life story of world famous Shakespearean actress Helena Modjeska, was held September 20 at the Academy of Music.

Modjeska gave nearly 6,000 performances in 30 years during the 1890s and into the early 1900s. She often performed two plays in one day.

The play was written by Ann R. Siuty (Shutty) Maggs, a Music Library Specialist at Amherst College. She and her husband Walter Carroll were the only two actors in the two act play.

The play had comments in Polish along with some Polish songs which she sang and played. The material came from records, documents and letters from the past, which revealed

the historical reality of the times of a partitioned Poland, and the struggle to become an actress in those times. Moments of humor, and history told a remarkable story of the first public performer to have a personal railroad car to get her to performances.

Her home was in California amidst a Polish colony where she hosted many noted Poles like Henryk Sienkiewicz and Ignacy Paderewski.

The talented Mrs. Maggs, a resident of Amherst, Mass., said she would consider performing the play in other locations if the background setting was proper and a piano was present. The play and performance would greatly entertain any group, but especially a Polish audience who had experienced similar commentary. A crowd pleaser, for sure.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

The Brighton Park Connection Relives the Music of Chicago Polonia

CHICAGO — If you are a polka fan or a “big band sound” enthusiast, then on November 15, the place to be was St. Eugene Parish’s Shaunessey Center on the Northwest Side of Chicago to listen, dance and swing with the Brighton Park Connection. Over 300 guests, the young and the “young at heart” glided, bopped or jived to tones that, for some, were trips “down memory lane.” This unique band reinvented itself about five years ago, when four grade school pals re-united to begin to play the songs they knew years ago and then some. Philip Grib, Robert Grib and Robert Dutka played in Chicago’s St. Ignatius College Preparatory High School’s Dance Band back in the 1950s. Siblings, the Gribbs, both entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), with Father Bob working as a missionary in India for 30 years, and Father Philip, a lawyer, teaching at Loyola University Chicago’s Law School. Dr. Dutka attended Loyola University’s Dental School and spent his professional career as a general dentist. Dutka, along with his late brother Edward, Jr., played professionally for 25 years in their father’s (Ed Dutka) wedding band. As musicians in a popular Southside band, Ed and Bob were able to pay for their tuition toward medical and dental school. Not only were the Brothers Grib and Bob Dutka high school classmates, but they, along with Ed Ptaszek, were pals at Five Holy Martyrs Grammar School, also in the Southside area of Chicago known as Brighton Park. Thus, the name: Brighton Park Connection. Father Bob is the band’s drummer with Father Phil playing the saxophone and clarinet. Bob Dutka plays the keyboard and Ed Ptaszek plays the accordion. Marty Drazek and Tom Suroviak, both professional musicians and newcomers to the Connection, play the trumpet and saxophone, respectively. The sextet play an array of polkas, obereks, waltzes, and popular tunes from the 1940s – 1960s. Many of the composition performed by the Connection were composed by Dutka’s father, and, yes, they sing the lyrics of many of these numbers in Polish and in English.



BRIGHTON PARK CONNECTION (l. to r.): Tom Suroviak, Bob Dutka, Bob Grib, Ed Ptaszek, Marty Drazek, Phil Grib.



Natalie Szardowska and Shirley Trissel.

POLISH ARTS CLUB CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS. The Polish Arts Club of Chicago, in its efforts to promote the artistic talents of Polish Americans, held an afternoon celebration to bring in this year’s Holiday Season. Its Christmas concert and luncheon was held on December 6 at the ever-popular House of the White Eagle in Niles, Illinois. Approximately 100 guests were treated to a splendid violin concert. **Natalie Szardowska**, a graduate of Northwestern University’s School of

Music, and presently a second-year scholarship and graduate student at the Julliard School of Music, performed several compositions including a sonata by Glick and a Chopin nocturne. Natalie was accompanied by pianist **Shirley Trissel**. **Fr. Ted Dzieszko**, pastor of St. Constance on Chicago’s Northwest Side, gave the invocation. As is the custom, after the luncheon, guests enjoyed the singing of traditional Polish and American Christmas carols.

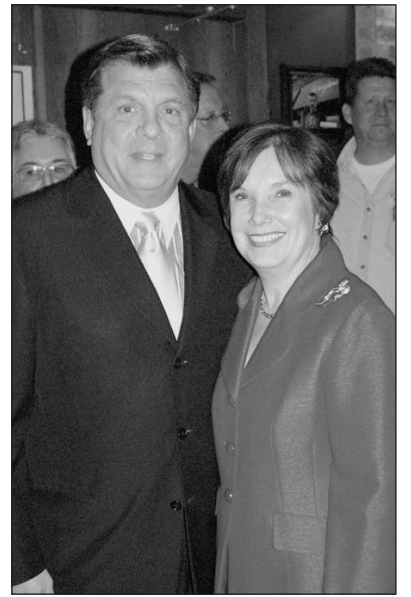
MARY ANSELMO: CHICAGO POLONIA’S POLITICAL HOPE.

The Illinois 10th State Senatorial District will lose its Senator Jim DeLeo, who is retiring. Enter **Mary Sandra Anselmo**, a 16-year employee in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Ms. Anselmo launched her state senatorial campaign for this district on November 19. She is a life-long Chicagoan and, from a very young age, has been a very active volunteer within the Polish American community with leadership positions in the Legion of Young Polish Women, the Polish National Alliance, Polish American Congress, the Polish Museum of America, the Copernicus Foundation, the Polish Women’s Alliance, the Polish Women’s Civic Club, and the Chicago Intercollegiate Council. And, yes, Mary has volunteered for numerous

non-Polish organizations. Anselmo has spent a quarter-of-a-century as an educator, a legislative aide, and Director of Customer Service for the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Since 2004, she has been the Chief Deputy Clerk of Training and Development for that Circuit Court. Mary is a graduate of Mundelein College with degrees in Biology and American and Eastern European Government, and is a graduate student at Governor’s State University in Oak Forest, Illinois. Her deep roots in community, with a focus on children and family, a strong and positive history of volunteerism, and a reputation for building coalitions among and across diverse groups, are her known assets. Three important issues in Anselmo’s campaign are funding job training for the unemployed, increasing financial aid for students in higher education, and investing in the high tech and growth industries to increase economic opportunity for all. The 10th State Senatorial District is heavily Democratic with Mary being supported by Senator Jim DeLeo, as well as the powerful 36th Ward Democratic Committeeman William P. “Bill” Banks, the Ward’s former alderman.

RARE TREASURE ON TOUR. A rich and relatively unknown collection of Polish graphic arts can be found at The Polish Museum of America (PMA). The Museum’s collection of graphic arts includes over 1,000 prints ranging from the 17th through the 21st centuries, with an emphasis on prints from the 1920s and 1930s. As most artistic works on paper were destroyed during the Second World War, many of these prints are extremely rare,

The PMA, in cooperation with the *Kamienicza Szolayskich*, the National Museum in Krakow, and through financial support from the Ministry of Polish National Culture and Heritage, has prepared an exhibition of graphic works by artists dating from 1919 to 1995. Of particular interest are works from the Polish Pavilion at the New York World’s Fair of 1939-1940 and from the postwar periods of the 1950s and 1960s. Artists represented in this exhibition will include Jerzy



Jim DeLeo and Anselmo

Panek, Jozef Gielniak, Stanislaw Wojtowicz and prominent émigré, Stefan Mrozewski and Stanislaw Szukalski.

Monika Nowak, the PMA’s Graphic Arts Curator, who envisioned this exhibition, and Magdalena Czubinska, curator from the National Museum, have coordinated this premiere exhibit. The repair and conservation of numerous prints within this collection were undertaken in Krakow.

The PMA’s complete collection of prints has been published in a 250-page-illustrated bilingual catalog which details not only the contents of this graphic arts exhibit, but includes the historical background of the PMA’s graphic arts collection. Also featured is an essay highlighting the Museum’s history, written by Malgorzata Kot, the PMA’s Head Librarian, and an article discussing the graphic collection by Monika Nowak.

The exhibition’s opening reception was held in September 2009 at the *Kamienicza Szolayskich*. It is scheduled in conjunction with the International Print Triennial in Krakow, 2009; an ongoing exhibit at the National Museum - *Treasures of Polish Culture Abroad*; and the *America, America* series. Members of the PMA’s staff will be attending. This month, the exhibit travels to Wroclaw for an opening, then off to Chicago with a planned opening in July 2010.

WORLD WAR II / by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

Zamość under German Occupation 1939-1945

Almost from the moment Hitler first came in to power, the leaders of the Third Reich and the Nationalist Socialist Party began to make preparations for the conquest of Europe and the creation of a Thousand Year Reich. In their plans, territories to the east of Germany were to increase the living space (lebensraum) of the Nazi master race. The Nazis held to a racist policy whereby the German people were a race of super humans and had the right to displace, enslave or eliminate inferior beings. Plans for the future of Europe were being discussed by Hitler and his top officials even before the invasion of Poland in September 1939. “Poland shall be treated as a colony; the Poles shall be the slaves of the Greater German world Empire. (International Military Tribunal, Document EC-344)

The plans were worked on by members of Hitler’s Reich Security Office (RSHA), an agency whose task was to combat all enemies of Nazi Germany. At the beginning of 1940, there emerged what was called “The General Plan for the East” (Generalplan Ost).

General Plan East was a long term plan for the fate of the territories conquered by the Germans. The plan was to exterminate, enslave and/or expel most non-Aryans liv-

ing in the conquered territories, and resettle the evacuated empty areas with Germans and people of German origin, called ethnic Germans. The Nazis also came up with a racial classification system that would decide who would be enslaved, exterminated, expelled or resettled. The territories involved included the occupied areas of Poland, the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia), Belorussia and parts of Russia and the Ukraine in the provinces of Zhitomir. In a secret decree signed by Hitler and his top officials, dated October 7, 1943, Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler was entrusted with the task of executing the program

The 1940 Edition of “Der Menscheneinsatz” a confidential publication issued by Himmler’s Office for the Consolidation of German Nationhood, contained the following statements:

“The removal of foreign races from the incorporated Eastern Territories is one of the most essential goals to be accomplished in the German East. This is the chief national political task, which has to be executed in the incorporated Eastern Territories by the Reichsfuehrer SS, Reich Commissioner for the strengthening of the

national character of the German people.” (Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression V.1 Chapter 13).

Poland became the testing ground for the Nazi need for living space. It began in the area of Poland that was immediately annexed into the Third Reich in October of 1939 and called the incorporated Eastern Territories. It consisted of Silesia with its wealth of mining and industrial centers, Great Poland and its cities of Poznan and Lodz (called Warthegau, or Warta by the Poles) and northern Poland (called Danzig-West Prussia-the Polish province of Pomorze). The Germans inaugurated a Racial Register – an elaborate classification of persons deemed to be of German blood and contained provisions for the rights, privileges and duties of the persons in each classification. Poles who refused to become Germanized were deported to work in Germany as slave laborers or were forcibly evicted overnight from their homes and property and shipped to the Government General. This was the remainder of German occupied Poland that extended to the rivers Bug and San and to the borders of Russian occupied Poland. It was to become a labor reservoir, a reserve of humans to do the bidding of the German oc-

cupiers.

In addition, Reichsfuehrer SS Himmler developed ideas for additional “German Island Settlements” in the productive farming areas of the General Government. Polish properties would be confiscated, the owners and their families would be transferred to Germany for employment as farm workers and would be replaced by Germans. It “is wished that at first a heavy colonization of Germans along the San and Bug be achieved so that the parts of Poland are encircled with alien populations.” (International Military Tribunal Document PS-910). This was known as the Zamość region.

In 1946 the International Military Tribunal made indictments against the Nazis on numerous counts of systematic atrocities committed against mankind. It included the extermination of Jews, criminal medical experiments on concentration camp victims, the utilization of slave labor under brutal and inhumane conditions and the exploitation of property on a gigantic scale. It included the atrocities committed against the people of the Zamość region.

This article begins a year long focus on the history of the Zamość region under German occupation.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Mark Your Calendar for Concert with Chopin Piano Competition Winner at the Rockwell Hall

BUFFALO, N.Y. — **Keith Kaszubik** has completed a computer database of baptisms, marriages and burials from St. Hyacinth parish in Dunkirk for the years 1875-1879 ... WNED-TV, WNY's PBS affiliate, aired "**Young John Paul II: Witness to Evil**" twice during November ... On November 21, the **Polish Youth Talent Show** was presented at the Rochester Academy of Medicine and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester unveiled its "Wigilia & Szopka" display at St. John Fisher College ... "Szkola Dobroczyńców" and "Na Samym Rogu Tej Starej Mapy" were performed at the University of Toronto's **Studio Theatre** during November ... On November 28, the **Roswell Park Cancer Institute** benefitted from the "Tribute to Big Steve Krzeminski" at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew ... Sixteen year old **Lydia Prabucki** of Buffalo recently won the National High School Rodeo Queen competition in New Mexico.

Buffalo **Bishop Edward Grosz** was bid a fond farewell by the members of St. Stanislaus Parish on the occasion of his retirement on November 29. Rev. Tadeusz Bocianowski has become of the pastor of the linked St. Stanislaus - St. John Kanty - St. Adalbert parish communities ... **Buffalo - Rzeszow Sister Cities, Inc.** is developing a project to link enthusiasts of the aeronautical traditions and histories of WNY and the Rzeszow region of Poland.

On December 4, the **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** hosted "A Polish Christmas" at the North Tonawanda History Museum ... The **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and WNY** granted eleven scholarships to local students at its annual installation dinner and Christmas party held at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew on November 4. Carol Misnik was named the group's Business Person of the Year ... On December 5, **Dr. Artur Grabowski** of the Jagiellonian University, shared his poetry and insights with an attentive audience at Buffalo State College's Butler Library ... **District IX** of the Polish Singers Alliance of America presented its annual Festival of Polish Christmas Carols at St. Stanislaus Church on Buffalo's East Side on the 6th. The Chopin Singing Society, Symfonia Singing Society, Kalina Women's Chorus and Ludowa Nuta performed at the event ... NYS Supreme Court Justice **Theodore Kasler**, the retired dean of the WNY Polish American criminal court judiciary, passed away on December 6 ... **The Polish Cadets of Buffalo** held

its annual meeting and elections on December 6. Wendy Higgins, Marcia Myers, Jeremy DePaolo and Joe Myers were elected to the group's board of directors ... Also the 6th, the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University hosted **Barbara Frackiewicz's** "Family Workshop: Traditional Polish Ornaments."

