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SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW: RENATA DWORAK
PAGE 9

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

**ACT NOW, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE • A FAMILY'S PLAN THAT FALLS APART THEN SUCCEEDS • TOM HANKS' POLISH FIAT
THE HORRORS OF LIFE IN POST-WORLD WAR II POLAND • KF SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE NEARS • KARNAWAŁ TREATS
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Newsmark

RUSSIA MIGHT RETURN PLANE WRECKAGE. (Radio Poland) — A media report suggests authorities in Moscow might be ready to return the wreckage of a Polish presidential plane that crashed in western Russia in 2010, but only if Warsaw ends an ongoing probe into the disaster.

In exchange for returning the wreckage of the Tu-154 plane, which crashed near Smolensk on April 10, 2010, killing then-Polish President Lech Kaczyński and 95 others, the Russians expect the Poles to close a reinvestigation into the disaster, Poland's Dziennik Gazeta Prawna daily has reported, as quoted by the wiadomosci.onet.pl news website.

Earlier, Poland's new Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said "the authority of the institutions of the state and the circumstances in which the presidential couple and senior Polish officials died demand that the disaster be explained."

Morawiecki also said in the interview for Poland's Gazeta Polska weekly that the "uncompromising truth" about the crash should be established, according to a report by wiadomosci.onet.pl, a Polish news website.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at his annual end-of-year news conference he was tired of hearing allegations from Warsaw that the 2010 air crash was the result of a Russian conspiracy, according to the Reuters news agency.

Putin denied Polish suggestions that the plane was probably destroyed by a mid-air explosion.

BLOOD-SPORT ENDANGERS STORKS. The killing of white storks in the Middle East is a cause of concern for Poland, as many of the storks flying from Central Europe are shot while wintering in Syria and Lebanon. Because the white stork is known as the unofficial symbol of Poland and since it is established in Polish folklore that the stork brings prosperity, fertility and good luck to the house on which it nests, Poles encourage their nesting.

The 7th International White Stork Census reveals that the stork population in Poland has dropped twenty percent in the last ten years. Images abound online of armed men in the Middle East, holding up their trophies of dead storks. Although the shooting of storks is outlawed in some Middle East countries, killing there has evolved into a popular blood sport for entire families, including children.

The Polish Ministry for the Environment intervened in 2015 to have the Lebanese police instructed to not ignore the shootings and educational programs were instituted in Middle East schools to raise awareness about the matter — all to no avail. The killing continues.

VOLUNTEERS LEAVE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA. The fourth Polish medical mission to Cameroon left Krakow on a two-week charity mission to Sangmelima in southern Cameroon. Previous missions took place in 2008, 2011 and 2016. Consisting of eye specialists, pediatricians, surgeons, anesthesiologists, a nurse, and medical students, the group carries with them medical equipment, medicines and several items for an elementary school there.

The project is undertaken by the Regional Physicians' Council of Krakow with assistance from the "Without Frontiers Association of International Aid."

The team aims to focus on children during this mission, said pediatrician Lidia Stopyra. Cameroon's infant mortality rate is very high because of little access to both medical care and vaccinations against contagious diseases.

SUNDAY SHOPPING TO BE LIMITED. Bowing to the Solidarity union's long-standing campaign to give retail employees more time for their families, Poland's parliament recently passed a bill to gradually phase out Sunday shopping in large retail stores, supermarkets and malls. In 2018, large retailers will be able to operate two Sundays a month, in 2019, one Sunday each month and by 2020 only on seven Sundays all year, mainly before Christmas, Easter and other official holiday. Small corner groceries, and mom-and-pop stores will not be affected by the ban.

Morawiecki Heads Polish government



MATEUSZ MORAWIECKI. Youthful anti-communist, historian, lawyer, banker, and economic patriot is known as a tough trilingual negotiator.

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — A changing of the guard has occurred in Poland's conservative Law and Justice (PiS) government two years into its four-year term. Mateusz Morawiecki, 49, its deputy prime minister in charge of development and finance, has become the new government chief. He replaced Beata Szydło, widely equated with the bold Family 500+ benefit program that has all but eliminated child poverty. She is now Deputy Prime Minister for Social-Welfare.

Highly educated at Polish and foreign universities, Morawiecki is fluent in English and German, knows his way round the world of international finance and is reputed to be a tough negotiator. When PiS won the 2015 election, the father of four left a \$1 million a year job as bank president to offer his services to the new government. Over the past two years, he has cracked down on large-scale tax evasion and recovered for Poland billions of dollars which under the previous liberal administration had gone into the pockets of organized crime.

Raised in a patriotic, Catholic, anti-communist family, Morawiecki was a child of the 1980 Solidarity revolu-

See "New Prime Minister ..." page 2

Centennial Celebrations Begin



PRESIDENT ANDRZEJ DUDA officially kicked off 2018 centennial celebrations of Poland's regained independence. He delivered a solemn address to the joint houses of Poland's parliament, the Sejm and Senate the address on the 150th birthday of Marshal Józef Piłsudski, the chief architect of the Poland that emerged in 1918 after 123 years of foreign subjugation.

2018 — a good time to visit our ancestral homeland

100th anniversary of Poland's rebirth

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—This may be a good year to visit Poland which is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its regained independence. Its re-emergence took place after 123 years of occupation by the Russian, Prussian, and Austrian empires which — as if by a stroke of historical justice — had themselves collapsed. Hostilities officially ended on November 11, 1918 which would later be celebrated as Armistice Day.

On that day in Warsaw, the Austro-Prussian occupation authority handed power over to Józef Piłsudski, a popular Polish military leader recently freed from a German prison.

Lt. Gen. Edward L. Rowny Dies at 100

Hard-line arms control adviser to five presidents

by Adam Bernstein

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Edward L. Rowny, a hard-line arms control adviser to five presidents who resigned from the military in 1979 to campaign successfully against the strategic arms limitation treaty with the Soviets, died Dec. 17. He was 100.

The Fund for American Studies, where Gen. Rowny had established a scholarship fund for students from Poland to learn about American democracy and free-market economics, announced the death but did not provide additional information.

A 1941 West Point graduate, Gen. Rowny built his rep-



LT. GEN. EDWARD L. ROWNY. Poland's Ambassador Piotr Wilczek organized a 100th birthday celebration at his residence last April to mark the auspicious occasion.

utation as a seasoned combat officer. He commanded battalions in Italy during World War II, helped Gen. Douglas

The stage for Poland's reappearance had been set 11 months earlier when U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, in one of his famous Fourteen Points, called for the creation of an independent Polish state with access to the sea. That resolution was included largely under the influence of such champions of Free Poland as composer Ignacy Paderewski.

At the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, he and National Democratic leader Roman Dmowski had successfully pleaded Poland's case. But it would take several more years of plebiscites and armed struggle, including the 1920 defeat of the invading Soviet hordes, before Poland could be truly free. To help liberate their ancestral homeland, Poles from the United States, Canada, Brazil and elsewhere had joined Gen. Józef Haller's 100,000-strong army.

Free Poland was now faced with the daunt-

See "Celebrations ..." page 3

MacArthur plan the 1950 landing on the Inchon beachhead during the Korean War and led a regiment in brutal winter combat. He later championed arming helicopters for battle, creating a sky cavalry that he helped implement in Vietnam for counter-insurgency operations. And he rose to quasi-diplomatic positions with NATO during the Cold War.

Dubbed a "scholar-general" by the New York Times, he began studying the Russian language and Soviet negotiating technique at Yale University in the late 1940s — experience that positioned him to play a meaningful role in U.S. nuclear policymaking.

Gen. Rowny, who worked in arms control under every president from Richard M.

See "Rowny ..." page 16

PHOTO: GRZEGORZ JAKUBOWSKI / RPP

Almanac

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January 🌐 Styczeń

“Life is God’s novel,
so let him urite it.”
— *Isaac Bashevis Singer*

- 1 **NEW YEAR’S DAY**
Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
Happy New Year!
- 3 1795. The **Third Partition** of the Lithuanian Polish Republic was made between Russia and Austria.
- 5 1173. Death of **Bolesław IV the Curly**.
- 6 **FEAST OF THREE KINGS**
- 7 1882. Death of **Jan Józef Ignacy Łukasiewicz**, 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** (inset) organizes his legion in Italy, and thus honored by having his name included in the Polish National Anthem.
- 11 1386. **Władysław Jagiello** crowned King of Poland.
- 13 1945. The Red Army opened an offensive in South Poland, crashing 25 miles through the German lines.
- 14 1581. The city of **Riga** joined the Polish-Lithuanian union.
- 15 1797. In St. Petersburg, Russia, Prussia and Austria signed and act that terminated the Lithuanian-Polish state.
1890. Birth of swing and jazz drummer **Gene Krupa**.
- 17 1734 Coronation of **August III the Saxon**.
- 18 1401. In Lithuania, Vytautas and the country’s dukes submitted documents to Poland that Vytautas would rule Lithuania as a vassal to Poland and return the country to Poland upon his death.
- 19 1945. The Red Army captures Lodz, Krakow, and Tarnow. *Okazja czyni złodzieja. Opportunity makes the thief.*
- 20 1320. **Władysław I Lokietek** (Ladislaus the Short) crowned King of Poland.
- 21 1268., Pope Clement IV gave permission to Poland’s **King Premislaus II** to take over Lithuania and establish Catholicism.
- 22 1863. The **January Uprising** against the Russian Empire. It began this day in 1863, and lasted until the last insurgents were captured in 1865.
- 23 1793. **Second Partition** of Poland.
- 24 1931. The **League of Nations** rebukes Poland for the mistreatment of a German minority in Upper Silesia.
- 25 1913. Birth of pianist and composer **Witold Lutoslawski**.
1949. Poland joined the **Council for Mutual Economic Assistance**.
- 27 1736. **Stanislaw Lesheinski** gives up the Polish-Lithuanian throne.
- 28 1886. **Artur Rubinstein**, pianist, was born in Lodz, Poland.
- 29 1846. Birth of **Karol Olszewski**, scientist who liquified gases.
- 30 1717. Surrounded by the Russian army, the Lithuanian-Polish parliament reduced its army by half and acknowledged Russian protection.
- 31 1981. **Lech Walesa** announced an accord in Poland, giving labor Saturdays off.

This paper mailed on or before **December 29, 2017**.
The February 2018 edition will be mailed on or before **January 31, 2018**

New Prime Minister Father was one of communist government’s “most wanted.”

continued from cover

-tion. Already at the age of 12, he helped plaster his hometown, the southwestern city of Wrocław, with the demands of Gdańsk Shipyard strikers. Under martial law, 15-year-old Mateusz was detained and beaten for the first time by the SB (secret police) for duplicating and distributing anti-communist leaflets. He was repeatedly hauled in for questioning and his home was searched, as the regime sought to locate his dad Kornel Morawiecki, one of communist Poland’s “most wanted.” The founder of the radical anti-communist Fighting Solidarity group, Kornel had gone underground to continue his struggle and managed to evade capture for six years.

Perhaps that background had helped turn the young Morawiecki into a capitalist with a human, pro-Polish face. Previous post-communist governments had created a kind of neo-colonial economy by selling off most of Poland’s industrial assets, inviting foreign banks, supermarket and other retail chains to take over the market. Foreign businessmen often paid their taxes to their home countries and channeled most of their profits there. Unlike his predecessors, Morawiecki hopes to promote native Polish entrepreneurship and provide incentives for the development of modern, innovative industries including the production of a small Polish electric city car.

IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN how Morawiecki copes with the constant disruptions and provocations of the disgruntled liberal politicians who still cannot come to grips with their defeat at the polls more than two years ago. Rejecting all forms of cooperation and dialogue with the government, the self-proclaimed “total opposition” has done little else but revile and boycott the government at every turn, snitch to the European Union, and support its anti-Polish resolutions. The PiS-bashers have staged endless noisy street protests and disrupted parliamentary proceedings by shouting down speakers, stamping their feet and pounding their desks.

It would be difficult to suspect the “total opposition” of any political culture like giving a new leader a period of grace to get his act together. When President Andrzej Duda was entrusting Morawiecki with the mission to form a government, outside the Presidential Palace the “total opposition” was banging, thumping and raising a general rumpus. When presidential limousines were leaving the scene they were pelted with eggs. One female protester wrote on social media that she had been tempted to bring a Molotov cocktail instead.

Pomyślnego Nowego Roku!

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Wszystko najlepszego w
nowym roku 2018!

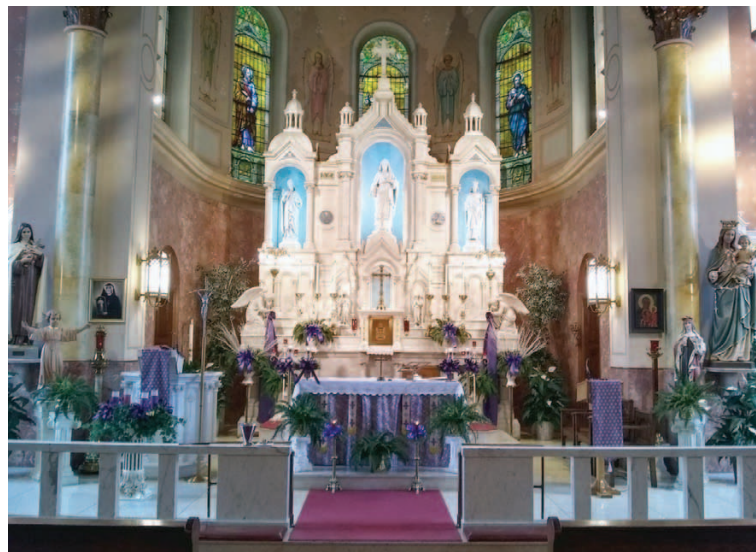
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Thomas Kopetskie, President

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku



Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku! New Year Greetings from



ST. HEDWIG CHURCH

CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Dedicated November 25, 1917

Over 100 years ago, on November 25, 1917, St. Hedwig Church was dedicated by Archbishop Edmund Prendergast of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The cornerstone was laid by him on May 30, 1916. The architect was Ludwik Giele of Jersey City, N.J. The design was Romanesque, and cost \$90,000. The windows were designed in Munich, Germany by Von Gerichten Studios, and cost \$3,374. The next year, 1918, three bells were installed in the steeple, costing \$3,000. In 1923, the main altar, made of Carrara marble imported from Italy, was installed at the cost of \$7,500. The pastor at the time of the construction of the church was Reverend James Ploszaj. It was until the Pastorate of Reverend Peter Klekotka that the church was painted by artist Roman Przybylski of Boston, Massachusetts, at a cost of \$10,000.

LAPUS CALAMI. “Wigilia in Greenpoint” (PAJ, December 2017) incorrectly stated its author, Christina Gutt, was a member of the Matusz Dance Circle. She was an active member of — and served on the Board of — the Polish-American Folk Dance Company.



We wish all our members, friends, donors and sponsors a Healthy and Happy New Year

The best gift one can receive is the smile on a child’s face that was given a second chance to a normal and healthy life. Thank You for your support. — Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE GALA
at the Polish Consulate, New York City
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Celebrations

continued from cover

ing task of rebuilding the war-torn country. A new system of government, armed forces, a school system and even railway tracks of standardized width all had to be created from scratch. Due to runaway post-war inflation, a satchel full of paper money (Polish Marks) was needed to buy a loaf of bread. It was the 1924 monetary reform of Finance Minister Władysław Grabski that introduced the modern złoty which soon became one of Europe's most stable currencies.

OTHER MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS included the then-ultra-modern Baltic Port of Gdynia, built from scratch in what had been a poor fishing village. The Central Industrial District, a steel-making and defense-industry complex in the brand-new city of Stalowa Wola produced armaments for the Polish army. Poland became a major exporter of agro-food products and coal and began producing industrial machinery and manufactured consumer goods. In the cultural realm, it could boast vibrant arts and humanities, new universities, theaters, symphony orchestras and publishing houses.

However, all that was taking place in a hostile environment comprising both external and internal threats, including the worldwide Great Depression. Interwar Poland's population was only 68% Polish. The German "fifth column" spread anti-Polish propaganda and engaged in sabotage. Ukrainian nationalists committed acts of terror culminating in the 1934 murder of Polish cabinet member Bronisław Pieracki. The country was also riddled with Soviet spies, agents or influence and provocateurs.

But the real cataclysm would occur in September 1939, when

Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia split our ancestral homeland down the middle, launching the bloodiest conflict in history. After the war, Poland was forced to function as a Soviet puppet state. It would take another 45 years before Poles could regain their freedom second time in the 20th century. All in all, Poland has been free for only 47 years of the past century.

But the centenary is not a time for historical hair-splitting. It is a proud and joyful occasion offering people of Polish extraction everywhere an opportunity to take stock of their heritage. It is also a good time to visit Poland where many historical attractions await. Worth recommending are Warsaw's National, Military and Warsaw Uprising Museums, Kraków's Wawel Castle/Cathedral Complex and Czartoryski Museum.

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITIONS are being set up in museums across the land. Also planned are true-to-life historical re-enactments of the armed clashes that helped Poles regain their freedom. A major milestone will be the world premiere of "Dywizjon 303" ("Squadron 303"), a movie tribute to the fearless Polish pilots who per capita downed more German planes in the Battle of Britain than the British themselves. Commemorative postage stamps, coins and medallions, as well as other souvenirs, are also in the works.

A unique way of commemorating the 100th anniversary will be Project 100, a round-the-world cruise of the sailing ship *Dar Młodzieży* (*Gift of Youth*). It will begin next summer, last two years and cover over 40,000 nautical miles. At one hundred different ports of call, the beautiful, classic white frigate will share the Polish centennial message with people of every color, creed and nationality.

Distinguished Guests Attend St. John Cantius Fraternal Aid Society Anniversary Gala

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada — On Oct. 21, 2017 the Polish Fraternal Aid Society of St. John Cantius held a banquet on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Founded in 1917, the Society had set itself the goal of working together for the mutual assistance of the Polish community at large, to preserve the social and cultural activities, and the retention of the Polish national spirit and tradition.

As special guests for the evening's activities, the Honorable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., lieutenant governor of Manitoba and His Honor, the Honorable Gary Filmon, the former premier of Manitoba, attended and brought their greetings and offered personal remarks on this occasion.

The banquet was also attended by invited guests and current and former members of the Society, their families and supporters. Special guests included: Honorable Ron Schuler, Minister of Infrastructure; Honorable Cathy Cox, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage; Nic Curry, MLA for Kildonan; Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto Grzegorz Morawski; President of the Polish Canadian Congress - Manitoba, Grażyna Gałęzowska; Teresa Berezowski, president of the Polish World Council; Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Winnipeg, Dr. Włodzimierz Czarnecki; Monsignor Stanisław Jaworski, former pastor of St. John Cantius Church; Father Jacek Nosowicz, pastor of Holy Ghost Church. The presidents of Polonia organizations in Winnipeg attended the event as a celebration of the entire Polish community.

Performing throughout this evening were: SPK Iskry Dance Group, choreographed by Krystyna and Robert Langtry; the Sokol Song and

Dance Ensemble under the direction of Tadeusz Biernacki; and Polish Alumni Dancers team, whose choreographer was Anna Marie Kulas.

Many of the distinguished members of the Society were also being honored with achievement diplomas and awards for long-term (over 40 years) support of the membership and recognition of the Society's goals, and others for exceptional services for the good of the organization.

At the end of the formal part of the celebration, Co-President Zofia de Witt, on behalf of the Society, presented a check for \$ 100,000 CAD to Mr. Jeffery Taylor, Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University



Zofia deWitt (co-president), Georgina Cielen, Krystyna Gajda (100th Anniversary chair), Dean J. Taylor (Arts Faculty University of Manitoba), Robert Kolt (co-president) and Aneta Markiewicz with the donation to the University of Manitoba Polish Studies Program.

of Manitoba for the continued support and development of the Polish Language Program.

Concluding, Robert Kolt, co-president of the Society, expressed his appreciation to all the guests for attending, participating and supporting this unforgettable jubilee celebration.

— Krystyna Gajda

Tom Hanks Receives Polish Fiat 126p Minicar

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks has received a white Baby Fiat 126p, flown to Los Angeles by Poland's LOT Airlines, a gift of the people of Bielsko-Biala.

A few years ago when Hanks was in Budapest, Hungary for work on a movie, he snapped a photo of the tiny Polish microcar. He then posted it on Facebook and quipped that this would be his next auto.

Monika Jaskólska, a resident of Bielsko-Biala, where the car was once manufactured, talked her fellow-citizens into presenting the actor with such a car.

Purchase and renovation of the 40-year-old four-seater cost \$2,300, and LOT shipped it for free. Hanks was thrilled, took the car for a spin and said he would be driving it around town quite a bit.

In gratitude, he has made a substantial donation to the Bielsko-Biala children's hospital.

SHOPPING SPREE WINNERS. Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Solak of Redford, Michigan were the winners of the PAJ Bookstore's "\$100 Shopping Spree." Their names were chosen at random from over sixty entries. Congratulations!

