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THANKS TO KONOPKA,
"CADDYSHACK" IS STILL A
FAVORITE — PAGE 12

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

**POLISH TRUCKER TRIED TO PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACK IN BERLIN • POPE NOMINATES NEW KRAKÓW ARCHBISHOP
A PAINTING'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY • REMEMBERING BLOCHOWIAK DAIRY COMPANY • HOLOCAUST DISCUSSION AT UN
A RECIPE AND A DREAM • THE CONNECTICUT TWINS • THE POLISH CHRISTMAS CAROL: GOD'S TIME OVERTURNS OURS**

Newsmark

GIULIANI MEETS WITH KACZYNSKI. The head of Poland's governing party met with Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor who is now a close adviser to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski said on state TV 1 that the talks held in Warsaw focused on politics, relations with Russia and energy, a sector where Poland is seeking to end its dependence on imports of Russian oil and gas.

Kaczynski says he was reassured by Giuliani that Poland's interests will be secured.

Deputy Senate Speaker Adam Bielan said on Twitter that it was two hours of "good talks on Polish-US relations."

Poland's conservative government has hailed Trump's election as a chance for even better relations with Washington.

Guliani was in Warsaw for anniversary celebrations at the Greenberg Traurig law firm. (AP).

MISSILE MAKER RAYTHEON, POLAND, SIGN DEAL. Poland and the U.S. Patriot missile maker Raytheon have signed a letter of intent to cooperate in production that could pave the way for the purchase of missiles.

Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz said the step brings Poland closer to buying a number of medium-range Patriot missiles for its air defense, but doesn't mean the deal is done. Poland is bolstering its defense capabilities in the face of neighboring Russia's military activity.

The deal signed December 1 provides for Poland's Autosan company, part of an armaments consortium, to produce some parts for Raytheon.

The move comes after Poland recently pulled out from advanced talks with France-based Airbus Helicopters over a \$3.5 billion deal to buy combat aircraft. It said, without providing details, that it would have gone against national security interests. (AP)

OPPOSITION COMMITTEE CALLS ON POLES TO DEFY GOVERNMENT. The self-styled Committee for the Defense of Democracy (KOD), which has been permanently protesting against the government since Law and Justice won the October 2015 election, late in 2016 called on the Polish nation to take to the streets of Polish cities to mark the 35th anniversary of martial law. KOD leader Mateusz Kijowski directly appealed to the army, police, officials, unions, parents, teachers and other groups to cease obeying Poland's democratically elected government.

HUMAN BONES DISCOVERED. Human remains were discovered during excavation for a subway in the Warsaw suburb of Wola. The bones are believed to belong to victims (mostly the elderly, women and children) of a World War II massacre perpetrated by German Nazis during the early phase of the Warsaw Uprising against the Nazi occupiers. The Wola massacre of tens of thousands (estimated between 40,000-50,000) of Polish civilians and captured Home Army resistance fighters took place between August 5-12, 1944.

EXTRADITION DENIED. The Polish Supreme Court rejected a bid to extradite filmmaker Roman Polanski to the United States. American officials have been pursuing the now 83-year-old Polish-French Oscar-winner ever since he fled the United States in 1978 following his conviction for unlawful sexual relations with a minor, seeking to have him deported from Poland (the country of his birth) and sent back to the United States.

Jerzy Stachowicz, one of Polanski's lawyers said "We feel relief. As of today, the case is closed once and for all. This is game over, at least in Poland."

France and Switzerland are two other countries where Polanski can live and work free of the threat of extradition. France does not have an extradition treaty with the United States and Switzerland has previously rejected attempts by the United States to extradite Polanski.

PAJF Accepting Journalism and Arts Scholarship Applications

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF) is accepting applications for scholarships for college students of Polish or Polish American descent. The \$1,500 scholarships are available to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in journalism (print news, broadcast news, or advertising/public relations in either print or electronic media); and the arts (literature, including poetry, drama, story, etc.); visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, etc.); graphic arts (painting, drawing, design, sculpture, modeling, etc.); and performing arts (theatre, dance, music, etc.).

Applications will be accepted from January to April 30, 2017 with winners announced on May 31, 2017. Funds will be dispersed to the winners upon proof of full-time studies at an accredited institution.

ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible, the applicant must:

- be an American citizen,
See "PAJF ..." page 4

Bal Maskowy in Milwaukee



Duane and Slavka Tomka dance "Tango Milonga" in preparation for The Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble's "Bal Maskowy," which will take place Saturday, February 11, 2017 at the Grand Ballroom of the Wisconsin Club, Milwaukee. The event with honor the group's director, famed choreographer, and folklorist Ada Dzienawska, in celebration of her 100th birthday. A special presentation honoring her legacy, prepared by director-choreographer Staś Kmiec, will highlight the evening. For tickets and details, contact nancyjmonfre@yahoo.com or (414) 225-9440. An online ticket link is available at: www.syrenadancers.com.

Skulimowski is New KF President



Skulimowski

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation board of trustees elected Marek Skulimowski as its new president and executive director. Born in Lubaczów, Poland, Skulimowski previously served as deputy consul general of the Republic of Poland in New York, and as political counselor at the Embassy of Poland in Tel Aviv, Israel.

With his experience as the director of U.S. operations for INGLOT Cosmetics for the past five years, Skulimowski brings an extensive business and management background to the organization. During his tenure, he expanded the Polish company's business

See "New KF ..." page 4

A Jewish Renaissance in Poland

by Margaret Guzek

WARSAW — Something interesting is happening in Poland. While Jews in other European countries such as France and Germany are facing increasing anti-semitism, support for Jewish culture in Poland is flourishing. In a country considered by some as unkind to Jews, observers are taking note. *It's not only safe to be Jewish in Poland, it's become cool.*

The Jewish revival — which began cautiously in 1989 with the fall of communism but has gained traction in recent years — is even more intriguing because in its midst, Poland is rediscovering its Jewish legacy.

Before the Holocaust, the country was home to 3.3 million Jews. Today, the Jewish community (which includes a person practicing Judaism on some level) is estimated at approximately 25,000 members. Parents and grandpar-

ents with Jewish lineage — often kept secret during the Holocaust, and then under the imposed communist regime — are telling children about their background, helping this number to grow.

"The Second World War and then communism was always quite bad for Jews, so I think my parents were waiting for us to maybe be old enough to get that," says Andrzej Lipson, a 28-year old resident of Warsaw who learned six years ago that his paternal grandfather was Jewish.

To provide an avenue for young adults such as Lipson to explore Jewish identity, Hillel International, an organization that builds community among Jewish students, opened a Hillel center in Warsaw last April. Founded in 1923, Hillel is active on 550 college campuses throughout North America and in 35 cities in 14 countries. (Inter-



Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the chief rabbi of Poland, and Hillel participants on a boat docked on the Vistula River reading a blessing during the Tashlich ceremony on October 9, 2016. Traditionally observed between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the ceremony includes the casting away of sins from the previous year by tossing pieces of bread into a body of water.

national Hillels serve young Jews ages 18 to 30 in a particular city, rather than a specific college campus). Hillel Warsaw, its most recent branch, organizes monthly Shabbat

dinner, celebrations on Rosh Hashanah and Passover, and lectures on Jewish history.

"Even when we started Hillel we had no idea how See "Renaissance," page 4

ALMANAC

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January  Styczeń

Gdy w styczniu mrozy i śniegi, będą stodóły po brzegi, gdy styczeń mrozów nie daje, prowadzi nieurodzaje.

When January comes with frost and snow, a healthy harvest will surely grow, But if the month comes without. A strong harvest is in doubt.

- 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
Happy New Year!
1795. Third Partition of Poland.
1173. Death of Bolesław IV the Curly
- 6 **FEAST OF THREE KINGS**
On this day, K+M+B (the initials of Kaspar, Melchior and Baltazar the three kings who visited the Holy Infant) are inscribed above main entry of one's home.
- 7 1882. Death of **Jan Józef Ignacy Łukasiewicz** (b. 1822), pharmacist and petroleum industry pioneer who in 1856 built the world's first oil refinery.
- 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 Dąbrowski** organizes his legion in Italy, and thus honored by having his name included in the Polish National Anthem.
- 11 1953. Death of opera singer **Marcella Sembrich-Kochanowska** (b. 1853).
- 13 1883. Fire in circus Ferroni in Berditschov, Poland, kills 430.
- 14 1917. The **Provisional Parliament** established in Poland.
- 15 1890. Birth of swing and jazz drummer **Gene Krupa**.
- 17 1775. Nine women burned as witches for causing bad harvests in Kalisz, Poland. According to officials, they are "charged with having bewitched and rendered unfruitful the land belonging to a gentleman in this district."
- 18 1385. A Lithuanian delegation under Skirgaila arrived in Krakow to ask for the hand of **Jadwiga** on behalf of Jagiello.
- 20 1320. **Władysław I Łokietek** (Ladislaus the Short) crowned King of Poland.
- 21 1268. Pope Clement IV gave permission to Poland's **King Premisław II** to take over Lithuania and establish Catholicism.
- 21 **Grandmother's Day** (Dzień Babci), an occasion for youngsters to honor and give gifts to their grannies.
- 22 **Grandfather's Day** (Dzień Dziadka), a time when kids visit and give small gifts to their grandfathers.
- 22 1863. The **January Uprising** in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth against the Russian Empire begins.
- 23 1793. **Second Partition** of Poland.
- 24 1734. In Krakow, the 2nd last king of Lithuania and Poland, **August III**, crowned.
- 25 1913. Birth of pianist and composer **Witold Lutosławski**.
- 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 1861. Birth of engineer **Ralph Modjeski**.
- 28 1886. **Artur Rubinstein**, pianist, was born in Lodz, Poland.
- 31 1887. Death of **Włodzimierz Bonawentura Krzyżanowski** (b. July 8, 1824), Civil War general.

This paper mailed on or before **December 29, 2016**.
The February 2017 edition will be mailed on or before **January 30, 2017**

VIEWPOINTS / Robert Strybel

Can the Morawiecki Plan Revitalize Poland's Economy?

Previous governments sold off everything in sight for quick cash

Now Polonization of banks, media and other areas is the trend

WARSAW — Poland's conservative Law and Justice Government has launched an ambitious plan to regain control of and revitalize the country's economy which has long been plagued by foreign domination and frequent unlucky breaks. Poland's economic development was set back a century in the late 1700s when the country's three aggressive neighbors wiped it off the map. Industrialists from the partitioning powers — Russia, Germany and Austria — began setting up shop in what had been the sprawling Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

After Poland regained its independence in 1918, considerable economic progress was achieved, but then came World War II, followed by 45 years of communist misrule and mismanagement. But, when Poland finally threw off the Soviet yoke in 1989, the successive Polish governments that came to power were not much interested in rebuilding the nation's industry. Instead they began selling off everything that could be sold often at cut-rate prices for quick cash with which to shore up the budget.

Once Poland's pride, its Baltic shipyards were merged or sold off piecemeal, and the economy became dominated by foreign-owned banks, retail chains, assembly plants and other entities that funneled most of their profits abroad. Many popu-



MORAWIECKI. Urges Poles to go into business for themselves, export their goods and services, and expand abroad.

lar Polish brands including Wyborowa, Żywiec, Okocim, Wedel, Pudliszki, Amino and Winiary were sold to foreign companies. Krakus brand canned hams — so popular across Polonia — are now owned by China's WH Group, the world's largest pork producer. The last Polish car make, the Polonez hatchback, disappeared in 2002.

The Law and Justice government is opposed to perpetuating Poland's neo-colonial status as a country mainly offering foreign companies cheap manpower and low-cost assembly-plant sites. In place of the sell-off policy known as the Balcerowicz Plan of the early 1990s, it is backing the Morawiecki Plan to revitalize and expand the Polish economy.

Mateusz Morawiecki, 48, took a cut in salary when he resigned as CEO of the the Polish subsidiary of

a Spanish-owned bank to become the government's economic chief, combining the posts of development and finance minister. Educated in Poland, Germany, Switzerland and the United States, he is in charge of industrial development, the budget, European Union funds and overall economic policy.

Morawiecki is in favor of attracting promising foreign investors who create jobs in Poland and expose Poles to advanced industrial technologies. But, above all, he urges Poles to go into business for themselves, export their goods and services and expand abroad. He also looks forward to the emergence of new Polish brands symbolizing the highest-quality products.

To facilitate private entrepreneurship, his plan is to slash red tape, shorten waiting periods for business registration and licensing, and minimize the harassment of legitimate business by government inspectors. A cornerstone of the plan is Polonization or re-Polonization — expansion of Polish business ownership by buying back businesses previously sold off. Until recently, 60% of Poland's banks were in foreign hands, now the balance is estimated at roughly 50-50 and eventually a majority may be back under Polish control.

But obstacles are encountered along the way. The European Union has questioned a tax on large, mostly foreign-owned retail chains, and the government has temporarily suspended its enforcement. Whether and to what extent the Morawiecki Plan succeeds remains to be seen, but in today's global world a lot will depend on the fickle, oft-fluctuating international business climate.

INTERNATIONAL

Berlin Christmas Market Attack Kills 12, Injures 48

Polish trucker tried to prevent terrorist attack before being shot

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Christmas 2016 in Poland was marred by tragedy that occurred in neighboring Germany. There a Muslim refugee used a Polish-owned truck as a murder weapon when he plowed into a Berlin Christmas market mulling with shoppers and tourists. He left 12 people dead, and 48 injured, some critically. The truck's Polish driver, 37-year-old Łukasz Urban, was found in the cab dead of gunshot wounds.

German police initially detained a 23-year-old Pakistani refugee on suspicion of the crime but released him a few days later for lack of evidence. A European-wide manhunt was then launched for Anis Amri, a 24-year-old Tunisian migrant whose ID card was found in the truck's cab. He was found to have a long police record and is suspected of links to the Islamic State terrorist organization. Stopped for a routine traffic check on the outskirts of Milan, Italy four days after the attack, he opened fire on police officers and was shot dead in the exchange.

The terrorist was using the same weapon with which he shot Urban.

Urban, employed by a transport firm based in the northern Polish town of Gryfino, was hauling 24 tons of steel from Italy to Berlin, where he was attacked and had his truck hijacked. The autopsy re-

vealed that before being shot, the Pole had suffered numerous knife wounds when he he struggled with the terrorist and seized the steering wheel to prevent him from driving into a bigger crowd.

Police said Urban was probably still alive when the 40-ton semi-trailer truck smashed into the crowded Christmas market.

When he heard of the tragedy, English truck driver Dave Duncan launched a fund-raising campaign to help the family of Polish fellow-trucker Urban whose death orphaned a wife and 17-year-old son. In just two days, 3,600 responded raising over \$54,000. German net-surfers are appealing to German President Joachim Gauck to posthumously grant Urban his country's Cross of Merit.

Christmas markets, clusters of wooden huts selling Yule-related

goods as well as grilled sausages and hot mulled wine, are a popular holiday attraction in European cities. Following the attack, police across Europe tightened security at such markets and other public gathering places.

This and earlier terrorist attacks as well as the refugee crisis in general have greatly eroded the authority of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who opened her country's doors to nearly one million asylum-seekers in 2015.

Following the attack, Merkel's cabinet swiftly passed an array of measures, first announced in August, to bolster domestic security, including extensive video surveillance of a kind common in Europe but rare in Germany, where memories of Nazi and Communist tactics mean citizens jealously guard their right to privacy.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

Polish American Congress Awards the NKMF



PHOTO: MALGORZATA ROGOYSKI

Dr. Susanne Lotarski, president of the Polish American Congress / Washington Metropolitan Area Division, presents the organization's 2016 Annual Award to Richard P. Poremski, chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation.

BETHESDA, Md. — At its The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 13, 2016, Polish American Congress / Washington Metropolitan Area Division (PAC-WMAD) honored the The National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF) in Baltimore with its annual award.

This was the first time since its founding in 1974 the PAC-WMAD honor an organization. The award was always given to individuals.

The walnut plaque stipulates the *raison d'être* of the NKMF award as follows: "For promoting and preserving the memory of the 1940 Katyn Massacre for the education of future generations. Never Again! You are a credit to all Polonia and the fundamental values that we hold dear. Sto lat!"

Thaddeus Mirecki prefaced the award ceremony with a detailed history of the NKMF, and its predecessor organization, the NKM Committee. The many trials and tribulations encountered over the years that eventually resulted in the amazing raising of the National Katyn Memorial in Baltimore's Inner Harbor were all recounted and remembered, as were the Memorial's importance and prominence set on the Polish American landscape.

Speaking at the dinner was the Honorable Damon Wilson – executive vice president of the Atlantic Council.

"Our keynote speaker, Mr. Damon Wilson, draws our attention to the key security issues currently facing NATO, Poland, the United States and its new president, indeed all of us," said MC Susanne Lotarski. "These are existential issues which the Polish American Congress was founded to address, has continued to address over the last 72 years, posed to this year's major party presidential candidates, and which will focus our efforts in the coming years. Please actively join us. It is in our hands to advance liberty and democracy for ourselves and future generations."

NEW JERSEY

CAMDEN — **Annual Wafer Luncheon.** Sun., Jan. 8. St. Joseph Church, Upper Parish Hall, 1010 Liberty Street. 11:30 a.m. Dance music by the Music Box Band follows. Info/reservations call Pat (856) 310-1783.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — The Polish Amer-

ican Congress, Western New York Division, Inc. was awarded a \$7,500 grant from Erie County for enhancements to the recently launched **Polonia Trail** website and project sites (www.poloniatrail.com).

PACWNY President, James L. Lawicki II, "I am thankful to the Erie County Legislature for awarding these funds to us. It reinforces the Legislature's ongoing commitment to our Polish American community and its many cultural assets."

In collaboration with the PAC the Polish Legacy Project will undertake activities to enhance the Polonia Trail website, including additional sites, site markers, voice over narrative feature, 360 degree panoramic viewing, and more.

BUFFALO — **Polkas, Pierogi, and Piwo.** Broadway Market, 999, Broadway, Buffalo, N.Y. Live music by Special Delivery, 11:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. Craft beer tasting, pierogi contest and more. (716) 893-0705.

BUFFALO — Jan. 15. St. John Kanty, 101 Swinburne St. **Polish Platter Luncheon** served in Kanty's Kitchen following 10:30 Mass. Homemade cheese pierogi, fresh and smoked sausage, lazy gołąbki, rye bread, coffee and dessert: eat in or take out. Presale available before and after Masses until Jan. 8; advance purchase recommended: \$12 presale, \$13 at door.

BUFFALO — **Polish Night** to benefit St. John's Youth Group. St. John the Baptist Parish, 2021 Sandridge Rd, Alden, N.Y. Polka Mass at 4:00 p.m., followed by performance by Polish Heritage Dancers in school hall, and dancing to Special Delivery Band. For tickets and information, call (716) 983-5084.

