

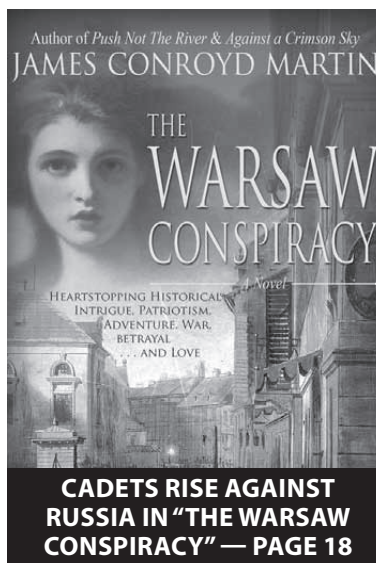
POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

EVIDENCE POINTS TO EARLY POLES AS INVENTORS OF CHEESE • SCHOLARSHIP TO REMEMBER NEWTOWN VICTIM
 GALAZKA ON POLISH-INTEREST BOOKS • POLAND AND POLONIA – STILL “SEMPER FIDELIS”?
 WIN A POLISH COOKBOOK IN ENGLISH • KUBIAK’S POLISH-TEXAN ROOTS • SUGGESTED EARLY-YEAR ACTIVITIES



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

NEWSMARK

SIX MORE POLES NAMED “RIGHTEOUS.” Israeli ambassador to Poland posthumously honored six more Poles who helped Jews during World War II Nazi-occupied Poland.

The awards, given by the Yad Vashem institute in Jerusalem since 1963, are presented to “righteous gentiles” who helped save the lives of Jews.

Over 6,000 Poles have been awarded the Righteous Among the Nations honor out of a total of 24,000 medals.

The ceremony at the Prime Minister’s office in Warsaw was attended by Ambassador Zvi Rav-Ner and former Polish foreign minister and inmate of the German Nazi Auschwitz death camp, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski.

Poles posthumously awarded included Princess Worniecka-Czartoryski, Stanislaw Olewnik, Helena and Leon Godlewski, Maria and Micha Golba and Leokadia and Antoni Jastrzab.

The award ceremony coincided with the 70th anniversary of Zegota, an underground organization formed in Warsaw during World War II, and aimed at helping Jews.

Zegota was established in December 1942 as part of the Polish resistance against Nazi occupation. The council supplied hidden Jews with funds, found them apartments and hiding places, and supplied them with false documents.

AN “UNIMAGINABLY BARBARIC ACT.” A painting by a Swedish artist which he says was made with ashes from a former Nazi concentration camp has been displayed in a gallery in Sweden.

Artist Carl Michael von Hausswolff said that he stole the ashes from the Majdanek camp during a visit in 1989.

The camp, now a museum in Poland, has called the alleged theft an “unimaginably barbaric act.”

The artist said the ashes were mixed with water and used to paint a series of grey streaks in the small painting.

Museum officials have said that the painting may be an artistic provocation but it deserves only condemnation.

An estimated 80,000 people were murdered by the Nazis in Majdanek.

The museum has said it hopes the authorities will quickly establish whether the remains of the camp’s victims had been stolen and desecrated and added it was sure the artist did not obtain them legally.

In a text on the Lund gallery’s website, the artist is quoted as describing collecting “some ashes from cremation ovens” during a visit to the camp in 1989.

POLAND WITHHOLDS VOTE ON PALESTINE. Poland abstained as the United Nations voted to raise Palestinian status, stating that while moving Palestine a step closer toward recognition as an independent state, giving Palestine “non-member observer status” will not change the situation for Palestinians and may “make it more difficult to return to direct Israeli-Palestinian talks, thereby halting progress in the peace process.”

Poland’s Foreign Ministry elaborates further by stating: “We believe that the only effective way of resolving the Middle East peace process is through direct negotiations between the parties.”

The UN General Assembly voted to afford Palestine the new status 138 for to 9 against, with 41 nations (including Poland) abstaining. Germany and the United Kingdom also abstained.

POLAND BANNED THE RELIGIOUS SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS after a constitutional court ruled that killing animals for kosher and halal meat contradicted animal welfare laws. The court found that a 2004 amendment which permitted the cutting of an animal’s throat without stunning it first to be in violation of a 1997 Polish animal welfare law and the constitution. The amendment was added to bring Polish law closer to that of the European Union.

Although Poland has few Jewish and Muslim communities and only eighteen slaughter houses registered to perform religious slaughter, EU regulations permitting religious slaughter become effective this month.

Olivia Smoliga: A Splashing Success



SMOLIGA. Chicago high school senior broke her own national swim record.

by Geraldine Balut-Coleman

GLENVIEW, ILL. —Talk about Olympic-bound! This Glenbrook South High School senior celebrated as she broke her own national high school record in the 50-yard freestyle. During the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) state swimming meet, this past November 18, Olivia Smoliga, broke national records in the 50-yard freestyle (21.99) and the 100-yard backstroke (51.43).

Smoliga, a Glenview native and a University of See “Smoliga,” page 4

Guards Foil Attack on Poland’s Sacred Icon

Attacker hurled black paint at Częstochowa’s Black Madonna

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Monastery guards foiled a rare attempted attack on Poland’s most sacred icon of the Black Madonna and Infant in the southern city of Częstochowa, causing widespread outrage among the faithful of this staunchly Catholic country. The attack occurred during Sunday morning mass, when a 58-year-old man hurled light bulbs filled with black paint at the elaborately gilt-framed holy picture.

“The man was immediately restrained by the Jasna Góra monastery guard and turned over to police for questioning,” Częstochowa police spokeswoman Joanna Lazar told this reporter. “The icon, which is shielded by a protective plate of glass, was undamaged.” If declared to be sound of mind, the assailant, who lives in the southwestern town of Świdnica, could be charged with offending religious sensibili-



The icon of the Black Madonna and Infant, Poland’s most sacred icon, was attacked when a man threw light bulbs filled with black paint at the framed holy picture. Shielded by a protective plate of glass, it was not ruined.

ties which under Polish law carries a maximum two-year prison sentence.

The police version was corroborated by the Jasna Góra website which said: “Today an attempt to destroy the miraculous Painting of the Queen of Poland was made by defacing it with a black substance. Thanks to special safeguards the painting was not harmed in any way.”

Jasna Góra spokesman Fa-

ther Robert Jasiulewicz said the monastery was swamped with phone calls from people who sobbed and asked in shuddering voices whether it was true. “They felt somewhat relieved when I told them the black Madonna icon had not been harmed,” he said on Polish television. Bishops rushed to the scene and together with the monastery’s Pauline monks held See “Icon ...,” page 4

Polish Literature Turns 500

by Ray Cavanaugh

Polish Literature has now seen print for exactly half a millennium. The first publication occurred in 1513 in



Hortulus Animae (Eden of the Soul), first published in Latin in 1498, was translated into Polish by Biernat of Lublin, and was printed as *Rajduszny* in Krakow in 1513. The last known copy disappeared during World War II.

Kraków, then the capital city and a fervent cultural bastion of scientists, scholars, and enterprising businessmen. Be-

longing to this last group was a pair of Bavarian expatriates, Florian Ungler and trusty assistant Kasper Hochfeld; they had established a Kraków printing business.

The craft of publishing books was a relatively new one; Johannes Gutenberg’s world-altering invention had existed barely fifty years. There was a rather narrow thematic scope in regard to what was being published. Printed materials generally belonged to one of two categories – religion or government – and were typically published in Latin.

Ungler was looking to defy the industry convention. He harbored dreams of branching out into the arena of Polish-language materials. A main obstacle to attaining this dream, however, was that

there was no Polish literature around to print. Ungler needed a scholar, someone who could translate the literati

standard of Latin into digestible Polish prose. He found his man for the task in one Biernat of Lublin.

Born in 1465, Biernat z Lublina was a physician and poet who supplemented his income with translations. Like many intellectuals of his day, he had caught the humanistic Renaissance ethos that was cascading across Europe in an omnidirectional

wave. Though, at this point, details of much of his life are quite scant, it is clear that Biernat had aroused the suspicions of the Catholic Church. Even before the day of Martin Luther’s famous act of rebellion, he was viewed by the Church as a “protestant writer.”

Arousing Church indigna- See “Literature ...,” page 4

What’s Old is New Again



RECALCULATED DESIGNS, a Farmington Hills, Michigan-based clothing line, creates contemporary Polish folk- and military-inspired apparel and accessories. Owned by Barbara and Alexandra Lisecki, this mother-daughter team comes from a long line of tailors, folk artists and historians in Poland. Story on page 4.

ALMANAC



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January • Styczeń

Gdy w Nowy Rok jasno, w gummach będzie ciasno. When the New Year's bright, the barns will be tight.

- 1 Świętego Nowego Roku! Happy New Year!
3 1795. Third Partition of Poland.
5 1173. Death of Bolesław IV the Curly
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 Łukasiewicz, inventor of the kerosine lamp. (b. 1822).
8 1681. The Treaty of Radzin ended a five year war between the Turks and the allied countries of Russia and Poland.
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 1582. Russia cedes Livonia and Estonia to Poland, losing access to Baltic.
1797. In St. Petersburg, Russia, Prussia, and Austria signed and act that terminated the Lithuanian-Polish state.
17 1649. Coronation of John II Casimir Vasa.
18 1943. Jews in Warsaw Ghetto began an uprising against the Nazis.
21 1268. Pope Clement IV gave permission to Poland's King Premislaus II to take over Lithuania and establish Catholicism.
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.
24 1507. Coronation of Sigismund I the Old.
25 1913. Birth of pianist and composer Witold Lutoslawski.
26 1934. Germany signed a 10-year non-aggression pact with Poland, breaking the French alliance system. Germany violates with pact on Sept. 1, 1939 when it invades Poland.
27 1986. Death of Poznan-born Lilli Palmer (Lillie Marie Peiser), 71, actress, in Los Angeles.
1842. Birth of Fr. Jozef Dabrowski, educator and founder of Orchard Lake Schools. (d. 1903).
1919. Birth of Bishop Alfred Abramowicz, auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and national director of Liga Katolicka (Catholic League).
28 1573. 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 liquefied gases. (d. 1915)
30 1717. Surrounded by the Russian army the Lithuanian-Polish parliament reduced its army by half and acknowledged Russian protection.
31 1887. Death of Włodzimierz Bonawentura Krzyżanowski (b. July 8, 1824), Civil War general. In Washington, D.C., Krzyżanowski enlisted as a private two days after President Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers in early 1861.

This paper mailed on or before December 29, 2012. The February edition will be mailed on or before January 25.

JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

Happy New Year — Świętego Nowego Roku

We send all our readers wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2013.

In Poland, New Year's Eve (Sylwester) celebrations include both indoor and outdoor festivities. A large open-air concert is held in the Main Square in Krakow. 150,000 to 200,000 revelers celebrate the New Year with live music and a fireworks display over St. Mary's Basilica. Similar festivities are held in other cities around Poland.

The New Year's Eve party takes its name from Pope Sylvester I, a Roman, who — according to legend — caught a dragon named Leviathan. It was believed that, on the first day of the year of 1000, the dragon was going to free himself from Pope Sylvester's hold, set forth to demolish both land and people, and set fire to the heavens. However, when that day came, the dragon was still captive and the world did not end, people started rejoicing and celebrating New Year's Day as St. Sylvester's Day.

We hope the śledzie you ate at midnight of 2013 brings you the abundance you hoped for.

In the spirit St. Sylvester, there are few dragons we'd like to see slain in 2013. Their demise would bring to

fruition some good news for all. These include:

- The lifting of the Visa waiver for Poles wanting to visit relative in the United States.
• Improved U.S.-Poland relations, with the United States once again looked upon as a leader in Poland and in the Free World.
• Progress in the canonization procedure of Pope John Paul II, unquestionably one of the greatest pontiffs to sit in St. Peter's Chair.
• The safe return of those serving in the military.
• Better understanding between the Polish and Jewish communities about life in Poland during World War II and in pre-War Poland. Hopefully, we can focus on our similarities and stop unfairly reminding each other of our differences.
• Support for all Polish American clubs, organizations, and media. There are many good things happening, yet many go unnoticed because of pitiable public relations.

On behalf of the staff of the Polish American Journal, do siego roku! All the best to you and yours in the New Year.

Making the Most of It

In 2012, our print subscriber mail list took a little hit, as have most print publications in recent years. Fortunately, many new readers have subscribed, virtually negating the loss (and thus fueling the "we can never get ahead" atmosphere one feels when we talk to our accounting department).

We constantly need new subscribers to replace those who have gone on to meet St. Peter. Luckily, St. Anthony has found us a new audience with our digital edition of the PAJ. This is very popular with the younger generation and the computer-savvy. Many older subscribers like it because they can zoom in the PDF files, thus making it easier for them to read.

One of our new digital subscribers suggested we send complimentary copies of the PAJ to our Polish Ameri-

can leaders in Washington, in the state capitols, county offices, and city halls. This will keep them abreast of events both in Poland and in their own Polonias. This reader made a modest donation to the PAJ Press Fund to develop this idea.

We now turn to our readers and ask them to supply us with the e-mail address of their Polish American officials. We do not have the staff to compile such a list, but we do know that many of you have such information already at your disposal. Please send the official's name, mailing address, telephone number and — most importantly — e-mail address, and we will give them a one-year complimentary digital subscription to the Polish American Journal.

SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

We Must Learn How to Exert Political Muscle

Dear Editor:

"Hey! What About Us?" laments the PAJ (Nov., 2012, p. 3) referring to the absence of media coverage of the Pulaski Memorial Day Parade in an area of New York inhabited by 1.8 million Americans of Polish descent. Surprised? I am not. It has been happening in every corner of America. Just recently, the newly-elected mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel removed the observance of Pulaski Day from the City's official list of holidays/cultural events stating: "It is not necessary." And this happened in a city where a Polish population of over a million — the largest Polish population outside of Warsaw — is heavily concentrated; where the Polish culture has been a dominant feature for over 100 years, has. This insolent act was met with the customary silence by Polish

community.

Poles have been ignored, not only in the coverage of our heritage, but also in the much more serious areas of foreign and domestic policy. In 2009, the newly-elected President Barack Obama abrogated the missile tracking system agreement made with Poland by his predecessor, just to please Putin. In 2008, the senior senator from New York, Charles Schumer, suggested publicly to restore Russians dominance over Eastern Europe in exchange for Russia's cooperation in solving the nuclear weapon issue. While President Roosevelt was selling Poland to Stalin in 1944, Polish Americans were overwhelmingly voting for his re-election. During the Cold War, we allowed the press and book publishers to label us as German collaborators and willing helpers in the extermination of Jews. Only now have we started correcting that false

history, but the "Polish concentration camps" phrase still pops out, even from the President's lips.

Poles will be constantly ignored in the American political culture unless and until we learn how to exert political muscle. Just consider the influence of the Hispanic vote on the last presidential election, and watch the influence they will exert in the immediate months and years on American government policies close to the Hispanic's heart. Comprehending this electoral reality, it is easier to understand the notorious visa waiver issue and the rationale behind the refusal of granting a waiver to Poland. Those who vote en bloc, apply political pressure, are listened to regardless of their immigration status. Those who lack political muscle wait in line.

All Polish American organizations and individuals of stature and influence should start concentrating on developing Polish political

Easter is Early This Year, March 31

Easter Greetings Deadline is March 8

Because Easter falls in March this year, the Annual Special Easter Edition (April) of the Polish American will be published a week earlier than normal. Please note this on your calendars.

Copy Deadlines

February PAJ.....January 4
March PAJ.....February 1
April PAJ.....March 1

Advertising Deadlines

February PAJ.....January 11
March PAJ.....February 8
April PAJ.....March 8

The PAJ depends on income generated by its Special Editions (Easter, Christmas, and Polish Heritage Month) to balance its books. Please contact us about your Easter greetings before the March 8th deadline.

Urban Scholarship Contest Winners to be Announced in February

Due to the passing of Leopold Potsiadlo, organizer and one of the judges in the PAJ's Matthew Urban Veteran's Day Scholarship Contest, the results of the contest will not be released until February.

Winners and runners-up will be notified later this month.

The First Prize is \$500.00 The first runner-up will receive \$250.00, and the third runner-up has the choice of a Lionel O-gauge Harry Potter train set, or \$100.00.

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YOUR POLONIA

KAMINSKI WINS THIRD TERM. Frank Spula, national president of the Polish American Congress (left), congratulates Bozena Kaminski on her election to a third term as his organization's vice president for Polish Affairs. Her husband, Andrew Kaminski (right); adds his congratulations.



Her victory took place at the semi-annual national directors meeting of the Congress, held in Chicago last October. Kaminski's proven record of important accomplishments as liaison between the Polish American Congress and the Polish government won her the votes she needed to maintain her post..

Kaminski is also an officer of the Downstate New York Division of the Polish American Congress and executive director of the Polish & Slavic Center in Greenpoint, N.Y.



POLISH STUDENT COMMUNITY COMMEMORATES NOVEMBER 11th. Students from Washington, D.C.'s American University, Georgetown University, and George Washington University gathered Sun., Nov. 11 to commemorate the dual holidays of November 11th. This day shares two holidays, marking the day of Polish Independence and Veterans Day in the United States.

To best bring both these holidays together, Polish American student Matthew Stefanski organized a student event involving the Pulaski and Kosciuszko monuments in Washington.

"These men best exemplify the two holidays," said Stefanski. "Both men fought for Polish Independence, Pulaski with the Bar Confederation and Kosciuszko leading the Kosciuszko Uprising. Additionally both men were veterans of the U.S. armed forces, fighting in the American Revolution war and leading hundreds of American soldiers under their command."

To honor these two generals and the cause they represent students organized and participated in a wreath laying ceremony, laying wreaths at Freedom Plaza at the foot of Pulaski Monument and in Lafayette Park where the Kosciuszko Monument is located, right across from the White House.

The event concluded with a short history of the two men, and their ties to both holidays being celebrated on November 11

The DC Polish Student Community is a loose grouping of Polish American students and Polish Student Clubs from Washington-based universities.



Zdrowia i błogosławieństwa Bożego oraz szczęśliwego Nowego 2013 Roku!

REV. MSGR. THOMAS C. MACHELSKI
Rector, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary
3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324



AMBASSADOR MULL HONORED BY NKMF. Confirmed U.S. Ambassador Stephen D. Mull (above, left) was proclaimed an Honorary Member of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF) on October 16, 2012 at a private reception sponsored by the Washington Area Polish American Congress. A detailed report about the meeting appeared in the December 2012 issue of the Polish American Journal.

Ambassador Mull received the official armband of the NKMF from its Chairman Richard P. Poremski (above, right). The ambassador said he was very pleased to accept the honor and recognition. He is also being presented with a framed membership certificate and an actual black granite artifact conserved from the Memorial's construction phase.

On November 8, 2012 Ambassador Mull presented his diplomatic credentials to Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski in Warsaw.

— Richard Poremski



POLISH UNION OF AMERICA'S OCEAN VOYAGE. A group of forty-nine recently returned from a seven-day cruise to Bermuda, aboard NCL's *Norwegian Star*. James P. Jozwiak, national president of the Polish Union of America and president of Polish Falcons Nest 973, organized the trip.

As the ship sailed out of New York harbor, travelers could see the new "Freedom Tower," currently under construction. Another imposing sight was the Statue of Liberty, which appeared even more spectacular upon their return as dawn was breaking. The ship's crew made the cruise memorable with its outstanding service and shows. Bermuda's beauty and 80-degree temperature will long be remembered during upcoming winter months.

The group said they are ready to do it all again, and are looking forward to Polish Union's next planned trip to Colonial Williamsburg to see how America's colonists celebrated Christmas. There are a few seats remaining.

For more information, call (716) 677-0220.

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

KS. ROBERT WITKOWSKI
St. Edmund Church
Warren, Michigan

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH
— Parafia Matki Bożej Szkaplerznej —
976 Pope John Paul II Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192

Zdrowia i wszelkiej pomyślności w Nowym Roku 2013

Ks. Władysław Ptak, proboszcz
Ks. prałat Michał Dyląg
Ks. Stanisław Flis
Asystenci i Ss. Felicjanki

HERITAGE QUIZ

Win a Polish Cookbook in English

Try your hand at winning one of three Polish cookbooks by taking part in this year's Polish Heritage Quiz. First prize is *Polish Holiday Cookery* (248 pages), a collection of favorite easy-to-follow recipes for Polish-style Christmas, Easter, weddings, dinner parties, Polonian festivals and other festive occasions. The second prize is the 160-page *Pleasing Polish Recipes*, all the Old Polish favorites with plenty of historical and cultural tidbits thrown in. The winner of the third prize will receive *Culinary Traditions of Mazovia, Kashubia and Silesia* (60 pages), a color-illustrated compendium of beloved regional dishes with all recipes printed side by side in both Polish and English.