The **General Pulaski Association** held its Christmas Dinner at Russell's Steaks, Chops & More in Williamsville on the 7th. Once again this year, the group collected stuffed animals for Buffalo's Child Advocacy Center at the dinner ... On December 11, **European Meat Products Deli and Bakery** held a grand opening at its new Depew location ... Author **Edward Zawadzki** signed copies of his latest work, "Poles in the New World" at Buffalo's historic Broadway Market on December 12 and 19 ... **Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral** in Lancaster hosted an "Advent Christmas Evensong Service" and Ignacy Grzelzka performed in a "Chopin for Cello" concert at the University of Rochester's Strong Auditorium on the 13th ... **The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** held its annual meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on December 16 ... The New Direction polka band and the St. John Kanty Choir raised funds for Sr. Johnice's **Response to Love Center** with their "Koledy Night" at the Potts Banquet Hall in Buffalo on the 19th.

Many WNY Polonia groups held traditional **Wigilia celebrations** for their members during the holiday season, including the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society, the SUNYaB Polish Student Association, the Chopin Singing Society, the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester ... On December 27, the **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** performed as part of the Lancaster Opera House's production of "Polish Christmas in the Village" and the "Dzisiaj W Betlejem" concert was held at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... On December 30, WNED-TV aired "**Polonia: WNY's Polish American Legacy**" and "Burt Wolf's Travel and Traditions: Krakow" ... The new year was marked by "**Sylwester**" parties sponsored by the Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School in Cheektowaga, the Matthew Glab Post in Lackawanna, PNA Lodge 512 and the Polish American Citizens Club in Rochester, and Branch 2 of the Polish Alliance of Canada in Hamilton, Ontario ... **Hon. William Skretny** was

named Chief District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York ... Toronto's Polonia Community is eagerly anticipating the participation of composer **Krzysztof Penderecki** in the University of Toronto's New Music Festival during January 2010 ... **Edward Witaszek's** photographic exhibit, "Venetian Green, Borinquen Blue," continues at the St. John Fisher College Skalny Welcome Center in Rochester until early February ... The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress has announced that its Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on March 11, 2010 ... The Polish Cultural Foundation, Buffalo State College Music Department and Chopin Foundation of the United States will be presenting the winner of the **2010 U.S. Chopin Piano Competition** in concert at the Rockwell Hall Performing Arts Center at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 12, 2010.

Szcześliwego Nowego Roku! A Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year to all my friends and readers!



If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e., Jan. 6 for the Feb. edition) at: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is 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.

Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble Holds Wigilia, Elects 2010 Officers



HARMONY'S 2010 OFFICERS (seated): Michael Szukala, president; (standing, l. to r.): Krysia Abramo, vice president; Manya Pawlak-Metzler, artistic director; Jen Voll, treasurer; Lynn Danks, secretary.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Several families of the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble gathered on Friday, December 18 for its annual Wigilia. Approximately 80 people were in attendance to enjoy the meal of fun and fellowship.

The vigil meal began with Father David Bialkowski of St. John Gualbert R.C. Church in Cheektowaga, N.Y. giving a blessing and then singing "Dzisiaj w Betlejem" ("Today in Bethlehem"). The group then shared oplatek.

After the meal, the election of officers was held. Elected were: Michael Szukala, president; Krysia Abramo, vice president; Jen Voll, treasurer; Lynn Danks, secretary; and Manya Pawlak-Metzler, artistic director.

When voting had ended, many of Harmony's members shared their talents in a little variety show, with singing, dancing, skits and musical instruments. The atmosphere was festive and everyone had a great time.

Harmony is a member of the Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas and a proud charter member of the Dyngus Day Buffalo organization as well. Harmony performs in both private and community events of all kinds throughout the year.

For more information or to book a performance, visit www.harmonypfe.org or call Krys Abram at (716) 228-8256 or Manya Pawlak-Metzler at (716) 875-2030.

PASS IT ON! When you finish reading your copy of the Polish American Journal, please pass it on, and ask that person to subscribe.



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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Hoping you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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ISKIERKI

• Bletchley Park, the nerve center of Britain's World War II wartime codebreaking operations, acknowledged the work of the talented mathematician **Marian Rejewski**, who made the major breakthrough in breaking the Nazi German Enigma Machine code. The work of Rejewski and other Polish codebreakers has always been overlooked by the Brits, who until this year never fully acknowledged the Polish contribution.

• **Sister Anastazja Pustelnik**, a 59-year-old nun from Krakow, Poland, became one her country's best-selling authors when her collection of recipes, fine-tuned from years of cooking for Jesuits, sold

over 400,000 copies. Her fifth book, it propelled sales of her works over 1.1 million copies.

• A **Jewish Open University** is due to be launched in Warsaw in early 2010. The project is essentially a lecture series open to the general public, and everyone over the age of 16 can attend.

Participants will be able to learn about the tradition, creativity and social aid by Jews in four modules on the subjects, which will contain extracts from literature, music, culture and philosophy.

The Jewish Open University is under the patronage of Warsaw University. More information is available at: mdunin@publicrelations.pl.

HAMTRAMCK BEAT / Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

Mayor Majewski touts Hamtramck as Chief City Representative and Spokesperson

In November, Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski won re-election to her second four-year term. She holds the distinction of being the first woman mayor in Hamtramck since its inception as a city in 1922. She was persuaded to join the political coalition of former Hamtramck Mayor Gary Zych and won a council seat, and later became mayor in 2005. She also works as a staff librarian at the Adam Cardinal Maida Alumni Library at the Orchard Lake Schools, Orchard Lake, Mich., where her archival specialty is overseeing the Polish and rare books collection. (The OLS will be celebrating their 125th anniversary of their founding this year.)

A Chicago native, she did her graduate work at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where she earned a doctorate degree in American culture. Her dissertation was the basis for her award-winning book, "Traitors & True Poles" Narrating a Polish-American Identity, 1880-1939. For her book, Karen Majewski, Ph.D., won the Waclaw Lednicki Humanities Award sponsored by The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) in 2005.

Mayor Majewski shared her reflections on Hamtramck.

FUTURE GOALS. When asked what she would like to accomplish in her second term, the mayor said, "We're looking at a couple of million dollar shortfall, mostly because of changes in state revenue sharing and reduced property and income taxes due to the loss of jobs in the auto industry. American Axle & Manufacturing has drastically reduced production, and entirely shut down the Hamtramck portion of its plant, which takes away income tax, personal property tax. This also means that our local businesses are losing the money that those employ-



MAJEWSKI. The Polish presence in Hamtramck "is unmistakable."

ees would have spent here in town; we also are losing revenue from the GM Poletown Plant, though we're looking forward to the production of the Chevy Volt beginning here next year. An official announcement was made on December 7.

"The City of Hamtramck had been looking at a sizable rainy day fund, which is quite an accomplishment for us, especially coming out of state-mandated emergency status a couple of years ago. And we're going to try to cover our shortfall without touching that fund, by making cuts and other adjustments. There are so many ways we'd like to expand services and build new programs for our residents. But instead, like nearly every city in Michigan, our number-one priority is finding ways to cut the budget."

HISTORICAL MUSEUM. But aside from that, the Mayor said with a laugh, "One of the things I'm determined to get done this year — I thought we would get it done earlier — is establishing the historical museum. And it looks finally like that's about to happen. The Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) Post 1 site (on Holbrook and McDougall)

is the one that the city is looking at currently. The state has given Hamtramck a grant that will help us get started on the museum. Our plan is to make an offer on the building and then we can really start fund-raising," she said.

"It's a historic building; we have photos of the facade going back at least to the 1930s,

so we're looking at tax credits to restore it to its original appearance. It's really appropriate that this will be a historical museum for Hamtramck and that we'll be restoring a historic building.

"Inside, there's a bar downstairs, various offices and a little hall with another bar and a kitchen, which is a big help to us. Then, upstairs is a hall with a stage, which we're really excited about. We don't know how exactly we'll divide the space, because we're going to need room for storage as well as exhibit space. But once we get precise information about the building, then we're going to have to sit down and decide what kind of functions we want the building to fulfill and work out our plans. We'd like there to be a money-making component, too — for which the stage, the hall and the kitchen would be helpful. There's also the advantage of the parking lot — everybody knows parking is a hard-fought-for commodity in Hamtramck."

Of the plan, she said, "The idea of a historical museum was announced nearly four years ago, as Hamtramck's Signature Project as part of the State of Michigan's Cit-

ies of Promise program. The Hamtramck Historical Commission has gathered a lot of artifacts, and already started fund-raising. We've had a lot of help from the experts on our Cities of Promise team. The real holdup in the project has been finding the right building. So it's a relief to finally have identified a place that we think will be perfect for our Hamtramck Historical Museum."

POLISH AMERICAN TOWN. The mayor said that Polishness is so much a part of Hamtramck civic life. "There's no danger of that going away," she said. According to the mayor, although one outside source has claimed that Hamtramck now has a Muslim majority, she said she believes these numbers have been exaggerated, based on her own information taken from property ownership and voter lists. In the 2000 census, no single ethnicity formed a majority, but Polish Americans were still the largest ethnic group at 23 percent, she related. "But when people think of Hamtramck, they think of a Polish town — that's a great selling point. And when you walk down Joseph Campau, you see Polish shops, Polish street names, you still hear Polish spoken on the street. The Polish presence here is unmistakable." She mentions that the new police chief is Hamtramck's first foreign-born chief, Marek Kalinowski, who rose through the ranks to attain his current leadership position. His parents emigrated to Hamtramck and he grew up in Hamtramck.

HAMTRAMCK'S ATTRACTION. "Hamtramck is kind of a laboratory for the whole American dream and the whole American promise," the mayor said. "You can come here without a lot of money, without the language, and live with people from

all over the world. You're forced to learn how to get along with people from all over the world or at least learn how to live together, learn how to accommodate to each other. We're also a small community, where you can see the democratic process at work — your decisions, whether it's in the voting booth, or whether it's what you do with your property, or where you shop and where you spend your money — your daily life makes a difference in what kind of community you build and what kind of little world you build here. You can see the fruits of your labor or the results of your failures. It really is a kind of hothouse for community-building, world-building.

"That's why we get so passionate and so defensive and so protective of Hamtramck and that's why we love living here."

POLISH DAY PARADE NEWS.

Judge John M. Chmura, Polish Day Parade chairman, notes that the 2010 parade theme will be the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Orchard Lake Schools. Sterling Heights District Judge Stephen Sierawski will be roasted at the annual Polish Day Parade Roast, as well as serve as the parade marshal. Judge Chmura has been chairing the Polish Day Parade committee for over 10 years. For more information, visit the parade Web site at polishdayparade.com and a link to the YouTube video of the parade at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQw1Q4GX04g> or just go to YouTube and search under hamtramck or parade. And for news about the 125th anniversary of the OLS, visit www.orchardlakeschools.com.

Until my next column, Happy New Year and Happy trails to you!

Storozynski Re-Elected President of Kosciuszko Foundation

NEW YORK — Alex Storozynski was unanimously reelected as President and Executive Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation in mid-November 2009.

Simultaneously, Witold Sulimirski stepped down as Chairman of the Board and Joseph E. Gore was elected as his successor as chairman. Wanda Senko was reelected as vice chair.

Sulimirski, who remains a trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation, served as chairman for 11 years, and Gore had served as president for 22

years.

In addition, the board elected three new trustees: Victor Ashe, former ambassador of the United States to Poland, and a former mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee; Sigmund Rolat, chairman of the North American Council of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, and a 2008 recipient of the Commander's Cross of Merit from Polish President Lech Kaczynski; and Krzysztof Rostek of Belvedere Bridge Enterprises, a real estate developer.

Wojciechowski Returns to Poland with Kaptur

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Polish-American Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents Northern Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, visited Poland last August. She's accompanied Marian Wojciechowski, the 95-year-old World War II Veteran, who decided to visit the land of his birth and participate in the commemoration ceremonies on September 1.

"I am honored to have been asked to accompany this son of Poland and of Toledo, a living example of an indomitable spirit who continues to inspire people," said Kaptur. "Truly, he is an extraordinary man."

On August 21, Lisa Helling, newly arrived Public Affairs Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, hosted a breakfast at the Bristol

Hotel to introduce Kaptur to several Polish Women Leaders in the fields of government, academia, and journalism. Kaptur also gave an interview to a prominent, independent women's weekly magazine WYSOKIE OBCASY.

Kaptur, who has been a steadfast ambassador of Central Europe in the U.S. House of Representatives and supported Polish causes throughout her life, introduced a resolution recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Soviet and Nazi invasion of Poland.

Kaptur is currently serving her fourteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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

New Releases from Eddie Forman, Duane Malinowski

The Eddie Forman Orchestra, most often called E.F.O., has released *Movin' On*, an 18 track CD filled with traditional, original and some classic music that is a treat for polka fans everywhere.

Forman and the group always offer a distinct musical style that is theirs alone. Consistency is their trademark and it has collected a large fan base throughout the polka field. Originals like the minor key "Dark Cloud Over Brooklyn" polka and "Yardstick" oberek flavor the recording with something new, while "Rain Rain" polka and "Early Morning" oberek bring some great standards to the musical table. Bobby Bobin's "Tell the Boys" polka and Blazonczyk's "Happy" oberek are excellent choices here, also.

The accordion work of Eddie leads the way for Bob Frydryk, Tom Frydryk, Charlie Pajak, Carol Forman and John Cieplik, as they create a sound that makes everything come together. As a side note, Cieplik on drums brought about visuals of Jerry Tokarz, with that solid, consistent beat.

The recording features 18 songs and is on the EFO label. Contact: Eddie Forman, P.O. Box 148, Hadley, MA 01035 or email: eddieforman@charter.net.

