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

**POLAND, AGAIN, AT AN IDEOLOGICAL INTERSECTION • UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE ADOPTS “KATOWICE RULEBOOK”
KF ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS • MARTIN LUTHER RECONSIDERED • THE TREATS OF POLISH KARNAWAŁ
START YOUR FAMILY HISTORY JOURNEY • POLONIA PLACES: ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL, ATHOL SPRINGS, N.Y.**

Newsmark

DUDA PRAISES LATE PRESIDENT. Late President George W. Bush was a “statesman, World War II veteran, Cold War warrior, and honorary citizen of my native Kraków,” wrote Polish President Andrzej Duda in condolences forwarded to U.S. President Donald Trump. “He was always a great friend of Poland and Poles.”

Duda recalled the words spoken by President Bush at the Gdańsk shipyard workers monument in 1989: “To those who think that hopes can be forever suppressed, I say: Let them look at Poland! To those who think that freedom can be forever denied, I say: Let them look at Poland! And to those who think that dreams can be forever repressed, I say: Look at Poland! For here in Poland, the dream is alive.”

“Those words remain for us a great source of inspiration,” said Duda.

Duda, along with former Polish President Lech Walesa, flew to Washington together to attend President Bush’s funeral.

STATE DECORATIONS FOR U.S. CITIZENS. Polish President Duda presented a state decoration to a U.S. diplomat and former head of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Duda handed out the honor in Washington, where he attended a memorial service for President Bush.

Jacques Paul Klein, who served as head of three United Nations peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia, was awarded The Grand Cross of Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for overseeing UN joint operations with Poland’s GROM special forces unit.

Duda also handed the honor to Mark Sutton, CEO of the International Paper Company, for strengthening business relations between the two countries and for the company’s investment in Poland.

MAMMOTH BONES FOUND IN WARSAW. The bones of a prehistoric mammal were found during construction of Plock station on an extension to the Warsaw metro. Preliminary information indicates that the bones may belong to a mammoth or prehistoric forest elephant. Both species lived in Poland during the Pleistocene period (often called the Ice Age). The animals measured up to 15 feet in height and weighed up to seven tons.

“The remains found were extracted and cleaned by us and will be the subject of further research to determine the exact species of this animal, its age and the circumstances of death,” said Dr. Wojciech Brzeziński, director of the Poland’s National Museum of Archaeology (PMA) in Warsaw.

During the Pleistocene period, the present day Wola district of the Polish capital was a lake.

“It is possible that this mammal entered the frozen lake, and the ice collapsed under its weight, which caused the death of the creature,” said Brzeziński.

The bones are not the only fascinating items to have been found during the construction of the second metro line. Other finds include items related to the everyday life of residents of pre-war Warsaw, as well as the remnants of the old tram network in the area. Several military items have also been found.

BREXIT-INDUCED EXODUS. Nearly 100,000 Poles have left Britain since last December 2017. Figures from Britain’s Office for National Statistics show that some 985,000 Poles were living in Britain in June 2018, down from 1.02 million in December last year. That is the biggest drop since 2004, when the British labor market opened up after the enlargement of the European Union. Polish Radio cited Axel Antoni, a spokesperson for an EU citizens’ group in Britain called The 3 Million, as saying that Brexit had created an atmosphere which made immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe feel unwelcome. The British statistics office said that the reasons for people leaving the country were complex and attributing them to one factor would be a simplification.

Ambassador’s Letter Stirs Pot Plaint Tones

WARSAW — The U.S. ambassador to Poland triggered anger in Poland with a letter to the prime minister that took his government to task over its treatment of a U.S.-owned independent television station.

The November 19, 2018 letter from Ambassador Georgette Mosbacher circulated in Polish media. It misspells the last name of Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and addresses him with the wrong title, as well as misspelling the name of the interior minister. It was not clear who leaked the letter, and government officials seemed eager to play it down.

Overall, ties between the United States and Poland are good and Poland is lobbying for a permanent U.S. military base that it has promised to name “Fort Trump.” Poland’s conservative, nationalist government also has a lot of ideological similarities with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Mosbacher, a Trump appointee, said she wrote to express “deep concern” over government treatment of

See “Letter,” page 4



PHOTO: DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN

IGNACY GAYDAMOVICH plays his cello as the Mater Dolorosa Church in Holyoke, Massachusetts is demolished behind him. Demolition of the 117-year-old church, closed since 2011 despite the ardent protestations its parishioners — many of whom occupied the church for a year — began last month.

The Polish-born Gaydamovich, while not a parishioner, closely followed the effort to save the church.

“I came here to mourn this beautiful building that used to be such an important Polish heritage site,” Gaydamovich said. “And — thanks to I think greed — it is being demolished.”

Gaydamovich braved the biting cold to play Bach’s *Sarabande Suite No. 1*. The piece, he said, is known for its somber tones and is “usually played in situations of a loss.”

“As a Polish immigrant, I really felt the pain of destroying it,” he said.

Afterwards, Gaydamovich was clearly moved by the moment.

“I am a little bit emotional,” he said. “I kind of feel music has a little more to offer than just art. It has a real human significance.”

Story on back cover

ACPC Sponsors \$5,000 Journalism Scholarship

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has created a new journalism scholarship program to honor a longtime Polish community leader whose civic work helped thousands of Central European immigrants following World War II.

The Eye of the Eagle Władysław Zachariasiewicz Memorial Journalism Scholarship aims to award \$5,000 annually toward college or graduate school tuition and school-related expenses other than room and board for students with a clearly demonstrated, defined interest in a career in enterprise journalism in the public interest.

Born in Krakow, Poland, Zachariasiewicz served as a lieutenant in the Polish Army at the time of the German and Russian invasions in September 1939. He survived imprisonment by the Soviets and immigrated to the U.S. in 1948 to use the skills he learned in law school at Krakow’s Jagiellonian University to assist the Polish

American community in multiple ways for more than half a century.



Zachariasiewicz. Polish Army veteran became leader in American Polonia.

“We are very honored to create this opportunity as Poland’s marks 100 years of renewed independence. This program is made possible with a generous donation from the Zachariasiewicz family,” said Thomas Payne, ACPC’s president.

Zachariasiewicz, who resided in Chevy Chase, Md. at the time of his death, died at age 104 in 2016. He authored *The Independence Ethos of*

American Polonia, a detailed history of how Polish Americans both helped Poland achieve independence in November 1918, and supported Central Europe’s struggle against Nazi fascism and communism until freedom was again achieved in 1989.

Zachariasiewicz was actively involved in the leadership of the American Council for Polish Culture, the Polish American Congress and the Pulaski Parade Committee. He served on the Board of Directors of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and the John Paul II Foundation.

Scholarship program rules call for applicants to be a U.S. citizen, or currently applying for U.S. citizenship, admitted for at a fully accredited university in the United States or Poland. Special consideration will be given to students of Polish American heritage and those of non-Polish heritage who have a clear and thorough understanding of Polish culture and values.

Awards will be based solely on professional and aca-

see “Scholarship,” page 4

Piast Institute Selects New CEO



Skrzyniarz

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Virginia Skrzyniarz, CPS, was approved enthusiastically by the entire board as the chief executive officer of the Piast Institute. Her experience and leadership were recognized as outstanding.

Skrzyniarz, co-founder of the Institute, has more than 35 years’ experience managing non-profit organizations. She has served as an executive level administrator with duties in personnel, risk management, and supervision of employees and facilities.

See “Piast,” page 4

Almanac

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January Styczeń

- 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.
- 4 1944. Soviet troops cross the former Polish border.
- 5 1173. Death of **Bolesław IV the Curly**.
- 6 **FEAST OF THREE KINGS**
On this day, K+M+B (the initials of Kaspar, Melchior and Baltazar the three kings who visited the Holy Infant) are inscribed above main entry of one's home. Often this is done by one's priest.
1785. Death of Polish-born **Haym Salomon** (right), Revolutionary War patriot, financier, in Philadelphia.
- 7 1882. Death of **Jan Józef Ignacy Łukasiewicz** (b. 1822), pharmacist and petroleum industry pioneer who in 1856 built the world's first oil refinery.
- 8 1681. The **Treaty of Radzin** ended a five year war between the Turks and the allied countries of Russia and Poland.
- 9 1797. **Jan Henryk Dąbrowski** organizes his legion in Italy, and thus honored by having his name included in the Polish National Anthem.
- 11 1944. Nazis establish Kraków-Plaszów Concentration Camp.
- 13 1982. The Mass for the Nation by **Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko** at the Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka
- 14 1581. The city of **Riga** joined the Polish-Lithuanian union.
- 15 1919. **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, 58, pianist, composer, becomes first premier of the newly created Republic of Poland.
- 17 1734 Coronation of **August III the Saxon**.
- 18 1943. Jews in **Warsaw Ghetto** began an uprising against the Nazis.
- 19 1967. Death of **Casimir Funk** in Albany, N.Y., Polish-born biochemist who discovered vitamins.
- 20 1320. **Władysław I Lokietek** crowned King of Poland.
- 21 1268. Pope Clement IV gave permission to Poland's **King Premislaus II** to take over Lithuania and establish Catholicism.
- 23 2007. Death of **Ryszard Kapuscinski** (b.1932), Belarus-born Polish writer of books chronicling wars, coups and revolutions in Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- 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 Lutosławski**.
- 26 1934. Germany signed a 10-year **non-aggression pact** with Poland, breaking the French alliance system. Germany violates with pact on Sept. 1, 1939 when it invades Poland.
- 27 1919. Birth of **Bishop Alfred Abramowicz** (d. Sept. 12, 1999), auxiliary Bishop of Chicago.
- 28 1886. Birth of pianist **Artur Rubinstejn**, in Lodz, Poland.
- 29 1846. Birth of **Karol Olszewski**, scientist who liquified gases. (d. 1915)
- 31 1887. Death of **Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski** (b. 1824), Civil War general.

This paper mailed on or before **December 28, 2018**. The **February 2019** edition will be mailed on or before **January 31, 2019**

Viewpoints

GM's Poletown Plant – Controversy from Start to Finish

by Robert Strybel

This reporter has received a number of emails from Stateside friends about General Motors' decision to close its Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly plant located in what is known as Poletown. And that's not surprising. For a variety of reasons, the facility has been surrounded by controversy ever since its inception.

To appreciate the full human impact of GM's decision, a closer look at the general area is in order. The Chene (pronounced Shane) Street area of east side Detroit was the city's original, historic Polish hub. Starting in the 1870s, it became known for its Cathedral-like churches, parochial schools, businesses and residential side streets lined by modest clapboard houses. I remember driving my grandmother Katarzyna Kupczyńska to the Chene and Ferry (streets) farmer's market for czernina (duck soup) fixings, good Polish bread and farm-fresh produce.

The Chene Street area's ever-expanding Polish population began spilling over into the neighboring locality of Hamtramck after the Dodge Brothers built their car factory there prior to World War I. The facility attracted job-seekers from around the metropolitan area and beyond. By leaps and bounds, formerly rural Hamtramck township evolved into a true Polish American urban stronghold.

Hamtramck's populace wor-

shipped at four Roman Catholic parishes and one Polish National Catholic Church and bade its loved ones farewell through the Skupny Krot and Kaczorowski funeral parlors. Joseph Campau Avenue, the town's main business street, revealed neon



Poletown's Immaculate Conception Church under the wrecker's ball, July 15, 1981. General Motors and the cities of Detroit and Hamtramck relied on eminent domain to relocate the 4,200 people who lived in the area — including their 1,300 homes, 140 businesses, six churches and one hospital — to build an automobile plant. Last month, GM announced the closing of the plant.

signs announcing Witkowski Men's Wear, Polish Art Center, Mróz Hats, Cieszkowski Dry Goods, Lendzon's 5 and 10, Sikora Diamond Merchant and Galonzka Music Center.

"Paczki do Polski" (Parcels to Poland) signs were displayed by the Amerpol Travel Agency and a "Polska Apteka" (Polish Pharmacy) placard identified Radziszewski Drugs. The Jaworski, Kowalski and Środek sausage shops and several Polish bakeries could have done without neons, as their unmistakably tantalizing aromas wafted into the streets.

FAST FORWARD TO 1981. Eager to gain jobs for the electorate, Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young

jumped at the opportunity when General Motors announced plans to build a \$500 million industrial complex on the city's east side. It would straddle the Detroit-Hamtramck border including the site of the Dodge Main factory abandoned by Chrysler Corporation in 1979.

GM was offered land, generous tax breaks and public funds totaling more than \$300 million. The concept of "public domain" was bent and stretched as the Michigan Supreme Court allowed the city to seize and tear down some 1,500 homes, more than 140 businesses, and even a hospital. More than 4,200 people — most of them Polish Americans — lost their homes as a result.

Over the past 33 years, the Poletown Plant has turned out some four million vehicles, but that was much below GM's expectations. And sales of the Chevrolet Volt, with which the corporation had hoped to revitalize the facility, have been disappointing. As part of its North American cost-cutting program, on November 26, 2018 GM announced that the plant would be "unallocated" in 2019.

GM's Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly plant was born after destroying the homes of thousands of people. It is ending its career by destroying thousands of jobs and leaving behind an industrial wasteland. How, when and whether the abandoned 460-acre inner-city site will be redeveloped is now still anyone's guess.

Pole Who Tried to Stop Terrorist Succumbs to Wounds

STRASBOURG, France — Bartosz Niedzielski, who prevented further bloodshed in Strasbourg after he sacrificed himself to stop terrorist from entering a club on December 11, 2018, died after a long struggle to save his life.

Witnesses said Bartosz and his friends had gone out for a smoke in front of one of the clubs near the Christmas market in the capital Alsace. There, they saw an armed terrorist open fire on the shoppers and club-goers. Niedzielski and his friend — 29-year-old Italian



journalist Antonio Megalizzi — rushed the attacker, Cherif Chekatt, a Frenchman of Moroccan origin who had already been watched by the French services for a possible terrorist threat. Two people died on the spot, and 14 were wounded, including a Niedzielski and Megalizzi, who also died a few days after the shooting.

Niedzielski, a native of Krakow, had been an active part of Strasbourg's community. He was a guide in the European Parliament as well as around the city. He was also a journalist for local media, organized a comic book festival, and participated in Strasbourg's choir.

Poland's President Andrzej Duda, who said he knew Niedzielski by sight, paid tribute to him, and asked all to remember him.

Andrzej Dera, the aide to Duda, said Niedzielski will be decorated posthumously by the president.

Thanking you all for your generous donations throughout the year!