To be eligible, please write your name and mailing address at the top of a sheet of paper and indicate the letter (a, b or c which correctly answers the following questions):

- Poland's best-known living composer is: a) Ignacy Paderewski; b) Krzysztof Penderecki; c) Karol Szymanowski.
- The oldest Polish-American insurance fraternal is the: a) Polish National Alliance; b) Polish Roman Catholic Union; c) Polish Falcons of America.
- In the late 16th century Poland's capital was moved to Warsaw from: a) Poznań; b) Kraków; c) Gniezno.
- According to Polish tradition, the happiest marriages are those sacramentalized in the months of: a) February, May and July; b) March, June and December; c) April, July and November.
- In present-day Poland the Feast of the Assumption (August 15) is also celebrated as: a) Polish Independence Day; b) Polish Army Day; c) Polish Constitution Day.

Simply airmail your replies (U.S. postage \$1.05) without delay to: **Polish Heritage Quiz, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland** or e-mail them to: research60@gmail.com.

All correct entries will take part in a random drawing to determine the winners.

Powodzenia – Good luck!

Chase Kowalski Scholarship Fund Established

NEWTOWN, Conn. — The family of Chase Michael Anthony Kowalski, 7, one of the 20 children killed the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, has established a scholarship fund to perpetuate his memory.

A first-grader, he is remembered as being “full of life, a jokester with a great smile ... who was constantly outside, playing on the yellow slide or swimming in the pool in his backyard,” said Keeley Baumann, 13, his next-door neighbor. “And he loved his four-wheeler,” she said.

Chase had recently lost his two front teeth, and told friends that he wanted them back for Christmas.

“He was a fun loving energetic boy that had a true love of life,” read his obituary. “He completed his first triathlon at the age of six and ran in many community road races. Chase had a deep love for the game of baseball and enjoyed practicing with his father and team mates. Joining the cub scouts was just one of his many interests.”

Please make checks payable to “The Chase Kowalski Scholarship Fund,” and send to Peoples Bank, 470 Monroe Tpke., Monroe, CT 06468.

Szuch Starts Twenty-First Term



THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND re-elected its entire slate of officers for the year 2013. They are (l. to r.): Sonia Chapnick (sec.); Ben Kman (treas.); John F. Szuch (pres.); and Ron Kraine (v.p.).

This is Szuch's 21st term as president.

The group meets the first Tuesday of the month, except for July and August when there is no meeting. Meetings are held at St. Mary's PNC, 1901 Wexford Ave. (corner of Broadview Rd), Parma. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. with refreshments served. There is usually a program that deals with Polish genealogy, history, or culture. Guests are always welcome.

This year the PGSGC is going green which means that members will receive their quarterly bulletin on line and in color. Interested readers can request a copy by emailing John at: pulaskipro@aol.com or Ron at: ronkraine@aol.com. Please mention that you read it in the PAJ.

The organization also has a website, rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/.

Firm Launches New Polish Folk- and Military-inspired Clothing Line

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. — Recultured Designs Inc. is a Michigan-based clothing line that creates contemporary Polish folk and military inspired apparel and accessories.

Recultured Designs was founded by Barbara and Alexandra Lisiecki in May of 2012. This mother-daughter team comes from a long line of tailors, folk artists and historians from Poland. Their modern-day designs are developed in celebration of their Polish history and culture.

What makes Recultured Designs so unique? They refashion vintage and present-day clothing; textiles and materials creating modern designs that have a touch of Old European flavor. Every piece in the women's collection is one-of-a-kind.

“For a nation to survive we must continue our traditions,” said founder of Recultured Designs, Alexandra Lisiecki. “Our company was established for those lovers of Polish folklore and history who are proud of their heritage and want to display it in a new and exciting way.”

The women's line is comprised of handmade pieces that incorporate traditional Polish folk motifs throughout the designs which consist of a wonderful apparel of dresses, skirts, shirts, and aprons.



“Our company was established for those lovers of Polish folklore and history who are proud of their heritage and want to display it in a new and exciting way.”

Recultured Designs also includes a men's line that pays homage to the Polish history and military, as well as, to Polish pop culture. They include t-shirts, which are designed as Classics, Lotnik, and Konflikt.

To find out more, please visit www.reculturedesigns.com and www.facebook.com/ReculturedDesigns.

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

“It was Horrendous”

“I would have never thought in a million years I would have to go to a 7-year-old's funeral.”

— **Carl Baumann**, neighbor of first grader Chase Kowalski, a victim in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

❖ ❖ ❖

“It was horrendous. Everyone was in hysterics — parents, students. There were kids coming out of the school bloodied. I don't know if they were shot, but they were bloodied.”

— **Brenda Lebinski**, a parent of a third-grader at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., where a gunman entered the building and killed 26, including students and staff. Lebinski's daughter's teacher “immediately locked the door to the classroom and put all the kids in the corner of the room.”

“I believe there are no other countries in this region that are developing so fast and dynamically as Poland is now. That made us confident that Warsaw as a destination will attract many passengers, especially with Poles keen to travel to distant destinations in Asia, Africa and Australia ...”

— **Qatar Airline CEO Akbar Al Baker**, on his airline's entry into Poland.

❖ ❖ ❖

“Who knows, some of the ashes might come from some of my relatives.”

— **Salomon Schulman**, a key figure in Sweden's Jewish community, when about the artwork of Carl Michael von Hausswolff, who used ashes he claims he robbed from the Nazi Majdanek death camp, now a museum in Poland.

Smoliga: Began Competing in 2004

continued from cover
Georgia-bound senior, finished her high school swimming career with three individual state records, two national records, two state relay records and eight state titles. She won four individual state titles in the 50-yard freestyle in 2010 and 2011 and the 100-yard backstroke in 2010 and 2011. She holds state records in the 50-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle, and the 100-yard backstroke. She cut her own 50-yard freestyle record by .34 seconds and took 1.59 seconds off of her 100 yard backstroke record.

Smoliga is a statuesque 6 ft. 1 in. blonde who began swimming competitively in 2004, and by the time she was a sophomore, had celebrated her first state championship in the 100-yard backstroke. And from that time, she has not stopped.

There is no question that Smoliga is a hard worker. She takes after her parents, Tomasz and Elzbieta, who emigrated from Poland in 1991 and became naturalized U.S. citizens in 1997. Tom and Ela run a successful business.

Olivia has a younger brother, Matthew, an athlete in his own right.

Icon: Housed in a Special Chapel

continued from cover
a special service of expiation for the sacrilege.

The painting showing a dark-faced Blessed Virgin and Baby Jesus garbed in jewel-studded robes is housed in a special chapel of the imposing fortified Jasna Góra Monastery. The destination of countless pilgrimages, it is viewed and venerated by an estimated one million people each year. Most Polish-American visitors say they were deeply moved when viewing the ceremonial unveiling of the icon amid triumphant trumpet fanfares.

The Byzantine style icon is shrouded in lore and legend. According to one story, it was painted by St Luke the Evangelist on the table-top used by the Holy Family in

Nazareth. The painting is believed by many to have been brought to the monastery from the Balkans in 1382 by Poland's Prince Władysław of Opole.

Hussites (Czech Protestants) were initially blamed for damaging the icon during a 1430 attack, and the two slashes on the Virgin's right cheek were said to have been made by a heretic's sword. King Władysław Jagiełło was so incensed that he was ready to march against them. It turned out, however, that the attack and the damage it caused been the work of renegade Polish nobles out after loot.

In the mid-17th century, the monastery's Abbot Augustyn Kordecki at the head of a small garrison succeeded in repulsing Swedish

troops that had conquered most of Poland. Their defenders' example sparked off nationwide resistance that eventually swept the invaders back across the Baltic. During the 123 years of partitions (late 1700s to 1918), Jasna Góra was a religious and cultural beacon that kept Polish hopes alive.

More recently, Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa enshrined his 1983 Nobel Peace Prize medal to Jasna Góra. Fearful Poland's then communist rulers would not let him back into the country, he sent his wife and son to Oslo, Norway to collect it. Under the protection of Our Lady of Częstochowa, it was beyond the reach of the Jaruzelski regime, which viewed the award as a Western anti-communist conspiracy.

Literature: A Standard for Grammar Established

continued from cover
tion could be a rather dangerous pursuit back then, and Biernat would have known this all too well. According to Nobel Laureate Czesław Miłosz's book, *The History of Polish Literature*, Biernat's hometown of Lublin was a “scene of numerous trials of heretics.”

Whether or not convicted heretics believed they were truly headed for Catholic damnation, the Church, when prompted, could make their lives a burning hell on earth. Biernat, however, was ultimately undeterred by this prospect.

As a result of his secular enlightenment, Biernat (about the earliest known Polish native who published in any language) felt that literature should be made more accessible and not just the activity of a classically educated elite.

The work Biernat chose for translation was a prayer book called *Hortulus Animae* (*Little Garden of the Soul*). Its original Latin version saw publication in 1498. Three years later, the book appeared in the German vernacular. In short time, the prayer book became the early 1500s century equivalent to a *New York Times* bestseller.

Ungler the printer and Biernat the scholar were going to corner the Polish prayer book market. By the

time they were through, *Hortulus Animae* existed as *Raj duszny*. This groundbreaking piece of translated literature began spreading throughout the nation.

However, a main issue then confronting the Polish language was regional variation. Following the arrival of *Raj duszny*, Poland saw the publication of books that attempted to establish a standard for spelling and grammar.

Along with such books, Kraków printers produced Polish medical dictionaries and translations of the *New Testament*. Still, Latin remained the most frequently published language, largely due to its universality among scholars in Europe.

But the Polish word was out; the contributions of other Polish-language writers were circulating. Among these writers was poet Mikołaj Rej (viewed by many as the “Father of Polish Literature”), who rose to popularity just as Biernat's legacy began its decline.

Ultimately, *Hortulus Animae* and *Raj duszny* fell into obscurity. *Hortulus Animae* saw mention in the mid-19th century, when Edgar Allan Poe briefly referred to it in “The Man of the Crowd,” one of the macabre master's more obscure prose offerings. At this point, it appears

that none of the early Polish editions exist. The last known remaining copy vanished (or was destroyed) amidst the bedlam of World War II.

The printer that published *Raj duszny* eventually went out of business, as the 1600s saw an eventual decline in the number of Kraków printers: there were a dozen in 1610; by 1650 there were just 3. It seemed the excitement of Renaissance intellectualism had, to some extent, waned. By that time, however, the Polish books had circulated; Poland's literary tradition was underway.

When Kraków absorbed the Renaissance spirit it was only a matter of time until a venturesome printer and spirited scholar came together. From the marriage of Florian Ungler and Biernat of Lublin, the Polish Literature saw print, and another vernacular began to form its own literary tradition.

❖ ❖ ❖
Along with Czesław Miłosz's *The History of Polish Literature*, this article is indebted to Adam Zamojski's *The Polish Way*.

❖ ❖ ❖
Ray Cavanaugh has written for such publications as *The Irish World*, and *The London Magazine*, and *The Tulane Review*.

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Pressing Ahead

Hippocrene's Jacek Galazka Reflects on Publishing Polish-Interest Books

conclusion

1971-2012. Hippocrene Books arrived on the publishing scene in 1971. Its founder and publisher, George Blagowidow (a native of Czestochowa), began by distributing books of other publishers eager to have the benefit of Blagowidow's extraordinary talents and two decades of publishing experience.

Blagowidow started by distributing foreign language-English dictionaries. He knew that American publishers of foreign language dictionaries concentrated on publishing the most popular languages, where competition is fierce and investment can be substantial: 25 to 30 languages usually represent the entire range of a publisher's list of dictionaries. Blagowidow started to publish new dictionaries for Slavic languages and the languages of the Middle East and Asia, which were not as well known in America. When the United States intervened in Yugoslavia, and particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11/2001, there was a sudden need for foreign language dictionaries featuring the languages of these regions. Hippocrene had a head start. Today, Hippocrene publishes dictionaries for 117 languages! There is no U.S. publisher with a wider list of foreign language dictionaries.

While a dictionary is the first aid a world traveler needs, an intelligent tourist also wants to learn about the country's cuisine, history and literature. Over time, Hippocrene developed such a penetration of the Polish market in America that we could publish more widely and in depth about Polish culture, customs, and history. Our Polish interest list grew by leaps and bounds, with a special interest in Polish classics.

The new English translations of the classic works of Henryk Sienkiewicz by a bestselling Polish American novelist W.S. Kuniczak were the biggest success on our Polish list by far. They are out of print now except for *Quo Vadis*, but please keep in mind that these and many other titles we published in the last forty years are still available in many libraries and second hand bookstores.

Speaking of Kuniczak—Hippocrene published his translation of *Quo Vadis* (reissued by Hippocrene in 2000), as well as an updated edition of *My Name Is Million*, his illustrated history of the Poles in America. In 1992, Kuniczak's *The Glass Mountain: Twenty-six Ancient Polish Folktales and Fables* completed a distinguished book offering by a fine novelist in his own right.

To complete Sienkiewicz's oeuvre, Hippocrene published *Teutonic Knights* and reissued an English language edition of *In Desert and Wilderness*. A translator who worked frequently with Hippocrene, Miroslaw Lipinski, translated *The Little Trilogy*; three short stories by Sienkiewicz.

During the 1990s, Hippocrene was pleased to have about forty different Polish interest titles in print—including several history books, as well as arts and culture titles, including cooking.

In addition to the Sienkiewicz Trilogy, Hippocrene published many other books of or about Polish literature in English translation. Here is a list of them:

- Adam Mickiewicz: *Pan Tadeusz* (Bilingual Edition)
- Henryk Sienkiewicz: *On the Field of Glory* (Tr. M. Lipinski)
- Boleslaw Prus: *The Doll*
- Boleslaw Prus: *Pharaoh*
- F.C. Anstruther: *Old Polish Leg-*

ends

- J. Potocki: *Tales from the Saragossa Manuscript*
- Albert Juszczak; *Graded Reader of Classic Polish Literature*
- Ignacy Krasicki: *Polish Fables*
- *The Dedalus Book of Polish Fantasy*
- Krzyzanowski, Olszer: *Introduction to Modern Polish Literature*

A NEW SERIES of Polish-English dictionaries, authored by Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski, was the first to provide phonetic pronunciation of Polish words for Americans. The author made a special study of Polish-Jewish history and wrote a book on Polish-Jewish relations, as well as a popular one-volume reference history of Poland: *Poland: An Illustrated History*. Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski called it: "An important contribution to a better understanding of Polish history."

A new one-volume Hippocrene Polish dictionary—published by arrangement with the Kosciuszko Foundation (KF) in 2009—condenses the original KF 2-volume dictionary, and provides specifically *American English* translations of Polish words. Previously all Polish-English dictionaries were based on British English.

NEXT TO DICTIONARIES AND CLASSICS, our Polish cookbooks were always very popular. Hippocrene's first Polish cookbook, *The Best of Polish Cooking*, was written in 1983 by Karen West, a Chicago postal worker who delivered mail in a Polish area of town and collected recipes from her hospitable customers.

Polish Heritage Cookery (875 pages, 2,200 recipes), written by husband-wife team Robert and Maria Strybel, was first published in 1993 and quickly received the warm endorsement of Julia Child, who called it "the encyclopedia of Polish cookery and a wonderful thing to have." *Zgoda* said "it shows Polish cuisine in all its richness and glory." With *Polish Holiday Cookery* (2003) as a follow up, the Strybels have established Hippocrene as a leader in international cookbooks—70 titles that cover most world cuisines as of today!

ADAM ZAMOYSKI, an internationally renowned historian, made his Polish history debut with *The Polish Way* which has been on our list for many years. Thad Cooke, Polonia's greatest book promoter, over the years sold 5,000 copies of Zamoyski's *The Polish Way*, which documents the thousand-year history of the Poles and their culture. *The Forgotten Few*, by Zamoyski, is an account of the role that 17,000 Polish airmen, who joined the British Air Force in the hour of its greatest need, played in the Battle of Britain in 1940.

Janusz Zawodny's *Death in the Forest: The Story of the Katyn Massacre* was reissued by Hippocrene in 1988. *Polish Genealogy & Heraldry: An Introduction to Research* by Janina Hoskins, is a gem by a famous area specialist at the Library of Congress. *Thaddeus Kosciuszko: The Purest Son of Liberty* by James S. Pula focuses on Kosciuszko's American years.

Poland's Jewish Heritage by Joram Kagan is a history of Polish Jewry. Other notable titles include *Poland's Navy 1918-1949* by Michael Alfred Peszke and *Cracow An Illustrated History* by Zdzislaw Zygulski, Jr.

NEW TITLES. This Spring, Adam Zamoyski's *Poland: A History* (originally published in England) will make its first appearance in the United States. Zamoyski began the project as an update to *The Polish Way* published in 1987. In his preface Zamoyski says: "I have so thoroughly reworked the text, removed so much of the old, and added so much that is new, that I had no qualms about submitting it under a new title."

The events of the last twenty years and the growth of an independent Polish state allowed him to look at Poland's past with a fresh eye. He notes, "The history of Poland has up until now, been written as that of a failed state. Like some distorting lens or filter, that failure colored and deformed the historian's view of the whole of Polish history. Poland is no longer a state that failed, but a society that created a social and political civilization of its own whose ideals are close to those the world values today."

On *Poland: A History's* first publication in England, *The Spectator* wrote: "fresh, different and brilliantly readable. It is the perfect introduction for those who know nothing about the country, yet will also provide some positive food for thought to those who imagined they knew it all too well."

Released last Fall was *Forgotten Holocaust: The Poles Under German Occupation 1939-1944*, Third edition, by Richard C. Lukas, with a foreword by Norman Davies. Davies writes, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense *Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective."

The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new preface by Norman Davies, a short history of Żegota, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save the Jews. Richard C. Lukas has authored and co-authored nine books including *Did The Children Cry? Hitler's War Against Jewish and Polish Children* published by Hippocrene in 1994 and 2001.

Hippocrene will also reissue, with a new preface, *And I am Afraid of My Dreams* by Wanda Póltawska, first published by Hippocrene in 1989.

In February 1941 Wanda Póltawska was arrested by the Gestapo. She was 19 years old. This is the account of the four years she spent in the notorious Ravensbruck concentration camp. Wanda was used as one of the camp's "guinea pigs" and became a victim of cruel medical experimentation by Nazi doctors.

EPILOG. To wrap up my story, I need to mention four additional books I published:

Camp of All Saints by Tadeusz Nowakowski in 1962, translated by Norbert Guterman and published by St. Martin's Press. Set in a Polish displaced persons camp, named "Camp of All Saints," this is a harrowing tale of despair in postwar Germany by an author best known as a reporter of John Paul II's travels.

For the record, it should be mentioned that another book by Stanislaw Jerzy Lec, *More Unkept Thoughts*, was published by Funk & Wagnalls in New York after I left

She was a close friend and advisor to Pope John Paul II, serving on the Papal Commission on Family Matters. Married, with four daughters, the author now resides in Krakow.

In her preface to the book Dr Wanda Póltawska says:

"My story about the experiences of my generation is a warning to young people, because everybody can become like a member of the Gestapo or, on the other hand, like Maksymilian Kolbe . . . My account is a witness to crime and heroism. It demonstrates the strength of the human spirit, the beauty of friendship and patriotism, the meaning of faith in God and faith in man."

ADDITIONAL TITLES. In addition to the aforementioned, Hippocrene has offered these history and biography titles:

- Richard Watt: *Bitter Glory- Poland and its Fate 1918-1939*
- Vanda Sendzimir: *Steel Will: The Life of Ted Sendzimir*
- Richard Gizowski: *The Enigma of General Blaskowitz*
- Leszek Szymanski: *Casimir Pulaski*
- Adam Zamoyski: *Last King of Poland*
- Jozef Garlinski: *Poland in the Second World War*
- M. Giergelewicz: *Henryk Sienkiewicz*
- V.Madej and S. Zaloga: *The Polish Campaign of 1939*
- M.A. Dziewanowski: *Alexander I*
- Wacław Jędrzejewicz: *A Life For Poland* (Pilsudski)
- R. Lukas: *Did The Children Cry?*
- S. Korbonski: *The Jews and Poles in World War II*
- S.Korbonski: *Between the Hammer and the Anvil*
- Wladyslaw Kozaczuk and Jerzy Straszak: *Enigma: How the Poles Broke the Nazi Code*

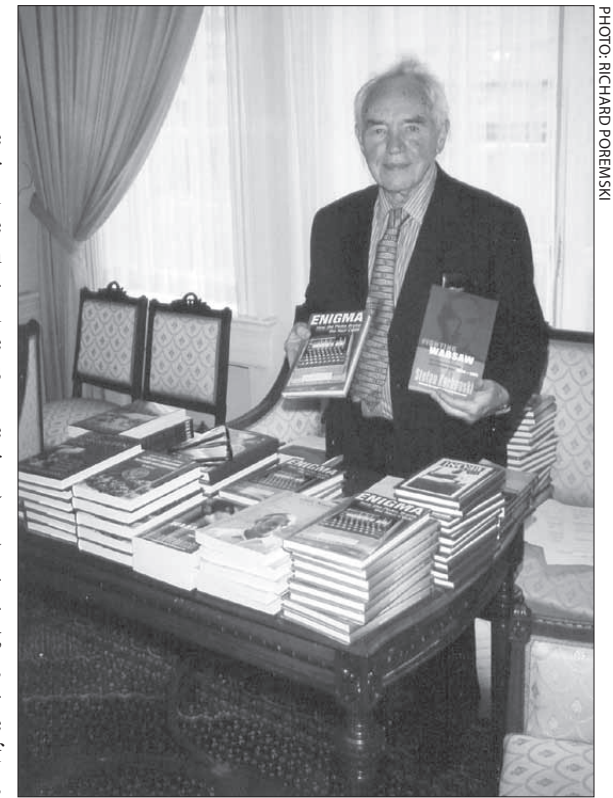
The German code was deciphered in Poznan by a Polish mathematician Marian Rejewski and his two colleagues, Jerzy Rozycki and Henryk Zygalski in 1933 at the Poznan University. A working model of the encoding machine was turned over to the British in 1939 just before the war.