Supporting the Polish American Journal's PAJ Foundation: You *Can* Make a Difference

by Eugene Trella

American Polonia is in transition. Many of our favorite churches, organizations, shops, and neighborhoods have either already disappeared or are perilously close to doing so. Except for the *Polish American Journal*, there are but a handful of English-language newspapers covering all things Poland and Polonia. Polish-language newspapers are also slowly but steadily waning.

Where does this leave us? We must — and I emphasize must — support our remaining institutions.

Several years ago, I help to establish the Polish American Journal Foundation. Its purpose was simple: to maximize the thousands of contacts the newspaper has to help Polonia. This is being done through scholarships, by providing academic and financial assistance to Polish American students and researchers, documentation of customs and traditions, and donations to other Polish American non-profits.

While our success, to date, has been fantastic, so much more can be done.

I would like to share these reasons why you should donate to the PAJF, and how it will benefit you:

- **Paying it forward.** By taking some of what you have and giving back to your community, you are supporting future Polish Americans who do not (or will not) have the benefit of growing up in rich culture we once enjoyed.

- **Setting an example.** A donation to the PAJF is a great way to set an example for your children, co-workers, family, and friends. Be a leader and let those in your circle follow in your footsteps and feel motivated by your acts of goodwill to do

the same.

- **Making Polonia — and ultimately Poland — a better place.** Through every donation made, someone benefits from

that donation, causing a ripple of positivity that can literally transform someone's life. This is all done in Poland's good name, and improves our lot, from our ancestors in the Tatras, to our immigrant neighbors from Gdansk.

- **Leaving a legacy.** When you give to others, those around you will have a deeper respect and appreciation for you and your love for things Polish. Not only will you be building a legacy to leave behind, others will remember you for the differences you made through your selflessness and charitable giving.

- **A sense of empowerment.** By giving, you can find empowerment knowing you can make a difference. No matter how great or how small, making a donation puts you in the position to help change the situation. The empowerment gained through such a noble act can be both personally fulfilling and invaluable to those who benefit from your donation.

- **Chance to double your donation.** Some of us are fortunate enough to work for companies which will match donations. By utilizing this valuable resource, your act of giving can be as much as doubled,

making an even bigger impact for those in need. The Polish American Journal Foundation's Federal Employee Number (needed for donations) is EIN: 46-4279861.



- **Showing gratitude.** Given our busy schedules and the hectic pace we maintain, we sometimes tend to take things for granted, forgetting the hard work and sacrifices of those who came before us. By donating to the PAJF, you can take solace in knowing that you did not turn your back on those who helped make us who we are today.

- **Supporting a cause.** Many people are passionate about certain causes. Giving to charities that work to make changes in the causes they support, is a great way to be a part of altering the bigger picture. Think of it as proactively helping a charity fulfill their mission.

- **Tax deductions.** When you make a charitable donation, it is tax deductible. And, surprisingly, charitable giving is one of the most commonly forgotten

tax deductions. This is truly a win-win situation: by helping someone else, you receive some compensation in the form of a deduction on your own personal income taxes.

Membership Levels in the PAJF include:

- Friend of the PAJF (Any amount up to \$49.99)
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- Chairman's Circle \$2,500.00 or more

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Viewpoints

Act Now, Before It is Too Late

by Rev. Wally Rakoczy

Editor's note: Fr. Rakoczy's copy, written specifically for the Polonia of Northwest Indiana, applies to all Polish American communities.

OFFER MY REFLECTIONS and observations on the state of the American Polonia, specifically here in Northwest Indiana.

Too often we see a problem in Polonia and blame it on the clergy, the fraternal, the people who have moved away, or the people who have stayed.

I was born and raised in the Indiana Harbor and Calumet sections of East Chicago. I have great grandparents who settled in northern Wisconsin after the Civil War, who became pioneers in Indiana Harbor, and an uncle by marriage who arrived after World War II. Most of my family is still in Northwest Indiana. I am the only one of my generation that speaks any Polish, although some understand it to a degree and most still feel "Polish." Both my home (Polish) parishes are closed.

I was fortunate to study at Orchard Lake for college and seminary at the end of its 'silver age' — when most of the students were still of Polish ancestry and reveled in our Polishness. Orchard Lake was quite a place. Too bad Polonia never appreciated or supported it as it could.

This month, I will celebrate 40 years of priesthood. How much has

"We've made it in America. We are one of the three most economically successful ethnic groups in America today. We have — as some sociologists put it — 'become white.' We are part of mainstream American society ..."

changed, particularly in our little corner of the world! Just look at our Polish parishes.

Polish immigrants established 20 parishes in Indiana, beginning with St. Mary of Częstochowa in Otis (1873) and ending with Holy Family in Gary (1926). There were also a few farming communities in central Indiana that, for various reasons, never established a parish of their own (e.g., Ege). Fourteen of these parishes were in what is now the Diocese of Gary. Five have been closed, two are now missions, and several have been re-designated as territorial parishes. Of the remaining parishes, most are struggling and losing their Polish identity even quicker than they lose their Polish-speaking or Polish-identity pastors and parishioners. Mass is still celebrated for diminishing numbers in Polish at six parishes/missions, and five host Devotions in the Polish language. Excluding the Carmelites and Salvatorians, there are only three diocesan priests left who speak Polish to any degree. We are all three retired. Priests from Poland are not welcome in the diocese. Excluding the Albertines, there are practically no Polish religious order sisters left.

IN TIMES PAST, Polonia centered on the parish, the *parafia*. Here, faith and culture were preserved and passed on to the next generation, sometimes even despite a pastor who tried to "Americanize" his people. Across the country we

see Polish parishes crumbling. Some parts of the country are fortunate to have alternate "Polish centers" to fall back upon, or have created new ones. The future of ministry to the Polish-speaking in Northwest Indiana will most likely come to be entrusted to the care of the Polish Carmelites and Polish Salvatorians. Thank God they are so strategically located in Munster and Merrillville. How this ministry will develop remains to be seen. And how much can they save the Polish American heritage of the Calumet region?

QUO VADIS POLONIA? The future does not look too promising for our Polish parishes. A few will remain as non-ethnic or Hispanic parishes. One hundred years from now will there even be evidence that a Polonia once existed in places like East Chicago, Hammond, Whiting, or Gary? In some respects, we are already invisible, as compared to other ethnic groups, such as the Serbs or the Greeks. Where have our people gone?

We've made it in America. We are one of the three most economically successful ethnic groups in America today. We have — as some sociologists put it — "become white." We are part of mainstream American society, some of us to the point of Anglicizing our family names. Others have abandoned all ties to cultural markers, such as observances,

celebrations, and foods. Yet, in spite of all this, we are still noticeably absent from the boardrooms of the Fortune 500, national politics, and on the local political scene.

On the positive side, one does see increasingly more Polish names on movie credits, and in the professional, academic, and scientific world. There are now more American bishops of Polish ancestry than ever before. Men with Polish surnames are still entering the priesthood. However, a Polish last name is not a guarantee of a connection to their heritage or Polonia. How ironic that some parishes survived Irish-American bishops, only to be closed

We need a Polish Museum or Center ... Too much has been lost already. Too much stands to be lost ... What will happen to the paraphernalia of our Polish veterans' groups, social clubs, and societies when the last member is gone to his or her reward?

by bishops with Polish ancestry?

Polonia's parochial schools have done an excellent job of educating our young, who tend to go away for college — and keep going. They have a hard time finding jobs to match their skills here in the region. In school they often learn about the culture and history of foreign lands — even their languages. And more often than not, they know little or nothing of their own Polish heritage, history, and culture. As far as mainstream America is concerned, we are at best a curious footnote to world history and to the American

Experience. The farther our young move from their geographical ethnic roots, the more they become lost in the mainstream.

Not all our young people move away. Many if not most of those who remain, intermarry with other ethnic groups. How do we help them, and their children to preserve their heritage? Equally important, how do we educate our non-Polish neighbors

There is no place at present in north-west Indiana. As things are now, my collection will probably not find a home where I know they will be appreciated and useful. Orchard Lake and the Polish Museum in Chicago have plenty to exhibit, and I suspect much of what I have, they already possess.

What will happen to the paraphernalia of our Polish veterans'



THE FUTURE DOES NOT LOOK TOO PROMISING for our Polish parishes. A few will remain as non-ethnic or Hispanic parishes. One hundred years from now will there even be evidence that a Polonia once existed? The abandoned St. Stanislaus in Detroit (above) is one of a hundred examples of lost Polish parishes.

that there is more to us than polkas, pierogi, kielbasa, kapusta, Pulaski, and Kościuszko?

WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, we lose more and more of our Polish-American through the death of our elders and through apathy, ignorance, or carelessness on the part of their heirs. Letters, photos, records, artifacts are lost. Sometimes people bring things to me because they know I treasure things Polish. I only have so much room for these things. I end up sending it to Orchard Lake or the Polish Museum of Chicago. Once I was brought something which was a mystery to the bearers: they wondered how Dziadzio came to have Scottish bagpipes. I told them they were *dudki*, Polish bagpipes. They never heard of such a thing.

We need a Polish Museum or Center here in Northwest Indiana. Too much has been lost already. Too much stands to be lost. I have a rather large collection of things Polish — including several thousand books,

some rare or hard to find. I dread the thought that, after I go to my eternal reward, these things might end up in a landfill. I would rather find a home for these things here in Northwest Indiana. There are some other people like me. I know that several years ago the late Fr. Milewski of Holy Family in Gary faced a similar dilemma regarding his Polish collection. He sent a lot of things to Orchard Lake. I shudder to think what became of what he did — and did not — send to the archives and museums there. I hope to find a home for my collection closer to home.

groups, social clubs, and societies when the last member is gone to his or her reward?

My penultimate assignment was as pastor of the fifth largest parish in the Gary Diocese. It is a territorial parish. Many of my people trace their roots to the ethnic parishes of neighboring Lake County or the Pittsburgh area of Pennsylvania. The children are usually of mixed ethnic, even racial ancestry. I promoted ethnic awareness in the parish school. Children like to learn about their heritage. Every year, one grade cel-

"The future of Polonia is our children. We are losing them. It is more than not speaking Polish. It is about knowing and keeping the customs tradition and history alive. We need to do everything and anything we can to keep them ... active in Polonia."

brates Ethnic Week, during which they explore their ethnic ancestry or ancestries. At the parish they have Christmas wafers (*opłatki*). I ran an explanation several times in the bulletin, and many people, especially our Mexican-Americans warmly embraced the practice. The blessing with chalk of homes, and classroom doors was introduced, as well as the blessing of Easter baskets. The children, and even some of the adults are surprised they are not "American" customs. Well, they are becoming American customs. As for pierogi ... well, that is another story.

For my Silver Jubilee the school children sang "Sto Lat," and enjoyed learning it. Children love field trips. They love the ethnic Christmas trees at the Field Museum in Chicago. They love visiting Eastern Rite and Orthodox Churches. They return from visits to the centers in the Indiana Dunes Parks with a new appreciation. Let us give them the opportunity to not only hear about, but to see, touch, and even hear a little of Polish and local Polonian culture and history.

I AM NOT PROPOSING an elaborate, expensive or expansive building. I am sure an appropriate site can be found. More important for a start is a convenient, accessible, stable location. Perhaps a room or two borrowed from Calumet College or some other institution other than the Church for a start, until an autonomous, permanent site could be found. A retired Iraqi-American started the first and only Assyrian-American Museum single-handedly in a Chicago strip mall. (Of course, he owned the strip mall!) One community started with an old gas station adjacent to a major highway. Once established, outside funding was found. A few years later the outside was remodeled in their ethnic architectural style. It can be done here. It needs to be done here. I suspect the biggest obstacle to a Polish Center or Museum in Northwest Indiana would be getting the various Polonian groups to work together and agree on a location and funding.

I cannot emphasize how strongly I feel that the time for action is now. I do not naively propose this as a simplistic solution to all the problems our local Polonia faces. But it can play a role, if only one of preservation of our past, and point a finger to the future.

For many decades the Polish American organizations have played a major role in promoting Polish language and culture in the region. These organizations worked very hard towards a free and independent Poland. It was a worthy and necessary, and sometimes thankless task. Poland is now rejoining its rightful place in the world. Now is the time to turn our attention and efforts more towards the needs of our local Polonia. I feel it is critical if there is to be a future for Polonia.

I present to you today one need I feel is not only real but also attainable. The future of Polonia is our children. We are losing them. It is more than not speaking Polish. It is about knowing and keeping the customs tradition and history alive. We need to do everything and anything we can to keep them not only part of Polonia, but also active in Polonia. Their future is in our hands. We owe it to them to pass on to them what we and our Polish ancestors so cherished.

A final thought: all is not doom and gloom. A group wanting to replace the damaged bust of Paderewski at the International Friendship Gardens in Michigan City, led to the organization of an annual Polish Fest, thriving from its first year, attracting not only locals but people from South Bend, Michigan, and Illinois. The replacement bust is almost ready to be installed in a much improved Polish garden.

THE FUTURE IS OURS to work with. Long live Polonia! Tak nam dopomóż Bog!

99th Anniversary of Polish Independence Day



Ambassador Piotr Wilczek addressed the audience at his residence during the celebration of Poland's Independence Day.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Nov. 8, 2017, the few hundred invitees — diplomats, members of Congress and the Administration, U.S. and Polish armed forces, foreign policy think tanks, and members of the area's Polonia — gather at the Ambassador's Residence to celebrate Polish Independence Day.

"This time of year also has great personal significance to me, as it was exactly one year ago this week that I arrived in Washington, D.C. to assume my duties as ambassador," said Ambassador Piotr Wilczek in his opening remarks. "And what an incredible, intense, and rewarding year it has been for U.S.-Poland relations. Across different fields, the ties that bind our two countries have grown ever stronger and continue to flourish. Politically, militarily, and economically, our two countries continue to grow closer and more interconnected."

The Ambassador also paid homage to November 11, 1918 — Poland's Independence Day, after Poland had been wiped off the map of Europe for the previous 123 years.

The guest of honor was Senator Anna Maria Anders, Plenipotentiary for the Prime Minister for International Dialog. In her remarks,

she said that "independence means freedom, and freedom cannot be taken for granted."

Anders also called on American Polonia to undertake unified efforts to build a positive image of Poland in the United States. Just earlier, she was a guest speaker at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

Conference. She reiterated that that her remarks emphasized how destructive the system of communism was in Poland and its effects on Polish society, and also noted how important it is to educate younger generations about systems of totalitarianism and their consequences.

A Polish jazz combo and singer entertained the guests as they dined and socialized for the remainder of the evening.

Paderewski and Pilsudski Feted

NEW YORK — The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York, together with Ars Activa Foundation, and Finitor Foundation, held a concert dedicated to Paderewski and Pilsudski, fathers of the Poland's Independence, on Dec. 11, 2017 at Carnegie Hall.

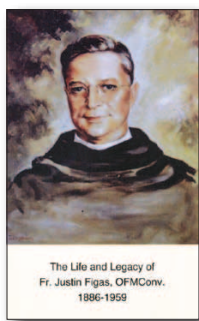
The music program featured Dang Thai Son, winner of the 1980 Chopin Piano Competition, who presented compositions by Frederic Chopin and Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Modlitwy

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THANKSGIVING PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN. O Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily give you the just dues of praise and thanksgiving, you who by the wondrous assent of your will rescued a fallen world? What songs of praise can our weak human nature recite in your honor, since it is by your intervention alone that it has found the way to restoration? Accept, then, such poor thanks as we have to offer here, though they be unequal to your merit; and, receiving our vows, obtain by your prayers the remission of our offenses. Carry our prayers within the sanctuary of the heavenly audience and bring forth the gift of our reconciliation. Take our offering, grant us our requests, obtain pardon for what we fear, for you are the sole hope of sinners. Holy Mary, help the miserable, strengthen the fainthearted, comfort the sorrowful, pray for your people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God. Be ever ready to assist us when we pray and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it your continual care to pray for the people of God, you who, blessed by God, merited to bear the Redeemer of the world who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen. G.K.

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Religion

Prayer in the Public Square on the Steps of the Illinois State Capitol Building

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Approximately 120 people of all ages gathered on the steps of the Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield to pray the rosary and to say The Prayer to the Guardian Angel of the United States, The Angelus, The Prayer to St. Michael, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, among other prayers at the Annual Prayer in the Public Square. They joined 21,750 other groups who were meeting in various places to say the rosary together that day across the country. One Hail Mary was prayed for each of the 50 states and an extra Hail Mary was added to each decade for additional territories of the United States.

Prayer in the Public Square is an annual event that happens every October, which is known as the Month of the Rosary in the Catholic Church. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki was on hand to speak to the people and thank them for their prayer and efforts. Standing just in front of the statue of President Abraham Lincoln, Bishop Paprocki reminded those gathered that they were, in a way, "at the scene of a crime" referencing Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's recent signing of HB40, that allows taxpayer money to pay for abortions.

PARISH COLLECTS/DISTRIBUTES SCHOOL SUPPLIES. Holy Cross Parish PTO, Hamtramck, Mich., organized the 11th annual school supply drive for Hamtramck Public Schools. This year Hamtramck High School was the recipient of the donations. The school has 1035 students in grades 9 through 12.

The parish contacted the school in May to get its wish list, and throughout the summer collected generous donations of school supplies and winter outerwear for the students. The church's pastor Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, and parishioners were greeted by the principal, Mr. Chris Vraniak, and counselor, Linda Cobb as three vehicles full of supplies were brought to the school. "They expressed great appreciation for our efforts," said Rev. Nowak.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... The RC Diocese of Scranton, Pa., which began its celebration of its sesquicentennial anniversary. The year-long celebration of the 150th

Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Scranton began on the First Sunday of Advent with a special Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. His Eminence, Justin Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia and former Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Scranton presided. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was the principal celebrant and homilist. The connection to Philadelphia is noteworthy since our Diocese was part of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia until March 3, 1868, when Pope Pius IX created the Diocese of Scranton. "We are certainly honored that Cardinal Rigali has accepted our invitation to join us for this special Mass," Bishop Bambera said.

The Sesquicentennial will be celebrated through most of next year. In addition to the opening Mass, a Pontifical Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter will celebrate the actual Anniversary Sunday of the founding of the Diocese of Scranton on March 4, with the Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Philadelphia, as celebrant. Then, to close the Anniversary Year, the Most Reverend Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, will be the principal celebrant at the Anniversary Year Concluding Mass on November 25, the feast of Christ the King, at the Cathedral.

STO LAT TO ... Fr. Jerome Kopec of Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Williamsville, N.Y., on being awarded the Venerable Nelson Baker Award at Buffalo's diocesan Youth Ministry Awards Banquet. The award recognizes his exceptional dedication to working with youth. Fr. Kopec remarked, "I have been blessed to be a co-worker with so many ministers, who have lived out that teaching of Jesus."

The recipients of the Christifideles Award, given to Catholic laypeople in the Archdiocese of Chicago who have, by participating in parish life, demonstrated the personal and ministerial renewal called for by the papal exhortation Christifideles Laici, calling the laity to the "vocation of responsibility for the church's life springing from the gift and mission of their baptism." They included: Henry Smogolski, Holy Family; Stan and Gerry Stec, St. James; Maria R. Ceja, St. James; Walter Niemczyk, St. John the

Evangelist; Jerry and Judy Kozenki, St. Peter, Antioch; Bret and Elizabeth Kabacinski, Assumption; Tony and Carol Lupinski, St. Cornelius; C. Brelin and Deborah Ann Szackowicz, St. Martha Morton Grove; JoAnne Mikol, St. Thomas of Canterbury; Richard Romanowski, St. Aloysius; Dolores Becatti and Judy Lukwinski, St. Barbara; Marion, Mary Ellen and Peggy Chrusciel, St. Beatrice; Donna Gawlas and Kathy Plepel, St. Bernardine; Steve Pawlik, St. Cyprian; JoAnn Lewandowski, St. Edmund; Tadeusz Kulasik, St. Ferdinand; Michal Kulik, St. Ladislaus; Ronald Sak and Tomasz Supergan, St. William; Rafal and Beata Jarosz, St. Blasé; Dolores Kaczmarek, St. Camillus; Raymond and Barbara Perisin, St. Cyril & Methodius, Lemont; Jola Bernard, St. Francis of Assisi; David and Sharon Pawlak, St. Gerald; Rita A. Dombrowski, St. Joseph, Summit; David and Christina Glogowski, St. Patricia; St. Patrick, Joanne Tishka, St. Symphorosa; Adrienne Bonczek, St. Florian; Leo and Joan Jacko, St. Irenaeus.

Eleven men ordained to the permanent diaconate by Scranton's RC Bishop Joseph C. Bambera including: Michael M. Golubiewski, Naticoke; Ronald D. Maida, Hallstead; John P. Musyt, Olyphant; James M. Rebarchick, Hazleton.

James Ploskonka who received his first Minor Orders on his journey to become a Deacon in the Polish National Catholic Church. Bishop Stanley Bilinski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese led the prayer service in Parma, Ohio, which consisted of the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Litany to the Most Blessed Sacrament, the tonsure and conferral of Minor Orders, and the Liturgy of the Word of God. Cleric Jim's wife Elaine and friends for putting together a refreshing spread after the service, and to all who attended the service.