DUANE MALINOWSKI is an entertainer. From those days when we first met him with Polka Jamboree, it was obvious he was born to perform. He relates to the audience. Now, with the release of his

latest CD, *Through The Years, The Two Sides Of Duane Malinowski*, it made me realize how much I've missed him on the polka stage.

This 23 track collection covers the span of years from 1980 to the present with a range of songs from "Bright Star" polka to a country ballad, "I've Called To Say I Love You One More Time." From the classic Malinowski originals like "Button Box Hoedown" and "Dreamland" to the dynamic standards, Green Grass" polka and "Springtime" oberek, this project certainly is a treat for polka fans that appreciate Duane's expertise and talent with that music.

Under the name Duane Michaels, he presents standard and country tunes, "Pretty Blue Eyes," "More" and "Satisfy Me and I'll Satisfy You."

This CD is being dedicated to the fight against Juvenile Diabetes and the race to find a cure. Duane's son, Duane Joseph, is a victim of Type 1 Diabetes, and a portion of the proceeds from the sales of this CD will benefit JDRF, DYS and Diabetic Rockstar; all agencies that support children and their families afflicted with this disease.

Through The Years, The Two Sides Of Duane Malinowski is a double hit, because of its great music and for what it will do to help the battle against Juvenile Diabetes.

Contact: Duane Malinowski, 5738 Brookcliffe Rd., Toledo, OH 43614.

Chicago Festival of Polka Bands

CHICAGO (PMN)—The Festival of Chicago Polka Bands, sponsored by the International Polka Association (IPA), actually starts off this year a day early and with a band that is not based in Chicago.

A Pre-Festival Warm-Up Dance will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2010, with music by Full Circle, one of the nation's most popular bands. The event takes place at Polonia Banquets, 4604 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, Illinois. Doors Open 5:00 p.m. and music is 6:00-10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 and a \$1.00 discount will be given to persons with an IPA membership card.

The next day, Sunday, January 17, 2010, the IPA holds its annual Festival of Chicago Polka Bands at Glendora Banquets, 10225 S. Harlem Avenue, Chicago Ridge, Illinois. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. with music by eleven bands starting at

11:30 a.m. and continuing until evening. As the Pre-Festival Warm-up, tickets are \$12.00 and a \$1.00 discount will be given to persons with an IPA membership card.

Performing during the day will be Full Circle, Music Company, Downtown Sound, Freeze Dried, New Phaze, Jake Mikrut & His All Stars, Joe Walega's Happy Hearts, Lenny Zielinski & the D Street Band, Brighton Park Connection, Eddie Korosa Jr. & the Boys from Polonia and Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze.

A 2-day pass, including both the Pre-Festival Warm-Up Dance and the Festival of Chicago Polka Bands, is available for \$20.00. The daily discount does not apply to purchase of the pass.

Food will be available for purchase at both venues.

100th Birthday Celebration / Polka Association Dance

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, Minn. — Come and help Roman Jaworski celebrate his 100th birthday at an MPA dance party, Jan. 17, 2010 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street NE, Columbia Heights. Joe Glowack's Nordeast 5 band will play. There is an admission price of \$7 per person for this dance only! Election of board members and a short membership meeting will be held during the band break. For more information, e-mail Jim Carlson at k.carlson55110@yahoo.com or call (651) 426-1079. For location directions, call (763) 706-3730.

Polka Joe's Last Broadcast

JACKSON, Mich. — "Polka Joe" Pancerz a radio icon in the Jackson region, has been on the radio longer than many can remember. The host of WIBM's Sunday morning show "Polka Time," broadcast his last show December 27.

Pancerz had a dedicated audience and brought music and laughter to many. Devoted to his wife and longtime radio partner, Lil, who died in 1998, his last show was broadcast on the anniversary of her death.

Polka Party

PHILADELPHIA — The Associated Polish Home of Northeast Philadelphia will feature a Polka Party, Sun., Jan. 24, 2010 with music by Janet O'Such and Rhythm & Sound Band. Music will be from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Call (215) 626-9954.

Our Gang to Perform

CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — A polka dance with Our Gang Band will take place at the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Club, East Hector and Apple Street in Conshohocken, Sunday, February 14, 2010, from 3 to 7 p.m. Call: (610) 828-9352.

Recording Submissions Sought

CHICAGO (PMN)—The International Polka Music Hall of Fame and Museum Chairman, Leon Kozicki, strongly urges any recording company and/or polka band that has released a recording during the calendar year of 2009 to notify and submit that recording to him as soon as possible.

The submission is necessary to determine eligibility for the 42nd Annual Polka Music Awards, which will be presented at the annual festival at the Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards banquet to be held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Registered companies will receive affidavit forms which must be completed and returned to the International Polka Music Hall of Fame and Museum Chairman, Leon Kozicki, by the deadline of February 14, 2010. Only those recordings

that were produced during 2009 will be accepted. The recordings determined to be eligible will be placed on a master list, which will be mailed to the IPA electors. The favorite song and favorite album of 2009 will be selected from the list.

The IPA electors represent the various geographical areas within the United States, as well as Canada.

The awards have been presented for the past 41 consecutive years to deserving bands and vocalists. It is advisable that eligible copies be sent to the IPA, if that has not already been done at the time of release.

All correspondence regarding the submission should be sent to Leon Kozicki, Chairman, Polka Music Hall of Fame, 13405 Tall Pines Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544.

POLKA PATTERN / Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

JOHN GORA, leader of the Gorale, advises that Dan Gury put together a video of the band's song "Polka Playin' Fool" on YouTube. It can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4od_tOclgI.

A PETITION to "Get Polka Back On The Grammy's" is available for signing at <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/polka/petition.html>. It was created by and written by Matt Stopera who may be contacted at stopera.matt@gmail.com. PetitionOnline.com, which hosts the petition online, has taken the necessary steps to reduce the spread of harmful viruses via the website.

THE INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION (IPA) has added videos of the bands that performed at the Polka Music Hall of Fame Benefit Dance at Bullshooters Saloon in Weston, Wisconsin, on November 8, 2009, to its "ipavideo" channel on YouTube. Bands presented are Norm Dombowski's Happy Notes, Polish Connection, and Aaron Socha & LiveWire, plus a jam session by twelve musicians.

The "Polka Hot Spot Show" on 247Polka Heaven had Henny and Butch Jasiewicz from Henny and the Versa J's in its studio on November 19, 2009. Fans learned about the early

years of Henny and some great stories of the Bell Hops, as well as the polka music that made them so popular. It was a walk down memory lane from the Bell Hop years to the current Versa J's.

"THE JIMMY STURR SHOW," produced at the casino in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, aired on PBS Station WTTW (Ch. 11, Chicago) on Sunday, November 29, 2009. After seeing the quality of the show WTTW chose to air it earlier than the scheduled March 2010 premiere. Although intended primarily to push for public television pledges, the show was also a great promotion of polka music with Sturr personally present in Chicago to hype the pledge effort.

DEREK KASZUBY presented bands from either side of the U.S.-Canada border on his "Zabawa" ["Party"] show in mid-November. Representing the U.S. were The Imperials of Toledo, Ohio, seven musicians who deliver hot polkas with a unique sound under the leadership of Bob Earl. Under the direction of Ed Humeniuk, a thrilling new sound that is sweeping the polka world, from Toronto, Canada, were the Canadian Fiddlestix. The show is on The Polka Jammer Network at <http://www.polkajammernetwork.org>.

POLKA DJ PETER "POLKA PETE" DANIELCZUK reported that Nellie Guzevich of Polka Family was involved in a head on-collision near her home in November, 2009. The severity or the seriousness of her injuries was uncertain, but I her son Greg has asked for our thoughts and prayers.

POLKA AMERICA CORPORATION is in the final stages of preparing a presentation for the U.S. Postal Service to consider a Frankie Yankovic postage stamp. Ida Yankovic has added to the research of the many articles and information that are part of the presentation.

THE WEBSITE WWW.POLKASUNITED.COM is a very simple idea that uses technology to help polka fans unite. It is organized in a way so that everyone familiar with polkas can share some of their thoughts and read up on other people's thoughts with similar interests. Visitors to the site can tell everyone your two cents on polkas, polka music, polka dancing, the state of polkas, etc.

AS MANY STARS HAVE DONE, Lenny Gomulka once announced that he was retiring from the polka field, but, happily, it seems that he and his Chicago Push just could not stay away. November was as a typically busy month. On November 6, the band teamed up

with John Gora & Gorale for continuous music at the Polish Hall in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. The next day it was Queen of Angels in Lackawanna, N.Y. The Push was back at Blobs Park for their second visit this year on November 14. Then, November 21 and 22 were the dates for two polka dances in Pennsylvania.

POLKA FANS FLOCK EACH AND EVERY SUNDAY to the historic Silver Derby Bar in Crump, Michigan, a true small town with one stop light, to enjoy polka music. Among the performing bands are The Natural Tones (TNT), Ron Nowaczyk & Benny Prill (also known as The Hall of Fame Connection), The Lake Towne Sound, The Starlight's polka band featuring members from The Steve Drzewicki Band and Dick Hedrich & Sons. Their supporters say that while some of them might not be household names or travel out of the state, they can hold their own against any band in the nation.

ERNIE DAIGLE, on behalf of all the Polka DJ's and their co-hosts, thanks everyone who donated to the WMUA (FM 91, Amherst, Mass.) Polkathon in late October, whether by cash, CDs, manning the phones, recordkeeping, providing food or whatever.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Big Steve Polka Saturday Night Band Reunion Dance a Smashing Success

Hi everyone! Happy New Year! Can you believe it's the year 2010 already? I hope this New Year is filled with good health, good luck, love and laughter. Seems like the traditional wish for Peace on Earth is more appropriate now than ever. My sincerest wishes for all the best to all of you!

CONGRATULATIONS. Happy 13th anniversary to **Sandy and Bob Krawczyk**. They are the nice folks who are in charge of the Lamm Post Grove and Hall.

Also, congratulations to **Tom Picciano** and **Katie Fitzgerald** on their recent engagement. A wedding is planned for the Fall. Tom is the leader of the Knewz who plays trumpet, clarinet and does vocals. May much happiness come their way.

On Nov. 27th, **Greg Chwojdak** became a grandpa when daughter Stacey gave birth to a baby boy! We wish Greg, Lynn, Stacey and the families all the best on this happy occasion.

Also, our congratulations go out to **Mike Kurdziel** and **Jan Seel** on their marriage on Nov. 28. Mike now runs the Crownview Restaurant on 5512 Transit Rd., Depew, where they have great food and polka music. Mike also plays in the Nickel City band.

We wish them a happy life together.

It was the big 5-0 for **Kathy Miesowicz**, who given a surprise party by husband David, leader of the Bedrock Boys. Kathy is the daughter of Casey and Carol Kliszak, and the mom of Wade and Tyler. The party was held at the Lily of the Valley Hall, with music by The Knewz.

IN SYMPATHY. Condolences to **Dave Maguda** and family on the passing of his mom, Jane. Dave was a member of several area bands, including the Bellares ... Sympathy also to the Switniewski family on the passing of **Ed "Swifty" Switniewski**. Although he has been in a nursing home for a past few years, Swifty was a regular at many dances around the area.

JUST A MEMORY. On Nov. 7, **Polka Family** played to a big crowd at the Lily of the Valley Hall. Mike Kurdziel tells me that was the last polka dance at this location. A new Board of Directors only want doings associated with their club at that hall. That is sad to hear as we do not have that many polka venues left. The Father Justin Knights of Columbus Hall does not have any more polka dances, and the Randolph Hall has been demolished to make room for housing so not too many other places are left.



Members of the Polka Saturday Night Band (l. to r.): Dale Wojtyla, Robin Pegg and Dave Maguda. Not visible: drummer Jim Cwick.

A FITTING TRIBUTE. On Nov. 28, a really wonderful trip down memory lane took place the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew. On that night, a reunion of the **Big Steve Polka Saturday Night Band** took place. This was quite a memorable occasion. Over 450 people filled the hall! We have to mention that the driving force behind this tribute, the guy that got it started and did everything to make it turn out so well was Robin Pegg. He also did an excellent job introducing the band members and talking to the audience, preparing them for a trip down memory lane before the band started playing. There were many others who also contributed to the success of this dance and their efforts are really appreciated. Many raffles were held including a huge selection for the Chinese Auction. At the end of all this, Roswell Park Cancer Institute was presented with a check for over \$7,350. That is just wonderful. It was nice to see so many familiar faces from the past. So many people commented to me about the huge crowd and asked why aren't all the dances so well-attended? The entire Krzeminski family — Big Steve's wife, Arlene, his son, Steve and

his daughter Lynn and her family — were there and very touched by this tribute to Steve, as were many others. The original band members on stage this evening were Robin Pegg, Dale Wojtyla, Dave Maguda, Ed Pilarz, Sonny Wanderlich and Jimmy Cwick. Those tunes and that sound brought back so many precious memories. Also, joining in during the evening were others who played with Big Steve — Ray Barsukiewicz, Jerry Darlak, Tommy Picciano, Dave Klemenz, Ken Macheliski, Dave Zwawa and others!

TIME OUT. Both the **Polka Boosters Club** and the **Polka Variety Club** do not have any monthly meetings in the month of January.

UPCOMING. At this time, I only have one date to mark on your calendar and that is Sat. Jan. 2, 2010: **A Warm Up Polka Party** with Hot Polkas and Hot Chili will be held at Potts Banquet Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, NY from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. Music will be by the Piatkowski Brothers, Al and Rob and the Concertina All stars. Tickets are \$10 at the door which includes a free bowl of chili. Call Dan at 826-6575.



Dave Maguda and Eddie Pilarz on accordions, with Sonny Wanderlich on bass.



Big Steve Krzeminski's family: son Steve, wife Arlene, and daughter Lynn Halter.

31st Annual Polkamotion Set for 2010

BALTIMORE — The 31st anniversary of Polkamotion by the Ocean at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware is all set for 2010! Mark September 16-19, 2010 down on your calendars.