Our book explains how the Poles did it. Throughout the war the British did a great job decoding German messages at Bletchley Park but the secret of Enigma encoding machine

St. Martin's. I licensed it to George Blagowidow, who was running Funk and Wagnalls (a division of Reader's Digest) at the time.

During my Scribner years I was able to publish a few Polish interest books, of which *The Plot to Kill the Pope* by Paul Henze was the most important. Paul Henze worked for Zbigniew Brzezinski in the Carter administration and was an expert on terrorism. He was the first writer to identify the Soviet KGB, working through the Bulgarian Secret Service, as the true authors of the plot.

The period of Solidarity was covered in a book by Timothy



JACEK GALAZKA at the Hippocrene display at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., during the publisher's 35th anniversary celebration.

was handed to them by the Poles just before World War began.

WE CAN'T FORGET SOPHIE. A special mention must be made of an author, Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, who came to Hippocrene thanks to the *Polish American Journal*. Hodorowicz Knab's most important resource was her Polish mother who made sure she knew all there was to know about Polish culture. She has shared this legacy with her readers in these titles published by Hippocrene:

- *The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook*
- *Polish Wedding Customs and Traditions*
- *Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore*
- *Polish First Names*
- *Polish Herbs, Flowers and Folk Medicine*

I CLOSE WITH ONE of many high points in Hippocrene's Polish publishing program. On the 35th anniversary of Hippocrene Books, George Blagowidow and I received a personal letter from Poland's president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, congratulating Hippocrene Books and thanking all employees "for your priceless contribution to the promotion of Polish culture in the United States."

It is a fact that by publishing nearly 150 books of Polish interest, Hippocrene Books — the only American publisher with a program of promoting Poland, its history and culture — has provided treasures of Polish literature for Americans and all other English speaking readers.

We hope that Poland will make good use of this treasure in the future.

❖ ❖ ❖

Please visit hippocrenebooks.com for a complete listing of available Polish interest titles.

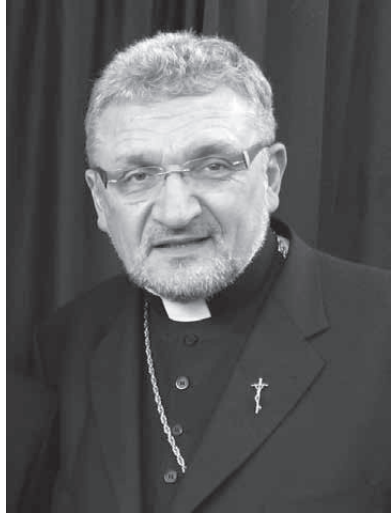
Garton Ash, *The Polish Revolution: Solidarity* published in the United States in 1984. Ash studied Modern History at Oxford University. His research on Nazi Germany took him to Berlin, and from there he traveled extensively in Central and Eastern Europe, and particularly in Poland, writing for *The Spectator*, *The London Times* and *Der Spiegel*.

To complete the history of Polish interest book publishing, we need to hear from other American publishers of that period.

I hope that in time the full story will be told.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Lawsuit Dismissed: Bishop Still Hopeful



Pittsburgh's **Bishop David A. Zubik** (above) reacted to the dismissal of lawsuits filed by the Pittsburgh and Nashville Diocese along with Pittsburgh's Catholic Charities and Catholic Cemeteries against the Obama Administration's Health and Human Services mandate to supply artificial contraception, sterilization, and abortifacient drugs in the health insurance plans for their employees. While Federal Judge Terrence F. McVerry argued that there was no real harm experienced yet, his judgment was "without prejudice," which means the case can be refiled if the accommodations promised by the president in the course of this year do not suffice.

Bishop Zubik noted that other courts have arrived at different conclusions in similar lawsuits and added, "I do want to make clear that we cannot and will not negotiate away our constitutional rights to religious freedom and religious expression."

More than three dozen similar lawsuits are still making their way through the court system across the country and U.S. Catholic bishops continue to speak out on the importance of religious freedom in connection with these cases.

ARTIST/PRIZE WINNER SPEAKS ON BEAUTY, TRUTH IN ART. Polish artist **Anna Gulak**, on receiving the 2012 Pontifical Academies Award established by Blessed John Paul II, said that the award reaffirms her conviction that beauty and truth in art, her main artistic objectives, are still needed. She explains that beauty and truth emanate from God and shine both on humans and on all creation. By contrast she notes that modern art (anti-art in her view) consciously divorces itself from the classical concept of aesthetics, which has long been at the heart of European Culture, itself nothing else but Christian culture. Her recent exhibit, "Faces of Blessed John Paul

II," is on display in the atrium of the Vatican museum's Paul VI Hall. She designed and executed a medal commemorating the 100th pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II during his 25th Jubilee Year as pope. She designed a medal for Pope Benedict's Madrid trip last year. A projected monument called "Tu es Petrus" centers on Pope John Paul II as the "Peter of our time" with carved quotations of the pope and a fountain culminating in an "amphitheater" space for meetings and concerts. This has yet to find a place for its construction.

MISSION TO KYRGYZSTAN. With only 500 Catholics among some five million Muslim and Orthodox residents, the Catholic presence in the central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan, north of Afghanistan, is served by five Jesuits, one diocesan priest and four nuns. Catholics (ethnic Germans, Poles, Ukrainians, Lithuanians) were sent to the country under Stalinist persecution. The first Bishop of Kyrgyzstan, Nikolay Messmer, was born in Kazakhstan. Under the care of the Jesuits, the Catholic Church serves a variety of parishioners, originally Germans and Poles but now increasingly mixed. Two Polish Jesuits, **Fr. Krzysztof Korolczuk** and **Br. Damian Wojciechowski**, do charity work among handicapped adults and children, orphans, elderly persons, prisoners, and addicts. They also work with youth, offer English courses and run a lakeside retreat center. Working with small Protestant congregations, they offer instruction in basic Christian belief and practice and participate in ecumenical projects with local pastors.

CLOSED CHURCHES REBUILT AS NEW CHURCH. St. Raphael the Archangel RC Church in Old Mill Creek, Ill., the first new church in the Chicago archdiocese since 1999, has incorporated elements of closed churches to construct the new church building. The former Polish parish, **St. John of God**, closed for nearly 20 years, saw its façade, steeples, rotundas, rose window, porticos, doors, and hardware disassembled and relocated to the new church building site. There elements from St. Peter Canisius Church, closed five years ago, were added, including its main and side altars, reredos and arches, marble statuary, oak pews and Tyrolean stained glass windows. As a result, the new church has a grandeur which could not be reproduced today, and the spirit of faith and prayer in the former church buildings will continue

on in the new edifice.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES PROMOTE MARRIAGE. Deacon **David Lapinski** and his wife **Diane** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary along with more than 200 married couples marking 25, 40, 50 55, and 60+ anniversaries at three Masses throughout the RC Diocese of Johnstown, Pa. This initiative is part of the diocese's nearly year-long Marriage Building Initiative to offer support to married, engaged, widowed and divorced individuals. **Bishop Mark L. Bartchak** celebrated the Masses and reminded the congregations of the sacredness of marriage as living witness of the love and fidelity of Christ.

FELICIAN SISTERS HONORED. Felician Sisters **Johnna Ciezobka**, **Mary Jacqueline Benbenek**, and **Mary Suzanne Dziedzic** were awarded the Lumen Christi (Light of Christ) Award from Catholic Extension for the ministries they provide alongside dedicated volunteers at the Felician Center in Kingstree, S.C. Their work includes an after-school program, emergency food pantry, monthly meals for needy people, and a clothes closet. They also assist with medical bills and utilities as well cooking and nutrition classes for children.

When the Felician sisters arrived in the area in the 1950s they were faced with Ku Klux Klan hostility because of their work among the impoverished black population. They declared that when people asked what they expected to do in the area they answered, "we will fall in love with the people and they will call forth what they need." Sr. Suzanne said, "God is working through us. We're simply the conduits. This town has been blessed."

DID YOU KNOW? The hejnal trumpet call is played four times (to the four corner of the earth) atop of tower of Kraków's Mariacki (St. Mary's) Church every hour on the hour. The custom has resisted computerization and the honors are still done by a special Fire Brigade team of buglers.

Papal Relics Enshrined at St. Joseph's, St. Stanislaus

CAMDEN, N.J. — As much as it is loved by its members, the language and culture of Poland are equally cherished by Fr. Pawel W. Kryszkiewicz, the Polish-born pastor, of St. Joseph's parish, which celebrated its 120th anniversary in October of last year.

"I can utilize my heritage, and people appreciate having someone who shares their traditions. I am inspired by the people; they are so genuinely dedicated to this church," Fr. Kryszkiewicz said.

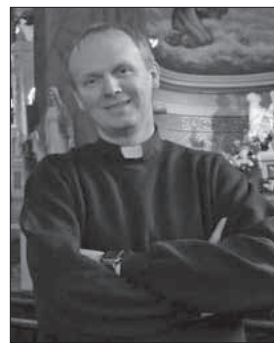
He concelerated the anniversary Mass with the two pastors who preceded him: Fr. Edward J. Lipinski and Fr. Piotr Szamocki. Bishop Joseph A. Galante presided at the Mass.

At the Anniversary Mass, drops of blood in a small vial — a relic of Blessed Pope John Paul II — were enshrined in the church. The relic was brought from Poland by Fr. Kryszkiewicz, presented to him by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, archbishop of Krakow.

While a monsignor, the cardinal had been secretary to Pope John Paul II.

The drops of blood, from the body of a holy person, constitute a first-class relic. Pope John Paul II, who died in 2005, was beatified May 1, 2011.

To acquire the relic for St. Joseph's, Fr. Kryszkie-



FR. KRYSZKIEWICZ. Obtained first-class relic for parish's anniversary.

OUR POLISH CATHOLIC HERITAGE / Robert Strybel

Poland and Polonia – Still "Semper Fidelis"?

Since 2005, when Pope John Paul II went on to his eternal reward, the number of regular churchgoers in Poland, those who attend mass at least once a week, has declined from 58% to 52%. But the number of those who do not engage in any religious practices has grown from 9% to 11%. That is still the highest level of Sunday mass attendance in Europe. Ireland is in second place with 46%, and in the United States the comparable figure is around 43%.

All three of the above-mentioned countries are known for their high level of religious observance. That contrasts sharply with such countries as Great Britain (10%) not to mention Scandinavia where only 3-5% regularly attend church. Even in once extremely Catholic Spain only 21% attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis.

THE MAIN REASON for the Poles' reputation for being "semper fidelis" (ever faithful) is buried in the mists of time. Poland emerged as an independent state in 966 AD, when its ruler Mieszko I embraced Christianity with his entire nation. Throughout much of Polish history, the Church has played a leading role in education, culture and morality, helping to define what Polishness was all about.

In some countries, the 18th-century Age of Enlightenment turned people away from religion, and in France priests were guillotined and churches set ablaze. But in Poland, it was men of the cloth — Bishop Ignacy Krasicki and such priests as Stanislaw Staszic, Hugo Kollataj and the monk Stanislaw Konarski — who promoted the new trend known as "Oświecenie" (Enlightenment) in a climate of social solidarity rather than bloody revolution.

Unlike some Latin American countries, where the Church has been known to side with dictators, in Poland the clergy has helped tide the nation through invasions, partitions and occupations. Poland was overrun by the Swedes in the mid 17th-century, but the spirited defense of Częstochowa's Jasna Góra

Monastery sparked of nationwide resistance which eventually rolled the Protestant invaders back across the Baltic.

After Poland was carved up by Russia, Prussia and Austria in the late 18th century, it was the Church which kept the Polish language, culture and spirit alive. Again during the Nazi occupation period and post-war communist period the Church helped the Polish people endure. Visiting journalists from the West, where unions tend to be leftist and anti-clerical, couldn't get over that shipyard workers displayed portraits of the Blessed Virgin and John Paul II on the gates of their strike-bound shipyards in 1980.

The all-pervasive Western-style pop culture which has flooded Poland for the past quarter-century has made inroads in the Poles' traditional religious practices, accounting for the drop in church attendance. Various anti-clerical groups are vociferously pushing an openly anti-Catholic agenda, but they are still in the minority.

A SIMILAR ROLE was played by the Church among the waves of Polish immigrants who flocked to America's shores in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. To them, Catholicism was their national identity, and they were willing to stand up and fight America's Irish and German-ruled Church, and even set up a separatist denomination, the Polish National Catholic Church. Fearful of growing defections, the Vatican finally agreed to appoint a Polish Roman Catholic bishop to minister to the Polonian flock.

This is something more than just so much history. Polish Americans now account for a sizable share of America's Catholic clergy. And to this day, practicing Polish Americans are less likely to get divorced and more inclined to preserve their ancestral heritage than those who have drifted away from their faith. The reason is obvious: Polish traditions are so thoroughly permeated with Catholic culture, ritual and symbolism. When they get discarded, there isn't much left.

wicz enlisted the aid of a family friend, Fr. Eustachy Rakoczy, a Pauline monk from the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland.

"We are from the same town in northern Poland," said Fr. Kryszkiewicz. "I am grateful for his assistance."

SHRINE OF BLESSED JOHN PAUL II AT ST. STANISLAUS, BUFFALO. Fr. **Thaddeus M. Bocianowski**, pastor of St. Stanislaus RC Parish in Buffalo, also recently received a first class relic of Blessed John Paul II. The relic currently rests before a statue of the late pope, which stands just in front of the pews.

St. Stan's has been designated an official diocesan shrine to Blessed John Paul II. Already known as the mother church of Polonia, the church earned the new designation after Fr. Bocianowski received a drop of blood of the late pontiff.

John Paul II visited the church twice as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla. First in 1969 and again in 1976.

The parish will now hold special celebrations every year on April 2 to mark the Holy Father's death, May 20 for his birthday, and on or near Oct. 22, his feast day. A special Papal Mass is celebrated every third Thursday of the month with veneration of the relics and a litany.

Plans call for a permanent display honoring five Poles in various levels of sainthood — the pope; **St. Faustina Kowalska**, who promoted the Divine Mercy devotion; **St. Maximilian Kolbe**, who volunteered to die in Auschwitz; **Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska**, CSSF, founder of the Felician Sisters; and **Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko**, who was martyred for his work in Poland's Solidarity movement.

MODLITWY

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

THANKSGIVING NOVENA 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 novena is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. T.P.K.

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. Grateful thanks, A.W.

Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks, A.W.

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POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

Freedom Fighters Take to the Sewers

Part Three

“The Bomb Shelter Pub was located in the cellar of an abandoned building behind St. John’s Cathedral. Bustling with activity twenty-four hours a day, it was alternately a soup kitchen, a medical clinic, a meeting hall, a wedding chapel and, during long tension-filled nights, a tavern where beleaguered AK commandos roused each other on to victory.”

— From *The Katyn Order* by Douglas W. Jacobson

The Bomb Shelter Pub is a fictional place but the events I described in this passage from my historical novel were very real. Over a million people lived in Warsaw at the start of the Rising and, as much as possible, they tried to continue the day-to-day activities of normal life. Babies were born, and birthdays were celebrated. Weddings and funerals were held, music played, and families sat down to meals. An underground postal service flourished as the boys and girls of the Polish Scouts risked their lives delivering newspapers, posters and messages.

From the very beginning, the leaders of the Rising believed the Soviets would come to Poland’s aid within a few days, a week or two at the most. Consequently, they never planned for the necessity of feeding a population of a million souls without access to the surrounding countryside. As the battle dragged on week after week with no assistance forthcoming, food became scarce and the inhabitants of Warsaw faced the grim reality of mass starvation in the days ahead.

An even greater problem was drinking water. The main pumping stations of Warsaw’s water supply system remained in German hands, and as the fighting continued they gradually shut them down or destroyed them completely. The poles responded by digging dozens of water wells in the backyards of private homes, but the effort fell far short of providing an adequate supply.

The Polish government-in-exile had been aggressively pushing Allied authorities for assistance from before the start of the Rising. But the lack of cooperation from the Soviets stalled the efforts. The British, sympathetic to the Polish cause, petitioned Stalin to allow their aircraft to land in Soviet territory after dropping supplies in Poland. When Stalin refused, the British resorted to the use of long-range RAF aircraft forced to operate from distant airfields in Italy. While the RAF managed more than two hundred night sorties over Poland during the Rising, the overall effect was mostly psychological. Flying at night through German anti-aircraft fire, the planes often missed their targets and the amount of supplies successfully recovered by the besieged commandos of the AK fell far short of having any real value.

Though woefully short of food, water and weapons, and with casualties numbering in the thousands, the Poles continued to fight. Then, in the third week of the Rising, the AK achieved one of its most impressive victories. The Warsaw Telephone Exchange, known as PAST, was housed in an enormous brick building more than eight stories tall and covering an entire city block. As the German army’s main communications link between Berlin and the eastern front, it was of vital strategic importance. The heavily armed German garrison that defended PAST had repelled repeated assaults by the



For three months, twelve armored divisions of the Red Army remained idle on the east bank of the Wisła as the Germans systematically destroyed one of Europe’s great cities. Above: Warsaw’s Old Town.

AK since the first days of the Rising. But, on the night of the 20th of August, a special team of women commandos, known as *minerki*, managed to sneak into the lower level of the massive building and set off dozens of explosions. The surprise attack forced most of the German soldiers to flee to the upper floors. Then other *minerki* teams arrived armed with homemade flamethrowers and set the building ablaze.

While the victory at PAST provided a tremendous moral boost to the struggling inhabitants of Warsaw, it would be short lived. The infuriated Germans retaliated with round-the-clock shelling and airstrikes on Old Town. The noose was tightening and, for the trapped commandos of the AK, escape was the only possible way to survive another day.

Part Four

From the second week in August, AK freedom fighters had used Warsaw’s sewer system as a means of communication and transportation between separate areas of the city. Some of the underground passages were tall enough for men to walk upright, but many others were only two or three feet in diameter, forcing them to crawl on hands and knees over slippery, muck-covered floors awash with fast currents of debris-laden sewer water. When the Germans realized the partisans were using the sewers for transportation they tossed hand-grenades through the manholes and sprayed the tunnels with flame-throwers.

By the end of August, with the Germans pounding Old Town round-the-clock with heavy artillery, the sewer network served as a lifeline for the trapped partisan fighters. More than five thousand of them escaped through the underground labyrinth to the City Centre where they could carry on the fight. Left behind were seven thousand seriously wounded AK fighters, most of whom were summarily executed by rampaging SS storm-troopers, along with hundreds of elderly and disabled civilians.

After the fall of Old Town the Germans directed their attack on the riverside districts of Czerniakow and Zoliborz, driving AK fighters away from the Vistula River. Relentless shelling and aerial attacks pushed most of the remaining partisans into the City Centre and the Mokotow district, where they were soon surrounded.

On the 16th of September the Red Army took the suburb of Praga, on the right bank of the Vistula, forcing additional German troops to evacuate across the river into Warsaw proper. These were heavily armed, front-line Wehrmacht troops, fur-

ther sealing the fate of the AK.

On the 24th of September German forces launched a massive assault of the Mokotow district, which fell after three days of bloody fighting. Advancing German troops executed all of the wounded AK fighters along with civilian hospital personnel. Now, almost two months after the start of the Rising, all that remained of the more than forty thousand AK freedom fighters were those still hunkered down in the City Centre. Out of ammunition, and with no food or water, their only option was surrender.

On the 28th of September, the commander of German forces, General von dem Bach, offered capitulation terms to the AK’s leader, General “Bor” Komorowski. The terms specified that all surrendering AK forces would be treated as prisoners-of-war under the Geneva Convention, and that the evacuation to POW camps would be administered by the Wehrmacht instead of the SS.

The capitulation order was signed on the 2nd of October. The next day approximately fifteen thousand AK fighters were disarmed and sent off to POW camps in Germany. But as many as five thousand partisan fighters refused to surrender and slipped away, blending into the civilian population under secret orders to escape to other parts of the country and continue the fight.

Over the next two weeks the entire civilian population of Warsaw was forced to evacuate the city and marched to a transit camp in Pruszkow. Of the approximately four hundred thousand civilians who passed through Pruszkow, about sixty thousand were sent to death camps at Ravensbruck, Auschwitz and Mauthausen. Another ninety thousand were sent to forced labor camps elsewhere in the Third Reich, while the rest were transported to various locations of Poland under German control and released.