PENNSYLVANIA

DOYLESTOWN — Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Language School Christmas Program, "**Jaselka.**" Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road. Sun., Jan. 8, prior the 12:30 p.m. Mass. For info call the shrine (215) 345-0600.

PHILADELPHIA — **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture in the Polish Language**, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd., Northeast Philadelphia. Sun., Jan. 8, 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Mariusz Wasik, professor. Topic: "Diagnosis and therapy of tumors in the era of explosion of genomic research." Info call (215) 624-9954. All are invited to attend. Free.

FLEETWOOD — Sun., Jan. 15.

Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County **Installation Dinner**, Giannotti's Country Manor, 3118 Pricetown Rd. 1:30 p.m. Info call Sandy Lubas Hummel at (610) 582-8717.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Jan. 15. St. Adalbert Polish Language School Annual Christmas Program, "**Jaselka.**" St. Adalbert Auditorium, Thompson Street and Allegheny Avenue, Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. Noon. Free. Info call Danuta Eichler (267) 251-3776.

CORNWALL — **Snowball Dance.** Sun., Jan. 15. Sacred Heart Parish Center, 2596 Cornwall Road (Cornwall Rd. & 419). Music by Shoreliners Band. 2:00-6:00 p.m. Info call Joe Yaklowich (717) 566-5704.

PHILADELPHIA — Everyone is invited to attend the **Annual Tribute Ceremony** honoring American Revolutionary war hero and freedom fighter for Poland, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. The ceremony, which marks the 271st anniversary of his birth and the 200th anniversary of his death, will be held at noon on Sat., Feb. 4, 2017 at the Kosciuszko House, 3rd & Pine Streets in historic Philadelphia. It is sponsored by the Polish American Congress Eastern Pennsylvania District. A luncheon will follow the ceremony at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum. For additional information or luncheon reservations call the Polish American Congress at (215) 739-3408 or call the Polish American Cultural Center, Monday through Friday.

Pitch Perfect



THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA presented Honorary Memberships to Maestro **Krzystof Penderecki** and his wife, **Elzbieta Penderecka**, during their recent visit to Buffalo. The Maestro had been awarded the Honorary Membership at the 2004 47th International Convention of the PSAA, but there was no formal presentation made at that time. Madam Penderecka was recently voted in by the governing body.

Honorary Membership is bestowed on those who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Polish culture and music, or to those who have enhanced the functioning of the organization in its goal of disseminating the beauty of Polish music. The Pendereckis join the ranks of such luminaries as Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Henryk Gorecki, and Piotr Gorecki.

The Polish Singers Alliance of America is an umbrella organization of Polish choral groups in the United States and Canada. It is the oldest Polish American cultural organization, founded in 1889.

President **Mary Lou Wyrobek** made the presentation at Kleinhans Music Hall, where the Maestro was conducting the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra this past December.

Penderecki is considered one of the premier contemporary classical composers. Mrs. Penderecka has been instrumental in placing Poland in the center of the musical performance world, organizing music festivals and hosting major world-wide musical ensembles.

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PAJF Scholarship

continued from cover

either by birth or naturalization.

- be of Polish or Polish American descent.
- be a full-time college student, currently enrolled at an accredited college/university in the United States, with confirmed future attendance at an institution in the Fall of 2017.
- describe his/her involvement with the Polish community — past, present, or future.

A complete application package — and \$15.00 application fee — must be received in its entirety no later than April 30, 2017.

Factors for consideration include (in order of importance):

- a demonstrated interest and involvement in Polish American cultural activities with future plans to advance those interests.
- significant and potential contributions (academic, cultural, scientific, civic), open to all career fields.
- academic and scholastic performance and achievements as demonstrated in application materials provided for examination.

The complete application package can be downloaded from the PAJF's website, which has a link at www.polamjournal.com (http://www.polamjournal.com/Polish_American_Journal_Foundation_PAJF_2017-18_Scholarship_pajf_2017-18_scholarship.html)

For more information, or to make a donation, call, write, or email: PAJF 2017-18 Scholarship, P.O. Box 271, North Boston, NY 14110-0271; email: editor@polamjournal.com; (800) 422-1275.

The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in 2014 to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. Membership in the PAJF is open to all. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions.

New KF President

continued from cover

to more than 40 locations and 100 distribution outlets nationwide.

Skulimowski has been involved in charity work for children in need, and for Polish schools in New York, as well as in efforts to reclaim Polish art looted by Nazi Germany during World War II.

"This will be an incredible challenge," said Skulimowski. "The Kosciuszko Foundation awards up to \$1 million per year in educational and cultural grants."

Outlining his plans, Skulimowski said that next year the Kosciuszko Foundation will honor the man after whom it is named in a year-long series of events called: "For Your Freedom and Ours: A Tribute to Polish Heroes."

Kosciuszko Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications for Graduate Students

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation, An American Center for Polish Culture, is currently accepting scholarship applications from Polish American students who will be engaged in graduate level studies during academic year September 2017-May 2018.

Scholarships are awarded for tuition. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and provide proof of Polish descent. All majors are supported. In addition, students enrolled in 4-year study programs at English schools of medicine in Poland may apply. Americans of non-Polish descent majoring in Polish language, history and literature may apply.

Kosciuszko Foundation's Tuition Scholarships are for full-time studies. A handful of scholarships are available to Polish American undergraduates residing in New Jersey and Massachusetts. One scholarship is available to an exceptional undergraduate student who evidences high academic achievement (3.5 GPA or higher) in the Natural Sciences.

Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$7,000.

Applications and supporting materials are accepted through January 17, 2017.

For further details regarding eligibility, selection criteria and application materials please see <http://www.thekf.org/kf/scholarships/tuition/>.

Applications can be completed on-line.

Standard of living on the rise

Records of the past twenty years show an impressive rise in Poland's standard of living, said the Organization for European Economic Cooperation secretary general, Angel Gurría.

Speaking at a conference celebrating twenty years of cooperation and partnership between Poland and the OECD, Secretary General Gurría said "Poland has made impressive progress in raising the living standard of its citizens in 1990-2015.

Poland's GDP per capita has now reached two thirds of the OECD average, life expectancy increased to 77 years (as of 2014) and the number of people with higher education has doubled."

Gurría said that, in his opinion, the Polish government should dispense with junk work contracts, and reconsider recent moves to lower the retirement age.

A Jewish Renaissance in Poland

continued from cover

many people would come, but for Rosh Hashanah the first night we had 55 young people for prayer and then for Rosh Hashanah dinner. And we now have two ... three programs a week," says Rabbi Michael Schudrich, who was instrumental in bringing Hillel to Warsaw, and whose responsibilities as chief rabbi of Poland include meeting with individuals who recently discovered their Jewish background. Ninety-nine of the Polish participants in Hillel have learned about their Jewish background, which is often from one grandparent, in the last five to ten years.

For many years, organizations such as the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage (established in 2002), the Taube Center for the Renewal of Jewish Life in Poland (founded in 2009), and smaller international Jewish groups, embraced the cause of Jewish revival in Poland and continue to do so. But when the largest Jewish student organization in the world decides the time is right to start a branch in a country where Jewish life was thought to be dead, its significance cannot be overstated.

"This is a clear statement for the Jewish and non-Jewish communities around the world. If we (Hillel) open in Warsaw — in Poland — it means there is a community we can serve. Poland is not only about the Jewish graveyard. There is sustainable Jewish life we can support, and that, we believe, is worth investing in," says Magda Dorosz, the executive director of Hillel Warsaw.



President Andrzej Duda and Rabbi Michael Schudrich light the Chanukah candle at a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in 2015.

But black clouds were looming, and by the end of five years of German occupation in 1944, approximately 3 million Jews in Poland perished at the hands of the Nazi regime (3 million non-Jewish Poles also lost their lives).

An estimated 300,000 Jews remained in Poland after the war, but this number soon dwindled in the aftermath of the Kielce pogrom in July of 1946. Forty-two Jews, who had returned from concentration camps and deportation, were murdered. Controversy still surrounds who instigated the massacre. Nonetheless, approximately 70,000 Jews fled the country. Additionally, the 1968 communist-led anti-Zionist purge forced other Jews to emigrate.

It should be noted that, to date, 6,620 non-Jewish Polish citizens

city in Krakow. Also in Krakow, the Jewish Cultural Festival hosts concerts, exhibitions, plays, workshops, tours, and lectures on Jewish cuisine, dance, music, and art. Approximately 30,000 visitors, mostly non-Jewish Poles, attend annually. Throughout the year, the Jewish Community Center of Krakow, founded in 2008 and located in the Kazimierz district (Krakow's pre-war Jewish neighborhood), provides opportunities to connect to Jewish culture. After the war, Kazimierz was neglected by communist authorities, but since 1993, the district has been restored. In addition to hosting the Jewish Cultural Festival, the area has several Jewish restaurants, and seven renovated pre-war synagogues. A few offer weekly services for the Jewish population, including 75 Holocaust survivors.

Warsaw hosts a smaller Jewish festival, Singer's Warsaw Festival, and has a thriving Jewish community center, JCC Warsaw, founded in 2013. But in recent years, the star attraction is the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, also established in 2013, and located on the former Warsaw Ghetto site. Through the museum's exhibitions in eight distinct galleries, visitors learn about the 1,000-year history of Jews in Poland. One example is the Encounter with Modernity gallery, which teaches how Jewish life was affected by the three partitions of Poland by Russia, Prussia, and Austria. Since its opening, almost two million people have visited POLIN — Polish citizens account for 60 percent and tourists make up 40 percent.

Across Poland, there are more than 1,200 ruined Jewish cemeteries. After the war, stone was often stolen from graveyards and used for rebuilding the country's decimated cities. A few hundred destroyed synagogues also survive. Looted by the German army during the Holocaust, under Moscow's post-war control they were adapted into cinemas, libraries, and warehouse space. Today, middle school and high school groups, church groups, and good citizens assist with the renovation and maintenance of these sites, as well as other types of heritage preservation. This includes hosting lectures on Jewish history. "You can find some people in every town that said you know Jews lived here for 1,000 years. There are no longer any Jews in our town or city and we have the obligation to perpetuate their memory," says Rabbi Schudrich.

❖ ❖ ❖
Margaret S. Guzek holds a master's degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. All four of her grandparents were from Poland. Her paternal grandmother was part Jewish, and the only Holocaust survivor in her family.



The Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews is located on the former Warsaw Ghetto site.

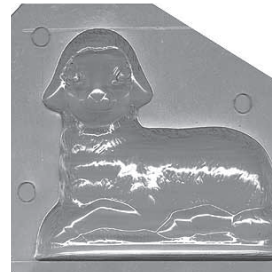
WAR TAKES ITS TOLL. Before World War II, Poland had the largest pre-war European Jewish community. Jews not only continued their own culture in the approximately 1,500 shtetls across the country, but greatly contributed to Polish culture in urban areas during Poland's independence from 1918 to 1938. A significant percentage were members of the intelligentsia including writers, educators, composers, lawyers, and doctors.

have been honored by Yad Vashem and the State of Israel as Righteous Among Nations — non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust (the highest number among all nations).

In Poland today, support for the country's Jewish history is thriving. Degree programs in Jewish studies are now offered at the University of Warsaw, University of Wrocław, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, and Jagiellonian Univer-

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Pope Nominates New Kraków Archbishop

Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski, Archbishop of Łódź, central Poland, since 2012, has been nominated by Pope Francis to take over the archdiocese of Kraków in Poland's south.

A professor of theology, he is known in Łódź for hosting events called "Dialogues in the Cathedral," where he answers questions on the Catholic faith and church.

He will succeed Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, 77 – formerly an aide to the late Polish-born Pope John Paul II – who is retiring after 11 years as Archbishop of Kraków.

ARCHBISHOP WENSKI PRAYS FOR CUBA. Miami's Archbishop Thomas Wenski, when news of Fidel Castro's death became known, said "The death of this figure should lead us to invoke the patroness of Cuba, the Virgin of Charity, calling for peace for Cuba and its people." He referred to Mary's protection of the Cuban people and recalled that she "suffered with the church when the Marxist obscurantism wounded and decimated (the Church)" as the faithful faced "forced labor camps" and were "forced to survive by publicly denying their devotion." Of Fidel Castro he added, "We will all be judged one day. Today, it is his turn. God's judgment is merciful, but it doesn't cease to be just."

SHRINE OF SACRED RELICS ESTABLISHED. Bishop Richard Malone of the RC Diocese of Buffalo, approved the Shrine of the Saints at St. John Gualbert Church in Cheektowaga, N.Y. The relics had been assembled by Fr. Michael Burzynski, the church's pastor, and consists of some 1,100 individual relics. The collection was donated to the diocese for the establishment of the shrine for as long as the church remains in operation. The entire church has recently undergone renovation and restoration of its interior in advance of its 100th anniversary celebration next year.

STO LAT TO ... Kraków's Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski on his appointment to lead that See... Fr. Thomas Smolich, S.J. on being honored with the Peace Award of the Christians for Peace in El Salvador. He is the international director of Jesuit Refugee Services.

Mr. Shaun Slusarski, nSJ on entering the novitiate of the Jesuit Northeast Province. Mr. Slusarski, a graduate of St. Joseph Prep in Philadelphia and Boston College, has worked as resident minister at the Univ. of San Francisco and as religious studies teacher at St. Joseph's Prep.

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St. John Kanty parish in Buffalo, N.Y. as it begins a year-long celebration of its 125th year on Buffalo's East Side. Without a resident pastor or sacramental administrator, the parish is served by Deacon Rick Mackiewicz, a temporary administrator. He draws on retired and other area priests to provide sacramental services to the congregation.

The parish was merged with the nearby St. Adalbert's Basilica, a structure which serves the community on special occasions. The former parish school at St. Adalbert's is home to the Response to Love Center, a multi-faceted community outreach center founded and directed by Felician Sr. Johnnie Rzakiewicz. She was led to found the center at the urging of St. Teresa of Calcutta. The former parish rectory recently opened as the St. Teresa of Calcutta Home for single mothers. The diocese's pro-life office sponsored the transformation of the rectory, and the directors of the home are one of the pro-life office officials and her husband, who moved there from the suburbs to get the home established.

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.

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, J.K.

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 prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. K.L.O.

A Painting's Incredible Journey

Polish American Journal
Plays Role in Returning
Artwork to Polonia

by Carla Hazard Tomaszewski

BALTIMORE — A painting, like the immigrants it honors, made it way home after disappearing for eleven years.

This painting, "Christ's Presence in Fells Point," began its life in 1977 when Stella Dernoga Hazard was commissioned by Ms. Marie Giza to paint it.

Giza wanted to donate the painting to her home parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka on Ann Street in Baltimore's Fells Point. The painting was made to a specified size to fit in a niche in the rectory's dining area. She requested that Christ be the central figure and that a Franciscan be a part of the picture, along with other figures representing the Polish immigrants and others from the community.

Over the decades there was a shift in the demographics of the neighborhood, with the Polish families achieving the American dream of a better life with good jobs, education, and newer, larger homes. They dispersed farther outward, away from the inner city. With the ensuing drop of the traditional attendance, the church was closed by the Franciscans in 2000 after 111 years of faithful service to the local Polonia. A dispute arose between the remaining parishioners and the Franciscan Order who claimed ownership of the property. The Franciscans wanted to sell the entire property and replace the church and all its other buildings with upscale condos. The parishioners, both past and present were horrified at this development, Giza among them. The bitter dispute pushed her to take back the painting from the Franciscan's possession and try to find another home for it. Luckily, she did this, because the rectory where it rested for almost 25 years was eventually torn down.

Shortly after, the painting disappeared.

At one point, an associate of the Giza family communicated with Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, asking if someone would be interested in buying it, but that connection went dry, and the painting slipped into obscurity for the next 11 years.

Then late in 2014, club members received an excited email from its president.

"It's a miracle!" said the letter.

She received an email from the church secretary at St. Anthony of Padua church in northeast Baltimore saying some man dropped off a large painting of Christ in Fells Point, wanting to donate it to the church. The man was a member of



CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN FELLS POINT by artist Stella Dernoga Hazard. The first Polish immigrants who came to Baltimore in the late 19th century (among them, the artist's grandparents) settled in the waterfront neighborhoods of Fells Point and Locust Point. It was in Fells Point that they worked hard and saved money to build their own church (one of three) in 1889, St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church, seen in the background with its distinctive steeple with a large white cross.

The priests who ministered to the parishioners were Conventual Franciscan Friars.

the Seafarer's International Union, located in Fells Point. Originally, the painting had somehow made its home at the "Seafarer's Church," which then gave it to the Seafarer's Union, who had it for about two years. They couldn't hang it up because they didn't want to offend anyone of another religion, so they ended up giving it to him in 2014.

He held onto it but had to move away and could not take it with him. He offered it to one of his neighbors (a couple who are both pastors of nearby Lutheran churches) but they said they couldn't take it. His wife told him to try bringing it to the local Catholic church up the street – St. Anthony of Padua. The church told him he had done well by bringing it to them. The receipt he requested stated that they had received a "large oil painting of Christ in Fells Point." He said that if the church hadn't taken it, he was going to throw it in the dumpster.

How did the church secretary track down the Polish Heritage Association about the painting?

In 2014, the organization celebrated its 40th anniversary with a party where Stella Hazard was honored for her 99th birthday as the club's oldest living member. Photos

of her and a small article by Richard Poremski about the event were published in the *Polish American Journal*, which also has an on-line edition. The church secretary Googled the signature of the painter and up popped the recent article about Stella's 99th birthday, which also had an email address for the Polish Heritage Club president.

Those familiar with Fells Point and its history know about the SIU union hall and the Seafarer's Church. They manned the tugboats in the harbor, which once tied up alongside the old recreation pier in Fells Point. The odd part about it in this story is that the artist's daughter lives right next to the SIU's training facility in Piney Point in southern Maryland, and she worked for them for seven years.

Though puzzling, PHA members guessed the Giza family eventually gave the painting to the Seafarer's Church (now the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center) at some point in time.

Like those often-perilous journeys of the immigrants portrayed, the painting — a survivor — has made its way home to its resting place, back into the hands of its creator.

