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SEE WHAT'S COOKING
WITH GOSIA
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK
AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

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NEWSMARK

Foundation Asks to Rename Fort for Kosciuszko

The Kosciuszko Foundation has requested President Trump to rename Fort Bragg in honor of U.S. Brigadier General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Poland-born Revolutionary War military engineer who built Fortress West Point, which he suggested should be used as the United States Military Academy.

The U.S. Army has 10 bases named after confederate officers, such as Braxton Bragg, who were traitors and declared war on the United States. "That makes no sense," said Foundation President Marek Skulimowski. "Bragg's unit killed U.S. Army soldiers. Why should American soldiers serve at a base that honors their enemy?"

Election Underway

Poland's presidential election, originally set for May 10, is being held June 28. Conservative incumbent Law and Justice party Andrzej Duda's main competitor is Warsaw's liberal Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, who represents the country's main opposition party, Civic Platform.

Other contenders widely seen as dark-horse candidates are independent journalist and TV personality Szymon Hołownia, rural activist Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, nationalist Krzysztof Bosak, and Leftist Robert Biedroń.

The election combines in-person voting with mail-in ballots. Under Polish law, if no candidate wins more than 50% percent of the vote, a second round will be held two weeks later. Early polling suggests the close clash between Duda and Trzaskowski will result in a second round on July 12.

Duda Visits Trump

Donald Trump hosted Poland's president in the White House June 24, giving Andrzej Duda a probable electoral boost just four days before a tightly-contested presidential vote. Duda was the first foreign politician to visit the U.S. president at the White House since mid-March after a break of a few months as the world dealt with the coronavirus pandemic.

The leaders discussed "advancing our cooperation on defense, as well as trade, energy, and telecommunications security," said the White House in a statement.

Cardinal Wyszyński's Beatification Postponed

A solemn Beatification Mass for the late Polish Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński had been scheduled to take place in Warsaw's Piłsudski Square on June 7 but was canceled for fear that a large congregation might pose a public-health hazard. A new date has not been set, but the event is expected to take place once the Covid-19 pandemic subsides.

A deeply religious patriot known for his ascetic personal habits, Wyszyński led the Polish Church from 1948 until his death in 1981, shepherding it through the darkest days of Stalinist rule. During that period, he witnessed the regime's open persecution of the Church and survived a brutal character-assassination campaign and three years of communist imprisonment.

US Troops from Germany Rebased to Poland

President Trump has ordered the Pentagon to transfer thousands of American troops from Germany, some of which would be rebased to Poland. The move reflects growing tensions between Washington and Berlin mainly over military spending. The transfer would reduce current U.S. troop strength of 34,500 in Germany by 9,500.

Last September, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell threatened such a move if Berlin did not increase its defense spending. Poland is among a handful of NATO countries that earmark the required 2% of GDP for defense, while Germany falls short of that mark.

Surprise Salute



A hero of the Battle of Monte Cassino, Col. Romuald Lipinski, 94, saluted each of the over fifty cars which drove by his house.

by Matthew Stefanski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On a warm, sunny Saturday in mid-May, all seemed calm in the suburb of Annandale, Va., where Col. Romuald Lipinski has lived for half a century. There was no warning that a special convoy would soon arrive to show appreciation to the 94-year-old Polish World War II veteran on the eve of the anniversary of a battle that influenced his life forever.

Col. Lipinski is short in stature, but he carries himself confidently. Long white hair — longer than usual given the COVID-19 shutdown — jutted out from beneath his black military beret adorned with the Polish eagle. He wore his usual veteran outfit: a freshly pressed white shirt, blue tie and blue sports jacket. On the left side of his chest hung his military medals, over a half-dozen Polish and

See "Hero Saluted," page 6

Mary Lou Wryobek named Catholic League President

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and executive director of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia, has appointed Mary Lou Wryobek of Cheektowaga as president of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia.



Wryobek

Wryobek's appointment follows the passing of Bernard Ruda. Bishop Wypych said, "We are grateful for his dedication for so many years, and now, I am grateful that we have a new president."

He said, "The president works with the national executive director and also presides at meetings of the national board; with the consent of the board, calls committees as deemed necessary; encourages regional councils to participate in the work of the Liga; promotes endeavors of Liga, and performs all duties as delegated until the election of officers at the next convention."

The Catholic League (Liga Katolicka) was established in 1943 as a way of assisting the church in Poland devastated by the ravages of World War II. After the war, Polish priests who came to the United States and served in the Diocese of Buffalo attested to the use of

See "Catholic League," page 5

Poles Perform World's First Infant Chemotherapy Operation

GDANSK, Poland — Oncologists here were the first in the world to carry out the Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC) to cure an infant of peritoneal cancer. The operation was done at the Clinic of Surgery and Urology for Children and Adolescents at the Medical University of Gdańsk.

Until recently, the operation was performed on patients two years old and older. The surgeons in Gdańsk were capable of doing the operation on a seven-month-old infant, thanks to modifications undertaken at the clinic.