When the last of the civilian population had exited the city, German soldiers embarked on a massive looting campaign. More than thirty thousand railway cars left Warsaw for Germany loaded with furniture, jewelry, clothing, and industrial machine parts. Then the destruction crews moved in with bulldozers and flame-throwers to carry out the orders of SS chief Heinrich Himmler who declared on the 17th of October that, “The city must completely disappear from the surface of the earth. No stone can remain standing and every building must be razed to its foundation.”

For the next three months, the Red Army remained idle on the east bank of the Vistula as the Germans systematically destroyed one of Europe’s great cities.

Evidence Points to Early Poles as Inventors of Cheese

(BBC FOOD) — Scientists may be one step closer to uncovering the origins of cheese-making, as evidence thousands of years old has been uncovered — in Poland.

Truly an ancient art, no-one really knows exactly when humans began making cheese.

But now milk extracts have been identified on 34 perforated pottery vessels or “cheese-strainers,” which date back 7,500 years that have been excavated in Poland.

It is unambiguous evidence for cheese-making in northern Europe during Neolithic times, scientists believe, and the findings have been published in the scientific journal *Nature*.

“We analyzed some fragments of pottery from the region of Kuyavia pierced with small holes that looked like modern cheese-strainers,” says Melanie Salque, a postgraduate student at the University of Bristol’s Department of Chemistry.

They had been thought to be cheese-strainers because of the pe-

culiar presence of holes on the surface. But could as well have been flame covers, chafing dishes, honey strainers or used for beer-making, to strain out chaff.

Salque and her team then analyzed lipid residues on the vessels and detected milk residues, which they say provides a link to cheese-making.

“The evidence was stunning,” explains Professor Richard Evershed, of Bristol University.

“If you then put together the fact that there are milk fats in with the holes in the vessels, along with the size of the vessels and knowing what we know about how milk products are processed, what other milk product could it be?”

Earlier examples of milk residues have been detected on pottery vessels from the Near East, dating back 8,000 years, although the evidence did not suggest that they were used for milk processing activities, said Salque.

WIADOMOŚCI Z POLSKI / Robert Strybel

BESIDES BLOWING UP POLAND’S PARLIAMENT, a right-wing chemistry professor from Kraków planned to kill two leading female celebrities, Parliament’s Special Services Committee was told by the Internal Security Agency. Brunon Kwiecień, 45, believed he could heighten chaos in Poland if he followed up the bombing with the assassination of Warsaw mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz and liberal TV interviewer Monika Olejnik. Kwiecień was arrested in November before he could carry out his plot. If convicted on terrorist charges, he could face up to 7.5 years in prison.

PRIME MINISTER DONALD TUSK, and his foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski stand a good chance of landing one of Europe’s top five posts in 2014. According to NATO sources cited by the daily “Polska the Times”, Sikorski would make a good candidate for NATO secretary general. Tusk is seen as

possible successor to European Commission president Herman Van Rompuy. The paper cited an unnamed source as saying Tusk was eager to succeed him.

A LETTER-WRITING MARATHON in defense of human rights generated more than 140,000 handwritten letters in a 24-hour period. This year’s effort was conducted in defense of such people as Belarusian dissident Alesia Bialatsky, jailed Chinese lawyer Gao Zhisheng, the Russian punk-rock group Pussy Riot and Guantanamo prisoner Hussain Salem Mohammed Almerfedi.

The letters are sent to the authorities of those countries where the human-rights violations are taking place. Pioneered by the Warsaw branch of Amnesty International, the letter-writing marathon has spread and now includes including other European countries, the United States and even New Zealand.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

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

A sincere “THANK YOU” for their donations to the **PAJ PRESS FUND**: Laura Andres, Coopersburg, Pa.; Irene Colston, Richfield, Minn.; Elizabeth Faski, Norwalk, Conn.; Henry Fisher, Fenton, Mich.; Mary Kata, Wilton Manors, Fla.; Ralph and Wanda Klims, Rochester Hills, Mich.; JoAnn Mazen, Howell, Mich.; Thomas and Carmella Nowakowski, New Hope, Pa.; Lee J. Pergiel, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.; Stasia Ragoza, South Hadley, Mass.; Richard and Pearl Wilgosz, Hollywood, Fla.; and two Friends of the Paj. Dziękujemy! The Paj thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Kapuscińska Meets with Emanuel

PHOTO: PATRICK PYSZKA



Mayor Emanuel and Consul General Kapuscińska.

On November 29, **Paulina Kapuscińska**, the newly-appointed Polish Consul General in Chicago, and **Rahm Emanuel**, Mayor of Chicago, met at City Hall to discuss a variety of topics. Mayor Emanuel addressed the issue of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and Casimir Pulaski Day celebrations. He reiterated what the CPS has been saying for a number of years – that on Pulaski Day there are specific plans within the CPS to educate students about the legacy of Casimir Pulaski and Polish American contributions to the United States. Mayor Emanuel mentioned that further discussions on these subjects will continue between the Polish Consulate and with Polish and Polish American communities.

During this meeting, Consul General Kapuscińska invited Mayor Emanuel to a major business seminar which will take place in January 2013. This seminar will coincide with the official launching of LOT Polish Airlines inaugural flight of the Boeing 787 “Dreamliner” from Chicago to Warsaw. This will not only be the first such aircraft to fly to Europe, but it will also be the very first “Dreamliner” flight out of O’Hare International Airport. The business seminar will be an excellent opportunity for promoting Polish businesses in the United States, and, hopefully, it will open new opportunities for stimulating business investments and tourism for Warsaw and Chicago. Emanuel expressed interest in Consul General Kapuscińska’s proposal and mentioned that the January business seminar will be an opportune time to promote Chicago as a city open to Polish business.

Kapuscińska invited Emanuel to visit Poland in 2013, to take part in the official observances of the 70th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, as well as to attend the 2013 formal opening of Warsaw’s Museum of the History of the Polish Jews. This museum will be Europe’s largest Jewish history museum and will be third in size to that of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Emanuel proposed that in 2013 Chicago’s City Hall should organize a special exhibit on Warsaw and the 70th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

PAA HONORS BOZENA AND ARIE ZWEIG. On November 10, the Polish American Association (PAA) held a sold-out black tie gala at Chicago’s historic and elegant Drake Hotel attended by more than five hundred guests, including politicians, business professionals, lawyers, doctors, and members of various social and political organizations.

Among the guests were Bishop Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop

of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Consul General Paulina Kapuscińska, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Dan Rutherford, Illinois State Treasurer, Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Comptroller, Maria Pappas, Cook County treasurer, as well as, the evening’s master of ceremonies, Alan Krashesky, Chicago’s very popular television reporter and anchor. All came to honor **Bozena** and **Arie Zweig**, as they received the PAA’s prestigious 2012 Presidential Award, presented by Conrad Nowak, the organization’s chairman of the board, and Gary Kenzer, its executive director. Guests were treated to outstanding artistic performances from the WICI Song and Dance Ensemble

she got off the bus, and took her bike off the CTA bus bike rack. This was her routine, her mode of travel, to and from her housekeeping jobs.

But on that ill-fated day, Ludwig stepped off the bus and walked in front of the bus to retrieve her bike. The bus driver accelerated and “dragged her more than 80 feet, according to a lawsuit filed by Szynalik’s family in Cook County Circuit Court in



Szynalik



Bozena and Arie Zweig, Conrad Nowak, Gary Kenzer, and Alan Krashesky.

under the direction of Magdalena Solarz, the Academy of Music of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Wojciech Niewrzola, followed by a short piano concert from child protégé, Daniel Szefer. The evening would not have been complete without dancing to the music of the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra.

Arie Zweig was born in Poland, grew up in Israel, and after receiving a degree in marine engineering from Mevoot Yam Nautical College, emigrated to the United States in 1977. In 1979 he began the R. A. Zweig, Inc., a machining facility, specializing in ultra-high precision and complex custom machined components for customers such as Bosch, Rolls-Royce, Goodrich, the Israel Defense Ministry, and Pratt and Whitney, just to name a few.

Bozena Zweig, who also came to the United States from Poland in 1977, earned her master’s degree from the Warsaw Chopin Academy, specializing in percussion instruments. As a multi-talented professional recording artist, songwriter, and jazz musician, she was a member of the Polish Radio Orchestra, the Youth Percussion Ensemble in Bayreuth, and performed in the Festival of Contemporary Music’s “Warsaw Autumn.”

Bozena and Arie Zweig are well-known philanthropists within the Polish American and Jewish American communities. Together Arie and Bozena have spent years supporting charitable organizations, Polish-orientated causes, politicians and artists, and are staunch promoters of Polish culture.

BIKE RACK TRAGEDY SETTLED FOR \$5.45 MILLION. On New Year’s Eve 2007, **Ludwika Szynalik**, a Polish immigrant, did something she did almost every day. She waited at a Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) bus stop to catch the Addison Avenue bus, placed her bicycle on the bike rack located on the front of the bus, got onto the bus, then, once she reached her destination,

2008.” She died hours later from bus injuries.

This entire tragedy was caught on the bus’ surveillance camera. One can clearly see that she put her bike on the rack on front of the bus, per CTA rules. She can be seen sitting on the bus, then disembarking the bus. “As she comes around the bus, she is doing what she is supposed to be doing, but the driver was not

intoxicated Abbate. He claimed that he was acting in self-defense when he beat Obyrycka. The video told the real story. In 2009, this “cop” was convicted of felony battery, sentenced to probation, and fired by the Chicago Police Department (CPD). A Cook County judge spared Abbate jail time. But on October 22, 2012, the City of Chicago and Abbate were the subject of a federal trial in a lawsuit, filed by Obyrycka, alleging that there was a cover-up by the CPD to protect its police and what Abbate’s fellow officers did after the attack.

What was at issue was whether a code of silence exists within the CPD. In this case, the CPD had Karolina sign a “blank” misdemeanor statement, even though it had seen the tell-tale video. Conflicting testimony among witnesses, and the video helped Karolina’s case. She did something that few have done; she filed a federal case against the Chicago Police Department.

As stated in the *Chicago Tribune*, “... according to court records, Abbate and his police partner made some 150 calls to investigators in the hours after the beating and made threats to try to get the surveillance camera video of the beating, a video that later was seen around the world.”

After two days of jury deliberations and a 2½ week trial, the federal jury granted \$850,000 to **Karolina Obyrycka** and found that there was a “widespread code of silence.” The jury held that both Abbate and the City of Chicago took part in the cover-up, and that the \$850,000 in damages will come from the city.

However, in a strange twist of events, on December 3, Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s administration along with Ms. Obyrycka filed a motion to ask a federal judge to “set aside a jury verdict” on this case.



PWCC Christmas Benefit Committee

doing his job. He was not paying attention,” stated Timothy Cavanagh, Szynalik’s family attorney. The CTA referred to this incident as a very unfortunate accident. The bus driver was given two traffic citations for this tragedy and suspended without pay. Eventually, he was fired from his CTA job. But on November 14, the family settled with the CTA prior to going to trial.

POLISH IMMIGRANT BARTENDER WINS FEDERAL CASE. It was recorded for the world to see. In 2007, at Jesse’s Shortstop Inn, located in Chicago’s northwest side, bartender **Karolina Obyrycka**, a 115-pound petite Polish immigrant, was mercilessly beaten by a 265-pound drunken off-duty Chicago police officer, **Anthony Abbate**. Obyrycka refused to serve more alcohol to an already heavily-

The administration, fearful “that this case could be misused in a way that hinders the city’s ability to defend itself in future cases,” and Karolina’s concerns that she could lose everything on a City of Chicago appeal, was motivation to vacate the jury verdict and award Obyrycka her \$850,000 sooner, than perhaps not at all. It will be up to U.S. District Judge Amy St. Eve to “weigh the interests of the parties involved in the lawsuit against the interest of the public in having the record of the jury’s verdict stand.”

Obyrycka’s lawyer, Terry Ekl, did not respond to the Emanuel administration’s request.

“WHAT CAN DEAD PRISONERS DO.” On November 30, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and The Polish Museum of America invited the general public,

free of charge, to view the screening of **“What Can Dead Prisoners Do,”** directed by **Anna Ferens**, the author of **“Where God Understands Polish”** (2003), **“Man Seeking Woman”** (2005), and **“Where Do the Wild Strawberries Grow”** (2006). A question and answer session followed the showing of the documentary film.

“What Can Dead Prisoners Do,” winner of the 2010 Best Documentary Award at the New York Polish Film Festival, details the fate of Soviet POWs captured by Poles following the Polish-Soviet War of 1919 after the Soviet invasion of Europe was stopped by the Polish Army at the gates of Warsaw. The documentary investigates the fate of those POWs and documents how their experiences shaped Polish-Soviet relations for the future.

PWCC STARTED THE HOLIDAY SEASON. The Polish Women’s Civic Club, once again, held its annual Christmas Benefit Luncheon on December 1 at the Ridgemoor Country Club in Harwood Heights, Ill., and again, it was a success. Over 150 guests joined in holiday cheer by sampling the country club’s complimentary Cosmopolitans or Apple Martinis, or enjoyed creating miniature centerpieces supervised by 2012 PWCC scholarship recipients.

The incomparable violin duet of **Krystyna Kowalik** and **Kathleen Burzycki**, the benefit’s chair, played Christmas medleys during the cocktail hour. Definite crowd pleasers were the Christmas baskets, which are all valued at \$50.00 or more, all of which were to be raffled. Also, the PWCC had a gold raffle in which five baskets valued at \$200.00 to \$300.00 were raffled off separately.

As is the mission of the PWCC, this benefit’s profits will be used to

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Erie County Judges and Attorneys Meet in Rzeszow

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Earlier in 2012, the board of directors of the Buffalo-based Bar Association of Erie County, New York approved the establishment of a cooperative relationship between the Association and the Okregowa Rada Adwokacka w Rzeszowie (ORA-District Bar Council of Rzeszow) in Buffalo's Polish sister city of Rzeszow.

From October 10-16, 2012, at the invitation of the ORA, a delegation of Western New York judges and attorneys, consisting of Chief Judge William M. Skretny of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York, Erie County Judge Michael Pietruszka, private attorneys Kathy Bestine and Anna Kobialka, and Assistant District Attorney Karen Korkuc visited Rzeszow.

The delegation members had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the Polish justice system by taking a part in a criminal trial at the District Court in Rzeszow, as well as touring one of the newest and largest district court buildings in Poland. The group also visited the Court of Second Instance, which is housed in the for-

mer Lubomirski Palace.

The mutual exchange of information on the respective legal systems of the United States and Poland continued with a presentation by Judge Skretny on the judicial system in the United States with particular emphasis on the federal judiciary. His speech was followed by a joint dinner between the delegation and members of the ORA at the Hotel Dworek, where more informal discussions of the legal systems ensued.

With assistance from Korkuc and Bestine, Judge Pietruszka delivered a lecture on the structure of the New York State court system and the practice of law in Western New York to upper level students at the University of Rzeszow Law School. That evening, the delegation met with Dr. Aleksander Bobko, the Rector of the University of Rzeszow, and Dr. Stanislaw Sagan, dean of the University of Rzeszow Law School. At that meeting the university officials expressed an interest in creating a relationship between their law school and the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School.



BAEC DELEGATION with hosts at new Rzeszow District Courthouse (l. to r.): Krzysztof Litwin, Judge Michael Pietruszka, Chief Judge William Skretny, Kathy Bestine, Chief Judge Paul Janda, Karen Korkuc, Dominica Stromczynska, Anna Kobialka, and ORA Dean Wladyslaw Finiewicz.

Polish Texans Make Discovery Trip to Poland

by **Monsignor Franciszek Kurzaj and Elaine Mazurek Stephens**
Fr. Leopold Moczygamba Foundation

SAN ANTONIO — Building bridges between Texas and the region of Silesia Poland has been an ongoing adventure for travelers with the Fr. Leopold Moczygamba Foundation (FLMG), who have been journeying across the ocean yearly. This year, forty-three travelers, led by foundation president, Msgr. Franciszek Kurzaj, a native of Silesia and now a priest in San Antonio, explored the land of their ancestors.

The travelers arrived first in Berlin for a tour including the Berlin Wall and the historic Checkpoint Charlie. The next eleven days they traveled via bus, passing through Lusitania, the eastern part of Germany and homeland of the Wendish people, into Silesia, which is in today's Poland.

The first night in Poland was in Wroclaw, the one-thousand year old capital of Silesia, followed by a short drive to Trzebnica to the baroque Sanctuary of St. Hedwig to pray at her tomb. It was in honor of this Saint, a Silesian princess, that St. Hedwig, Texas was named.

Continuing on, they visited Nysa to pray at the tomb of the Blessed Maria Merkert, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. Across the plaza they visited St. Francis Church to meet Fr. Kurzaj's seminary professors; finishing the day at the St. Peter and Paul Church for dinner prepared by the seminary, now a retreat center.

For the next five days they stayed in Slawiecice, birthplace of "Fr. Frank," aka Msgr. Kurzaj. From there they traveled to Czestochowa to pray at the Shrine of the Black Madonna, and at Gora Sw. Anny, where they participated in an outdoor mass with ten thousand faithful, many of them pilgrims who walked miles to attend. Participating in the procession of pilgrims were the FLMF travelers, holding a Panna Maria sign, the first Polish settlement in Texas.

The next day the group visited the Shrine of San Jacinto in the town of Kamien Slaski, where they were welcomed by Archbishop Emeritus Alfons Nossol in the Diocese of



At Pluznica, birthplace of Fr. Leopold Moczygamba, we were greeted by parishioners, and Fr. Bobek, who was celebrating 50 years in the priesthood.

Opole. Later in the week they were received by Auxiliary Bishop Gerard Kusz in the Gliwice Diocese.

A refreshing day for the summer travelers included a ski-lift ride in the cool Beskid Slaski mountains. At the top, they were greeted with music by a local folk band and homemade pastries prepared by Polish friends. The alpine view was exciting, as was shopping in the nearby town of Wisla, which was hosting a folk-life festival. Later they were surprised to visit a Texas cowboy theme park in Zory, called Miasteczko Twinpigs, which showcased a first-class rodeo.

An especially fun visit was to Tychy, home of the Tyskie Brewery where they learned about the brewery's four-hundred year old history of beer making in the same location.

Several of the Silesian-Texans

travelers met—for the first time—their Polish families, such as the Korzekwas, Wiatreks, and Banduchs at Boronow. Similar discoveries occurred in Grodzisko for the Polloks, and at Pluznica Wielka for the Feluxs, Moczygembas, Janyseks, and Jarzombeks. In Ujazd, a Mazurek family welcomed a Mazurek. In Rozmierz, the Urbanczyk, Ploch and Ciomerlik travelers met distant family. In Zebowice,

the Jendrusch and Lyssy Texans found their roots. In Wilamowa, close to Nysa, another family tree connection was made.

For many, the discoveries were the unexpected and unforgettable highpoints of the trip.

In the village of Pluznica, the birthplace of Fr. Leopold Moczygamba, leader of the 1850s Silesia-to-Texas migration, the travelers were greeted with flowers and blessings inside the small village church where the pastor, Fr. Stanislaw Bober, is celebrating his fifty year



Elaine Mazurek Stephens in the home of Frank Mazurek in Ujazd. While we can't make a family connection, we share the same surname!

anniversary of ordination. Many Silesian Texans can trace their ancestry to this village.

The stay in Slawiecice included visiting the local church and a 60th birthday party for Fr. Frank's brother, Gerard, who stills lives there. Sunday brought a concert of classical music and songs in St. Katarzyna Church, the parish in Slawiecice where Fr. Frank grew up and where his family still worships.

Throughout Silesia the group was surprised by short visits to village cemeteries which look like bo-

tanical gardens where they found familiar surnames on well-tended grave gardens.

The final hotel stay was in legend-filled Krakow. On the way there, the group stopped in Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, pausing for moments in the town square as a memorial siren sounded a solemn reminder of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, setting the tone for the next stop, in Oswiecim, at the former Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

In Krakow a tour of the once war-torn and now majestic Wawel Castle preceded shopping inside the Cloth Hall in the main square. Back on the bus they were soon at Lagiewniki to visit the Basilica of the Divine Mercy, ending the day with a visit to the underground salt mine in Wieliczka.

The last meal of Polish food was prepared at a nearby restaurant where a special guest, the Vice-Counsel of the American Consulate in Krakow addressed and welcomed the group.

The 2013 trip is being planned for June 25 thru July 8, 2013. Interested travelers may call Msgr. Kurzaj at (210) 733-7152. For more information about the FLMF visit www.FLMFoundation.org and www.SilesianTexans.com.

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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

Marie Curie – My Children Cannot Awaken Life in Me



Marie Curie with children Eve (left) and Irene.

continued

Pierre Curie's death on April 19, 1906, after being run by a horse on a busy Paris street, was tragic. Nobody was ready or prepared for it. Marie could not believe his death. When she was informed about it she replied after a long silence: "Pierre is dead...dead...absolutely dead?" Marie was almost in a stupor-like state. Her world collapsed around her. To the external world she maintained a face of an almost emotionless woman, but she knew that her life would change forever. In a foreign country, she had to deal with her work, her life and children, without the help of her work and life companion. Her youngest, Eve was only 14 months old—too small to remember her father.