Polkamotion hosts Mike Ziemski and Mike Matousek have crafted another stellar lineup of polka bands that will include Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, Polka Family, Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men, Full Circle, EFO, Charm City Sound, New Brass Express, Ethnic Jazz, and more to be announced soon. Executive Chef Gil Ziemski is already planning an enhanced Pol-

ish menu, too! Golfers can look forward to another "best ball" tournament on September 15 with a special welcome polka DJ party hosted by Mike and Mike of "The Mikes Are On!" show that evening.

Promoters Mike Matousek and Mike Ziemski are looking for a fun theme for Thursday night's festivities in the convention center. Send your ideas to mike@charmcity-sound.com. Stay tuned to www.rb-polka.com as the exciting plans for Polkamotion 2010 unfold.

The "Full Circle" Polka Cruise, Jan. 30-Feb. 6

WEBSTER, Mass. — Full Circle invites you to join it on its 2010 Polka Cruise.

The band is composed of Polka Music Hall of Famers, namely Lenny Gomulka, Jimmy Weber, Al Piatkowski, Mike Matousek, Mike Stapinski and Roger Malinowski. Full Circle will host its 3rd yearly Polka Cruise from January 30th through February 6th aboard Carnival Cruise Lines brand new ship the "Carnival Dream" leaving out of Port Canaveral, Florida.

Visit GoneFullCircle.com for registration forms, brochures and flyers.

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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.

ONGOING

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 Ma-benka'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.

JANUARY 1-31

Friday, January 1 – New Year's Day

• Arizona. Varitones at a Pot Luck Polka Party, Pulaski Club, 4331 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz., 1:00-5:00 p.m.
 • Connecticut. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push at the Polish American Citizens Club, 541 Main St., Bristol, Conn., 2:00-6:00 p.m.
 • Massachusetts. Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men and the Eddie Forman Orchestra at the Polish American Citizens Club, 355 East St., Ludlow, Mass., 2:00-8:00 p.m.
 • Michigan. Big Daddy Lackowski and the Martin Brothers at the St. Lawrence K of C, Utica Rd., Utica, Mich. Check locally for details.
 • Pennsylvania. DynaBrass at the Casimir Pulaski Beneficial Club, 175 Elmwood St., New Castle, Pa., from 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 2

• Maryland. Continentals at Blob's Park, Jessup, Md., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
 • Minnesota. Twin Cities Soundz at the North Air Event Center, 6831 Hwy. 65, Fridley, Minn., 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 3

• Florida. Sounds of the South at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
 • New Jersey. The Associates at the Blizzard Bash, Bayway Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth N.J., 2:00-6:00 p.m., \$12.
 • Ohio. Duane Malinowski at a International Music Association dance, Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.
 • Wisconsin. Polish Connection at Bullshooters Saloon, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 8

• Florida. John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., 6:00-10:00 p.m.
 • Maryland. Continentals at Blob's Park, Jessup, Md., 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 9

• Illinois. John Gora & Gorale at K&C Entertainment 15th Anniversary Party, Stardust Banquets, 5688 N.

Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill., 6:00-10:00 p.m., \$18 includes Polish buffet.

Sunday, January 10

• Florida. Tropical Squeeze at Polish/Slovenian Day, the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 • Florida. Northern Sounds at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
 • Wisconsin. John Gora & Gorale at Bullshooters, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 16

• Connecticut. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at the Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, Conn., shows at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.
 • Illinois. Pre-Festival Warm-Up Dance. Music by Full Circle. Polonia Banquets, 4604 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, Ill. Food available for purchase. Doors open 5:00 p.m.; music 6:00-10:00 p.m. Tickets \$12; 2-day pass (includes next day Festival) \$20; \$1 discount on daily ticket with IPA membership card.

Sunday, January 17

• Florida. John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Polish American Social Club, 7500 U.S. Highway 1, Vero Beach, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 2:00-6:00 p.m.
 • Florida. Ed Bilinski & Sounds of the South at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 • Florida. Bee Sharps at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
 • Illinois. Festival of Chicago Polka Bands. Bands include Full Circle, The Music Company, Freeze Dried, Tony Blazonczyk & Phaze, Downtown Sound, Jake Mikrut & his All-Stars, Brighton Park Connection, Joe Walega & the Happy Hearts, Lenny Zielinski & the D-Street Band and Eddie Korosa & the Boys From Illinois. Food available for purchase. Glendora House, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, Ill. Doors open 11:00 a.m.; music from 11:30 a.m. Tickets \$12; 2-day pass (includes prior night Warm-Up Dance) \$20; \$1 discount on daily ticket with IPA membership card.
 • Michigan. Duane Malinowski at the St. Lawrence K of C, Utica Rd., Utica, Mich., 3:00-7:00 p.m.
 • New Jersey. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at the Bay way Polish Home, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, N.J., 2:00 p.m.
 • Ohio. Squeezebox at a Toledo Area Polka Society dance, Conn-Weissenberger American Legion Hall, 2020 Alexis, Toledo, Ohio, 2:00-7:00 p.m.
 • Wisconsin. Benaszkeski Brothers at Bullshooters Saloon, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., Weston, Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 18

• Michigan. DiddleStyx at the Little River Casino, Manistee, Mich., 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Friday, January 22

• Florida. John Gora & Gorale at the Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla. Check locally

for details.

Sunday, January 24

• Florida. Northern Sounds at a Hawaiian Luau Part, Polish American Club, 4616 Darlington Rd., Holiday, Fla., dinner 1:00 p.m., music 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 • Florida. Florida Honky Polka Band at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
 • Florida. Jimmy Sturr & his Orchestra at the Polish American Club, 4725 Lake Worth Rd., Lake Worth, Fla.,

3:00 p.m.

• Wisconsin. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at Bullshooters Saloon, 7802 Meadow Rock Dr., Weston (near Rothschild), Wis., 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 29

• Arizona. Varitones at the Golden Sun RV Resort, 999 W. Broadway, Apache Junction, Ariz., 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 30

• Arizona. Varitones at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3801 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale, Ariz., 6:30-10:30 p.m.
 • Ohio. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz at Kuzman's Lodge, 1025 S. State St., Girard,

Ohio, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 31

• Florida. Northern Sounds at the St. Petersburg Polish Society, 1343 Beach Dr. S.E., St. Petersburg, Fla., dinner 3:00-4:30 p.m., music 4:00-7:00 p.m., dinner \$8, music \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
 • Michigan. Duane Malinowski at a Polka Boosters of America dance, Msgr. Hunt K of C, 7080 Garling, Dearborn Heights, Mich., 2:00-7:00 p.m.
 • Pennsylvania. John Stevens & Doubleshot at the Dupont VFW, 403 Main St., Dupont, Pa., 2:00-6:00 p.m.



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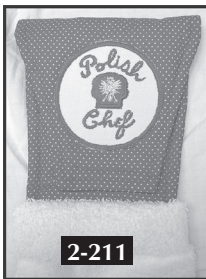
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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



A BUDDING GENERATION. Lublin, Poland. May 18, 1976.

WARSAW WATCH / Robert Strybel

POLAND HAS BEEN THE LONE beacon of growth in a European sea where other countries hover at or below zero Gross National Product. Poland achieved 1.7% GDP growth in the third quarter of 2009, up from 1.1% in the second quarter of the year, and will probably top the 2% level in 2010. Prime Minister Donald jubilantly tried to take credit for the results, but the opposition was quick to note that during the crisis most countries' GDP dropped by about six percentage points and slipped into the recession zone. Poland's was higher than the rest at the outset and therefore did not drop below zero level.

THE TERM "POLISH CONCENTRATION CAMP" appearing in the world media is regularly protested by Polish diplomats and Polonian anti-defamation groups, but despite apologies and occasional retractions, they soon reappear elsewhere. Recently the German Foreign Ministry for the first time intervened and ordered a German public TV channel what had used the term to clean up its act. Polish public television

has suggested that Poles should not settle for apologies or retractions but take the offenders to court the way Jews do with Holocaust deniers.

YOUNG POLES between the ages of 16 and 29 constituted the majority of the some 350,000 people that moved to Great Britain in 2008 from the eight ex-communist countries, according to figures provided by the British Office for National Statistics. Unlike the early immigrants who mainly descended on London, the later arrivals began spreading across the country and now only one-third live in the London metropolitan area. But the economic crisis that erupted in 2008 saw a considerable exodus of recent immigrants. Some have returned to Poland, while others have sought greener pastures in Germany, Spain, France and even distant Australia.

78% OF POLES ARE HAPPY with their present jobs, according to a survey conducted by Poland's CBOS. Only 11% dislike what they are doing and another 11 percent have mixed feelings on the subject.

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THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Polish Winter and Mardi Gras Cakes

PEAR SPONGE CAKE (biszkopt z gruszkami). Peel, core and slice thin 6 pears. Beat 6 egg yolks at high speed until fluffy, adding 6 T confectioner's sugar and 6 T flour. Fold in 6 egg whites, beaten to a froth, and mix lightly. Pour 1/2 the batter into a buttered babka, brioche or Bundt pan (or pans if they are on the small side), add the sliced pears, sprinkle with the scantest pinch of cinnamon and cover with remaining batter. The pan or pans should only be 1/2 full. Bake in preheated 375° oven 35 min or until done. Test for doneness with wooden pick. Remove from pan when partially or fully cooled, dust with confectioner's sugar and serve warm or at room temp. This recipe can be made with 4, 5, 7, etc. of everything and is therefore easy to remember.

HONEY-SPICE CAKES (pierniki). Combine: 4 c flour, 3 eggs, 1/2 lb margarine or butter, 1 c confectioner's sugar, 5 T honey, 1 t cocoa, 2 t ginger, 1 t ground cloves, 1 t cinnamon, 1 t ground nutmeg, (optional) 1 t pepper, 1 t baking powder and 1 t baking soda. mix well and work ingredients into a uniform dough. Roll out 1/8" thin and cut into desired shapes: circles, bells, triangles, stars, diamonds, fish, etc. Bake about 15 min in 360° oven. When cool, decorate with white icing as desired.

PLAIN RAISED LOAF (bulka drożdżowa/placek). Mash 1 cake yeast with 1 T sugar, add 3/4 c warm milk and stir in 1 scant c flour. Mix, cover and set in warm place to rise about 1 hr. To yeast mixture add 4 yolks, beaten until lemony with 1 c sugar, 2 c flour 1/8 t salt and 1 t lemon zest. Work ingredients into a dough, knead well and work in 2/3 c melted butter. Set aside in warm place to double in bulk. Transfer to greased, flour-sprinkled baking pan(s) and let rise again. Bake about 45 min in 375°-390° oven.

STREUSSEL-TOPPED RAISED LOAF (placek z kruszonką). Proceed as in preceding recipe, but after transferring do the following: in bowl mix together 3/4 c flour and 2/3 c confectioner's sugar. Gradually pour in a scant 1/2 c hot melted butter. Blend ingredients and sprinkle over top of loaf. When it has risen, bake about 45 min in 375°-

390° oven. Optional: 1 -2 T finely chopped walnuts may be mixed into streussel mixture.

APPLE CAKE (szarlotka). In large bowl, combine flour 2-1/3 c flour, 2-1/2 t baking powder, 1/2 t salt and 3/4 c sugar. Add 1/2 c softened unsalted butter, 3/4 c whole milk and 2 large or 3 small eggs. Beat until fully blended and smooth (about 4 min). Pour half the batter into a greased square baking pan. Over it layer 1 large, tart cooking apple, peeled, cored and thinly sliced. Spoon all but 1/2 cup of the remaining batter over the apples. Place the remaining 1/2 cup batter over the apples. Sprinkle with a pinch of ground nutmeg, cloves or cinnamon or a scant pinch of any two or all 3. Dot with bits of cold butter (about 3 T) and bake in preheated 350° oven about 40 min or until toothpick comes out clean. When cool, dust with powdered sugar.

POLISH DOUGHNUTS (pączki). Combine 2 small cakes mashed yeast with 1 c flour and 1 c warm milk in a bowl and leave in warm place to rise. Beat well 6 raw egg yolks with 1/3 c sugar, add 1/3 c warm milk and continue to beat in double boiler until mixture thickens. Remove from flame and continue beating until mixture is lukewarm. Sift 3 c. flour onto bread-board, mix in yeast mixture, egg mixture, 1/2 jigger rum, brandy or vodka, 1/2 t. salt, 1 t vanilla extract and the zest of 1/2 a lemon. Knead thoroughly, gradually adding 1/3 c melted butter. Continue kneading vigorously

until air blisters appear and dough no longer sticks to hands. Place in warm bowl and allow to double in bulk in a warm, draft-free place. Roll dough out 1/2 inch thick and cut into circles with glass or biscuit-cutter. Place a spoonful of thick jam (rose-hip jam, powidla/plum butter or other) at center of each circle, fold in half pinch ends together and shape into a ball snowball fashion. Fry in hot lard or shortening until brown on both sides. With tongs transfer to paper towel and dust with confectioner's sugar. Variation: Pączki may be fried unfilled, and after they have cooled off, jelly (cherry or strawberry are best) can be squirted into the center with a pastry syringe.

RAISED ANGEL WINGS (faworki/ chruściki na prosku). Combine 1/4 c sour cream, with 2-1/3 c flour on bread-board. Make a well at center and drop into it 6 raw egg yolks, 2 pinches salt 2 t baking powder and 2 T grain alcohol or 100 proof vodka. Combine ingredients and work into a uniform dough. Knead well until dough is smooth and air blisters appear. Roll out thin on lightly floured board and cut with pastry wheel or knife into 2" x 5" strips for larger faworki) or 1-1/2" x 4", if smaller ones are preferred. Make a vertical slit in each strip and pull one of the ends through it to form a bow. Gently brush any excess flour from faworki and deep-fry in about 2 lbs hot lard, vegetable shortening (or oil) to a light golden-brown, turning once. Transfer to absorbent paper and dust with confectioner's sugar when slightly cooled.