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

— Doreen Patras Cramer, President

POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE

177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066 / (732) 680-0680

www.PolishChildrensHeartline.org / childshart@aol.com



In 2018 The Polish Children's Heartline was able to purchase 4 pieces of equipment for hospitals in Ostroleka, Białystok and Suwałki for \$50,000.



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Conference Celebrates Centennial of Poland's Rebirth

by John P. Dunn and Anna Mazurkiewicz

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Students, faculty, and local citizens attended a conference celebrating the centennial of Poland's rebirth on November 9, 2018. Sponsored by the History Department of Valdosta State University (VSU), it was also supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C., the Polish American Historical Association, the Kosciuszko Foundation, and the Faculty of History, University of Gdańsk (UG).

The conference featured four components: academic papers, a Polish lunch and trivia game, a student essay competition, and a film screening. Organized by visiting professor Anna Mazurkiewicz (UG) and John Dunn (VSU), their goal was to provide an introduction to Poland's history and culture. This started with a collection of posters graciously provided by the Polish Embassy in Washington. These gave a real sense of the tremendous strides made by Poland in the last 30 years, along with enticing images that encourage students to consider a study abroad experience in 2019.

Mazurkiewicz established a focus of academic presentations, one that showed how America responded to crises in Polish history. The keynote speaker, Dr. Neal Pease, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (UWM), started with a concise look at why Poland's rebirth was important in an international context. Dunn followed up with an account of Paul Eve, the only native-born American who served with insurgents during the Novem-

ber Insurrection (1831), while Dr. Mathew Adams, Savannah State University, told of the many American connections to Poland's 1918-1921 struggles, ranging from the Grey Samaritans to the Kościuszko Squadron. The academic papers concluded with Mazurkiewicz explaining 1980s America's part in "Po-

try, earned a special distinction for making 100 of the pierogi Russian style, while Ewa Barczyk gained honor for bringing a suitcase full of pierogi and sausage from Milwaukee. An hour later, only a few slices of bread remained on the tables.

Barczyk, former director of the Library at

Both obtained a certificate, plus an award of \$50.00.

The conference concluded with a screening of *The Fourth Partition*. This 2013 documentary directed by Adrian Prawica, tells the story of Polish emigration to America, all the way back to Jamestown. Following this, select participants enjoyed a celebratory banquet.

Participants judged the conference a success, as it helped cement the already good relations between Gdańsk and Valdosta Universities. Future plans include continuing exchanges of professors and students, while furthering a mutual interest in Polish History.

❖ ❖ ❖

John P. Dunn is chair of History at Valdosta State University. As a professor, he offers courses on the Middle East, Eastern Europe, China, and World Military History.

❖ ❖ ❖

Anna Mazurkiewicz, a Louis Brown Visiting Scholar at VSU, is an associate professor at the Faculty of History, University of Gdańsk and the current president of the Polish American Historical Association.



Participants judged the conference a success, as it helped cement the already good relations between Gdańsk and Valdosta Universities.

land's way out of Communism."

With a sense that students were still hungry for knowledge about Poland, the next component featured an east-central European lunch. Guests were offered barszcz, bigos (regular and vegan), piernik and of course pierogi. Dr. Yakov Woldman, VSU Chemis-

UWM continued support for the conference by allowing students to submit encyclopedia entries for her upcoming book, *A Guide to Polish Historical Sites in North America*. Two students produced entries worthy of reward: Ms. Logan Mabey of Georgia, and Ms. Aydar M Chijayeva, a native of Turkmenistan.

Forum

Poland, Again, at an Ideological Intersection

Where Romanticism and Realism Meet

by Tom Czerwinski

The PAJ is to be commended for reprinting "Polish Risky 'American first' Policy" by the columnist Paul Taylor of *Politico* (November 2018). The subject is extremely important and deserves the same kind of attention Polonia gave Solidarity. The article is provocative journalism as is to be expected of *Politico*, in laying out the negative case for the policy and reflects the position of the European Union (EU).

The struggle between the Civic Platform party, together with its ally the EU and the Law and Justice party is essentially a continuation of the long-standing Dmowski-Pilsudski contest. This division stretches back to 1830 resulting in historical cycles which pitted Realists and Romantics for Poland's destiny. This remains the case today: Civic Platform/Dmowski/Realists vs. Law and Justice/Pilsudski/Romantics.

The great historian Norman Davies surprised me, though I am quite sure that he is not completely comfortable with his finding, when he wrote in 2001 his verdict, "... historic Romanticism has emerged as the dominant feature of the modern Polish mind." That being the case, the EU needs to come to terms with a country which will not surrender its Polishness for the "lumpen-European" model that it promises—call it a matter of "creative diversity tolerance."

Even Stalin recognized Polish exceptionalism with the phrase that Communism in Poland is like "fitting a cow with a saddle." Accordingly, even within the framework of an involuntary association, the Warsaw Pact, allowances were made. By the same token, especially given the voluntary nature of the EU, cutting Poland some slack would be wise. The cow is not going to leave the farm, *ala* Brexit. Let it roam around a little more freely within its confines. As a child I asked my Mother about Polish. She answered in one word — "stubborn."

THE ISSUE OF "FORT TRUMP" is above all a matter of geostrategy which can be summed up as follows:

- Poland is "the true keystone to the arch" on which "the security of Europe rested." (Napoleon Bonaparte).
- Poland's role is to be a "barrier to Rus-

sia and a check on Germany." (Winston Churchill).

All other arguments aside, the only test is whether Fort Trump provides the essential deterrent value consistent with its geostrategic potential to prevent future wars. The lack of such support led to both World Wars and has had a deleterious effect on history for centuries.

While the term "Fort Trump" is undoubtedly a tongue-in-cheek reference, its use has served to focus attention on the proposal to permanently base a U.S. armored division in Poland, to which the government has pledged \$2 billion. The initial response has been generally open-minded, even positive with respect to augmenting forces there in principle. However, there have been some valid reservations expressed about its composition. There currently is no U.S. armored division anywhere in Europe, and indeed it might not be even be the best fit. Poland might do well to revise its proposal, perhaps along the following lines:

Repositioning a U.S. Army Aviation Brigade now based in Germany, providing much needed transport and attack helicopter capabilities;

Providing the permanent presence of a U.S. unit fielding unmanned craft such as the effective Predator drone armed with its precision missiles. Both of the above are considered high priorities in Polish military circles;

Expanding the Polish naval base on the Baltic to accommodate the operations of a U.S. Marine Expeditionary Unit similar to the one now established in Romania on the Black Sea. This would cast a deterrent shadow across the path of any incursion launched from the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, while increasing U.S. presence on the Baltic.

The *Politico* article argues that the geostrategic deterrence should be provided by Europe through NATO, as does Macron and Merkel. History shows that Europe has always failed to do so. Further, NATO is underfunded, lacks combat power and its dilatory record in the Balkan-Kosovo conflict does not inspire confidence.

The *Politico* piece also makes much of the so-called Polish Constitutional Crisis in incendiary terms which demand a rebuttal. The EU is suing Poland with the prospect of taking retaliatory measures. The charge is that the prerequisite for EU membership which stipulates "stability of institutions guaranteeing de-

mocracy, the rule of law, human rights..." has been violated by Law and Justice, passing 13 statutes in less than two years, many involving the courts. Most egregious was legislation mandating retirement at 65 for members of the Constitutional Court, making several vacancies available for political appointment. It is important to note that the EU charges do not dwell on whether these were unconstitutional, only that the sheer volume and velocity of the laws result, in effect, in an EU judgment of "no confidence."

The problem, however, is not the acts but

The problem, however, is not the acts but the Polish Constitution, itself. It does not establish clear separation of powers with checks and balances, and obliges the courts to act constantly in political decisions making an independent judiciary realistically impossible.

the Polish Constitution, itself. It does not establish clear separation of powers with checks and balances, and obliges the courts to act constantly in political decisions making an independent judiciary realistically impossible. Just imagine, every proposed law, regulation, executive order, the wording of every referendum and electoral provision such as districting is subject to being approved by the court, before it can even be promulgated, and its decision is final. Is it any wonder that regardless of the party in power that the composition of the Constitutional Court is a paramount political target?

The EU knows this well because the Polish Constitution is almost identical to the French Constitution in these respects, and is subject to and experiences the same political behaviors, which apparently both the French populace and UE tolerate. To show the political activism of the French Constitutional Court, 160 verdicts annually is not unusual.

THERE SEEMS NO POSITIVE way out of this dilemma. However, take the landmark principle established by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1803. It made a distinction between laws affecting the Nation and those affecting the rights of the Individual. It ruled that the former was the product of the "inherent discretionary powers of the Executive" and are generally not justiciable. Accordingly, it decided that the protection of individual rights was the primary role of constitutional courts. It has adhered to this principle, with some notable exceptions, ever since.

If the Polish political camp could agree to

shift the Constitution more toward the protection of the individual and away from arbiter in political decision-making through a careful set of statutes to the extent available within its framework, it would cause a more independent judiciary to likely emerge.

The article further references Poland's refusal of the EU demand to "share the burden" of Syrian refugees. The average Pole has no interest in helping Angela Merkel with a problem of her own making through a unilateral and personal decision without prior consultation. As a result, Poles have been insulted this time by widespread charges of xenophobia and nativism. Of course, no mention is made of the million Ukrainian refugees who have found a haven in Poland since Russia's incursion into that country's borders.

Finally, there is the political dimension underlying the *Politico* article which it does not address, but is germane to the America First policy. It centers on the figure of Donald Tusk, who is serving his second and last term as President of the EU which expires in 2020. Tusk is a young, energetic, intelligent man entirely devoted to European Union ideals, and a Kashubian Pole. He resigned the post of Poland's Prime minister to take the EU position, and is indeed the founder of the Civic Platform faction.

The next Polish presidential election occurs in 2020, and Parliamentary elections the previous year. Obviously, the Civic Platform party is preparing to make a comeback to re-assume power after its drubbing in 2015-16. It seems more than plausible that much of the harassment of the Law and Justice (and the Polish Romantic movement in general) is part of laying the ground work leading to the resurgence of a pro-"EU First" Civic Platform party representing the Polish Realist camp led by Donald Tusk. Tusk is sorely missed. Law and Justice increased its margin in the recent provincial elections.

In a way, this means pitting the two Donalds in 2020—Tusk vs. Trump, and Poland is on center stage which, after all, geostrategy dictates. More to come.

❖ ❖ ❖

Thomas Czerwinski is a retired Professor of Information Warfare and Strategy at the Pentagon's National Defense University in Washington, D.C. In addition to books and articles, he has lectured at Tufts, Georgetown, West Point, and the Army and Navy War Colleges, among others.

Scholarship

continued from cover

ademic merit with an appreciation for issues that affect Polish Americans, ACPC said.

The Władysław Zachariasiewicz Memorial Journalism scholarship committee is composed of: Mark G. Dillon, committee chair; Minnesota bureau chief and columnist for the *Polish American Journal* newspaper and a 1986 graduate of Northwestern University's Medill Graduate School of Journalism; Robert Synakowski ACPC first vice president, president of Syracuse Polish Community, Inc. and a teacher of English as a second language in the Syracuse City School District; and Mary Ellen Tyszka past president of both ACPC and the Friends of Polish Art and former executive vice president of the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division.

ACPC hopes applicants will be inspired to follow in the footsteps of famous journalists who maintained a strong ethical commitment, sense of objectivity and fairness amid fi-

nancial, political, social and industry peer pressures. To that end, applicants are being asked to provide analytical responses to one of three hypothetical scenarios that might be faced in the process of gathering and evaluating news.

To download an application form and informational flyer, go to scholarships at ACPC's website: www.polishcultureacpc.org.

The American Council for Polish Culture, Inc. is a national non-profit, charitable, cultural and educational organization that promotes Polish culture, heritage and history, and intercultural understanding. It serves as a network and body of national leadership among affiliated Polish American organizations throughout the United States.

Founded in 1948, the Council currently represents the interests of some 21 organizations in 15 states and the District of Columbia. Incorporated in Illinois, the Council holds tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational entity.

Piast Institute

continued from cover

In addition to the Piast Institute, Skrzyaniarz has also been involved with other boards and organizations that include: Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition, Detroit Agency on Aging Advisory Board, Drug Free Communities (DFC), Past Chair of Hamtramck Federally Qualified Health Clinic Board, Census Complete Count Committee 2020, Census Hamtramck Complete Count 2010 Committee.

Prior to co-founding the Piast Institute, Skrzyaniarz was the chief of staff at St. Mary's College, as well as the executive director of Hope Network in Southeast Michigan.

Skrzyaniarz is the recipient of a number of awards including the Cavalier's Cross, Order of Merit from the Republic of Poland for her many years of work dedicated to the promotion of Polish Culture and service to the Polish American com-

munity at national and local levels. In addition, she was awarded the Michigan Nonprofit Organization of the Year by the Detroit City Council and the American Public Health Association of Black Caucus of Health Workers.

The Piast Institute is a national research center devoted to Polish and Polish American affairs. It is one of fifty-two United States Census Bureau Information Centers (CIC) and one of two in the state of Michigan. The Piast Institute is also certified by the Department of Homeland Security as an Immigrant Assistance site to help with visa, documentation and status issues. The Institute's mission and programming also aims to celebrate Polish contributions to American as well as world culture, and to address and counter inaccurate or defamatory information about Poland, Poles, or Polish Americans and has been doing so for fifteen years.

Embassy Celebrates Independence Centennial

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It was a genuine *Sto Lat!* — 100 Years! for the nation of Poland when it celebrated Poland's Centennial of regaining independence. Subsequently, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland conducted a massive celebration here on November 13, 2018 to commemorate the 100 years of regained independence.

Such a momentous occasion called for an equally momentous celebration, and Ambassador Piotr Wilczek rose to the occasion with over 800 invited guests in attendance for the ceremonies and reception. Located just north of the Lincoln Memorial, the United States Institute of Peace building — illuminated in red and white for the occasion — proved the ideal venue.

Ambassador Wilczek greeted everyone, and in his welcoming address emphasized the excellent relations between Poland and the United States. He highlighted his remarks by saying: "History has shown that we are stronger together than separate, that when we act in solidarity the world listens. And as new times bring new challenges the strong and enduring Polish American alliance will respond with effective and innovative solutions." Wilczek also bespoke of the great strides Poland had made in the recent decades: Poland is now a fully participating member of many international organizations such as NATO, the United Nations, and European Union. Poland's economy is robust and growing at a steady rate ... there is much to celebrate on this centennial of Poland.