Marie began to keep a diary that helped her to deal with her emotions. She wrote about Pierre in the present tense since she believed in his spiritual presence. This was a time when people, among them many scientists, believed that scientific experiments (Crookes tubes) showed a possibility of the contact with a spiritual medium of a dead person.

The day after Pierre's funeral, Marie was back in the laboratory which had become her safe haven. She started a workbook where she precisely documented her current work and how it was related to Pierre's previous findings. In contrast to the diary, the workbook was very analytical and emotionless. Marie tried to detach her professional life from her personal feelings and family life.

One month after Pierre's death, Marie was offered a national pension in France. She refused. She did not want to become famous only as a national widow. She was just

thirty-eight years old. So when it was suggested to her that she could assume Pierre's duties at the Sorbonne, she readily accepted it. The lecture hall was overcrowded waiting for her appearance and her lecture. Hundreds of people were even crowding the doors and stairs. She came in virtually unnoticed through the back door and started a lecture exactly at the same place where Pierre had left it before his death. By accepting Pierre Curie's position, Marie became the first woman to obtain a Sorbonne professor's position. Pierre's father, Dr. Eugene Curie, brought Irene to listen to the lecture. After Pierre's death, Eugene was a great help for Marie, taking care of Irene and Eve. He became so close to Irene, in fact, that his death, seven years later had a big impact on her.

Still, this was a very hard time for Marie. Just as she was after her mother's death in Poland, Marie became hunted by depression, causing her to withdraw from social life. She wrote that she "lost a habit of a conversation without setting a goal." Albert Einstein, who was Marie's friend, said of her as they hiked the mountains with their families, that she was as "cold as a herring." Marie said to her friend that she wants to bring up her children as well as possible but even they cannot awaken life in her.

Read more about Marie Curie life after she became a widow in the next article.

Baba Jaga Corner: Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us

REFERENCES:

- Barbara Goldsmith "Obsessive Genius"
- Eve Curie "Madame Curie"

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

Milestones

Dzien dobry, 2013!

I woke up the other day and realized that I had worked for the same company for 25 years. Where did that time go? It feels like 24.

A mark like that infers a wonderful sense of calm, satisfaction and accomplishment. It wasn't always easy, and I certainly wish I would have done more than a few things differently in those twenty five years, but on balance, it feels good and was a pretty good ride. I said it felt like 24 and a smiley face truly would be apropos because it was more like five years. Again, where did the time go?

Nestled in with the calm, the satisfaction and the accomplishment, is a sudden sense of urgency as well. The urge comes from the fact that there is a lot more to accomplish and the realization that time is running out. The longer you are in the game and experience so many things in life, the greater the possibilities seem and greater are the expectations. This is the other side of the coin.

Our Polonia is the same way. Looking back as the "grandchild" of the immigrants, experiencing the culture, learning the culture, involved in the culture, yes, there is a sense of calm and satisfaction now but I also feel an urgency to "complete" the one hundred year immigration experience that Michael Novak talks about in the *Unmeltable Ethnics* (Pondering Pole, October 2012). If you figure that most of our people came here around 1925 and we are quickly approaching the 2025 mark, time is running out. Dziadzia and busia ain't around anymore and the moms, dads, uncles, and aunts are fading away now as well. No one is going to help us on the last lap, whatever that might be.

SO WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

What is left to complete? I believe we have made a mark as individuals and as a community and have established our legacy in contributing to the greatness of this country. It is not hard to mention one or more outstanding Poles in just about any discipline or area of interest. I guess that final milestone I would want to reach is a total and unqualified acceptance of our ethnicity and what we bring culturally to the society. That would be the capper. Rather than us just dissolve into the American scene, I want us to be an identi-

fiable piece in the fabric of the society. I'd like us to get to a point of no more changing the names to "help our careers," no more belittling ourselves to pre-empt or diffuse poor behavior, no more little blond girls throwing horse manure at the dispossessed. Yes, to more success incorporating Polish things and characteristics, and yes to being uninhibited and easily speaking about the Polish, just as easily as someone talks about being Irish or Jewish.

We are on our way and I am encouraged. The light is getting brighter and brighter at the end of the tunnel and here are a few examples of the kinds of things that excite me about the future:

- SelectQuote Life insurance company (selectquote.com) has

and tasks for the coming year and beyond, email me. The pay is terrible but the emotional and psychological benefits are great.

POLISH OR NOT? John Candy, Canadian and one of the greatest comedians of all time, Polish or not? He looks like a Cukierka to me.

Jennifer Coolidge, actress. She currently plays Sophie Kuchinsky on the sit-com *Two Broke Girls*. Not only does she play Sophie Kuchinsky, she looks like a Sophie Kuchinsky. Polish or not? Her "accent" actually sounds more Russian than Polish, so I want to say she is not Polish. In monitoring the show so far, the buxom babcia is pretty funny, and the show's writers are careful not to have her step on her



CANDY



COOLIDGE



RYAN

a radio commercial featuring a representative "Nick Soloweski" (sp?) finding a great deal for a customer. Ford Motor Company runs a television commercial featuring innovations by employee "Scott Makowski." Polish names selling products.

- Ren Behan's "Fabulicious Food!" (renbehan.com) is a blog featuring modern and creative Polish cooking. The web site offers upscale versions of: "Seasonally inspired home cooking, recipes, reviews and food writing." What I like most is the look of the web site and the shots of the various dishes are done exquisitely as if right out of "Bon Appetit" only with Polish filling. Check it out!

- Bernie Miklasz, ESPN show host and writer for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* claimed the number one spot (over second place Bob Costas) in the October 18, 2012 issue of the *St. Louis Riverfront Times* "2012 RFT St. Louis Sports Media Power Rankings" (www.riverfronttimes.com/microsites/power_rankings/). "Be it radio, TV or print, the Big Dog holds fan base and franchises alike in his sway." Yet this prevalent Pole keeps his toe in the ethnic waters as an Honorary Chairperson for the Polish Heritage Golf Tournament each year.

If you are looking for projects

Polish character.

Meg Ryan, actress ("When Harry Met Sally," "Sleepless in Seattle"), is she Polish or not? Well, she is Polish according to Ethnic Celeks (ethnicleleks.com). "She was born Margaret Mary Emily Hyra, and took on Anne as a confirmation name. Meg's paternal grandparents were Michael Orest Hyra (the son of Orest Hyra and Anna "Annie" Durniak) and Mary Helen. Orest Hyra was born in Galicia, Halychyna, Poland, the son of Georgi Hyra and Katarzyna Fylak. Annie Durniak was also likely of Polish descent." The Ryan part comes from Meg's mom whose maiden name was Ryan. At best, Meg is Irish and Polish but EC does not specify whether mom was 100% Irish.

❖ ❖ ❖

If you have a thought about this month's topic, answers to any of the questions, a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

❖ ❖ ❖

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

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Sunnybrook's "Swing into Spring Polka Days"

POTTSTOWN, Pa. — The historic Sunnybrook Ballroom in Pottstown will feature "Swing into Spring Polka Days, Sunday, April 28, 2013. The "Good Ole Days at Sunnybrook" are back and the new Sunnybrook Foundation management encourages everyone to come and enjoy the great events that are being planned for 2013.

Music will be provided by Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push, the Eddie Forman Orchestra and the Osuch Rhythm & Music Band, starting at Noon. Osuch is scheduled from noon 'til 2:00 p.m. with Chicago Push and Eddie Forman alternating until 8:00 p.m.

Everyone can dance their hearts out on the huge wooden dance floor in the Sunnybrook Ballroom, sit and listen to the music, or enjoy the Polish food. Sunnybrook's restaurant will also be open for dinners. Plenty of food and drinks will be available for everyone.

Ticket proceeds are used by the non-profit Sunnybrook Foundation for further restoration and re-vitalization of the National Historic facility.

For tickets call: Janet Osuch at (610) 326-2915, Dolores Taras at (610) 779-4329, Walt Kazmierczak at (610) 375-3051 or the Sunnybrook Ballroom at (484) 624-5187.

Visit Sunnybrook on the internet at: www.thesunnybrookballroom.net. Sunnybrook is located in a beautiful country setting where you can stroll and enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

Drzewicki Band Heads West

BAY CITY, Mich. —The Steve Drzewicki Band will be making its California debut, Sat., Feb. 16 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 17, 2013 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the Sons of Italy Hall in Fontana. The hall is located at: 9240 Sierra Ave. For more information and tickets, call Gene Swick (858) 452-9865.

Steve Drzewicki, an inductee into The Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame, started the band in 1979. The band features six musicians, three of whom have been with the group since 1979. For informa-

tion on the band or their CD, "The Steve Drzewicki Band," email: ssdrzewicki@charter.net.

Jeanette Jagiello, Wife of Li'l Wally, Dies in Florida

CHICAGO (PMN)—Jeanette Jagiello, wife of the late Li'l Wally Jagiello, died in late November, 2012. She passed away in Florida, where she and her husband had settled after leaving Chicago for his health reasons.

Jeanette supported Li'l Wally, who was a polka star, in every sense of the word. She helped with his business, which included a store for polka-relate items in Miami, Florida, recording production and mail order sales, primarily of his CDs.

The biography of Li'l Wally at the IPA website states, "Wally's style became so popular in Chicago that virtually every other polka band in the city had to adapt their own sound to fit his blueprint. His burgeoning popularity crystallized into a breakout national hit in 1954, thanks to his first English-language recording, 'I Wish I Was Single Again.' It sold over 150,000 copies in Chicago alone, and climbed onto the national charts, where it topped out at Number 22. However, Wally was so overwhelmed by the duties of recording, performing, and running the label that he began to suffer from ulcers; he took some time off for a vacation in Miami, and liked it so much that he and his wife would eventually move there permanently."

Li'l Wally died on August 17, 2006, in Miami, Florida, at age 76. Jeanette continued to manage the sale of his CDs and to protect his copyrights and royalties.

Veteran Drummer Carl Bodek Passes

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Southern Tier drummer with the Krakowska Melodiars, Carl Bodek passed away Fri., Nov. 23, 2012.

Bodek started with the Melodiars in the 1940s and was with them for almost four decades. He was a subject of a 1984 Polish American Voice interview.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Irene Bodek, a son and

daughter-in-law; a daughter; and two grandsons. Bodek was a member of St. Stanislaus Koskta Church, now the Church of the Holy Trinity.

A World War II veteran with the 82nd Army Engineers, Bodek worked as an engineer with Edward L. Nezelek Construction Co. with over 25 years of service. His greatest enjoyment was playing drums with the Krakowska Melodeers.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at The Church of the Holy Trinity in Binghamton. Arrangements by the Laskowski Funeral Home.

Adirondack Fest Set For Memorial Day Weekend

OLD FORGE, N.Y. — The 16th annual Adirondack Polka Fest is scheduled for May 25-26, 2013 at the Hiltibrant Recreation Center.

Featured bands will include the Polka Family Band from Bloomsburg, Pa.; Eddie Forman Orchestra from Hadley, Mass.; New Direction Honky Style polka band from Buffalo, N.Y.; and Tony Blazonczyk & New Phase from Chicago.

Music will be continuous music for dancing 1:00-9:00 p.m. There will be a Polka Mass on Sunday at noon. Polish American food and beverages will be available in the hall.

For additional information call Dave at (919) 330-4186 or visit: visitmyadirondacks.com.

Musician Andy Zeik Retires

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio — After 60 years Andy Zeik of the Chicago Tradition band is putting his trumpet in the case.

While a student at Wheeling Jesuit College, Zeik formed the Warsaw Serenaders Polka band, who went on to record for Li'l Wally's Jay Jay label. In 1985, he joined Charlie Tansek & the Chicago Tradition band.

"I have been blessed with a beautiful family, and a life filled with the love of polka music," Zeik said.

He was honored at an appreciation dance on Sunday, December 2 at the Maynard Polish Club with music by Charlie Tansek & the Chicago Tradition.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Two Score and Five Years

Even though I started accordion lessons when I was seven, my true polka blood didn't start churning until the 1960s. In the late '60s, Ruda's Record Store became a regular stop for me and places with names like Chopin's, Polish Village, Strand Ballroom, Mathew Glab, and Sts. Peter and Paul's all become part of my vocabulary and my evenings.

Don Ruda introduced me to a small polka publication from Connecticut titled the Polka News, written and distributed by Stan Saleski. Stan always asked readers to send in any polka news from their area and in 1968 I began sending small tidbits of polka information from the greater Buffalo area. They were usually just a paragraph or two, but this began my adventure into writing for polkas and Polish publications.

A New Brass dance in Syracuse, N.Y., where a polka angel named Adele asked me to dance, resulted in marriage and relocating to Binghamton, N.Y., where we both continued our involvement in polka music. Along with teaching polka dance lessons, we started and edited a local polka club news bulletin entitled Polka Press, the monthly newsletter of the local Polka Paraders Club. A short time afterward Nebraska's Polka World solicited my writings and my "Accordion to Steve" column became a regular

feature of that publication. Throughout the next decades, versions of my columns, under different by-lines, appeared in polka and Polish-American newspapers including: Polka News of Michigan, Polka Scene of Cleveland, Polish American World of Buffalo, Polka Insight of Utica, NY, Polonia Reporter of Buffalo, NY, Polish American Voice of Buffalo, the Polish American Journal of Buffalo and a few non-polka news publications.

In December of 1989, Mark Kohan, editor-in-chief of the Polish American Journal, named me polka editor of that publication. I'm sure Mark has days that make him question that decision, but I have been writing exclusively for the PAJ ever since. The PAJ has become my home in this business and where I truly belong.

With us now officially in the new year of 2013, I find it hard to believe that I am now in my 45th consecutive year of writing about polkas. Of course, if it wasn't for you, the readers, there would not have been a "Polka Insider," or a Polkas "Accordion-to-Steve." My sincere thanks to you all. If you keep reading, I'll keep writing.

Your comments and news items are always welcomed at: pajpolka@verizon.net.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bayway Polish Home Presents

A Benefit Concert to aid in relief from the devastation in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy

On Oct. 25, 2012, countless lives were affected by a superstorm, the likes we have not seen in 100 years. Lives were lost. Homes destroyed. Families displaced.

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On January 27, 2013, we invite the polka community to come together, open their hearts, and show support.

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- Ed Goldberg's Odessa Klezmer (N.J.)
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- Chris & Ronnie (N.Y.)
- The Golden Tones (Pa.)
- Mike Costa & The Beat (N.J.)
- Special guest Hall-of-Famer Mitch Biskup (Mass.)

Special Benefit Hours 3:00-10:00 p.m.

Donation \$18.00 at the door.

All proceeds going to the American Red Cross

625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth, NJ 07022

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POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email: pajpolka@verizon.net.



Mark Cwiklinski and Happy Richie Bojczuk. Niagara Falls, N.Y. Early 1970s.



Eddie Blazonczyk, with Julie and Happy Louie. Early 1990s.



Hank Krzykowski on drums with the Goral Boys. Third Warders Club, North Tonawanda, N.Y. Early 1970s.

NOTES / Barbara Pinkowski

Happy New Year 2013 to All!

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Happy New Year 2013 to all! Hope this new year is filled with good health, good luck, good friendship, an abundance of love and laughter, and joyful polka music!

Ron Moscoe informed me that the **Annual Dinner Dance and Polka Mass** in Burlington, Ontario on Nov. 3rd was a huge success. Top notch entertainment was provided by The Knewz, John Gora and Gorale, and New Vintage. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal and excellent music!

Our area had two polka events happening within a couple miles of each other on Nov. 10th. **Tru Heritage** was at Ray's Lounge on Clinton St., a place which hosted many polka bands in the past. Ray's is known for its big wooden dance floor making dancing so enjoyable. A nice turnout for this one to hear the super sounds of Buffalo's newest band, Tru Heritage. A stone's throw from there, America's Concertina King, **Jersey Polka Richie** from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was playing at the Polish Villa II on Harlem Rd. The Villa recently enlarged their dance floor and it is a welcome improvement. It was unfortunate to have two polka doings on the same date, as just not enough polka fans to insure a big turnout for both events.

HE'S BACK IN TOWN! Benny Kaukus has moved back to this area after living with his daughter and family in Arkansas for two years. He is very happy and pleased to be back and has already attended several polka dances. Seeing all his friends again has made him so happy. If anyone wants to contact him or send him a card, his address is Greenfield Manor, 5953 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rose and Ron Walsh on their 50th wedding anniversary, Nov. 10. They celebrated with a Mass at St. Gabriel's Church and a luncheon afterward with family and friends.

IDIOTS TO THE RESCUE. Those Idiots, the unique polka rock band who regularly draws thousands during Buffalo's annual Dyngus Day celebration, headlined a rare December performance in support of the restoration of St. Casimir's Church in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood. The concert was part of St. Casimir's Church Preservation and Restoration Committee's "St. Andrew's Day Party," Dec. 1, 2012.

TALKING TURKEY. For those who did not have to spend the evening preparing for hosting Thanksgiving dinner, the Polish Villa was the place for some pre-Thanksgiving



HAM AND WRY. Ontarionians Andy Makarewicz and John Gora having fun at Pott's Deli.



OH BROTHER! John Gora (left) got a family discount hiring this band.

fun and lively music by the **Knewz** on Nov. 21st. A nice turnout for this pre-holiday get-together!

On Nov. 24th, the Can Am Thanksgiving Dance at Potts Hall had a large number in attendance. That's no surprise as **John Gora & Gorale** from Canada and **New Direction** were the two bands featured. John is an outstanding entertainer and knows how to please the crowd. The people love when John leaves the bandstand and comes out on the floor and goes around the tables singing to them. Fellow musician from Canada, Ed Guca, was invited to come up and sing a couple numbers with John and did a great job! Also, singing with the band was our own local gal, Theresa Ryndak,

who also did a fine job.

In addition to John, the band had two Winiarz brothers (Greg and John), two Piatkowski brothers (Al and Bob), and two Wanderlich brothers (Tom and John)! The New Direction Band did a great job with their mix of honky and push style music! In addition to the fabulous entertainment, Dan Potts put out a delicious buffet for everyone to enjoy.

IN SYMPATHY. Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Ron and Kathy Urbanczyk** and family on the passing of Ron's mother, **Adele**, Dec. 3rd. Ron is the leader of the New Direction Band. Please remember Mrs. Urbanczyk in your prayers.



HE'S BACK! Benny Kaukus is back in town. He was having a good time here with grandson Eric.



PIĘKNA JAK LALKI. Buffalo Polka Booster Club President Christine Tanski (left), and Cheri Trzepacz.

May she rest in peace.

GET WELL SOON! Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak is in good spirits now that he is back home following what could have been very serious. He still has more tests and treatments, but he is on the mend and looking forward to some of this year's polka events.

UPCOMING

Jan. 5. The Concertina All Stars and Tru Heritage play at Potts Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo.

Jan. 19. The Buffalo Touch are at the Lamm Post Hall, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y.

Jan. 19. Rare Vintage is at St. Martha's Parish Hall (formerly

OLBS) on French Rd., in Depew, NY from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. \$15 Admission includes beer and pop. (716) 481-4326

Jan. 23. Polka Variety Club Meeting at VFW Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, NY Music by the New Direction – Doors open at 6:30 p.m. New members welcome! (716) 759-8194.

Jan. 26. Polka Snowball Dance at Potts Hall, 694 South Ogden St., Buffalo, with music by the New Direction Band from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Admission just \$5.00!

Note: There is no Polka Boosters Meeting in January. The next meeting will be on Feb. 21, 2013 at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y.

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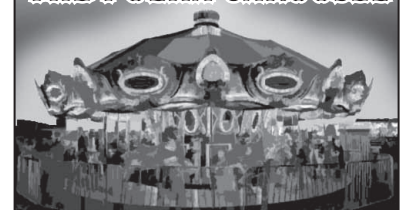
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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

A Touch of Brass Presents its Final Dance

There are polka dances, and then there are polka dances. And when a dance starts out with a packed house and grows from there, well, you know it is going to be great.

Such it was when A Touch of Brass presented its final dance, their way of saying "dziękuję" to hundreds of loyal fans, November 10. Though it was reported in March of last year that A Touch of Brass performed for the last time, it turns out that Jimmy Rutkowski and the guys had this final performance in the works for a while.

The band had decided that this was to be a free event in appreciation for the decades of support.

Guests were invited to "bring your own everything." What did this mean? It meant that by 6:00 p.m. the St. Clement's Church Hall was nearly filled, and at each table were displays of food and drink that reminded me of the feasts of my Polish childhood.

The band started about 7:15 p.m., and they blasted through a full four hours of favorites, playing crowd-pleasers a few times over. The audience was made up of hundreds of people, including parents, wives, children, in-laws, and grandchildren of the band members, and — of course — all of the people who have come to enjoy TOB over the years. About an hour into the evening, a group of ladies arrived, "A Touch of Stella" from Grand Rapids, Michi-

gan. TOS are women who became fans of TOB from Pulaski Days over the years. When they showed up it was like polka royalty rolling in.