The HIPEC procedure involves pumping a powerful dose of heated chemotherapy inside a patient's abdomen, after removing visible tumors through what is known as cytoreductive surgery. The

See "Oncologists," page 2

Monuments Fall Victim to Ignorance



BEFORE AND AFTER. Washington, D.C.'s memorials to Tadesz Kościuszko (left) and Casimir Pulaski (right) were among the statues throughout the city damaged by rioters protesting the death of George Floyd. The plinths, which stand near the White House, were cleaned by the National Park Service, as evidenced by the removed graffiti on Pulaski's memorial. Poland's Ambassador to the United States Piotr Wilczek praised the National Park Service for its quick work. (Offensive graffiti on Kościuszko memorial blurred by PAJ). Police in Warsaw are investigating an identical attack on that city's Kościuszko monument, an exact duplicate of the one in Washington, D.C. It is believed the Warsaw incident was probably a copy-cat crime inspired by the extensive Polish media coverage Floyd's death and its violent aftermath. *Related stories on pages 2 and 3.*

PHOTOS: (LEFT) MAREK WALKUSKI/TWITTER; (RIGHT) PIOTR WILCZEK.

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EDITOR'S DESK

Now, More than Ever, "Gość w dom, Bóg w dom"

by Mark Kohan

I hope all our readers are safe and doing well. Some of you are in areas that – as of this printing – are in various phases of reopening (or reinstituting closures).

Regardless of what you may hear, until the CDC and other respected agencies declare the pandemic over, it is imperative to continue safe practices. This includes wearing a mask in public, washing your hands, and — if possible — avoiding large groups in enclosed spaces. This is not always the easiest thing to do.

We are blessed to have telephones, smart phones, computers with cameras for Facetime, Instagram, Twitter, Zoom, and other social contact. We have endless entertainment from the television and internet. We can have food, drink, and other necessities delivered to our door. When one thinks of parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents and what they struggled with during the Spanish Flu, we can only count our blessings.

Still, we need human contact. A telephone call does not replace a hug, and a video conference with children or grandchildren is no substitute for kiss on the cheek. This is something our ancestors knew long before technology became part of our lives. The timeless Polish proverb "Gość w dom, Bóg w dom" ("A guest in the home is God in the home") is truer now than ever.

This is something I will remember when family and friends can resume normal visits. I hope you will, too.

A Hero Not Understood

"While deeply saddened by the desecration of the Kosciuszko statue in Washington D.C., we understand the pain of the African American community about police killing unarmed black people. Graffiti can be washed off. The loss of a loved one is eternal."

These are the words of Kosciuszko Foundation Chairman Alex Storzynski and Foundation

President Marek Skulimowski.

"But Kosciuszko was the wrong target for this frustration. Kosciuszko dedicated his salary as a General from the American Revolution for the emancipation and education of enslaved Africans. He asked that his money be used to buy land, livestock and farming tools for liberated slaves so that they could make their own living as free citizens of the United States. He knew that Black Lives Matter.

"Respectful of Kosciuszko's efforts, Booker T. Washington wrote in his memoirs, 'When I visited the tomb of Kosciuszko [in Krakow] I placed a rose on it in the name of my race.'

"When Native Americans learned that Kosciuszko stood up for their rights, chief Little Turtle presented him with an honorary peace pipe. When Jews saw that Kosciuszko stood up for their rights, Berek Joselewicz started a Jewish cavalry to join the Polish hero and called him 'a messenger from God.'

"And when Kosciuszko started an uprising in Poland to free enslaved White serfs, a Black man from Haiti joined the cause as his aide de camp."

The Kosciuszko Foundation will contribute to the cleansing of the statue in Lafayette Park. To donate, contact the Foundation on line at theKF.org, or call its Washington, D.C. office at (202) 785-2320.

Polish American Journal Foundation Scholarship Announced

The Polish American Journal Foundation has announced its scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. This year's theme is the role of John Paul II in bringing down Communism in Central and Eastern Europe, with emphasis on the spiritual inspiration behind its collapse.

See story on the back cover.

July-August Editions Combined

The July and August editions of the *Polish American Journal* are combined into one edition. There will be no separate August edition.

As you know, the PAJ is now being published

ten times a year. We reported in the last edition the August and September editions will be combined. Because of the pandemic, most Polish American events have been cancelled, which has decimated our advertising revenue. Hence, we have decided to combine the July and August editions, and will resume regular monthly publishing with the September 2020 edition in hopes the country will slowly and safely begin to reopen in the Fall.

We are deeply indebted to those advertisers who provide products and services still available during the pandemic. Please show them your support.

Clarifications

The title of the article in the April 2020 edition, "75 years ago today, American troops discovered Polish slave labor camps during the liberation of Magdeburg, Germany," may be misleading. Poles did not operate slave labor camps, but were used as slaves of Nazi Germany during World War II.

There are 41 Catholic dioceses of the Latin Church and two eparchies of the Eastern Churches in Poland. These comprise about 10,000 parishes and religious orders. There are 33 million Catholics. There are no women in service as priests in any Catholic church.

Oncologists

continued from cover

surgical procedure has been said to give new hope to patients with abdominal cancers. The HIPEC has been deemed the most effective way to neutralise peritoneal cancer.

This type of cancer is resistant to the standard intravenous-administered chemotherapy treatment.

The operation was carried out by a team headed by clinic professor Piotr Czauderny and professor Tomasz Jastrzębski.