The evening's speakers included Poland's Minister of National Defense Mariusz Blaszczak, Polish Senator Anna Maria Anders — Plenipotentiary of the Prime Minister for International Dialogue, and Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Wess Mitchell,



Military Attache Colonel Michal Sprengel, Polish Senator Anna Maria Anders, and Ambassador Piotr Wilczek welcoming the renowned Ojczyzna Polish Dancers from Baltimore, Maryland to the ceremonies and gala reception at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

representing the U.S. Department of State. Both Minister Blaszczak and Senator Anders reinforced and amplified the ambassador's remarks. They also spoke about the many onerous hardships — and eventual triumphs — of Poland over the past 100 years, and the utter horror, coupled with massive devastation, that the nation endured during World War II (1939-1945), and the 44 years of imposed harsh communist rule that followed it.

"The United States was the first country to recognize Poland's independence in 1918," said Secretary Mitchell, "in a way, repaying the heroism of Generals Kazimierz Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko, who had supported America in her own fight for independence."

He also emphasized that in 1921, two years after Poland's regained independence, Poland halted the (westward) spread of Bolshevism on the Warsaw banks of the Vistula River during the Polish-Soviet War. A Russian victory would have resulted in the spread of communism

across all of western Europe. He said that, in 1989, Poles triumphed again when they overthrew the communist government imposed upon Poland since 1945 at the end of World War II.

Other celebrants included the Washington diplomatic corps with its military attaches, representatives of the U.S. administration and armed forces, university students, Polish news media, guests from prestigious think tanks and cultural institutions, nationwide Polonia leaders and honorary consuls. Embassy Chef Jan Gorszczyk-Kecik organized an excellent buffet enjoyed by all. A professionally operated compact photo studio allowed everyone to carry home a unique centennial souvenir post card. Many participants chose to be photographed with members of the Ojczyzna Polish Dancers attired in their colorful and authentic folk costumes. Pianist extraordinaire Brian Ganz entertained with the presentation of celebrated compositions by Fryderyk Chopin.

SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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

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

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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for your donation to the PAJ PRESS FUND: **Mrs. James Case**, Las Vegas, Nev.; **Larry Lisiecki**, Cheektowaga, N.Y.; **Constance Lauerman**, Chicago; **Phillis Luzinski**, Salem, Mass.; **Stanley Muzyk**, Derby, Conn.; **John Niziol, M.D.**, Clifton, N.J.; **Joseph Osowski**, Atco, N.J.; **Dennis Piotrowski**, Torrance, Calif.; **John Stanek**, Minneapolis, Minn.; **Irene Wodkiewicz-Wheat**, Clark, N.J.; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; **Richard C. Zagrocki**, Fort Worth, Texas; **Cynthia Zawatski**, Ashland, Ore.; **Edward Zoladz**, Pittsfield, Mass.; and two **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated.

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Letter. Government says incident will not change relations

continued from cover

TVN, a Polish broadcaster owned by the U.S. company Discovery. The station is seen in Poland as representing a liberal viewpoint critical of the conservative government.

TVN broadcast undercover footage in January 2018 that showed members of a Polish neo-Nazi group celebrating Adolf Hitler's birthday. Recently authorities said they wanted to prosecute the undercover reporter on suspicions of propagating fascism, a move denounced by some as absurd and an attempt to harass the station. The plan was dropped.

"I hope that members of your government will refrain from attacking, let alone prosecuting, independent journalists, who articulate public interests and strengthen our societies," she wrote in the letter.

Michal Szuldrzynski, a commentator at the *Rzeczpospolita* newspaper, said the incident could

signal a deterioration of relations with Washington and noted critically that the "anti-American hysteria" was being unleashed amid new Russian aggression against Ukraine. He said that, while aspects of the letter were unfortunate, the Polish government has shown signs that that it would restrict media freedom if it could.

"And — if in the name of freedom of speech — the American ambassador writes that politicians shouldn't attack media, one could spitefully say that an identical letter should be sent to President Donald Trump," Szuldrzynski wrote.

A spokeswoman for the Polish government later said in a statement that Warsaw and Washington enjoy "very good relations and one incident will not change that."

This is the second time in less than a year that the American and Polish authorities have clashed over TVN, Poland's leading private broadcaster, which is owned by the Tennessee-based Scripps Networks Interactive.

In December 2017 the Polish government was caught aback by the strength of the American response after Poland's broadcasting regulator, which is controlled by Law and Justice, issued a fine against TVN for its coverage of anti-government protests in 2016 on the basis of a report that seemingly implied that the broadcaster was being punished for failing to explicitly condemn the demonstrations.

TVN, bought for \$2 billion by the U.S. company Scripps Networks Interactive, was the largest U.S. investment ever in Poland. Scripps has since been bought by Discovery, Inc., based in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Marcin Makowski, a reporter for the conservative weekly *Do Rzeczy* and the *Wirtualna Polska* portal, said there was a belief in Polish ruling circles that Mosbacher "doesn't really support a free media" but was backing a U.S.-based business.

UN Climate Conference achieves consensus, adopts "Katowice Rulebook"

KATOWICE, Poland — Nearly 200 countries finally signed a joint commitment to contain global warming at no more than 2°C and prevent a global catastrophe before it's too late.

The two-week United Nations Climate Conference held in the southern Polish industrial city of Katowice went into overtime to hammer out a compromise declara-

tion. It included substantial funding for Third World countries that cannot afford costly pro-ecological measures.

Differences concerned not only richer and poorer nations but also those heavily reliant on coal such as Poland as opposed to those with sufficient non-polluting energy sources. The defalcation was also signed by the world's major pollut-

ers including China, Russia, and the United States, which initially had refused to go along.

The Katowice Rulebook, adopted at the conference, has laid out a single system for countries to make emissions cuts under national climate plans and shows how those plans can be regularly monitored, reported and progressively ramped up.

Courage, Culture and Arts Camp, Kosciuszko Style



The combined Polish and American staff of the 2017 TEIP Arts Enriched Language Camp in Nadwarciański Gród.

by Tom Rusnak

Nie bój się być odważnym. Don't be afraid to be brave.

These are among the very few Polish words I use at the arts-centered English language camps I've been leading in Poland for the last few years. Don't be afraid to be brave. I actually say that to the children of a culture that has endured some of the greatest hardships of the last few centuries, as a means to motivate them to engage in honing artistic skills, learning cultural concepts, and participating in physical activities while in a non-native tongue.

Our Arts Enriched English Language camp is conducted under the auspices of the Kosciuszko Foundation's "Teaching English in Poland" program. Polish students with three to five years of English studies in Polish schools are immersed in a two-week summer camp with an American staff of teachers, teaching assistants and Polish supervisors. American English is the operative language. Our goal is to help our campers speak, think, and react in English. As ours is an arts camp, we use English as a communication tool to teach music, drama, visual art and movement. In other words, we don't teach English, we teach IN English. We treat art as the universal language it is. We count on the camper's passion for the art to drive their desire to communicate in English. And it works. They seem more willing to traffic in the language when they truly have something to say.

The TEIP program was instituted 28 years ago in the early 1990s not long after the fall of Communism. The need for English literacy was pronounced when Poland shed her dependence on all things Russian and moved to reconnect with the West. It is a partnership she historically longed to restore for many centuries.

These aliens, Americans whom

many students have never seen or met until coming to camp, traveled to Poland and invested their time and resources for the experience of sharing the passion of their art with young Poles. They came from across the U.S. at a substantial cost. While most have Polish roots, many do not. However, it doesn't take long for a non-Pole to be enamored by this beautiful country and its hospitable people.

"Our goal is to help our campers speak, think, and react in English."

There is also an important contribution made by our Polish hosts and counterparts. They provide accommodations and activity support for the length of the camp. We count on their expertise to supervise and bridge any language gaps (our Americans are usually not fluent in Polish) that might slow the pace of camp activities. They are invaluable colleagues and many have become personal friends.

It's the arts component, in my view, that requires a large measure of courage. Art defines culture. It is also very manipulative. Artists are the optometrists to the world. They add perspective to things often hidden in plain sight. They can enrage as well as calm. That makes artistic literacy vital to anyone wishing to navigate through all that culture has to offer. What our American teachers do is expose our campers to visual art, music, drama and movement. Then we have them synthesize their art. We have them draw, paint or sculpt, play instruments or sing, act from scripts or improvise, and dance. And it's all done in American English.

Classes that concentrate on the arts give way to after lunch activities run by our teaching assistants. Volleyball, flag football, baseball and soccer rule the afternoon along with games, dance lessons, arts & crafts, hiking and an occasional

movie.

The culminating event of the camp is the Arts Expo on the last day. It is an exhibition of student-produced visual art and musical and dramatic performances. The results of our efforts are shared with the parents and friends of the campers just before they all depart for home.

Our Polish hosts also provide the American staff with a short tour after the camp. The tours visit several of the regional gems of the country, sites which have included: Warsaw, Krakow, Czestochowa, Torun, Gdansk and Zakopane. These activities offer wonderful incentives for our staff to incur the cost of traveling and donating their talent to the TEIP program. It's a fine definition of the win-win situation.

On a personal note, being the grandson of subjects of a Kaiser, Czar and Emperor who nevertheless considered themselves to be Poles before anything else, I will be forever grateful to the Kosciuszko Foundation and its visionaries for making these journeys to the Motherland possible. I will be returning for my fifteenth TEIP camp this summer.

The cultural exchange provides enough exposure to Polish culture to give our American volunteers more than just camp memories to take back with them.

More information on the Kosciuszko Foundation's "Teaching English in Poland" program can be found on the summer programs link of their website: www.thekf.org.

Tom Rusnak has been to Poland fourteen times with the Kosciuszko Foundation's "Teaching English in Poland" program and is the American staff leader of their Arts Enriched English Language Camp. He is a member of the Chicago chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Council of Educators on Polonia. He also serves on the technical staff for The Lira Ensemble, is a retired Fine Arts theatre teacher and continues to stage direct and design in Chicagoland area theatres.

Books in Brief

100 Essential Polish Artists and Writers

by Mary E. Lanham

THE MAGNIFICENT 100
by Jaroslaw K. Radomski
Jaroslaw K. Radomski
2018, 194 pgs.

Together in one volume are over 100 Polish artists and writers that Jaroslaw K. Radomski has chosen to feature in his work, *The Magnificent 100*. His succinct biographies include writer Henryk Sienkiewicz, Nobel Prize winning poet Wislawa Szymborska, and painter Anna Rajecka. Radomski not only delves into history to find skilled individuals, several of the entries are about modern personages. Below are glimpses of a few of the entries.

Born in 1846, Henryk Sienkiewicz was a novelist, journalist, and Nobel Prize laureate. In school he studied law, medicine, philology, and history, but ended up not earning any degree. Working as a journalist, he wrote several short stories. In 1872 he published his novel *Na Marne*. Later he traveled to the United States, where he stayed for two years. After his trip to America, he visited Venice and Rome which was the setting of his most famous novel, *Quo Vadis*. Sienkiewicz moved to Switzerland after the start of World War I. He died in 1916, but his works still live on in numerous translations and movie and TV adaptations.

Originally from the region that is now part of the city of Kornik, Wislawa Szymborska moved with her family to Krakow in 1929. Writing poems from an early age, it seemed Szymborska's path was clear; not even the German occupation could stop her. She attended underground high school classes and continued to write. During her life, she published several books of poet-

ry. *View with a Grain of Sand*, published in 1996, came out only a few weeks before she was recognized for her critically-acclaimed works with the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The painter Anna Rajecka was born in the 1760s, one of the earliest figure to be featured in the book. King Poniatowski took an interest in Anna and her brother and funded both of their educations. Rajecka even learned drawing and painting from the king's own painters.

She later studied painting at a private art school in Paris. Among her earlier works were miniature portraits of Polish aristocracy. Rajecka lived in France during the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. Sadly, in the later years of her life she became blind. Her legacy lives on in her paintings which are now in museums and private collections in both her native Poland and her adopted home of France.

Radomski's *The Magnificent 100* is a reference book that is essential to any personal library with a Polish focus.

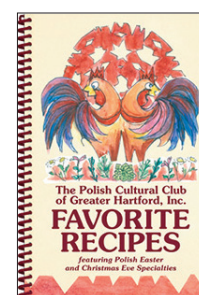
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Born in Warsaw, Poland, Radomski moved to the United States after earning degrees in Polish philology as well as a Ph.D. specializing in the theory of persuasion. He has written hundreds of articles, more than 150 of which have been published in the *Am-Pol Eagle*, a weekly newspaper based in Buffalo, NY. He is also the author of *The Diary of the Journey to the Amazon Region*. Fluent in four languages, Radomski also enjoys sailing and is a professional photographer.

PCCGH Debuts Cookbook

HARTFORD, Conn. — Do you reminisce about the wonderful Polish dishes of your childhood? The colorful and beautifully rendered cover of "Favorite Recipes," designed by artist, Ursula Brodowicz, offers a tantalizing prelude to a collection of 300 recipes shared by members and friends of the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc.

Newly published, the book features time-honored Polish recipes, as well as those for the American kitchen, in categories from appetizers to desserts. Also included are Polish Easter and Christmas Eve customs, along with traditional recipes. All cooks and bakers will also appreciate the 16 pages of helpful cooking and baking tips.



"Favorite Recipes" can be purchased for \$16.00 each, or 2 for \$30.00, plus \$4.00 per book for shipping and handling.

To order, send a check or money order made payable to the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., as well as your name, address, phone, and e-mail to: P.O. Box 380699, East Hartford, CT 06138-0699.

Your book(s) will be mailed to you promptly.

For information, call (860) 659.0356 or visit the Club's website www.polishculturalclub.org.

Kosciuszko Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation, an American Center for Polish Culture, is accepting scholarship applications for next academic year (Fall 2019/Spring 2020).

Among the scholarships available to Americans of Polish descent are scholarships for:

- graduate level studies (Masters and Ph.D. studies in any major);
- a female resident of Massachusetts towards her studies in medicine;
- undergraduate studies for residents of Massachusetts;
- undergraduate studies for members of the Polish American Club of North Jersey;
- members of the Polish National

Alliance of Brooklyn, USA, Group #1903;

- undergraduate studies in Nursing, Teaching and Business for residents of New Jersey;
- undergraduate students who show exceptional promise in the Natural Sciences (min. GPA 3.5);

Scholarships will be awarded for full time studies towards academic year Fall 2018-Spring 2019. Qualified applicants are required to complete an on-line application form, and submit a financial information form, an essay, transcripts (3 years), two letters of recommendation, proof of Polish ancestry, photo, curriculum vitae, \$35 application fee and where applicable, letters of ad-

mission to college or graduate study programs.