The dance floor filled quickly, too. The night air was unseasonably warm, so it was easy to move out of the dance crowd and outside to enjoy the evening. Then it was up to the stage, where people lined up, as they always do, in front of a band, to sing along and cheer the guys on. In the corner of the stage, a continuous slide show looped pictures

of the guys over the years, right up to the last gigs they played. A videographer and a photographer shot film all night long, and at the end, a panoramic picture of over a hundred people was taken, with all of the extended Rutkowski, Owczarczak, and Earl families filling the dance floor.

As Jim Rutkowski and all of the guys from TOB move on to new musical endeavors, congratulations and best wishes are in order.

Thanks TOB! You will be missed.



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CHICAGO — Following a heart attack, Dave Ulczycki, president of the International Polka Association (IPA) had bypass surgery, Oct. 31, 2012. By Dec. 2, 2012, he was sufficiently recovered to attend the IPA's Breakfast With Santa. (PMN)

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976 Pope John Paul II Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192 / (734) 284-9135 / ourladyofmountcarmel.org/ Fr. Walter Ptak, Pastor

The history of the oldest Polish parish in Wyandotte, under the patronage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is naturally connected with the first Poles who settled in the area. With Fr. Bernard Zmijewski as its first pastor, the community set upon the task of building their church.

On September 8, 1899, the Most Rev. Bishop John Samuel Foley personally inspected grounds, donated by the realtors, Welch Brother's Company. He appointed almost the Rev. Fr. Bernard Zmijewski of Bronson, Michigan, as first pastor. Accordingly, Fr. Zmijewski took charge of his flock on September 18, 1899, but, since the church building was still in the planning stage, he was constrained to hold services for a time at St. Patrick's.

The laying of the cornerstone of a combination of building a school and church under the name of Our Lady of Mount Carmel took place on December 3, 1899, and the formal dedication of the completed structure was held on July 8, 1900. Rev.

The church also served as an elementary school for the growing number of students. Fr. Zmijewski petitioned to the Felician Sisters' Mother Provincial in Detroit, Mother Cajetan (one of the original five Felician Sisters' who came to America), an earnest appeal for the sisters to take charge of this school. In 1921, Fr. Kruska built an addition to the elementary school, installed a heating plant, enlarged the Sister's convent, and opened a complete high school in 1928.

Only six years after the dedication of the church, a disagreement between the pastor and the church committee forced Bishop Foley to proclaim a cooling off period. He ordered the church closed for a brief time and this was done from February 18 to March 19, 1906.

Fr. Sajecki was immediately succeeded by Rev. Fr. Maruszczky, who administered the parish until the appointment on April 26, 1906, of the second pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Under him, the former rectory on Tenth Street became an infirmary for those Felician Sisters' who had been stricken from the then-current tuberculosis epidemic. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's pastor and the Sisters were charged with their care. When they died, they were buried in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

In 1909, Rev. Fr. Constantine Dziuk was installed as the third pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. Fr. Alexander Grudzinski, whose seven-year pastorate was a period of positive growth in the parish. The present church building was erect-



ed; the Felician Sisters' convent was built; a new church organ was purchased. As the number of pupils continued to grow, additional classrooms were provided. The original building was turned over for the use of the Sisters' for the school.

The present church, erected in 1915, is a prime example of the so-called "Polish Cathedral style" of churches in both its opulence and grand scale. In 1918, Fr. Grudzinski was transferred to St. Francis Xavier Parish in Detroit, and the Rev. Msgr. Adalbert Zadala as the fifth pastor. He stayed only a short time. Short also was the sojourn of Our Lady of Mount Carmel's sixth pastor, Rev. Fr. Maximilian Gannas.

In 1920, Reverend Leon Jarecki assumed the leadership of Mt. Carmel Parish. But tragedy struck on April 7, 1921 when he was shot by an unknown assailant upon answering the door of the rectory. Fr. Jarecki purchased the three bells now in use. Reverend Peter Kruska, eighth pastor of Mt. Carmel, came in 1921. He remained for 17 years. Fr. Kruska built an addition to the elementary school, installed a heating plant, enlarged the Sister's convent, and opened a complete high school in 1928.

On June 10, 1939, Reverend Ladislaus A. Krych was appointed pastor of Mt. Carmel by Cardinal Edward Mooney. Fr. Krych began the work of the church building and remodeling the physical and spiritual appearance of Mt. Carmel. The church building received immediate attention.

On March 17, 1956, Fr. Krych succumbed to heart disease. Respected by the whole community, Fr. Krych was mourned by thousands. Fr. Jerome Juchniewicz took over the reins of Mt. Carmel in June, 1956. On September 13, 1963 Fr. Juchniewicz suffered a fatal heart attack, and Fr. Venanty Szymanski became the new Pastor of Mt. Carmel.

In 1963 a financial crisis faced the Archdiocese of Detroit. Mt. Carmel was advised to join with St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's, St. Helen's, St. Stanislaus' and St. Elizabeth's on the building of a central high school. A public meeting of the parish was held and the parishioners decided to keep Our Lady of Mt. Carmel High School operating and not join the consolidation.

Fr. Szymanski retired from the pastorate of Mt. Carmel in May 1972. The parish was then under the administration of Fr. Stanley Kopopka until August 1972 when Fr. Stanley Redwick, former assistant assumed the duties of Mt. Carmel's new Pastor.

Fr. Redwick saw the need for many renovations in the school and in the parish. With the 75th Diamond Jubilee, Fr. Redwick initiated plans to repaint and repair the inside and outside of the church. A parish festival was planned for August 1973 (which has continued annually to this day). The first festival profit of \$85,000 was the result of the hard work of Fr. Redwick and the countless hundreds of parishioners who worked to make the event a success.

In the early 1990s, Fr. Redwick abdicated the position as pastor due to his failing health and Fr. Walter J. Ptak became the new Pastor. He still serves to this day.

A monument to Pope John Paul II was dedicated by Cardinal Adam Maida in a peace garden in front of the church on October 31, 2004. It was sculpted by Professor Czesław Dźwigaj, well known for also casting the monument of Christ the King in Cicero in front of the church of St. Mary of Częstochowa as well as the Tolerance Monument that was recently unveiled in Jerusalem.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel remains one of the most active parishes in American Polonia. Its Annual May Procession, Its affiliated organizations boast vibrant membership and participation in all parish events.

Would you like to see your parish featured in "Reflections"? Please send a photo and a few paragraphs about the parish. While we appreciate full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name us last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

BRUSH UP / Polonia Media Network

Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers must agree in gender and case with the noun to which they refer. Below are both masculine/feminine endings

- pierwszy / pierwsza.....(PYER-fsih / PYER-fsha)
- drugi / druga.....(DRUH-gee / DRUH-gah)
- trzeci / trzecia.....(TSHEH-chee / TSHEH-cha)
- warty / czwarta.....(CHFAHR-tih / CHFAHR-tah)
- piąty / piąta.....(PYOHWN-tih / PYOHWN-tah)

- FRACTIONS**
- first jedna czwarta.....(YEHD-nah CHFAHR-tah)
- second jedna trzecia.....(YEHD-nah TSHEH-cha)
- third jedna druga.....(YEHD-nah DRUH-gah)
- fourth jedna pół.....(YEHD-nah puhw)
- fifth trzy czwarte.....(TSHIH-CHFAHR-teh)
- three-quarters

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

A Snapshot of the Past

After you have found all the shoe box documents and you have interviewed all of the living relatives, you have to begin searching for other records. I recommend that census records are the best type for this next step. These records contain information that describes your family members on a specific day and gives you a fantastic snapshot that is not available in your scrapbooks or in oral histories.

The U.S. Federal Census was mandated in 1787 by the U.S. Constitution to count the U.S. population to determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Constitution required that the census should be done in 1790 and every ten years thereafter.

Census records are a list of individuals and families and are constantly used by genealogists to identify ancestors. Researchers begin by searching for records that connect each generation to parents in previous generations.

The format of the census records from 1790 through 1840 required listing only basic information that was needed to give the Federal government an accurate head count. These early census records included the names of only the head of the household, state, county, town, counts of the household by age ranges and gender, and the number of slaves by gender.

The U.S. Federal Census records from 1850 and after expanded the information that was recorded. They contain a significant amount of data

that can add rich facts to your family history. The information found beyond the column of names on these documents add information about where your ancestors lived, when they were married, where they were born, where their parents were born and much more. Use both Federal and State census records. States and territories also conducted censuses. Some state census records were merely head counts but some had very useful genealogical information.

Federal census records can be found on a number of online databases, including Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org and HeritageQuest. Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org have indexed all individuals listed on the census records to allow searches by name. However, HeritageQuest has only indexed the head of household. Unfortunately, most of 1890 census records were destroyed in a 1921 fire.

Generally start with the 1940 census or the latest before your ancestor's death and work backward in time to identify each set of parents. Use all of the information on census records to maximize your research results. Also be persistent and find all possible census records for your ancestors; each one should give you additional information.



Stephen M. Szabados, author of "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," and "Find your Family History," is a regular columnist in the Polish American Journal.

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

Ask Madrysa, He'll Know

Consider giving a loved one (or yourself) a unique, different and unusual gift of Polish heritage which can be passed down from one generation to the next — a Polish surname analysis.

Every Polish last name means something and came into being for a specific reason. Here are few taken from the PAJ's subscription list:

Medrysa. Variation of Mądrysa (mądry = wise), a person who is known for his intelligence.

Pociask. A *pociask* is tool for drawing embers out of a stove. Either the person who did this, or one who made such shovels.

Zabrocki. A person from Zabrody (roughly between Warsaw and Częstochowa) or Zabrodzie (about 30 miles northeast of Warsaw).

For a custom-researched analysis

of how your Polish surname came about, how many people share it, where they live and whether it is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish researched) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Also included free of charge is a genealogical contact chart (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 qualified to track down family records, photograph or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly even turn up living long-lost relatives in the Old Country.

Offers Advice on Shrinking Population

WARSAW — Poland's impending demographic crisis can be dealt with if Polish families have more kids, and experts agree on the five best ways to achieve that.

These include: low taxes for parents, child allowances, paid child-care leaves, accessible nurseries and preschools as well as

preferential breaks for large families.

"If we don't invest in families, we face the collapse of our economy and civilization," one expert warned.

Some fear Poland's population (currently 38.2 million) may drop to 30 million by mid-century. (RS)



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HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Republic of Poland Awards Activists in Chicago



AWARD RECIPIENTS WITH CONSUL GENERAL, (l.-r.): Joseph Drobot, Jr., Maria Kapron, Consul General Paulina Kapuscinska, Adam Lizakowski, and Veteran Roman Marian Bucon.

CHICAGO — On Nov., 9, 2012, a celebration was held at the Polish Museum of America (PMA) to commemorate the 94th anniversary of Polish independence Day. The Polish Consulate in Chicago organized the event.

Over 200 guests were welcomed by PMA Director Jan Lorys, who said the event was taking place in the very room where Haller's Blue Army volunteers gathered before they went off to the camp in Canada and later to France and Poland during World War I.

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, Paulina Kapuscinska, welcomed guests, especially Bishop Andrew Wypych of the Archdiocese of Chicago and leaders of various Polish organizations. She reminded everyone about the history of Polish Independence Day and briefly mentioned the most important dates and events over the last 94 years since Poland regained the independence. The Consul also acknowledged and thanked all veterans present at the celebration.

At the event, a group of Polish activists were honored with high state awards conferred upon them by the President of Poland and presented by Consul General Kapuscinska. The Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland was awarded to:

Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the oldest Polish-American fraternal organization.

Maria Kapron, a teacher of 50 years, author of numerous publications in Poland and abroad about raising children.

Adam Lizakowski, a Polish poet and promoter of Polish culture abroad for over 30 years.

A Gold Cross of Merit of the People's Republic of Poland was awarded to veteran **Roman Marian**

Bucon, commanding officer of No. 14 Polish Army Veterans Association and commander of the District I of SWAP.

AIPC to Honor Radzilowski

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — **Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski**, president and founder of the Piast Institute, has been nominated by the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Polish Culture to receive the Lech Walesa Media Award at its 41st International Polonaise Ball, Feb., 2, 2013 in Miami.

For president of Poland Lech Walesa will present Dr. Radzilowski the award for all of his outstanding achievements in promoting Poland and Polish issues through educational programs and media in the United States.

Aquila Polonica President Awarded Knight's Cross

LOS ANGELES — **Terry A. Tegnazian**, president and co-founder of Aquila Polonica Publishing, was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by decision of the President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, in recognition of her outstanding services to the Polish community and promotion of Polish culture abroad.

Joanna Kozińska-Frybes, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles, presented the medal to Tegnazian during the Polish Independence Day ceremony on Nov. 10 hosted by the Consulate as part of the 2012 Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles, Calif.

"To receive this medal is truly an honor. To have my work recognized in this way by the Polish government means a great deal to me," said Tegnazian, who is not of Polish heritage. "I look forward to bring-



TERRY A. TEGNAZIAN, president and co-founder of Aquila Polonica Publishing

ing more of the amazing stories of Poland's heroism and her critical contribution to the Allied victory in World War II to the wider world."

Aquila Polonica Publishing, founded by Tegnazian and Stefan Mucha in 2005, is dedicated to publishing, in English, the Polish experience of World War II with first-hand accounts, memoirs, photographs, artwork, poetry, literature and historical studies.

Veteran Skielnik Has Street Named After Him

WILMINGTON, Del. — The City Council of Gdynia, Poland, the hometown of **Stefan Skielnik**, passed a resolution to name a street "Stefan Skielnik" in his honor, for all his services during the War and for Poland and the Polish American community.

Skielnik, a resident of Wilmington is a veteran of World War II. He obtained the rank of Lieutenant and was decorated by the British Secretary of State and Polish Army.

For his services to the Polish American community and for outstanding efforts in promoting the acceptance of Poland in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Skielnik was decorated by Poland's President, Aleksander Kwasniewski. He also received a special award from the Minister of Defenses, Dr. Andrzej Karoszka, for his efforts in helping with the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Skielnik has been involved in a leadership position in many cultural and patriotic organizations in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and on a national level. He is a member of the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, Polish American Cultural Center Museum, in historic Philadelphia, and participates in the Philadelphia Pulaski Day Parade every year.

OBITUARIES

Genia Golda-Tokar, Active in Religious, Civic Groups

Genia Golda-Tokar, 73, succumbed to illness on October 10, 2012. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church in Manhattan, and she was laid to rest at the cemetery at The Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa.

Golda-Tokar was a longtime parishioner of Saint Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church, a member of the St. Stanislaus B. & M. Rosary Society, a longtime member of the Polish American Folk Dance Company, correspondence secretary of the Gen. Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, financial secretary of PNA Lodge 30, president of Council 17, just to name a few of the organizations and societies to which she belonged and in which she was active. Genia's father Stefan Golda was an officer of PNA Lodge 30 (early 1900s) in Manhattan. Genia followed in her father's footsteps.

While at St. Stanislaus she started the "Miss Polonia-Manhattan" selection committee. She also started the Spring Dance, Fall Dance and Andrzejki, which she later turned over to Polish School as their fundraiser. She also conducted bus trips and outings to various parts of the eastern United States close to home, and annual pilgrimages to Doylestown for the Polish-American Festival, Our Lady of Czestochowa and for All Souls Day.

Army Specialist Brett Gorniewicz

ALDEN, N.Y. (WIVB) — Army Specialist Brett Gorniewicz of Alden and two other reservists were killed while inspecting an area for roadside bombs, Nov. 3, 2012.

Gorniewicz was home on leave in August. He didn't talk much about Afghanistan, but loved spending time with his family and friends. His close friends described the Army Specialist as a selfless person with a great sense of humor, and a special affection for the Army.

Steve Zinter said, "As kids, he always had the camouflage and BB guns and [liked to] dress up and run around the house doing that kind of thing."

Gorniewicz, of the 444th Engineer Company headquartered in Oswego, had served a tour in Iraq before electing to go to Afghanistan.

Andrew Smith said, "He had the opportunity to give up the Army, but once he found out that some of his brothers from the previous tour were going back, he told us he wanted to go back with them."

On November 3, Gorniewicz's Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device. He and two other soldiers from New York State, Specialist Ryan Jayne from Campbell and Staff Sergeant Dain T. Venne from Port Henry, were killed. His lifelong friends in Alden have taken it very hard.

Brian Peebles said, "I couldn't feel my stomach. It just caved in, and I didn't know what to feel, so I immediately told my wife, and just kind of stared for a minute. Didn't know what to do."

Gorniewicz played varsity baseball and JV football at Alden, where he graduated from in 2003, and was always described as a team player.

Andrew Bernel said, "He was a great guy. He would do anything for anybody. He always had a way to come in to wherever we were and just brighten up the spot."

Artur Kasprzak, Died Saving Family

Artur Kasprzak, an off-duty NYPD officer drowned after rescuing seven members of his family, including his 15-month-old son, from Hurricane Sandy's raging flood waters that were filling the basement of his Staten Island home.

After ushering them into the attic, Kasprzak said he was going to check the basement one more time, according to an NYPD release.

The family's 911 call spurred the NYPD to dispatch scuba divers in Zodiac boats and jet skis to the home, but they couldn't reach it because of downed power lines snaking through the water, according to multiple reports.

A search party found Kasprzak's body in the basement. His father and girlfriend were among those he saved.

Kasprzak was a six-year veteran of the NYPD.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Kubiak's Polish-Texan Roots

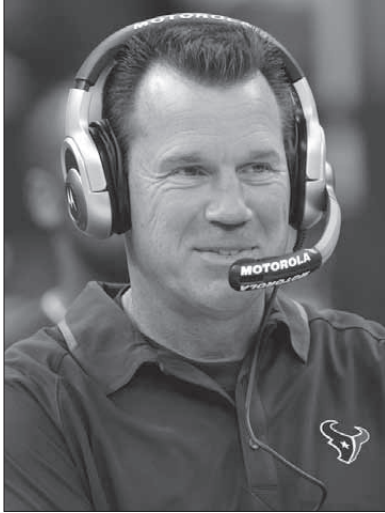
Gary Kubiak, head coach of the NFL Houston Texans, has family roots that go back to the early days of Texas' Polonia.

Kubiak and his family trace those roots back to Bremond, the town known as the "Polish Capital of Texas," due to its large number of Polish immigrants (it still has an active Polonia that celebrates Polish Day, or Polski Dzień, every fourth Saturday in June). Kubiak's great grandfather Michal was born in the late 1840s in the Poznan area of Poland which was occupied by Prussia at the time. He and his family emigrated to America somewhere around 1885 and settled in the Bremond area where he had relatives. Seven of his thirteen children were born and raised in Bremond, and his youngest son was Gary's grandfather.

Kubiak's grandfather moved to Houston as a young man in 1918, married a woman of Polish descent, settled in the Heights area and found a job as a waiter. He later worked as a baker for the Texas Bread Company, then as a packer for the Ford Motor Company plant. Kubiak's father was born and raised in Houston and he also married a woman of Polish descent whose family came from Bremond. Kubiak's wife is a descendent of early Texas Polish immigrants.

Kubiak played football as a quarterback for St. Pius X High School in Houston, then attended Texas A&M University. He was selected in the eighth round of the 1983 NFL Draft by the Denver Broncos and he played his entire career for the Broncos as a backup for John Elway.

Kubiak began his coaching career at his alma mater, Texas A&M. He later served as the Broncos' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, helping Denver to two Super Bowl titles. He was named the second head coach in Houston



HOUSTON TEXANS coach Gary Kubiak's roots are in Poznan, Poland.

Texans history on January 26, 2006.

For more information about Kubiak's roots go to www.polish-texans.com.

WACH OUTPOINTED. Poland's **Mariusz Wach** was outpointed by Wladimir Klitschko in a recent bout in Hamburg, Germany. Klitschko retained his WBA, IBF and WBO heavyweight titles. The 6-foot-7 1/2 Wach was the tallest opponent Klitschko has faced in his 16-year professional career, but judges scored it 120-107, 120-107 and 119-109 for the champion.

Klitschko was only in trouble at the end of the fifth round, when Wach surprised him with a right hook before a flurry of punches. "He caught me in the fifth, but then I slipped," said Klitschko, who was left with a small cut under his left eye.

The 32-year-old Wach was wobbled in the seventh with a devastating right followed by a series of combinations, but stayed on his feet. "That was the hardest fight of my career," Wach said after his first loss. "I want to apologize to everyone for not living up to expecta-

tions. I really wanted to win. Thank you so much to my family."

The 36-year-old Klitschko improved to 59-3 (51 KOs), and Wach dropped to 27-1 (15 KOs).

POLISH FANS. A recent *Sports Illustrated* reported that Americans took notice of the fervent fan followings at the Euro 2012. Even NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said that he would love for NFL stadiums to have the kind of spontaneous songs and chants that were heard in Polish and Ukrainian arenas. Instead of pumping in loud music and using "kiss cams," European arenas rely on the fans to create the atmosphere.

Kuba Krzyzostaniak told the magazine the 43,000 people at a Lech Poznan game "are louder than the 80,000 at a Wisconsin game." He should know. Kuba was born in Poland, emigrated to Madison, Wisconsin at age five, and then recently moved back to Poznan. The 24-year-old declared: "Nothing in America compares to a game here."