How Polish Months Got Their Names

- **styczeń** (January) from *stykać się* – to come together, because that's when the old and new year meet;
- **lut** (February) an adjective meaning harsh or severe and descriptive of that month's frequently wretched weather;
- **marzec** (March) from the verb *marznąć* — to freeze over, because of the month's frequent bouts of frost;
- **kwiecień** (April) suggests things floral because the year's first blossoms appear;
- **maj** (May) the only Polish month whose name came from Latin (Maius), from the Roman goddess of spring, Maia; in Polish it has generated the verb *maić* (to festoon with flowers and greenery);
- **czerwiec** (June) from *czerw*, an

insect that appears in June from which red dye was once made, hence the adjective *czerwony* (red);

- **lipiec** (July) from *lipa* (linden or lime tree) which bloom in July;
- **sierpień** (August) from *sierp* (sickle) used in the grain harvest round that time of year;
- **wrzesień** (September) from *wrzos* (heather), because that's when it is in full bloom;
- **październik** (October) from *paździe*, the time of year when flax and hemp are scutched;
- **listopad** (November) fallen leaves;
- **grudzień** (December) from *grudy*, clumps of frozen mud typical of that time of year.

—Robert Strybel



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POLONIA PLACES
GREGORY L. WITUL

Blochowiak Dairy Company

Home of Bright Star Dairy Products
2934 South 9th St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Status: Closed



The Blochowiak Dairy building at 2934 South 9th Street.

There is something special about milk poured from a glass bottle. Bottled milk is hard to find but the milk tastes fresher, richer, and creamier than its cartoned brethren. For generations, Poles, Polish Americans, and Milwaukeeans from all walks of life, got their milk in glass bottles from the Blochowiak Dairy in the city's near south side.

When John Blochowiak left Poland in 1902 for the freedom of America, the 23-year-old had no particular destination in mind. It was while crossing the Atlantic that another Pole told him of the city of Milwaukee and the Polish community there. Once in New York, John followed his new friend to the Cream City.

Settling in the outskirts of Milwaukee, Blochowiak purchased a residence at 1363 Third Avenue. He soon got married and began having children. To provide milk for his growing family John purchased a heifer to keep on the property in 1905. After the first calf, Blochowiak discovered that his new house cow provided far more milk than his family needed, so he began a little side business selling the excess.

Taking the profits from the first cow John bought another, and another, then a horse and finally a delivery wagon. Out of the family home, Blochowiak Dairy Company was born.

For six years John served the south side and surrounding neighborhoods. In 1911, a change in Milwaukee's law now forbade the raising of livestock within the city limits. Blochowiak sold his cows and began to have raw milk delivered to his facility. He also installed a new bottler, washer, pasteurizer, and cooler, staying ahead of the health standards of the day. This expansion would be dwarfed by the project Blochowiak undertook in 1919. With an eye towards the future and a substantial loan, John purchased the lots behind his home

and built a two-story structure that housed office space, a power plant, milk processing center and assembly hall. Besides increasing the size of his footprint in Milwaukee, John began to control his milk supply by buying farms in Oakwood and Mus-

kego and expanding his product line to include butter by acquiring two creameries in Helenville. To come up with a unifying name from his product line John came up with Bright Star, based on the star logo he had been using since the start of the company.



Blochowiak's Bright Star label on a glass milk bottle.

On July 21, 1920 the dairy was legally incorporated. While John led the company, his children and a few employees ran the operation. To ensure the business stayed in the family John's son Bruno attended the University of Wisconsin's Dairy School in Madison. With Bruno's education and John's experience the duo came up with two of Bright Star's most famous products: Genuine-Churned Buttermilk and Baker's Special Cottage Cheese. With quality products and loyal customers, the dairy survived the Great Depression, often carrying credit for hundreds of residents so milk would be on their table.

The Second World War brought its own difficulties as most milk

products were rationed, followed by the loss of John Blochowiak on July 21, 1942. The next year Bruno became president.

THE YEARS FOLLOWING the Second World War saw a great change in how Americans lived and shopped. Suburbs began to spring up and people started to buy milk at supermarkets instead of having it delivered to their home, as was the Bright Star way. Blochowiak held on while other dairies closed or consolidated because of the quality of their milk, but ever-increasing production costs and decline in home delivery eroded their profit margins.

With the business still solvent, Bruno decided to close the Blochowiak Dairy Company. On April 19, 1972 Bright Star Dairy ceased production; ending one of Milwaukee's best-known Polish owned businesses.

The Polish Cultural Club Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. hosted the Fall board meeting of the national American Council for Polish Culture on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22 at the Hilton Garden Inn of Glastonbury. Representatives from Connecticut, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia (Washington, D.C.) were in attendance. The weekend culminated in a gala event at the Riverfront Community Center on Welles Street, Glastonbury on Saturday night, when the Polish Cultural Club celebrated its 40th anniversary with 100 guests enjoying fine dining by Russell's Creative Global Cuisine of West Hartford.

As part of the anniversary program, Maestro Adrian Sylveen-Mackiewicz was recognized by the Polish Cultural Club for having received the American Council for Polish Culture's 2016 "Cultural Achievement Award" in Pittsburgh this past summer. This award is

presented annually to a prominent American of Polish descent for outstanding achievement in the field of artistic or cultural endeavors. As a talented violin soloist and conductor who enjoys a performing career both in the United States and internationally, Maestro Sylveen-Mackiewicz also serves as the artistic director of the Connecticut Virtuosi, New Britain Symphony, the Connecticut Virtuosi Orchestra, Magnum Opus, Connecticut Lyric Opera, Moniuszko Choir, and the Classical Orchestra of Pila in Poland, to name but a few of his many credentials. He has been an ambassador in Connecticut for the world of classical music in all of its forms for many years and bridges an important gap between Poland's rich musical heritage and the world stage. The Club was pleased that its nomination of Sylveen-Mackiewicz for this award was accepted, and that local Polonia and guests had an opportunity to salute Adrian. Also recognized during the event

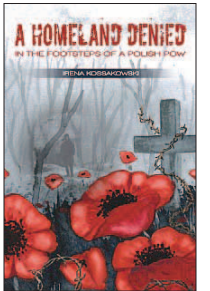
everything in its silver-white glow, and illuminating the little church in its snowy mantle."

Waclaw was taken and imprisoned and starved along with other prisoners. He was later sent to a labor camp in the freezing weather of the Kola Peninsula where he witnessed his friend being murdered by a Russian soldier. That murder haunted him for the rest of his life. But it was not the only trauma that he endured. He and fellow prisoners were sent on a harrowing journey, which many did not survive, to the warmer Asian Soviet Republics.

In a twist of fate, after a negotiation between Churchill and the Soviet leader, the survivors were sent to Iran and later to Iraq to bolster British troops in the Middle East. There he was given food, clothing, medical care, and the chance to fight for Poland's freedom.

Color and black and white family photographs, letters, maps, and other ephemera punctuate the Kossakowski's story. Throughout the book there are images of poppies, bright red poppies and drawings of poppies, in remembrance of military personnel who perished in war.

A Homeland Denied: In the Footsteps of a Polish POW by Irena Kossakowski is available to preorder on BarnesandNoble.com and Amazon.com and will be released this April.



BOOKS IN BRIEF/ Mary Lanham

A Homeland Denied

A HOMELAND DENIED:
In the Footsteps of a Polish POW
by Irena Kossakowski
Whittles Publishing, 2016, 118 pps.
Dunbeath Mill, Dunbeath
Caithness, KW6 6EG
Scotland, UK
whittlespublishing.com

In 1939, Waclaw Kossakowski was a promising young student at Warsaw University when his world turned upside down. For many years his story remained untold until his daughter, Irena Kossakowski, felt compelled to bring his experiences to light in her book, *A Homeland Denied: In the Footsteps of a Polish POW*.

A Homeland Denied gives another perspective on the hardships that Poles faced during and after World War II. Revealing her father's account nonlinearly using vivid descriptions, Kossakowski also interweaves the actions of world leaders and the events that caused the suffering and deaths of millions of people and her family's suffering and losses specifically.

The excerpt below, describing Waclaw's memories of traveling to Midnight Mass on a sleigh before he was taken prisoner, typifies Kossakowski's writing style.

"Vadek and Andrzej, wrapped up warmly, chatted non-stop, their breath hanging in the frosty air; their route was lined by fir trees standing majestically, like tall sentinels, beneath the splendor of their winter dress. It was a beautiful night. The stars were as jewels against the velvet sky, and the full moon hung like a huge opalescent globe, bathing

was Krystyna Slowakowski Farley of New Britain, who was crowned Ms. Senior Connecticut in May of this year and who, at age 91, just returned from the week-long Ms. Senior America competition in Atlantic City. Krystyna remains an inspiration to women of all generations and proves, without a doubt, that elegance can be aspired to and attained at any age.

The evening concluded with a rousing sing-along of traditional Polish folk songs performed by the Theatre of Imagination Novum, Inc. (Theatr Wyobrazeni Novum) of Hartford, followed by a group photo of the attendees. All in all, it was a magnificent 40th anniversary celebration.

The mission of the Polish Cultural Club is to share and promote Polish heritage and culture with members of Greater Hartford's Polonia, as well as the general community. For further information, please contact Co-President, Fran Pudlo, at (860) 659-0356.



The house once owned by John Blochowiak, first home of the Bright Star Dairy, as it appears today.

HANKS FASCINATED BY POLISH MINICAR. Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks is fascinated by a long defunct minicar Polski Fiat 126P. He first encountered one while filming the movie "Inferno" in Budapest, Hungary and has sought them out wherever he goes. Quite a few are still on the road in Cuba. A group of residents of the southern Polish city of Bielsko-Biala, where the car was built, are raising funds to present one such a vehicle to Hanks. Between 1973 and 2000, 3.2 million of the tiny, rear-engine four-seaters were produced. The 126P, affectionately known in Poland as "Maluch" (toddler, tyke, little guy), is the vehicle that put Poland on wheels.

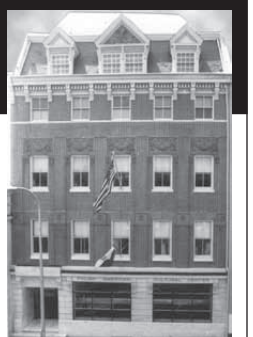
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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Polish Christmas Tree at Museum of Science and Industry



Choinka and Mira Link

CHICAGO — This year's Polish Christmas tree at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) features handmade ornaments made out of feathers, and assembled by retired members of *Harcerstwo* (Polish Scouting) and current members of the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW). Nearly 400 new ornaments were created along with a tree topper and nearly 50 yards of feathered garland. This year's Polish tree was titled "Light as a Feather." Ornaments included birds, swans, roses, daisies, elves, and comets. In Poland, handmade ornaments are made out of tissue paper, wrapping paper, eggshells, beads, and straws to create unique decorations from basic items found around the house.

After over a dozen women and men worked more than 1000 hours, assembling these beautiful ornaments, the Polish Tree at the MSI was installed within 90 minutes.

All of this would not have been possible if it were not for **Mirosława "Mira" Link**, who has been working on the Polish Christmas Tree project for 15 years. Mira meticulously researches the authenticity of all possible ornaments and then chooses the theme.

The annual MSI Christmas Tree exhibit started in 1942 with one

single tree. Today, over 50 different trees are displayed. The Polish Scouting Organization and the Legion of Young Polish Women also helped defray the cost of purchasing the materials needed to create the beautiful *choinka* or Polish Tree. Viewing of the "Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light" exhibit began on November 18 and ends on January 8, 2017. During this seven-week exhibition, over 250,000 visitors will come to MSI to see the Christmas trees. Many have been known to comment that the beautiful Polish tree is their favorite.



Lianna Wisneski

LEGION'S FALL FASHION SHOW. The Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW) hosted its Fall Fashion Show on November 6 at the Chateau Ritz in Niles, Illinois. The mistress of ceremonies, **Josie Nowak**, also chaired the event. **Bozenna Hasztrakiewicz**, president of the LYPW, welcomed everyone. The fashion show, attended by almost 200, presented a collection of the latest fashions created by local Polonian designers and boutiques. The first portion of the show included the modeling of ensembles inspired by Polish folk costumes with an emphasis of Tatra Mountain folklore. All the creations were suitable for a Polish-style picnic, an elegant banquet, a dinner out with that special someone, or a stroll

down Chicago's Magnificent Mile. Also, with autumn as the theme, several runway models dressed in browns and grays. The ingenuity of the folklore designs, along with the grace and elegance of the male and female models and children, made for a wonderful day of fashion and camaraderie. Volunteering as non-professional models, were past and 2017 White and Red Ball debutantes, LYPW members, and a few men and children.

Designers from Black Tie Formalwear, Le Obsession Boutique, MagHan Styles, and Designs Recultured provided evidence that fashion design in Chicago's Polonia is thriving.

GOLOTA INDUCTED INTO ILLINOIS BOXING HALL OF FAME. On November 4, **Andrew "Andrzej" Golota**, accompanied by his wife Mariola, was inducted into the Illinois Boxing Hall of Fame (IBHF). This event took place at the Abbington in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. When presented with



Andrew and Mariola Golota

his induction plaque, Andrzej was, as usual, a man of few words, but thanked all for their support and the IBHF for its consideration.

Golota, the 48-year-old 1988 Olympic bronze medalist, European Champion, and two-time Polish champion, retired from boxing in 2013. He became a United States citizen in 2013.

Golota was born in Warsaw, Poland. He moved to Chicago in 1990 and became an American boxing professional in 1992. He spent his



Chór Filareci Dudziarz

training years with the legendary Sam Colonna, who also was inducted into the IBHF. Golota's career was a 49-9-1 record with one no contest fight and 33 professional knockouts.

Dreamliners for this once-weekly schedule. The flights will coordinate with flights between Balice-Krakow (St. John Paul II International) and Okecie-Warsaw (Chopin International). The continuing expansion of the Krakow airport makes it possible for the return of this schedule and is due to the fact that many from Chicago's Polonia frequently travel to and from Poland's southern regions.

After much research, LOT determined that the increase in travel from Chicago to southern Poland, via Warsaw and other non-Polish sites, motivated the Polish airline to resume a Krakow to Chicago flight schedule.

ANOTHER CHÓR SUCCESS. In 2017, the Polish concert choir, *Chór Filareci Dudziarz*, will celebrate its 110th anniversary. The group's fundraising concert on the weekend of November 12, was held at DiDi, a restaurant/catering hall on Chicago's Northwest Side. Under the direction of Maryna Shutovich and accompanied by Jadwiga Koszałka, the program included patriotic songs and popular Polish tunes.

After the concert, guests enjoyed a lunch, participated in a raffle drawing, and purchased flowers. Guests had the opportunity to dance the night away to the music of the Casablanca Orchestra. Proceeds from this event will help defray the costs of future *Chór Filareci Dudziarz* events.

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NEWSWIRE

ANTI HATE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN UK. A campaign aimed at combating hate crime in the UK was launched at the British Parliament, amid increasing attacks on minorities in the country, including Poles.

The #BetterThanThat campaign is supported by the British government, and comes after a sharp spike in racist and xenophobic attacks around the country after the Brexit vote in June.

"There is no place for hate crime in the UK," said Arkady Rzegocki, Polish ambassador to the UK.

According to the British Home Office, the number of racially or religiously-aggravated recorded offenses in July 2016 was 41 percent higher than in July 2015."

Dozens of attacks on Poles living in the UK have been reported in recent months. In August a Polish man, Arkadiusz Józwick, was beaten to death in Harlow, south-eastern England. In early December, a 15-year-old boy was charged with manslaughter over the death.

It is estimated that up to one million Poles live in Britain, the majority of whom emigrated there in search of better jobs after Poland joined the European Union in 2004.

The Polish community comprises the largest migrant population of EU nationals based in Britain.

POLAND, UKRAINE SIGN DEFENSE AGREEMENT. Polish Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz and his Ukrainian counterpart Stepan Poltorak signed an agreement for the countries' defense ministries and armaments sectors. Macierewicz said the "partnership agreement" strengthened both countries' armies.

"This agreement will allow us to reach a totally new level of cooperation between the Polish and Ukrainian defense sectors," said Poltorak.

The agreement was signed as Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko visited Warsaw on the 25th anniversary of Poland recognizing Ukraine's independence, on December 2, 1991.

EXPANSION WILL EASE CONGESTION. Warsaw's Chopin Airport will expand, as passenger numbers exceed current facilities. A new record was set recently for Poland's largest airport — this year it welcomed its 12 millionth passenger.

Mariusz Szpikowski, head of the Polish Airports State Enterprise which manages Chopin Airport, said passenger traffic is growing. "Last year we served over 11 million passengers. This year, we estimate it will be more than 12.7 million people. And next year it may even be 14 million people," he said. "This means that the airport's capacity is slowly being used up."

Poland's national carrier, LOT Airlines alone, has introduced over twenty new travel routes from Chopin Airport since the beginning of 2016.

Formerly known as Warsaw-Okecie Airport or Okecie International Airport, it was renamed in 2001 to honor Polish composer and former Warsaw resident Frederic Chopin.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Wiligia and Kolędy Parties Filled December's Calendar

The Buffalo Chamber Players hosted "An Evening with Krzysztof Penderecki" at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, Dec. 1st ... Also on the 1st, the Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies at the University of Rochester presented Dr. Magdalena Banaszekiewicz of the Jagiellonian University on the topic: "Family Life in Modern Poland — Challenges and Obstacles" in the Sloan Auditorium on the university's River Campus.

The General Pulaski Association recently elected the following leadership for 2017: Brian Rusk (president), Chris Witkowski (1st vice-president), Hon. Kenneth Graber (2nd vice-president), Ed Reska Jr. (treasurer), Jerry Inda (secretary) and Stanley Pulaski Sr. (sergeant-at-arms) ... On Dec. 3rd and 4th, revered Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki conducted the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in a program featuring the Maestro's "Concerto for Violin and Cello," featuring violinist Dennis Kim and cellist Roman Mekinulov; Beethoven's "Overture to Creatures of Prometheus" and Dvorak's "Symphony No. 7."

Buffalo's Broadway Market held its "Kick-Off to Christmas" with New Direction and the Polka Variety Social Club hosted its Christmas Party with Special Delivery at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW in Cheektowaga, Dec. 3rd ... Also on the 3rd, the Chopin Singing

Society held its Wigilia at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga; and the Polish Student Association of the SUNY at Buffalo hosted its Wigilia at the UB Newman Center in Amherst ... The Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and Western New York installed new officers at its Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall; and Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish National Cathedral in Lancaster presented the Freudig Singers' "A Frozen Pie Christmas Winter Concert" on the 3rd.

The annual "Festival of Polish Christmas Carols" featuring the choirs of District IX of the Polish Singers Alliance of America, was held at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo, Dec. 4 ... Also on the 4th, St. John Kanty parish continued its 125th anniversary celebration with a Mass featuring the Ludowa Nuta Polish Canadian Folk Choir from Hamilton; the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society celebrated its Wigilia at Koban's Restaurant in Niagara Falls; and the Buffalo Mass Mob attended Mass at St. Stanislaus Church, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia ... Zwiasek Narodowy Polski w Kanada Hall in Toronto was the site of the group's "Mikolajki," Dec. 4 and its "Oplatek Polonijny," Dec. 18.