— *Puls Medycyny*

ALMANAC

July Lipiec

*W lipcu upały, styczeń mroźny cały.
Heat in July, frost in January*

1847. Founding of **Parisville**, Polish settlement in Michigan.
1796. Death of Polish botanist **Krzysztof Kluk**.
1619. Account of strike by Polish settlers in **Jamestown, Virg.** entered into records of the Virginia Company.
- INDEPENDENCE DAY. (U.S.)**
1945. Polish American World War II ace **Col. Francis Gabreski** scores his 28th downed enemy plane.
1922. Death of **Blessed Maria Teresa Ledóchowska** (b. April 29 1863), Roman Catholic nun and African missionary.
1572. Death of **King Zygmunt August**, last of Jagiellonian dynasty.
1824. Birth of **Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski** (d. 1887), Union officer.
1989. President **George Bush** begins two-day visit to Poland.
1942. In the longest bombing raid of World War II, 1,750 British Lancaster bombers attacked the German-occupied port of Gdańsk.
2000. Death of **Jan Karski**, former Polish diplomat who in 1942 tried to warn Great Britain and the United States of Nazi atrocities in occupied Poland. His words fell on deaf ears.
1904. Birth of writer **Isaac Bashevis Singer** in Radzymin, Poland.
- Bishop Paul P. Rhode** appointed the sixth Bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin, by Pope Benedict XV. During his tenure, he established 10 parishes and 19 parochial schools, and organized the diocesan Catholic Charities and a department of education.
1894. Birth of **Tadeusz Sendzimir**, engineer and inventor with 120 patents in mining and metalwork.
1873. **Jan Matejko** establishes a

school of fine arts in Krakow.

- 17 **ST. JADWIGA D'ANJOU**
- 18 **ST. SIMON OF LIPNICA**
- 19 **1980. Lt. Col. Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.
- 20 **1936.** Birth of former Maryland Senator **Barbara Mikulski**.
- 21 **1901.** Dedication of **St. Joseph Basilica**, Milwaukee, Wis.
- 22 **1982.** Official end of martial law in Poland that lasted for 586 days.
1515. Emperor Maximilian and Vladislav of Bohemia forged an alliance between the Habsburg [Austria] and Jagiello [Polish-Lithuanian] dynasties in Vienna.
- 23 **1942.** Nazis open a 2nd Treblinka Camp opened for the extermination of Jews, as the evacuation of the Warsaw ghetto began. Also imprisoned here are several thousand Romani.
- 25 **ST. JACOB THE GREATER** Patron of laborers. By Polish custom, half of all eggs laid today are given to the poor.
- 26 **ST. ANN** Mother of the Virgin Mary. Her feast day is the traditional harbinger of fall.
*Od Świętej Hanki,
zimne wieczory i ranki.
From St. Ann's,
cool evenings and morn.*
- 28 **1812.** Birth of prolific Polish novelist **Józef Ignacy Krasinski**.
- 30 **1966.** United States Postal Service issues stamp in honor of Poland's millennium
1619. At meeting of legislative assembly at the Jamestown, Virginia settlement, Poles are granted a political voice after withholding services as pitch, tar, and glass-makers. Their action is considered the first strike in the United States.
- 31 **1928.** **Halina Konopaczka** wins Poland's first Olympic gold in discus.

August Sierpień

*Dużo grzybów sierpniowych,
dużo zawiei śniegowych.
Big August mushrooms,
big winter storms.*

- 1 **1944. The Warsaw Rising** (powstanie warszawskie) begins, a major World War II operation by the Polish resistance Home Army (Armia Krajowa) to liberate Warsaw from Nazi Germany.
- 2 **1899.** Birth, in Warsaw, of silent screen star **Pola Negri**. (d. 1987).
- 3 **1762. Russia, Prussia, and Austria** signed a treaty agreeing on the partition of Poland.
- 4 **ST. DOMINIC** **1306.** King Wenceslas III of Poland and Bohemia murdered.
- 5 **1942. Janusz Korczak** and the children he cared for taken by the Nazis from an orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto to gas chambers at Treblinka.
- 6 **FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 1955.** As a senator, **John F. Kennedy** visits Poland and makes a pilgrimage to Częstochowa.
- 7 **1944.** Poles play import role in **Battle of Falaise**.
- 8 **1915.** Birth of **Fr. Cornelian Dende, O.F.M. Conv.** director of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*.
- 9 **1942.** Death in Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz of **St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein)**.
- 10 **1881.** Birth of **Leon Krzycki**, leader of early labor movements in the United States.
- 11 **1989.** Poland's Solidarity-dominated Senate adopted a resolution expressing sorrow for the nation's participation in the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.
- 13 **1873.** Birth of **Józef Haller**, General of Polish units of France during World War I. (d. 1960).
- 14 **ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE** **2004.** Death of **Czesław Miłosz**, Polish poet and Nobel laureate.
- 15 **ASSUMPTION** ... A day marked in Poland by a massive pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa.
- 16 **2002.** Pope **John Paul II** returned to Poland for a 3-day visit.
- 17 **ST. HYACINTH** **1939.** Soviets invade Poland.
- 18 **1939.** Polish submarine *Orzeł* escapes Estonian capital of Tallinn. Russia retaliates by annexing Estonia
- 19 **2002.** An ailing and aging John Paul II bid a tearful farewell to his homeland as he concluded a four-day visit to the Krakow region of Poland.
- 20 **1940.** Polish pilots fight in the **Battle of Britain**.
- 21 **1907.** Birth of **Henry Archacki** graphic artist, journalist, researcher, and historian.
- 23 **1939.** Signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in Moscow.
- 24 **1989.** Coalition government in Poland under the first non-communist prime minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki takes power.
- 25 **1905.** Birth of **St. Maria Faustyna Kowalska** "Apostle of Divine Mercy."
- 26 **OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA**
- 27 **1610.** Polish King **Władysław** crowned king of Russia.
- 28 **1852.** **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba** arrives at the port of New Orleans.
- 29 **1655.** Swedish King **Karel X Gustaaf** occupied Warsaw.
- 30 **1481.** Two Latvian monarchs were executed for conspiracy to murder Polish King Kazimierz IV.
- 31 **1980.** Polish trade union **Solidarity** founded in Gdansk.