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By taking part in this year's Pol-Am Heritage quiz, you will be eligible to win one of three Polish cookbooks in English. Simply write your name and mailing address at the top of a clean sheet of paper, number it from 1 to 5 and indicate the correct answer (a, b, c, d or e) to each of the following five questions:

- Which of the following never served as Poland's capital?: a) Gniezno, b) Lublin, c) Poznań, d) Kraków, e) Łódź.
- The first king of Poland was: a) Mieszko I, b) Bolesław Chrobry, c) Władysław I, d) Jan Sobieski, e) Kazimierz Wielki.
- The oldest Polish-American fraternal organization is: a) Polish National Alliance, b) Polish Roman Catholic Union, c) Polish Falcons, d) Polish National Union, e) Polish-American Congress.
- The longest-serving President of Poland was: a) Wojciech Jaruzelski, b) Aleksander Kwaśniewski, c) Lech Wałęsa, d) Stanisław Wojciechowski.
- The leadership of the Soviet-controlled pre-war subversive group called the Communist Party of Poland (Komunistyczna Partia Polski) was domi-

nated by people of: a) Ukrainian, b) Jewish, c) German, d) Polish, e) Lithuanian ancestry.

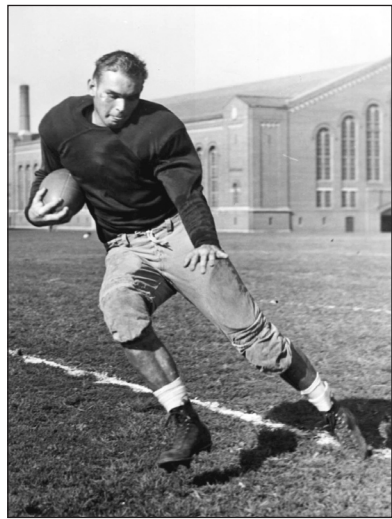
- In Polish tradition, poppy seed noodles (kluski z makiem) are usually served: a) on Easter Sunday, b) on Christmas Eve, c) at weddings, d) at name-day parties, e) at harvest festivals (dożynki).

Airmail your completed quiz without delay to: Pol-Am Heritage Quiz, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, POLAND, or e-mail the correct answers to: research60@gmail.com.

All correct entries will take part in a random drawing to select the winners. The first prize is the nearly 900-page "Polish Heritage Cookery", the biggest Polish cookbook ever published in the English language. Second prize is "Polish Holiday Cookery" (248 pages) focusing on the traditional foods of Christmas, Easter, weddings, banquets and other special occasions. Third prize is "Culinary Traditions of Mazovia, Silesia and Kashubia" (60 pages), whose regional favorites are printed on opposing pages in both English and Polish. It should be helpful to those trying to learn Polish or English.

SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Evashevski and Piurek Pass



FOREST EVASHEVSKI. One of the Big Ten's top ten.

Forest "Evy" Evashevski (above) died in his sleep at the age of 91, after a battle with liver cancer. He was considered one of the best college football quarterbacks and coaches in Big Ten history.

The former University of Michigan football star and Hall of Fame coach for the Iowa Hawkeyes was born in Detroit and excelled at baseball and football. Evashevski served as quarterback for the University of Michigan from 1938-1940 and was captain of the team his senior year.

Evashevski was selected as an all-Big Ten performer all three seasons. In addition to football, Evashevski also served as a catcher on the University of Michigan's baseball team and was president of his senior class. He was inducted into the University of Michigan Hall of Honor in 1990.

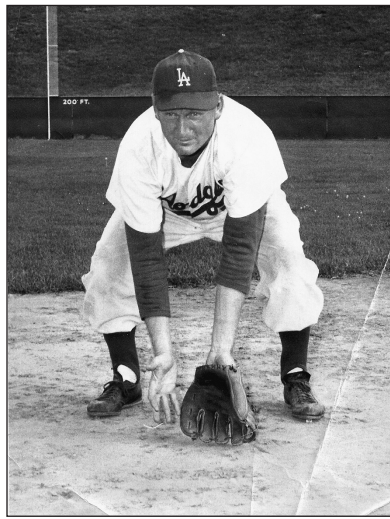
Evashevski coached football at Hamilton College in New York before serving in the Navy for two years. After World War II, Evashevski coached at Syracuse, Michigan State and Washington State before he was named head coach at Iowa in 1952. During his nine years as a coach in Iowa, Evashevski won 52 games and led the Hawkeyes to three Big Ten championships. Evashevski also coached his team to two Rose Bowl victories — the only Rose Bowl victories in the school's history.

Evashevski stepped down as Iowa coach in 1961, and then served as Iowa's athletic director for 10 years before retiring and moving back to Michigan. He spent the last several years of his life living in Petoskey, Michigan with his wife, Ruth.

Professional baseball scout **John "Whitey" Piurek** (right) of West Haven, Conn., passed away December 3, 2009.

Piurek was honored by many organizations throughout his life, including the ACPC in 2004 with its Polish American Achievement Recognition. Still holding the record as the "winningest baseball coach in the country" Whitey was a leader, scholar, athlete, teacher, organizer and a hero to many. As an accomplished toastmaster, he often began his remarks with the phrase — "When I was a young Polish boy playing ball in the field behind my house in Hartford, Connecticut ..." According to his daughter Marilyn, "Indeed, as a lead scout for the Brooklyn Dodgers and later the Seattle Mariners, he would go out of his way to take a close look at Polish American players. He signed Johnny Podres (whose mother was Polish) and others, perhaps understanding even more the special nature of a making it from those old Polish neighborhoods."

An outstanding performer at



JOHN "WHITEY" PIUREK. Winning player, coach and scout.

Holy Cross College, he graduated as the top scholar-athlete in his class of 1939. After college, Whitey played Minor League ball with the St. Louis Cardinals and Philadelphia Phillies. He went on to graduate school at Boston University and Catholic University, playing baseball all the while. He was part of a barnstorming team with baseball greats Joe DiMaggio, Bob Sperry, Randy Gumpert, Carl Furillo and others. Whitey went on to spend more than 40 years as a scout with the Brooklyn Dodgers, San Francisco Giants, and Seattle Mariners. Whitey carved an unusually large niche for himself in the Connecticut, New England, and the national sport scene as a player, coach, official, and administrator of high repute.

Whitey joined West Haven High School in 1947 and served as history teacher, coach and, for 16 years, the school's Athletic Director supervising 23 sports. He was a four sports official and also served as president or commissioner of officiating groups for baseball, basketball, football and soccer. He helped organize the CIAC (Connecticut High School Coaches Association) and served as its second president in 1952.

To this day, Piurek's winning percentage of .819 where 600 games or more have been played, is one of the best of any high school baseball coach in the country. Even more importantly than the games won, titles held, and awards given, Whitey has, throughout his career, exemplified the American virtue of fair play, respect for others, playing by the rules and working hard.

Piurek was the first coach from Connecticut to be inducted into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and in the first class of inductees into the West Haven High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.

Polish Name Analysis — a Unique Gift

Many Pol-Ams have gone through life struggling with a long, multi-syllabic Polish last name without really knowing what it means. Finding out at long last can be an interesting and eye-opening experience.

As a result, ordering a custom-researched surname analysis can make an interesting and unusual gift for a relative or friend. The several-page report shows how Polish surnames developed, provides the derivation and meaning of the name being researched, how many people use it, where they live and whether a coat of arms goes with it. If there is one, a color illustration of the crest (suitable for framing or enalghemetn) will be included.

Recipients of such a name analysis will surely be in for a nice surprise when the surname report, airmailed direct from Warsaw, arrives on their doorstep.

To order, simply airmail a \$16 check (adding \$9 for each additional surname) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Also included free of charge is a contact sheet of handy genealogical leads (root-tracing websites, data bases, organizations and firms) which has helped many Polish Americans get started in their ancestral exploration. The list includes professional genealogists who can sift through family records and track down ancestral homesteads in Poland, even living relatives.

Dudziak Tops Rankings

Duke University senior **Konrad Dudziak** (right) has climbed to the top spot at heavyweight in the InterMat NCAA Division I wrestling rankings announced in November.

The first Blue Devil to capture All-America accolades in wrestling history, Dudziak is also the first wrestler to earn a No. 1 national ranking. He kicked off the year by winning the Hokie Open and being named the ACC Wrestler of the Week. At the first event of the season Dudziak cruised through to the championship bout where he defeated eighth-ranked David Marone of Virginia Tech 4-1 to take home top honors.

Dudziak, a native of Poland, spent the entire 2007 calendar year away from Duke to train in Poland. When he returned in 2008 he headed to Colorado Springs and initially found a spot as a workout partner for some Olympic hopefuls. He eventually caught the eye of national team coach Terry Brands and began to make major improvements. Dudziak, who has dual citizenship got a spot in the US Trials. Even after he did not make the team, he stayed with the Olympians and traveled to various training camps during the summer. Dudziak has his eyes on competing for an Olympic berth in 2012.

PROMISING PLAY. Known for his high-flying finishes, **Olek Czyz** celebrated his first start for Duke with a steal and a thunderous dunk in the game's opening minutes. The 6-7 native of Gdynia, Poland logged 24 minutes finishing the game with six points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals as Mike Krzyzewski's Blue Devils cruised to a 96-62 win over UNC Greensboro at home.

Czyz, who has been a crowd favorite, was known coming out of high school for his ability to dunk. However, to get more playing time Olek needs to improve his offensive and defensive skills, instead of just relying on his athleticism. "What he has is an amazing amount of athletic talent," Duke assistant coach Chris Collins said. "He's strong, he can jump out of the gym and he can really run. He just needs to continue to develop his ability and learn the game."

Czyz hasn't been getting a lot of playing time, but he has already surpassed the 51 minutes he played his entire freshman year. "When he came here he, looking back, we probably just should have redshirted him because he has so much to learn, not just basketball but language academics, he was making a big step forward in a lot of areas," head



KONRAD DUDZIAK

coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "And he has made it. He is a really good kid and an outstanding athlete."

POGON LOSES. The Philadelphia KiXX defeated **Pogon Szczecin** of the Polish Premier League 20-10 in a friendly indoor exhibition. The outdoor Polish club, which was on a tour of the US after recent completion of its season, took on the KiXX indoors.

"Tonight was a really competitive and respectable exhibition," Philadelphia head coach Don D'Ambra said after the match. "They were at a bit of a disadvantage due to a lack of experience playing indoors, but they had big athletic players with strong soccer instincts. That enabled them to create some opportunities for themselves."

Pogon Szczecin recently earned a promotion to the Polish First League after finishing second in the Western Group of the Polish Second League this past season, and the team has been on a tour of the United States since that time.

"The U.S. is a beautiful country with plenty to see," Pogon Szczecin head coach Piotr Mandrysz said through a translator.

I BELIEVE! QB Bruce Gradkowski returned home to Pittsburgh to lead the Oakland Raiders to a stunning 27-24 win over the Steelers. Three times in the fourth quarter Grad-

kowski put his team ahead with a touchdown pass. According to STATS, LLC, it's the first time that's happened since they began keeping track of such things in 1991.

Gradkowski completed 20 of 33 passes for 308 yards and 3 TDs, including the game winner on an 11-yard pass with nine seconds remaining.

"It was really hectic after the game because I had to do all the interviews, then I had 50 family members waiting outside I had to talk to," Gradkowski said. "It was exciting, though, to see everyone. Kind of wished I could have stayed to enjoy it with 'em, but I might have gotten kicked out of Pittsburgh."

The Pittsburgh native was drafted out of Toledo by Tampa Bay in the 6th round of the 2006 draft. He later played for St. Louis and Cleveland before being picked up by Oakland to back up former No. 1 pick Ja-

Marcus Russell. However, when Russell continued to struggle, Gradkowski was named starter.

This year Gradkowski also engineered a 10-play, 88-yard, game-tying drive in the final two minutes of a 20-17 victory over Cincinnati, and believes he's good enough to start in the NFL. "You have to have that confidence. ... I'm pretty confident in my ability in being the starter. If this game cemented that, then that's good."

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. J.R.

Celski, a speedskater of Polish and Filipino heritage, is recovering from a skating accident at the U.S. Olympic Trials that left him with a seven-inch gash that took 60 stitches to close ... Detroit Lions great **Bob Kowalkowski** died at age 65 after a brief illness ... **Kevin Jaskiewicz** was named the Coast Guard's interim basketball coach ... **Kevin Oleksiak** is the new director of basketball operations at UNC Greensboro ... **Josh Wielebnicki** was named assistant volleyball coach at Western Carolina ... starting center **Ryan Blaszczyk** is one of the captains of the Rutgers football team.

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OBITUARIES

DINA GOTTLIEBOVA BABBITT, 86, was an artist who was forced to paint portraits of fellow prisoners at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Babbitt's long and unsuccessful campaign to retrieve the seven paintings of doomed Gypsy prisoners from a Polish state museum at Auschwitz became a rallying point for many other artists and Holocaust survivors. Babbitt married American cartoonist Art Babbitt, one of Disney's "Snow White" animators; the two later divorced. She went on to work in animation at various Hollywood studios. In 1973, she was notified by the Auschwitz museum that they had her paintings, at which point she started her campaign to retrieve her paintings, without success during her lifetime.

JADWIGA KULPINSKA BOGUCKA, 93, was born in Philadelphia and at the age of four, returned with her parents and two siblings to their native Poland. Bogucka returned with her family to the United States when she was a teenager. She earned a bachelor's degree as a scholarship student at Drexel University and also earned a master's degree in home economics education from Drexel. She taught home economics at Georgian Court College in Lakewood, New Jersey and Bound Brook High School. She was also very active in multiple Polish associations, including the Polish Intercollegiate Club, the Polish-American Historical Association, and served on the board of the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Foundation.

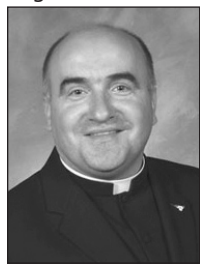
ALBERT J. CODY, 70, of Toledo, Ohio, was a Navy veteran and served aboard the USS *HAWKINS* for four years. After his service, Cody worked at the Erie Army Depot. He then worked 43 years for AT&T (and their predecessors) as a Central Office Technician. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers and the POCI Club (Pontiac Oakland Club), where he enjoyed photographing show cars. Al loved listening and dancing to polka music and enjoyed spending time with friends in the recording studio as well. He helped play bells for The Bob Zielinski Band on their "Polka Memories" album.