The deadline for applications and supporting materials is January 28, 2019. Details may be found at: <https://www.thekf.org/kf/scholarships/tuition/>

Kosciuszko Foundation's Tuition Scholarships are awarded to American students of Polish descent for studies in the United States and for studies at English Schools of Medicine in Poland.

The Kosciuszko Foundation is a not for profit organization engaged in cultural and academic exchanges between the United States and Poland.

The best present to share your Polish roots

The Magnificent 100

By Jaroslaw K. Radomski

LEARN ABOUT THE LIVES AND WORKS OF THE TOP 100 POLISH ARTISTS AND AUTHORS (written in English) \$24.95 +tax

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WWW.MAGNIFICENT100.COM

Religion

Martin Luther Reconsidered

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

A new documentary film on the reformation leader Martin Luther has been created in Poland by **Grzegorz Braun**, son of Prof. **Kazimierz Braun**, a noted professor at the University of Buffalo and a producer of several of his own plays both in the United States and in Poland. On the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the Polish filmmaker has presented a version of Luther's story that does not follow the benign and favorable perspective of other recent treatments. Rather, the filmmaker focuses in his film *Luther and the Protestant Revolution* on the negative effects of protracted "Protestant revolutions" and "echoes of events half a thousand years old, the devastating effects of the 'shock-wave' of Protestantism in the horrors and absurdities of the 20th/21st centuries." The film premiered in Warsaw's Palace of Culture and Science in its original Polish version. An English language version will become available in Blu Ray and DVD. Interviews with 15 experts in academic fields from seven countries, including the U.S., and footage from historical sites associated with early Protestantism make up the film. A surprising revelation is the influence of Luther's ideas and practices on later historical figures such as **Bismarck**, **Hitler**, and **Honecker**, all of whom, according to Braun, drew from Luther's rebellion from and hostility to the Catholic Church. Swedish Lutheran critics of the film spoke out against it as divisive and "hateful" and felt that the film "does not portray Luther and the emergence of the Reformation

in a fair way."

Bishop Stika Undergoes Heart Surgery

Knoxville, Tenn.'s bishop **Stika** underwent multiple bypass surgery in 2004 and recovered in 2009 from a mild heart attack. His doctors plan surgery again to insert a stent to resolve a recurrence of the problem. He asks for prayers for a successful procedure.

ABUSE CLAIM MADE AGAINST LATE MSGR. JANKOWSKI.

An opposition lawmaker in Poland is demanding that a monument to a prominent priest of the Solidarity pro-democracy movement be pulled down following allegations that he sexually abused minors.

The monument to the late **Msgr. Henryk Jankowski** stands in Gdansk in front of St. Brygida's church, where he was the rector.

Jankowski rose to prominence in the 1980s through his support for Solidarity and its leader Lech Walesa in their struggle against Poland's communist authorities.

Allegations against Jankowski were published in the *Duzy Format* weekly. Lawmaker Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus petitioned the Gdansk mayor to remove the monument.

Walesa said he was not aware of any misconduct by Jankowski. He said it was too bad the allegations surfaced when the priest, who died in 2010, could not defend himself.

BISHOP OF MADISON, WISC. LAID TO REST.

Msgr. James Bartylla, vicar general of the RC Diocese of Madison, Wisc., presided at the funeral Mass for Bishop Robert Morlino who died after a cardiac

event the day before Thanksgiving. **Msgr. Bartylla** lauded the bishop's accomplishments in strengthening the faith of the people of the diocese and attracting good numbers of seminarians to the diocesan seminary.

FREE TAXI RIDES IN WARSAW.

Farley Freedman, **Asher Moses** and **Howard Kott**, three Jewish taxi drivers in London, have donated their cabs for use in chauffeuring Poles who risked their lives to save Jews from the Holocaust. The idea came from a chance encounter of Freedman with **Jonny Daniels**, founder of the Poland-based Holocaust commemoration organization *From the Depths*. The taxis were donated by the drivers and **Edward Mosberg**, a Poland-born Holocaust survivor in New Jersey, helped fund the project. Mosberg declared, "It is imperative for us to do all we can to be of assistance and help to the living Righteous, these people are true heroes." Elderly now, and surviving on meager state pensions, the righteous cannot afford to travel through the sprawling metropolis of Warsaw. Freedman noted, "These people were so good for us and this is us trying to be good for them. A lot of them are elderly now and struggle to get around, so we hope it helps."

NEW AMERICAN BLESSED INTERRED IN POLONIA.

Br. James Alfred Miller, a religious brother of the Institute of the Brothers of Christian Schools, was serving in Guatemala when he was shot to death by three hooded men in 1982 at the age of 37. The native of Stevens Point, Wisc., first worked in Nicaragua

where he supervised the construction of 10 rural schools. In Guatemala he taught at a secondary school and center of studies for young indigenous Mayans from rural areas. His killing was one of a string of assassinations of priests and religious and Miller himself knew of the danger to him when he said in a letter home, "I am personally weary of violence, but I continue to feel a strong commitment to the suffering poor of Central America...I pray to God for the grace and strength to serve Him faithfully among the poor and oppressed in Guatemala. I place my life in His providence. I place my trust in Him." After his death, his body was brought back to Wisconsin and was buried in Sacred Heart parish in Polonia, Wisc. His beatification, approved by Pope Francis for being killed "in hatred of the faith," will take place in 2019.

At the same meeting, when the pope announced Miller's beatification, he also confirmed the heroic virtue of Servant of God **Michael Giedrojć** and approved his beatification. Giedrojć, a brother of the Order of St. Augustine, was born in Lithuania in 1420 and died in Kraków in 1485. Without the typical investigation and miracle, he was declared "blessed" due to longstanding recognition of his holiness and virtue in the place where he lived.

HONEY BEES RELOCATED FROM CHURCH TO BEE HIVES.

Fr. Ryszard Biernat, secretary to the bishop of Buffalo and a beekeeper, was called to extract bees from All Saints Church in Lockport, N.Y. After moving the bees away from the honey comb with smoke, Fr. Biernat was able to remove and dispose of the possibly contaminated combs. He then scooped up the bees and brought them to his hives in rural Orchard Park, N.Y., well south of the church.

The holes in All Saints' church building were then patched.

STO LAT TO... **Fr. Bryan J. Zielenieski**, recently named pastor of Our Lady of Charity parish in Buffalo, N.Y. Ordained in 2014, Fr. Zielenieski has served as administrator of the parish since 2016. He was recently appointed vicar forane for the Vicariate of Southeast Buffalo and is also canonical administrator of Notre Dame Academy. In that capacity, he recently discovered financial malfeasance of one of the school's financial officers ... **Fr. Keith Maczkiewicz, S.J.** on his appointment as chaplain at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. ... **Adam Z. Rosinski, S.J.**, on being ordained a transitional deacon at the Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Chestnut Hill, Mass.

New Development Officer Joins Orchard Lake Schools

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich.— Orchard Lake Schools has announced that Christopher Czarnik will be joining its campus community as the new chief development officer. "We wish to share the joy of welcoming Chris to the OLS family, and ask for God's blessing upon him and his service," said Reverend Canon Miroslaw K. Król, Chancellor.

Most recently, Czarnik was director of major gifts at Detroit Public Television (WTVS), the viewer-supported PBS member station serving the 11th largest market in the United States. As a key member of the network's leadership team, he was instrumental in implementing fundraising strategies to help maintain the arts, culture, news and educational programming, all hallmarks of PBS.

Prior to joining public television, Czarnik was director of advancement at De La Salle Collegiate High School in Warren, Mich. He served on the leadership team, formulating and implementing strategies to address the school's operational budget and vision for the future. He was responsible for several key program areas, including major, annual and planned giving, alumni relations and communications.

Previously, as the former director of athletic development at the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM), Czarnik focused efforts on departmental fundraising, including a multi-million-dollar capital improvement campaign. His responsibilities also included donor cultivation, stewardship and recognition events.

Czarnik attended the University of Detroit Mercy where he received his B.A. in communications studies and his M.A. in economics. The former UDM baseball player went on to play professionally for the Atlanta Braves minor league system where he reached the AAA level. He was head baseball coach at UDM (June 2000-04) and parlayed his baseball career experiences into a nationally syndicated newspaper column.

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As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students — future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia — seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

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NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body, to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light and listen to Your voice and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring his opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace, O Holy Ghost, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant heareth." Amen. J.K.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 34th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

Happenings: Chicago Style

Celebrating Chicago Philharmonic Festival: Poland 2018

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO - The week of November 7-11 was filled with memorable music in Chicago. The Consulate General of Poland in Chicago along with the Chicago Philharmonic Society invited all of Polonia and music lovers interested in Polish music to attend events at various locations throughout the Chicago area and enjoy **Chicago Philharmonic Festival: Poland 2018**. The events were organized to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the recovery of the independence of Poland.

The festival began on November 7 with Poland's Silesian Quartet performing at Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church. The program included Szymanowski's *String Quartet No. 2, Opus 56*; Bacewicz's *String Quartet No. 4*; Górecki's *String Quartet No. 1, Opus 62* ("Already it is dusk"); and Penderecki's *String Quartet No. 3* ("Leaves of an Unwritten Diary").

On Thursday, November 8, the festivities moved to Chicago's St. John Cantius Church, where world-renowned organist Andrzej Białko performed a program that included Liszt's *Prelude and Fugue on B.A.C.H.*; an anonymous composition from the *Tablature of Jan of Lublin's Salve Regina*; Surzyński's *Elegy in F Sharp Minor, Opus 30*; Willan's *Five Preludes on Plainchant Melodies*; Nowowiejski's *Polish Phantasy, "Christmas Eve on Wawel Hill" No. 1, Opus 9*; Łukaszewski's *Icon*; and Eben's "God's Reward" from *Job*.

On November 9, jazz enthusiasts had the pleasure of hearing Piotr Orzechowski, jazz pianist, perform his *24 Preludes and Improvisations* at The Polish Museum in America.

On November 10, the celebration of Poland continued at the Copernicus Center with the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra featuring pianist Luke Krupiński performing Paderewski's *Piano Concerto in A Minor, Opus 17*; Chopin's *Andante spianato et grande polonaise brillante*; Szymanowski's *Concert Overture in E Major, Opus 12*; and Panufnik's *Tragic Overture*.

The November 11 finale of this celebration week, was the **Concert For Peace** held at St. Hyacinth Basilica. Over 1,000 worshippers and music devotees attended the combination mass and concert in which the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Marek Moś, along with the Paderewski Symphony Chorus, soprano Natalia Rubiś, mezzo-soprano Katarzyna Sądej, tenor Jesse Donner, bass Kurt Link, and organist Andrzej Białko, performed the world premiere of Krzysztof Penderecki's *Fanfare* and Wojciech Kilar's *Missa Pro Pace*.

CEP HONORED INDIVIDUALS AND AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS. The Council of Educators in Polonia (CEP) held its 21st annual Polish American Heritage Awards celebration at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) on November 14. Approximately 200 guests filled the university's Alumni Hall to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to



Concert For Peace at St. Hyacinth.

PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN



PHOTO: ARTUR PARTYKA

l. to r.: Piotr Semeniuk, Vivian Walkosz, Gloria J. Gibson, and Lidia Filuś.

the Polonian community and to NEIU, to celebrate Polish culture, and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence. Guests were welcomed by Professor Lidia Filuś, chair of the Mathematics Department of NEIU and president of CEP. Gloria J. Gibson, president, Northeastern Illinois University, and Piotr Semeniuk, vice-consul of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago followed with welcoming remarks.

Musical entertainment was provided by the students of Music Academy of Paderewski Symphony Orchestra (PaSO) directed by Barbara Bilszta, general director of PaSO and Wojciech Niewrzol, music director of PaSO.

The awards ceremony was led by Czesława Kolak, Polish language lecturer at NEIU and vice president of CEP.

This year's Polish American Heritage Awards included the Special Award given to Denise Cloonan Cortez de Andersen, Ph.D., Audrey Reynolds distinguished professor of Spanish and chair of the NEIU Department of World Languages & Cultures; the Community Service Award given to Alicja Otap, editor-in-chief, Polish Daily News (*Dziennik Związkowy*); the Distinguished Emerita Award given to Vivian A. Walkosz, Ed.D., NEIU professor emerita; and the Educator of the



PHOTO: COURTESY OF PETER SEROCKI

Grażyna Auguścik

Year Award presented to Barbara Bilszta, founder and director of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra of Chicago.

This event also included the awarding of scholarships to three outstanding student essayists. Weronika Niedzielski, Michal Gajda, and Maciej Titus Duchnowski received scholarships from various donors.

As is always part of Polish hospitality, guests were invited to partake in Polish delicacies and to enjoy socializing.



PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

Rachelski and Dorula.

Polonian community and American music connoisseurs. This year, many musicians, representing various jazz styles performed on two stages at the Chopin Theatre which radiated with the sounds of trumpets and saxophones, the pounding of drums, and the strumming of strings. This musical feast was not meant only for jazz fans, but for all music enthusiasts.

The festival was filled with many popular entertainers such as Jack Mroczek and Lemon Blues; Marbin Jazz Group; Kaeyra, singer and songwriter of mood pop; Caroline Baran, jazz vocalist; Grażyna Auguścik, world-renowned jazz vocalist; the Map Trio of Adam Czerwiński, Piotr Lemańczyk, and Marcin Wądołowski; Billy Neal, blues vocalist from Australia; Lilianna Zofia Wośko, jazz cellist; drummer Daniel Villarreal-Carrillo; the Pascal Pahl Collective, multi-faceted instrumental group; Tad "TeeMac" Janik and Pamela Fernandez; and Akwereal, featuring Sergiusz

Zgrzębski, TV anchor for Chicago's Polvision.

During a brief intermission, Chopin Theatre owners, Zygmunt Dyrkacz and Lela Headd Dyrkacz, appeared on stage to remind the audience of the theatre's 100th anniversary. Lela gave a short presentation of the Chopin's history using historic photos.

POLISH ARTS CLUB CHRISTMAS EVENT. Sixty-five guests attended the Polish Arts Club of Chicago's (PACC) annual Christmas Luncheon on December 2 at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge, Illinois.

The afternoon began with PACC President A. Happy Oerke welcoming all and giving a condensed PACC annual report. Following the sharing of opłatek and the luncheon, Lucyna Migala, musical director of the Lira Ensemble, introduced the afternoon entertainment and described each Christmas song that was about to be performed. Katarzyna Dorula, soprano from the Lira Ensemble, performed carols in Polish and English accompanied by Marek Rachelski, musical director of St. John Brebeuf and conductor of the Niles Metropolitan Chorus and the Musica Lumina Orchestra.