This paper mailed on or before **June 30, 2020**. The September 2020 edition will be mailed on or before **August 25, 2020**.

Poles Apart: A Push for Change

Looking back as we move forward

by Staś Kmieć

There is a 400-year battle against systemic racism in the United States. To draw attention to the problems in this nation and focus on how to create lasting change, Americans are marching in unprecedented numbers. Young and old, black, and white – families and friends have joined together to say: “enough” to racism, discrimination, inequality, police brutality, and injustice. In a parallel universe, we have seen similar action played out in Poland’s history:

Slavery in Poland

The references in Polish literature called them “unfree people” (*ludzie niewolni*), rather than slaves (*niewolnicy*). They were first bought as servants in the Middle Ages in Poland and the number rose significantly with the establishment of the Polish state, as most of the slaves were owned by the King. Over time, due to many escaping and because their owners saw it more profitable to use them as peasants rather than servants, their numbers decreased. Serfdom – a form of modified slavery became the dominant relationship between peasants and nobility in the 17th century. Peasants who took out loans under the condition of debt bondage or indentured servitude, were subjected to a local lord in exchange for protection.

The first steps towards abolishing serfdom were enacted in the Constitution of May 3, 1791. This was later overthrown by Polish magnates supported by Russia. Full abolishment was enacted by the *Polaniec Manifesto*, but the reforms were nullified by the Partition of Poland. Amendments took place with the beginning of *Industrial Revolution* and serfdom was abolished in the 18th century.

Kościuszko – Polish Serfdom and U.S. Slavery

Brigadier General Tadeusz Kościuszko fought for the rights of national and racial minorities. Feeling peasants were persecuted and taken advantage of, he wanted to raise the level of peasantry.

One of the most notable events of Poland’s *Kościuszko Uprising* was the *Polaniec Manifesto* that partially abolished serfdom – providing the peasants with personal freedom, assistance from the state against the abuses of the Polish nobility, and giving them specific property rights to the land they cultivated.

The new law never fully came into being, but news of the proclamation spread among the peasantry and was kept alive by the revolutionary and patriotic-minded Poles resulting in the formation of the *kosynierzy* peasant infantry. Over the next several decades, it became one of the symbols of Polish history

Kościuszko’s Last Will stipulated that the proceeds of his American estate (which Congress granted based on his eight-year Revolutionary War engagement) be spent on freeing and educating African-

American slaves, including those of his friend Thomas Jefferson, who was named as the will’s executor. Kościuszko offered Jefferson this opportunity to take concrete steps towards the abolition of slavery. Jefferson did not fulfill Kościuszko’s testament. The case of Kościuszko’s will was continued by the Supreme Court. None of the resources earmarked were ever used for the intended purpose. It took another 50 years for slavery to be effectively abolished by the 13th Amendment.

Kościuszko’s Last Will stipulated the proceeds of his American estate be spent on freeing and educating African-American slaves

Kościuszko has been proclaimed as a National Hero of Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and the United States. There are statues honoring him in Poland and in the United States – most notably in Washington, D.C. near the White House. Ironically, despite his efforts to free slaves, recent protesters targeted this statue after thousands of demonstrators descended on the city. Although many protesters were peaceful, chaos broke out and rioters covered the monument in graffiti. The vandalism prompted Polish Ambassador to the United States Piotr Wilczek to issue a diplomatic protest of his own.

Martial Law in Poland (1981–1983)

At 6:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, December 13, 1981, millions of Poles awoke to find that the entire country was placed under a state of martial law. Straight-backed and revealing no emotion, Polish Prime Minister and head of the Communist Party General Wojciech Jaruzelski appeared on national TV – reading from documents to announce the declaration of restrictions to head off a civil war that the



In a global act of solidarity, people around the world – including these marchers in Warsaw – have organized protests and memorials to fight for justice, racial equality, and honor the memory of George Floyd.

prisoned, but consoled themselves with the slogan “Zima wasza, wiosna nasza!” (“Your winter, our spring!”). Thousands of people defied the curfew to gather and walls were covered with anti-Communist slogans. As a symbol of resistance, people pinned electrical resistors to their clothes.