Thaddeus J. ("Ted") Pawlikowski, of Easthampton, Mass., a retired 33-veteran of the Springfield, Mass. police department and currently a protective service officer with the US Department of Homeland Security, who was honored at the annual Red Mass at the RC Diocese of Springfield's St. Michael's Cathedral by the St. Thomas More Society.

Roy and Melia Win Annual Szopka Competition

HARTFORD, Conn. — The 37th annual Szopka Competition was held at the Polish National Home, Nov. 26, with 17 elaborately designed entries. In its 37th year, the all-day event attracted hundreds, including some families with several generations in tow, to the iconic PNH on Charter Oak Place, where it has been held every year since 1981.

The festival features Polish seasonal delicacies; a dining room buffet; specialty breads, including the traditional wafer that is a vital part of the Polish Christmas Eve meal; homemade pastries; quilts, folk arts and crafts; Polish pottery; and a wide range of unusual gift selections. Each year, a growing number of local artisans and vendors from throughout the region participate.

A world-class craftsman competition based on this tradition is held annually to this day in Krakow, Poland.

The szopki at the PNH were cre-

ated by 38 children between the ages of 5 to 12 years old, including students at St. James School, Sacred Heart School in New Britain, Highcrest School in Wethersfield and the Polish Saturday School.

Ryan Chacaga, a sixth-grader at St. James, who, with David LaMonica, won the second-place prize, explained his participation:

"I just did this because I really like Poland and Polish-related stuff and traditions. It has the birth of Jesus, and then I added some things native to Krakow."

Ryan has relatives in Poland, and has visited them several times with his family.

Taking the first-place prize this year was a team of two fourth-graders from St. James, Alivia Roy and Molly Melia, both 9. They said they started their design with paper and pencil, drawing it and then trying to "translate it into reality."

Other prize winners and award-

ees were: third prize, team of Brendan Guenther and Carson Herr; and Honorable Mention, team of Irene Miliute, Lily Puzio, and Madeline Dube, Sacred Heart School, New Britain. Honorable Mention, Maja Serwinski, Polish Saturday School; Junior Szopka-Maker Award, James Sejdor; Special Group Award, Polish Saturday School Group of nine children, 5-9 years old.

Certificates of Participation were given to: St. James, Maggie Sheehan, Allie Sheehan and Isabella Jablonski; Stefan Roth and William Piotrowski; Aliajiah Smith and Shreya Senti; Anya Avis and Monique Garcia-Nieves; Taylor Roy, Isabella Fusco and Gabriella Italia; Paolo Iacobello, Holden Riley; and Greyson Grzesiakowski and Axel Salmoilagi. Also, from Hillcrest High School, Sophia Scheinberg and from the Polish Saturday School, Maya Sejdor.

Books in Brief

A Family's Plan that Falls Apart then Succeeds

by Mary E. Lanham

THE POLISH ARCHITECT
by Ron Molenda
AuthorHouse 2017, 193 pgs.

When Irene and her children fled Poland before the beginning of the Second World War, she had no idea that it would be years before she would see her husband and son again. In Ron Molenda's book, *The Polish Architect*, a family torn apart by war never gives up hope that they would be reunited.

Before the war, Irene and her husband Andrew are living a quiet life on a farm raising their children. One son, Victor, finds that

working on a farm does not suit him and asks his family's permission to attend university to become an architect. They gladly acquiesce to his proposal.

With the murmurings of World War II becoming louder, Andrew decides it would be safer for the rest of the family to leave the country. He and his son stay behind so that Victor can finish up the semester. They have no idea that the invasion of Poland will happen only a few months later.

After acquiring false papers, Irene with her



young adult children in tow, make it to a port and then to the United States. From there it is recommended that they move to Chicago, a city with a large Polish population and an industry that her sons could excel in.

Years later after the war, Anna, Irene and Andrew's daughter, with her best friend Lisa travel to Poland to find her long-lost father and brother. With the Red Cross's help Anna is finally able to reunite with her family. When they were apart her family had grown. During the war, Victor met and married a woman in the Zakopane region. They had a child, but sadly his wife died of pneumonia.

Andrew, Victor, and Victor's son Andy soon move to America to rejoin Irene and the

rest of Victor's brothers. As the years progress, the family experiences its fair share of ups and downs but find strength together.

The Polish Architect by Ron Molenda is available on Amazon.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Ron Molenda, a first-generation American on his father's side, was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana. His father, originally from Poland, came to live in the United States as a child. Molenda's maternal grandfather also emigrated from Poland. Molenda still keeps the Polish traditions alive by eating Polish food and practicing many of the country's customs.

New Books

New Book on CD Chronicles the Horrors of Life in Post-World War II Poland

ARLINGTON, Texas — Several years ago on a research trips to Bukowsko, Poland, Deborah Greenlee was given part of a chronicle written by Kazimiera Kochańska. The diary was written during the end of World War II and the beginning of "Operation Vistula" ("Akcja Wisła"), the codename for the forced resettlement of Ukrainian minority (including Boykos and Lemkos) from the south-eastern provinces of post-war Poland, to the Recovered Territories in the west of the country.

The action was carried out by the Soviet-installed Polish communist authorities with the aim of removing material support and assistance to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), which continued its guerilla activities after the war's end in both Subcarpathian and Lublin Voivode-

ships.

Operation Vistula brought an end to the hostilities, but not without a heavy toll.

Kochańska, a teacher at a school in Bukowsko, was witness to the horrors that took place in southeast Poland.

Greenlee was moved by educator's account, and felt compelled to have the chronicle translated into English.

"Kochańska's heartfelt writings needed to be made public to the English speaking world," said Greenlee. "This undertaking turned out to be no small feat. Aside from trips to Poland, over 400 hours was invested in this project and several other people helped."

Kochanska's writings were detailed and well-described. "They

will transport you to the village and the horrors of Bukowsko. This account is so extraordinarily written from the perspective of an educator; notches above that of a young child. But, similar in so many ways and just as emotionally powerful," said Greenlee.

Proceeds to Benefit School in Bukowsko, Poland

Kochańska was so much more than a teacher, principal and civic advocate. In the end she turned into the first major historian of her beloved Bukowsko during these years of turmoil. She gave herself, first and foremost, to her student's welfare in ways which were profound. "Never putting herself first and

working in terrible conditions was so remarkable," said Greenlee.

A memorial plaque in Kochańska's honor was placed on the elementary school in Bukowsko several years ago and she was again honored in June 2016. (Readers wishing to learn more about the ceremony should visit Greenlee's Trip Diary of June 2016 at www.polish-family.com.)

"My hope is that those who read *Kronika Bukowsko* will gain a better understanding of what life was like for the Polish residents in Bukowsko and neighboring villages, especially right after World War II, when Poles and UPA's *banderowcy* (the idiomatic name used by Poles and Jews to describe Ukrainians who participated in the genocide of Poles).

The *Kronika* project would have never seen fruition were it not for the untiring efforts and exceptional expertise of Roman Kaluzniacki, who translated and organized this work; and Dave Greenlee, Debbie's son, who aided in making the book available on CD.

The CD contains images of the original text, a transcription in Polish, an English translation and photos.

All proceeds from the sale of *Kronika Bukowsko* (minus postage) are being donated to the kindergarten in Bukowsko, a poor community. Copies of the CD cost \$23.15, which includes the CD and postage.

To order, contact Deborah Greenlee at daveg@airmail.net or see advertisement below.

Quiztime

by Robert Strybel

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Poland's regained independence. See how much you know about it by taking our quiz.

1. General Józef Haller's Blue Army was called that because its uniforms which had been obtained from: A) the U.S. B) England C) France.
2. Poland had been carved up and wiped off the map by: A) Russia, Prussia, and Austria B) Russia, Germany, and Sweden C) Prussia, Austria, and Hungary.
3. The nucleus of Poland's armed forces set up in the Austrian partition zone in 1914 was known as: A) the Polish Legions B) Polish Freedom Brigades C) Polish League.
4. Often regarded as the chief architect of the Second Polish Republic was: A) Józef Beck B) Józef Piłsudski C) Wojciech Korfanty.

5. In the early post-World War I period Poland's official currency was the: A) ruble B) mark C) złoty.
6. The piano virtuoso and composer who effectively lobbied for Poland in the international arena was: A) Penderecki B) Paderewski C) Chopin.
7. The post-World War I peace conference that created many new independent states was held at: A) Buckingham Palace B) Versailles Palace C) Belvedere Palace.
8. When he assumed power in 1918, Józef Piłsudski's official title was that of: A) president B) chief of state C) prime minister.
9. Today's relatively small and territorially compact Poland would reflect the political doctrine of:

- A) Lucjan Żeligowski B) Roman Dmowski C) Józef Piłsudski.
10. Which Polish city remained outside the Second Polish Republic? A) Równe B) Grodno C) Żytomierz
11. Wincenty Witos agreed to become prime minister and form a government in 1920 on one condition: A) That he would get a leave of absence at harvest time B) That he would not be required to make speeches. C) That his wife could serve as his assistant.
12. Poland's tallest and Europe's second tallest skyscraper was built in Warsaw by which American insurance company? A) Allstate B) Prudential C) Mutual of Omaha.

ANSWERS. 1-C 2-A 3-A 4-B 5-B 6-B 7-B 8-B 9-B 10-C 11-A 12-B



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All of the proceeds go to the Bukowsko kindergarten school. Bukowsko is one of the poorest gminas in Poland.

The "Kronika Bukowsko" (historical non-fiction) is a transcript in both Polish and English of a diary kept by the principal of the Bukowsko, Poland, school from 1945-1977. It records school and civic events in the village and includes many illustrations and photographs. Of particular interest, however, is the history of the village during the postwar period when the area was dealing with the conflict between the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the new Communist controlled Polish government, which ended with Akcja Wisła.

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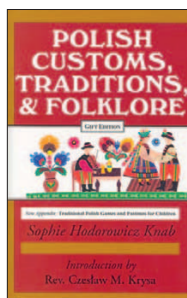
Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world. An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.

SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality



by **Claire M. Anderson**
Item 1-675
\$14.95
ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

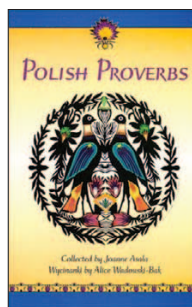
What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire Anderson, of Polish descent and currently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Wisconsin, explores this tradition and expands it by connecting these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.



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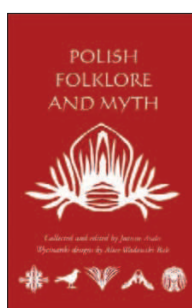
Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and the New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs and superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, name-day celebrations, and birth and death

rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore.



POLISH PROVERBS
by **Joanne Asala**
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6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord." The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.



POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH
by **Joanne Asala**
\$12.95
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6x9 in
118 pp., pb.

This book of engaging folk stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak.

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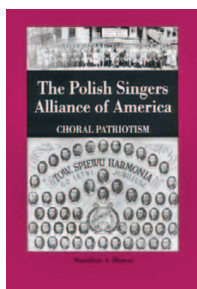


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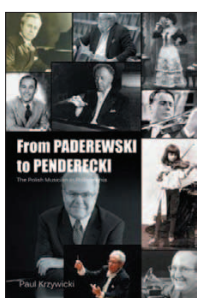


Boydell & Brewer, 2005. 396 pp., Ill. 6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

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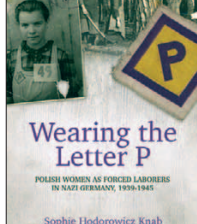


The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by **Paul Krzywicki**
\$24.95
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Lulu Publishing
2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. A full biography is in Part I

WEARING THE LETTER "P"

Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945



by **Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab**
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Item 2-642
pb. 304 pages
6 x 9 inches

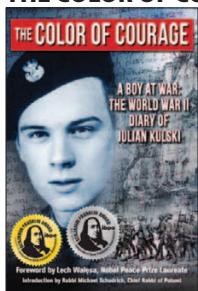
An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation—all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND
by **Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz**
\$19.95
Item 2-604
183 pp., pb.

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.

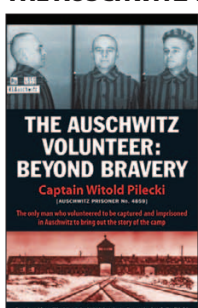
THE COLOR OF COURAGE



by **Julian E. Kulski**
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Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012
496 pp., 6"x9," pb.

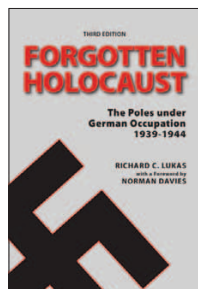
"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER



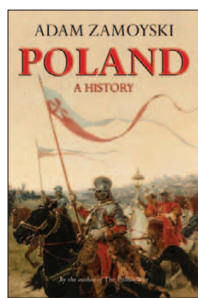
by **Witold Pilecki**
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Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014
460 pp., pb. 6x9 in.

In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."



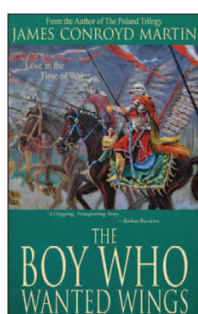
FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition
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358 pp. pb.

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



POLAND: A HISTORY
by **Adam Zamoyski**
\$19.95
Item 1-659
pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative..." "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable."



THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS
by **James Conroyd Martin**
Author of "Don't Push the River"
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Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11, in 1683). As a Tatar and a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of a noble, winning her love seems just as unlikely a quest. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

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Happenings: Chicago Style

All Souls Jazz Festival at Chopin Theatre

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — On November 6, the Chopin Theatre was the scene of the All Souls Jazz Festival, one of the most important calendar events in Polonia and the jazz world. The city's largest and most unique annual Polish American Music Festival, the All Souls Jazz Festival brings together internationally renowned jazz artists and talented young performers, mirroring the annual jazz festival in Krakow, Poland.

Inspired by the Krakow Jazz Festival, the Chicago's All Souls Festival looks, feels, and sounds like no other jazz soiree in the city. Jazz enthusiasts crowded into the Chopin Theatre to socialize in the various art-filled lobbies and hallways, enjoying Polish delicacies and spending the evening enjoying Polish-style jazz.

Chopin Theatre's event has grown in popularity with both the large Polonian community and also among the non-Polish music connoisseurs. The theatre was crowded with jazz lovers of all ages.

This year, the Chopin Theatre paid special tribute to the late Wojciech Mylnarski, poet, songwriter, and singer, with special guests, jazz singer Ewa Prus from the Academy of Warsaw and opera baritone Hubert Zapir.

Over 50 musicians of various jazz styles participated, including Krzesimir Debski, world-famous violin virtuoso, the Adam Czerwiński Band featuring Bob Lizik and Vijay Tellis-Nayak, Adam Palma, Agnieszka Iwańska and the Antykwarjat Jazz Band, Tad "TeeMac" Janik and Pamela Fernandez, Sergiusz Zgrzębski and the NeoTrio, the Justyna Biała Band, Jacek Mroczka and the Lemon Blues, and Włodzimierz Zuterek. From dusk until dawn and on two stages, these musicians gave their all to jazz to the delight of an enthusiastic audience.

Poland embraced jazz more than half a century ago in Krakow, Warsaw, and Poznan. So it should come as no surprise that Chicago, with its significant Polish population, would catch up to Poland's jazz pulse.

Most American jazz audiences may not know that Poland has been a center of jazz creativity through most of the 20th century. While Krakow's All Souls' Jazz Festival is Europe's oldest continuing jazz festival, this American edition within a large Polish community makes Chicago a perfect location to continue the tradition.

LEGION'S ANNUAL FASHION SHOW. The Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW) held a successful fashion show on November 5. Over 250 guests filled the banquet hall of the elegant Chateau Ritz in Niles, Illinois, to view the latest designs, attractive models, and unique creations. The event of camaraderie and fun was held to raise funds for a worthwhile charitable cause.

After the Legion's new president, **Barbara I. Ciepiela**, welcomed the guests, the luncheon program began with the Legion presenting Appreciation Awards to **Lucyna Migala**, program director of WCEV 1450 AM, for her continued support of the White and Red Ball; **Jacek Niemczyk**, program director of WPNA 1490 AM and 103.1 FM, for his many years of support for the Legion through his radio programs; and **Andrzej Gedlek**, program director of "Na Goralska Nute," WPNA 1490 FM, also for his many years of support for the Legion's

White and Red Ball and Fashion Show.

Following the luncheon portion of the Fashion Show, **Margaret Szpindor-Remissong**, the fashion show coordinator and commentator, took over. Original autumn fashions were displayed, not

fashion show's stage manager, and **Aneta Ciepiela** and **Josie Nowak** created all of the graphic designs. The Legion also says *Dziękuję bardzo* to all the various Polish-language media, including TV Polvision, that were on hand to document the event.



(photo, left): **Natalie Machaj** and **Andrew Ciepiela**. (photo, right, l. to r.): **Wyatt Cornwell**, **Tommy Ciesla**, and **Henry Cornwell**.

only by women, but by children and men as well. This year's models included seven children, three male models, seven Legion members, 11 post-debutantes, and six prospective 2018 debutantes. They all seemed to enjoy modeling the fashions on the catwalk.

Polonian and American designers, such as B.V. Adams, LTD, Cabi-independent stylist, EwelineB Fashion, LLC, Małgorzata Mordzinski Jewelry, Obsession Boutique, Recultured Designs, and Black Tie Formalwear participated. The wonderful creativity of these designers appealed to the European tastes of the guests.

This year's raffle supported the newly-renovated Anawin Women's Shelter. Accepting the LYPW's donation of \$5,000 was **Theresa Mirabella**. The raffle included the grand prize: a White and Red Ball Package of two tickets to the White and Red Ball, an overnight stay at the Hilton Chicago with breakfast, and tuxedo rental from Black Tie Formalwear.

Richard Owsiany acted as the

GIFT GALA HONORS COPERNICUS. Highlighting the theme of "Revolutions," The Gift Theatre of Chicago heralded its 2018 season with a December 1 benefit "Gala" and a dramatic tribute to Polish astronomer, **Nicholas Copernicus**. The event was fittingly held at the **Copernicus Center** in Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood.

In his opening remarks, **Michael Patrick Thornton**, co-founder and artistic director of The Gift, cited the revolutionary discoveries of Copernicus that changed the way mankind perceived itself and the universe. He then called the attention of the guests to an actor portraying Copernicus who went on to introduce subsequent dramatic and musical performances.

The Gift, a highly-acclaimed professional acting company, performs in an intimate Jefferson Park storefront theater. Many of the plays it produces are premieres, written by promising contemporary playwrights. The name and mission of The Gift derives from a quote from

"Towards a Poor Theatre" by Polish director, **Jerzy Grotowski**. It explains that, through the "special process of discipline and self-sacrifice" the actor ultimately "makes a total gift of himself."

The Gift's 2018 (the gifttheatre.org) season will feature the plays: "Hang Man" by Stacy Amma Ossei-Kuffour, "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare, and "Cosmologies" by ensemble member and Tony Award winner, David Rabe.

ALLEGED ANTI-POLISH CONFUSION AT ST. ADALBERT. There were some within Chicago's Polish-speaking community that felt the November 5 All Saints' Day prayer and song ceremony held at the Katyń Memorial within St. Adalbert Cemetery was unjustly disrupted. There apparently was a misunderstanding or a lack of communication between those who organized this event and the administrators of the cemetery.

Labeled by some as an anti-Polish incident and reported as such by Polish media, that view was far from the truth. According to the organizers of the ceremony, Polish religious songs were being broadcast by loudspeakers.

On the day of this incident, Polonian journalist, **Robert Nicpoń**, chairman of the Committee for the Care of the Katyń Memorial, which is a member of the Alliance of Polish Clubs, reported to the media concerning the conduct of the cemetery manager, **Darek Śmigielski**. Nicpoń told the media that, just

for Polish Ministry Outreach, did not officially comment on this controversy, as he was not familiar with all the specifics. He suggested that there just might have been a misunderstanding and lack of knowledge of the rules governing cemetery protocol. He also mentioned that, if he had received a request for help from the organizers, he would have gladly reached a compromise. Apparently, a source asked Piotr Semeniuk, Polish Vice Consul, for his opinion on the matter, but he declined comment since this situation was out of the Consulate's jurisdiction.

Jan Kopeć, President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs, who participated in this All Saints ceremony, mentioned that the course of events, as stated by the Polish media, was exaggerated and distorted. The incidents that the Polish media wrote about did not happen as reported. Śmigielski simply asked those present at the Katyń Memorial to mute the loudspeaker music. Kopeć agreed, stating, "And rightly so, because the cemetery is a place of recollection and prayer. We silenced the music and the celebration continued according to the program. Mr. Śmigielski assured us that in the future we could arrange similar ceremonies and give prior notice of their dates and programs." Proper cemetery protocol requires the preservation of a quiet environment in the cemetery out of respect for the dead and for families who visit the graves of loved ones.



Emilia Sojka Tobor

prior to the beginning of the ceremony, Śmigielski called him and further exacerbated the situation by driving up to the Katyń Memorial demanding that the loudspeaker music cease. Because of the religious nature of the Polish songs, the media suggested that this was an anti-Polish attitude of the part of the cemetery's administration.