The General Pulaski Association held its Christmas Party at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cheektowaga, Dec. 5 ... Also on the 5th, the Professional & Businessmen's Association held its Man-of-the-Year/

Election/Christmas Party at the Pierce Arrow Museum in Downtown Buffalo ... The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester hosted its Wigilia in Kearney Hall at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, Dec. 10.

The Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress was awarded a \$7,500 grant from Erie County for enhancements to the "WNY Polonia Trail," which can be found at <http://poloniatrail.com/> or on Facebook ... Hippocrene Books published WNY author Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab's "Wearing the Letter P: Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany 1939-1945" ... The Buffalo Polka Boosters presented the Buffalo Touch at its Dec. 10 Christmas Party at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew ... The Syracuse Polish Home hosted a Mikolajki children's Christmas party at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Hall and its Wigilia at the group's Park Avenue clubrooms on the 10th ... Also on the 10th, Polonia Nowej Generacji held its Mikolajki at the Dom Polski in Hamilton, Ontario; the Polish Students' Initiative of Canada (PISK) held its "Annual Christmas Wigilia Potluck" at the SPK Hall in Toronto; and Elizabeth and Waclaw Kujbidow's film, "Jedwabne: Swiadkowie, Swiadectwa, Fakty" was screened at CineStarz Cinema in East Mississauga, Ontario ... The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo hosted its Wigilia at Kloc's Grove in West

Seneca; the Kalina Singing Society held its Wigilia luncheon at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, and the Villa Maria Chorale performed kolędy at its Christmas Concert in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in Cheektowaga Dec. 11th.

The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo conducted its annual meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst, Dec. 14. As part of the meeting, Sharon Dombek presented a power point on World Youth Day in Krakow, and Tom Zawadzki presented a chronology of the pilgrimage to Poland led by Rev. Matt Nycz ... Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga was the site of St. Casimir's Second Annual "Polka Kolędy Kick-Off with New Direction" on the 17th, and the Kolędy Night featuring the Concertina All Stars, Dec. 23rd ... The Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School performed its Jaselka Christmas pageant at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo on the 18th ... On the 24th, Masz Serce, Okaż Serce hosted a "Traditional Polish Wigilia" at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario; and the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Polish Congress held its Wigilia at the SPK Hall in Toronto ... The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress hosted its Christmas Party at the Polish Cadets Hall in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood on the 28th ... The Podhale Parents and Youth Association hosted a New Year's Eve Party featuring

Melody Lane at the St. Stanislaus Social Center in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District, Dec. 31st ... Other New Year's Eve parties were sponsored by Mother of God, Queen of Poland Church in Scarborough, Ontario, and SPK in Toronto.

UPCOMING. The Syracuse Polish Home will host its Oplatek Dinner Dance featuring the John Gora Band at its clubrooms on January 7th ... The Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto will sponsor a "Bog Sie Rodzi, God is Born" Christmas concert featuring the Novi Singers, Toronto Sinfonietta Instrumental Ensemble under the direction of Maciej Jaskiewicz, soprano Ana Wojcik and the Bells of St. Matthew at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Toronto on January 8th ... Buffalo's Chopin Singing Society and Kalina Singing Society will join with Oakville, Ontario's "Cantabile" and Hamilton's "Symfonia" and "Stokrotki" choirs for the "Koncert Koled" at the Hamilton Dom Polski on January 15th ... The Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress will hold its annual Kulig at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park, Feb. 19, and its Swieconka, April 23.

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. January 6 for the February 2017 issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG ISLAND / Barbara Szydłowski

Holocaust Discussion at UN

Recently at the United Nations, New York City, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Program held a panel discussion, "Holocaust Remembrance and Public Memorials: The Complexities and challenges of Facing the Past."

The event was attended by several members of the Polish American Museum.

The program, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Ukraine and Israel, observed the 75th anniversary of the Babi Yar Massacre. More than thirty three thousand Jewish men, women and children were killed by Ukrainians between 1941 and 1945.

Opening remarks were made by the UN Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, Cristina Gallach and UN representatives of the Ukraine and Israel. Speaker panelist members Professor James Young, U.S., founder and director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Studies, introduced the subject discussion.

Other panel members were directors of Holocaust studies from the Ukraine, Israel, Japan, South America, and Brazil, who spoke on the education of children in their respective countries and compared today's problems with those of the Holocaust.

Moderator for this event was Kimberly Mann.

CHRZANOSKI HONORED. A salute to Glen Cove veteran, U.S. Army Corporal Benjamin Chrzanoski, presented by Congressman Steve Israel, honored him with six replacement service medals and two new medals for his brave ser-

vice in Europe during World War II. The new medals were for Prisoner of War and the Bronze Star.

Chrzanoski was born in Brooklyn in 1924. During his first semester at Columbia University 1943, he was drafted into the Army. After completing a year of military training, he was shipped to England, where he was given orders to join the 3rd Army in Metz, France after the Invasion of Normandy. While engaged in the Battle of Metz with German forces, Chrzanoski and a handful of American soldiers ran out of food and ammunition, leaving them no choice but to surrender. They spent six months as POWs at a camp in Neubrandenburg, Germany.

He was released to American forces May 1945 and returned to England before being honorably discharged from the army in November 1945.

TRADITION CONTINUES. Pearl Harbor Day is observed annually in the United States on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 citizens of the United States killed in a surprise attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Long Islander Joe Hydrusko was at Pearl Harbor that day, and saved many lives. Since 1970, as a tribute to those who were killed, Joe would fly his Stinson Reliant (airplane) on December 7 around the Statue of Liberty, dropping a rose for each year in remembrance of the men and women who lost their lives on that fateful day.

Joe died in a plane accident over twenty years ago. Today the tradition of dropping roses on December 7 continues.

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Mrs. T's — A Recipe and a Dream

Part IV in a continuing series
by Staś Kmiec

Mary Catherine (Binek) Twardzik was known in Shenandoah, Pa., for making some of the best homemade *pierogi* in town. The biggest fan of her *pierogi* was her son, Ted.

As a kid, Ted watched his mother make the half-moon-shaped pockets with the *Unia Polek* Polish Ladies Society, that she led at St. Casimir's Catholic Church. In the era of meatless Fridays, *pierogi* were so popular that people of all nationalities would stand in line to buy them by the dozen.

Born September 7, 1927, Ted was the youngest of six children. After graduation from high school, he enrolled at the University of Notre Dame. His college days were interrupted to serve in the U.S. Army from March 1946 to September 1947, where he rose to the rank of staff sergeant in the 83rd Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. Upon his return, Ted resumed college and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting.

After college, his first job was as a staff accountant for Arthur Andersen & Co. in Manhattan — one of the prestigious "Big Eight" accounting firms of its time. A great start for the son of a Polish miner/saloon keeper.



Mary Twardzik, the original Mrs. T.

ers from rolling dough, stuffing the pockets and pinching the edges tight enough so they didn't leak when boiled.

IN MRS. TWARDZIK'S KITCHEN. To honor his mother, the brand would be named "Mrs. T's." Beginning with his mother's recipe, the business began in her kitchen. Everything was done by hand at inception. Five local women were hired as the original employees to make *pierogi* around the kitchen table, which would then be sold to local stores. The original fillings were cheddar cheese with whipped potatoes, cabbage, cottage cheese, and prune, and were finger-pinched sealed.

Legend has it that the decision to add the "s" to the already plural "pierogi" in the brand name *Mrs. T's Pierogies* was Ted's attempt to anglicize the spelling in order to make the name

easier to pronounce for an American market.

The *pierogi* were originally distributed refrigerated and packaged in bags. In the beginning, Ted handled every aspect of the business including delivering the *pierogi* to the initial handful of stores. He spent hours at stores promoting and introducing the product — offering samples to interest customers, and remarked that his face would hurt from smiling all that time. "At first, the customers were mainly of Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and Slavic roots, but soon Americans would discover these delicious "dump-

Ted transported the product in an early 1950s Dodge Panel truck. The truck was part of his and his new wife Jean's wedding day at St. Casimir Roman Catholic Church in Shenandoah, on August 19, 1956. Jean arrived at the church in a new Cadillac that was loaned by her employer Mr. Uritis. Friends swapped the Caddy for the *Mrs. T's* truck attached to a tow truck as they left the church in a shower of rice.

It wasn't long before Ted's business outgrew the kitchen arrangement and the decision was made to move production to the current location at 600 E. Centre St. Efforts were continuous to grow production capacity and output by mechanizing steps for consistency and efficiency. Ted brought in hard working and honest people as the business expanded. He felt that the company's success meant individual success for everyone involved. Lewis Hoffman was the mechanical engineer who helped invent the proprietary *pierogi* machines. The product converted to frozen and was packaged in cardboard box-cartons. Al Sadowski was the production manager at the time, and first cousin Chris Twardzik was the plant manager.

THE BRAND CONTINUES. *Mrs. T's Pierogies*® became the first frozen *pierogi* brand available in American supermarkets. Sixty-five years later, it is a mass market brand in the United States. A product of Ateeco, Inc., it offers 13 varieties for a new "hip" crowd including feta and spinach, mozzarella, tomato and basil, garlic and parmesan, and jalapeño and cheddar in full-size, mini-size and plenty packs, and produces over 500 million *pierogi* per year.

Thomas F. Twardzik (Tom), the founder's youngest son is the president of the company. "It was of critical importance to my dad that the *Mrs. T's Pierogies* experience remained enjoyable and consistent," said Tom. "True to our origination, our *pierogies* are still turnovers."

Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, with large Eastern European populations, remain *Mrs. T's* largest market. The company, however, is the only *pierogi* maker that ships coast-to-coast. *Mrs. T's* are sold widely in Army commissaries in Europe, and the company recent-

ly landed its first contract in Japan. Even after retirement, Ted's love for business didn't end. In 2000, he co-founded Lee's Oriental Gourmet Foods. Ateeco Inc., *Mrs. T's* corpo-

He used his mother's *pierogi* recipe as the foundation for a successful frozen food business and leaves behind an industry legacy. He is considered a pioneer in the food in-



Ted Twardzik driving the "Mrs. T's" Dodge panel truck from the early 1950s.

rate name, opened a second operation in an old Pillsbury plant in East Greenville, Pa.

The company is courting health-conscious consumers. Its marketing department, run by son Tim Twardzik, has hired major sports figures as spokespersons. One *pieróg* dumpling, according to the *Mrs. T's* package, has less than 1 gram of fat, 11 grams of carbohydrates and only 60 calories — a smart option, provided they're not sautéed in onions and butter.

dustry, creating the completely new frozen food category: "Pierogi."

"Dad never lost sight of his roots and who he was," Tom Twardzik said. "He was a guy from Shenandoah like all of his friends and most of the people who worked with him." The *pierogi* factory even shut down a few times to allow workers to attend one another's weddings. In his hometown, *Mrs. T's/Ateeco* Inc. is the largest employer with more than 240 people on payroll.

"Born in the United States, he didn't speak Polish as his family thought it was of paramount importance to assimilate to America and speak the language," Tom said. "As for Polish traditions, we celebrate the blessing of foods at Easter and the Christmas traditions of *oplatki* and *wigilia*."

Ted is survived by his wife of 60 years, the former Jean Roberts, three sons — Ted Jr., Tim, and Tom — and five grandsons. He and his wife supported a multitude of local and national charities and created the Twardzik Family General Library Endowment, and supported a Distinguished Library Collection in Polish studies.

"Talent hits a target that no one else can hit and genius hits a target that no one else can see. And he saw the potential for the *pierogies* and hit a bullseye," said Ted Twardzik Jr.

A lifelong learner, Ted, Sr. enjoyed the advice of Earl Nightingale, the father of the self-improvement industry. Earl's distinctive voice was heard on records, tapes and iPods encouraging Ted to "improve just a little bit every day," a motto Ted carried out throughout his life.

"Success is the progressive realization of a worthy goal or idea." — Earl Nightingale.

PAST PAJ PIEROGI ARTICLES

- Pierogi Made With Love (December 2008)
- Pierogi in Poland (February 2009)
- Pierogi at the Fair — Millie's Pierogi Delivers! (August 2009)



"The Pierogi Ladies" — the original "Mrs. T's" employees.

Ted could have made a comfortable living as an accountant, but one year later, against the wishes of his parents, the 25-year-old Twardzik decided to return home to pursue his entrepreneurial dream to start a food company using his mother's recipe for *pierogi*.

He remembered how popular the traditional Polish dumplings were at church festivals. Where others saw a church fund-raiser, Ted saw a business opportunity. He reasoned that people would buy them at the grocery store any day of the week, instead of having to stand in line at the church on Fridays. His packaged *pierogi* could liberate homemak-



Ted Twardzik with sons (from left to right - Tim Twardzik, Ted Twardzik Sr., Tom Twardzik)

WHAT DID THE ORIGINAL MRS. T'S PIEROGI TASTE LIKE?

"My grandmother passed away in 1965, when I was only four — I really didn't grow up eating Mary's *pierogies*, I grew up eating *Mrs. T's Pierogies*," said Tom Twardzik. "I can remember the aromas of the factory when I was a child. I love the textures of the dough and filling together. The chew and the creaminess are a great combination that really gives me something to sink my teeth into. The flavors are not overpowering and let me add all sorts of accents like sautéed onions, mushrooms, peppers, sour cream and even different sauces. But I'm a traditionalist and love my butter and onions with my *pierogies*."

PASSING THE LEGACY. Theodore "Ted" Twardzik passed away on November 10, 2016 at the age of 89.

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

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

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Some Different Cold-Weather Comfort Foods

RICE & TURKEY GOŁĄBK (gołąbki z ryżem i indyczyną). This is a great way of using up that frozen, leftover Christmas turkey. Scald cabbage cored-side down in hot water, removing leaves as they will and dry on paper towel. In skillet simmer 2 chopped onions in 2 T butter or oil until golden tender or just slightly browned. Combine with 4 c ground, cooked boneless turkey and 4 c undercooked rice. Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. Optional: Add 1 T finely chopped fresh parsley. Fill and roll up cabbage leaves as for meat & rice gołąbki, place in roasting pan in no more than 2 layers, drench with 3-4 c vegetable stock (home-made or bouillon cube) or 1 mushroom bouillon cube dissolved in 3-4 c boiling water. Cover and bake in preheated 350° oven 2 hours or longer. After switching off heat, leave in oven until cooled to room temp, then refrigerate over night. Next day, reheat in oven until warmed through and serve with the kind of gravy you would use for roast turkey.

SAUERKRAUT SOUP (kapuśniak). Prepare stock by cooking ½ - ¾ lbs meaty pork bones in 8 c water 1 hr, skimming off scum. Add 1 t salt, 2 carrots, 1 stalk celery 1 onion, 3 bay leaves, 5 peppercorns and 3 grains allspice and cook until meat comes away from

bone. Drain 1 qt sauerkraut (reserving juice), rinse in cold water, drain, pressing out moisture, chop and add to strained stock. Cook on med heat uncovered 30 min. Dice meat from bones, and add to pot then reduce heat and cook covered until sauerkraut is very tender. In skillet fry up 4 slices diced thick-sliced bacon with 1 chopped onion, stir in 3 T flour and simmer until browned, stirring constantly. Dilute with several T soup and stir into a smooth paste. Add to pot, stir and simmer several more min. If soup is not as tart as you like, add some reserved sauerkraut liquid. Salt & pepper to taste. 1 t sugar and ½ t bruised caraway seeds may be added if desired.

APPLE SOUP & POTATOES (jablczanka z kartoflami). Peel, chunk and cook 5-6 potatoes in lightly salted water until tender. Separately, peel and core 2 lbs cooking apples and place in pot containing 8 c water, ½ c sugar and a pinch of cinnamon or grated nutmeg. Cook until apples are tender (a few min after boiling starts). In skillet simmer 2 finely chopped onions in 2 T butter until translucent and barely browned. Drain potatoes, return to flame and shake pot to steam off all moisture. To fried onions stir in ½ c coffee cream or half&half and simmer briefly, then add to potatoes and mash well. Serve the hot apple soup

in bowls with mashed potatoes on the side.

DUCK OR GOOSE SOUP (czernina). Place the cleaned giblets (make sure to cut open the gizzard and remove any semi-digested grain lodged therein!), neck, wings and rump of 1 duck or goose and ¾ lb pork ribs in pot containing 7 c water and cook 1 hr, skimming off scum. Add 1 portion soup greens, 3 bay leaves, 3 cloves, 2 grains allspice and several peppercorns and cook until meat and vegetables are tender. Strain. Dice carrots, remove meat from bones, dice and return to stock. Add ½ c or more pitted prunes, ½ c diced dried apples and ½ c raisins and cook until fruit is tender. Remove from flame. Fork-blend blood of duck or goose (containing several T vinegar to prevent coagulation) with 1 T flour and stir into soup. Simmer briefly. Adjust to taste with a little salt, sugar and cider vinegar. Serve over egg-noodle squares or other egg noodles, potato dumplings or diced cooked potatoes.

ROAST PORK WITH PRUNES (pieczeń wieprzowa ze śliwkami). Rub a 4-5 lb tied, rolled, boneless pork shoulder roast all over with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1 - 2 buds crushed garlic. Place on rack in roasting pan and roast in 325° oven about 25 min per pound, basting oc-

POTATO BABKA (babka kartofflana). This is an old, down-home Polish favorite! Dice ¼ lb thick sliced bacon and ¼ lb skinned smoked kielbasa and brown in skillet, stirring. Add 2 chopped onions and continue simmering and stirring until onion is soft and just begins to brown. Set aside. Peel, rinse and pat dry 3.3 lbs potatoes and grate with hand-held grater or in processor. Transfer grated potatoes to sieve and catch the drippings. When drippings settle, pour off the liquid at top leaving only the white sediment (starch) which should be added to the potatoes. Also add the fried meat and onions, 3 eggs, 2 T potato starch (or cornstarch), 1 T salt, ½ t pepper and 1 T marjoram. Mix well. Transfer to parchment-lined babka or angel-food pan and bake in preheated 350°-360° oven about 90 min. Serve hot with cold sour cream.



asionally. To drippings in pan add 3 quartered onions and 1-2 c unpitted prunes, and baste meat with ½ c dark beer. Bake until meat is fork-tender. Serve with rice, mashed or boiled potatoes.

ROAST DUCK WITH APPLES (kaczka pieczona z jablkami). Wash a 4-5 lb duck and pat dry. Rub inside and out with salt, pepper, marjoram and 1 bud crushed garlic. Let stand in covered roasting pan at room temp 2 hrs. Stuff tightly with unpeeled, cored quarters of tart cooking apples. Sew up duck's neck and tail openings. Place duck on rack in roasting pan and roast in pre-

heated 450°-500° oven 10-15 min, turning over to sear on all sides. Reduce to 350°-375°, sprinkle with 2 T water, prick with fork to release fat and roast 90 - 120 min or until fork tender. Baste with pan drippings frequently. Since the apple stuffing shrinks considerably, prepare additional apples on the side. Place 2 - 3 additional, peeled apple quarters in a separate baking pan, drench with several T duck pan drippings, sprinkle with marjoram and bake in same oven the last 45 min. Mix separately cooked apples with those with which the duck was stuffed and serve in serving dish.