Despite efforts to show that the outlawed Solidarity union was finished, tens of thousands of pro-Solidarity, anti-government demonstrators turned out on May 1, 1983 for unauthorized rallies in 20 Polish cities and towns to counter official May Day parades. The police quickly moved in and many protests were marked using water cannons and tear gas. The state television showed footage of demonstrators hurling rocks and bottles at the police.

As the day began, Jaruzelski, delivered a speech to Communist Party followers in which he said that those who wanted to “sow chaos” were now “only a miserable margin without any chance for success.”

The Government had mounted an extensive campaign to discourage participation in Solidarity rallies, including an unprecedented request to the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy to cancel Sunday morning masses. *

The Police Brutality of the ZOMO

The Polish Army avoided Martial Law taint as riot policemen called ZOMO suppressed demonstrations and other signs of dissent by doing the government’s dirty work. They were heckled, derided, and detested.

other crises. It became infamous for its brutal and sometimes lethal actions of riot control, its role in crushing peaceful protesters, and the subsequent lack of prosecution of those responsible for deaths of protesters.

After the fall of Communism in 1989 the force was permanently disbanded. The term “ZOMO” remains synonymous with police brutality to this day.

Popiełuszko – a symbol of Polish struggle

A thorn in the side of the authorities, Father Jerzy Popiełuszko, the “priest of Solidarność” was kidnapped, tortured, and beaten to death by secret service agents on October 1984. He was 37. He was the target of propaganda attacks by the Communist spokesman Jerzy Urban, and was especially hated by the special Interior Ministry responsible for fighting the Church. The priest’s funeral was an enormous display of patriotism. In the 1980s, over 100 people were assassinated by the Communist authorities.

Popiełuszko became the symbol of the Polish struggle for liberty in the face of political oppression. He is recognized as a Catholic martyr and was beatified in 2010.

Dismantling Soviet Monuments

Since 1989, Poles have removed hundreds of monuments erected after World War II thanking the Red Army for liberating Poland from the Nazis. More than 200 monuments marking the Soviet army’s liberation of Poland at the end of



Communist-controlled Poland’s ZOMO became infamous for its brutal and sometimes lethal actions of riot control, its role in crushing peaceful protesters, and the subsequent lack of prosecution of those responsible for deaths of protesters.

Solidarity movement had hoped to provoke. While Martial Law was effective in suppressing the union and restoring Communist control in Poland, authorities could not eradicate the political movement that had been awakened.

Protests in Communist Poland

Rather than watch official propaganda on television, Poles went for a walk. All over the country, protests took place against Martial Law. Citizens were beaten and im-

ZOMO (*Zmotoryzowane Oddwoły Milicji Obywatelskiej*) is the acronym of the Motorized Units of the Citizens’ Militia. The national outfit of approx. 30,000 men had received military training and were equipped not only with anti-riot paraphernalia, but with light armored weapons and vehicles which enabled deadly mobility. The allegedly elite units were created to fight dangerous criminals, provide security during mass events, and help in the case of natural disasters and

World War II were moved to an open-air museum.

Poles have a history of such demolitions reaching back to the 1920s, when the newly founded Polish state destroyed all symbols of the Czarist period.

Racism in Poland

In the 20th and 21st century, Racism has been the subject of significant inquiry. While ethnic minorities once made up a significant proportion of the country’s popu-

lation, 21st century statistics have shown 94% of the population self-reports as ethnically Polish.

During the 16th century, many Jews lived in Poland, so much that it was called the center of the Jewish world. Jewish expulsions and pogroms punctuated the period: from Kraków in 1494, to Warsaw in 1527 to Śląsk in 1559 and 1582. 30,000 Jews were killed in peaceful protesters in the *Chmielnicki Uprising* – Cossack Rebellion in the eastern territories. During World War II, Poland was the main scene of the Holocaust, the *Porajmos* – Romani (Gypsy) genocide, and the Nazi atrocities against the Polish nation.

Presently, there are three categories of recognized minorities in Poland: nine national minorities (Armenians, Belarusians, Czechs, Germans, Jews, Lithuanians, Russians, Slovaks, Ukrainians), four ethnic minorities (Karaites, Lemkos, Roma and Tatars), and a regional linguistic minority (Kashubians).

The number of racist incidents has been increasing. In 2016 there were more than 1,600 racially motivated crimes. Poland tops the list of countries with the most attacks on Indian students. In 2017, a far-right march gathered 60,000 participants chanting phrases including “We want God,” “Poland for Poles,” and anti-Semitic slogans.

Black Lives Matter in Poland

In a global act of solidarity, people around the world have organized protests and memorials to fight for justice, racial equality and honor the memory of George Floyd.

Some of the protests have turned violent, many have been peaceful. From Norway to Mexico, South Korea to France, India to England, Pakistan to Germany, and in Poland – Black Lives Matter. Thousands of all white protesters gathered outside the U.S. embassy in Warsaw and candles and flowers were laid in front of the U.S. Consulate General as a memorial event in Kraków... with a hope and a prayer.

* Excerpts reported in The New York Times, May 2, 1983

Annual Blessing



GUEST CELEBRANT FR. MACIEJ GALLE, with the help of Fr. Mikolaj Markiewicz, bless motorcycles during the Polish Bikers' Pilgrimage and outdoor Mass held June 7, 2020, at the Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana.