Rev. Robert Fedek, the Archdiocese of Chicago representative

POLISH ARTS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY. On December 10, the Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC) held its annual Christmas luncheon at the Lone Tree Manor in Niles, Illinois. Club president, Anne "Happy" Oerke, welcomed 80 guests and Edward Kunzman, first vice president, gave the invocation. The PACC's scholarship recipient and violinist, **Emilia Sojka-Topor**, and her piano accompanist, Jason Chen, performed Brahms's *Sonata for Violin and Piano, No. 2*, as well as Mozart's *Violin Concerto, No. 3, Movement No. 1*. After the sharing of *oplatki* and a Polish-style luncheon, everyone enjoyed the PACC's raffle of holiday items and fine wines. The group joined in singing favorite Christmas carols to the piano playing of Robert Dutka.

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Minnesota Voice

Pittsburgh pair to discuss Operation Vistula

by Mark Dillon

MINNEAPOLIS — On Feb. 3, Pittsburgh film producers and Carpatho-Rusyn activists John Righetti and Maria Silvesti will discuss their 2017 work *Even Tears Were Not Enough*, a documentary about Operation Vistula, the forced post-World War II relocation of Lemko, Boykos and Rusyn people from Southern Poland to Silesia and Pomerania.

The talk will be hosted by the Rusin Association of Minnesota at their annual Fr. Alexander Duhnovich, dinner, named for a Greek Catholic priest, author and poet who established the first Ruthenian cultural association, the Prešov Literary Society in what is now Slovakia. The event will be at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center. (See rusinmn.org)

Beginning in April 1947, Operation Vistula was a program by the then-Communist governments of Poland and Russia that forced 141,000 civilians residing around Bieszczady and Low Beskids to resettle in formerly German territories, ceded to Poland at the Yalta Conference in 1945.

In the fall of 2016, Righetti and Silvesti traveled to Europe to interview survivors. They created a film that debuted this past April at the Ruska Bursa Lemko cultural center in Gorlice, Poland and the **Collegium Maius of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków** on the 70th anniversary of the resettlement.

The goal of the Communists after occupying the area in 1944-1945 was to crush ethnic dissent and curtail armed rebellion in southeastern Poland and western Ukraine. People were moved to the so-called "recovered territories" several hundred

miles to the east even though the Lemko, Rusyn and Boykos cultures had lived in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains for hundreds of years.

Silvesti says the forced relocation, condemned by both Poland and Ukraine in 2007 as ethnic cleansing, had its roots during World War I when Austrian-Hungarian Empire forces mistakenly regarded the Galicia region's population as sympathizers with the invading Russian Army in autumn 1914. Helped by the Germans in May 1915, the Austrian-Hungarian Army recaptured the area during the Gorlice-Tarnow Offensive.

"Our intelligentsia and clergy were arrested and taken to Austrian concentration camps. We usually associate concentration camps with World War II, but Carpatho-Rusyns were subjected to this form of cultural genocide many years earlier," Silvesti says in an interview with *Foundation Source*, a non-profit management consultant based in Fairfield, Conn.

CLASSIC NYE'S TO RETURN, BUT NOT THE ORIGINAL FORMULA. Like the original Coca-Cola, Nye's of Minneapolis is a making comeback. However, the bar's owners are not exactly bringing back classic Polish American hospitality.

A year and a half after closing Nye's Polonaise Room to make way for a mid-rise luxury apartment and retail complex, the Jacob brothers have announced plans to open Nye's Piano Bar on part of the East Hennepin Ave. site. It's the part that originally was Midwest Brewing Co.'s 1907 tavern, designed by Krakow-born architect Victor Cordella.



Close up of Saint John Paul II relic.

Don't look for any kielbasa, pierogi, or even a menu. No food will be served at the 1,300-square-foot bar, Rob and Tony Jacob told *The Minneapolis Star-Tribune*. There's no room for a kitchen. The original bar and restaurant was 11,000 square feet, operated for 66 years, and was labeled the best Polish bar in America in 2006 by *Esquire* magazine.

To their credit, Scafer Richardson, the developers of Montage Apartments, restored the exterior look of the site, complete with one of Cordella's signature Corinthian pillars, a design motif he used on many of the Polish and Slavic churches he designed in Minnesota. The Jacobs also want to recycle a large red neon Nye's sign that hung at the original entrance.

Nye's owners had encased Cordella's pillar in the mid-1960s with concrete block, and work crews

in mid-2017 found the architect's handiwork while digging through a crawl space, says Montage spokeswoman Katie Anthony.

New windows and lighting now give the site a more upscale feel. So does a luxury apartment on the second floor above the bar that rents for more than \$3,700 a month. "We installed special sound proofing" Anthony notes.

The goal is to open before Christmas, and build up business ahead of the Sunday, Feb. 4 Super Bowl LII down the road at US Bank Stadium.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II RELIC TOURS MINNESOTA PARISHES.

Three suburban Roman Catholic parishes in the Twin Cities hosted three days of veneration and prayer as part of a nationwide tour featuring a relic of Saint John Paul II, a vial of his blood encased in a book-like reliquary.

St. Hubert in Chanhassen, Guardian Angels in Chaska and St. Joseph in West St. Paul welcomed Mother Adela and three Sisters of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary between Nov. 28 and Dec. 1

Nearly 2,000 adults and school-children turned out on Nov. 29 at St. Hubert's, which included a morning Mass celebrated by Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis Archbishop Bernard Hebda and several hours of evening veneration and discussion. Archbishop Hebda, a Polish American from Pittsburgh, recounted his days studying in Rome when John Paul II was Pope. Mother Adela recalled being with the Pope in Fatima, Portugal at the time that John Paul II placed a bullet that had injured him in the 1981 assassination attempt into the crown of the 1920 statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The sisters say the first-class relic has been associated with miraculous healings from cancer, infertility and emotional illness since 2013, when it first toured the United States. Along with Latin American countries, the sisters have brought the relic to five states and Washington, D.C., this year.

The sisters are bringing the relic to Nicaragua before returning it to Rome. It is one of four relics of St. John Paul II's blood and the only pilgrim relic. The blood was drawn close to the pope's 2005 death, anticipating the need for a transfusion. The blood was not needed, and several tubes were taken for relics. Because an anti-coagulant substance was present in the test tubes at the time of extraction, the blood remains in a liquid state, according to the Vatican Information Service.

Chicago Polonians You Should Know

Renata Dworak, Soprano, Pianist, Conductor

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

The second person in the series of "Chicago Polonians You Should Know" is Renata Dworak, a 27-year-old, who, in her own special way, brings pride into the Polish American culture.

Born in 1990 in Chicago to a Polish immigrant father and a first-generation Polish American mother, Renata Dworak grew up doing what many Polish American children do. Along with all of her grammar and high school responsibilities and music lessons, she found time to attend Polish language school, spending 11 years at the Maximilian Kolbe Polish School on Chicago's Northwest Side and graduating with her *Matura* diploma, mastering the art of the Polish language and knowledge of Polish history and culture.

Renata's grandparents had immigrated to Chicago after World War II, with her paternal grandmother and her father, arriving in 1972. It would appear that Renata led an average teenager's life: graduating from Glenbrook North High School in Glenview, Illinois, along with many years spent learning to play the piano and practicing her talents as a soprano.

She went on to DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, to earn a bachelor's degree in Choral Music Education and Piano. It was during her final year at DePauw, while student teaching, that she began to show great promise as a choral conductor with interests in all levels of choral music, from concerts and musicals, to gospel and a cappella choirs. Upon graduating from DePauw, she was awarded the outstanding pianist music award. She also won numerous awards for choral conducting and piano. Additionally, she received two graduate studies scholarships to the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, where she earned a Master of Music degree in choral

conducting. Renata studied privately with many distinguished choral professionals from DePauw, Princeton, Yale, and Temple, and went on to study and teach voice, piano, organ, and harpsichord.

Her passion, however, remained choral conducting. While at DePauw, she established the university's only student-run chamber choir, *Les Chanteurs*. Her duties included auditioning the ensemble members, selecting the repertoire, and rehearsing and conducting the choir. Her enthusiasm, commitment, and efforts led to the choir's outstanding reputation.

Renata spent her post-graduate years directing choral groups such as: Education Outreach at the Castleton Festival in Virginia, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Elora Ontario Festival Singers, and the Eastman Repertory Singers, Women's Chorus and its Chamber Choir. She became assistant director of choirs at Princeton.

In March 2017, as interim-director of choirs at Princeton, she conducted the Princeton University Glee Club, chamber choir, and the university orchestra. Under her direction, they performed Mozart's Requiem to a first-time-ever, sold-out, standing-room-only crowd.

While at DePaul, Renata met Ari Berlin. They were married in 2016. As fate would have it, and while Renata was building her career at Princeton, Ari accepted a position with the U.S. State Department, accepting his first assignment as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa,

Ethiopia. The two-year assignment began in June 2017. Renata gave up Princeton to join him.

But considering Renata's love of music, she began to think of using her musical skills while in Ethiopia. She befriended Dr. Ephraim Isaac, an Ethiopian Scholar and Peace Activist, who introduced her to the political climate of Ethiopia and taught her about the cultural diversity amongst the nation's ethnicities. She noted that musical illiteracy was overwhelmingly common.

Renata soon discovered that there were many choruses throughout Addis Ababa. However, she also noticed that none of these choruses aimed to bring together diverse groups of singers to study music from around the world in a community chorus setting. She also noticed that none of these groups knew how to read music. After she discussed her concerns with Dr. Isaac, the Peace and Development Center in Addis Ababa, and her colleagues at Princeton University, they devised a plan to establish an Ethiopian Peace Choir, which would be under her direction. Princeton, officials at the Peace and Development Center, and Dr. Isaac helped generate 34% of the funds needed to sustain the Choir's first season. Renata also applied for and received a grant from the U.S. Embassy's public affairs department to help defray additional costs. Princeton donated a piano. In October, she started auditing singers for this 80-member chorus. Renata's motto is "I conduct my choir, like I conduct my life."



DWORAK

Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship Deadline Nears

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation, An American Center for Polish Culture, is accepting applications for its Tuition Scholarship programs including Tuition Scholarships (for graduate studies); the Dr. Marie E. Zakrzewska Medical Scholarship (for women who are studying medicine); the Massachusetts Federation of Polish Women's Clubs Scholarships (for undergraduate residents of Massachusetts); the Polish American Club of North Jersey Scholarships (for undergraduate members of the Polish American Club of North Jersey), the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn, USA Scholarship (for undergraduate members of Group #1903), and The Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Science Scholarship (for undergraduate students who show exceptional promise in the Natural Sciences – 3.5 minimum GPA required).

The KF's Tuition Scholarships will be awarded for academic year Fall 2018-Spring 2019. Applications and supporting materials are being accepted now through January 22, 2018.

Kosciuszko Foundation's Tuition Scholarships are awarded to American students of Polish descent, however, non-heritage Americans may apply if their major is Polish language, history and literature. The greater portion of the Foundation's tuition scholarships are awarded for graduate level studies in the United States. Scholarships are also awarded to Polish-Americans for studies at English Schools of Medicine in Poland. Applicants who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and expect to be enrolled in full-time studies next year are eligible to apply. (A minimum 3.5 GPA is required for the Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Science Scholarship). Kosciuszko Foundation's Tuition Scholarships supports all majors.

For further details regarding eligibility, selection criteria and to apply on-line, please see <https://www.thekf.org/kf/scholarships/tuition/>

Toledo Polonia

What's Ahead for in 2018

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Here's hoping this column finds everyone happy and healthy after another busy Christmas season. Tradition being so important to Polish Americans, the following is a brief line-up of Toledo Polonia events and activities. Some are traditional, and some are new. And by no means is the list meant to be all-inclusive; I'm sure I've overlooked an event or two.

- The **Toledo Area Polka Society** continues to preserve live polka music as the only polka organization left in Toledo, with the dissolution of the IMA in the spring of 2017. TAPS will once again sponsor six dances throughout the season, and the 4th Annual **Polish Summer Picnic** in June 2018. TAPS' new website offers more information on these events, the TAPS story, and much more.
- Well into its second century, the **Polish-American Concert Band** is a legendary community brass band dedicated to bringing quality performances to the greater Toledo area, in venues as varied as the City of Perrysburg, the German-American Festival, and Woodward High School, where the Annual Fall-Winter Concert carries on, a closing tradition of the long Thanksgiving weekend for decades.
- After a highly successful golden anniversary year in 2016, the **Echoes of Poland Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble** heralds in 2018 with their ever-popular pierogi sales and dinners,

and of course various performances around the community for diverse crowds.

- **St Hyacinth Catholic Parish**, in conjunction with its sister parish St. Charles, offers several events throughout the year to celebrate the Polish heritage of the south Toledo Poles in the area known as Kufanc. Highlights from St. Hyacinth include a Polka Party Picnic held in Aug, and the return of polka music on New Year's Eve, complete with a Polish dinner.
 - **St. Adalbert Catholic Parish**, in the LaGrinka neighborhood also continues to present Polish traditions throughout the year, such as the October Polish American heritage festival, the Divine Mercy Sunday meal, and a traditional Wigilia complete with the singing of Koledy in mid-December.
 - The **Toledo Polish Genealogical Society** is dedicated to helping Polish Americans trace their roots to the old country, often with a few surprises. Monthly meetings include speakers, power point presentations, workshops on Polish genealogy and Polish culture and always include great refreshments.
 - The **Polish-American Community of Toledo** sponsors a slew of events throughout the year to support its mission, including a Kielbasa Cook-Off, Texas Hold 'Em poker tournaments, a scholarship competition in conjunction with the Toledo-Poznan Alliance, Dozynki, and a Wigilia celebration.
- Happy New Year, everyone!

New Year's Traditions

by Barbara Szydowski

New Year's Eve in Poland is called "Sylwester." According to legend, it is associated with Pope Sylvester I, who supposedly caught a dragon named Leviathan. On the first date of the year 1000, the dragon was able to get himself liberated from Pope Sylvester's regime, and went on to demolish land and people as well as set fire to the heavens. However, the dragon was later caught, and the world survived on New Year's Day. In commemoration, people started celebrating and rejoicing New Year's Day as St. Sylvester's Day.

Also there is an important tradition of smudging windows and doorknobs of the house with tar. Doing such things is believed to symbolize the driving out the old year and welcoming in the new.

IN CERTAIN REGIONS of Lithuania, New Year's Eve was known as "the little Christmas Eve." Foods similar to those of Christmas Eve were prepared — a noticeable difference being that the dishes could contain meat and straw was not placed under the tablecloth. Folks stayed up on New Year's Eve at least until midnight to greet the new year. However, if an individual slept through such an important moment, his entire year would be bad.

THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY, January 6, is celebrated with an array of customs around the world. In some cultures, the greenery and nativity scenes are taken down. In countries shaped by Catholicism and Protestantism, customs often involve

gift giving "king cakes" and a celebratory close to the Christmas season. In Orthodox nations, these celebrations center around water, baptismal rites and house blessings

In Slovenia, during the first day of the year and on Epiphany, children go from house to house hoping that villagers will give them almonds, dried figs, nuts and cookies. In Romania and Moldova, Epiphany celebrations follow religious services, and men participate in winter horse races. Before the race, men line up with their horses before the priest who blesses them by sprinkling them with green branches that have been dipped into holy water.

In Poland, Epiphany or *Trzech Krolu* is celebrated with parades held welcoming the Wise Men, often riding on camels. The Wise Men hand out sweets to children dressed in Renaissance wear or in colors signifying Europe, Asia and Africa (supposedly homes of the Magi), carols are sung and living nativity scenes are enacted. At the end of the parade, church leaders lecture on the spiritual significance of the Epiphany. Once cancelled under communism some fifty years before, Epiphany was restored as an official non-working national public holiday in Poland on 2011, by an Act of Parliament. The Blessing of



According to tradition, to protect against illness and misfortune for those within, the letters K+M+B+ the year are written above the door with the blessed chalk on The Feast of Epiphany, January 6. It can also be written, as for this year 20 K+M+B 18.

Houses and star singing are popular in Poland. Also Poles take small boxes containing chalk, a gold ring, incense and a piece of amber — in memory of the gifts of the Magi — to church to be blessed. According to tradition, to protect against illness and misfortune for those within, the letters K+M+B+ are written above the door with the blessed chalk. The letters with a cross after each one applied to the names of the Three Kings: Kaspar, Melchior and Balthazar. On January 6 throughout Europe, a Three Kings cake is served with a coin or almond baked inside. Epiphany in Poland also signals the beginning of "zapusty" or carnival time when paczki are served.

*Jeżeli pszczoła w styczniu
z ula wylatuje,
rzadko pomyślny rok
nam obiecuje.*

*A bee in January
taking flight,
promises a year
with little delight.*

Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

Daemen College Creates a "Center for Polish Studies"

by Michael Pietruszka

Daemen College in Amherst has created a "Center for Polish Studies." Details are available at <https://www.daemen.edu/academics/areas-study/history-political-science/center-polish-studies> ... The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY held its Annual Christmas Party and Installation Dinner at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew, Dec. 2nd. ... Also on the 2nd, the **Chopin Singing Society** attracted over 300 people to its "Wigilia" at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga; the **Polka Variety Social Club** held its Christmas Party featuring Phocus at the Pvt. Leonard Post VFW Hall in Cheektowaga; **Fr. Czeslaw Krysa** explained the significance of the Oplatek Christmas Wafer at the St. Casimir's Social Center in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood; the **Adam Mickiewicz Library** and Dramatic Circle in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District hosted its "Krampus Knocked" party; and the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYab) **Polish Student Association** held its 45th "Wigilia" at the Newman Center in Amherst.

On Dec. 3, the **Polish Singers Alliance of America** District IX presented its 37th annual "Festival of Polish Christmas Song" at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District ... Also on the 3rd, the **Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies** at the University of Rochester presented cellist Natasha Farny and pianist Anne Kissel performing the works of Grazyna Bacewicz, Fryderyk Chopin, Witold Szalonek and Alexander Tansman in the Third Presby-

terian Church Chapel in Rochester, and the **Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society** hosted its "Wigilia" at the Polish Nook Restaurant in Niagara Falls ... The **General Pulaski Association** hosted its Annual Christmas Party at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cheektowaga on the 4th. In a surprise move, **Stan, Lottie, and Eric Pulaski** resigned from the General Pulaski Association board of directors by letter with that same date. ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers** of WNY performed at the Cheektowaga Senior Center Christmas Party, Dec. 6th, St. Nicholas Day.

On Dec. 8th, the **Meadowvale Theatre** in Mississauga, Ontario presented "Winter Wonderland" featuring the Bartosz Hadal Band, Wojtek Stec, Kaja Cyganik, Ilona Anna Kowalik, Anna Adamczewska Niewulis, Karolina Podolak, Anna Wojcik, Kinga Mitrowska, the "Quo Vadis" Choir and Camerata Troupe ... Also on the 8th, the Stoney Creek (Ontario) Generals played an exhibition game against the **Polish National Men's Hockey Team**.

Musical cabaret "**Tete a Tete**" from Warsaw performed "W siódmym niebie" ("In the Seventh Heaven") at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Dec. 9th ... Also on the 9th, the **Polish Heritage Society** of Rochester held its "Wigilia 2017" at St. John Fisher College, and the **Buffalo Polka Boosters** hosted its Christmas Party with music by John Gora & Gorale at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew.

The **Syracuse Polish Home** hosted its "Wigilia - Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Meal" at its

clubrooms on Park Avenue; the **Villa Maria Chorale** presented a Christmas Concert of Polish and international carols in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in Cheektowaga; and the **Kalina Singing Society** held its "Wigilia" at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, Dec. 10th.

WNED 94.5 FM, WNY's classical music station, broadcast "Watching for the Star: A Polish Christmas Eve," featuring **Eileen Koteras Elibol, Sophie Hodorowicz Knab** and **Fr. Czeslaw Krysa**, Dec. 10th, 18th, 22nd and 24th ... Toronto's Brentwood Library screened "**Sprawiedliwy**" ("Fair") as part of its Polish Film Night series on the 13th ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** held its Annual Meeting and presented Fr. Czeslaw Krysa on "Polish Christmas Traditions" at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst, Dec. 13th, and hosted its "Wigilia Celebration" at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca on the 17th ... **Ted Zdybal i Hyr** from Toronto and Special Delivery performed at "Koledy Night - A Goralskie Christmas" at the Potts Banquet Hall in Cheektowaga, Dec. 16th ... Also on the 16th, Buffalo's Historic **Broadway Market** featured the New Direction Band at its "Christmas at the Market" event, and the **Polish Cadets of Buffalo** hosted its Annual Holiday Dinner Dance at their Grant Street clubrooms.

On the 17th, the **Polish Nook Restaurant** hosted its "Wigilia - Koledy Polka Party at the Nook," and the **Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** staged its "Annual Jaselka" at St. Stanislaus Parish's Msgr. Adamski Social Center

in Buffalo.