PAJ BOOKSTORE KITCHEN TO ORDER BY MAIL Use form on page 7 for all items on this page, and pages 5 and 7 TO ORDER BY PHONE (800) 422-1275 • (716) 312-8088 MON.-FRI., 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. TO ORDER ON LINE: polamjournal.com SECURE SERVER

COOKBOOKS

POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY \$16.95 by Robert Strybel Item 2-644 248 pp., pb., Hippocrene Bks. Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than 400 recipes, along with a lexicon of basic foods and culinary concepts, ingredients and procedures, and sample menus. The clearly-written recipes facilitate the preparation of the dishes and their incorporation in the Polish American mainstream culture.

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

ber salad, potato pancakes, Hunter's Stew, pork and rice stuffed cabbage leaves, traditional "babka" cake, and of course, pierogi! Numerous recipes for veal, chicken, kielbasa sausage, pork, and beef dishes make this a great and thorough cookbook that is a fantastic addition to any kitchen.

With easy-to-follow instructions for simple as well as more intricate dishes, a section on traditional holiday meals, estimated cooking times, and suggestions for healthy ingredient substitutions, this cookbook will teach anyone how to cook delicious Polish food. For those wishing to re-create their grandmother's favorite recipe, or those wanting to experience a new cuisine, Authentic Polish Cooking will bring a bit of Eastern Europe to your home.

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95 Item 2-678 5-1/2 x 3-1/2 inches 160 pp., spiral bound

This cookbook features a great variety of flavorful regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, Polish hunter's stew, stuffed baked turkey, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas.

Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

PIEROGI LOVE New Takes on an Old World Comfort Food By Casey Barber \$19.95 Item 2-675 Hc; 128 pp. / 8.3 x 8.1 inches

Full color photographs

This tasty tribute to the pierogi takes a familiar wrapping and stuffs it with a host of unconventional, innovative, and decidedly non-traditional fillings. With 60 sweet and savory recipes that include everything from the classic Polish cheese and potato offerings to American-inspired Reuben pierogi and fried apple pierogi to worldly fill-

ings like falafel and Nutella, there's a pierogi for every party and every palate! Each recipe comes with a charming story from Barber's extensive explorations in pierogi flavors. Casey Barber is a freelance food writer, photographer, and editor of the critically acclaimed website Good.Food.Stories.

POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES \$16.95 by Laura and Peter Zeranski Item 2-656 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.

POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK by Sophie Knab \$19.95 Item 2-632 337 pp., sc; From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish countryside through the year.

The *Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook* gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes

are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Lovely illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book.

POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS \$16.95 By Laura and Peter Zeranski Item 2-654 2013, 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100 color photos

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs.

INVENTORY BLOWOUT! While supplies last! **THE ART OF POLISH COOKING** by Alina Zeranska Pub. at \$22.95 Paj Bookstore Price: \$6.95 Item 1-1404

THE ART OF POLISH COOKING Alina Zeranska 384 pp., hc. 8 1/4 x 5 1/2 illus., Index

Reissued by Pelican Publ., *The Art of Polish Cooking*, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for hors d'oeuvres, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with descriptions of Polish feasts and celebrations. Author Alina Zeranska provides easy-to-follow recipes for favorites like Cabbage Rolls, Chicken in Dill Sauce, Meat Pierogis, and Fruit Mazurka. Zeranska has translated these Polish recipes perfectly using exact American measurements.

"STO LAT" CARD

CARD 402 — "Sto lat." ("Happy Birthday — May you live 100 years") 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" Full color design with poppy, "Sto lat" lyrics in Polish and English, and role of poppy in Polish culture. Inside left blank for personalization. Printed on glossy stock.

"JAK SIĘ MASZ" CARD

CARD 403 — "Jak się Masz?" 5 1/2" x 4 1/4" "Jak się masz?" — This good-natured Polish expression of greeting and expression of good will can be heard when friends, neighbors, and family meet. From "How have you been" and "How's everything?" to "How do you do?" a lot of questions are packed into these three little words.

Full color design with "dziewięcilsil" (Alpine Everlasting Thistle Flower), the card comes with a blank inside for personalization. Printed on glossy stock. Ideal "Money Card" for gifts, etc. From Poppyfield Press.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Stempniak is a Wanted Man



Lee Stempniak (above) has played for a lot of NHL teams: the St. Louis Blues, Toronto Maple Leafs, Phoenix Coyotes, Calgary Flames, Pittsburgh Penguins, New York Rangers, Winnipeg Jets, New Jersey Devils, Boston Bruins, and now the Carolina Hurricanes. It's not that teams don't want him — it's just the opposite. As a savvy veteran with all-around talent who doesn't draw a big pay check, Stempniak is a valuable commodity for teams trying to make a playoff run. That's why, for three straight years, a team has acquired him at the trade deadline.

The 33-year-old winger was drafted 148th overall by the St. Louis Blues in the fifth round of the 2003 NHL Entry Draft, and has earned a reputation as a skilled, aggressive forward who plays a physical game despite his lack of size. He's also known for his leadership on and off the ice. Since joining the Carolina Hurricanes this season, Lee was put on their top line and the move is paying off. The Hurricanes expected Stempniak, who had 51 points last season, to be a consistent offensive presence, but he has been much more than that. Many consider him the best NHL free agent signing. Lee is a native of Buffalo, but the Sabres are one team he hasn't played for — not yet, anyway.

WERENSKI ON THE RISE. *USA TODAY* touted Michigan native Zach Werenski as one of the NHL's top rookies. The paper wrote that, although another 19-year-old American player (Maple Leafs forward Auston Matthews) is getting much more attention, the Blue Jackets defenseman "has had a similar 'wow' factor to his NHL start."

After being drafted 8th overall in 2015, Werenski, who spent two years at the University of Michigan, joined the Blue Jackets team in the AHL. He played a critical role in helping the Lake Erie Monsters win the league championship last year, scoring five goals and 14 points in 17 playoff games.

This season he's made similar contributions to Columbus. GM Jarmo Kekalainen is thrilled about what Zach has added to the team, especially on the power play. "You can see his skating and physical strength, but really he just goes out and plays," said Kekalainen. The Blue Jackets players agree. "He's making the right reads and decisions. He's fit in really well so far and we're expecting big things out of him even though he's a young guy," said fellow defenseman Ryan Murray. "I also think he expects it out of himself."

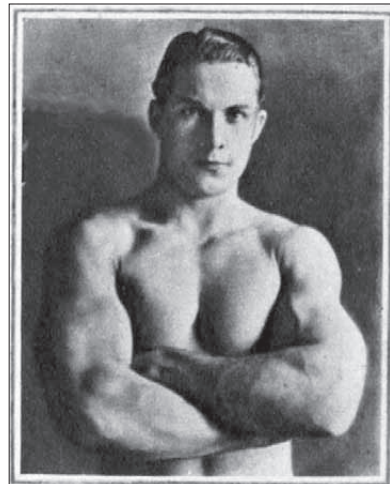
SOUTH POLE. Poland's **Joanna Mędraś** won the Antarctic Ice Marathon, running the 40 kilome-

ters (nearly 25 mile) distance in six hours, one minute and 45 seconds. The native of the northern Polish port city of Gdańsk, braved temperatures of -20 degrees Celsius (-4 F) and freezing winds to finish 13 minutes ahead of the runner-up, America's Laurie Koch.

Mędraś, who works as a notary, trained on beaches near where she lives. She started running marathons only two years ago. She is now planning to run marathons in warmer climes in Australia and South America.

HALL OF FAMERS PASS. Two of the inductees into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2016 passed away last year. Legendary water polo coach **Monte Nitzkowski** died at the age of 86. **Tony Adamowicz**, one of the greats of American sports-car racing throughout the '60s and well into the '80s, died at 75 following a year-long battle with brain cancer. Nitzkowski attended the ceremony last June, while Adamowicz was too ill and was represented by his sisters.

The nomination process for the Class of 2017 will begin shortly, so if you have someone to nominate don't wait. You can send a nomination to: National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame 2975 E. Maple, Troy, MI 48083. For more information call (313) 407-3300 or go to: www.polishsportshof.com



Tom Tyler was born Wincenty Markowski.

HAMTRAMCK TO HOLLYWOOD. **Tom Tyler** was an American actor known for his leading roles in low-budget Western films in the silent and sound eras, and for his portrayal of superhero Captain Marvel in the 1941 serial. It was his athletic background and remarkable physique that got him to Hollywood. It led to a successful acting career in which he appeared in seven serials and more than 150 movies.

He was born **Wincenty Mar-**



In the early 1940s Tyler was chosen to star in the *Adventures of Captain Marvel* serial. Despite being in his late 30s, he still had an impressive physique and great strength

kowski to Polish-Lithuanian parents in Port Henry, N.Y. At some point they moved to Hamtramck, Mich.. An outstanding high school athlete, the story goes that he was competing in a bodybuilding athletic contest at the Martha Washington Theater in Hamtramck when a Hollywood talent scout suggested he pursue a movie career. After graduating high school, he left home and made his way west with his friend, **Emil Karkoski**. In Denver, Karkoski decided to turn back and return home. Wincenty went on without him.

Arriving in California around 1924, he found work in the film industry as a prop man and extra, and was given the name Tom Tyler. He also competed as an amateur weightlifter sponsored by the Los Angeles Athletic Club during the late 1920s. He set a new world's amateur record for the right-hand clean and jerk by lifting 213 pounds (97 kg). In 1928, he won the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) heavyweight weightlifting championship, lifting 760 pounds (340 kg), a record that stood for fourteen years.

Tyler started working in low-budget westerns and had a lot of success, moving from silent to talking pictures and then getting starring roles. The serials and "B-movies" he appeared in were great hits with audiences. He also had some small roles in some classic movies. In John Ford's *Stagecoach* he had a memorable scene as Luke Plummer, a villain who is shot and killed by John Wayne's Ringo Kid character. In Ford's *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, Tyler played a wounded corporal operated on by a surgeon inside a moving wagon. He also appeared in such classics as *Red River*, *San Antonio* and *Gone With The Wind*.

In the early 1940s Tyler was chosen to star in the *Adventures of Captain Marvel* serial. Despite being in his late 30s, he still had an impressive physique and great strength. He had primarily been known for his westerns, but audiences loved his portrayal of the superhero. He later also wore the superhero costume of *The Phantom*.

Tyler appeared in more movies and TV shows into the 1950s, but became afflicted with what was initially diagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis. It turned out he had an uncommon autoimmune disease called scleroderma, a painful and crippling disease. Suffering greatly and nearly destitute, Tyler moved back to Hamtramck and lived with his sister, Katherine Slepski, during the last year of his life. He died on May 3, 1954 of heart failure and complications from scleroderma at the age of 50.



POLAND'S RADWAŃSKA NAMED 2016 WTA FAN FAVORITE.

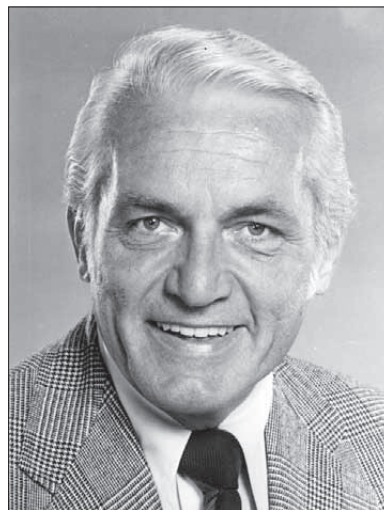
Polish tennis star **Agnieszka Radwańska** has won the annual Women's Tennis Association's Social Fan "Favorite Player" award for the sixth time running.

Radwańska's name also came up in other categories in the people's choice awards.

Her stellar performance in a close match against Slovak Dominika Cibulkova at Wimbledon, which she lost in the last set, won the Grand Slam Match of the Year award.

She was also part of the winning "Selfie of the Year" photograph published on German tennis player Angelique Kerber's Twitter account.

In total, some 70,000 votes were cast to determine winners in 10 categories, which included the "Pet of the Year" and "Best Dressed of the Year."



Ted Knight

CADDYSHACK HOLDS UP.

Whenever they put together lists of best sports movies — and especially funniest sports movies — "Caddyshack" is usually right at the top. One of the stars of that film classic was the son of Polish immigrants: **Tadeusz Konopka**, better known as **Ted Knight**.

Ted Knight grew up in Terryville, Conn., the son of immigrants Charles and Sophia (Kawaleski) Konopka. He turned 18 when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and then dropped out of high school to fight in World War II, becoming one of the first soldiers to enter Berlin. After the war he entered show business, using the name of Ted Knight. After working in relative obscurity for a couple of decades, he rose to fame playing Ted Baxter on the "Mary Tyler Moore Show." His hysterical portrayal of a vain and bumbling but loveable TV anchorman got him two best supporting actor Emmys in the 1970s. He later appeared on the successful sitcom, "Too Close for Comfort."

Ted's more than 300 roles included the 1980 film "Caddyshack" in which he played Judge Elihu Smalls. Judge Smalls was the WASPy co-founder of the golf club in which the movie was set. The character was self-centered and egotistical like Ted Baxter, but unlike him he was snobbish and conniving. Despite Ted Knight's nice guy image from his TV role, he played the comic villain very effectively and was central to the movie's suc-

cess. More than 35 years later "Caddyshack" remains hugely popular with audiences.

Very proud of his Polish heritage, Knight once convinced the studio audience at *the Mike Douglas Show* to chant his birth name repeatedly in unison: "*Ta-de-usz Wła-dy-sław Ko-no-pka!*" When he died of cancer in 1986 at age 62, his grave maker bore his real name, with "Ted Knight" beneath it in smaller letters.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK.

Buffalo native **Pat Kaleta** is back with the Sabres as the team's youth hockey ambassador ... former Sabre **Zenon Konopka** ended his hockey career after playing for one season for Ciarko PBS Bank KH Sanok in Poland. The 35-year-old Konopka was a physical player and a skilled faceoff man during his NHL career, playing in 346 NHL games and tallying 12 goals, 30 points and 1,082 penalty minutes ... Polish cyclist **Zenon Czechowski** died at 69 ... **Dolores Klosowski**, an infielder who played from 1944 through 1945 in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, died at 93 ... **Guillaume Bieganski**, a French association football defender of Polish heritage, died at 83 ... **Witold Zagórski**, long-time member of the Poland national basketball team, who coached the team from 1961 to 1975, died at 85 ... **Wojciech Kurpiewski**, a Polish sprint canoer, who competed from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s and won Olympic silver, died at 50 ... Patriots tight end **Rob Gronkowski** was placed on injured reserve following surgery for a herniated disc ... U.S. forward **Chris Wondolowski** will miss the United States' World Cup qualifiers against Mexico and Costa Rica because of an injury suffered during the MLS season ... Brooklyn native **Jim Baron** announced that he will be stepping down as Canisius College's men's basketball coach. Known for rebuilding struggling programs, he compiled a 73-61 record at Canisius, and went 462-430 in 29 seasons as a Division I head coach.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 32nd year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

SYBIRACY / Stefania Borstowa

Joining Ander's Polish Army in Soviet Union, February 1942

"Sibracy" (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa. Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

PART XIX. Anders' Army was the informal, yet common name of the Polish Armed Forces in the East in the 1941-42 period, in recognition of its commander Władysław Anders. The army was created in the Soviet Union, but in March 1942, based on the British-Soviet-Polish understanding, it was evacuated from the Soviet Union and made its way through Iran to Palestine. There it passed under British command and provided the bulk of the units and troops of the Polish II Corps (member of the Polish Armed Forces in the West), which fought in the Italian Campaign.

Early in 1942 we learned that Gen. Anders is allowed to form a Polish army in Soviet Union. Our young Polish boys wanted to join a Polish army. We started preparing young men and women to be ready. Winter in 1942 was not that cold as the previous one. In the whole district we had twenty young people who were ready to join the Polish army; five Polish boys and one girl were ready from our village. But in order to be allowed, one has to be eighteen years old. We had to arrange birth certificates for all, using some tricks and a good will of friendly people who could help.

I was delegated to take these young people to Kostanay, a capital of our region in Northern Kazakhstan. Kostanay was located about 250 km away. In February 1943 we went there, equipped just in a sledge pulled to one horse. The horse was weak, hungry and did not have enough energy to pull the sledge, so we had to go slow, often helping the horse, by push-

ing the sledge. Snow was high, so in some parts of the road it was hard to drive. We were estimating that it would take us two weeks to get there. We usually spent nights with villagers or houses of kind people who did not have enough food, were dressed in rugs and had lice. We had our own dry bread, we cooked our frozen potatoes, but our hosts were always giving us some hot water and sage tea.

About a half on a way we went to a Kazakhs hamlet called "Mokre" (translated: "wetland"). There were only women and children in the hamlet, so they did not allow us to stay with them overnight. Instead, they told us to go to the temporary station, 3 km away, where shepherds stayed with the sheep. We went there and the shepherds allowed us to stay overnight. We entered a barrack, we could feel that there was a wet fertilizer under the dry hay floor. The big room inside the barrack was divided into two uneven parts with a wooden perch. Kazakhs men were sitting in a larger part of the barrack and were tampering with some tools in candles' light. All had fur coats and caps. In spite of the fact that we got used to appearance of Kazakhs' people, their manners, their looks, ironic smiles and mean words which they were exchanging made us uncomfortable. There were 16 men and four women who were doing their chores.

Women were preparing the meal. We were asked to sit



General Władysław Anders.

among the men. The men wanted to talk to us but we could not understand them. We could not recognize any words, only gurgle and jabber. The women brought a huge soup pot. It was filled with noodles on lamb stock with garlic and onion. We were given wooden spoons, which were man-made. Since we were hungry, we ate voraciously, not paying attention that our hosts, dirty shepherds, are consuming from the same pot. After the soup the leader of the group threw a big piece of meat at us. We finally satisfied our hunger for the first time after ten days of travel. We also warmed up our cold bodies finally at the fire oven.

After eating all the meat parts, we threw remaining bones into the soup pot, which were taken by the women behind the perch. There, women still made use of the bones: they sucked out the bone marrow and ate any rests of remaining meat. Finally the cleaned bones were given to three dogs. These dogs looked quite wild, they were big, shaggy and had bloody eyes. Then, we were given tea, unleavened pancakes and asked to lie to sleep. Five boys and a horse had to sleep in a different barrack; me and Luska, the only other girl who volunteer for a military service, stayed there in the same barrack.