Fr. Galle, a biker himself, is pastor of St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Chicago. Fr. Markiewicz is the superior of the Salvatorian Fathers Monastery that is located on the shrine grounds.

The Chicago-based Katyn Riders Society (*Stowarzyszenia Rajd Katyński Pamięć i Tożsamość USA*) organizes the popular event held every spring and fall at the shrine.

CATECHISM

Sacraments and Indulgences for Those Who Die Alone

by Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka

It is sad that some people die alone without a priest to give the Anointing of the Sick, Confession, and Holy Communion. Normally, a priest could bestow these sacraments without any limitations. In today's world of the virus, it may not be so.

Priests are not allowed in hospital rooms, nor sick-bed area. A few weeks ago, someone asked me about his dying mother, a resident at a nursing home that did not allow visitors in rooms.

I remembered my mother died alone. I found comfort in a copy of 4th edition (1999) edition of the *Enchiridion of Indulgences*. I looked up the section which tells what a priest is reminded to do after giving the Last Rites, including The Papal Blessing, which remits all punishment and a pardon for sin.

Two sentences in that piece gave me much consolation and peace.

The first one stated that Holy Mother The Church automatically grants this indulgence when a priest is unavailable. The second sentence said the indulgence (The Papal Blessing) is granted again by Holy Mother

The Church after the person dies.

This has been a great comfort to me, and I hope it a comfort to those whose family members have died alone.

◆ ◆ ◆

Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka is Catholic Chaplain at Washington, D.C.'s Dulles Airport.

◆ ◆ ◆

Editor's note: The *Catholic News Herald* reported that on March 20, the Vatican issued a decree granting plenary indulgences to "the faithful suffering from the Covid-19 virus, commonly known as coronavirus, as well as to healthcare workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them."

The decree grants a plenary indulgence to coronavirus patients quarantined by health authorities in hospitals and in their homes if, "with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite themselves spiritually through the media to the celebration of the Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion.

Maliszewski Receives Emmy Nomination

WATERTOWN, Mass. — The 47th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards have been announced. Lexington resident Jan Maliszewski, president of the Watertown-based film & television company DGA Productions, has received an Emmy nomination for "Outstanding Directing in Multiple Camera Daytime Program" for the PBS show Christopher Kimball's *Milk Street*.

This is Maliszewski's fourth Emmy nomination in this category. He won the award in 2018 and 2019 directing *Milk Street*.

Milk Street also received nominations for "Outstanding Culinary Series" and "Outstanding Multiple Camera Editing for a Drama or Digital Series."

Maliszewski is an Emerson College graduate and has worked in the Boston film and television community for over 30 years. He was Director of Photography for the Academy Award-nominated short documentary *On Tiptoe: Gentle Steps to Freedom* about the struggle for freedom as told by the South African singing group Ladysmith Black Mambazo. He was previously nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Directing of *Cook's Country*, a PBS cooking series he directed for eight seasons.

Maliszewski has collaborated



Jan Maliszewski holds his 2019 Emmy at the 46th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards in Pasadena, Calif., last May. He has been nominated once again for "Outstanding Directing in Multiple Camera Daytime Program" for Christopher Kimball's *Milk Street*.

on national broadcast, commercial, corporate, and theatrical projects since 1992, and has served as director and director of photography on projects across the globe.

Milk Street is a Boston-based cooking school that publishes *Milk Street Magazine*, award-winning cookbooks and Milk Street Radio and TV. For more information go to

www.177milkstreet.com.

DGA Productions has been a fixture in the film and television community since 1981. It is a full-service television production company providing all aspects of video marketing, broadcast, documentary TV and film production.

For more information, visit www.dgaproductions.com.

Kosciuszko Foundation Adapting to Change

NEW YORK — Marek Skumilowski, president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, opened its largest worldwide chapter, the online platform: "Staying Connected."

The new series makes it possible to view and participate in the Foundations cultural and educational events no matter where you live or work.

Highlights of the platform include conversations with prominent public figures, discussions, and lectures by distinguished scholars, authors, and leading experts, as well as music performances streamed via the Foundation's social media channels. To learn more about the webinars and the Foundation, visit thekf.org.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Polish Heritage Center USA at Panna Maria, which honors the first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in America and all the nearby communities and parishes it spawned, seeks an Executive Director. The Director reports to a 12-member Board of Directors.

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Interested applicants should contact Mr. Aloys Notzon, Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, at 210-846-1717 or alnotzon@grandecom.net for more information, or view website at https://polishheritagecentertx.org.

RELIGION

Minneapolis Riots: Prayer, Departure, Resignation, Criticism

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Minneapolis-St. Paul RC Archbishop **Bernard Hebda** joined a silent walking protest to the spot where George Floyd died in police custody and prayed at the memorial set up for Floyd there.

"While many faiths were represented, there was great unity as we prayed for justice and peace," the archbishop said.

Meanwhile in the wake of the riots that burned his factory to the ground, business owner **Kris Wyrobek** is taking his business and its jobs and relocating them out of the city. "They [the city's Democratic leaders] don't care about my business ... They don't protect our people. We were all on our own ... The fire engine was just sitting there, but they wouldn't do anything."