The entertainment was followed by a holiday raffle.

20TH ALL SOULS JAZZ FESTIVAL. This year's 20th anniversary of the All Souls Jazz Festival (*Zaduszki Jazzowe*) took place once again at the Polish Triangle's famed Chopin Theatre on November 5 from 7:00 p.m. until sunrise of the following morning.

This festival mirrors the annual jazz festival that has unfolded over 60 years in historic Krakow. Over the past 20 years, Chicago's All Souls Festival, Krakow's jazz counterpart, has grown to become a popular event among the local

Minnesota Voice

Music and Remembrance: Minnesota Marks Poland's Centennial

by Mark Dillon

MINNEAPOLIS — Among the congratulatory communications offered to Minnesota's Polish community ahead of a Nov. 10 classical music concert and gala marking Poland's Centennial of Independence was a poignant letter from the Most Rev. Bernard Hebda.

"While they immigrated while Poland was still partitioned, traveling with Austrian passports, (my maternal grandparents) never doubted for a moment that they were Polish, and they raised their children and grandchildren to have love for the traditions and culture that have long distinguished Poland," Hebda wrote.

The Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul- Minneapolis said his appreciation of Poland deepened in the 1980s:

"Pride in our heritage was not only nur-

country and culture that formed him."

Those sentiments were echoed in a letter of gratitude from Stanislaw Karczewski, Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, to Minnesota's Polish community and some 30 groups and individuals statewide who organized and funded a Saturday afternoon and evening of musical celebration at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

"I know that some of you think of yourselves as Poles living in the U.S. while others as Polish Americans. What is common to all of you, though, is something far greater and more important than semantics: it is the wish for well-being of an independent Poland." Karczewski wrote (in Polish).

The Nov. 10 lineup of events at the art institute included afternoon children's activities, dance exhibitions by three Polish folk groups, a "living wax museum" whereby children depicted famous figures in Polish history, and films. Students from the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School, Minneapolis, and Polish Educational Solutions of Minnesota participated in and helped lead the program.

In the art institute's rotunda, an exhibit from the Instytut Pamieci Narodowej w Warszawie included panel displays explaining the contributions of Pilsudski, Dmowski, Paderewski, Witos, Korfany and Daszynski to Polish Independence.

The evening's performing arts theme was a "Musical Journey to Polish Independence" that included:

A **Sonara Ensemble** of Marta Troicki (bassoon), Madeline Miller (Oboe) and Anastasiya Nyzkodub (clarinet)

Adam Zukiewicz, an internationally rec-



A global group of journalism students from the University of Minnesota and visiting editors from the Czech Republic, France, Latin America, and Africa wave Polish flags at a dinner that accompanied Minnesota's Polish Independence Gala at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

ognized Polish pianist and **Tulio Rondón**, a cellist. Together they performed four compositions of Frederic Chopin. Zukiewicz also performed Chopin's Polonaise in A flat Major "Heroic," Op.53

Pawel Izdebski, an internationally known bass and baritone vocalist who performed Bogurodzica (Mother of God), Hymn do miłości Ojczyzny (Hymn to the Lover of the Motherland), Mazurek 3-go maja (May 3rd Mazurka), Dalej chłopcy, dalej żywpo (Hey Boys, Hurry Up), Polonez Kosciuszki (Kosciuszko's Polonaise), Rota (The Oath), Aria Skolubyabd and Polesia Czar

Mirandola Ensemble, a Minnesota choral music ensemble of Mikolaj Zielinski, Henryk Gorecki and Joseph Kromolicki

In organizing the day's events, multiple groups came together for the first time to form a new statewide Polish umbrella 501(c)(3) non-profit called the Poland Independence Celebration Committee (PICC). The group also created the PoloniaMinnesota.org and polandcelebration.org websites. Persons of Polish heritage currently make up the sixth largest ethnic group in Minnesota, U.S. cen-

sus figures show.

The first wave of Poles came to the region in the aftermath of attempted revolutions in Central Europe in 1848, several years before Minnesota was admitted as a state in 1858. Poles established some 40 communities from Winona to Duluth. A large second wave came from the Austrian-Hungarian and Russian partitions from the 1880s to just before World War I.

A third wave of first generation Polish immigrants have arrived in Minnesota since the early 1980s. Also, many third and fourth generation Polish Americans like Hebda with century-old roots and ties to Polish communities in the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. now make Minnesota home.

Recalling the military service of the more than 22,000 Americans (including 336 Minnesotans from the Twin Cities) who volunteered in 1917 as members of the Polish Army in France during World War I, Polish Senate Speaker Karczewski said in his letter that: "you can be proud your ancestors selflessly served our Homeland and its local communities, and rest assured that Poland remembers."



A Minneapolis panel exhibition entitled "Fathers of Independence" details the contributions of Pilsudski, Dmowski, Paderewski, Witos, Korfany and Daszynski to the formation of the Second Polish Republic in 1918.

tured in my hometown of Pittsburgh but also in Rome, where I was privileged to study and work for 18 years. Especially in the early years of the pontificate of Saint John Paul II, Rome was flooded with Poles passionate about freedom and the dignity of each life. I was always inspired to see their commitment not only to their faith but also to their country. Later, after my ordination, when I had the opportunity to serve Saint John Paul in the Vatican, I grew in my love for him and for the

Warsaw included panel displays explaining the contributions of Pilsudski, Dmowski, Paderewski, Witos, Korfany and Daszynski to Polish Independence.

Katowice's Climate Summit: A Minnesota Perspective

by Mark Dillon

For Minnesota architect Jesse Turck, the Katowice Climate Change Conference was not only an opportunity to network with global building design peers, but a chance to see his maternal grandfather's homeland for the first time.

Raised on a farm on rural Litchfield, Minn., the third generation Polish American was part of a 35-member Minnesota delegation who traveled to one of Silesia's most industrialized cities in early December. The group also included executives from retailers Target Corp. and Best Buy Inc. and a dozen graduate students from the University of Minnesota.

Reached shortly before a flight to Krakow via Frankfurt on Dec. 4, Turck said that, though it was unlikely he would get to see his family's ancestral Pomeranian villages near Kiedrowice in Bytow County, he was nonetheless looking forward to experiencing Polish culture.

"It's real. And it is happening now," Turck said of climate change. At the conference, Target, Best Buy and Best Buy were also representing Climate Generation, a Minnesota activist group founded in 2006 by polar explorer Will Steger after Steger learned that an Antarctic ice shelf he had traversed in a dog sled had melted into the ocean.

As an architect at Minneapolis' BWBR firm, Turck focuses on improving buildings to bolster energy efficiency, typically through creative use of materials, site design and improved insulation. Why? Some 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the "urban built environment," with 39% from buildings, according to Architecture 2030, an industry website.

In Katowice, a coal-mining region still recovering from the environmental effects of misguided Communist-era central plan-

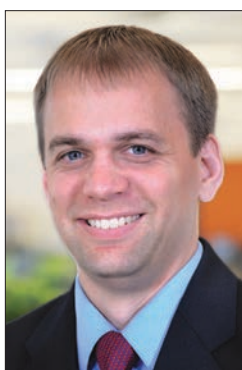
ning, some 22,000 delegates gathered at the United Nations-sponsored two week "COP24" conference. The stated goal: agree on global planning and regulatory rules for signatories to the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement to live by.

Polish COP24 conference President Michael Kurtyka opened the event with a call for inclusive dialogue that recognizes the difficult, financially expensive path that consumers and aging industrial areas are being asked to take to avoid permanent damage to the earth.

"Be ambitious. But be realistic. Be firm. But hold compromise in no less regard. Be focused. But dare to see and acknowledge another's perspective," Kurtyka asked delegates on Dec. 3. "Today we see the wave of optimism and global cooperation which carried us to and through Paris – crested, broke and now tumbling. The societies of the world don't seem to be as global minded as they appeared to be back then. Global cooperation is strained."

As Kurtyka delivered his talk, violent rioters in France were protesting a new 12 cent per gallon gasoline tax designed to reduce the country's hydrocarbon emissions. On Dec. 5, France suspended implementation of the tax for six months.

For U.S. delegates, the fact that the current White House has walked away from the Paris climate deal is "disappointing" but not fatal,



The Katowice climate change summit was the first visit to Poland for Jesse Turck, a third generation Polish American architect from Minnesota.

said Jacob Herbers, a University of Minnesota researcher at its Humphrey School of Public Affairs and head of the Minnesota delegation.

Herbers pointed to the We Are Still In "climate action coalition" U.S. activist group as evidence that some state-level public sector and private sector institutions are still willing to independently conform to directives voted upon in Katowice.

Target is the largest Minnesota-based company to be a party to *We Are Still In*, and Katowice delegate Alissa Mattheis Tamasi was sent as the company's business integration lead on climate matters. Other U.S. corporate participants and *We Are Still In* members at Katowice include Walmart, Microsoft and McDonalds.

In a video released before the conference, Mattheis Tamasi said Target has installed solar panels at 436 locations — mostly stores — with a goal of 500 locations by 2020. She also reiterated the retailer's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its facilities by 25% from 2015 levels by 2025, first stated in October 2017.

"I am most excited to learn from the brightest and most ambitious leaders in climate," she said of Katowice in her video.

Delegates to the Katowice convention have only to look at the history of Silesia following the Versailles Peace Conference in the aftermath of World War I to see what can go wrong when the best and brightest world leaders decide one thing, and affected peoples think otherwise.

In 1919, negotiators at Versailles, in recreating an independent Poland, decided to allow voters to decide if areas surrounding Katowice and Upper Silesia should be part of Poland or Germany. A long, bitter and violent debate followed that included a series of three armed uprisings in the then ethnically mixed area between 1919 and 1921.



The Silesian Insurgents' Monument in Katowice is a 1967 monument to those who took part in the three Silesian Uprisings of 1919, 1920 and 1921, which aimed to make the region of Upper Silesia part of a newly independent Polish state. Designed by sculptor Gustaw Zemla and architect Wojciech Zabłocki, the wings symbolize the three uprisings. Some 2,500 Poles were hanged or shot by firing squad by the German military during the first conflict.

To settle the border dispute, the League of Nations stepped in 1922 and divided Silesia between Germany and Poland, allowing Germany to purchase coal from the region at a discount. Germany stopped buying Polish coal three years later, and the resulting energy policy debate set off a tariff war in the late 1920s between Germany and Poland. (Source: *The Rebirth of Poland* by Anna Cienciala).

Polish Chef

The treats of Polish Karnawał (Mardi Gras)

by Robert Strybel

The long Polish Karnawał season stretching from Three Kings to Shrove Tuesday is a period of high-powered socializing and revelry: banquets, dinner-dances, balls, and parties galore. Tasty Polish dishes ranging from gourmet to rustic peasant fare are an absolute "must." Some dishes to consider:

SKEWERED HORS D'OEUVRES (koreczki). These colorfully attractive shishkebab-style hors d'oeuvres will add a touch of elegance to any event. Ideal for cocktail hour preceding a full course banquet. Allow 2-3 hors d'oeuvres per person and prepare that many toothpicks or cocktail picks and any of the following in whatever quantity needed: kabanosy (thin smoked sausage), Krakowska sausage, smoked fish, yellow cheese (brick, gouda, edam), dill pickles, canned button mushrooms, cocktail onions, fresh cranberries, capers, rye bread (all cutbale items cut into small cubes), etc. Allow 4 item per pick, alternating meat, veggie, bread and cheese. Stick skewered hors d'oeuvres into apples, oranges, grape fruits, or a round load of unsliced bread, placing them around the room during cocktail hour.

CLEAR BEETROOT BARSCZ (czytysy barszcz czerwony). Ruby-red clear beetroot barszcz will add a Polish gourmet touch to any dinner party. Imported in one-liter cartons, it is so convenient, economical and home-made tasting that it's highly worth recommending. Look for Krakus, Knorr, or Hortex brands at your nearest Polish market or deli. Traditionally it is served in twin-handled barszcz cups but, if unavailable, teacups will do. The barszcz accompanies savory pastries (next).

MUSHROOM-FILLED PASTRIES (paszteciki z grzybami). In 4 T butter sauté 12-16 oz fresh sliced Portobello mushrooms with 2 coarsely chopped onions until browned, stirring frequently. Grind mushrooms & onions, stir in 1 egg and 2-3 T plain, dry bread crumbs or enough to make a firm filling. Season with Maggi liquid, pepper, a pinch of marjoram. Mix well. Break open 2 8-oz pkg refrigerator crescent-roll dough and spread dough sheets on lightly-floured board. Dip fingers in flour and press down on manufacturer's perforations to separate them. Cut each sheet lengthwise into 2 equal strips, run filling down



MEAT 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 pork crumbs and/or fried chopped onions.

center of strips and fold dough over it. Pinch to seal edges. Cut rolls at angle into 2" pieces and bake on baking sheet seam-side-down according to directions on pkg. Serve hot with the clear barszcz.

POLISH DONUTS (pączki). In saucepan heat 2 c whole milk to between 110° and 115°F. Pour warmed milk into large bowl or the bowl of stand mixer. Dissolve 4 1/2 t instant yeast in milk and add 1 T sugar and 2 c flour. Mix to pancake-batter consistency, cover with plastic wrap and keep in warm place until about 30 min or until very bubbly. In separate bowl, whisk 4 egg yolks and 1 whole egg until light and frothy (about 4 min). Whisk in 1/2 cup sugar, 1 t salt and 1 t vanilla extract. Slowly stir 1/4 c cooled, melted, unsalted butter-cooled melted butter into yeast mixture until combined. Then slowly incorporate egg mixture until just combined. Fit mixer with dough hook. Stir in 3 c flour, working 1/2 cup at a time until a soft, sticky dough forms. Spray a large bowl with cooking spray and transfer dough to bowl. Cover tightly

with plastic wrap and set in a warm place until doubled in bulk (about 1 hr). Turn out dough on a generously floured surface. Dust surface of dough with flour then punch down dough to about 1/2 inch height. Using a floured two- or three-inch biscuit-cutter, cut out doughnuts. Carefully transfer doughnut rounds to parchment lined baking sheets. Cover sheets with a clean dish towel and set in a warm place to rise until doubled in size, about 30 min. Fry in 350° canola oil a few at a time without crowding. Fry until bottoms are deep brown then turn over and fry the other side. Test one for doneness. Remove, allowing excess oil to drain off, to wire rack. When cooled, use a pastry bag to insert a dollop of jam into each pączek. The gourmet type are filled with rose-petal or rose-hip jam. Also popular are powidła (plum butter) as well as forest fruits (equal parts of blueberry, blackberry, and raspberry jam) to cool. Glaze with simple white icing. For a gourmet touch, before icing sets sprinkle each pączek with a little finely chopped orange rind.