Before we went to sleep, we saw a shocking scene. Men took their shirts and long underpants to the women for the lice inspection. Women cleaned lice by stretching the cloths with their fingers and then killing the lice with teeth and then scratching dead lice off from the cloths with the knife to the bowl filled with water. This was the same bowl which was used as a soup bowl before! We looked at this scene terrified and disgusted. But this was probably the necessity of life there in this harsh environment.

Continued next month

— Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us

RESISTANCE / Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

Council of Aid to the Jews

Resistance is a story about the conditions, which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzinski, aka Dystymus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER 10. Jozef Adamski held the position of supervisor at the Office of Labor, one of Kaminski's important stops. He kept the office supplied with the proper paper products necessary for working certificates, as well as letter heads for official documents. Weights, color, and watermarks were constantly changing under order of the Gestapo in their effort to stay ahead of the underground forgery system.

Before the war, Adamski had been an attorney at law in the Court

of Poland. Samuel Tannenbaum was his legal name. The Home Army had provided him with flawless identification documents. His code name for underground activities was "Aaron."

Zegota, was the code name for the Council of Aid to the Jews. It operated under the auspices of Premier Sikorski and the Government in Exile. It was founded in 1942 by the Government Delegation in Warsaw, who witnessed the relentless persecution of the Jews. The Nazi edict of deportation, which began in July of that year, was the determining factor for government intervention. The organization provided food, medical care, relief money, and false identity documents for Jews hiding within the "Aryan" side of occupied Warsaw.

The SS began rounding up Jews from Warsaw and the surrounding suburbs in April of 1940. Governor General Frank managed to crowd four hundred thousand Jews into a square mile and a half in an active business section of Warsaw. The virulent anti-Semite, Joseph Goe-

bbels, Nazi Propaganda Minister, made sure they were contained by ordering a wall to surround them. The Ghetto became a cage within a cage. Construction of a nine-foot wall, topped with barbed wire, which started in October was completed in mid-November of 1940. Those who escaped took on Aryan identities with forged documents.

THE ZOB, another faction of Zegota, was initiated by Jewish youth groups. They recognized the fact that Hitler intended to annihilate the Jews from the face of the earth. The group made several ineffective starts to form their own militia, and finally offered their services to the High Command of the Home Army, where they received training, arms and munitions. Aaron was the facilitator for the communication network between Zegota and the ZOB.

Kaminski stepped into the Office of Labor just before noon, under the pretext of recruiting a part time clerk for his office.

"Pan Adamski, I didn't realize how close we are to the lunch hour."

He looked up at the clock on the wall. "Where are you having lunch, today?"

"Here. I brought a pail."

"Join me. I hate to eat alone. Save the pail for tomorrow."

Kaminski knew the storm clouds were gathering over the Ghetto. He was gathering information for an article. He began to interview Adamski as they walked toward the restaurant.

"How close are they?"

"It looks like the night of Passover, April 19."

"How are they fixed for ammunition and weapons?"

"The minimum. The Home Army is providing them with all that they can, but they also have plans, and they can't deplete their stock." He lowered his voice, "The ZOB have been stockpiling weapons and ammunition, since the first draft of deportation last year. They have used ingenious methods of getting the stuff into the Ghetto; through cellars of adjoining houses, through the sewers, and gaps torn into the walls. They also know the safe places within the Ghetto, where they keep the weapons stored."

They arrived at the Schilling and chose a booth that was surrounded by German entrepreneurs. The Schindlerites paid them no mind. Matters of business and finance were being discussed.

Kaminski continued the interview.

"What, would you say, is the participation rate among the residents?"

"Most of the elders are compliant under the Nazi rule. They are the sheep, who are resigned to the situation. The elite believe, because of

their status, that they will be treated well by the Nazis. The Ghetto Police are in total denial. They believe they are indispensable to the Reich. Commitment and courage comes from the young. They know that the entire population will be annihilated and the Ghetto will be destroyed. They choose to fight, knowing that in the end all will die."

Kaminski didn't take notes. The narrative was too compelling. He would never forget the images Aaron had drawn for him. A loud murmur filled the dining room; it seemed as if something of vital importance had occurred.

Kaminski motioned to the waitress, a known partisan, "Helcha, what's going on?"

"Pan, have you heard? It's all over town. The Germans are accusing the Russians of the mass murder of Poles—someplace in Smolensk."

Kaminski nodded his head, "Katyn."

Continued next month

◆ ◆ ◆

Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, "An Altar of Sod" and "Yesterday's Pupils."

TWO MICHIGAN CITIES have for years engaged in friendly feuding with out-of-state rivals. Parisville, Mich. has contested Panna Maria, Texas' claim to be America's first Polonian settlement. Rogers City, Michigan has competed with Chicopee, Massachusetts as to which town has created the biggest kielbasa.



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PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Web Enabled

First part, a book review; second part, update on a Polish American high tech entrepreneur. Both web enabled.

Maybe you have seen the movie *My Dinner with Andre* with actors Wallace Shawn and Andre Gregory, or, more recently, *Her*, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams, and Scarlett Johansen. The stories are the interaction of two people discussing intellectual, philosophical, or social topics. No cars blowing up in *My Dinner* and *Her*. The simple conversation between the principles and what they are thinking makes you think. That is also the premise in the book *Save Send Delete* by **Danusha Goska** (Roundfire Books, 2012).

Hopefully you know Danusha by her great opus, *Bieganski: The Brute Polak Stereotype, Its Role in Polish-Jewish Relations and American Popular Culture*, a book on anti-Polish defamation and bias that every Polish American, and every American for that matter, should read. *Save* takes on a different challenge, "is there a God in heaven?" and "is there love in human hearts?" Her approach, though, is the same as *Bieganski*: she is intensely inquisitive, analytical, and her support references are abundant and impressive. She is the "poor Catholic schoolteacher" protagonist and holds her own as she debates a famous atheist celebrity by corresponding through e-mail. This is a story based on an experience from her life and the e-mail record is very creative and very contemporary. As one reviewer said, it is "a powerful and evocative reflective journey."

I hope when you read *Save Send Delete*, you experience that same journey.

IN 2010 an article was published on the Yahoo ticker "How to be a millionaire by age 25." One of the featured millionaires was **Matt Mickiewicz**.

Born in Kraków, Poland ... Mickiewicz created his first website at the age of 14 called Webmaster-



Mickiewicz. \$100 million in his bank account.

Resources.com, which later became SitePoint. At 16, Mickiewicz traveled to Melbourne with his mother and met his soon to be business partner and co-founder, Mark Harbottle. At 16, Mickiewicz found himself closing \$10,000 advertising deals between classes at high school. Mickiewicz barely finished high school and did not attend college.

Fast forward to 2016 and Matt is still in charge of his SitePoint enterprise and is doing quite well. The kid who didn't go to college is now worth \$100 million, according to [celebritynetworth.com](http://www.celebritynetworth.com) and is the "co-founder of the web companies Flippa, 99designs, and Hired." Mickiewicz is quoted as saying "Create massive value for others by providing a solution where no other exists."

Good American business advice from the Krakow kid.

POLISH OR NOT? The migration of people. **Samantha Morton**, English actress, screenwriter, and director has a Polish connection on her mother's side. Back in the end of 2015, she joined the debate concerning which and how many refugees the British government should allow and how she has a personal, sort of, connection to it all.

My grandparents were Polish ref-

ugees. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for this country accepting my Polish grandparents." She added, "The world can change so quickly and if we are not careful this situation will become worse than the Second World War, it will be so horrific. I think in history people will look back and they will judge."

Samantha Morton, the granddaughter of Polish immigrants, "has been described as one of the greatest actors of her generation." Think about it.

And think about this. About the same time as I learned of Samantha Morton's "connection," I was watching the C-Span British parliament proceedings and one of the MPs stood up making a point about his parents being Italian immigrants and what was the Prime Minister Theresa May's position on immigration and the United Kingdom. I wondered if any British MPs were of Polish extraction. There is at least one, **Daniel Kawczynski**, and while he is concerned about recent anti-Polish actions and sentiments in England, he spoke not only about Poles leaving Poland but Poles entering the United Kingdom and their impact on the economy (<http://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/695805/Daniel-Kawczynski-Poland-immigration-Conservative-MP-Brexit-EU-referendum>). Recently he said:

"Immigration is bad for Poland, because there are now cities and towns rapidly becoming depopulated in Poland and they're having real difficulties in providing essential public services as a result of this brain drain."

And it is bad for the United Kingdom where there are certain communities like Peterborough, and Boston, and Lincolnshire where local services are being overwhelmed by the sheer numbers."

The divergent positions of Morton and Kawczynski playing out across the North Sea are mirrored in the debates happening in Poland, the ancestral homeland. Remember, whenever there are two Poles in the room there will be two opinions.

Another from the ticker's "How to be a millionaire by age 25" list in 2010 was **Juliette Brindak**, the cofounder/CEO of "the all-girl tween and teen social networking company, Miss O & Friends (MissOandFriends.com). In 2016, Miss O is going strong and Juliette's net worth according to thecelebritycafe.com is 30 million. Business Insider magazine quotes her as saying, "The goal for the site was, and still is, to help young girls build confidence and self-esteem." Noble cause and impressive young woman. Polish or not?

IF YOU HAVE A THOUGHT about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63139; e-mail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

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

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Ray Wins Annual Szopka Contest

HARTFORD, Conn. — The 36th Annual Szopka Festival and Competition, sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., was held at the Polish National Home in Hartford on Sunday, November 27. Visitors from throughout Connecticut, as well as Massachusetts and New York, enjoyed the colorful atmosphere of a Polish Christmas Fair.

There was something for everyone: vendors selling Polish and other beautiful wares and crafts; Polish delicacies; a Szopka coloring page for the younger children; and, of course, Święty Mikołaj in his golden raiment. The highlight of the afternoon, however, was the announcement of the winners of the Szopka Competition, the brightly decorated fantastical mangers created by children from local schools. An array of amazingly beautiful entries were judged, with the following awards being made:

1st Place: **Abigail Ray** (St. James School, Manchester); 2nd Place: **Lily Zaluda** (St. James School, Manchester); 3rd Place –Tie: **Divya Patel** and **Paolo Iacobella** (St. James School, Manchester); Special Group Award: **St. Brigid / St. Augustine School**, West Hartford.

Honorable Mention: **Nick Kalb** and **Sean Leary**, **Ben Post** and **Cole Huyler**, **Eva O'Brien** and **Andrew**

Tran, **Jillian Vichi** and **Lauren Toomey** (all of St. James School, Manchester); 1st Grade Group – **Hartford Polish Saturday School**, Hartford

The Club is most grateful to members: Marek Czarnecki, who visited the schools to lecture on the history, meaning, and development of Szopka making; and Carol Oleasz, who, in addition to being competition chair, also worked with and encouraged students in the art of Szopka making.

For younger children, a Szopka drawing was available for them to color, so that they could participate in this beautiful Krakovian tradition and perhaps entice them to create a Szopka model of their own in the future.

All proceeds from the Szopka Competition and Festival benefit the club's Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund.

The mission of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. is to share and promote Polish heritage and culture with members of Polonia and the general community. A cordial invitation is extended to anyone interested in joining the Club. A membership application form, as well as other information, can be found on the Club's website www.polishculturalclub.org or by phoning (860) 659-0356.

POLAND

HONORED FOR AIDING HUNGARY'S 1956 REVOLUTION. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán marked the 60th anniversary of his country's bloody anti-Soviet revolution by traveling to Poland to personally thank Poles for their assistance.

During the revolution, trains guarded by Polish troops crossed Czechoslovakia without asking permission to deliver blood plasma and medical supplies to Hungarian freedom-fighters.

"Hungarians and Poles are joined by a brotherhood of blood," Orbán said while unveiling a memorial plaque in Kraków honoring Poles who helped Hungarians during the upheaval, which cost some 2,500 lives and sent 200,000 fleeing the country.

A FUND-RAISING DRIVE has been launched to buy a Stradivarius violin to be used by Polish musicians. The campaign is the brainchild of Andrzej Kosendiak, the director of the National Forum for Music in Wrocław, south-western Poland. He told a press conference in Warsaw that a purchase of a Stradivarius, in time for the centenary of Polish independence in 2018, would be a historic event.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, two Polish musicians, the virtuoso and composer Karol Lipiński (1790-1861) and the violinist Bronisław Huberman (1882-1947), owned Stradivarius instruments. Lipiński's Strad is now used by Frank Almond, leader of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, while the American violinist Joshua Bell plays on Huberman's instrument, which he bought for almost USD \$4 million.

The appeal to raise funds for a Polish Stradivarius is addressed to major companies and financial institutions. According to Kosendiak, a successful campaign would promote Polish music.

The appeal has been signed by 224 prominent personalities, mostly musicians, including Anne-Sophie Mutter (herself the owner of two Strads), the composer Krzysztof Penderecki, the conductors Paul McCreech, Giovanni Antonini and

John Eliot Gardiner, and Polish violinists Wanda Wiłkomirska and Krzysztof Jakowicz.

POLAND HOPES TO CHANGE THE NAMES of some 1500 street, bridge, and town square names in order to "de-communize" the country. A bill currently in parliament seeks to ban promotion of totalitarian systems such as communism. Although Polish cities and towns changed many of their most obviously communist-inspired street names following the fall of the Soviet bloc in 1989, the Law and Justice party insists that too many such names yet exist.

Michał Dworczyk of the party stated recently that, "It's unacceptable that there are still street names celebrating criminals."

Poland's Institute of National Remembrance however, has petitioned that the proposed bill include "monuments of gratitude to the Red Army." Moscow has already expressed outrage over the deteriorating condition of Soviet war memorials in Poland and expressed angst over plans of some

Polish towns to move statues honoring the Red Army away from town squares to less central locations. The proposed legislation has also incurred wrath from some leftist Polish politicians who claim that memorials honoring the memory of Poland's wartime communist resistance could also be in jeopardy should the proposed bill become law.

POZNAŃ TOP PICK. In *Jetsetter Magazine's* "13 Secret European Villages You Have to Visit" (Nov. 9, 2016), authors Chelsea Stuart and Emma Sloyer gave Poznań the top spot.

"We'll always have Paris ... and Rome and Barcelona," said JS contributor Sloyer. "But sometimes it's worth sidestepping Europe's hot-spots to seek out the continent's less-discovered destinations."

"While the city is often seen just as a quick stop between Berlin and Warsaw, we'll always argue that it's a destination in its own right," said Sloyer.

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

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

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Shea, Wasik, Address Genealogists in Brzeg

BRZEG, Poland — The third annual conference of the Genealogical Society of Poland was recently held in the castle at Brzeg in Silesia. For the first time ever, two of the speakers were from the United States.

Prof. Jonathan Shea of New Britain, Conn., and Dorena Wasik of Wallingford, Conn., representing the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, delivered two lectures.

Shea's lecture on American archival sources of genealogical value exposed the Polish audience to on-line and manuscript resources available in this country. Wasik presented a case study about how she used various American archival sources and social media to determine her relationship to a person buried with her grandparents in Bridgeport, Conn., that nobody in her family could identify with certainty.

Many of the over 300 participants had an uncle, grandparent cousin or other relative who left Poland before World War I (and seemingly disappeared) were keenly interested



PROF. JONATHAN SHEA AND DORENA WASIK of Connecticut stand at the podium in anticipation of addressing the several hundred participants at the Third Annual Conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of Poland held in Brzeg. The conference proceedings were also simulcast on the internet and viewed by thousands throughout Poland.

in Shea's presentation to gain direction as to how to find information on such individuals in the United States. Some amazing connections

were made on site at the conference. One of the conference participants grew up in the house next door to Shea's relatives in a village near Jedwabne, north of Lomza, and provided a wealth of information. Wasik encountered a Polish researcher who had a cousin that went to high school with her. Many of the Polish participants reported that they were searching long lost relatives in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio. While most of the conference goers were from Poland, there were also people in attendance from Sweden, Ireland, Ukraine and France.

In recent years, interest in family roots has grown dramatically in Poland among all age groups. A significant portion of those attending were under 40 years old. This surge of interest has given rise, in recent years, to the formation of genealogical societies, websites devoted to family history and conferences such as this one.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Push and Pull Factors in Polish Immigration

Why did our immigrant ancestors leave Poland and come to America? The answer to this question could be an important part of our family histories because it forms the beginning of the story.

Polish immigrants were motivated to leave their homeland in the last half of the 1800s and the early years of the 1900s by factors that divided into "Push" factors and "Pull" factors.

PUSH FACTORS were forces that drove them out of their home countries such as:

- **A shortage of land.** Most Poles were farmers, and their farms were small. If the family owned land, only one son could inherit the land, and the rest of the children had to find other ways to support themselves. If they did not own land, they could not afford to buy what little land was available.
- **Poverty.** There were few jobs available to the growing number of Polish workers. Russia, Prussia, and Austria did not invest in developing factories in their Polish lands that would supply jobs to the Polish workers. Working on farms was not an option because small farms could not afford to hire workers and farm machinery had reduced the number of jobs on large farms.
- **The military draft.** Military service was mandatory for all males in Russia, Austria, and Prussia because of their frequent involvement in wars. Many Poles drafted into military did not survive these wars because their regiments were cannon fodder and they had high casual-

ties.

- **Political or cultural repression**
- Prussia wanted to convert their Polish lands into German lands. Prussian authorities forced Polish farmers to sell their lands which then resold the land to Germans at bargain prices. Polish speaking schools were closed, and students were forced to attend German-speaking schools. German became the official language, and the use of the Polish language was discouraged.
- **Religious discrimination (Prussia and Russia).** Prussia closed Catholic schools which discouraged Catholic education difficult. Russia encouraged attendance at their Greek Orthodox Churches and tried to suppress attendance at the Roman Catholic Churches.

PULL FACTORS were:

- **The promise of jobs in the new lands.** Letters from Polish emigrants to the friends and family who remained in Poland painted pictures of a better life in America. They had jobs and sent money home to their family members. Many sent money to family members for the purchase of tickets for the journey to America.
- **Farmland was available in America.** The Homestead Act of 1860 opened farmland in the United States. Advertisements by U.S. companies promised the availability of cheap farm land. If the immigrant did not have money to purchase farmland or establish a homestead, they worked in the urban factories until they had saved enough have their farm. How-

ever, many Poles immigrated with the goal of farming but found work in the cities and stayed there.

- **The magnetic pull of "chain migration."** The magic of Chain Migration helped grow the number of Polish immigrants. Most Poles settled in communities with other Polish immigrants. These were normally friends or relatives who helped the new arrivals with temporary housing, typically living with family or friends. The immigrants hoped for farmland, high wages and job opportunities in the United States. Polish immigrants built strong communities around the Catholic Churches. They built their churches and established support groups that helped new immigrants find places to live, gave support until they found jobs, and established cultural groups to teach their children Polish customs. The efforts from chain migration helped the Polish immigrants overcome the many problems when leaving their homes and trying to make their new life.