In Philadelphia a top editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* resigned after his staff grew upset over the placement of a headline about the impact of civil unrest following the death of George Floyd. **Stan Wischnowski** oversaw the placement of the headline "Buildings Matter, Too," over a columnist's remarks about the aftermath of the protests. His apologies for insensitivity proved insufficient to satisfy the staff and so he resigned.

President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump were roundly criticized by Washington D.C.'s RC Archbishop **Wilton Gregory** for their "baffling and reprehensible" visit to the **Pope St. John Paul II** shrine to honor the late pontiff on the 100th anniversary of his birth and the 41st anniversary of the saint pope's historic mass in Warsaw's Victory Square. The visit had been arranged well before the events in Minneapolis and throughout the country, was approved by the Knights of Columbus who maintain the shrine and had been run by the archbishop's office without his comment well in advance of the visit. While the archbishop saw the event as a baldly political statement, White House spokesmen noted that "President Trump's visit gave comfort and hope to Catholics in this country and all over the world

that this president is a man of God who will always protect the sanctity of life and promote religious freedom." After his visit the president planned to sign an executive order on international religious freedom. The Shrine spokesman said: "This was fitting given St. John Paul II was a tireless advocate of religious liberty throughout his pontificate... The shrine welcomes all people to come and pray and learn about the legacy of St. John Paul II."

Blessed Mary Angela's Story

Sr. Marie JoAnn Lewko, CSSF makes Felician Sisters foundress **Blessed Mary Angela Truskowska** come alive in her book *On Earth as in Heaven*. A steady stream of reports of miraculous healings is being accumulated as a result of Blessed Angela's intercession. Her assistance is greatly needed today in this time of viral epidemic to replicate the care she showed to the sick and suffering in mid-1800s Poland.

Caring for the Sick in a Time of Epidemic

Michael Pitek, longtime parishioner and president of the parish council at Blessed Sacrament RC Church in Buffalo, N.Y., joined parishioners in several food drives and clothing collections and supported the "Caring Call" ministry reaching out to community members isolated by the pandemic. In addition, the "Green Thumb" ministry keeps up the gardens and lawns on the church grounds, "beautifying our earth and taking care of the grounds we have."

Little Sisters Back in Court

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments by telephone (because of the Covid-19 lockdown) in the *Zubik v. Burwell* case which centers on the sisters' refusal to offer contraception/sterilization/abortion insurance as mandated by President Obama's Health and Human Services health care act. Already exempted from the revisions under the act, the district attorneys of Pennsylvania and California have sued to have the community stripped of their exemption. As the



U.S. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump visited the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington June 2, 2020, the 41st anniversary of beginning of pope's 1979 historic visit to Poland. The cross-town trip was harshly criticized by several Catholic leaders, including Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, who said he found it "baffling and reprehensible that any Catholic facility would allow itself to be so egregiously misused and manipulated in a fashion that violates our religious principles" by allowing the visit.

title of the case indicates, Bishop **Zubik** and the RC Diocese of Pittsburgh are also tied with this case. The 9th Circuit Court in California ruled against the sisters in October and they appealed the case to the Supreme Court.

Police and Protestors March Together

In a city that was formerly one of the most violent in New Jersey, Camden Police Chief **Joe Wysocki** was present at the city's protest rally in response to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn. Wearing his uniform and protective face mask, he also showed a peace sign and marched alongside the protesters in their peaceful demonstration. Camden's police force was disbanded and reorganized in 2013 as a county agency with a focus on community policing. Police walk beats in the community and attend block parties, grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. "We know that together we are stronger, we know that together, in the city of Camden, we can create a space where policing is focused on de-escalation and dialogue," Wysocki said.

Singing Society of Buffalo on and off since 1980 and currently serves as vice president. She also joined the Kalina Singing Society in 2017.

She has served on the board of the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College for many years where she held the offices of chair and secretary. Similarly, she arranged for concerts by local and international artists, including an annual scholarship fundraising concert for musicians of Polish descent.

Wyrobek has organized numerous exhibits held at Canisius College, Daemen College and the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library including *A Blessing to One Another: John Paul II and the Jewish People*, an exhibit, *ReGeneration: Jewish Life in Poland* which was co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland as a part of the "Public Diplomacy 2019" program. Additional exhibits on Jan Karski, the Ulma Family, 1989: The End of a System were presented as a result of her efforts.

and individuals around the state, with lumber and shipping costs covered by Knights Council 1363.

Sto lat to....

Steven Jubera, a native of Chicago, who currently resides in Oxford, Miss. The assistant district attorney for Mississippi's 17th Judicial District is a father of four who assisted in the formation of a child advocacy center to serve the children of the community and serves on the Review Board for the RC Diocese of Jackson, Miss. He was just appointed to the National Review Board of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to oversee compliance with the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People ... Springfield, Mass. RC **Bishop Mitchell Rozanski** on being appointed the next archbishop of the diocese of St. Louis, Mo. ... **Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, C.Ss.R** on his appointment as auxiliary bishop of the RC archdiocese of Baltimore. The Redemptorist priest is currently delegate for Hispanic Ministry in the Baltimore archdiocese and priest of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Highlandtown, Md. ... **Fr. Andrzej Knapik**, permanent Chaplain at University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio and assistant at St. Barbara's and St. John Cantius Churches, on his birthday. He has also served for 20 years as priest / chaplain to the Brothers of the Holy Spirit sponsored by St. Josaphat Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

JOHN PAUL II'S 100TH

Our Beloved Saint

The 100th anniversary of Saint John Paul II's birth was observed in Catholic communities across the globe on May 18. Many today cannot comprehend the excitement that surrounded the election of Cardinal Wojtyla to the papacy.