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.



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Otwarty nabór na rok szkolny 2019-2020 zakończy się w dniu 1.04.2019 r. o godz. 17:00. Wnioski dostępne są dla klas K-8 i można je uzyskać w placówce szkolnej, na stronie www.NHAschools.com lub dzwoniąc pod numer 866-NHA-ENROLL. Jeżeli liczba wniosków otrzymanych w trakcie otwartego naboru przekroczy liczbę dostępnych miejsc, konieczne będzie zastosowanie procedury wyboru losowego. W razie konieczności losowanie odbędzie się 5.04.2019 r. o godz. 11:00 w pokoju nauczycielskim. Wnioski otrzymane po upływie terminu otwartego naboru będą przy-

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PAWEŁ PAWLKOWSKI'S POST-WORLD WAR II ROMANCE drama *Cold War* took center stage at the recent European Film Academy's awards ceremony in Seville, Spain. It was awarded what is referred to as a European "Oscar" as the best European film. Pawlikowski also brought home statuettes for best European film director and best European screenplay. Poland's Joanna Kulig, the star of *Cold War*, was voted best European actress. *Another Day of Life*, based on a book by Polish war correspondent Ryszard Kapuściński, was the ceremony's best European animated feature film.



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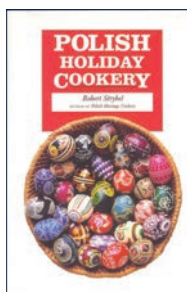
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Polish Holiday Cookery acquaints readers with traditional Polish foods associated with various occasions and furnishes countless cooking tips and serving suggestions. This "instruction manual for the culturally aware Polish American" offers more than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

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Sports

Radwanska Retires from Tennis



Radwanska was the first Polish woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era.

by Tom Tarapacki

Poland's **Agnieszka Radwanska** announced her retirement from tennis after a 13-year career. The 29-year-old, a former Wimbledon finalist who reached a career-high ranking of No. 2, said she is "no longer able to train and play the way I used to."

Radwanska, the first Polish woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era, won 20 WTA titles in her career. She played the Wimbledon final in 2012, losing to Serena Williams in three sets. Radwanska also reached the semifinals at the All England Club in 2013 and '15, as well as reaching the French Open semifinals in 2014 and '16. Currently ranked 75th, she has not won a tournament in two years. A fan favorite, Aga regularly won the WTA's Shot of the Year Award, which is voted on by fans.

Chris Oddo wrote in tennisnow.com: "But more than anything Radwanska was considered a shotmaker, and one of the best tennis has ever seen. Dubbed the 'Ninja,' the Krakow native was a magician with the racquet and played a creative, improvisational brand of tennis that regularly flummoxed the tour's biggest hitters."

Radwanska has been playing since age four, and said the game has taken a toll on her body. "Taking into consideration my health and the heavy burdens of professional tennis, I have to concede that I'm not able to push my body to the limits required," she wrote on her Facebook account.

Radwanska, who married **Dawid Celt** in 2017, recently launched Aga Tennis Apartments in Krakow. The boutique hotel has a tennis theme and allows guests to celebrate Radwanska's career, with rooms representing different tour stops and containing memorabilia from her playing days.

JUMP! Polish triple Olympic cham-



Stoch

pion **Kamil Stoch** finished second and his teammate **Piotr Żyła** came third in a World Cup ski jumping competition in Kuusamo, Finland. Japan's Ryoyu Kobayashi was first. He jumped 138.5 meters, two meters short of Stoch, but he got more points for style and conditions. Żyła jumped 136 meters. Four other Poles also took part: Jakub Wolny was 11th, his highest place ever, Stefan Hula was 20th, Dawid Kubacki came 35th and Maciej Kot was 53rd.

The previous week the Polish team of Stoch, Żyła, Wolny and Kubacki won the team event in the World Cup season opener in Wisla, southern Poland, finishing ahead of Germany and Austria.

LITTLE POLAND IN WEST VIRGINIA. **Christian Rozpedski**, an outstanding tennis player at Palm Desert High School in Rancho Mirage Calif., has committed to attending Salem University, an NCAA Division II school in Salem, W.V.

Christian admitted that going to a place out east where it snows will be different, saying "I mean, I'm a desert rat so I'll probably have a tough time adjusting, but I'm looking forward to it." Asked why he chose Salem, he had this response: "It's funny, they have a lot of other Polish men on the team, and I am of



Thanks to his dad, the Bruins' Matt Grzelczyk has skated on NHL ice since he was 2.

Polish descent, and the whole team was nice and generous when I visited and this one guy was speaking Polish (Christian speaks some Polish) and I asked him, 'How many guys on the team speak Polish?' and he said, 'four or five,' and I just smiled. That stood out to me and they quickly felt like a family."

The Salem men's tennis team has a very international flavor, with Polish born players Gregor Lainer, Patryk Garwacki, **Bartosz Losiak** and **Andrzej Urjasz**. On the women's side there's **Julia Piatek** and **Karolina Glowinska**.

GRZELCYK STAYS HOME. Defenseman **Matt Grzelczyk** has become an important contributor for the Boston Bruins, and no one could be happier than his father. John Grzelczyk Sr. has worked for TD Garden since 1967, and gets to see his son in action up close. "Seeing him now is one of the greatest thrills in my life," John said

A native of Boston's Charlestown neighborhood, Matt played four years at Boston University before being drafted by Boston in the third round (85th overall) of the 2012 NHL Entry Draft. The 5-9 speedy defenseman made quite an impression last season, and the Bruins then signed the 24-year-old to a two-year contract through the 2019-20 season.

John Sr. works as part of the "Bull Gang" responsible for the Garden's changeover from an ice rink to a basketball court. He's joined by son John Jr., who was also a top hockey prospect before injuries shortened his career.

Matt Grzelczyk has played for the Bruins since 2016 but, thanks to his dad, he has skated on NHL ice for a lot longer than that. Mark first skated on Garden ice at the old Boston Garden when he was a two-year-old pushing a crate for balance.

A MIRACLE. Eight years after almost severing his right arm in a



Kubica

crash, **Robert Kubica** will race for Williams next season. Kubica's father, Artur, says it is a "miracle" the Pole is returning to Formula 1 in 2019, and the racer's surgeon agrees.

Kubica made his F1 debut in 2006 and claimed a total of 12 podium finishes until 2010. He won the Canadian Grand Prix with BMW Sauber in 2008 and then competed for Renault, taking three podium spots in his season with the French manufacturer.

In 2011 he was in a near-fatal crash in a rally car, injuring his arm, shoulder and leg. He nearly lost his right arm, and underwent numerous surgeries. He returned to Formula 1 this season as a test and reserve driver for the Williams team.

"This is one of the most unusual comebacks in the history of the sport," said Poland's *Gazeta Wyborcza*. The 33-year-old is the first Pole to compete in Formula 1.

Artur Kubica put it this way: "Today I'm happy that he is where he is. I am proud to be his father."

WATT BROTHERS. We know that the **Gronkowski** brothers are incredible athletes, but what about the Watt brothers? **JJ**, **Derek**, and **TJ** are all playing in the NFL at a very high level.

Of course, JJ Watt is an All-Pro defensive end for the Houston Texans. However, both of JJ's younger brothers are in the NFL as well. A sixth-round selection by the Chargers in the 2016 draft, Derek Watt is a fullback for the team. T. J. Watt was drafted by the Steelers in the first round of the 2017 NFL Draft, 30th overall. He starts at outside linebacker for Pittsburgh and has delivered the outside pass rush the Steelers have desperately needed.

Their mom, the former **Connie Lynn Walczak**, is quite accomplished as well. When JJ launched an on-line effort to raise money for Hurricane Harvey relief she played a central role in the coordination of that effort. Her son's Justin J. Watt Foundation raised and distributed \$41.6 million in 12 months.

GOOD START. Poland will face Austria, Israel, Slovenia, Macedonia, and Latvia in Euro 2020. Jerzy Brzeczek, the coach of Poland's national soccer squad, expressed satisfaction after a random drawing held in Dublin, Ireland gave Poland a fairly equalized set of group mates. Fans across the country breathed a sigh of relief that Poland would not have to face soccer giants Germany, France, Italy, or England in its group phase. Fifty-five teams were drawn into a total of 10 qualifying groups. Qualifiers will be played between March and November 2019, and the top two teams from each group will face off. The Euro 2020 tournament will be held from June 12-July 12, 2020 in 12 cities around Europe, with the final played at London's Wembley Stadium.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Polish cross-country skier **Justyna Kowalczyk** has won the women's 10-kilometer classic FIS event in Saariselkä, Finland ... **Walt Dzedzic**, who played with the Brooklyn Dodgers before becoming a cop and then serving on the Minneapolis city council from 1976 until his retirement in 2010, died at 85... **Lukasz Kwiatkowski**, a Polish professional track cyclist who represented Poland in two Olympic Games (2004 and 2008) died at 36 from leukemia ... **Zdzislaw Sosnowski**, a goalkeeper who played for Legia Warsaw, died at 94 ... **Walt Kowalczyk**, a Michigan State running back and defensive back who in 1957 won All-American honors and finished third in the Heisman voting as a senior, died at 83 ... **Wayne Krenchicki**, a major league third baseman for eight seasons who later was an independent league manager, died at 64 ... **Eddie Basinski**, who turned 96 on Nov. 4, is the 10th oldest living former major leaguer. In 11th place is **George Yankowski**, who turned 96 on Nov. 19.

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Forced Labor in the Third Reich

The Personal Account of a Polish Slave Laborer

Katherine Graczyk was captured by the SS and shipped to Germany. She shared her story with author Catherine Hamilton

by Catherine Hamilton

Part IV

Locked inside the prison cell, I had fainted from a high fever that struck violently during the night. I didn't remember anything that happened until I woke up on the floor of the quarantine block. And there I lay on the concrete with a single sheet over my body, wet with sweat. I was alive. The woman next to me wasn't. I had no idea how long I'd been there. Only later did I learn that they'd transferred me from the prison cell to quarantine a week earlier because I had scarlet fever.

Quarantine was just a place where they let Polish prisoners die. They didn't give me a drop of medicine. Nothing for the fever. Nothing at all. I just lay on the floor, lost in the deep delirium of fever. I remember one night seeing a giant of a woman standing by the wall, and she was pushing me into the

new love, but I didn't see either of them... all I had were the two photographs that Frank had given me to remember him by. I saw determination and courage in the eyes of the men who glanced up at me.

"Here we are," I thought, "an entire generation of Polish youth enslaved by the Nazis." I wanted to cry as I walked in that long parade of female slave laborers who, like myself, were now "political prisoners," awaiting what we all feared would be the death sentence. It happened to so many of the female prisoners arrested before us. I didn't cry because I wanted to be strong. I wore the letter P on my chest and I was proud to march with the other women who had survived such horrors.

The guard prodded us into a washroom off to the left of a large entrance. We each got a bucket of cold water and a scrub brush. I returned to the atrium with the others, water sloshing from the brimming pail and heard our guard shouting orders.

"Clean this entrance floor. I want it spotless. Not one speck of dirt. Now move!" She swung her baton and hit the prisoners within reach.

I got on my knees and started

ished.

"Don't be afraid," he said. "I've been watching you. I can help you. I know you're hungry. I have some bread." He walked over to his desk and returned to my side with a bread



Graczyk was a POW a Nazi camp in Salzwedel, Germany.

roll. "Have it."

I hesitated. I'd heard the horrible price a woman might have to pay for accepting kindness, even for a bread roll.

"Please. Take it. You're hungry, aren't you?"

I looked away and said nothing. But I began to shake, remembering the nights in the attic, the beatings. Accepting something from an officer or refusing to accept—it could cost me either way.

"You're beautiful, you know. Stand up and let me have a better look at you." I did what I was told. And he took hold of my arm. "Please. I can help you." He pulled me close to his chest.

"I'm finished with the cleaning," I said and shrugged myself loose from his grip. Picking up my bucket, I went for the door. But he came after me.

Just then the door knob rattled and three officers walked in.

"You're early, gentleman. Come in. Come in," the officer said as I slipped between them and out the door. "I expect you here at the same time tomorrow, Frauline!" he called after me.

continued next month

Catherine Hamilton, a freelance writer in Beaverton, Oregon, recorded Katherine Graczyk's story during a series of interviews. Hamilton was honored to write the first-person account of these experiences; she and Katherine Graczyk are cousins.

Quo Vadis 10th Anniversary Conference

TORONTO —Quo Vadis Conferences Canada announces the 10th anniversary international conference, in Toronto, Sept. 20-22, 2019.

Quo Vadis is a three-day leadership conference for students and young professionals of Polish heritage. Its purpose is to engage and strengthen the Polish-Canadian community.

Since 2009, seven Quo Vadis conferences have been held in Canada, two in the United States, and two in Australia. Early bird tickets for Quo Vadis X will be available in Feb. 2019.

The conference is limited to the first 150 delegates who register and purchase their tickets. For more information please visit our website, visit or write quovadisconferences-canada@gmail.com; quovadisconferences.com.

Customs and Traditions

Happy New Year!

by Barbara Szydowski

No matter how festive the winter holidays are or how we look forward to them, there is a side that affects thousands of people every year. It starts with stress and works its way into anxiety. Take some time to do something for yourself, avoid shopping malls, but laugh — often — especially at yourself. Laughter is a great medicine.

December 31, the last day of the year, is dedicated to Hogmagog, the Sun God. Shortly before midnight, one joins the Scottish folks by opening all the doors and windows to rid the house of the spirits of the old year.

TRADITION. Like most, Poland celebrates its New Year on January 1. New Year's Day, out of its traditional relevance, is also called **St. Sylvester's Eve**. According to legend, it is associated with Pope Sylvester I who supposedly caught a dragon named Leviathan. On the first day of the year of 1000, the dragon was able to free himself from Pope Sylvester's regime and went on to demolish land and people, setting fire to the heavens as a second act. However, the dragon was later caught again, and the world still survived itself on New Year's Day. In commemoration people started celebrating and rejoicing.

There is an important tradition of smudging windows and doorknobs of the house with tar or to hide pots that were left drying on a fence. Doing all such things is traditionally believed to symbolize driving out the old year and welcoming in the new. Some parts of the country have people baking donuts with a belief that it will ensure abundance of wealth in the coming year.