Do your family stories match some of the above factors? Do some of these factors describe your ancestors? Hopefully asking these questions will give you insight about your ancestor that you can enrich your family history.



Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of several books, including "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," "Memories of Dziadka," and "Polish Immigration to America."

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The Ślepowron coat of arms was shared by the noble lines of over nine hundred variously surnamed families including: Barański, Chrzanoski, Chudol, Dąbrowski, Dobrowolski, Górski, Komorowski, Kozłowski, Kuźma, Lewandowski, Lipiak, Łacki, Malinowski, Nosek, Roman, Sobolewski, Szymański, Święcki, Wojno, Wolski, Zak, and Żukowski.

HELP FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS. CHICAGO — Members of the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) are available on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the PMA library, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill., to help with your research challenges. If you are unable to stop by, you can e-mail an inquiry to PGSAmerica@pgsa.org or go to our website www.PGSA.org, click on "How To . . ." in the sidebar, and access "Frequently Asked Questions," where you will find answers to often-asked questions. In fact, visiting FAQs first might save you having to send that e-mail.

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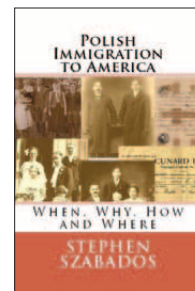
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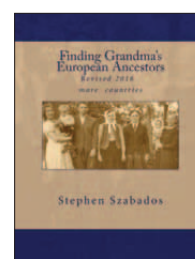
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POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA
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When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights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



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

This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed practical steps that will help you find the success and the records that you need. The author uses his experiences to give tips on what to avoid and what works; how to find and use critical records; and how to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records. This book gives you the tools to find your European family.

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

Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.
\$14.95

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.

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



The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional sources are covered but it also discusses many new sources for Polish records that have been implemented by genealogy societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.

OBITUARIES

Chester Luty, Veteran, Percussionist, Member of the Cleveland Society

CLEVELAND — Chester John Luty, 85, passed Dec. 14, 2016.

Chester was born Czeslaw Luty April 15, 1931 as the third child to Stanley and Katherine Luty.

Luty was a lifelong resident of Hinckley, Ohio, of 53 years, however, he often reflected of his childhood memories of living in the Polish neighborhood on the near east side of Cleveland. He was very proud of his Polish heritage, in that both his parents immigrated to the United States, became United States citizens and created opportunities for our families today.

Luty was a proud member of St. Stanislaus Church, and a member of the Cleveland Society of Poles.

He was a U.S. Veteran, serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Luty's career was with the Higbee Department store for over 35 years, and he also assisted in in son's business as a forensic genealogist.

Luty was an accomplished percussionist, and performed with numerous groups over the years. He was a student of famed percussionist Cloyd Duff at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and also studied at the Hofstra music school in New York.

His passions included fishing, painting, and his fine friends.



Luty, above, studied with Cloyd Duff, timpanist of the Cleveland Orchestra for four decades, and professor at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Pipe Organ Restoration Fund of St. Stanislaus Church, 3649 E 65th St., Cleveland, OH 44105.

Chester "Chet" Kondratowicz, Educator, Theatre Director, Jefferson Award Member

One of Chicago's most influential educators and drama experts, Chester "Chet" Kondratowicz, 85, passed away from an apparent heart attack on November 5, 2016. A resident of Chicago's Northwest side and formerly of Joliet, Illinois, Chet was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during the Korean War.

Born in Chicago, Kondratowicz was the son of the late Emily, nee Sosonka, and the late Ambrose Kondratowicz. He received his bachelor's degree from DePaul University, a master's degree in English from Loyola University Chicago, and a second master's in theater from the University of Minnesota.

Kondratowicz taught at St. Mel High School on Chicago's West Side, Carl Schurz High School on the city's Northwest Side, and chaired the theater department at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. He would later become professor emeritus at Lewis University, where he was director of its theater department.

During his 30-year tenure at Lewis, he spearheaded the construction of the university's Philip Lynch Theatre, which was repurposed from an old and vacant airplane hangar on the university campus. In a 1995 Chicago Tribune interview, Kondratowicz mentioned that the theater staff and students worked hard to make this theater possible. He said, "It was a labor of love." Later, he went on to be the head of the Performing Arts Centre at St. Patrick High School on Chicago's Northwest Side. In 2016, Kondratowicz received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Lewis University.

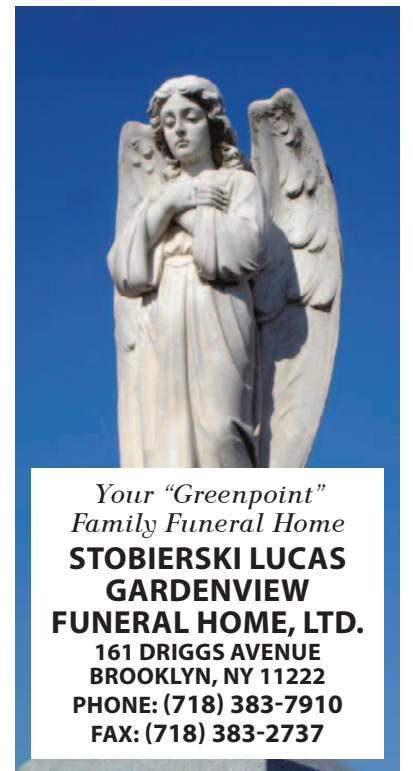
As a 13-year member of the Joseph Jefferson "Jeff" Awards Committee, he, along with 49 other members, evaluated approximately 250 equity and non-equity theatrical productions.

Kondratowicz is survived by a brother, Dr. Walter F. Kondratowicz, and several nephews and a niece. (G.B.C.)

Gold-saving heroes returned from U.S. for reburial in Poland

WARSAW — The earthly remains of two Polish pre-war cabinet members, who had died in the U.S. some six decades ago, were buried recently with full military honors in Poland.

In 1939, when Poland was attacked by Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, Colonel Ignacy Matuszewski and Major Henryk Floyar-Rajchman saved 75 tons of Poland's gold reserves from the enemy. The operation involved secretly transporting the gold via Romania, Turkey and Syria to France, where the Polish government-in-exile was then based. When the Nazis invaded France, the gold bars were evacuated to Britain. The two heroes, who wanted to be buried in Poland when their homeland was free, died in the US a few years after the war.



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the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on available, but these groups cannot the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have

grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure

something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or

federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

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MEMBERSHIP. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As

a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us utilize over 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

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Celebrating Poland's Independence Day in Washington



AMBASSADOR PIOTR WILCZEK INTRODUCED. Pictured above is the newly arrived Polish Ambassador to the United States, Professor Piotr Wilczek, presiding over the celebration of Polish Independence Day at the residence of the ambassador.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It actually was a dual celebration here on November 16, 2016: not only was it the 98th Celebration of Poland's Independence, it was also the first official occasion presided over by newly arrived Ambassador Piotr Wilczek. That the celebration was hosted at his official residence only added to his warm welcoming to Washington by the many invited guests. Among the members of the U.S. Congress present were the co-chairs of the House Poland Caucus, Representatives Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Tim Murphy (R-PA). Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, also attended. Many members of the U.S. administration and armed forces, the at-large diplomatic community, and recognized luminaries were all among the attendees.

In his remarks, Ambassador Wilczek emphasized his readiness to work on Poland's behalf as the new Polish Ambassador to the United States. He called upon the support of

the many representatives of the Polish American organizations present, and hoped for their fruitful cooperation to further the collective goals of Poland and the Polonia presently and into the future. He especially thanked the American Polonia for its continued efforts over the years to free Poland — and to keep it free — from German and Russian occupation and domination. “The key to a country's strength and security is its independence,” stressed the ambassador.

Included in Ambassador Wilczek's expansive remarks was a summation of the current political situation in Poland, and to the history of fraternal U.S.-Polish military cooperation beginning with Polish Generals Kosciuszko and Pulaski aiding the Americans during its Revolutionary War. The American Kosciuszko Squadron's assistance in the air to defeat the communist Bolshevik invasion of Poland in 1920 was highlighted, as well as Poland's contributions to NATO, and Poland's extensive military assistance in the Middle East.

Wilczek stated that “the special military alliance between Poland and the U.S. is and will remain strong.” He signaled that the current aggression and growing threats in Ukraine by an insurgent Russia are a growing danger to everyone in Europe — and beyond.

Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz, of Washington's Institute of World Politics, delivered a short overview of Poland's very long and winding road to independence. He is a well-published author of Polish and European history and politics.

Chodakiewicz began his remarks by recognizing the Polish and American military veterans present, and all the Polish and American armed forces who have always fought for their, and other countries', freedom — somberly reminding everyone that “if you want to be free you have to be willing to sacrifice your life.” He referenced various outstanding Polish patriots and politicians who fought for Poland during its forced geographic partitions,

invasions and occupations over the many difficult and terrible grinding years.

Chodakiewicz made special mention of U.S. President Wilson's insistence on his “self-determination of nations” after World War I that gave rise to a resurrected Poland. Point Thirteen of his famous Fourteen Points Declaration insisted on establishing a free and independent Poland. General Josef Haller was commended for raising an army of 15,000 Polish-Americans to fight for the allies before America entered World War I. This “Blue Army” (the color of their French uniforms) helped to form the nucleus of Poland's army after the country was reestablished on the map of Europe in 1918.

The evening was a cheerful celebration of independence and solemn remembrance of the extreme sacrifices made by Poland and its people to finally be a free and democratic nation standing proudly among its equals once again.



THE POLISH SATURDAY SCHOOL at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, Md., held a program on November 12 for parents, students, and friends of the school. The school has near record attendance with over 65 students. The same day, the National John Paul II Shrine was the destination for a Polonian pilgrimage.

On November 13, Fr. Jerzy Frydrych S.Ch. celebrated a Mass for Poland at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish. Following the Mass, the Polish Theater Club presented a program.

Numerous Polish American leaders from the Washington, D.C., area and others parts of the county participated in a celebration of Poland's independence at the Polish Ambassador's residence on November 16. Both Ambassador Piotr Wilczek and noted Polish American scholar Marek Chodakiewicz addressed the hundreds of guests (See story). At the events, many Washington Polonian activists noted the approaching 100th anniversary of Poland's regaining her independence that will occur in 2018.

POLISH CAN BE FUN / Robert Strybel

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Quiz time – Klasówka

IF YOU DON'T CHEAT by looking at answers at the bottom, this little quiz will tell you what your Polish is like.

- You are introduced to someone from Poland and want to say “Pleased to meet you.” How would you phrase it in Polish?
- Which word best completes this sentence: *Żona mojego brata to:* a) bratanica, b) bratanek, c) bratowa.
- There's a knock at the door. Your response in Polish is:
- Someone asks you: “*Jak Pana/Pani godność?*” Your answer is:
- The school was on fire so little Jasio rose to the occasion with: a) wiadro wody, b) wiadro benzyny, c) wiadro mleka.
- Translate into English: *Busia frajuje kabasę, a dziadzia fiksuje karę.*
- Translate the above sentence (No. 6) into proper Polish.
- To toast a couple celebrating their golden wedding anniversary their guests would probably sing: a) “*Sto lat!*” b) “*Pije Kuba!*” c) “*Jak szybko mijają chwile!*”
- At table someone turns to you and says: “*Proszę sałatkę.*” You hand that person the saład and say:
- Schools are closed and most people don't go to work in Poland when a: a) święto państwowe, b) święto kościelne, c) święto nakazane is being celebrated.
- Which word best completes this sentence: *Po pracy zjadłem:* a) mandarynkę, b) fretkę, c) szopę.

- Translate into English: *Janek robi na rufie i widzi, że nejberka się wymufowała.*
- Translate the above sentence (No. 12) into proper Polish.
- If you were writing a business letter to someone, for “Dear Sir” you would write: a) *Kochany Panie,* b) *Droga Pani,* c) *Szanowny Panie.*

CORRECT ANSWERS

- Bardzo mi miło!**
- c) bratowa.**
- Proszę.**
- You should give your last name.
- b) wiadro benzyny.**
- Grandma is frying sausage, and grandpa is fixing the car.**
- Babcia smaży kielbasę, a dziadzio naprawia samochód.**
- a) “Sto lat!”**
- Proszę.**
- a) święto państwowe.**
- a) mandarynkę.**
- Johnny is working up on the roof and sees that the neighbor lady has already moved out.**
- Janek (or Jasio) pracuje na dachu i widzi, że sąsiadka się już wyprowadziła.**
- c) Szanowny Panie.**

WORDS OF WISDOM

Klasówka nielubiana ale konieczna!

Please send questions and comments to: strybel@interia.pl or airmail them to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Happy New Year to Readers Near and Far

Whether this article finds you on the sunny beaches of Florida, the confines of your northern home amidst a winter snow, or somewhere in-between, welcome to another year of news and reviews from Northwest Ohio.

As it usually happens, the month of December slipped by in a blur. The festivities of the holiday were replete with tradition: our favorite Polish foods, the singing of *kolędy*, enjoying the company of family and friends at Christmas dances, and ringing the New Year.

Here is a short list of “Polish to-do's” for 2017:

ONGOING. Children's Polish Language Class held at the PRCUA on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m., 5255 North Detroit Avenue

TOLEDO POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month from Jan.-June, Sept.-Nov. from 10AM - Noon at Saint Michael School Hall 420 Sandusky Street. Monthly meetings include speakers, power point presentations, workshops on Polish genealogy and Polish culture and always include great refreshments.

MARCH 4, 2017. Annual

Echoes of Poland Pierogi Dinner, PRCUA Misiuda Hall, always a great crowd with a meatless pierogi selection and a full dinner from 4-8:00 p.m.

MARCH 12-14. Plans are in the works for a visit from the U.S. - Poland Trade Commissioner, Sabina Kilmek. Kilmek's visit will be primarily a trade mission effort, trying to develop more direct trade between Toledo / Northwest Ohio and Poland. This is due to the efforts of Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, local businessman Matt Zaleski of the Polish American Community of Toledo, Mark Sobczak, COO, City of Toledo, Richard Konik, a Cleveland businessman, and James Hartung. A dinner in Kilmek's honor is being planned with location and time to be decided.

MARCH 12. Brand new all female band The Polski Chix will play for TAPS' first dance of the year, 2:00-6:00 p.m., 5255 North Detroit Avenue.

APRIL 7. Echoes of Poland Pierogi Dozens sale will be held in the PRCUA Misiuda Hall, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., 5255 North Detroit Avenue. This is the place to get authentic, home-made pierogi for the East-

ter dinner table.

APRIL 22. IPA Tribute Band visits Toledo for the second TAPS Dance of the season, music from 7:00-11:00 p.m., 5255 North Detroit Avenue.

JUNE 16 AND 17. The Third Annual Polish Summer Picnic will be held at the Oak Shade Grove Pavilion. Details to be announced.

JULY 7-9. LaGrange Street Polish Festival will be held in the heart of the Polish Village.

OCTOBER. Echoes of Poland commemorates their 50th Anniversary with a gala celebration and concert. Details to be announced.

Circle the dates!

GIVE A GIFT OF HERITAGE. When planning a birthday, anniversary or other-occasion gift, consider items reflecting our Polish heritage. This could include a bottle of Polish vodka for dad or grandpa or wiśniówka (cherry cordial) for Mama or Grandma. There are now also plenty of books, recordings, DVDs, folk crafts, art works and souvenirs to choose from, just by searching the internet.

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

January is National Polka Month

It's hard to believe that the close of the holiday season is fast approaching and it is 2017. I wish each and every one of you a fantastic kickoff to the year and may you be blessed with health, peace, and happiness. As we all prepare to commit to resolutions and cross items off our bucket lists, perhaps you can add attending a new polka event to you must dos for 2017.

JANUARY KICKS OFF with several events for polka lovers to celebrate National Polka Month.

Cleveland Polka Association is hosting a Lounge Party on Sun., Jan. 8. This event, held at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio, will be the farewell appearance of Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz. This talented group includes Jason Uzl, Jimmy "K" Krzeszewski, Verne Maddie, Paul Hupalowski, & Matt Gury. Ethnic Jazz has been a staple performing at festivals and events across the United States for many years. This opportunity to bid adieu to this entertaining band is one that you will not want to miss. Former members of Ethnic Jazz are slated to make a special appearance which ensures it will be a memorable one. Entry to the event is a mere \$10.00 donation and doors will open at 1:00 p.m. with music from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Holiday Inn is located at 6001 Rockside Road in Independence, Ohio. For additional information you can visit www.cpolkas.com or contact Sylvia at (21) 228-1134. CPA has been in existence since 1975 and currently has over 1,100 members from the U.S. and Canada. This organization has rallied support from many non-polka sources in the Cleveland area while promoting our beloved music.

The Second Annual **IPA Festival of Buffalo Polka Bands** will be held Sat., Jan. 28. This event attracted a sellout crowd last year and I am hopeful it will be the same for 2017. Music will be provided by seven Buffalo bands, including: Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Buffalo Touch, The Knewz, The New Direction Band, Phocus, Rare Vintage, and Special Delivery. As scheduling allows, there will also be special



Amanda and Matt Tomaino.

appearances by some IPA Hall of Famers, including John Gora, Mark Trzepak, Mike Nowakowski, Fred Bulinski, Al Piatkowski, Johnny Karas, and Stephanie Pietrzak.

The event will be held at Potts Banquet Hall which is located at 41 So. Rossler St. in Buffalo. Admission will be \$10.00 for IPA members and \$15.00 for nonmembers. Table reservations or inquiries can be made to IPA New York State Director Lori Urbanczyk at (716) 675-6588. Buffalo is fortunate to be home to many great polka bands and musicians — this festival is a great way to both spotlight that talent and raise money for IPA. The IPA Convention was held in Buffalo for 2015-2016, will be again for the 2017, and will be the site as the IPA celebrates its 50th annual convention and festival here in 2018.

The organization does great work in promoting polka music all year.



Val and Anna Lesniak.

Hopefully much money will be raised to support the IPA and its efforts at this festival of bands. I hope to see many of you there supporting our treasured local musicians.

GREAT PEOPLE. I have long said that one of my favorite parts of attending polka events is meeting new friends. Well, while attending a taping of *Polka Buzz* with Phocus, I got to meet an inspirational couple who touched my heart. As I sat chatting with some friends, I noticed a couple close to the dance floor enjoying the music. I remarked to my group



Angela Biskup and Marz Motyka.

that I hoped that my husband and I would someday end up exactly like this couple. That friend then chimed in to tell me that she knew them. She said their names were Val and Anna Lesniak and they were getting ready to celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on February 8, 2017. I knew I had to grab a picture of them before the night was over and their love, admiration and devotion to one another was apparent the minute I asked for a picture. Val helped Anna take off her sweater as he grabbed her and posed with his lovely bride.