ROBERT E. DEMPSKI, 75, was the retired director of pharmaceutical development for Merck & Co. Dr. Dempski earned his bachelor's degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, now University of the Sciences, and earned a doctorate in pharmaceuticals from the University of Wisconsin. During his 35-year career with Merck, he was involved in the development of several drugs, including Mevacor and Pepcid. He held seven patents and published 12 scientific articles. After his retirement, he volunteered with the International Executive Service Corps.

MARLENE WILCZYNSKI GILL, 58, a very active member in Chicago's Polish American community, died suddenly on September 12, at her home on the Northwest Side of Chicago. Gill,

a retired secretary of Chicago's Department of Aviation, devoted her life promoting her Polish heritage and avidly supported neighborhood causes. Gill was secretary of the Heritage Club of Polish Americans and the Edgebrook Women's Club, as well as President of Society 819 of Polish Women's Alliance. Additionally, Gill was a past officer of the Legion of Young Polish Women, International Polka Association, Polish Women's Civic Club, the Coalition of Polish Women, Westmoreland Rebekah Lodge 607, and the Resurrection High School Alumni Association. She was an active member of the Polish National Alliance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish Museum of America, and an advisory board member of the Polonia Song and Dance Ensemble. Gill was proud of her leadership role in founding the Polish American Heritage Month celebration at Northeastern Illinois University of which she was an alumna.

WACŁAW JAMROZ. The Polish immigrant community was shocked to hear that Father Wacław Jamroz, 44, was found dead of self-inflicted wounds. According to the Cook County Sheriff's Department, Father Jamroz was pronounced dead on October 8.



Jamroz, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, a South Side Chicago parish near Midway Airport, was a very dedicated and popular priest. Not only did Father Jamroz minister to Polish-speaking parishioners, but its Spanish-speaking members as well.

It was Jamroz's friendliness that created a strong community at Our Lady of Sorrows. He pioneered Polish-language broadcasts on radio and television. His radio broadcasts through the "Holy Rosary" programs were heard throughout four states, as well as his broadcasts on Polish television's "Word of Life" program. He taped a show three days before he was found dead.

A native of Piatkowa, Poland, Father Jamroz was ordained in 1992 as a member of the Order of the Salvatorian Fathers, and then was assigned to minister at its Czestochowa Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana until 1996. In December 2005, he was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Chicago, having served at St. Camillus and St. Symphorosa, prior to his pastoral assignment at Our Lady of Sorrow parish. Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, presided at Father Jamroz's funeral Mass on October 14 with burial in Nowy Sacz, Poland.

LEON JOLSON, 96, was a Polish-born Nazi concentration camp survivor who achieved success as a sewing machine entrepreneur in the United States after World War II. He was born Leon Joeson in Warsaw and lived in the Warsaw Ghetto for several years before being

sent to two different work camps and escaping into hiding. He escaped from the Germans several times, and made it to a U.S. displaced persons camp in 1945. He and his wife eventually came to the United States in 1947 and Jolson went to work in New York City's garment district. He later started his own sewing machine business, turning it into a multimillion-dollar business by 1952. He used his business profits to help other displaced people and keep the history of the Holocaust alive.

MICHAEL MICHALOWSKI of Haverhill, Mass. died peacefully on Sept. 24, 2009. Born in Poland on Feb. 14, 1923, he lived in Belgium before settling down with his family in Haverhill. Before retiring, he was employed by the Haverhill Paperboard. He was a member of the former St. Michael's Polish Parish and actively attended and participated in every Polish occasion, performance, concert, gathering or event. A favorite pastime of his was reading, discussing world affairs and history and reading *The Polish American Journal*. He leaves his beloved wife Zofia; along with daughters, Renia, Wiesia and their families.

MARY C. (ANUSZEWSKI) SHEEHAN, 93, died peacefully on Oct. 3, 2009. She was a lifelong member of Haverhill, Massachusetts' former St. Michael's Polish Parish, where she served as the parish sacristan and was active as a member of The Holy Rosary Society, the St. Anne Society and the parish choir. Sheehan worked for several years as a seamstress at Seavey's Fabric and Drapery Store and later at the Internal Revenue Service. She enjoyed traveling, including several visits to her family's native Poland. Sheehan was extremely proud of her Polish heritage and enjoyed Polish food and music. Especially important was the celebration of the holiday traditions that she passed along to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and her greatest joy was preparing meals, particularly traditional Polish recipes for her family and guests.

HELEN TALIK WOJCICK, 105, passed away on November 17. Wojcik, born in Ciecinnie, Poland, the eldest of eight children, valued her American citizenship and throughout her entire adult life volunteered during each and every election period, as well as working as a multi-lingual interpreter for the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization. Wojcik and her late husband Daniel, were founding members of St. Raymond Parish on Detroit's Northeast Side.

JERRY WYPYSZCZAK, 82, was born in Lodz, Poland, and proudly served in the Polish Army during World War II. Wypyszczak came to the United States in 1951, where he started his career as a steel worker for U.S. Steel in Gary, Indiana. He later retired from U.S. Steel after several decades of service. He was an active member of the Polish Vets Placowka 40 in Hammond, Indiana. He and his wife of 33 years later moved to Las Vegas in 1994, where they had lived for the last 15 years.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman, Stas Kmiec, and Jennifer Moskal

BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

About Gold in Poland; How Much Gold is there in Goldwasser?

Did you know that, in the second half of the 16th century, gold mines on the territory of today's Poland produced 8% of European gold? Today there is a gold mine/museum there – in Złoty Stock (meaning Golden Slope), Southwestern Poland. It is the only Polish gold mine which still brings a profit. It is owned by Elzbieta Szumska, a brave, energetic and young woman who invested lots of money from bank credits to re-open it. After five years of reconstruction, on May 28, 1996, the Underground Tourist Route "Gold Mine" was opened and is ready for business. If you visit this area, sign up for the 90-minute tour, which would show you many shafts working there since medieval times. The tour also includes a narrow gauge rail ride. This gold mine was still active after World War II, but it produced only 20-30 kilograms of gold per year (that means a couple of ounces per day).

Just recently (2008) the richest deposits of gold in Europe were found in Poland. They were found in Lower Silesia, near the copper mine area. Since the deposits are located even below copper deposits, its exploitation will have to wait.

As it was everywhere in the world, gold was very important in Poland, used for production of golden coins. In fact, the name of Polish currency "złoty" comes from the word "złoty" which means "golden."

Many of you have tried or are at least aware that it is possible to buy vodka with golden flakes. Did you ever wonder how much more it costs since it contains this precious metal? I was surprised that its price was not any different from a vodka bottle without any golden flakes. Why? I will explain later in the article.

HOW MANY OF YOU KNEW that the first vodka with flakes of gold was made in Polish city of Gdansk about 400 years ago? So, we should be proud that there is a Polish connection to the precious gold in vodka bottles. At that time Gdansk, then known better by its German name, Danzig, was a very international city. This golden drink was intro-

duced by a Dutchman, Ambrosius Vermöllen, who became later a citizen of Danzig. It was called Goldwasser which means "gold water" in German. The vodka with gold flakes became popular around the world, it was also very popular among miners during the gold rush in America. I recently bought an Italian version of Golden vodka called Goldshlaeger with distinct cinnamon taste. The flakes were clearly visible: we drank them all celebrating friend's birthday.

The answer why the vodka with pieces of gold is cheap is easy, when we take into account the unusual properties of gold. Gold is a metal, which is the most malleable and ductile of all known metals. It can be stretched and stretched into very thin foils. We all use aluminum foil which is very thin, therefore we can bend it, tear it and use as a wrapping paper in spite of the fact that this is a metal. Aluminum foil is thinner than

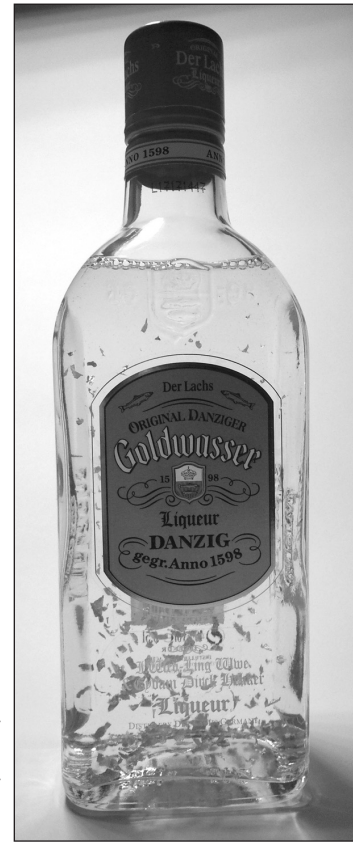
human hair. Its thickness is usually between 0.2-0.006 mm. Since gold can be stretched even more, gold foil called gold leaf is even thinner, about 800 times thinner than aluminum. Golden foil which is sometimes used only to cover other metals and protect them from rusting can be as thin as few atomic layers. Such thin foil was used in famous Rutherford experiment to find properties of the atom about hundred years ago.

Gold is also very inert, meaning it does not react with our body and is safe to digest. Therefore we can drink it and it will just go through our body without any side effects.

Probably 1 cm square of gold foil would be enough to fill up our bottle with many flakes. Since the foil is very thin, it would weigh less than 1 microgram. That means that its value, considering the price of gold at \$1000 USD per ounce will be about \$.06. So, in spite of the fact that gold is very precious, it is also quite affordable since anybody can afford a gold foil worth 6 pennies!

Here is the link to the Polish gold-mine and museum: www.kopalniazlota.pl/index.php/en

Visit Baba Jaga's Corner on the internet at www.polishsite.us.



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TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

- In 1588, the church in Boguszyce was constructed of: a. larch; b. twigs; c. stone blocks
 - A village once owned by Josef Wybicki was: a. Srem; b. Manieczki; c. Pawlowice
 - At Blue Springs, the waters change from: a. blue to black; b. green to blue; c. brown to blue
 - In Krzemicki Opatowskie is found Europe's largest: a. coal mine; b. salt mine; c. flint mine
 - Czerwone Bagno* means: a. red valley; b. red marsh; c. red river
 - Biebrzanski National Park was created in: a. 1947; b. 1982; c. 1993
 - Zulawy has been prone to: a. forest fires; b. flooding; c. drought
 - Zupan* is a: a. long gown; b. ornate belt; c. fur hat
 - Jaroslav Kaczynski and Lech Kaczynski are: a. father and son; b. twins; c. first cousins
 - Apolonia Chalupiec, also known as Pola Negri, was a: a. Broadway producer; b. silent screen star; c. champion swimmer
- ANSWERS.** 1. a larch; 2. b Manieczki; 3. b green to blue; 4. c flint mine; 5. b red marsh; 6. c 1993; 7. b flooding; 8. a long gown; 9. b twins; 10. b silent screen star

CIEKAWOTSKI / Martin Nowak

The Greatest Drummer of All Time

Drummers had always been considered an integral part of a band, but merely time-keepers, hardly musicians, and certainly not featured performers. Then someone came along to change that. His name has become synonymous with the drums.

Eugene Bertram (Gene) Krupa was born in 1909 and raised in a working class Polish American community on Chicago's south side. The eleventh of twelve children, his grandparents were Polish immigrants. His father Bartley was a Chicago city alderman for a time and died when Gene was a young boy. His mother Anna and the children then had to take various jobs to support the family.

At age 10, Gene took a job doing chores at a music store. He took an interest in the music and spent a lot of time there listening to records. He had studied saxophone from age 6, but switched to drums. His brother bought him a drum kit at age 11. Working as a soda jerk at Wisconsin Beach, he played sax in the junior band and substituted for the drummer in the house band one day when he was only 13. In high school, he sought out the company of other young musicians and was able to play with them at dances and socials.

Krupa's mother was a devout Catholic and wanted Gene to enter the priesthood. Giving in to her wishes, in 1924 at age 15 he enrolled in a seminary prep school at St. Joseph's College in Indiana. But the draw of music was too strong for the teenager. He left St. Joseph's af-

ter one year, determined to become a professional drummer. He began hanging out at jazz clubs and was able to get an occasional job playing with different professional bands. He studied other jazz drummers who influenced his style, and he was always ready to give them credit for his success. Black jazz drummers Tubby Hall, Zutty Singleton and Baby Dodds were among his influences. He soon met and played with Tommy Dorsey, Bix Beiderbecke and Benny Goodman.

In 1927 he and a group of buddies landed a recording contract billed as the Chicagoans. They recorded four songs, and Krupa made a bit of musical history by insisting on playing the bass drum in the studio recordings. That had never been done due to the effects of the vibration on the equipment, but it turned out to be a smart move. The records were a success, and critics praised the work of the previously unknown drummer. Some would later say Krupa's drumming helped define the Chicago jazz sound.

In 1929, Krupa moved to New York City with some of his bandmates and eventually found work with various orchestras. He played in the Gershwin's Broadway show "Strike Up the Band" along with Glenn Miller and Goodman, still studying to refine his playing and expand his repertoire.

By 1934 he was back in Chicago when Goodman convinced him to join his new group. Playing as a trio and quartet, the swing band became increasingly popular, not the least because of Krupa's flashy talent.

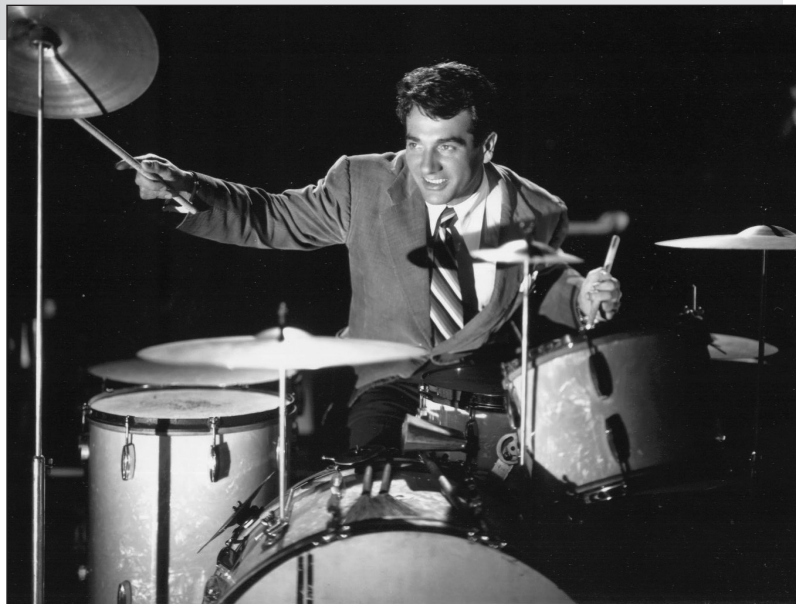
By the late 1930s, both men had become national phenomena. Krupa's drum work on the 1936 Goodman hit "Sing, Sing, Sing" was a milestone in music. At a Carnegie Hall concert in 1938, Krupa's energized, frantic playing on the song stole the show. It featured the first extended drum solo ever performed and recorded.