HOLIDAY. The present day celebration of New Year's dates back to the Roman Empire when Julius Caesar changed the date from March to January in honor of **Janus Bepors**, the god of two faces. One face looked back to the old year, while the other look forward to the new. One of the earliest and longest custom of New Year's is that of noisemaking, part of the ancient practice of driving away evil spirits. It continues today as people stay up on New Year's Eve bringing in the new year with bells ringing, horns honking and other noisy activities. Also, the custom of gift giving started as a way to propitiate the gods, but was then altered to giving gifts to rulers and lawmakers; now there is little gift giving in connection with New Year's. However the holiday is still seen as a chance for a new beginning, a day of reconciliation.

CUSTOM. The **Epiphany**, January 6, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in **Jesus Christ**. Western Christians commemorate the visitation of the Biblical Magi to the Baby Jesus and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. Eastern Christians commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. The Eastern churches following the Julian calendar observe Theophany (ancient Greek) feast on January 19 because of the thirteen day difference between the calendars.

Epiphany is known in Latvia as "Trijkungu diena" (Three Kings Day) or "Zvaigznu diena" (Star Day) after the custom of star singing

and the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to the Christ Child. In the past, bright stars of fabric were sewn onto the background of dark colored quilts, representing the night sky. Epiphany, a day of enjoyment, spent on horse drawn open sleighs, and these quilts would then be taken along to cover the laps of the riders. During the star singing, groups of children travel from house to house with auspicious songs, and receive some sweets in exchange. If Epiphany saw clear skies, it meant Latvia could expect a fine harvest in the coming Summer.

Peru shares Epiphany customs with Spain and the rest of Latin America. Peruvian national lore holds that Francisco Pizarro was the first to call Lima "Ciudad de los Reyes" (City of the Kings), for the day coincided with when he and his two companions searched for and found, a location for a new capital. The custom of "Bajada de Reyes," sees parties held in honor of taking down of public nativity scenes and putting them away until next Christmas.

In Poland, Epiphany or "**Trzech Kroli**" (Three Kings) is celebrated with parades welcoming the Wise Men, often riding on camels or other animals from the Warsaw zoo. The Wise Men hand out sweets, carols are sung, and living nativity scenes are enacted, similar to celebrations in Italy and Spain. Also, children dress in colors signifying Europe, Asia and Africa (homes of the Magi) and at the end of the parade, church leaders often preach on the significance of the Epiphany.



House Blessing and star singing are popular in Poland, as in the rest of Central Europe. Poles take small boxes containing chalk, a gold ring, incense and piece of amber in memory of the gifts of the Magi, to church to be blessed. Once at home, they inscribe the year and "**K+M+B**" with the blessed chalk above every door in the house, according to tradition, to provide protection against illness and misfortune. The letters (with a cross between them) stand for the names of the Three Kings: Kaspar, Melchior and Balthazar, and remain above the doors all year until they are replaced by new markings the following year.

SYMBOL. In the United States, particularly in Louisiana, Epiphany is the beginning of the Carnival season, during which it is customary to bake King Cakes. The King Cake is round in shape, filled with cinnamon, glazed white, and coated in traditional carnival color sanding sugar. The interval between Epiphany and Mardi Gras is sometimes known as "king cake season." In Colonial Virginia, Epiphany or Twelfth Night, was an occasion of great merriment and considered appropriate as a date for balls, dancing and weddings. On the 12th Night, the Great Cake was prepared, consisting in two giant layers of fruitcake, coated and filled with royal icing. Custom dictated that the youngest child present cut and serve the cake and whoever found a bean that had been baked into it was crowned "King of the Bean."



Frank Graczyk, Katherine's future husband (seated), with fellow Polish soldiers during the War in Poland.

wall, like she was trying to push me through the wall. There was a mighty struggle between the two of us, but my fear gave me the strength to resist the beast. I didn't know I was delirious. That the giant woman was my hallucination.

After more than a month of untreated scarlet fever, I lost the hearing in one ear and the feeling on one side of my face. No thanks to the Nazi doctors, who kept their distance from the people in quarantine, I made it out of there alive, destined to return to regular prison.

I had already lost a great deal of weight during my captivity, but the day I returned to work, I didn't even recognize myself in the washroom mirror. Fortunately, most of my hearing and the feeling in my face would return in time. And I thanked God that I had survived.

The same morning I was released from quarantine, a guard took me to the prison headcount, which was completed in a large room with barred windows. After the count, I received a piece of bread. And after that, I was assigned to a cleaning crew of more than a hundred other women, French, Polish, and Czechs. We were swiftly trucked and unloaded at the military complex not far from the second prison.

WE STEPPED PAST HUNDREDS of Polish POW's who were clearing rubble from bomb damage on our way toward an enormous brick building. I looked for my brother, Antony, and for Frank Graczyk, my

scrubbing. Anything was better than quarantine, even scrubbing floors. When I finished one section of floor and had picked up my bucket and moved to the next section, a group of military men rushed into the building, muddying the floor I'd just finished. I started to go back to re-clean the floor tiles, but the guard shouted for me to halt.

"You," she called to me. "You go to the second floor—to the officer's suite. They have a meeting in an hour. Get the floor cleaned before that. And I mean spotless, if you want to live!"

By that time, the fall of 1944, my German was nearly fluent. I nodded, picked up my cleaning bucket and headed up the stairs. The female guard on the second floor awaited and she took me to an officer's suite. I did what I was told without question and got down on the floor and started scrubbing. Glancing up, I saw the officer sitting at his desk. He was setting his things in order and I went quickly back to cleaning. We were not to say a word to anyone. After part of an hour had past, the officer suddenly stood up and left the room. He returned with a large vase of flowers. He set them at the center of the meeting table in the middle of the room. It was a splendid bouquet and I couldn't help gazing at it.

"Finally, you look up," the officer said, catching my glance.

His look made me uneasy. Realizing my mistake, I scoured the floor with greater fervor. I was almost fin-

Genealogy

Start Your Family History Journey

by Stephen M. Szabados

Researching your family history can have some very exciting moments. Find your first census record and feel the thrill of seeing a snapshot of your family. I became addicted to genealogy research after finding my grandfather's passenger manifest and had difficulty waiting to find my next piece of my family's history. Start your search, and you can also feel this thrill once you find that first document. Filling in more generations of your family tree and finding more family facts will start to haunt your waking thoughts. Get started and be prepared to make researching your family history a life-long journey. Just like a great novel, it will be hard to put down.

Try to have a goal in your research. I intended to learn more about my family's heritage and to

preserve what I find for my children and grandchildren. Your goals can be as simple as doing an in-depth study of one of your famous ancestors. Start your journey at home. Collect documents, pictures, and letters that you and your immediate family have stored away in old shoe boxes in the closet or stuffed in desk drawers. Remember also that it is critical to interview your older relatives to save their memories and oral history.

Be organized in your research because this will save you time but will also point the way for more research. I use summaries to organize my facts and as a reference tool while doing my research. My summaries can make my research more efficient and helps me find more documents and facts. The summaries also help me focus my

search efforts. Summaries are also a great way to share what I find with my family. Sharing gives me more opportunities for other family members to contribute more oral history, pictures, and old papers. Be prepared to uncover more areas to research after sharing your work.

Be organized in your research because this will save you time but will also point the way for more research.

Remember to identify and label the family pictures. Asking relatives to determine who is in the pictures will help extend your family tree and also turn on the memories of the relatives who are trying to help.

Records you find may be confusing, misleading and wrong. You will need to continually analyze and

interpret your information and note where you got your information. As a beginner to genealogy, start now to note where you get every piece of information. Record your information as you find your facts. You may hear arguments that keeping up with sources are time-consuming and too much trouble. It isn't fun, but without your source information, you can't evaluate, analyze, and draw conclusions. And you can't pass along your information because at least one family member will ask, "But how do you know?"

Companies and organizations are listing more and more genealogy records in online databases, and these are great sources to begin your research. However, there are many more genealogy records stored in libraries and historical archives that also may include your ancestors. Be

sure to use all the sources in your research, both online and in person. You will be rewarded for your efforts.

Use books, genealogy programs, genealogy conferences, genealogy societies, online educational offerings, and social media to sharpen your genealogy skills. Again, once you start your journey, it will probably be a lifelong passion.

My last thought that may help you develop the same passion for genealogy as I have is "Remember to have fun."



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

The Pondering Pole

That's What I'm Talking About!

by Ed Poniewaz

The purpose of The Pondering Pole is to inform about impressive, notable, and successful people, places, and events with a Polish connection, and — more important! — to influence and demonstrate to individuals they also can be as impressive, notable, and successful as those same people, places, and events. If you are still living in mom and dad's basement and spending most of your time playing video games and staring at a poster of Casimir Pulaski (or perhaps Emily Ratajkowski) then you don't get it. Wherever you are or whatever your station or circumstance, you can do it Polonia! You can make a difference and be successful. Here are three great examples to consider and emulate.

Maybe you saw the ad running

up to the Thanksgiving holiday sponsored by the **Polish National Foundation** showing four modern-day Polish soldiers who fought alongside American troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other theatres, speaking about the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence.

The three men and one woman of the Polish military "salute" and thank America for being directly responsible for the Second Polish Republic created after World War I (from Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points). Just as important though, this is a great example on how to affect American opinion and hit a nerve. Please watch this video as it will tug at your heart strings. It moved me and I can't imagine that others did not notice and were not moved as well. Thanks to the Polish National Foundation for thanking us.

Back in 2012 The Pondering Pole featured a company called Terra Chips. The founders of that company were Dana Sinkler and **Alex Dzieduszycki**, two former Manhattan four-star restaurant chefs who left their jobs to start a catering company, which eventually became Terra Chips. Terra Chips was bought out by TSG Consumer Partners and Alex subsequently moved on to start Alexia Foods, a company "positioned as a healthy alternative to the Ore-Ida potato products in the freezer case."

Coming off the success of Alexia and apparently aware of the old adage, "third time is a charm," Dzieduszycki embarked on a new adventure starting a specialty pastry and bread company named after his son, called Julian's Recipes.

Our house currently has a big bag of Terra Chips in the pantry as my wife Sue loves them.

There is information on the web about the various aspects of Alex Dzieduszycki's success as an entrepreneur. I would encourage you to read about this amazing guy and how he got to where he is today.

So Alex Dzieduszycki is an entrepreneur and **Alina Morse** is a kidpreneur. Here is a brief summary of her story:

When Morse was seven years old, she went to the bank with her dad and the teller offered her a lollipop. While she really wanted to accept, her parents always told her that candy was terrible for her teeth. So she asked her dad, "Why can't we make a lollipop that's actually good for your teeth?" And in that moment the idea for Zollipops was born.

This is another great story about dad-daughter collaborations. It was her father who helped Alina create "lollipop treats that were actually good for teeth." Why Zollipops? The name for the treats, "Zollipops" also came from a family member. As her little sister attempted to pronounce lollipop, it came out sounding like "zollipop," which struck a chord with Alina. The name was unique and she wanted something unique.

Zollipops has a website where you can read how this Polish American youngster has made a difference (<https://zollipops.com>) and at the same time you can place your order for a thousand Zollipops.

POLISH OR NOT? Lucianne Walkowicz is a commentator in the new National Geographic series

Mars. She is an "an American astronomer based at the Adler Planetarium noted for her research contributions in stellar magnetic activity and its impact on planetary suitability for extraterrestrial life." That is a mouthful and she has quite an impressive resume. Lucianne "Copernicus" Walkowicz, Polish or not?



Walkowicz

Matt Mackowiak is the president of the Potomac Strategy Group, which has offices in Austin, Tex., and Washington, D.C. Potomac "provides political consulting to conservative campaigns and media relations and crisis communications assistance to companies, groups and individuals." Mackowiak has appeared on numerous talk shows for his expert analysis and does speaking engagements analyzing and previewing state and national elections. He has been very successful though as a consultant in a number of elections in the State of Texas.

Visit the Potomac Strategy Group website to learn more about what the group and Mackowiak are doing. You can also search for him on YouTube. He presents very well and it is evident that he knows about what he speaks.

SO YOU THINK GRONK (Rob Gronkowski, tight end for the New England Patriots) can carry a team and is the best? What about **Travis Kelce** of the Kansas City Chiefs? Kelce is a pretty good tight end as well, the name Kelce looks very similar to Kielce, a city in Southern Poland, and he was born in Cleveland Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. His ethnicity seems to be a mystery on the net. Travis Kelce, Polish or not?

JAK SZYBKO MIJAJĄ CHWILE. I hope 2018 was a good one for you. Whatever the case, good luck this upcoming year; I hope it is healthy, happy, and productive. Remember Polonia: success is just around the corner. Figure out a way to produce your own poignant commercial, specialty Food Company, or a healthier substitute for lollipops. Make 2019 the year that you do it.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; 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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THE NIEZGODA COAT OF ARMS was shared by the nobles of several dozen Polish families including: Baranowski, Klonicki, Uderski, Niezgoda, Bujewicz, Praznicki, Grochocki, Lewandowski, Gorsek, Łętowski, Tracewski, Marynowski, Bugwicz, Nutowc, Minkowski, Naganowski, Radziszowski, and Zdramowicz.

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Dance Time

Out with the Old and In with the New

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze made a stop at Potts in Buffalo, passing through on their way to Ludlow, Mass. Joined by **Phocus**, the alternating bands supplied entertaining music throughout the night. New Phaze showcased the outstanding vocals of drummer Melvin Rzeszutko, formerly of Downtown Sound, which remains one of my all-time favorite bands. Although he planned on retiring from polka music in 2013, it is great seeing him back on stage thanks to the convincing of band leader Tony. It is evident when New Phaze performs that this group consists of close knit friends interacting on stage. Laughing, joking, and playing to one another's strengths, this band is a polka fan pleaser. Tony has been performing in bands since 1987 and, growing up the son of polka icon Eddie Blazonczyk, it is clear that polka music is in his DNA. I look forward to seeing this group on the polka road in 2019.



POLISH HAPPY HOUR. (photo, left): Doug King (left) and DJ Konrad Ken. (photo, right): Michael Zachowicz is flanked by two beauties at St. Stanislaus, where the November PHH was held.

Polish Cadets in the Black Rock neighborhood of Buffalo also hosted a 100th Anniversary celebration of Poland's Independence. **Buffalo Touch** was on hand to supply music to the evening event. Polka music and an exhibition on the history of Poland's struggle for independence manufactured a festive evening at this nearly 120 year-old club. Cadets was founded in 1899 with the

mer was on hand with hosts **Mark and Cherie Trzepacz** to broadcast the fantastic night of music live to listeners from coast to coast. Since I was out of town visiting family, I tuned in and felt part of the festivities. Many Canadian friends crossed to border to join their U.S. friends in celebrating Thanksgiving with the extraordinary sounds of Lenny Gomulka.