The **Adam Mickiewicz Library** and Dramatic Circle held its Christmas Party at its Fillmore Avenue clubrooms on the 22nd ... The **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** in Mississauga hosted its "Traditional Polish Wigilia" on Christmas Eve ... The Western New York Division of the **Polish American Congress** held its Annual Christmas Party at the Polish Cadets Hall in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood on the 28th ..., Dec. 30th, the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY performed in "**A Polish Christmas in the Village**" at the Lancaster Opera House ... **Sylwester** celebrations were held on both sides of the Niagara River on New Year's Eve.

UPCOMING. On January 3rd, the **Association of Priests for Polish Affairs** will hold its Annual "Oplatek" ... The **Novi Singers**, Toronto Sinfonietta Instrumental Ensemble and Majeranki Polish Children's Ensemble will perform a concert of Polish Christmas carols entitled "Christ is Born - Bog Sie Rodzi" at the Islington United Church in Toronto on January 7th.

The Lancaster Opera House will present a production of Tom Dudzick's "**Over the Tavern**" from January 12th through the 21st ... On January 13th, the Syracuse Polish Home will host its "Oplatek Gala Dinner Dance" at its Park Avenue clubrooms ... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** will hold its Installation and Scholarship Luncheon at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca, and the **Symfonia Choir** will host a "Koledy Concert" at the Hamilton, Ontario Polish Canadian

Legion Hall, Jan. 14th.

The Western New York Division of the **Polish American Congress** will sponsor its "Polish Winterfest" at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park on January 14th, as well ... **Forgotten Buffalo** will offer its "Polish Tavern Christmas Tour," Jan. 20th ... On Jan. 28th, **Jennie Smith**, the daughter of Irena Gut-Opdyke, will speak on the "Righteous Among the Nations" at Canisius College.

The General Pulaski Association will hold its **Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony** at the Pulaski statue in Downtown Buffalo on March 2nd, to be followed by the group's Installation Banquet at the Protocol Restaurant in Cheektowaga.

On March 9th, the Polish rock group "**Perfect**" will perform at the Meeting House in Oakville, Ontario ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team has announced that its "**Polish Festival Night**" will be held on August 7th at Coca-Cola Field. Mira Szramel from the Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School will be honored as the team's "Polish American of the Year," and **Matthew Kushner** of the *Am-Pol Eagle* newspaper, will receive the team's Leadership Award. The Bisons will play the Gwinett Braves that evening ... The **Syracuse Polish Home** is planning a trip to Poland featuring visits to Krakow, Auschwitz, Zakopane, Gdansk, Malbork and Torun from June 30-July 12, 2018.

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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 6th for the February issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

Polish Chef

The treats of Polish Karnawał (Mardi Gras)

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

BREADED PORK CUTLETS (*kotlety schabowe*). Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" - 1/3" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine,

plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil, drain on paper towel and serve immediately. Optional: For super-tender cutlets, transfer cutlets to baking pan, add 2-3 T pan drippings and 2 T boiling water, cover and seal with foil and let simmer in 350° oven 30 min.

KIELBASA & SAUERKRAUT (*kielbasa z kapustą*). Preheat oven to 390°. Place 2-1/2 lbs fresh kielbasa in one layer in baking pan greased with 1 T lard or butter. Cut 2 onions into quarters and slice each quarter quite thin, spreading onions on and around the kielbasa. Bake 15 min, then reduce heat to 350°, add 1 c hot water and bake another 40 min. Meanwhile, drain 2 - 3 qts sauerkraut and rinse in cold water. Drain, press out moisture, chop coarsely, place in pot, scald with boiling water to cover, add 1 bay leaf and cook uncovered 45 min. Drain and transfer to baking pan. Cut baked fresh kielbasa prepared as above into 3" pieces and mix with sauerkraut. Season kielbasa pan drippings with

1 t liquid Maggi seasoning and add to sauerkraut. Optional: Sprinkle with 1/2 - 1 t caraway seeds. Bake in 350° oven 60 min or so. Leave in oven 30 min after switching off heat. Taste improves with each reheating.

MEAT-FILLED PIEROGI (*pierogi z mięsem*). For the dough: Sift 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 c flour onto bread-board. Sprinkle with 1/2 t salt. Deposit 1 small egg at center and use knife to mix outlying flour into egg. Gradually add about 1/2 fairly hot water in a thin stream and work mixture by hand into a dough, gradually working in 1-2 T salad oil. Knead well until dough is smooth and elastic and no longer sticks to hand. On lightly floured board, roll out thin 1/3 of the dough, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of filling just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. Cook in boiling lightly salted water. When they float up, cook a bit longer. Test one for doneness. For

the filling: Soak a crumbled-up stale bread roll in water. Dice 1" square pork fatback and brown lightly with 2 finely chopped onions. Grind 3/4 lb cooked beef, pork or dark-meat turkey or any combinations thereof together with the onions and squeezed-out roll. Mix well and salt & pepper to taste. Add 2 T bouillon if very dry. Serve garnished with fried chopped onions.

To Honor Kosciuszko

PHILADELPHIA — Annual Tribute Ceremony honoring General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, marking the 272nd anniversary of his birth and the 201st anniversary of his death, will be held Sat., Feb. 3, 2018 at noon at the Kosciuszko House, 3rd & Pine Streets.

The event is sponsored by the Polish American Congress Eastern Pennsylvania District. A luncheon will follow at the Polish American Cultural Center Museum. For information or luncheon reservations call (215) 739-3408 or (215) 922-1700.



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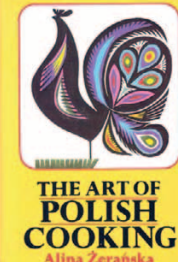
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12 b/w illus. Index 2nd ptg
Reissued by Pelican Publishing, *The Art of Polish Cooking*, contains 500 authentic recipes, complete with recipes for *hors d'oeuvres*, soups, entrees, vegetables, pastries, desserts, and beverages. Special holiday menus are also presented, along with charming descriptions of traditional 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.

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.



THE 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 Cook-

book 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.

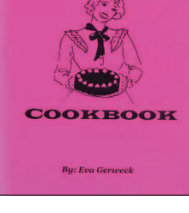
The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen. Illustrations and pearls of practical wisdom ("Household Hints") complement this book.



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A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerweck. Fillings, toppings, and a variety of dough recipes as well.


Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from New York to California!



Polish Girl
COOKBOOK
By Eva Gerweck

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK
\$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, Item 2-301
44 pp., sc.
Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees,

breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.



THE POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK
\$10.00
Item 2-302
by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

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

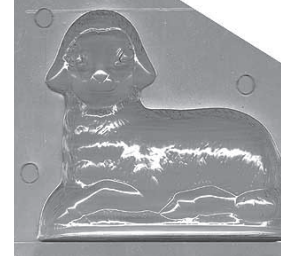


PLEASING POLISH RECIPES
Pleasing Polish Recipes
by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski
\$8.95
Item 2-678

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.

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 POLISH KITCHEN 2-280	 POLISH CHICK 2-224	 STO LAT 2-274	 I LOVE PIEROGI 2-225	Visit our on-line bookstore at polamjournal.com Many more items including recordings, cards, ornaments, etc.

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Our Organizations

The Polish Drama Club



THE POLISH DRAMA CLUB promotes Polish culture and history by popularizing literary compositions selected from Poland's rich national heritage of dramatic works, poetry, and high literature. The Club operates in the greater Washington, D.C. area, thanks to the exclusive participation of member-volunteers. In May of 2015, the Club obtained non-profit 501c(3) status.

Organized in Rockville, Maryland in 2009, the PDC consists of adults, youth, and children of the local Polonia.

Club goals include:

1. Promoting Polish literature through theatrical performances, poetry recitations and readings, sung poetry performances, the-

atre lessons, and educational projects designed to increase knowledge of famous Polish authors and literary heroes;

2. Developing a platform for relaying information about contemporary and historical Polish culture, particularly in the fields of literature and theatre; and,

3. Establishing free cultural events for the local Polish community, including theatre performances, poetry evenings, musical performances, anniversary parties, and other special events.

The Polish Drama Club actively collaborates with the Polish Library and the Polish Embassy in Washington. It is proud of its reputation for undertaking brave ventures and producing plays that might appear quite challenging for an amateur theatrical troupe. The onstage successes following these ambitious projects, the audience's enjoyment, and boundless enthusiasm in preparing new productions, give tremendous satisfaction to the Club's members and increases their eagerness to embark on future projects.

To learn more, visit www.polish-dramaclub.org.

Restaurateur Relies on Family Tradition

EAST QUOGUE, New York — Despite the site's unsuccessful past, the barn-style building on the corner of Old Country Road and Montauk Highway has hope, thanks to its new owner, **Sandra Sadowski** (inset).

She bought the 1,844-square-foot building for \$850,000 in August after falling in love with its rustic open floor plan and wrap-around porch.

Sadowski said the building matched her vision perfectly. After a few aesthetic upgrades and some minor deck repairs, she opened her doors in early October serving brunch, lunch and dinner six days a week. She calls her masterpiece Hamptons Farms.

"I really wanted to create a place where local people who are working can come and have lunch in a warm inviting environment," Sadowski said.

The concept behind every meal is fresh ingredients, no artificial colors, hormones, or pesticides. She explained that all of the ingredients used in her comfort food are purchased from local farms, butcheries, and fish markets.

The 41-year-old entrepreneur is confident that her restaurant is here to stay. She said its ever-changing menu will keep it fresh and new even for regular customers. "We change the menu based on what's available," Sadowski said. "If I can't get a fresh piece of fish, we won't have it on the menu."

To be true to who she is, Sadowski recollected her childhood. Growing up in a Polish family, living on 12 acres in Kinderhook, she would harvest vegetables from her family's 20-foot by 100-foot garden and pick apples and peaches from the trees growing there, all while her father would hunt in the backyard and butcher the deer before dinner.

"That's how I lived my whole life," she said. "I can't imagine eating another way."



A Labor of Love and Sharing

Friends of John Paul II Foundation Celebrate St. John Paul II's Legacy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Beautiful summer-like weather prevailed on the Feast Day of St. John Paul II as over 100 guests gathered to celebrate "Wadowice on the Potomac," Sun., October 22, 2017, at the Gala Reception of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Washington, D.C. Chapter.

Held this year at the Residence of His Excellency Piotr Wilczek, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington, the event commemorates the birthplace (Wadowice, Poland) — and the papacy of Karol Wojtyła, who became the most famous son of Poland, Pope John Paul II — and serves as a fundraiser for the John Paul II Foundation begun by him.

The Guest of Honor, His Excellency Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, was welcomed at the entrance by Ambassador Wilczek and further escorted into the Residence by members of the color guard of the Knights of Columbus.

Bozenna Buda, president of Friends of John Paul II Washington Chapter, thanked Ambassador Wilczek for his patronage of this event and welcomed the Nuncio and other honored guests and attendees.

In her presentation, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, master of ceremonies and chair of the event committee, reflected on how Wadowice was also the town where, citing George Weigel (the scholar and biographer of St. John Paul II), "the boy who

Netflix's First Polish-Language Series

by Staś Kmieć

Oscar-nominated Polish director Agnieszka Holland (*In Darkness*) has signed on to direct Netflix's first-ever original series in the Polish language.

The still-unnamed series will be set in an alternative history where the Iron Curtain never fell.

Following the grand tradition of Cold War spy thrillers, it is now 2002, twenty years after a devastating terrorist attack in 1982 that halted the course of Poland's liberation and the subsequent downfall of the Soviet Union, an idealistic law student and a disgraced police investigator stumble upon a conspiracy that has kept the Iron Curtain standing and Poland living under a repressive police state.

The series was created and written by Joshua Long. Holland will co-direct the series together with her daughter Kasia Adamik, who directed HBO Europe's acclaimed Polish-language series *The Border*. Holland previously collaborated with Netflix on several episodes of *House of Cards*.

Holland's latest film, *Spoor*, about a retired engineer in a remote area of Poland who starts her own investigation after finding a body, has been selected to represent Poland in the foreign-language Oscar race.

Netflix is the world's leading subscription internet entertainment service, and continues its investment in European productions. The first, eight-episode season of the series will be shot in various cities and regions in Poland this year, and is set to launch to Netflix members worldwide in 2018.

ŁEMPICKA WORK MISSING. Art Recovery International is searching for Tamara De Lempicka's *Myrto*.

During World War II, Nazi occupation forces stole the painting from the private collection of Dr. Pierre Boucard in France. To date, it has never resurfaced.

The painting was exhibited in 1929 at Salon d'Automne, Paris, and again in 1931 at Galerie Colette Weil, Paris. *Myrto* was purchased by Dr. Boucard in 1930.



Agnieszka Holland

Tamara Łempicka (born Maria Górska in 1898), also known as Tamara de Lempicka, was a Polish painter active in the 1920s and 1930s, who spent her working life in France and the United States. She is best known for her polished Art-Deco portraits of aristocrats and the wealthy, and for her highly-stylized paintings of nudes.

If you have seen, or have any information as to its whereabouts, please contact: Christopher A. Marinello, chris@artrecovery.com. Italy mobile: +39 329 693 2606; UK mobile: +44 (0) 7702 206 913.

All communication will be kept strictly confidential.

FBI HELPS RECOVER PAINTING. Assistance from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations enabled Poland to recover a valuable painting by 19th-century Polish painter Robert Śliwiński.

The canvas titled "Street with Castle Ruins" went missing during World War II.

"The United States is profoundly aware of the importance of cultural heritage to any nation and perhaps none more so than to Poland," remarked Paul W. Jones, the United States ambassador to Poland.

AUCTION BLOCKED. Polish officials have successfully stopped Sotheby's of London (auction house) from auctioning off the painting "Sword Dance" by 19th-century Polish artist Henryk Siemiradzki.

During World War II, Poland lost more than half a million art objects valued at an estimated \$11 billion. Only a fraction of these have ever been recovered.

would become one of the most consequential figures of his time, and a saint (guided by the central figure in his life, his father) learned his first lessons in fatherhood, religious tolerance, patriotism, and the transformative power of suffering borne in faith and hope."

Dr. Marek Michalski, of the Friends of John Paul II, introduced Abp. Pierre, and also spoke of the work of the Foundation begun by Pope John Paul II and the current programs to continue that legacy.

Abp. Pierre spoke movingly about "John Paul II and the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000" and the symbolic exhortation of Pope John Paul II who began his papacy with the words, "Be not afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ," and the concept of Divine Mercy, which guided this Pope, who lived through the Nazi occupation of Poland during World War II and later years of Communism.

President Bozenna Buda and Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak presented Archbishop Pierre with a memento in the form of an engraved three-dimensional laser art crystal containing images of St. John Paul II and that of the Archbishop.

THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, Karol Wojtyła felt a close kinship with the Górale (the mountaineers of Poland) and enjoyed singing in his sonorous baritone. Upon his triumphant return to Poland as Pope he was wel-



(l. to r.): Bozenna Buda, His Excellency Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, and Ambassador of the Republic of Poland Piotr Wilczek.

comed and serenaded by young and old with his favorite songs. Here at the Wadowice celebration, dressed in the traditional *górale* costumes, two young people, Adam Hawiger and Aleksandra Parczewska, lent their respective talents in playing the accordion and in leading the audience in singing the favorite songs of Pope John Paul II. These included: "Abba Ojciec" (Abba Father), "Góralu, czy ci nie żal?" (The Mournful Mountaineer), "Czarna Madonna," (the Black Madonna) and the all-time favorite, "Barka," (the Barge) in English and in Polish. It was a delightful, energetic and an inspiring afternoon with an attentive audience who came from near and far to celebrate and honor St. John Paul II, a son of Poland and a saint of the world.

Sisters Bozenna Buda and Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak of the John Paul II Foundation, Washington D.C. Chapter, who organized this year's "Wadowice on the Potomac,"

were themselves born in Poland but spent their formative years in Buffalo, N.Y. They fondly recall being students at St. Valentine Grammar School and the Felician Sisters who taught there, and later, South Park High School, where they received numerous academic awards, and became valedictorians of their respective graduating classes. Both sisters have held leadership roles in various Polonarian organizations in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Both

have been honored with the Cavalier Cross of the Republic of Poland for their work.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS.

But what they treasure the most are the teachings of Saint John Paul II, and the important role these played both in their parents' lives and their own. When Pope John Paul II made his first visit to the United States in 1979, they were there on the Washington Mall, among throngs of other young people, to welcome him.

Their involvement with the Friends Chapter began many years ago and their goal is to share the good news about Saint John Paul II with others and to continue the work begun by him through the Foundation he started during his lifetime.

Organizing the "Wadowice on the Potomac" Gala Reception and Fundraiser was their labor of love and sharing.

PHOTO BY DOMINIK MIKOLAJCZYK

Sports

Poland Hopes New Year will Bring Sports Success

by Tom Tarapacki

WORLD CUP DREAMS. The 2018 FIFA World Cup is taking place in Russia from June 14 to July 15, and Poland will take part for the first time since 2006. Since it's being held in Russia, you can expect large numbers of Polish fans to travel to the games.

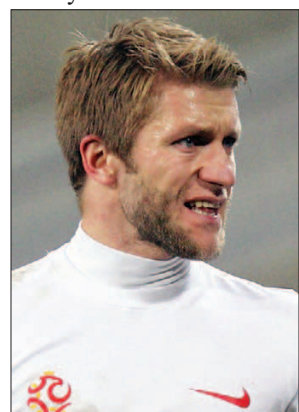
This may be the last chance to play in the World Cup for two great players, strikers **Robert Lewandowski** and **Jakub Blaszczykowski**. They will be 29 and 32 respectively by the finals.

Lewandowski has been named the Polish Player of the Year a record six times, and is considered one of the best in the world. He is the all-time top scorer for Poland, with 51 international goals, and one of his country's most popular athletes.



Lewandowski

Blaszczykowski, known as "Kuba," was named Poland's top soccer player in 2008 and 2010. Born in the Silesian village of Truskolasy near Czestochowa, Blaszczykowski



Blaszczykowski

overcame a great personal tragedy. When he was 11 he witnessed his father stabbing his mother to death. His father was sent to prison and Jakub was raised by his grandparents. The promising young soccer player was so traumatized that he gave up soccer. His uncle Jerzy Brzeczek, a former Polish national team captain, convinced him to return to the sport and the youngster developed into one of his country's best. Blaszczykowski, a devout Catholic, is sure his mother is in heaven "looking after me" and he dedicates every goal to her.

By the way, there are rumors that both Lewa and Kuba may play professionally in the U.S. in the near future.

The Polish team is mostly the same one that reached Euro 2016 quarterfinals, losing

to eventual-champion Portugal. Now, under coach **Adam Nawalka**, Poland has changed from a counter-attacking team into one which seeks to control possession. If the defense holds up, big things are possible.

Poland has been placed in Group H for the 2018 World Cup along with Columbia, Senegal and Japan. It's not only a "cross-continental" grouping, it's pretty evenly matched as well. Poland's first match will be June 19 in Moscow against Senegal. Poland takes on Colombia in Kazan on June 24 and Japan in Volgograd four days later.

Poland's last World Cup appearance was in Germany in 2006, when they didn't get past the group stage. Poland's best World Cup finishes came in 1974 in West Germany and 1982 in Spain, coming in third both times.

LOOKING TO PYEONGCHANG 2018. Poland hopes to build on the success of the 2014 Sochi Olympics at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, to be held from February

9th to the 25th in South Korea. The Sochi Games proved to be Poland's best winter Olympics ever, as the Polish squad took home six medals, four of which were gold. Known as "Poland's Golden Olympics," Poles won more Olympic golds in Sochi than during all the past Winter Olympic Games since 1924.

Polish gold medal winners in Sochi included cross-country skier **Justyna Kowalczyk** and ski jumper **Kamil Stoch**, who won two golds. Both are expected to return to this year's Olympics.

TRAMMELL ELECTED. Alan Trammell, a model of consistency throughout his 20-year career with the Detroit Tigers, has finally been elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Hall's Modern Era Committee.

Trammell, 59, hit .285 with 185 home runs and 236 stolen bases. He was a six-time All-Star with four AL Gold Glove Awards, three AL Silver Slugger Awards and was named the World Series MVP in 1984. His numbers compare favorably to other shortstops in the Hall, but he never received more than 40.9 percent of the vote in his 15 years on the writers' ballot. That's well short of the 75 percent required.



Kowalczyk

Tram will be inducted in July along with **Jack Morris**, another member of the 1984 champion Tigers. Trammell, currently a special assistant to Tigers GM **Al Avila**, was inducted into the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

43 YEARS AGO ... In 1975, long before **Mike Krzyzewski** became a household name, the legendary Duke coach took over the basketball program at the U.S. Military Academy. In the December 13, 1975 edition of *Sporting News* Rich Fagan wrote that "Army had a 3-22 record and will improve under Mike Krzyzewski (sic) but not too much." The misspelling was the first mention of Coach K in that publication. Fagan was surprised when a reader wrote a letter correcting the mistake, adding, "I think you'll be hearing — and printing — a lot about Mike in the future. After all if you can spell Yastrzemski ..."