Drumsticks twirling and flashing, chewing gum while frenetically playing with tousled hair, the handsome, hip Gene Krupa had become a genuine superstar in the entertainment world. He and Goodman disagreed over his role and style, so he left to form the Gene Krupa orchestra in 1938. His shows sold out, his records were hot sellers, and he appeared in several movies. And young Polish Americans were extremely proud to have one of their own as a pop culture icon of immense popularity. Among his hits were "Let Me Off Uptown," "After You've Gone," and "Drum Boogie."

Krupa convinced Slingerland Drums to make tuneable drums for him. Working with Zildjian Company, he developed the modern hi-hat cymbals. For these innovations, he is considered the father of the modern drum kit.

In 1943 he was arrested in San Francisco for possession of marijuana and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He was convicted on the possession charge and spent 84 days in jail, but the following year the conviction was overturned when the main witness admitted that he had lied about the affair.

This incident caused the break-



up of Krupa's big band and could have killed a lesser man's career, but his popularity was so strong that the public forgot and forgave. Determined to forge ahead, he briefly rejoined Benny Goodman before forming another band in 1944 that was to last until 1951. By then, the big band era had ended.

With rock 'n' roll ascendant in the 1950s, Krupa worked with trios and quartets and operated a drum school. He engaged in famous "drum battles" with Buddy Rich and continued to cut the occasional record. The movie "The Gene Krupa Story" was released in 1959 starring Sal Mineo. The soundtrack featured Krupa himself, and the movie led to a resurgence in popularity.

By this time back problems and a heart attack forced him to slow down. In 1963 he famously reunited with the Benny Goodman Quartet. He assembled a big band that played Las Vegas regularly, toured and made television appearances.

In 1967, Krupa announced his retirement, saying, "I feel too lousy to play and I know I must sound lousy." Then in 1970 he came out of retirement to perform with a new quartet, but he began to suffer from emphysema and leukemia. 1973 saw a few appearances with the Goodman Quartet, and his final performance was with Goodman on August 18 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. On October 16, 1973 Krupa died of heart failure in Yonkers. A requiem mass was said at St. Denis parish in Yonkers, attended by Goodman and other performer friends. Burial was in the family plot at Holy Cross Cemetery in Calumet City, Illinois.

Later drummers may be judged to be better than Gene Krupa. But he was the pioneer who set the standard for drum playing in popular music. All those who follow play in the shadow of this legend, the greatest drummer of all time.

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

The Great Adventure!

It is a new year! Fire up. We have new things to think about and a lot of work to do.

I'm pumped because I am just coming off completing a great bible study class. The name of the class is A Quick Journey Through the Bible, An 8-Part Introduction to the Bible Timeline (www.GreatAdventureOnline.com). The student workbook is written by Sarah Christmyer and the DVD portion of the "class" is taught by Jeff Cavins. You might know Jeff from appearances on Mother Angelica's Eternal Word television network (EWTN) and I recommend you read his book, "My Life on the Rock," which is his apologia for his Catholic faith.

The first line in the introduction in the workbook is "Welcome to the Great Adventure." It truly is. Great book, workbook, and the DVD program with Cavins as the teacher are superb. In one night a week for eight weeks, I learned about how the salvation story builds and blends and is logically structured. I never had an experience like this before.

Not that I or other Catholics don't understand or know anything about our faith. We do. I feel secure in my spiritual life and came to realize the logical relationship between the old and new testaments and the new covenant through various kinds of study and reasoning. The Quick Journey class though, explained the intricacies through a different perspective. As Jeff Cavins states at the beginning of the class, Catholics hold a lot of knowledge and traditions and "stuff" that is all good, but is in many respects impossible to digest without understanding how the narrative books, supplemental

books, the world powers, secular history, and "God's family plan" weave together through the "bible timeline."

The history of God's chosen people, the Jews, is a fascinating story but viewed as a historical map it is a template undergone by all nations of the world. Poland's historical timeline includes "One Holy Tribe"; it evolved and became "One Holy Nation." Like the Judeo/Christian history that began with "One Holy Couple," Adam and Eve, as legend has it, Poland's history began with "One Holy Couple" as well, Wars and Sawa. Polish history is a reflection of God's relationship with the people of Israel, "not just a relationship of love; a history of love" as well. Is this a far out statement or is it just a reaffirmation that we are all part of the great mosaic of God's creation and dignity of the human spirit? That is the first question this year, and maybe it is a good one for us Poles that also "hold a lot of knowledge and traditions and 'stuff'."

Good luck to all of you. Szczere, najlepsze zyczenia w Nowym Roku. If it hasn't already, the Great Adventure of your Polish life is about to begin in 2010!

If you 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.

Note: if you send eMail, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

Celebrating 450 Years of Chopin and Paderewski

MINNEAPOLIS — In 2010, two of the most beloved Polish composers, Fryderyk Chopin and Ignacy Jan Paderewski, celebrate landmark birthdays. To commemorate these anniversaries, the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM), with The Saint Paul Conservatory of Music and Wells Pianos, will present a unique concert featuring today's piano prodigies of the Twin Cities. Young talented professionals will play exclusively the music of Chopin and Paderewski. The event includes explanatory readings about the composers and insight into their complex music.

PACIM invites all to come for an afternoon of beauty, in the sacred atmosphere of the Church of the Holy Cross (1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis) on Sun., Feb. 28 at 1:30 p.m. Directly after the performance is a tea and cakes reception to meet the Performers in Kolbe Hall. Tickets are \$5 at www.pacim.org and will available at the door.

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

Ojców National Park

Located about fifteen miles from Krakow, Ojców National Park comprises 40,000 beautifully-kept acres. The park consists of majestically, rolling hills, several river canyons, deep ravines, and an interesting maze of underground caves. Its hills elevate up over a thousand feet.

Rocks of limestone seem to resemble various shapes. Most well-known is the Mace of Hercules. Within the caves in the park, dwell many varieties of bats, flying and soaring about in their preferred surroundings. Also, these same caves were used as hideouts throughout history for rebellious fighters.

Plant and animal life is most

varied. In fact, some of these plants and animals are found nowhere else in Poland. For example, the dwarf birch is only found in Ojców forests. Covering hillsides, one can enjoy oak, maple, hornbeam and beech.

Within the park is Pieskowa Gora, a thirteenth century castle. It is a fine example of medieval architecture. It is said that the well in its courtyard is so deep that you have to wait several seconds to hear the tinkle of coins hitting the bottom.

A visit to Ojców National Park is most worthwhile. The beauty of nature combined with its architectural masterpieces, create a most unique place to visit.

Unique Polish Folk Art and Crafts
www.polishpeddler.net

BRUSH UP

Fish and Insects

okoń	..... (OH-koy)n	m	perch
pstrąg	..... (pstroh)nk	m	trout
szczupak	..... (SHCHUH-pahk)	m	pike
śledź	..... (shleh)dj	m	herring
węgorz	..... (VEHN-gohsh)	m	eel
pluskwa	..... (PLUHS-kfah)	f	bug
mrówka	..... (MRUHF-kah)	f	ant

pszczoła	..... (PSHCHOH-wah)	f	bee
motyl	..... (MOH-tihl)	m	butterfly
mucha	..... (MUH-hhah)	f	fly
pająk	..... (PI-yoh)nk	m	spider
komar	..... (KOH-mahr)	m	mosquito
osa	..... (OH-sah)	f	wasp
karaluch	..... (kah-RAH-luhh)	m	cockroach

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch

Phonetic ai is like eye

m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

NEWSWIRE

Mazowsze Opens New Center



A NEW CHAPTER IN MAZOWSZE HISTORY. Years in the making, the famed Polish song and dance company recently opened a new facility — *Matecznik Mazowsze* as a cultural center for visitor exchange between folk artists from around the world. Located on the premises of their picturesque Palace and complex in Karolin (near Warsaw), *Matecznik* is comprised of a rehearsal center, meeting rooms, wellness area with personal gym and sauna, a 98-person Guesthouse Inn, an 80-seat traditional Polish cuisine tavern — *Karczma Staropolska*, and a 3766 sq. ft multi-use amphitheatre arena — created for both indoor and outdoor concerts, which seats 563.

The opening ceremony was entitled *Inspiracje Chopinowskie* (Chopin Inspirations) featured pianist Krzysztof Jabłoński and the Polish Radio Orchestra under the direction of Tadeusz Koźłowski playing Piano concerto in F minor op. 21; a presentation of a fragment of the film *Podróż Sentymentalna* about Polish-born conductor Arthur Rubinstein's 1979 return to Poland and connection to Mazowsze; and an excerpted performance by the Song and Dance Ensemble. In addition to its repertoire the company performed Witold Zapała's ballet impression to Frédéric Chopin's *Rondo à la Krakowiak* and folk songs by Chopin: *Życzenie, Laura i Filon* and *Hulanka*.

Among the invited guests were Deputy Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak and Cardinal Józef Glemp, Primate of the Poland.

SCHOLARSHIPS

ACPC 2009 Scholarship Winner At Jagiellonian



BOYD



GOTTWALT



KORSAK



KRUK

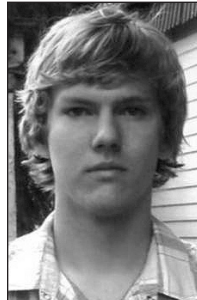


MACKENTHUN



MISZCZYK

Christopher Wojdak of Rochester, N.Y., who had been selected by the American Council for Polish Culture Scholarship Committee for the 2009 grant of \$2,000 for summer studies in Poland, spent three weeks studying at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.



WOJDAK

Wojdak (inset, left) informed the Committee that "the city of Krakow was beauty in and of itself ... and the old town is a sight to behold with an array of sightseeing and nightlife attractions and an impressive number of churches, cathedrals and monuments. The Mariacki church is a beautiful and famous landmark,

where a trumpeter plays the hejnal hymn every hour as a historic tribute to one bugler's brave call during the Tartar invasion of 1241. There is never a shortage of things to do in Krakow — pubs, cafes, dance clubs, restaurants, museums, and of course the Wawel Castle." Wojdak met people of all age groups and from many parts of the world. Students were "amiable and open-minded" and he made many new friends.

The Polish Language Course was very helpful, he discovered, as both an educational and life experience and he would highly recommend it to anyone with a remote interest in learning about Polish language and culture. Students were placed in groups according to personal ability level and each group had two "phenomenal" teachers. Material was presented in an interesting and fun way, often involving group work. There were trips every weekend, which enriched the experience greatly — Zakopany with a great chance to go mountain hiking in a very scenic part of Poland and a trip to Wielicka, Poland's oldest functioning salt mine. There was something for everyone in those trips and it made the program that much more enjoyable. He concluded that "I will cherish this experience for the rest of my life."

Camille Kopsielski announced the availability of applications for the 2010 Scholarship Awards. She advises interested students to initiate their applications now as all documents must be postmarked and in receipt of the Chair on or before April 1, 2010. The application and requirements may be obtained by visiting the American Council for Polish Culture website www.pol-

ishcultureacpc.org or by contacting Mrs. Kopsielski, (847) 394-2520.

—Jo Louise Winters

Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul

MINNEAPOLIS — For a decade, the Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul has proudly awarded post-secondary scholarships to exceptional students of Polish heritage. The scholarship amount is \$2000 per student with five recipients each academic year. Since the year 2000, 51 Polish American students from Minnesota have received scholarships. Polanie Club scholarships are awarded based on Polish heritage, academic achievement, community involvement and a written composition.

Also, this year Polanie Club recognized **Erwin Kruk**, a talented young Polish American musician from St. Paul with \$2000 Rose Polski Anderson Music Scholarship.

Polanie Club academic year 2009-2010 scholarship recipients are: **Alexandra Boyd** of Medota Heights—Marquette University; **Anne Gottwalt** of Plymouth—Cornell University, N.Y.; **Sebastian Korsak** of Minneapolis—Hamline University; **Stephanie Mackenthun** of Fridley—College of St. Benedict/St. John's University; **Agata Miszczyk** of Rochester—Macalester College; and **Erwin Kruk** of Eden Prairie, music scholarship—McNelly Smith College of Music.

For information about the club, call (612) 379-9134.

Jewish Survivor, Polish Rescuer Reunited

TEL AVIV — In 1942, in Dubno, Poland, a family of five offered to hide a Jewish family they had known before the war started if they felt their lives were in danger. As the Germans prepared that fall to eliminate the Jewish ghetto, the eight members of the Fiszer family and seven other Jews escaped and made their way to the home of Piotr Kwarciak, an army man, his wife, and their three teenaged sons.

Kwarciak had built a camouflaged underground shelter, hidden under a pig sty. It was tiny, with only room to sit, but for the next year and a half the 15 refugees would stay there. Despite great risk to their own lives, the Kwarciak family provided them with food and clothing. The

sons stole food from summer camps to feed the household that then numbered 20 members.

In 1944, as the German front lines and the Red Army grew closer to their home, the Kwarciaks themselves were forced to take shelter in the bunker. German soldiers took up residence in their empty home, using it for a command post for three weeks. The property came under heavy mortar fire from the Soviet Army, but the bunker was not hit. Starving and weary, the mothers left the shelter and — convincing the troops they were from a neighboring family — managed to smuggle leftovers from the Germans' meals by cleaning for them. Finally, in March 1944, the families were liberated.