Ave. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and music will be from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Admission is \$15.00 and food will be available during the evening. On Sun., Jan. 20, the 50th Annual Chicago Festival of Bands will take place at Glendora Banquets 10225 S. Harlem Ave. Admission will be \$15.00 and doors open at 11:00 a.m. The musical celebration will begin at 11:30 am and feature

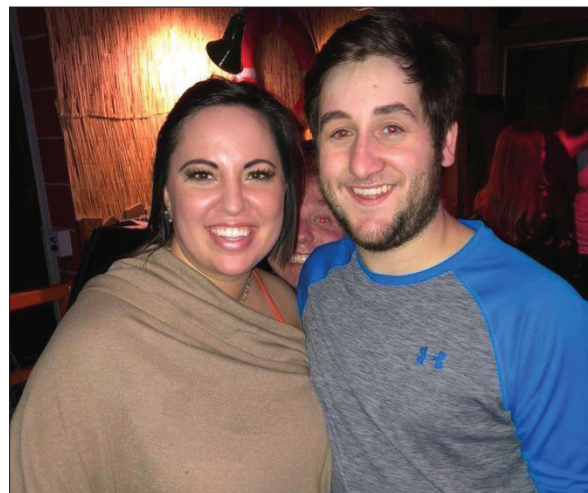
will benefit Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School and music will be provided by **John Gora. Harmony Folk Dance Ensemble** will perform and children who currently attend Polish Saturday school will be on hand to sing songs to their grandparents. As always, there will be free food and admission, while Polish beer, wine and desserts will be available for purchase.

Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School has been teaching the community to embrace its roots through language, song, and culture since 1955. This cultural organization continues to nurture the importance of Polish customs and traditions to students each year in Western New York.

The Cleveland Polka Association is having a lounge party on Sun., Jan. 2h with music by **Dave Walter & Old School**. Music will be from 2:00-6:00 p.m. and admission is a \$12.00 donations. This event will be held at the Holiday Inn Rockside 6001 Rockside Rd. Independence, Ohio. For additional information



POLKA VS. COUNTRY. (photo, left): Debra Bizon, Jen Sikorski, and Rich Dombrowski. (photo, right): Stephanie Bieniek and Travis Rosinski.



Alice Kapuscinski, Angela Biskup, Helen Winiarz, Marz Moytka, and Dianne Gora at the post-Thanksgiving Lenny Gomulka dance.

CENTENNIAL, POLKA STYLE.

Polish Americans celebrated in many ways as November 11, 2018 marked the jubilee year of the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its Independence. Making this day even more important to celebrate is the fact that, though it became a national holiday in 1937, throughout communist rule the holiday was forbidden. It was reinstated in 1990 following the demise of communism. **Polish Happy Hour** furnished a celebration for this landmark event. The day began with a Mass held at St. Stanislaus, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia. Afterwards, across the street at the social hall, **Special Delivery** provided the celebratory music to set the tone for the day. The afternoon was brimming with music, dancing, drinking, and indulging in delicious food. All this, paired with traditional Polish dancing by three dance groups and a presentation by **Joe Macielag**.

Polish Happy Hour continues to be largest attended monthly Polish event in Western New York. Monthly, it allows money to be raised for a rotating group of Polish based non-profit organizations who work hard to promote Polish traditions and culture.

assistance of the Reverend Adam Marcinkiewicz, the pastor of nearby Assumption Church. Since then, it has acted as a central social meeting place and advocate for the citizens of the Black Rock community. Wendy and Corky Higgins work tirelessly to continue the success and growth of this Polish landmark, which is home to many organizations. Wendy beams with pride at their accomplishments which she continues by following in the footsteps of her father, prior president William M. Leisch. Polish Cadets holds many events and the club will make you feel like family immediately. Visit their website for information on joining or attending any of the happenings at this beautiful hall. Their website can be found by visiting www.polishcadetsofbuffalo.com.

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY. Thanksgiving weekend proved to be a polka powerhouse in Western New York. Polka fans dropped their shopping bags early on Black Friday to hear **Lenny Gomulka** at Potts Banquet Hall. Hundreds of fans packed the venue to listen and dance to one of polka music's most talented group of musicians. **Polka Jam-**

Saturday night saw another enormous crowd for Val Bakowski's annual Polka vs. Country event. The event was held at The Cove, which is no stranger to country music as they host country line dancing each Thursday night. **Polka Country Musicians** and WNY's favorite country group **West of the Mark** alternated during the night for what proved to be a high energy event.

This was Polka Country's last gig of the year so PCM fans flocked from far and wide to enjoy their favorite band for the last time in 2018. Energetic and crowd pleasing, PCM continues to be a promoter's dream. Their loyal fans travel from venue to venue to enjoy their music. PCM will take a few months off after their demanding yearlong schedule and resume in 2019 with their Third Annual Polka Brews Cruise from February 2-9, 2019.

POLKA MONTH DOINGS. In Chicago, the **International Polka Association** will be celebrating National Polka Month in January with its annual Festival of Bands. The Warm Up dance featuring **Full Circle** honoring the music of The Tones will take place Sat., January 19 at Polonia Banquets 4604 S. Archer

Freeze Dried, Music Company, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, The D Street Band, IPA Tribute Band, Genny O & The Windy City Brass, Tri-City Drive, and Jim Polaski's Chicago Nu Tones. There will also be a tribute to Polka Hall of Famer **Johnnie Bomba**. If you are planning to travel for this weekend extravaganza, special IPA hotel rates are available. You can visit www.ipapolkas.com for additional information.

St. Stanislaus Church Hall in Buffalo is the spot to be on January 19 as Polish Happy Hour celebrates *Dzien Babci*. This month's event

on this event and upcoming CPA events, you can call Elaine at (216) 496-0223 or visit www.cpapolkas.com.

The Cleveland Polka Association was established in 1975 and currently has over 900 members from throughout the country. Membership is only \$10.00 a year and this hospitable group hosts multiple events throughout the year and keeps members informed via newsletters. The members strive to constantly promote and preserve polka music with their infectious love of the music.

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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.

	NAME	BORN	DIED	KNOWN FOR	CITY, STATE
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 D.J.	Pennsylvania
7	Lou Kryger	1929	1/28/14	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	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	Ohio
11	Marko Polka			Polka D.J. 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 Raiczky	1964		Musician -Drummer	New Jersey
15	Bob Koziel	1952		Polka D.J. WMCE	Erie
15	John Jaworski	1947		Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
16	Zosia Piotrowski			Vocalist	Michigan
17	Dee Dee Ogrodny			Musician / Vocalist (Versa-Js)	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 D.J.	Massachusetts
23	Bob Siwicki	1949		Musician	Massachusetts
23	John Linda	1953		Musician / Bandleader / Vocalist	Ohio
24	Matt Wasilewski	1935	11/17/17	Bandleader / Musician / DJ / IJ	Pennsylvania
25	Wally Maduzia	1942		Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
26	Tony Krupski	1942	7/2/18	Bandleader/Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo
28	Bill Shibilski			Polka D.J. / IJ (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, 2019

- Dennis Polisky/Eddie Forman PACC Ludlow, Mass. 2-7 (413) 592-0367
- New Phaze/Music Company/Freeze Dried, Glendora Banquets. Chicago. 1:30-6 (708) 425-3686
- DynaBrass. Pulaski Club. New Castle, Pa. 2-6 (724) 658-6222.

JANUARY 19

- Button Box Band Aunt Maggie's Columbia, Ill. 6-9 (618) 281-7894
- Full Circle. Polonia Banquets. Chicago. 6-10 (773) 523-7980

JANUARY 20

- Freeze Dried/Music Company/Tony Blazonczyk/D-Street/IPA Tribute/Gennie O/Try-City Drive/Jim Polaski. Glendora Banquets. Chicago. 11:00 a.m. ?? (708) 425-3686

JANUARY 27

- Dave Walter's Old School. Holiday Inn. Independence, Ohio. 2-6 (216) 496-0223



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Polonia Places

St. Francis High School, Athol Springs, N.Y.

*St. Francis High School
4129 Lakeshore Road,
Athol Springs, New York
Status: Open*

by Gregory L. Witul

Education has always been at the forefront of Polonia. From the hundreds of parochial schools attached to Polish parishes to the SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary at Orchard Lake and the Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Poles have always supported institutions of higher learning. In Western New York, Poles pushed the City of Buffalo for their own neighborhood high school, but many



St. Francis High School alumni include doctors, lawyers, assemblymen, olympians, and NHL Stanley Cup winners.

school: a piece of property the Franciscans owned in Athol Springs. After hearing his proposal, the 22 men agreed to help the priest in his mission. The next month they reconvened and with the blessing of the bishop of Buffalo, began a \$100,000 campaign drive amongst the Polish parishes of the city. Within

Tudor style, was designed with classrooms, assembly rooms, offices, library, gymnasium, chapel, and living quarters for the students. Classes began in the fall of 1927 with six teaching priests. The 97 students, including Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Maryland. The students could enroll in both high school courses as well

as college preparatory classes in pre-law and pre-med. In 1928, the school added two wings, allowing for a total capacity of 300 students and in 1937 the school received its Regents accreditation.

Since the first graduation class, St. Francis has produced young men who have gone on to medical professions, the legal

world, and to serve in the New York State Assembly. A number of athletes have also attended St. Francis, including NFL players Doug Worthington and Luke Tasker. The school has also produced a number of NHL players with Aaron Miller winning the Stanley Cup and representing America as part of the U.S.A. Olympic Hockey Team, winning the silver in 2002.

The 48-acre campus with a student body of 520 is also the broadcasting home to the *Father Justin Rosary Hour* with St. Francis of Assisi parish across the street.

Hartford Szopka Winners Announced

HARTFORD, Conn. — The 38th Annual Szopka Festival and Competition, sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc., was held at the Polish National Home in Hartford on Nov. 25, 2018. Visitors from Connecticut and beyond enjoyed the colorful atmosphere of a Polish Christmas Fair and the magical display of *szopki*, the brightly decorated and elaborate creches created by area school children for cash prizes.

Thirty-one young artists participated in the competition, resulting in nineteen amazing entries to be judged. The following awards were made:

- 1st Place: Team of Jameson Fisher and Maja Fisher, St. James School, Manchester;
- 2nd Place (Tie): Team of Molly Melia and Clara Covill, St. James School, Manchester;
- 2nd Place (Tie): Fabrizia Spadacini, St. James School, Manchester;
- 3rd Place: Team of Ryan Chacaga, Drew Burnham, and David Lamonica, St. James School, Manchester;
- Honorable Mention: Team of Annabelle Kruger, Stefan Barbieri, Madeline Dube, St. James School, Manchester; Hartford Polish Saturday School, Hartford; and Hartford Polish Scouts / Harcerstwa "Gorskie Echo";
- Junior Szopka Maker Award: Maya Sejdor, Polish Saturday School, Hartford

All proceeds generated from the Szopka Festival benefit the Club's Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship Fund. To learn more, visit website: www.polishculturalclub.org.

Icon of Holyoke's Polonia, Mater Dolorosa Demolished



Robert Wojczyk, a parishioner of Mater Dolorosa Church for 30 plus years was able to salvage some bricks from the church which was being demolished.

PHOTO: DON TREGGER / THE REPUBLICAN

HOLYOKE, Mass. — Parishioners of the former Mater Dolorosa Church gathered December 11, 2018 to witness and mourn the start of demolition of their beloved spiritual home.

Built by members of the Polish community 117 years ago, the razing began when a large excavator punched through sections of the building's northern wall and roof.

Little by little, larger and larger sections of the interior of the church became open to cold December air and a pile of bricks and other debris grew in the churchyard beyond the ruined wall.

"There are a lot of emotions going through my mind" said former parishioner Leonard Los. "Sadness, anger, happiness. There's a lot of memories here. My first communion, my confirmation, my wedding, my family. I think about going as a child here, taking my kids here as they grew up. It's a very sad day."

Parish members and city officials have been fighting to save the 117-year-old Catholic church for nearly eight years.

"Today is a very bad day, a very sad day," said former parishioner Mary Wolanin. "Probably (the saddest day) of my whole life."

Wolanin and some of the others there had harsh words for the diocese and Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski for proceeding with the demolition.

"The Polish people did not deserve what he did to us," Wolanin said. "There is nothing wrong with the church, the church is very strong, very strong. It could have stayed another one hundred and something years, no problem."

Mark Dupont, diocese spokesman, acknowledged the demolition was difficult for former parishioners but said it was necessary due to the deteriorate state of the building and the cold weather ahead.

"We understand how painful this will be for many, especially this time of year, however safety had to be our priority and no matter when we had to undertake this demolition it would have been difficult for former parishioners," he said in a state-

ment.

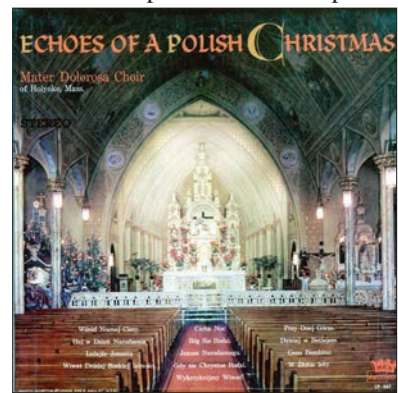
Mater Dolorosa's ornate stained-glass windows were removed some time ago, as was the cross that once soared atop its steeple, the church organ and other artifacts. Many of the items have gone to other parishes.

SAME OLD SONG. The diocese has long maintained the building was structurally unsound, something parishioners dispute to this day.

The battle began in the spring of 2011 when then-Bishop Timothy McDonnell announced the church would close and the parish would merge with Holy Cross on Appleton Street and worship there. Members named the new parish Our Lady of the Cross.

But Mater Dolorosa members protested the closing and went to extraordinary lengths to keep it open. They occupied the church around the clock for a year, appealed the decision to the Vatican, applied to turn the church and surrounding neighborhood into a historic district and negotiated to buy the building. Several times their battles with the diocese ended in court.

— *MassLive.com*



Mater Dolorosa's "Echoes of A Polish Christmas" was recorded in 1960 under the direction of Chester A. Duda (1921-1995). Released on the now-defunct Rex label, it was re-released in 1993, and is available from several record sellers. A wonderful example of "working persons" choirs heard in churches during Polonia's halcyon days, the 75-member choir's recording is considered essential in Polish American kolędy collections.

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