Many years later Fagan decided to track down the writer of the letter, Rich Bysina of Addison Ill., to ask a few questions. Did he really know how to spell Krzyzewski at the time? Why did he have such a high opinion of the rather obscure first-year Army coach?

Fagan found out that Bysina certainly knew how to spell the name, and had good reason for his high opinion of Coach K — he and Krzyzewski were cousins. Coach K's mother, the former Emily Pituch, and Rich's mom, were sisters.

HURLEY RISING. Now in his third season at Arizona State, **Bobby Hurley** has led the Sun Devils to its first top 25 ranking in nine years. The Duke All-American under Mike Krzyzewski won his first six games of the season by scoring 90-plus points in each, something a PAC 12 team hasn't since done 1997. The 2006 inductee into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame has Sun Devil fans hoping the team will achieve its first 20-win season and tourney berth since 2014, and maybe even a first-ever Pac-12 title and first-ever Final Four.

BRUIN BIG MAN. After taking a redshirt year last season with a foot injury, **Alex Olesinski** is back with the UCLA basketball team. The 6'9" power forward is a bit on the lean side at around 200-lb. but he's a very good shooter with excellent ball skills and high basketball IQ.

After starting out at Roswell High School in Roswell, N.M., Alex went to La Lumiere School in La Porte, Ind., where he was a three-star recruit. He joined UCLA in 2015-16 and played in 23 games, averaging 1.2 points and 2.0 rebounds as a freshman.

The following year he sustained a stress re-

action in his left foot in early November and decided to take a redshirt year.

Alex has one older brother, **Marek**, who was four-year basketball player at the Air Force Academy, and a sister, Anna, who competed on the track and cross country teams at Air Force. His mother, Marisha, was a member of the Polish National Basketball Team and his father, Jan, was a member of the Polish National Pentathlon Team and competed in the 1980 Olympics.

Actually, Jan is still going strong; he won gold in the men's age 60-plus tetrathlon (it's like a pentathlon, minus the riding) at the 2016 Master World Championships in Prague. He currently coaches cross country, track, swimming and pentathlon at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell. Marisha coaches the school's women's basketball team.

BIG ADDITION. A big key for the Texas basketball this year is **Dylan Osetkowski**. The San Diego native started his college career at Tulane and played there for two seasons. The 6'-9" forward became a full-time starter as a sophomore, leading his team in rebounding and minutes played. When Tulane coach Ed Conroy was fired, Osetkowski chose to transfer. He eventually decided to go to Texas, and returned this season after sitting out a year.

That move quickly produced results for Texas. A skilled inside-outside player, Dylan's been starting and averaging 14 points and almost eight rebounds for the Longhorns. His play will certainly be key to the team's success this season.

He comes from an athletic family, and his older brothers played basketball and baseball for Columbia. Dylan has a number of tattoos, including the Polish word "wybór," which means choices, on his wrist.

THEY SAID IT

"My grandmother, Mary, was born in Poland and emigrated to Canada when she was 26 ... My grandmother was a tough lady. She loved Frank Mahovlich and all-star wrestling, so you know what I mean."

— *Hockey great Wayne Gretzky, From "Gretzky: An Autobiography."*



"For many of our neighbors, including some who had only recently stepped up from similar circumstances, my father remained a 'dumb immigrant' until the day he died. Maybe that's why Polish jokes still ring unpleasantly in my ears. We weren't Polish, of course, but I always felt the jokes were aimed at Slavs in general, Lithuanians included."

— *Football great Dick Butkus, in "Butkus: Flesh and Blood."*

Milestones

Poremski Closes One Chapter of His Life

BALTIMORE, Md. — Richard Poremski began working on the docks of the Port of Baltimore in 1965 as a general longshoreman, moving cargo on and off the ships. From 1978 to 1985 he was an elected union official in Local 333 of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA). Starting in 1985, and stretching until his retirement, he served as a field representative simultaneously for two ILA-Steamship Trade Association of Baltimore trust funds that the union-management trustees use to provide contractual fringe benefits to the ILA longshoremen and women in the port.

On November 1, 2017 after 52 years of combined and interconnected union-management employment, Poremski opted to retire at age 72.

"During my career I witnessed the total transformation of the cargo operations from hard manual labor to relatively easy containerized automation," he said. "It used to take a gang of 20 men more than an hour to move 20 tons of cargo by

hand. Now one man in a massive container crane can easily move the same 20 tons in two minutes, lifting the 20-foot or 40-foot cargo loaded containers quickly on and off the ship. It's a totally amazing and revolutionary transformation of the shipping industry that started small in the 1960s with shipments from the U.S. mainland to Puerto Rico, and then exploded exponentially across the globe. Everything is now shipped in containers — from ping pong balls to heavy machinery and everything in between."

Poremski said his extended family can trace quite a history at Baltimore harbor: his grandfather, father, two brothers, two uncles, a brother-in-law, and a cousin all worked "on the waterfront."

"Another brother retired recently with 50 years of management service with the Maryland Port Administration," he said. "Collectively, we have at least a few hundred years of total service in the shipping industry. And we also left some blood on the docks ... my grandfather was tragically killed in the early morn-

ing hours of August 16, 1947 after being swept from the deck of a cargo ship onto the pier by a sling of long steel beams."

He added that he was just past two years old at the time, and could never have imagined that he would be the last family member to follow in his grandfather's footsteps onto the docks and ships, and would be the last Poremski left standing at the end of their longshore dynasty.

"We now have gone full circle ... and I enjoyed every minute of my decades-long, multi-faceted blue and white collar work environments," he said. "I am not, however, retiring from the *Polish American Journal!* I've been writing for the PAJ since the state visit of Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski in July 2002 and truly enjoy sharing my experiences with the paper's readership."

Poremski is actively involved in many aspects and organizations of Polonia, is chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation, and is vice president of Council 21 of the Polish National Alliance, both lo-



PHOTO: JULIE MITCHELL

RICHARD P. POREMSKI of the *Polish American Journal's* Washington Bureau, in the Port of Baltimore with a mammoth container ship looming in the background, as he prepared for his retirement on November 1, 2017.

cated in Baltimore.

"PAJ readers can look for my articles into the foreseeable future

— it is my pleasure to continue to serve Polonia to the best of my ability."

Resistance

Government In Transition

by Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

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 Gudziński, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER XXII. Count Tadeusz Komorowski's aristocratic lineage went back to the fifteenth century, when the king of Hungary granted his ancestors a large property in the hills of southern Poland along with the title. An unexpected change of the beneficiary in the will, left the property to his father's sister. His uncle advised him to join the military.

By 1938 he was ready to retire. He had served the Polish Army for twenty-five years, fought in the Great War and commanded a cavalry unit in the 1920 war between

Poland and Russia. Adolf Hitler put an end to the retirement plan.

On July 1, 1943, he signed the oath of office as commander of the Home Army. The Information Bulletin issued his notice of command, the first document to appear with his official signature, "Commander Bor."

Bor's report of the strength of the Home Army should assuage any concerns the collective members of resistance might have after Rowecki's capture. Three-hundred thousand sworn members filled the ranks. The larger portion were average citizens living within their communities. They were on call for any emergency that might need their attention. Available around the clock, was a small group of paid professionals who performed the tasks that demanded a higher level of skill. The fighting military, living in the forest and fighting the Germans whenever the occasion arose, comprised the rest of the aggregate. All three-hundred thousand were under Bor's direct control.

Jankowski called a meeting of the myriad organizations that served under the umbrella of the Council of National Unity to assure the members that plans for an uprising were still paramount in their future agen-

da under newly appointed Premier Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, who did not carry the dual title of Commander in Chief. That office of leadership was granted to General Kazimierz Sosnkowski.

Sosnkowski's blood was every bit as blue as Bor's. His father was a land baron of several villages, and a coat of arms was also on display in their villa. He was instrumental in designing the battle strategy for the 1920 war against Russia. Along with his sharp intellect came an imperious attitude.

General Bor was under his direct command.

The aroma of cabbage baking in tomato sauce wafted into the parish garden, where the two priests sat reading The Hours, patiently waiting for dinner. Father Pawel took a long sniff. Father Lipinski stifled a smile.

Pani Trypka, the housekeeper, filled her golambki with barley and rice and a fist full of ground chicken breast. The chickens were former boarders of the garden.

At the dinner table, Father Pawel made it a point to take only the amount he was sure he could consume, so as not to leave anything on his plate. After four years of fasting, he no longer had the capacity

to consume large amounts of food at anyone's table.

They took dessert in the living room. Coffee was Pawel's only indulgence; he held it as ambrosia.

Father Jan spoke haltingly as he puffed to light up the tobacco in his pipe. "So...we are suspended in the air... while a new government takes over."

A grim line settled on Father Pawel's lips, "Sikorski had the hearts of all Poles; we trusted him to see us through."

"Not just the Poles, Churchill and Roosevelt respected him. He bent like a willow branch in the wind to follow their opinion of Stalin."

"Mikolajczyk should serve to appease them on that matter."

Newly elected Prime Minister Stanislaw Mikolajczyk's short and stocky stature revealed his peasant roots. A self-made man, he had the intellectual acuity to learn well from the books he chose for his independently designed curriculum. When he arrived in London in 1940, he challenged himself to learn the English language as quickly as possible. Within a short while he was fluent enough to engage in political discussions with the British administrators, who seemed to understand him despite his heavy accent.

Father Jan reflected, "One of the couriers from London, a young man who grew up in this church stopped in to see me this week. He said he had the opportunity to meet with Sosnkowski on a personal level. He invited Mateusz to his home for dinner. Mateusz seemed very impressed by the new C in C's appearance and bearing. According to him, the man is a genius. He speaks seven different languages, including German and Russian. Along with a great intellect he is an artist as well as an architect. On the other side of the coin, Mateusz found him very arrogant. This man will not bend to the peasant; also he regards any attempt to negotiate with Stalin as futile and sure to end in humiliation for the Poles."

"Let us pray that the aristocrat and the peasant find common ground to work together, or we shall be faced with a dysfunctional government."

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."

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Sybracy

Surviving Summer and Winter

"Sybracy" (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 Kazakhstan. 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 XXVII. Marysia continued

to work as a village store manager. Thanks to her job, we always had sufficient vodkas supply at home. Marysia was bringing usually two buckets of vodka from the store to the house. This was the best quality vodka — clear and odorless. We never kept it in the buckets rather we were hiding it, by distributing it into smaller vessels and then storing the vessels in the cellar, covering it with potatoes and wood.

IN ORDER TO COMPENSATE for the loss of vodka from the store, we were replacing the clear vodka with the one that had a petroleum smell. But, we had to be careful — vodka had to be diluted with water beforehand, to lose its smell. We were street smart and careful since we never knew when control comes. During the years in Kazakhstan we had a couple of controls, the controllers measured a content of alcohol with the hydrometer in barrels, but they never found any discrepancies. Marysia was respected and was considered one of the most honest store managers in the district.

Alcohol and tea were invaluable as exchange products for us. This tea was called "irpiyi tchai." It was delivered in cubes, and it was quite different from tea which we knew from Poland. This local tea was made of powder, mixed with beef blood and pressed in a form of cube. When such cube was poured with boiling water, it was transformed in a delicious and aromatic tea. At first, I drunk it with enthusiasm, but when I learned about its content, I lost my passion for it. This tea mixed with mutton suet was used as a medicine against the cold. Kirghiz people loved their tea, so we could exchange it for grain.

THE SUMMER OF 1944 was hot and caused the steppe to catch fires. The view of such a fire was beautiful but also terrible. One fire could destroy many miles of steppe area. Our village was in a danger of catching the fire also. The whole vil-

lage population was equipped with tools and birch whisks, and we had to work together to not let fire to get too close to the houses. We succeeded, but the aroma of burned steppe could be felt for weeks, although the steppe was soon covered with a fresh green grass after the fire. During the fire season, local people were very cautious. They only used ovens early in the morning when the dew was still covering the straw roofs of their houses. The cigarettes were never thrown directly to the grass, they had to be extinguish and buried into the ground. We had to obey all fire safety rules.

THE WINTER WAS ALSO CRUEL with temperature down to minus 30 C. We had snow blizzards often. Sometimes, there was so much snow, that we could not really leave the house for days. To keep main roads in the village passable, we had to pull out so much snow from the roads that the walls of snow on the sides were taller than we were — up to 8 feet high. We could not see

anything through these snow walls. It felt like being in the tunnel with no roof.

This winter I lost my winter coat underlined with a fur. This coat was light but also warm like a quilt. This happened when I was with Marysia in *banya* (hot dry bath). I finished the bath earlier than Marysia, I covered myself with a blanket and I went looking for the jacket, but I couldn't find it. First, I thought that maybe somebody stole it, although this never happened before. I was looking around with other women; then, I saw two dogs that were tearing apart the coat. The coat was torn into very small pieces that there was no way to try to mend it together. I could only recover the buttons. I spent the whole winter without the coat. At least, we had warm sweaters, blankets, and scarves.

continued next month

— Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: www.polish-site.us

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Genealogy

Searching the Shoe Boxes for Your Family History

by Stephen M. Szabados

Genealogy begins at home!

You may have a treasure trove of family history hidden in desk drawers, file cabinets and shoe boxes. Look for old papers, letters and old photos your parents saved when they cleaned out the homes of your grandparents. This is especially important if your parents or grandparents were immigrants.

Also determine who was the caregiver when your immigrant ancestors died and pray that they saved the old papers in the shoeboxes. Once you find the caregiver or their descendants, contact them immediately to see what they saved. The caretakers may have sorted through the shoe boxes and saved the treasures you need. If you find

documents with other relatives, ask for copies and offer to share the results of your research. Also, be very careful with the originals since they may be very fragile due to age. Use copies or electronic scans in your research and store the originals in a safe place.

If you are lucky you will find their baptismal certificate, their exit visas and photos of your ancestors who stayed in Poland. These documents will contain more valuable information on your family history than any gold watches or jewels that were inherited.

Write down brief notes of the family oral stories and visit the cemeteries where your ancestors are buried to record the grave marker inscriptions and take pictures. At family gatherings ask your siblings

and other relatives to add what they remember about where your ancestors left.

Another important step is to ask your siblings and cousins for their personal memories of their time with your grandparents. Carefully write their memories down and add their words to your family history. These are personal words that will be treasured by future generations.

Remember at this point in your research, you are dealing with documents that you find in the personal papers of your parents, grandparents and other relatives. After you organize this information, you can start your search for information from outside sources.

Remember these steps to start your genealogy research:

- Search desk drawers, file cabi-

nets and shoe boxes for birth records, baptismal certificates, exit visas and pictures.

- Track down descendants of caretakers of ancestors before they died.
- Exchange and share information and documents with other relatives
- Organize what you find by writing summaries for each ancestor.
- Update your summaries as you find more information.

Be excited in your journey and enjoy your family history.

❖ ❖ ❖

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

The Pondering Pole

On the Great List

by Edward Poniewaz

We use the end of the year to review what was accomplished in the previous 12 months and I think it is also a good policy to take some time to reflect on what we accomplished throughout our lives. Then we make the turn at the beginning of the New Year to map out all of the things we want to get done in the upcoming year. I remind you of this because my life is racing at break-neck speed. As the old Polish song goes, "The days, the years, the hours, swiftly are fleeting by." They are.

So, this year, start with modest goals, like making a "greatest" list. Try to avoid the "Greatest Fools of All Time" or the "Greatest Mass Murderers of All Time" but generally if you focus on a worthwhile pursuit and work sixty to eighty hours a week on it, yes, you have a good chance to make it.

There are a number of "Greatest Books" lists. The Boston and New York libraries have one; *Time Magazine*; *The New York Times*; NPR; Wikipedia; and *The Polish American Journal* (PAJ) has one compiled by Florence Clowes, its former Book Review editor (visit the Library page of the PAJ's website, www.polamjournal.com).

The one Polish name you can find with regularity on all of the lists for having one or more of his novels is **Joseph Conrad**, born Josef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, December 3, 1857. *Lord Jim*, *Nostromo*, and *Heart of Darkness* are novels which are his most popular works appearing on all the lists.

Out of all the countries with great literary traditions, it is nice to have at least one Polish standout. My advice is to pick a list and read every book on it. My next advice is to read every book on the PAJ list. Reading every book written by Conrad would be the kicker.

Le Monde, the French daily newspaper has published its own greatest books list, *100 Books of the Century*. Not surprising, there is a preponderance of books by French authors included on this one, as is Conrad's *Lord Jim*. But a name that caught my eye is **Rene Goscinny** who, along with illustrator Albert Uderzo, created the comic book *Asterix the Gaul*, the work that made this list. Goscinny has a strong Polish connection.

Goscinny was born in Paris in 1926, to a family of Jewish immigrants from Poland. His parents

were Stanislaw Simka Goscinny (the surname means hospitable in Polish; Simka is his Jewish name meaning happiness), a chemical engineer from Warsaw, Poland, and Anna (Hanna) Beresniak-Goscinna from Chodorkow, a small village near Zytomierz in the Second Polish Republic (now part of Ukraine).

The premise of *Asterix the Gaul* is France in the time of Roman control, except for a small village called Armorica, "whose inhabitants are made invincible by a magic potion created periodically by the Druid Getafix." The comic book is based along the same lines as famous written works from a familiar or historical time or event infused with ample amounts of fantasy and imagination. (Think of *Alice in Wonderland* or *Peter Pan*).

The success of the series has led to the adaptation of several books into 13 films.

POLISH OR NOT? Ari Graynor is a thirty-four-year-old American actress with a very active film, stage, and television career since 2001. Polish or Not? The name Graynor was originally "Gryzna" and her father was from Catholic family of Polish descent. He converted to Judaism as Ari's mom is Jewish from a family that also has Polish roots, according to ethnicelebs.com. Her most recent film, to be released in 2018, is called *The Front Runner*.

Most Polish Americans are aware of the superb performance not only of the Polish Kosciuszko Squadron fighter pilots in the Battle of Britain in World War II, but also of Polish American, Francis "Gabby" Gabreski who recorded 28 "kills," ranking him in the top five in the United States Air Force as a fighter pilot during World War II. If you look at the entire list of fighter aces in World War II in Wikipedia you will notice at the top the name **Walter Krupinski**, who downed an astounding 197 enemy fighter aircraft for the Germans during the war. Krupinski was a German general in the Luftwaffe and was nicknamed "Graf Punski" ("Count Punski") or sometimes just "Der Graf" ("The Count") by Rudolf Resch one of his early squadron leaders whose father was a professor of Slavic studies.

Resch informed him that the ending in "-ski" or "-zky" denoted a landowner, or that it indicated a Freiherr (a "free lord" in the Province of East Prussia), and thus the lowest level in the medieval noble hierarchy in the East.

Even though "The Count" was on the wrong side in the war, the 197 scores were in the top ten of all fighter pilots on this very, very long list. I don't know what his politics were but I am hoping he was above all a military man who felt obligated to serve his country. One thing for sure, it is apparent he was very good at what he did.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I welcome a new grandson, Francis "Frankie" Poniewaz Schubert, born Nov. 17, 2017! Frankie is a beautiful and healthy boy. Mom Brigette and dad Alex are doing fine.

GOOD LUCK to all in the New Year and I hope you can fulfill all of your goals and aspirations for 2018. I just hope some of them are Polish-oriented as we would like some of them to be Polish.

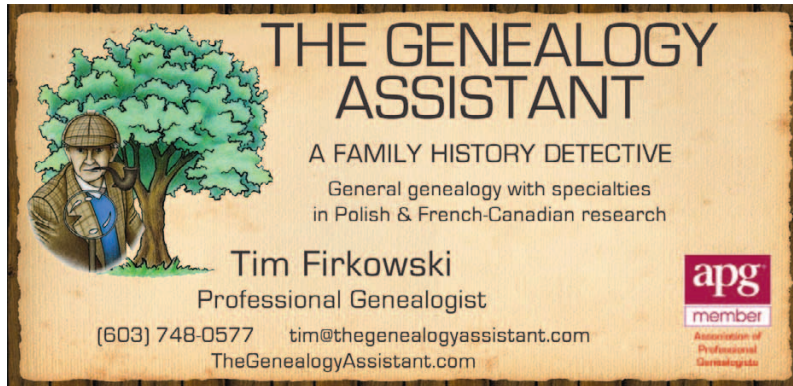
IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. N.B. If you send email, reference the *Polish American Journal* or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an email if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

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If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding \$13 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to Polonia's long-standing Warsaw correspondent and name researcher: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also be able to check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and graves or possibly even turn up long-lost relatives thanks to a helpful genealogical contact sheet included with each order. For more information please contact: resarch60@gmail.com.



Genealogy Notebook

Discovering Unknown Relatives

Using your AncestryDNA test results can be a big help in breaking down brick walls in your research. Here is a lengthy article by genetic genealogist, Angie Bush, on tactics to follow if you choose to contact your DNA matches, such as:

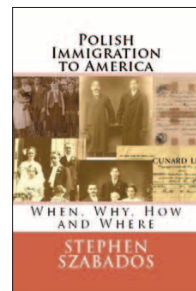
- updating your Ancestry profile before sending messages, including a profile picture
- sending your messages from your AncestryDNA match page.