The Jewish refugees emigrated to Israel after the war, and the Kwarciak family moved to an area within Poland's new borders. Both families kept in touch over the years. In 1989 Yad Vashem recognized the Kwarciak family as Righteous Among Nations, a recognition of the minority who mustered extraordinary courage to uphold human values in the time of horrifying abuses.

Kwarciak and his wife Rusina were reunited with Michale Fisher and Esther Klempner at Yad Vashem, organized by Fisher's family for his 80th birthday. "I want you to look around this room," Dudu Fisher told one his father's rescuers. "Most of the people sitting here today are here because of you."

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Big Business Needs to Take Responsibility

THE SURPRISING SOLUTION
Creating Possibility in a Swift and Severe World
by Bruce Paisecki
Sourcebooks, Inc, 2009, appendix, charts, index, 315 pp., \$15.99

Paisecki is concerned about the current realities that face us. He writes about the near future and the problems we have brought upon ourselves in the past. The swiftness of global market information, the severity of social problems such as climate change, the rising price of oil illustrates the need for Social Response Capitalists.

Social pressures include climate change and how it affects the need for food, water, air and timber. There is also concern of global terrorism, Avian bird flu and the devastation of AIDS.

The surprising solution, Paisecki believes, relies on Big Business taking responsibility for more than producing goods and making money. There are over four billion poor people on this earth. There is poverty, illness, crime and more. Corporations will thrive by making better products that are sustainable and would aid in developing a glob-

al economy for a better world.

This is a thoughtful book, which looks at the future and offers provocative ideas that will improve the world. It will be of much interest to those who are concerned with our global future.

ZAPOLSKA'S WOMEN
Three Plays, translated and introduction by Teresa Murjas
Intellect Books, Bristol, UK, 400 pp, photographs, notes, \$30.00

Murjas took on a tremendous task of translating three plays of Maria Gabriela Stefania Korwin-Piotrowski, who took the stage name of Gabriela Zapolska. She was born in 1857 and died in 1921 in Poland.

Malka Szwarcenkopf, written in 1897, was the first of 40 plays. It dealt with life of Warsaw Jews, for a mixed bilingual audience. Plays written in Yiddish were banned in the Russian partition but Zapolska used Jewish words scattered throughout and was able to pass the censors. This performance laid bare the gritty realism of arranged marriages.

"The Man," written in 1901, centers on the relationship of two

sisters, Julka and Elka, and Karol, a married man responsible for Elka's pregnancy. This play about love is perhaps the first to explore the feminism of women.

Miss Maliczewska, a contemporary drama was written in 1910, during which time Zapolska's health deteriorated and she was bedridden for long periods of time.

The theme of this play is betrayal. It had been called a one-sided damning of the male sex, while liberal publications hailed it as a realistic play with a strong sense of social purpose at its heart. Characters here include a prostitute, a mistress, and a poor washerwoman who is trying to make a living washing other people's clothes and taking in a boarder, which apparently is illegal.

The three plays are complete, with photographs of the actors and prolific notes pertaining to the scenes. The book is remarkable, as it not only includes the play itself, but Zapolska's coaching and teaching actors as far as the clothes they wear, the positions and facial responses. Her plays are remarkable as they intertwined Jewish and Polish culture at a time when Poland

was under foreign rule.

Murjas has successfully translated the plays, noting such details as objects on a bookshelf and decorations on the women's sleeves. Murjas herself staged "The Man" in 2005. Playwrights and actors will certainly appreciate Murjas' efforts.

WARSAW SPRING
by Heather Kirk
Napoleon & Co, Toronto, 2001,
245 pp, \$8.95

Eighteen year old Eva is an uncomfortable position at home and she flees to Poland, to look for Hanna, a mysterious half-sister she never knew existed. Hanna graciously gives her a room in her small apartment, and gradually Eva, through Hanna and Mark, a new friend, she learns about Communism and the problem of daily living. Mark is heavily involved in the Underground news releases.

Pope John Paul II plans to visit Poland, and the people's faith and determination is strengthened. Eva feels the stirrings against the Communist regime. She feels she has become a true Pole, learning about their customs and traditions, when

she receives a telegram saying her grandmother is gravely ill and urging her to come home. She is torn with indecision, feeling she has a family in Poland as well as Canada. But she returns home, when Hanna promises to follow, and she gives Eva her father's address in the United States.

A DROP OF RAIN
by Heather Kirk
Napoleon & Co, Toronto, 2004

Naomi has many problems—she feels out of place at school, and when a dying aunt moves in with them, taking Naomi's room, she grumbles and feels lost. Her mother has little time for her and her father, whom she has never seen, lives in Poland. The separation is never explained and she dreams of going to Poland to visit him. A class assignment takes her mind off her problems as she interviews relatives who were in the last war. In a diary form she records the many trials and tribulations the Polish people had to endure. Additionally, she records her family situation and friends, coming to an understanding of what brought her mother to the brink of despair.

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

CALIFORNIA

SANGER — Rey Jayvee Hinungan and Jennifer Williams, students at Sanger High School in Central California — with the guidance of their coaches Angelique Duvet-Tovar and Alison Halsey — entered the Fresno County History Day 2009 competition. The subject of their entry was “Names in the Glass Jar: The Story of Irena Sendler.”

They won first place.

The Sanger High School students “found little published in books” about Sendler. As a primary source, they conducted a phone interview with Megan Felt, one of team of Kansas high school students who uncovered the Sendler story while working on a National History Day project. Kansas students visited Sendler in Poland and toured various venues in the United States (including a Jewish Center in Los Angeles) publicizing Sendler’s heroic actions during the Second World War.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The Polish American Association (PAA) is proud to announce that Robert J. Paszczak, former Senior Vice President at JP Morgan Chase, will be serving as the Chairman of its Board of Directors for their 2010 fiscal year. Paszczak has been a member of PAA’s Board of Directors for 12 years.

Gary Kenzer will be serving as PAA’s new Executive Director. Kenzer has been a professional in the nonprofit world for over 25 years holding executive leadership roles in several community based agencies and an international humanitarian organization. He holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a bachelor’s degree from Loyola University Chicago.

The Polish American Association is Chicago’s only human services organization providing a comprehensive range of bicultural services to the Polish community and others in need. Major program areas



KOLEDY RETURN TO BUFFALO’S HISTORIC POLONIA. On Friday, December 18, Forgotten Buffalo Tours traveled to various Polish Historic District sites and Polish-owned taverns on the city’s East Side as part of its “Polish Tavern Christmas” tour.

Above, left, Whitey Mazurek — with the help of Henry Mazurek, Ron Urbanczyk and Tony Krupski — sings koledy at the R&L Lounge on Mills Street, near the famous Broadway Market. The quartet also performed at

include Social Services, Education and Employment and Naturalization. Each month, more than 3,000 people receive assistance from any of the nonprofit organization’s 32 programs and services. For more information please visit the PAA’s web site at www.polish.org

MICHIGAN

EAST LANSING — Delegates and observers attended the 2009 Michigan Young Republican Convention recently to convene to elect the MYR’s statewide leadership. The Convention was held on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

New officers nominated and elected are: Chair **Scott R. Czasak** of Macomb County, also Chairman of the Macomb County YR’s, and the Americans for a Conservative Tomorrow-PAC; Vice-Chair Angelique Rea; Treasurer Rob Macomber; Secretary Paul Cusick; National Committeeman Troy Rolling; and National Committeewoman **Victoria Czapski**.

MUSKEGON — The **Pulaski Lodge** closed after 74 years of operation. The fraternal organization will continue, but the lodge will

close. Lodge President Mike Cameron said the primary reason behind the shutdown is the inability to find someone to take over the leadership reins.

Pulaski Lodge, a Henry Street fixture since 1935, is already for sale.

Cameron has been lodge president since 1987. Due to issues of health and the stresses of the position — which he manages with help from his wife, Carol, in addition to his regular job as the city of Muskegon’s code enforcement officer — Cameron is more than ready to step down. Unfortunately, he says, no qualified board member has been willing to take the reins.

Pulaski Lodge will remain an affiliate in good standing of its national organization, the Chicago-based Polish National Alliance.

Polish Falcons on Hackley Avenue and the Polish Union on Henry Street say they don’t plan to close anytime soon.

“It’s just too bad (about Pulaski Lodge) because it was such a going club,” said Marge Birch, manager of the Polish Falcons. “But things are changing. Our membership is getting older, too, and the younger ones don’t seem that interested in it.”

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — January 10, 2010. **Jaselka.** After 11:30 mass at Holy Cross Church (1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis) the Christmas story will be re-enacted by Polish Saturday School children in the auditorium.

MINNEAPOLIS — PACIM **Kulig / Sleigh Ride Adventure.** Come and experience the Polish Kulig from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2010 at Bunker Hills Regional Park in Andover. We will start with an hour-long horse drawn sleigh ride through woods and end at a bonfire where we will roast Polish sausages and marshmallows. Bring your friends, some spirits, plenty of warm clothes, and enjoy as authentic a Kulig as we can offer. Cost is \$12 per person and space is limited to the first 30 people. It begins promptly at 3:00 p.m. It is recommended that you be there about a half hour before starting time. Sausages, apple cider, etc will be provided. Registration and pre-payment at www.pacim.org. Also, RSVP to Aneta Toporowska at (612) 605-2425.

MINNEAPOLIS — **Stanislaw Skrowaczewski** will be premiering his “Music for Winds,” in the United States. Featured artist is violinist Gina DiBello. All performances are at Orchestra Hall. Thurs., Feb. 4 at 11:00 a.m. \$22-\$56; Fri., Feb. 5 at 8:00 p.m. \$26-\$84; Sat., Feb. 6 at 8:00 p.m. 26-\$84. For tickets, call (612) 371-5656 or (800) 292-4141



three other family-owned Polish taverns, and the former Corpus Christi Church Athletic Club lounge, where participants enjoyed a Wigilia-style dinner and a tour of church.

The next day (photo, right), musicians Al Kania, Tony Krupski and Ted Kania provided the music for the tour, this time photographed at Gene “Porky” Pokorowski’s Amber Lounge located on Clinton Street in Kaiser-town, which is located on the city’s far East Side.

or visit minnesotaorchestra.org.

MINNEAPOLIS — Polish Rosary **Bake Sale.** Feb. 12-13, 2010. Held in Kolbe Hall, lower level of John Paul II School, Holy Cross Church complex at 17th Avenue and Fourth Street NE. Handicap parking and elevator entrance at rear of the building are accessed by the alley between the church and school on Saturday after 4:30 mass and Sunday after all morning masses. For more information, call (612) 789-7238.

ST. PAUL — **Bal Karnawalowy.** The St. Paul Hotel has been committed for February 13 and the food has been chosen. The Tim Belden Band is under contract. The committee says they are trying to hold the price to \$55. PACIM is soliciting silent auction items or services. Please call us at (612) 378-9291 to donate.

MINNEAPOLIS — Feb. 16, 2010. **Sauerkraut Supper.** Famous Pre-Lenten Meal will be held in the Auditorium, upper level of John Paul II School, Holy Cross Church complex at 17th Avenue and Fourth Street NE. Handicap parking and elevator entrance at rear of the building are accessed by the alley between the church and school. For more information, call (612) 789-7238.

MINNAPOLIS — **Fish Fry / Polish Stations** at Kolbe Hall, lower level of John Paul II School, Holy Cross Church complex, Feb. 19-March 26. Handicap parking and elevator entrance at rear of the building are accessed by the alley between the church and school. Polish mass/stations start at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call (612) 789-7238.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK — **Thaddeus Gromada**, executive director of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences in America, participated in a seminar on “Twenty Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall: the Lessons of History” sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of America and the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, Nov. 9, 2009 at the Ukrainian Institute in New York City. Dr. Taras Hunczak, Professor Emeritus of Rutgers University moderated the seminar. Other participants include Dr. Alexander Motyl, Rutgers University and Permanent Representatives to the UN from the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Albania, Poland, and Latvia.

NEW YORK — Responding a call by the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences in America, **Dr. Harold Segel**, former PIASA board member and Professor Emeritus of Slavic Literatures and Comparative Literature at Columbia University,

recently donated \$1500 to underwrite PIASA’s Dissertation Award, which will be presented during the 68th Annual Meeting in Milwaukee in June 2010. Dissertations on Polish topics that were accepted at an American university in the calendar year of 2009 will be eligible. Nominations with a copy of the doctoral dissertation should be submitted on or before March 20, 2010. More details will be available on PIASA’s website. www.piasa.org.

NEW YORK — **Bianca Wisniewski**, the pioneering female hardhat who was suing her construction company employer for sexual harassment, was killed in a fire that ripped through her Queens home, neighbors and officials said.

Wisniewski, who filed a \$20 million suit this summer that charged she was propositioned at JPMorgan Chase’s Park Ave. construction site, was sleeping when flames erupted in her apartment, her neighbors said.

Wisniewski, 44, died at New York Hospital Queens. Her 17-year-old daughter, Olivia, and two adult male relatives were also home and were unconscious when firefighters pulled them from the flames.

Another daughter, Nicole, 16, was not home when the fire broke out. The cause of the fire, which started in the living room of Wisniewski’s fifth-floor home, was not immediately known, but FDNY officials said it was not considered suspicious.

Wisniewski’s boyfriend, Bogdan Balamut, voiced doubts, explaining Wisniewski had told him of strange phone calls she had been receiving.

Wisniewski, a Polish immigrant, embarked upon a career in the construction industry to show her daughters a woman could thrive in a male-dominated field.

PORT WASHINGTON — The **Polish American Cultural Association** celebrated its 75th anniversary, Nov. 1. Originally called the Polish Immigrants Society, the members held their first meeting in a bakery. Its purpose was to develop community pride and promote cultural heritage through holiday gatherings, lectures, concerts, and exhibits. Assistance was available in applying for citizenship or with immigration proceedings. Translators were available when needed.

It is still active in operations benefiting the area’s Polonia, as well the wider community. These include benefits for medical, religious, and other ethnic groups. One of its most successful social events is the annual Miss Polonia Pageant. It also offers scholarships to senior students of Polish descent.

SOURCE: NY DAILY NEWS

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