Although Goodell wondered if the NFL could encourage the stadium experience to be more organic and crowd-driven, Krzyzostaniak thinks that U.S. fan traditions and having more upper-middle-class fans might prevent that.

WOLSKI RETURNS HOME. While Poland doesn't have a top-flight hockey league, Washington forward **Wojtek Wolski** opted to play in his homeland during the NHL lock-out. Wolski, who was born in Zabrze, decided to sign with KH Sanok of the Polish Ice Hockey League.

Wolski felt this might be his only chance to play in his native country, so he passed up opportunities to play in the upper tier leagues in Sweden, Russia and Switzerland. Poland is ranked No. 22 in the IIHF Rankings, between Japan and Holland.

The accommodations in the

league are a far cry from the NHL, but there are some advantages. "The last game we were in Hungary and I scored in a shootout to win it," Wolski explained. "The fans got pretty excited and started throwing me chocolate bars."

WHAT'S POLISH FOR "BOBBLE-HEAD?" Mark your calendars, baseball fans of Milwaukee! The Milwaukee Brewers announced its schedule of ten "All-Fan Bobble-head" dates. On June 23, fans will receive a "Klement's Famous Racing Sausage Polish Bobble," with a jersey donning the word "Piwowarzy," which is the Polish translation for Brewers.

Milwaukee's Racing Sausages started in the early '90s as cartoon figures on the centerfield screen between innings of home games. In 2000 the virtual race was replaced by actual sausages — really people in sausage costumes — competing in a footrace. Besides Polish there's Brat, Italian, Chorizo and Hot Dog.

BIG STEP FORWARD. Polish women have been making a mark in tennis in recent years, particularly No. 4 ranked **Agnieszka Radwanska**.

However, it looks like someone is stepping up to represent the Polish men. **Jerzy Janowicz**, the runner-up in two Junior Grand Slam tournaments, recently made a remarkable run at the 2012 Paris Masters. He now gives the rising tennis nation of Poland a pair of Top-30 ATP/WTA performers, as he joins in that exclusive group (or in this case, tandem). Radwanska, of course, reached the women's Wimbledon final this past summer and currently rests at No. 4 overall among the ladies.

He defeated five Top 20 players, including U.S. Open champion and world No. 3 Andy Murray and world No. 9 Janko Tipsarevic. He was the first man to reach the final

of a Masters tournament as a qualifier since 2007, and the first unseeded man to make the final at the Paris Masters since 2003. Janowicz also became the first-ever Polish player to reach an ATP Masters final. He eventually lost the final to David Ferrer in straight sets. It enabled him to achieve a world ranking of 26. The next highest-ranked Pole is **Lukasz Kubot** at No. 74.

At 6 feet, 8 inches, Janowicz is certainly one of the tallest players in ATP history. Naturally, he possesses a powerful serve and devastating forehand, but he also demonstrates a skillful array of drop shots and lobs.

Earlier in 2012, Janowicz missed the Australian Open because he didn't have enough money and/or sponsorship to make the trip. His best showing in the main draw of a major in 2012 wound up being a third-round berth at Wimbledon.

The 22-year-old, who turned pro back in 2008, grew up in Lodz, Poland. His father, **Jerzy**, and mother, **Anna Szalbot**, were both professional volleyball players.

THEY SAID IT

"Lech Poznan supporters are regarded as a festive crowd even for soccer fans, the Cameron Craziest of Europe. (Might Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski tell you it's a Polish thing?)"

— **Grant Wahl** in *Sports Illustrated*, writing about the enthusiastic crowds at Euro 2012.

❖ ❖ ❖

" 'A tree, a tree would be good here — that's what I think,' he said. 'I can see it, I can watch it grow. I don't know if it's being Polish or whatever, but when I'm outside, I want to work. I want to cut something down, to prune a limb, to grow something.'"

— **Will Blythe**, quoting *Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski* in a piece entitled "Hating Coach K" that appeared in *Esquire Magazine*.

REVIVING OUR HERITAGE, ENRICHING AMERICA / Robert Strybel

Suggested Early-Year Activities

According to Polish tradition, New Year's Eve festivities marked the start of the long pre-Lenten season known as Karnawał or Zapusty. Maybe some of them could help revitalize your PolAm fraternal lodge, club or parish. Since they're lots of fun, friends of neighbors of non-Polish heritage may well also take a fancy to them if exposed.

FEAST OF THE THREE KINGS (Święto Trzech Króli) – Jan. 6: This is the first celebration of the New Year (apart from New Year's Day dinners). It religious dimension involves attending Holy Mass where the faithful receive blessed chalk to write K+M+B – 2013 over their doorways. In the social realm, it is an occasion for banquets, balls, dinner-dances and similar festivities. A typical event is the Almond King (Migdalowy Król) celebration. The one who finds an almond in his portion of cake gets to be Almond King for the night, picks his Almond Queen and is able to order ball-goers around to the general merriment of all present. If a woman finds the almond, it works the same way.

CANDLEMAS (Święto Matki Boskiej Gromnicznej) Feb. 2: This holiday marks the official end of Poland's long Christmas season. It is the day when candles to be use at

the bedsides of the sick and dying are blessed in churches. Probably only the most traditional Polish parishes in America and those run by the Society of Christ (Chrystusowcy) still perpetuate this tradition. But it might be worth re-enacting as a religious/cultural project by some of our Polish heritage clubs or societies.

KOŚCIUSZKO DAY (Dzień Kościuszki): Since his date of birth has been variously given as February 4th or 12th, any time in early February is a good time to mark this occasion. This can be a patriotic assembly, school essay contest or Kościuszkowski Day banquet with a suitable historical program. It might include the fact that Tadeusz Kościuszkowski was a hero of two continents who commanded and insurrection against Russian invaders of Poland and also aided the cause of American independence. He was the military engineer who fortified West Point. He also left his American fortune for the liberation and education of Negro slaves.

ASH WEDNESDAY / PĄCZKI DAY: In Poland Pączki Day is the last Thursday before Ash Wednesday (February 13 this year), known as Tłusty Czwartek (Fat Thursday). In French it would be *Jeudi Gras*. I mention that fact because Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday,

which is Pączki Day among US-born Poles.

PĄCZKI-LINKED ACTIVITIES (imprezy pączkowe): Only your imagination is the limit as how pączki can be used to enliven the PolAm scene. Whether your group has enough volunteers to produce them or you use bakery-bought ones, pączki sales are always good fund-raisers. There are also Pączki Parties, Pączki Balls and Pączki Nights, and pączki should be in good supply at any banquets and dinner dances held during this season. Faworki or chruściki (sugar-dusted angel-wing pastries) come in a close second, but are quite crumbly and fragile and don't hold up to transport as well as pączki do.

SLEIGHING PARTY (kulig): This Old Polish carnival-season activity is sure to be a hit with your group. You need not own your own horse and sleigh to experience the amusement of an Old Country kulig. can be re-enacted in modern America. Bundle up and pile abroad a one of more sleighs, have a torch to illuminate each and bring along live band or single musician or recorded music. A sleigh ride through the woods after dusk and back again is fine, but including a stop at a farmhouse, log cabin or bonfire in a forest clearing is better. Hot

bigos, kielbasa roast over the bonfire and hot rum-flavored tea will really hit the spot!

MARDI GRAS "CAROLERS" (zapustne chodzenie): precisely because this custom is little known in Polonia is a good reason to popularize it. The Christmas carolers who carried a crèche and pole-mounted stars, somewhere after the New Year shed their nativity related get-ups (King Herod, Angel, Death, Three Kings) and began leading someone disguised as a bear, or Turoń (wild bovine), goat or stork. There were beggars, gypsies, merchants, soldiers, and priests in the retinue. The appearance of this merry band at a PolAm social is sure to liven things up, especially when they start dancing the guests.

SHROVE TUESDAY (ostatki): Pączki continue reigning supreme in the culinary department, but for the last time this season. As the name implies ("ostatni" in Polish means last), this is the final fling of merriment before Ash Wednesday. Any Pączki Party or dinner dance held on that day should end abruptly at the stroke of midnight. In fact during the last minute or so, the drummer can do a count-down of those final seconds.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Mid-Winter Plum and Prune Cookery

Plums and prunes have long played an important role in the Polish kitchen. They are especially typical of the hearty dishes served during the colder months of the year at family gatherings, Mardi Gras festivities and other social meet-ups. Here are some examples:

POLISH PLUM-BUTTER (powidla śliwkowe): Powidla imported from Poland may be found in Polish groceries, delis and import shops across America. You can also make your own, but only around September when węgierki (Italian plums) are plentiful.

Powidla can be spread on bread and rolls, pancakes and crêpes, used to fill pastries, including pączki, and in various sauces and meat dishes. There is also a plum-butter soup (below).

PLUM-BUTTER SOUP (powidlan-ka): In pot combine 2 c home-made or store-bought powidla and 4-5 c water and bring to boil. Remove from heat. Dissolve 1 T cornstarch in 1/2 c cold water and gradually stir into soup. Simmer briefly. Season to taste with a pinch of ground cloves and/or cinnamon. Sweeten to taste with sugar if desired and flavor with a squeezing of lemon juice to taste.

Optional: 1/2 c sour cream or coffee cream may be stirred in. Serve over egg noodles or butter-fried croutons.

ROAST PORK LOIN WITH PRUNES (schab pieczony ze śliwkami): Rub a 4-5 lb boned pork loin with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1-2 buds crushed garlic, place in roaster, smother meat with 2 sliced onions, cover and let stand at room temp 1 hr. Remove loin, pat dry, sprinkle with flour and brown on all sides in hot oil or lard to seal in juices. Return to roaster. Brown onions in the pan drippings and return to roaster. Add 1 c water and bake in 375° oven 1 hr. Meanwhile, soak 2 c unpitted prunes in water to cover 20 min and add to roaster. Bake another 90 min or until tender but not overcooked. Cut the loin in 2 to see if it is no longer pink inside. Serve with rice or barley. Or, small peeled potatoes may be added to roaster to cook in the drippings during the last 30 min or so.

PORK TENDERLOIN STUFFED WITH PRUNES (polędwiczki wieprzowe nadziewane śliwkami): Split pork tenderloin lengthwise without cutting through. Spread meat out on board butterfly fashion and pound thicker places with mallet to even them out. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, garlic powder and marjoram, spread surface with 1 c or so whole or chopped pitted prunes, roll meat up and fasten with skewers or tie with string. Dust with flour, shake off excess on brown on all sides in hot lard or oil.

Place on rack in open roasting pan, add 2 c water to pan and bake in 350° oven 80 min or until tender, basting occasionally. Let stand several min before removing skewers or string and slicing. Combine pan drippings with enough water to make 3 c. Add 1 crushed beef bouillon cube, 1 T white dry wine and 2 t cider vinegar and bring to boil. Thicken with a little flour and simmer briefly. Season with salt, pepper and marjoram if necessary. Serve with rice or buckwheat.

BREADED CHICKEN ROLL-UPS (zrazy zawijane z kureczką): Pound 4 skinned and halved chicken

breasts on both sides into 8 cutlets 1/4" thick. Thinly spread each cutlet with powidla and a sprinkling of pepper and marjoram. Roll cutlets up from wider towards narrower end. Salt & pepper, bread in flour, egg wash and bread crumbs and place seam-side-down in hot butter or oil to seal. Brown on all sides, then reduce heat and simmer another 8-10 min or until fully cooked. Drain on absorbent paper and serve at once.

HUNTER STYLE ROAST CHICKEN (kurczę po myśliwsku): Wash and pat dry, whole 3-lb broiler-fryer. Rub inside and out with salt, pepper, 1 t marjoram, 1/2 t ground juniper (in Polish: jałowiec) and 1 crushed bud garlic. Rub outside of chicken with 1 T oil. Bake in uncovered baking pan in pre-heated 450° oven for 10 min., then reduce heat to 350°. Brush chicken generously all over with your home-made Polish plum sauce (see below), adding 2-3 T to the cavity. Pour 1 c water into bottom of pan and bake about 1-1/4 hrs or until done, basting occasionally with pan drippings.

After 45-50 min. of baking, add 12 small peeled potatoes 2-3 carrots, 6 small onions, 6 fresh mushrooms 12 radishes and let them cook in the pan drippings.

POLISH PLUM SAUCE (sos śliwkowy): In saucepan combine 1 c powidla, 1/4 c tomato paste or ketchup and 3/4 – 1 c home-made spiced-plum (or store-bought spiced-peach) marinade. If neither marinade is available, add 1/3 c cider vinegar, 1/2 c water and 1 T sugar.) Add 1/2 t salt, 1/2 t marjoram, 1/2 t ground juniper, 1/4 t ground black pepper and 1 t Maggi liquid seasoning. (Variation: For more zing, add 2-5 dashes of Tabasco or other red-pepper sauce.)

Mix well, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer covered on low about 15 min, stirring occasionally so it doesn't scorch. Remove from heat and let stand about 20 min., then pack into jar and seal. When cooled to room temp, store in fridge. A nice glaze for roast meat and poultry, it is also a great condiment for cold cuts, enriches the flavor of bigos and other dishes and can be used in place of store-bought steak sauce.

ROAST DUCK WITH PRUNES (kaczka pieczona ze śliwkami): Wash and pat dry a 5-6 lb duck (fully thawed if its is frozen). Rub inside and out with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1 crushed bud garlic. Fill cavity with pitted prunes mixed with 1 coarsely chopped onion and

sew up. Place duck in baking pan, preferably on a rack, and bake in 450° oven 20 min. Reduce heat to 350°, baste with 1 c beer and bake for about 2-1/2 hrs or until done. With fork prick duck to release excess fat and baste with pan drippings occasionally.

During last half hour surround duck in roaster with a dozen or so small peeled potatoes and let them cook in the drippings.

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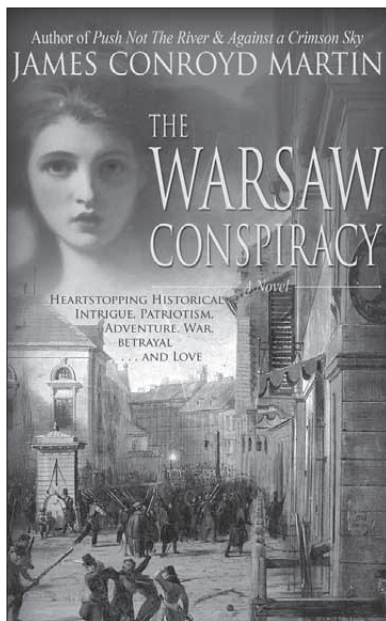
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Novel about the November Rising Released

CHICAGO — In the past December *The Warsaw Conspiracy* was released. The story focuses on the Polish Cadets' Revolution of 1830-31.

On November 29, 1830 Polish cadets rose up against Russia, calling for independence—and a great number of the populace followed suit in nearly a year's-long struggle against a czar who had declared Poland his and himself King of Poland.

Known for his novel *Push Not the River*, based on the diary of a Polish countess, and its sequel *Against a Crimson Sky*, James Conroyd Martin takes his characters into this tumultuous era with *The Warsaw Conspiracy*. While the finale to the trilogy crowns the work (Konic wieńczy dzieło), the story fully stands on its own.



The end crowns the work. Following *Against a Crimson Sky*, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes a trilogy begun with *Push Not the River*, a novel based on a diary of a Polish countess.

quality paperback and in the Kindle e-book format. Other channels include www.ThingsPolish.com with more to come. The Polish American Journal is offering autographed copies in its Bookstore. (See page 19 or order on-line at polamjournal.com).

Leonard Kniffel, former *American Libraries* Editor-in-Chief, writes: "If you thought the first two installments of James Conroyd Martin's historical trilogy were enthralling, wait until you read the third. More than a simple adventure or romance, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* is a heart-stopping journey through post-Napoleon Poland as another generation of freedom-loving Poles resists the domination of a hostile neighbor. Martin's uncanny insight

into the Polish national psyche and his vigorous prose make this a compelling page-turner as we learn the fate of our heroines Anna and Zofia and their family. Historical facts and details of daily life combine to keep you riveted to the page."

Push Not the River, is a novel based on the diary of Anna Berzowska, a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution in the 1790s. After working on the project for some years without raising interest within the publishing community, Martin self-published in 2001. Just one year later, St. Martin's Press purchased the book and released a hard cover edition in September 2003. Polish and German rights sold almost immediately.

The Polish edition, *Nie ponaglaj rzeki*, was released in May of 2005, became a best-seller, and sold out in a matter of months. Anna's story had come full circle: Polish to English to Polish! *Pod purpurowym niebem*, the translation of *Against a Crimson Sky*, also became a bestseller when published in December of 2007. Also in 2007, Martin was awarded a Gold Medal from the American Institute of Polish Culture.

Martin, who holds degrees from St. Ambrose and DePaul Universities, is a longtime English and creative writing teacher at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights, Ill. He is working on his fourth novel, the centerpiece of which is the Battle of Vienna in 1683; it highlights the love and aspirations of a young man whose fervent — but unlikely — dream is to be a Polish hussar.

SYNOPSIS. Engaging and opulent, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* unfolds as a family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831), partitioned Poland's daring challenge to the Russian Empire. Brilliantly illustrating the psyche of a people determined to reclaim independence in the face of monumental odds, the story portrays two brothers and their fates in love and war. Michał is a seasoned veteran soldier, cautious of the evolving conspiracy; Józef, his much younger brother and impassioned cadet, finds himself caught up in the vortex of a daring plot to abduct the Grand Duke of Russia. With Siberia or emigration to France looming as heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia stay steadfast in their resolve to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

Initially, the book is available from www.Amazon.com both in

NEW BOOKS

NEW E-BOOK EXAMINES POLISH HEROISM. A true story of Polish heroism is the core of a new historical novel now available as an E-book from Amazon.com.

In the darkest period of World War II, Hitler is about to launch a massive ballistic missile attack on England and the European continent. There is no defense against the V-2 missiles, and Allied intelligence is desperate to find an intact missile to analyze in the hope of developing countermeasures. The missiles are being tested over Poland, and the Polish underground undertakes an incredibly dangerous mission to capture a V-2. They then work with the British to concoct an equally risky mission to fly it out of occupied Poland. Written by Dennis Ciapura, *The Vengeance Game*, based on actual events, is their story, but it's also the story of a terrorist attempt to launch the same kind of missile against the U.S. homeland nearly 70 years later on the 2015 anniversary of 9/11.

The Vengeance Game may be purchased for \$6.99 directly from the Amazon.com Kindle store. Free downloads of reader apps for all popular tablets and smart phones are available. The story is also available as a screenplay, and a future movie is planned.

REVISITING POLETOWN. A bound 39-page brochure features colored maps of Detroit's Poletown from 1979 and 1981, the Pol-

ish neighborhood demolished by General Motors to make way for a new factory in 1981 after the city claimed eminent domain.

Along with a street index in alphabetical order of all the streets, churches and businesses are listed, street by street, along with their address, if known, based on the 1963 City of Detroit East Side Directory, and advertising from various jubilee books and personal recollections.

The street boundaries are: Canfield from the south; Russell from the west; Mt. Elliott from the east; and E. Grand Blvd. from the north. The second index features the churches and businesses named in

the first index. Names of the pastors of the eight Catholic churches in Poletown are listed during this time frame along with the major individuals who participated in the creation of the GM Poletown Plant.

The book is available from Tom Sosnowski, CPA, 67 W. Columbia Avenue Pontiac, MI 48340; (248) 334-7522; tomcpayahoo.com. The price is \$12.00 plus \$3.00 s&h.

Sosnowski has also created a 2013 calendar of the Oldest Polish Churches in Metropolitan Detroit. The churches are presented in chronological order according to the year founded. This calendar is \$25.00 plus \$3.00 s&h.

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes MLIS

Down but Not Out

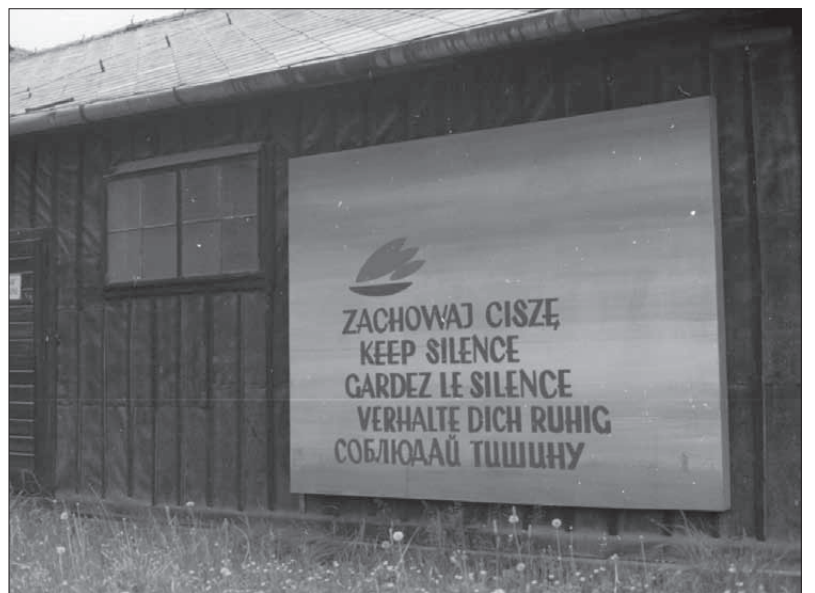
LOOKING FOR PRZYBYLSKI
by K.C. Frederick
Permanent Press, 2012
232 pp., \$28.00

Ziggy Czarnecki is despondent. Living in a working class neighborhood he wonders why he hasn't made something of himself. He had once been a big guy, on top of things, but now his life has had a downturn and the slow demise of Detroit matches his feelings. Ever since the cops busted in on his numbers game, his hard-scrabble life has gotten worse. And Ziggy feels it all came down because of Przybylski, a guy who never liked him and was

capable of fingering him. Ziggy decides he will find Przybylski and confront him. Inner dialogue provides insight to the Ziggy's turmoil.