For details: <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2017/09/12/contacting-dna-matches>

Be a Better Historical Newspaper Researcher

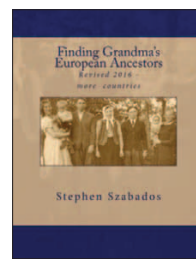
The Ancestor Hunt has a set of more than 1000 links to newspaper archives primarily in the United States. They also have 13 lessons on how to maximize usage of newspaper archives.

Lesson 1 addresses where to find newspaper archives. Lesson 13 is "Search Tips and What to Avoid." Links to the lessons can be found at <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html>

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GENEALOGY
To order, use form on page 7

POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA
by Stephen Szabados
Item 2-271
\$17.99

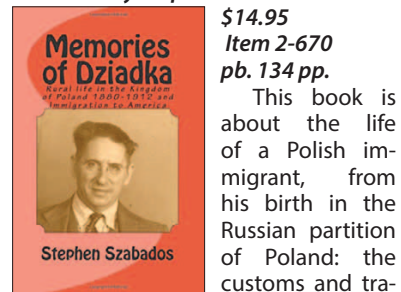
When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully 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



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

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.



This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. 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.

Rowny. Established a scholarship to help Polish students study in the United States

continued from cover

Nixon to George H.W. Bush, became one of the most outspoken and controversial members of the U.S. team sent to Geneva to work on agreements over strategic, or nuclear, arms.

The agreement imposed restrictions on the construction and deployment of intercontinental ballistic missiles and slowed proliferation of multiple nuclear warheads on those missiles.

Gen. Rowny was among those arguing that SALT II endangered American security and lacked enforceable verification provisions, allowing the Soviets in essence to cheat and bolster their insatiable drive for nuclear superiority.

He said the Russians retained supposed first-strike capabilities with the potential to destroy the American land-based missile force. The theory was adopted by many neoconservatives at the time, but many other scholars and specialists viewed the claims as exaggerated or dubious.

Gen. Rowny rebuked then-President Jimmy Carter and his fellow arms control colleagues for what he regarded as their weakness in the face of the Soviet threat. Americans were too pragmatic and “success oriented,” he said, looking for a fast win against a ruthless adversary trained in long-term thinking.

“My problem is that the Soviets come from a country that has a lot of patience and plays chess,” he told the Associated Press in 1982. “I come from a country that has a lot of quarters and plays Pac Man.”

“INFLEXIBLE HAWK.” Gen. Rowny said he was well aware of his public image as “an inflexible hawk.” He looked and sounded the part, with his craggy voice and imposing, broad-shouldered physique. He earned the esteem of conserva-

tives with his unyielding conviction and his ability over arduous meetings in Geneva to “out-stonewall the master stonewallers,” journalist Strobe Talbott wrote in his 1984 book about nuclear arms control, “Deadly Gambits.”

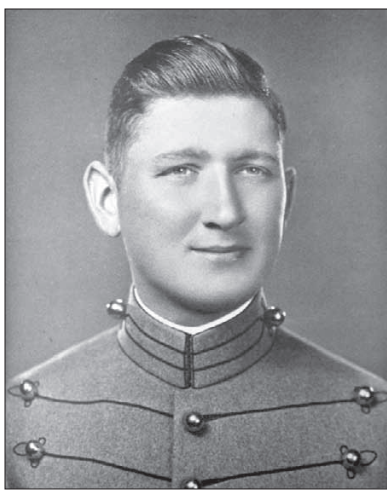
“Rowny hoped to impress on the Soviets, and the world, that he was a principled loner who had fought the good fight against the odds and against the soft-liners for years,” Talbott said in his book. “He liked to remind people, including the Soviets, that he was of Polish descent; the implication was that he had a considerable dose of anti-Russianism in his blood.”

Carter and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev signed the SALT II agreement in June 1979. Two weeks later, Gen. Rowny resigned from the Army, citing dismay with what he considered Carter’s zeal for a “treaty at any price.” It was in those next few months that Gen. Rowny had perhaps his greatest influence.

Working with the Committee on the Present Danger, a powerful anti-Soviet advocacy organization, Gen. Rowny testified before congressional committees and lobbied behind the scenes to kill SALT II. In the general’s estimation, Carter was making too many concessions that would give the Soviets a lopsided advantage in terms of intercontinental ballistic missiles and their long-range Backfire bomber.

The Senate declined to ratify it, amid widespread concerns over its potential military and economic impact, and Carter withdrew the treaty from consideration in December 1979, after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan.

Gen. Rowny returned to government service after Reagan’s election to the White House in 1980. He regarded Reagan as a kindred spirit and was ecstatic by the new president’s promises of building up a defense posture to convey strength



ROWNY AT WEST POINT. In the summer of 1941, Rowny had just graduated from college and was on his way to the Military Academy. He attended Ignacy Jan Paderewski’s funeral in New York City. 50 years later, he escorted Paderewski’s remains from the U.S. national cemetery – Arlington – to an independent Poland, a promise he made to his grandmother.

that would lead to leverage in Geneva.

In 1982, Gen. Rowny was named chief arms control negotiator of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, or START. But little progress was made after Reagan introduced plans for the Strategic Defense Initiative program, a land- and space-based antimissile system popularly known as Star Wars. Talks went dormant for more than a year after nuclear-capable Pershing II medium-range ballistic missiles were positioned in Europe in 1983 to counter Soviet SS-20 missiles.

Meanwhile, Gen. Rowny created political headaches for his superiors in Washington. A memorandum featuring his criticisms of arms control colleagues surfaced in the press in 1983. Gen. Rowny later said the memo, which he dismissed as “talking points prepared for me,” was

leaked to newspapers by a “disgruntled secretary.”

Two years later, when Reagan made another push for arms talks with the newly installed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Gen. Rowny was replaced by former senator John Tower (R-Tex.). Gen. Rowny spent the next five years — under Reagan and then Bush — as special adviser to the president on arms control. He said his influence waned dramatically under Secretaries of State George P. Shultz and James A. Baker III.

“He was viewed as an obstacle,” said John Prados, a historian who has written extensively on national security. “At a certain point that obstacle was viewed as politically useful. Events wore on, and the desire to accomplish agreements became greater, and suddenly his opposition was not politically useful.”

Gen. Rowny was left out of a meeting with Soviet foreign minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze in 1987 that was pivotal to a breakthrough on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty. He said Baker’s office consistently denied his requests to publish op-eds and make TV appearances.

Gen. Rowny, realizing he had been marginalized, resigned in 1990. The next year, President Bush and Gorbachev signed the START treaty that committed both countries to a significant reduction in their strategic nuclear arsenals.

Edward Leon Rowny was born in Baltimore on April 3, 1917. His father, a Polish immigrant, was a contractor who built hundreds of city rowhouses. His mother also was of Polish heritage.

He was studying at Johns Hopkins University when, in 1936, he won a traveling scholarship to Europe. A stop in Berlin convinced him of the inevitability of world war. After graduating from Hopkins in 1937, he enrolled in the U.S. Mil-

itary Academy at West Point, N.Y. — “to get in on the ground floor of the war effort,” he later said.

He completed master’s degrees in international relations and civil engineering at Yale, both in 1949, and obtained a doctorate in international studies from American University in 1977. He wrote a book about his arms control experiences, “It Takes One to Tango” (1992), and a memoir, “Smokey Joe & the General” (2013).

His military decorations included multiple awards of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit. Reagan awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal, which cited him as “one of the principal architects of America’s policy of peace through strength.”

In 1992, Gen. Rowny was instrumental in arranging the return to Warsaw of the remains of the Polish pianist, composer and statesman Ignace Jan Paderewski, who had died in the United States in 1941 and had been buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

His first wife, the former Mary Rita Leyko, died in 1988. In 1994, he married Elizabeth Ladd. A complete list of survivors was not immediately available.

As a teenager, Gen. Rowny performed in a Baltimore harmonica band alongside the mouth organ virtuoso Larry Adler. Decades later, the general liked to serenade Soviet negotiators on the instrument when talks came to an impasse.

His musical interludes were not always appreciated by other members of his team, especially the sly musical references that seemed to underscore his perception of talks by two superpowers to decide the fate of the world. According to Talbott’s book, he once launched into what he called the “arms control theme song”: “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles.”

Polonian Places

Florida’s Oldest Polish National Parish

by Gregory L. Witul

ST. PAUL’S POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
5245 112th St., Belleview, Florida
Status: Open

January is here with all the snow and cold it can muster, which makes it the perfect time for a warm weather vacation to Florida. The Sunshine State has plenty to offer from the Morse Museum and Anna’s Polish Restaurant in Winter Park to the Russian Grocer and Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. If you are traveling between these two fair cities, you will pass another treasure of the state, St. Paul’s Polish National Catholic Church in Belleview, the oldest Polish National Church in Florida.

It was the Second World War that called Polish Americans to Belleview, as laborers were needed in support of the war efforts. Among the first Polish settlers that arrived in 1944 was a great number of the Polish National faith. This small band petitioned Bishop Leon Grochowski of the Western Diocese to send them a priest so they could organize a parish. Hearing their plea, Bishop Grochowski sent Rev. John Swierczewski to the central Florida town and by the end of the year the first services of the parish were being held in the homes of the Gawronski, Orzel, and Sajdera families. As the congregation grew, the Methodist church of Belleview

opened their doors to the Poles and allowed them to use their building for Mass.

For the next seven years the parishioners of St. Paul’s scrimped

which Bishop Rowinski dedicated in 1962.

Fr. Blyn would be succeeded by a number of priests until 2000 when Rev. Mark J. Niznik took over the



and saved, until December 1, 1951 when Bishop Grochowski dedicated their newly completed church. The church was built on land donated by the Sajdera family while the pews were donated by Grace Episcopal Church of Ocala.

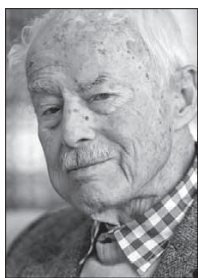
IN LATE 1953, Fr. Swierczewski unexpectedly passed away and Fr. Joseph Blyn was appointed as his replacement. Fr. Blyn was instrumental in establishing a number of the parish societies including the Development Club and the Ladies Mutual Society. Reverend Blyn would also oversee the construction of new and larger church building

parish. Under Fr. Niznik’s leadership the church has grown from a handful of parishioners to over 200. Fr. Mark was also instrumental in hiring Fernando Varela as the parish’s music director in 2009. Varela would go on to international fame after his fourth place finish on *America’s Got Talent* as part of the group FORTE.

Today St. Paul’s is going strong with three Masses a weekend and a multiethnic congregation, but some vestiges of the parish’s Polish history can still be found with the blessing of the baskets at Easter, and the gifts of bread and salt to important guests and dignitaries.

Philanthropist Merrill Dead at 98

N O W Y SĄCZ, Poland — American author and philanthropist Charles Merrill, Jr. died Nov. 29, 2017 at the age of 98 in the southern Polish town Nowy Sącz. For years he had modestly lived there off and on, alternating with Boston.



His father, Charles Merrill, Sr. had been the founder of the well-known wealth-management firm of Merrill Lynch.

A local newspaper, “Dobry Tygodnik Sądecki” reported that the deceased had taken an interest in Poland after reading Henryk Sienkiewicz’s Nobel Prize-winning novel “Quo Vadis.” He first visited Poland in 1939, according to the paper.

Raised in New York and graduated from Harvard, he staunchly fought for racial equality in education.

Merrill founded the Commonwealth School in Boston in 1958, for the education of minority and less fortunate students. In Poland, he bankrolled scholarships for gifted students from Nowy Sącz.

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Dance Time

Tireless Promoter Val Bakowski Pulls Off Another Success



Kayla Rosinski, Dawn Rosinski, Sara Zelasko at the Knewz's Christmas CD release party.

by Jennifer Pijanowski

After spending over nine months traveling coast to coast, **Polka Country Musicians** played their final gig of 2017 in Buffalo. Fans packed The Cove in Depew, N.Y. for a night filled with the fine sounds of Polka Country as well as the reunion of local country band Marshall Dillon.

Val Bakowski hosted the 3rd annual Polka vs. Country and through his commitment and relentless advertising, music fans were out in full force to enjoy this genre mash-up. After last year's venue "Nashville's" closed, Val did not give up on finding a perfect fit for this large event as he searched out another Western New York country hot spot. The space provided ample seating area to take a break from dancing on the vast dance floor. The bartenders served up Polish beers, liquors, and quite a few shots of krupnik over the course of the evening. The wait staff could be seen carrying delicious Polish platters to hungry music lovers amid the packed venue. A bird's eye view was also available from an additional large seating area and bar which overlooked the entire downstairs. The mezzanine provided a dynamic view of the band as well as the best in crowd watching.

Polka Country's high energy, country-infused polkas drove polka lovers onto the dance floor, while line dancers wasted no time in speeding up their line dances to join in. Spellbound by the talent of PCM, Marshall Dillon fans were quickly converted into polka lovers. The Dombrowski brothers definitely know how to exhilarate a crowd as Wally and Richie first took the stage as Polka Country over 40 years ago. As time passes, the band explores new ways to draw additional fans by keeping their repertoire fresh and new. I, along with many of their fans, am anxiously awaiting their upcoming CD which was recorded live at the USPA Convention in May. Now that the band members have some time off, they can turn their focus to this recording so we can all enjoy it when it debuts later this year.

This delightful evening treated fans to a jam session of Polka Country and Marshall Dillon band playing one of my favorites "Callin' Baton Rouge." A big thank you goes out to Val Bakowski for his com-

mitment to polka music and not giving up regardless of unexpected roadblocks. Next up on Val's agenda will be his 29th anniversary Dyngus Day weekend event on April 1st and 2nd.

FREE IS IS GOOD, BUT ... *Polka Buzz* is still going strong and episode tapings continue to happen each month. Recently, **New Direction, Buffalo Concertina All Stars, and Phocus** taped shows to entertain folks on the Sunday broadcast which shows at 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on WBBZ. Hundreds of music lovers file into Potts early for these television productions to get their chance to be seen by friends and family watching the show.

While this broadcast continues to highlight our local Buffalo polka bands, its free admission is a driving force in seeing this talent instead of polka lovers paying admission to a dance. Polka musicians commit to many hours practicing, setting up, and playing for little or no money so it is important to also support these bands at paid events. Please support local dances or buy a CD which helps defer many of the costs which these bands incur while striving to continue the tradition of polka music.

Make certain to catch one of the broadcasts as you will most likely know some enthusiasts in the crowd. If you do not live in the Buffalo area, you can watch the *Polka Buzz's* weekly episodes online via YouTube.

KNEWZ CHRISTMAS CD. An easy way to get into the Christmas spirit this year was listening to *Holidayz* the new Christmas-flavored recording by **The Knewz**.

This new release played on repeat for several weeks after picking up my copy at their CD release party. Polka lovers convened at Potts Banquet Hall to grab the Knewz's ninth recording, dance, and celebrate with the band.

The evening consisted of cuts from their new holiday songs, favorite Knewz hits, and the surprise of some treasured Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatone's classics. Jimmy Weber belted out some beloved Eddie B songs which really packed the dance floor. The crowd included



Former Bel-Ares and wives gather for a holiday celebration. (l. to r.): Marie Pilarz, Arlene Krzeminski, Cheryl Wojdyla, Ed Pilarz, and Dale Wojdyla. Ed and Dale were members of the band led by the late Steve Krzeminski.

quite a few out of town guests who came to support these talented musicians. Kenny, Jeff, and Nik Yash, the Zelasko family, and the Rosinskis, were a few of those who made the trip for this special performance.

It takes much skill to borrow another artist's music and make it completely your own, and the Knewz managed to successfully accomplish just that on *Holidayz*. On Brad Paisley's "Born on Christmas Day" the Knewz transforms those beautiful lyrics into a song that sounds as if it was written just for them.

Congratulations to the Knewz on the impressive arrangements showcased in these 14 tracks. The *a cappella* version of "That's Christmas to Me" showcases their unbelievable vocal talents. There are some added bonuses with guest vocals by former bandmate Tommy Wanderlich as well as Cindy Zelasko adding her skillful trombone playing to the track "Sleigh Ride." It was a warm-hearted evening spent watching these incredible musicians share their gift with their fans.



REST IN PEACE. It is with deep sadness that we said goodbye to polka lover and promoter **Ron Polak** (above) after a brief illness. Many remember Ronnie as one of the ring leaders of the "Polka Pals," but he was also known for hosting the annual Kolędy event at Knights of St. John in Cheektowaga.

This group of polka fans travelled extensively to polka events, many times in costume and always



Happy 30th anniversary to Andre and Ewa Ogiba.

ready to party. The pictures, stories, and memories shared at his wake portrayed a life well enjoyed and lived. Ron was an integral part of his parish of St. Stanislaus Church where he was an active member his entire life. He will be sorely missed by the many friends he made though polka music and his spiritual family at St. Stan's. I am sure he is up in heaven enjoying that incredible band of musicians.

IPA EVENTS. This cold January weather can be made a little warmer by getting out and celebrating National Polka Month. The weather won't hinder **International Polka Association** celebrating the preservation of polka music. **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push** kick off a fun filled weekend at the IPA Warm Up event on January 12, 2018. Music from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Polonia Banquets 4604 S. Archer Ave. in Chicago as Lenny returns to his home town for this fundraising event. Admission is \$15.00 and additional information on hotels can be found by visiting www.ipapolkas.com.

The fun continues on Sunday January 14th with IPA's Festival of Bands where eight top performing bands will share the stage. The lineup includes **Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Lenny Zielinski & The D Street Band, The Polka Generations, Gennie O & The Windy City Brass, Tri-City Drive, Freeze Dried, The Music Company, and IPA Tribute Band.** Doors for this star-studded event will open at 11:00 a.m. with non-stop music beginning at 11:30 a.m. Admission is just \$15.00 and Mary's Polish kitchen will be open throughout the day. This is sure to be a day filled with surprises, special performances, and the very best in polka music.

And while the IPA's award-winning local bands may be noticeably absent from the event, the 3rd Annual IPA Festival of Buffalo Polka will be held Saturday, January 27th, 2018 at the Potts Banquet Hall, Clinton & Rossler Plaza, in Cheektowaga, N.Y. Music will be provided by regional stalwarts the **Concertina All Stars, The Touch, New Direction, Phocus, Rare Vintage, and Special Delivery.**

In addition, there will also be

special guest appearances (if available) by several IPA Hall of Famers. The IPA will also honor "Ron Dombrowski, local DJ, host of the daily *Drive Time Polka Show* and the weekly TV show *Polka Buzz*. Ronnie D will be celebrating his 40th year of broadcasting in the WNY.

In addition, WBBZ-TV will be taping each band for a future *Polka Buzz* show.

The International Polka Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary and has set a goal of gaining 1000 new members. You can help the IPA reach this goal by joining. Annual dues are only \$15.00, which includes a subscription to the IPA newsletter (either print or online). This organization strives to promote, encourage, and advance every aspect of polka music. IPA recognizes all genres of polka music and exhibits this through their awards and recognitions each year. The success of organizations like IPA depends on the support of polka lovers like all of us.

DUJKA BROTHERS DANCE.

There will be a Texas-sized party in Schulenburg, Texas to honor national polka month. Join **Mark and John Dujka** to celebrate receiving an IPA music award for their recording of "Church Picnic Polka."

The Dujka Brothers will perform at the Schulenburg Knights of Columbus at 405 South St. on January 27, 2018 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00/\$5.00 for IPA members/kids 12 & under are free. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with a silent auction, and there will be burgers and plenty of beer available for the evening's festivities. This is an event that you will not want to miss if you are in the Schulenburg area (located midway between Houston, Austin and San Antonio).

The Dujka Brothers are celebrating 30 years in the polka field and were also inducted into the South Texas Polka Hall of Fame in 2017.

BEST WISHES. I would like to wish everyone a blessed and happy 2018. This year is already shaping up for a calendar filled with polka cruises, trips, weekends, and plentiful dances. I look forward to filling my agenda by spending this year enjoying happy, enlivening, polka music and making memories with my polka friends both old and new.

In Memoriam

Matt Wasielewski, Pittsburgh DJ, IJ, Distributor, and Bandleader

PITTSBURGH — Matt Wasielewski wore many hats. But most had the word “polka” in the label.

The much-loved musician, band leader, vocalist, song writer, composer, master of ceremonies, radio disc jockey, promoter and record distributor, died November 17, 2017.

The son of the late Matthew and Blanche Wasielewski of Pittsburgh, Pa., Matt started his polka career in 1957 when he formed his Polka Jets band. His group was playing three to four jobs a week. Much in demand, the bookings for some of the jobs were one to two years in advance. His band made several TV appearances over the years.

Wasielewski was an altar boy and attended Catholic school. Some of his best childhood memories were spending time in Vandergrift with his uncles and aunts.

One of Wasielewski’s earliest teen jobs that he fondly recalled was setting pins at a bowling alley.

Pursuing carpentry as a vocation, Wasielewski was a master cabinet maker. He was a member of the carpentry union until his passing.

In 1977 and until retirement, Wasielewski had his own cabinetry shop, building custom cabinets and furniture. He never had to advertise because the majority of his jobs were referrals via his customers. Customers typically experienced a wait of 18 months for Wasielewski to start their job.