Anna is 98 and Val is 96, and the couple shows no signs of stopping;



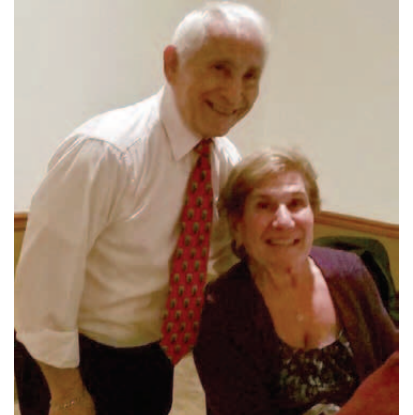
Marek and Frank Kutrowski.

they were already looking forward to returning to the next taping of *Polka Buzz*. This sweet duo even managed to take to the floor dancing a beautiful waltz. Congratulations to the Lesniaks; to everyone lucky enough to know you, you are a true example of family, love, and faith.

WBBZ is the local TV station making a conscious effort to promote polka music on a weekly show featuring the musicians of Western New York. Its *Polka Buzz* has become extremely popular, as fans look forward to supporting our local bands (and seeing themselves on television). Bands perform monthly and tape shows that premiere each Sunday. *Polka Buzz* currently airs at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. each week. Music, dancing, and interviews with local Polish organizations and businesses fill the 30-minute broadcast. If you live in the Western New York area, come join in a live taping.



Sarah Lacki, Lori Cieslak, and Eric Cieslak.



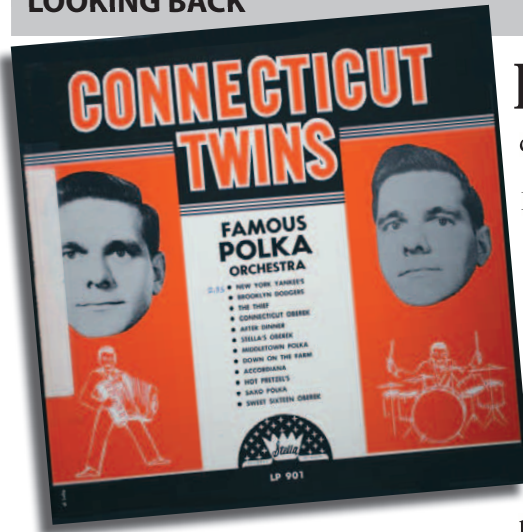
Frank and Angela Davoli.

They are held once a month at Potts Banquet Hall and admission is free. The evening typically starts around 7:00 p.m. and lasts until 10:00 p.m. You can check for upcoming taping dates on the website: www.wbbz.tv. For those of you out of the area, you can watch past episodes online on YouTube. It is WNY's only TV dance party and we are thrilled that it is all about polkas.

BUFFALO'S VAL BAKOWSKI concocted a perfect recipe to get new people exposed to polka music. He utilized the meshing of crowd-pleasing Polka Country Musicians with the wildly popular WNY country band West of the Mark. Hundreds of polka and country music lovers filled Nashville's 2 the Saturday after Thanksgiving for a talent-filled evening. Not only did polka fans gravitate to the floor to join in the country line dances, but many country fans found themselves unable to keep off the dance floor when PCM took the stage. This event was held a few years ago and once again proved to be the perfect combination. The large wooden dance floor serves as the perfect focal point, seating is plentiful, and the raised stage overlooks the entire venue. Western wear was abundant as fans embraced the polka-meets-country theme.

Congratulations to Val on another hugely successful event. Start making plans to attend Val's 28th Annual Dyngus Weekend on April 16-17, 2017. The event is held at one of WNY's premiere destinations, Salvatore's Italian Gardens.

LOOKING BACK



by Steve Collins
The Bristol Press

BRISTOL, Conn. — Though almost forgotten today, two brothers from Bristol formed one of the great polka bands in America and each earned a spot in the International Polka Association's Hall of Fame.

Stanley and John (Stas and Jas) Przasnyski, performing under the name the Connecticut Twins Orchestra, put out 16 long-playing albums for the Stella Label beginning in 1952 when they were 26 years old.

One music historian tagged them "the last great" Eastern-style polka band, a fast-paced, jazz-influenced style that reigned supreme

Remembering the Connecticut Twins

during polka's glory days.

Stanley's one-time neighbor, Dominic Pasquale, recalled that "he was an icon, a legend."

Pasquale, who sometimes played with him, said the man — an accordion player — had amazing talent.

"This guy could play 'Three Blind Mice' backwards," Pasquale said.

As the two brothers told the story on one of their album covers, they "were walking along Broadway in New York City" when they spotted a ballroom where a famous polka band led by Bernie Witkowski was set to play. They walked in, listened and introduced themselves.

Always on the lookout for polka talent, Witkowski, who worked for Stella, "asked the boys to sit in with the orchestra."

"Bernie didn't waste time" in signing them to a contract and suggested the name Connecticut Twins to them. He set up a recording session and the new act took off.

Using an orchestra with only six men, rather than the nine or 10 in most bands, the brothers also relied on a trumpet and clarinet in the lead, a styling that made their polkas faster and easier to dance to.

The pair put out a string of albums and secured "dance bookings galore," according

to the album notes. Stanley took care of the bookings while John took care of the polka fans "crowding around the bandstand" — "mostly girls," they pointed out.

The two named one album "Jaka-To-Kara" — "Oh what a car" — to honor the vehicle that logged more than 250,000 miles taking them to gigs from Buffalo to Boston to Baltimore.

At their height in the early 1960s, the Connecticut Twins were so much in demand that they could set aside only one night a year for a gig in their home state.

Polka, whose popularity in the United States dates from the release of the Beer Barrel Polka in 1939, was a genuine craze in the 1950s and well into the 1960s, a time when the Polish American Citizens Club in Bristol was a major hot spot with its Friday night polka dances that sometimes included the Connecticut Twins.

Stanley played the accordion in the band while John banged the drums. Their orchestra also featured crisp saxophones and triple-tonguing trumpets, a legacy of the Big Band era.

James Sigman, a polka fan, called Stanley, who died in 2015, "a beast on the accordion and a polka legend."

Stanley began playing the accordion at age

10 while attending St. Stanislaus School, according to a biography posted by the polka hall of fame. By age 13, he played professionally and started his own band at age 18.

In 1948, he married Genevieve Sieruta. They had two sons who sang in Polish on some of his later recordings.

From 1962 until 1982, he also served as a disc jockey for Bristol's radio station, WBIS, which is no longer in town.

In addition to their music careers, Pasquale said, Stanley put in years at Superior Electric while John worked for Connecticut Light & Power.

John attended the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, where he learned to play the drums. His heart, the polka hall of fame said, "was all music."

He met his wife, Florence, at a dance at the Polish National Home in Hartford and they married in 1955. They had two daughters.

In addition to his long stint with the Connecticut Twins, John performed as a member of the Merry Makers and later led his own bands under the name John Przasnyski and then Johnny Praz Orchestra for more than two decades.

Under his own name, John made two more albums on the Starr label and another for J.P. Records. He died in 1996.

POLKA CALENDAR / John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to johnzz@cox.net.

JANUARY 1, 2017

- Jeannie Music. Polish Social Club. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-7 (413) 567-1961
- Dyna Brass. K Pulaski Club. New Castle, Pa. 4-8. (724) 658-6221

JANUARY 8

- Friday, January 6
- Flying Dutchman Band. Evergreen Country Club. Fleetwood, Pa. 6-11 p.m. (610) 944-7501.

JANUARY 8

- Jimmy K Ethnic Jazz. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 2-6. (216) 228-1134
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Special Delivery. Clinton Bar & Grill. West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30 (716) 768-3246
- Jasiu's Polka Stars. Polish American Society. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 360-0584
- Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview, Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
- Sounds of The South. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- B Sharps. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- Jeanne music. Polish Social Club. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

JANUARY 12

- The New Direction Band. Potts Banquet Hall, Cheektowaga. N.Y. 7:00 (716) 675-6588
- John Stevens. St. Mark Church. Summerfield, Fla. 6-9. (352) 347-9317

JANUARY 14

- John Stevens. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 5-8. (727) 934-0400
- Special Delivery. Broadway Market, 999 Broadway, Buffalo, N.Y. 11:30-2:30 p.m.
- Special Delivery. Polka Mass St. John the Baptist, 2021 Sandridge Rd, Alden, N.Y. 4:00 p.m.
- Special Delivery. St. John the Baptist, 2021 Sandridge Rd., Alden, N.Y. 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY 15

- Jimmy Sturr. Cracovia Manor. Wallington, N.J. 2-6. (973) 473-8527
- George Tarasek. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- To Be Announced. Polish American Society. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 360-0584
- Northern Lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Generation. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- Jeanne music. Polish Social Club. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

JANUARY 19

- Squeezebox. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 1-5. (727) 934-0900

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

- Flying Dutchman Band. Evergreen Country Club. Fleetwood, Pa. 6-11

p.m. (610) 944-7501.

JANUARY 21

- New Direction. Potts Banquet Hall. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7-10. (716) 826-6575
- Bob Kravos. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 4-8. (727) 934-0900

JANUARY 22

- Stanky Coalminers. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Northern Sounds. Polish American Society. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 360-0584
- Melotones. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. (386) 258-7059
- Special Delivery. Clinton Bar & Grill West Seneca, N.Y. 4:30-7:30 (716) 768-3246
- Polka All Stars. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- Jeanne music. Polish Social Club. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763

JANUARY 28

- IPA Festival of Bands Potts Banquets, 41 S. Rossler Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. 6-12. (716) 675-6588

JANUARY 29

- The New Direction Band. Polish Nook. Niagra Falls, N.Y. 3-7. (716) 282-6712
- Golden Tones. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- FI Honky Band. Polish American Society. St. Petersburg, Fla. 3-6. (727) 360-0584
- Eddie Forman. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-6. (413) 567-1961
- Polka All Stars. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5. 386) 258-7059
- Squeezebox. Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2-6. (727) 934-0900
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POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin



This month we look at some of TBC's original line up, circa 1981. Above, Rich Benkowski defined the band's style with is concertina mastery.



Brian Thompson was the band's original bass guitar player.



MC, vocalist, and clarinet player Bobby Calvert. Benkowski, Thompson, and Calvert worked together as members of Bruno Mikos' Harmony Stars before forming TBC.

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The Polish Christmas Carol: God's Time Overtakes Ours

Caroling — heard in Poland until Candlemas — reminds us how God's perfection was born into an imperfect world.

Editor's note: Written from amidst the horrors of the war; the lyrics of *Kolęda Warszawska 1939* / The 1939 Warsaw Carol — initially released anonymously — were penned as a poem by Stanisław Baliński. They were discovered on the pages of an underground magazine published in Warsaw shortly after the September 1939 Nazi invasion and occupation of all of Poland.

The Polish singers Slawa Przybylska and Justyna Szafran are but two popular artists who have recorded musical versions of the poem. In 2015, Polish vocalist Margaret (nee Małgorzata Jamroz), with help from composer Zbigniew Preisner (best known for the music composed for films directed by fellow Pole Krzysztof Kieślowski) and director Anna Powierża, re-recorded a video version of the song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOHNeBsRhYI>).

by Rev. Czesław M. Krysa, SLD
Rector, St. Casimir
Church, Buffalo, N.Y.

In December 1939, Stanisław Baliński could not imagine that three months prior, Hitler already decided to not just invade and conquer Poland, but to obliterate the nation, her history, and very identity from the face of the earth. Eleven September days of the Polish army's unexpected, stiff opposition, and that of her own people, deflated his ambitions. This was all too much for the *Führer*. After taking some sinister joy in razing Warsaw, building-by-building, the capital was to be totally replaced by a monument to the ideals of the super-Arian-race,

a cutting-edge Nazi town, without Polish name, memory or a slightest reference.

In this bleak setting Baliński wrote the *Kolęda Warszawska 1939* or *The 1939 Warsaw Carol*.

Kolęda Warszawska 1939 reveals to me a mystery of Polish Christmas. Polish-authored carols and ancient family rituals do not expect a "winter wonderland" or Currier & Ives landscape, or the "most wonderful time of the year." Jesus is born, he comes to the Polish home no matter what. We cannot push

The 1939 Warsaw Carol

Oh Mother, put off the day of this Birth to another time.

Don't let Creation's eyes see how they oppress us.

Let heaven's dearest Son be born
Among other stars.
But not here, not in the saddest
of all cities of earth.

Because in our city which you remember
From days long ago.
Crosses have risen, crosses, a graveyard
all fresh with blood

Because our children shot thru with shrapnel
Have lost their last breath.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us
But don't come here.

If you still want to,
give birth to him in the shadows
and these ruins of war.
Then right after he's born
Throw Him on the Cross.

his arrival to when most of us are available, re-schedule it for a more convenient time, or find a day which fits us better. Jesus comes, he is born each year, and every year — ready-or-not — when the first star appears on December 24. All we need to do is welcome him into our situation, whatever that may be. Our beloved *kolędy* (carols), different from others, proclaim just this.

The stirring scene of a private reporting to his commanding officer in the movie *Katyń*, proves it. The youngest soldier on guard salutes the senior Polish officer, all imprisoned with 24,000 others in Soviet camps, reporting, "The star has appeared." Without a moment's hesitation and with military precision, the officer intones, "God is born!" (*Bóg się rodzi*). God is the first word of Christmas, who works not on our time, according to our wishes, but on Gospel priorities.

This majestic, regal, social justice, polonaise carol, says it all. Polish Christmas time starts with God — not with sales, sleighs, city sidewalks, jingling bells, shoppers or roasting chestnuts. Carols proclaim the whole reason for the season as God's arrival: *Gdy się Chrystus rodzi / To the Earth; W dzień Bożego narodzenia / On this day; W Żłobie Leży / In the Manger*, to mention a few. Even the Polish word for Christmas (*Boże Narodzenie*) means "God's birthing."

Not only traveling, family, or church Nativity scenes, but most especially the Polish carol, draws one into a conversation with the celestial guest. Songs go beyond reporting information. We

sing to take on the voices and examples of welcome of those who were ready or needed to be awakened. We take on a Mother's soft, discerning voice in *Lulajże Jezuniu / Slumber on*; that of the angels in *Wśród nocnej / In Midnight Silence*; the robust voices and emotions of shepherds proclaiming "a great joy" in welcoming the Savior: "Zawołali z wielkiej radości: Ach witaj zbawco!"

Other carols directly address the Child: *Podnieś rękę! / Raise your hand [in blessing]*, while St. Joseph sings, joined by the ox (bass) and the donkey (tenor). Polish Christmas is not a third-person bedtime story. It's a lively "you-and-I" discourse, similar to an Italian opera. The "true opera (or "work"), however, is God's.

It is an intimate here-and-now, asserted in the well-known *Dzisiaj w Betlejem / [Today] In David's City*. This musical *mazurek* reveals the infant birth as restorative; a present-tense whirlwind, likened to the vitality twirled on the world's stages in a kaleidoscope of colors by Poland's national, orchestral, dance ensembles.

This is by no means a nostalgic passage into some magical, lost, cinematic quest. The Polish carol sings of a miracle transforming our today, because God arrived, and our world — screeching to a stop — offers proverbial hospitality: "A guest



Polish carols celebrate the birth of Christ in real time and sometimes even on Polish soil. It is, therefore, common to find everyday people sharing the nativity with witnesses in Bethlehem. Long before the Little Drummer Boy played for Jesus, a Polish bagpiper was on the scene. (*Jam jest dudka Jezusa mojego*). Above, the Stela band performs at a 2015 Christmas concert in Skoczow.

in the home is God at home." *Oj, Maluśki / O, Tiny One* pictures a toddler raising a litany of infantile questions to the Christ-Child: "Why would you come to this 'shoddy' place when you had it so good up there?" The child continues: "Did your father throw you out?" and, in summation, tells the Infant, "Well, if it has to be like this, come over to my house ..."

Unprecedented Christmas encounters unfold on the shores of the Wisła river: God is born right here. Bethlehem happens in every church, at every Mass. Worshippers welcome and worship like the shepherds. They, however, are fed from the Manger with His Body, their thirst quenched with His Blood (*Ach, witajże! / Oh, Welcome*). Nothing more exquisitely extolls Nativity intimacy than the many Mary lullaby meditations on human discomfort mixed with joy, as his Mother's sweet words: "O siano, siano" ("Oh, hay of the meadow") in *Śliczna Panienska / Fairest of Maidens*. When sung around Christmas Eve's table, set with a layer of hay under the white cloth of Mary's veil, God's birth could not be more immediate, more personal.

To remind us of our imperfections and moments of confusion (unheard of in popular carols), one Polish carol presents arguing birds, another a dispute among shepherds, and words with their leaders, too. After all, "I've never seen anything like this!" cries one shepherd. *W dzień Bożego narodzenia / On this Day; Bracia patrzcie jeno / Shepherds! See the Glory!*, and *Północ już było / At the Midnight Hour* are just few. These carols depict Christmas more as a divine/human sit-com, than an idyllic little town, on a snowy night. God's Nativity calls for a global housewarming in *Nużmy Bracia pastuszkowie / Hey,*

Brother Shepherds. Dedicating a verse to each European nation with its particular cultural quirks, this carol also pulls in representatives of each region of Poland. God's birth mixes local dialects and personalities with polyglots in a divine-human episode: *Ach, ach mein Kinder, Bq żur o bq Dju* (read in French *Bon jour o bon Dieu*), and *Wiotalis Kieptas!*

These carols depict Christmas more as a divine/human sit-com ...

Christmas' diversity fest is wondrously contemplated as a duel of innocuous earthly energies verses heavenly epiphanies in *Bóg się rodzi*. God reverses the usual as radiance dims, the night glows, and meekness dethrones power with a new-born naked monarch. Poland's greatest poetic and musical composition blends professional wise men with herder simpletons — something only God could pull off. This George Washington-era carol, expresses the equality legislated in Poland's Third of May Constitution, as does the empty place setting at *Wigilia*.



Polish vocalist Margaret.

As the above rock-star sang the hit "Warsaw 1939 Carol," she penned a personal note to her Christmas music-video: "I want to remind people that Christmas is not always full of joy, not always peaceful."

Wishing you a Happy New Year, a joyous caroling season, *Wesołej Kolędy!* — on God's time — until February 2.

English versions of cited carols are from Fr. Krysa's *Polish American Heritage Hymns*, Buffalo, N.Y.: St. Casimir Church, 2015.

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Director Anna Powierża's video relied on scenes of a decimated Warsaw to underline Baliński message.