When he learns the man is living in Los Angeles, he takes the Greyhound bus across country. On the trip he bonds with a couple of men who have problems of their own. The character descriptions are vivid and alive, with descriptions of the countryside which are reminiscent of the Richard Russo's writings. When Ziggy finally finds Przybylski, he learns much about himself as well.

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



RESPECTING NAZI GERMANY'S VICTIMS. Auschwitz Memorial, Oswiecim, Poland. May 22, 1976.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Into The Heavens

One Pole and a few Polish Americans have traveled into space. The first and only Polish citizen to go into outer space was General Miroslaw Hermaszewski, who participated in the Soviet space program. In 1978 he was launched into space along with a Russian cosmonaut and spent eight days circling the globe in the Soviet space station Salyut. Polish Americans who have traveled into space as part of the U.S. space shuttle program have been first Karol J. Bobko in 1983, followed in subsequent years by Scott E. Parazynski, George D. Zamka and James A. Pawelczyk.

Space travel would not have been possible without the study and hard work of many throughout the centuries. Among them have been several Poles. Kazimierz Siemienowicz (1600-51) was a Polish nobleman, military officer and artillery expert. He is considered to be one of the fathers of rocket science and published a book that included chapters on the production and properties of missiles, including long range multi-stage rockets. Konstantin Ciolkowski (1857-1935) was a Polish Russian who is considered to be one of the founding fathers of modern rocketry and space flight. He influenced later Russian scientists who developed the Soviet space program. And Polish American Stanislaw Ulam (1909-84) originated the idea of a space ship propelled by controlled nuclear explosions, yet, if ever, to be developed.

Mieczyslaw Bekker (1905-89) was a military engineer who designed off-road vehicles for the Polish army. During World War II he fled to France then Canada where he worked in those countries' armies. After the war he came to the U.S. where he worked for General Motors developing the Lunar Rover Vehicle. During the Apollo 15, 16 and 17 missions, his Moon Rovers logged seventy-five flawless lunar miles, and they stand on the Moon as permanent memorials to his genius.

Many celestial bodies and planetary features have been named by Polish astronomers and many bear names in honor of famous Poles. The Polish American Charles Kowal discovered and named Ju-

pter's thirteenth moon, Leda, and fourteenth, Themisto. He also discovered the first Centaurian object in the solar system as well as several asteroids, and comets that bear his name. Polish Australian Antoni Przybylski's weird heavy metal star is called Przybylski's Star.

Other bodies and features with Polish-related names include the following:

Asteroids: Silesia, Gedania (Gdańsk), Polonia, Wawel, Krakow, Minkowski, Smoluchowski, Copernicus, Curie, Straczynski, Lem, Ryba, Chopin.

Lunar Craters: Copernicus, Sierpinski, Dziewulski, Barachewicz, Dembowski, Drygalski, Hevelius, Sklodowska, Curie, Arminski, Sniadecki, Gadowski, Wapowski, Wroblewski.

Mercury Craters: Chopin, Mickiewicz

Venus Features: Craters Janina, Jadwiga, Landowska, Konopnicka, Olesnicka, Corpman (wife of Heweliusz), Wanda, Zosia, Nalkowska. Also Baba Jaga Chasma, Dziwica Chasma, Zywie Corona, Jutrzenka Valles.

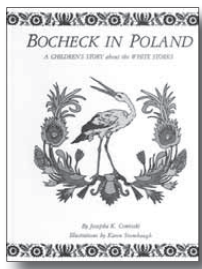
Mars Features: Craters Copernicus, Curie, Sklodowska. Also Vistula Valles.

The great Polish astronomer Jan Heweliusz, also known as Hevelius, has the distinction of having portrayed and named in the late 1680s seven constellations recognized by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the official sanctioner of astronomical names. They are: Canes Venatici (Hunting Dogs), Lacerta (Lizard), Leo Minor (Little Lion), Lynx (Lynx), Sextans (Sextant), Vulpecula (Fox) and Scutum Sobiescianum (Sobieski's Shield). The last constellation was named in honor of Poland's King Jan III Sobieski, hero of the Battle of Vienna and financial supporter of Heweliusz. In 1922 the IAU shortened its official name to Scutum, or the Shield, apparently because it was the only constellation named for a political figure, which went against IAU's standards. There is no indication of anti-Polish bias in the decision and the constellation is still popularly called Sobieski's Shield. It can be found near the head of Sagittarius.

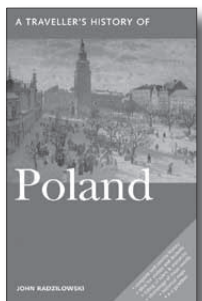
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A magnificent collection of Polish songs with musical scores for voice and piano accompaniment. Included are folk songs, lullabies, religious, art songs and ballads, solo and quartet arrangements and more. Enhanced with colorful Wertzen illustrations, the book features authentic Polish lyrics with beautiful English translations. Ideal for both musician and appreciative listener alike.

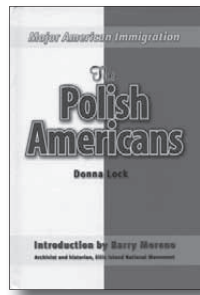


BOCZEK IN POLAND
\$11.95
54 pp., **Polonie Publishing**
A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.



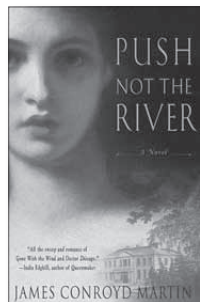
A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND
by John Radzilowski
REDUCED TO \$10.95
(was \$14.95)
312 pp., ill., maps. pb.
A comprehensive historical survey guides travelers through a history

of the people and places from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer and historical maps.



THE POLISH AMERICANS from the "Major American Immigration Series"
by Donna Lock
REDUCED to \$12.95!
(was) \$22.95
Full color illustrated. Ages 9-12. **Mason Crest Publishers, 2008. 64 pp. hc. 9"x6"**

A look at why Poles, as part of America's melting pot, have maintained a stronger hold on their traditions and customs than most other immigrant groups.



PUSH NOT THE RIVER
by James C. Martin
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press, 496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

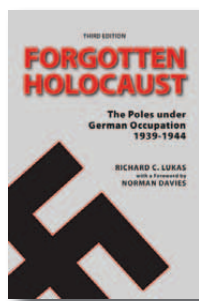
AUTOGRAPHED! This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."

AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
by James C. Martin
\$15.95
St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide AUTOGRAPHED! "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the



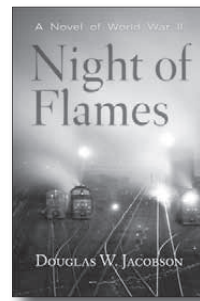
NEW! THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY
by James C. Martin
Hussar Quill Press, 508 pp., pb. \$17.99

Portraying two brothers in love and war, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes the trilogy begun with *Push Not the River* and *Against a Crimson Sky*. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). Michał is a seasoned soldier; his impassioned brother and cadet, Józef, becomes caught up in the plot to abduct the Grand Duke of Russia. With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, patriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.



FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition
\$19.95
358 pp. pb. Hippocrene Books.

Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.



NIGHT OF FLAMES: A Novel of World War Two
by Douglas W. Jacobson
\$16.95
384 pp. pb., McBooks Press

In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna, an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; and Jan an officer in the Polish cavalry, the loss is unimaginable. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.

THE KATYN ORDER
by Douglas W. Jacobson
\$24.95
384 pp. hc., McBooks Press

American Adam Nowak has been dropped into Poland by British intelligence as an assassin and Resistance fighter. During the Warsaw Uprising he meets Natalia, a covert operative who has lost everything. Amid the Allied power struggle left by Germany's defeat, Adam and Natalia join in a desperate hunt for the 1940 Soviet order authorizing the murders of 20,000 Polish army officers and civilians.



POLISH FOLK LEGENDS
by Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes
\$14.95
Infinity Pub., 2010, 208 pp. pb.
Forty legends collected in Poland or researched in many



OLD SECRETS NEVER DIE
A Bashia Gordon Mystery
\$14.95
by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2007, 220 pp. pb.

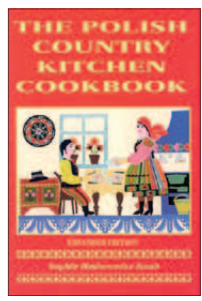
Bashia Gordon, semi-retired interior decorator and amateur sleuth, is at it again. When she learns her friend Connecticut State Trooper Mark Jankowski, is investigating the death of one of her clients, Gladys Goodell, her curiosity takes over. Soon a mummified baby is found in the old Goodell home. None of the Goodell sisters ever married. Whose baby could this be?

BONES IN THE BACKYARD
A Bashia Gordon Mystery — \$14.95
by Florence W. Clowes and Lois J. Blackburn
Infinity Publishing, 2001, 198 pp. pb.

In the quiet corner of northeastern Connecticut, semi-retired interior decorator, Bashia Gordon, turns amateur sleuth when she and her Peace Corps friend, Dottie Weeks, uncover a fragmented skeleton in a septic tank. How did it get there? Who is it? Could the bones be the wealthy eccentric who disappeared years ago?

COOKBOOKS

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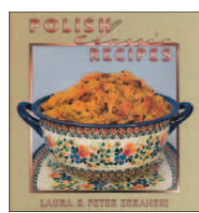
THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK
\$16.95
by Sophie Knab
337 pp., pb., ill. Hippocrene Books

This popular cookbook by beloved Polish American author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab is now updated with a new section on Polish Feasts and Festivals! Knab combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year, giving readers priceless historical information to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants. Lovely illustrations by Elliott Hutten and pearls of practical wisdom from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book. This title includes over 100 easy-to-follow recipes, and a detailed bibliography and resource guide.

incorporation in the Polish-American mainstream culture.

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

POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES
\$16.95
by Laura and Peter Zeranski
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by Matthew Aron Roth



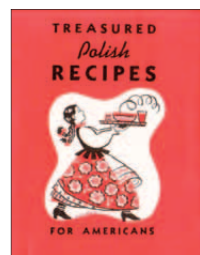
Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.

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

POLISH PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood — \$10.00
by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS
\$14.95
Polonie Publishing
170 pp., h.c.



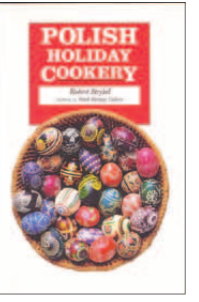
The first complete, hard cover collection of Polish cookery in the English language published in the United States. Researched from old Polish cookbooks and recipes collected from the best Polish American cooks, it also contains stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve wigilia, Harvest Festival dożynki and the foods to celebrate them. Perfect for home cooks or to give as a special gift.

GIFT PACK 12 FAVORITE GLOSS-COAT POLISH RECIPE CARDS
\$5.00. by Polonie Publishing.



Appealing red-ribbon cello packet of the most popular and treasured recipes, including Cabbage Rolls, Turkey Cutlets with Mushroom Sauce, Baked Apples in Red Wine and more. Handy for your recipe box—perfect as party favors or hostess gifts!

POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY
\$24.95
by Robert Strybel
248 pp., hc.
Hippocrene Books



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

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK: Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00
by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.

Ninety-six recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK
\$10.00
by Eva Gerwecki, 44 pp., sc.

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

POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK
\$10.00
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

Polish Remedy Gains Popularity

CRETE, Ill. — Polish and American cultures meet at many intersections, particularly through foods. Sometimes, though, getting through an intersection may be uncertain. This is what John Pilcher learned when he started growing aronia berries on his farm near Momence, Ill., an hour's drive from Chicago.

Aronia is a fruit native to North America. It's been grown in Poland and central Europe for over 40 years, and used widely in juices, jams, syrups and teas. Aronia's health benefits have been well-researched. The fruit has also been grown commercially in the United States for over 20 years, yet most Americans don't know about it.

Polish people are accustomed to its flavor, but because of the dark blue color, Americans expect it to taste like blueberries. One man tried to be polite after tasting it and said, "Well, it's not real sweet." And that was the end of the conversation.

Pilcher's Coldbrook Farm is the largest aronia berry grower in Illinois. For more information, contact John Pilcher at (708) 227-2807, aronia.us@att.net; or visit Coldbrook-Farm.net.

Hurricane-Delayed Independence Day Finally Observed

WALLINGTON, N.J. — Polish Americans and county officials came together on Dec. 5 for a belated celebration of Poland's Independence Day.

Wallington Councilwoman Celine Urbankowski helped plan and organize the celebration, which was held outside the administrative building in Hackensack's Bergen County Plaza. Urbankowski also serves as president of the Polish American Congress, Northern New

Jersey Division.

Wallington Council Members Izabela Bacza and Mark Tomko were also in attendance.

Poland's Independence Day is traditionally celebrated on Nov. 11, but the ceremony was postponed following Hurricane Sandy. More than 50 people, most of whom are Polish born Americans, came out to celebrate their heritage. Polish independence, as Adriana Wos-Mysliwiec said, is an achievement earned after "decades of long endured sacrifice." Wos-Mysliwiec, a prosecutor at Bergen County Central Municipal Court, also spoke and was honored at the event.

"Polish Americans have much to be proud of," said Urbankowski.

"Bergen County is home to thousands of Polish Americans who still have their heritage in their hearts, their tradition, language and culture in their homes," said Urbankowski.

The Polish Army Veterans of America, Post 99 saluted the flag. Wallington's own Aria Choir, the oldest Polish organization in the United States, performed under the direction of Yaga Chudy. Members sang the "Star Spangled Banner," followed by a stirring rendition of "Dabrowski's Mazurka," Poland's national anthem.

— northjersey.com

Pulaski Police Install New Officers

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On Dec. 1, 2012 The Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and Western New York held its Annual Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew.

The night's festivities included the election of association officers: Al Ziemecki (pres.); Marty Bochinski (v.p.); Dave Gorski (2nd v.p.); Mike Stack (3rd v.p.); Darryl Borawski (rec. sec.); Ron Skotnicki (treas.); Paul Manno (fin. sec.); and

Jerry Imiola (sgt.-at-arms). The Oath of Office was administered by the Hon. Judge Michael Pietruszka of Erie County Court.

Three scholarships were also awarded to: Katie Mediak (Erie Community College – General Studies); Jesse Roll (Erie Community College – Business Administration); and Audrelle Gospodarski (Niagara Community College – Police Science).

Other awards given were "Man of the Year" — Richard Zolnowski; "Business Person of the Year" — Maria Guillot; and "President's Awards," given to Andrew Skrzypczyk and Raymond Broderick for their outstanding and dedicated service to the association.

PAPA to Convene in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Priest representatives of the three Roman Catholic Dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg, and Pittsburgh gathered for the first planning meeting for the 24th Annual Convention of the Polish American Priests Association, April 8-12, 2013.

The meeting was held in the rectory of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish on Polish Hill. The theme chosen is "Growth in Holiness," with the Rev. Demetrius Gallizin and Fr. Justin Figas, OFM Conv. as role models. Both priests made valuable contributions to the growth of Catholicism in southwestern Pennsylvania, and will be featured with special presentations.

Priests who gathered were Rev. Msgr Przybocki, Revs. Ronald Osinski, Joseph Swierczynski, Timothy Whalen, Lawrence Hoppe, and Rev. Canon Joseph Sredzinski.

In addition to National Officers of PAPA, several bishops, over 100 delegates and a probable cardinal from Europe are expected for the gathering, which includes the Convention Mass. His Excellency the Most Rev. David Zubik of Pittsburgh will serve as Celebrant and homilist in Immaculate Heart of Mary church, built by Polish immigrants in 1898. The church is in the registry of Historical landmarks.

PAPA was founded in 1990 by Bishop now Emeritus John Yanta of San Antonio, Texas. Delegates continue to gather yearly to address issues facing Polonia and to give affirmation to fellow members spread throughout the United States and beyond.

Registration notices will be sent in early 2013 for lodging, meals, book advertisements, and scheduling for the Convention Banquet.

Sulowski's Regiment Filmed for "Museum Secrets" Show



LOS ANGELES — 17th century Polish winged hussar re-enactment group Suligowski's Regiment has just wrapped completing an episode of "Museum Secrets" for The (Canadian) History Channel/BBC/Smithsonian Channels.

Group founder Rik Sulima-Suligowski Fox — being interviewed above — said he was contacted by the director of a production company for this show from Canada in August of 2012. The company was in need of live action shots to accompany a special on a winged hussar armor display in the State Museum in Moscow.

The episode also deals specifically with the winged hussars and the secrets and weapons that gave them their advantage as lords of the battlefields of Central Europe for nearly 200 years, but in particular, during the historic time period of 1610-1618.

Although usually depicted in popular 19th century paintings and modern films wearing the wings in pairs, hussars did not wear their wings in pairs until the time of Sobieski in the second-half of the 17th century. Until then, the wings were affixed to their saddles.

The episode for Season Three might be seen as early as February. For more information, visit museumsecrets.tv.

For more information on the Suligowski Regiment, visit husaria.us.

Daemen College Announces Exchange Program with Przemyśl; Hosts General Irzyk

AMHERST, N.Y. — Daemen College president Edwin Clausen announced the formal student / faculty exchange between Daemen and the Easter European State High School in Przemyśl, Poland, for joint research opportunities. Among those attending the announcement was Daemen Associate Professor of History and Government Andrew Wise, and International Relations Office Coordinator Agata Obrantanska, for the school in Przemyśl.

In November, U.S. Army Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk (ret.) was the guest speaker at Daemen, where he expressed his first-person insights into the experience of fighting in World War II. He spoke to 100 veterans, students, faculty members, and community leaders.

He served in the European Theatre as a 27-year-old tank battalion commander in Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army. That group spear-

headed across Europe and relieved the surrounded forces at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Gen. Irzyk was wounded twice and received the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters, and the nation's second highest decoration for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross.

Looking for Singers

District VII of the Polish Singers Alliance of America cordially invites vocalists to join them as the organization prepares for its 125th anniversary in 2014. Former members are encouraged to rejoin, and the PSAA welcomes new voices for choruses in New Britain, Conn., Passaic and Wallington, N.J.; Greenpoint, South Brooklyn, Hempsted, and Ridgewood, N.Y., and Philadelphia. Call (516) 822-0358; (917) 288-2261; (718) 852-6812; or (718) 720-6089.

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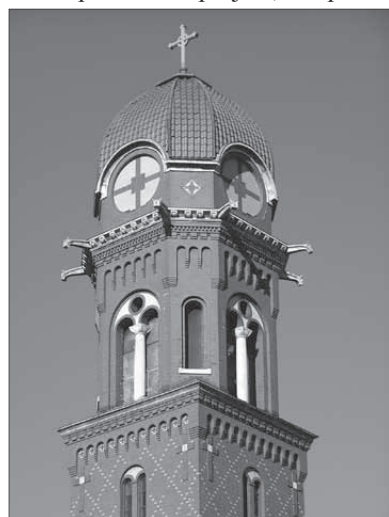
St. Stanislaus Parish Receives Sacred Sites Grant for Belfry Repair

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The New York Landmarks Conservancy has awarded St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish a matching grant of \$9,000 to help fund repairs to the belfry of the parish's historic church. The competitive award is from the Conservancy's Sacred Sites Program which has given \$7.3 million in assistance to more than 670 houses of worship in New York State since the program's inception 26 years ago.

St. Stanislaus' project, overseen by Bero Architecture, involved replacement of the floor at the belfry level of the church's tower. The original, 100 year-old metal floor — deteriorated beyond repair — was replaced with a multiple-ply membrane construction installed by the CSTM roofing company. The three bells housed in the tower were raised from the floor by the Verdin bell company and reinstalled on

huge steel beams set into the tower masonry.

As part of the project, the parish



documented the inscriptions on the bells which were made by the Meneely Company of Troy, N.Y. (two

made in 1912, the third in 1916). The inscriptions contain the names of the bells (given, according to Roman Catholic tradition, when the bells were blessed and installed), as well as the names of parishioners who donated for their purchase 100 years ago. Current members of the parish were intrigued to see the names of the original donors, some of whom have descendants in the parish today, and to learn that the bells are named in honor of St. Stanislaus, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and St. Joseph.

The grant for the belfry project is the sixth that St. Stanislaus Parish has received from the New York Landmarks Conservancy. Since 1998, St. Stanislaus' congregation has restored many elements of the Romanesque Revival church constructed in 1909 to serve Rochester's Polish immigrant families.