But after hours, his passion for promoting polka music took over.

Matt Wasielewski & the Polka Jets won many awards through the years; played countless festivals; traveled to many states and venues outside the United States.

In 1982, Wasielewski joined the

late Bud Hundenski Orchestra as a featured vocalist and traveled with the band for seven years.

Wasielewski was one of the most visible personalities at polka functions in the Pittsburgh area. He was a member of the International Polka Association, United States Polka Association, Pennsylvania Polka Association, and Polka Ambassadors Club. Wasielewski was inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame in 1998.

From 1992 to December 29, 2012 he hosted “Matt’s Polka Party,” on regional radio stations. Wasielewski joined the online Polka Jammer Network as an IJ in March of 2006, extending the audience from Pittsburgh to worldwide. Wasielewski continued his weekly show until the time of his passing. He said the e-mails he received from his listeners were better than any medicines a doctor could give.

Wasielewski is survived by his wife, Vi Wasielewski; three children (Tommy, Todd, and Bonnie Jo); two brothers and a sister.

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2018 SPRING EVENTS

- **MON. JAN. 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY "POT LUCK POLKA PARTY"** Nickelcity Dave DJ / Musicians Jam Session \$5.00 @ the door. 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- **SUN. JAN. 14 MEMBERSHIP MEETING** 12:30, Sam Pecorilla band 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- **FRI. JAN. 26, MEET AND GREET** DJ Nickelcity Dave 6:00 p.m. Free admission
- **SAT. JAN. 27, & SUN. JAN. 28. "NEW GENERATION BAND" (WISC.)** 2:00-6:00 p.m. (both days) \$12.00 at the door
- **SAT. FEB. 10TH, POLONIA DANCE** (non-polka) 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
SUN. MAR. 11TH, MEMBERSHIP MEETING 12:30 "St. Patrick's Dance" 2:00-5:00 p.m. Dennis Ficor Band w/ Sam Pecorilla
- **SUN. MAR. 25TH, "EASTER DINNER DANCE"** Dinner 1:00-3:00 p.m. Dance W/ Nickelcity Express 3:00-6:00 p.m. Members \$15.00, Non-Members \$20.00, Kids 7-14 ½ Price, Under 7 Free. Reservations Requested (602) 909-4965, (602) 275-9329
- **MON. APR. 2, DYNGUS DAY PARTY** Nickelcity Express \$5.00 @ the door, (pot luck) 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- **FRI. APR. 20, MEET AND GREET** DJ Nickelcity Dave 6:00 p.m. Free
- **POLKA DANCES WITH LENNY GOMULKA & THE CHICAGO PUSH** Sat. Apr. 21, 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Sun. Apr. 22, 2:00-6:00 p.m. \$12.00 at the door
- **SUN. MAY 13, POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY / MOTHER DAY DINNER & DANCE** Meeting noon, Dinner 1:00-3:00 p.m. Dance 3:00-6:00 p.m. Nickelcity Express / Members \$15.00, Non-Members \$20.00, Kids 7-14 ½ Price Under 7 Free. Reservations Requested (602) 909-4965, (602) 275-9329
- **POLISH WOMAN HERITAGE GROUP OF ARIZONA SEMINARS** (Women Only) 7:00 p.m. Thursdays Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr 12., and May 10. For More Info. Halina Roznowski, Correspondence Secretary at (602) 421-6502.

www.pulaskiclubaz.org, www.facebook.com/pulaskiclubaz
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SATURDAY January 13, 2018

EVENTS

4 pm Polka Mass
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6:30-10 pm Music by Special Delivery

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Tickets: \$10 in advance by 1/12 or \$15 at the door
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for info call (716) 983-5084

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

Am-Pol Eagle Newspaper 3620 Harlem Rd. Cheektowaga, NY (716) 835-9454	Salt Lamps Etc. 5274 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086 (716) 564-9286	Kotas & Kotas 1472 Exchange St. Alden, NY (716) 937-7588
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January Polka Birthdays

Birthdays courtesy of John Nalevanko, host of Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Live streaming at www.PA_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

1	Steve Ostage	1922	Bandleader	Wisconsin
1	Joe Walega	1936 6/15/16	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
3	Li'l Teddy Pasterniak	1953	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Wisconsin
4	Gary Coddington	1952	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Pennsylvania
6	Bill Kovatch	1944	Polka DJ.	Pennsylvania
7	Lou Kryger	1929 1/28/14	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Kryger Bros.)	Pennsylvania
7	Steve Kaminski		Musician / Vocalist	New Jersey
7	Mark Wasilewski	1953	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
8	Laura Bruzdinski Mateja		Vocalist IPA Tribute Band	Chicago
9	Bob Bobin	1950 1/14/98	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Chicago
10	Brian Chenkus	1966	Musician (Bass) / Vocalist	Massachusetts
11	Walt Wagner		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Delaware
11	Joanne Deardorf		Former DJ & Promoter	Pennsylvania
11	Stan Galant	1947	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Altoona
11	Dr. Amil Langford	1952	Musician (Drummer)	Pennsylvania
11	Frank Liszka	1953	Bandleader (TBC) Vocalist (The Boys)	Ohio
11	Marko Polka		Polka DJ. WQTW Radio	Latrobe
12	Richie Dombrowski		Musician / Vocalist (PCM)	Connecticut
12	Paul Brozek	1963	Musician / Vocalist	Massachusetts
13	John Banashak Sr.	1913 5/18/63	Musician (Bass) / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
13	Dave Cole	1960	Promoter	New Castle
14	Eddie Siwicki	1923 2015	Bandleader / Musician	Massachusetts
14	Stan Raiczuk	1964	Musician -Drummer	New Jersey
15	Bob Koziel	1952	Polka DJ. WMCE	Erie
15	John Jaworski	1947	Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
16	Zosia Piotrowski		Vocalist	Michigan
17	Dee Dee Ogrodny		Musician / Vocalist (Versa-J's)	Pennsylvania
17	Al Piatkowski	1959	Musician / Vocalist	New York
18	Nick Nidoh	1956	Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
21	Jim Bogdon	1939	Musician / Vocalist	Pennsylvania
23	Mitch Kupiec	1936	Polka DJ.	Massachusetts
23	Bob Siwicki	1949	Musician	Massachusetts
24	Matt Wasilewski	1935 11/17/17	Bandleader / Musician / DJ / JJ	Pennsylvania
25	Wally Maduzia	1942	Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
26	Tony Krupski	1942	Bandleader/Musician / Vocalist	New York
28	Bill Shibilski		Polka DJ. / JJ (Promoter)	New York
28	R. J. Bogdon		Musician (Drums)	Pennsylvania
30	Del Sinchak	1935	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Youngstown
31	Ray Lucotch, Jr.	1955	Musician / Vocalist (Dynasonics)	Pennsylvania

Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to: ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com

JANUARY 1

- The DynaBrass. K Pulaski Club. New Castle Pa. 2-6. (724) 658-6221
- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman. PACC. Ludlow, Mass. 2-7. (413) 567-1961
- Tony Blazonczyk. Glendora Banquets. Chicago Ridge, Ill. 3:30-7:30. (708) 425-3686

JANUARY 6

- SqueezeBox. Slovene Hall. Fontana, Calif. 2-6. (858) 452-9865

JAN. 7

- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 472-1152
- Melotones. Polish Club. Belleview, Fla. 2-5. (352) 245-9378
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
- Polka All Stars. Polish Club. St. Pete, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- SqueezeBox. Slovene Hall. Fontana, Calif. 2-6. (858) 452-9865
- Shoreliners. Emigsville Fire Co. Emigsville, Pa. 2:00 p.m. (717) 938-5196

JANUARY 9, 10, 11

- SqueezeBox. Mountain View Church. Apache Junction, Ariz. (480) 982-8266

JANUARY 13

- The Special Delivery Band. Broadway Market. Buffalo, N.Y. 12-3. (716) 893-0705
- The Special Delivery Band. St. John the Baptist. Polka Mass at 4:00, dance in church hall to follow. Alden, N.Y. 4:00 p.m. (716) 937-6959
- Lenny Gomulka. Polonia Banquets. Chicago, Ill. 6-10. (413) 374-7096
- Joey Milardo. St. Joseph Polish Society. Colchester, Conn. 6-10. (860) 537-2550
- SqueezeBox. K of C. Hallettsville, Texas. (361) 798-2311
- Box On. Harmony Hall. Grand Rapids, Mich. 6-9
- Polka Quads. Chambers Hill Fire Hall, Harrisburg, Pa. 5-9. (717) 737-1140.

JANUARY 14

- Golden Tones. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 472-1152
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
- Northern Sounds. Polish Club. St. Pete, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- SqueezeBox. SPJST Lodge. Houston, Texas. 2-6. (713) 869-5767

JANUARY 16

- SqueezeBox. Mission Bell. Mission, Texas. 7-10. (956) 585-4833

JANUARY 17

- SqueezeBox. Bentsen Grove. Mission, Texas. 7 p.m. (956) 585-0703

JANUARY 20

- SqueezeBox. SPJSP Lodge. Cyclone,

Texas. 7-11. (254) 985-2258

JANUARY 21

- John Stanky. VFW. Dupont Pa. 2-6. (570) 472-1152
- Sounds of the South. Polish Club. St. Pete, Fla. 3-6. (727) 894-9908
- Nu Soundz Pulaski Club. Holiday, Fla. 2:30-5:30. (727) 934-0900
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (727) 868-9763
- SqueezeBox. Round Top Rifle Hall. Round Top, Texas. 3-6. (281) 788-3278

JANUARY 23

- SqueezeBox. American Legion. Lady Lake, Fla. 6-9. (352) 259-2463

JANUARY 24

- SqueezeBox. American Legion. Lady Lake, Fla. 6-9. (352) 753-1167

JANUARY 25

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

JANUARY 27

- IPA Festival of Bands. Potts, Buffalo, NY 7-11 (see ad on page 18).
- New Generation. Pulaski Club. Phoenix, Ariz. 2-6. (602) 275-9329

JANUARY 28

- George Tarasek. VFW. Dupont, Pa. (570) 472-1152
- Florida Honky Band. Polish Club. St. Pete, Fla. 3-6. (77) 894-9908
- Jeannie Music. PASC. Hudson, Fla. 2-5. (352) 428-8340
- New Generation. Pulaski Club. Phoenix, Ariz. 2-6. (602) 275-9329

10 Questions With ...

John Gora

- What is your first memory of polka music?**
A postcard-size 45 r.p.m. in Poland with little Wally playing in late 1960s.
- What was the last book you read?**
Elementarz.
- What are your three favorite movies?**
My Fat Greek Wedding, Robinson Crusoe, and Zorro.
- Spring, summer, fall, or winter?**
Winter, Fall, Spring, Summer.
- Besides polkas, what do you listen to?**
Talk radio.
- What historical figure would you like to spend a day with?**
No one in particular. They're all the same just have different jobs, positions, or egos.
- If shipwrecked on an island, what would you like an endless supply of?**
Onion soup mix.
- Where is your best place to relax?**
By a campfire.
- What one thing — that no one knows about — are you afraid of?**



John Gora is an award-winning musician, bandleader, vocalist, songwriter, recording artist, DJ, and dance promoter. He and his band received several Grammy nominations. John became a member of the International Polka Association's Hall of Fame in 2011.

- Heights.**
- What one thing about you would surprise polka fans?**
My first instrument was a mandolin.

Polka Musicians: Share a little bit about yourself with your fans! Send your answers to these questions to: info@polamjournal.com. Responses are printed in the order received. Please provide photo. "10 Questions With ..." is sponsored by the Polka Jammer Network, the World's Leader in Polka Entertainment.

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Museum Salutes Vets, Bids Adieu to Ambassador Winid

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. — An event on Nov. 11 usually celebrated by American military units, was held at the Polish American Museum, November 11, 2017.

Known as a “Hail and Farewell,” the ceremony fosters a sense of unit identity and élan to ease changes caused by the gain and loss of personnel.

This Hail and Farewell at the Museum was unique, as it hailed not only some very distinguished guests but three new exhibits that paid tribute simultaneously to both Polish Independence Day and American Veterans Day. Colonel Gerald Kochan (Ret.), the director of the museum, and the Center for Military Studies, was master of ceremonies. He is the son of a Polish paratrooper, who served with General Sosabowski with the Polish Parachute Brigade in World War II. Col. Kochan was assisted by another recently-retired Army officer, Col. Richard Jung.

Following U.S. military protocols immediately after the playing of both the U.S. and Polish national anthems, special unit pins were presented to the children of the deceased veterans whose exhibits were being dedicated that day. Then a short tribute to both Polish and American veterans was presented by Col. Kochan.

Adding to the event were some stirring piano performances during the interludes by pianist Seth Sholtis, including a rousing rendition of Chopin’s *Revolutionary Etude*.

Col. Jung presented the record of

the Polish First Armored Division as a background to the first new exhibit illustrating the accomplishments of Lt. Ryszard Rydygier.

During the Belgian and Dutch campaigns of the 1st Armored Division, Lt. Rydygier rescued wounded soldiers of the division while under fire and despite being wounded himself. He further destroyed an enemy antitank gun position through a clever ruse to draw its fire. His exploits resulted in the award of the *Virtuti Militari* medal to him in 1944.

Col. Kochan took great delight in introducing the history of his father’s unit, the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade and “hailing” a very special guest and the exhibit featuring him, 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade officer, Lt. Jerzy Jarosz.

A very active 97, Lt. Jarosz had the rapt attention of the audience as he recounted some episodes from his service with the Brigade in World War II. His recall and ability to weave the narrative for the audience was spellbinding.

His story was complemented by another exhibit on a paratrooper, Lt./Cpl. Szubert. One of the Poles during an operation christened Market-Garden and known to most people from the movie “A Bridge Too Far,” he displayed great heroism in crossing the Rhine River in a flimsy canvas boat to come to the aid of the 1st British Airborne Division.

SPECIAL GUEST, Ambassador to the UN Bogusław Winid, addressed Polish Independence Day and the



Ambassador Winid talking about Polish Independence Day.

work of the Center for Military Studies (CMS) and Polish American Museum (PAM). For the past three years, he has been instrumental in some very successful events at the museum including one detailing the aid that an Indian Maharaja gave to some of the Polish orphans that came out of the gulags in the USSR under General Anders.

Col. Kochan and Col. Jung bid farewell on behalf of the assembly and presented the ambassador and his family with a few farewell tokens to remember their involvement with CMS and PAM as the family is returning to Poland in two weeks for reassignment.

“The campaign led by the ambassador to place Poland in the UN Security Council, was singularly

successful with Poland receiving the highest vote tally in UN history for a candidate nation,” said Col. Kochan. The ambassador has accepted an honorary board position with CMS and pledged to continue with his mentoring and support of the center and museum.

Those also receiving special achievement recognition from CMS were family members of two of the veterans being honored. Lt. Rydygier’s daughter Janet Campbell, who had come from Canada for the occasion, and Lt./Cpl. Szubert’s daughter, Alice Duclos, received Certificates of Achievement and gifts reflective of their father’s service. With a loud chorus of applause, Lt. Jarosz was recognized with a certificate of achievement and a limited

edition print of Ringway Air Base in World War II where the Brigade trained.

A SPECIAL AWARD was presented to Barbara Szydłowski, president of the museum board. Szydłowski has been a champion of the history of the Blue Army, the American and Canadian volunteers that fought under General Haller to secure Polish independence.

To acknowledge this and the 100th year of the creation of the Blue Army, she received a framed French uniform cap issued to that unit. A very apt award as the display on the Blue Army at the museum is the most extensive in the United States.

Melissa John, British CEO of a very successful skincare company and board member responsible for assembling the exhibits at Battle of Britain Fighter Command Headquarters, was cited for her many contributions in bringing Polish history to the general English public and support to the Polish American Museum.

Other museum board members were singled out for their contributions including Steve Szachacz and Richard Brzozowski. Volunteer John Gradomski was also recognized for his efforts.

The crowd in attendance reflected the transformation of the museum from that of a regional museum to one of international outreach as visitors were represented from five states and four countries.

American Polonia At A Glance

NEW JERSEY

CAMDEN — Sun., Jan. 7. The Annual Wafer Luncheon (Opłatek) will be held at **St. Joseph Church**, Upper Parish Hall, 1010 Liberty St. 11:30 a.m.

For info and reservations, call Pat (856) 310-1783.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — JoAnn Falletta is taking the **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** to Poland in March to perform in four different cities and four acclaimed concert halls. The tour comes at the invitation of Elzbieta Penderecka, president

and founder of the Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival, an annual two-week festival in Warsaw that features many of Europe’s leading orchestras, ensembles and the world’s great soloists. First organized in 1997 as part of the Krakow 2000 European City of Culture program, the festival has taken place in Warsaw since 2004. Each year, the festival has a theme. In 2018, it celebrates the centennial of Leonard Bernstein and the 85th birthday of eminent Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki.

This will be the BPO’s first overseas tour since 1988.

Falletta will make history as the first American woman to lead a concert at the Festival. Although a number of American ensembles have appeared under the Festival auspices, the BPO will be the first full orchestra to perform in Warsaw during the two-week Festival.

Additional stops have the full BPO performing in four cities: March 18 at The National Forum of Music in Wrocław; March 20 at Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw; March 21 in Katowice to perform in the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra (NOSPR) Concert Hall; and March 22 Lublin at the Centre for the Meeting of Cultures.

The BPO will perform the tour program with Conrad Tao at Kleinhans Music Hall on March 10 and 11, 2018. Tickets for what will be the official tour send-off for the orchestra are available by calling (716) 885-5000, by visiting bpo.org, or by going to the Kleinhans Music Hall box office at 3 Symphony Circle, Buffalo.

GETZVILLE (WKBW) — A musician for over 50 years, **Dennis Krupski** is finding time to share his passion for brass instruments with the community in a very unique way.

Since this past summer, the retiree from Getzville has played taps at eight military funerals through-

out Western New York — free of charge.

After attending a military funeral and hearing a pre-recorded version, the long-time musician knew he could do something about that, and so he did.

Krupski took to Craigslist and the calls started coming in.

“Why would I charge? I just don’t see a need for that. These men and women give the ultimate sacrifice for our country and creating a special moment like this — that’s the least that I can do,” he shared.

Nowadays, hearing taps played live at funerals is a rarity, but around Western New York it’s becoming less rare thanks to the generosity and music of one man.

Krupski can be reached at (716) 998-3623.

OHIO

CLEVELAND — The **Polish Legion of American Veterans** (PLAV) will hold its 44th Biannual National Convention, Sept. 27-30, 2018 in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. The speaker for this event will be **His Excellency Piotr Wilczek**, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland.

This year, the PLAV will observe its 98th anniversary. It is one of only 50 veteran’s organizations chartered by an Act of Congress. The PLAV has 14 State Departments, Sons and Grandson Auxiliaries, and Ladies Auxiliaries.

Membership is not discriminatory on the basis of gender, race, color, religion or National origin.

“We are committed to the ideals of patriotism through allegiance to the nation, honor to America’s principles and aiding in the rehabilitation of disabled veterans,” said Terry Zacharyj, Ohio State Commander. “Our goal is to dedicate time and effort to ensure that no benefits are denied to those who served their country and to support legislation intended for those who earned the right to those benefits. We maintain

and uphold the rich Polish heritage, tradition and family values.”

For more information on the Polish Legion of American Veterans, visit www.PLAV.org.

PENNSYLVANIA

CORNWALL — Sun., Jan. 21. **Snowball Dance**, Sacred Heart Parish Center, 2596 Cornwall Rd. (Cornwall & 419). Music by Shoreliners Band. 2:00-6:00 p.m. Info: Joe Yaklowich (717) 566-5704.

DOYLESTOWN — Sun., Jan. 7. Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Language School Christmas Program, “**Jaselka**.” Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Rd. The event will take place before 12:30 p.m. Mass. For info call the shrine (215) 345-0600.

PHILADELPHIA — Jan. 14 - **Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy Lecture** in the Polish Language, Associated Polish Home, 9150 Academy Rd. 3:00 p.m. Speaker: Prof. Miron Wolnicki. Topic: “Technologies that change our lives in the 21st century.” Info (215) 624-9954. All are invited to attend. Admission is free.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., Jan. 14 - Online Presentation “**Map of Polish Philadelphia**,” by Peter Obst, Associated Polish Home, Vistula Lounge, 9150 Academy Rd. 2:30 p.m. Info (215) 624-9954.

PHILADELPHIA — Sat., Jan. 27. **St. John Cantius Polish Language School Carnival Ball**, Parish Hall, 4415 Almond St. 8:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Music by Simon Band. Tickets may be purchased at the Polish Bookstore (Ksiegarnia Polska), 2617 E. Allegheny Ave. (215) 426-2767, and Friday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Hall (next to church).

READING — Sun., Jan. 21. **Polish American Heritage Association** of Berks County Holiday/Installation Dinner, Giannotti’s Country Manor, 3118 Pricetown Rd., Temple, Pa, 1:30 p.m. Info: Sandy Hummel (610) 207-7065.

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