First and foremost, a son of Poland made history in 1978 by becoming the first non-Italian pope in more than 400 years. From that day to his death in 2005, he was an advocate for human rights and used his influence to effect political change.

Born **Karol Józef Wojtyla** on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland, John Paul II's early life was marked by great loss. His mother died when he was nine years old, and his older brother Edmund died when he was 12. An athlete, he loved the outdoors, particularly skiing.

He went to Krakow's Jagiellonian University in 1938 where he showed an interest in theater and poetry. The school was closed the next year by Nazi troops during the German occupation of Poland. Wanting to become a priest, John Paul began studying at a secret seminary run by the archbishop of Krakow. After World War II ended, he finished his religious studies at a Krakow seminary and was ordained in 1946.

As the leader of the Catholic Church, he traveled the world, visiting more than 100 countries to spread his message of faith and peace. But he was close to home when he faced the greatest threat to his life. In 1981, an assassin shot

John Paul II twice in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. Fortunately, he was able to recover from his injuries and later forgave his attacker.

He held strong positions on many topics, including his opposition to capital punishment. A charismatic figure, John Paul II used his influence to bring about political change and is credited with the fall of communism in his native Poland. Ultimately, that led to the end of the Soviet Empire and its hold on Eastern Europe.

He was not without critics, however. Some have stated that he could be harsh with those who disagreed with him and that he would not compromise his hard-line stance on certain issues, such as contraception. This, of course, was dismissed by many of his followers. If the Pope isn't going to hold the moral ground, who is?

When John Paul II died in 2005, more than 3 million people waited in line to say good-bye at St. Peter's Basilica before his April 8 funeral.

On July 5, 2013, waving the usual five-year waiting period, the Vatican announced the Roman Catholic Church would declare Pope John Paul II a saint and that the canonization ceremony would likely take place within the next 16 months.

Pope Francis announced that the canonizations of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII would occur on April 27, 2014. The announcement of Pope John Paul II's canonization came after the Vatican revealed that two miracles were attributed to the late pope.

Polonia, Poland, and the world were blessed to have Saint John Paul II.

Let us treasure his memory.

Catholic League

continued from cover

the vestments and chalices which had been donated by the Catholic League.

During the era of Communist rule of Poland, assistance was provided for seminaries in Rome and Paris where seminarians from Poland were studying.

For many years, Msgr. Matthew S. Kopacz served as the moderator of the Catholic League in Buffalo. When he retired, Rev. Walter

Grabowski, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Elma, succeeded him in that role.

With the collapse of communism now 30 years past, the role of the Catholic League has evolved.

Wyrobek grew up in Buffalo's Black Rock section, the second Polish settlement in Buffalo. While in grade school, in a welcoming group, Wyrobek greeted **Karol Cardinal Wojtyla** to Assumption Parish in September 1969.

She has sung with the Chopin

MODLITWY

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POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER TO MARY DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen. I.C.F.

Hero Saluted: Nearly 4,000 Poles lost their lives at Monte Cassino

continued from cover

British decorations, as well as an insignia of his regiment, the 12th Podolski Lancers. Next to that was a lapel pin with the flags of Poland and the United States. On his shoulder, a red patch with white lettering that reads "POLAND."

The Colonel prepared two plastic lawn chairs in front of his house that day and was joined by a Polish radio correspondent who had made an appointment with him, ostensibly for an interview. But in reality, the set-up was a ploy to prepare the colonel for a tribute.

In 1941 Lipinski was a teenager in Poland when he was forcefully deported along with his family to the Soviet Union. War had come two years earlier, when Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union invaded and partitioned Poland in half. Lipinski's family lived near Brześć — known today as Brest as part of Belarus — and was included in the final wave of Soviet deportations, on the night before Nazi Germany's invasion of the USSR in July 1941. Once the geopolitical situation changed, and the Soviet Union became part of the Allied side of the conflict, Lipinski and his family joined the nascent Anders Army being formed out of Polish deportees in the Soviet Union. They, like most Poles, were determined to escape the Soviet Union's grasp. After their evacuation, Lipinski trained with the Polish Army in Iraq, Palestine and Egypt, during which time he also enrolled in high-school classes organized by the Polish authorities. From Egypt, the Polish II Corps was transported to Italy in early 1944.

Italy's Monte Cassino is a rocky summit near the town of Cassino, some 80 miles south of Rome. At its peak sits a grand Catholic abbey, founded in the 6th century. During the war, Monte Cassino was a crucial anchor in the German Gustav defensive line that had held up Allied forces for months. Between January and May 1944, four bloody Allied assaults were waged against Monte Cassino.

By the time the Polish forces arrived, the area surrounding Monte Cassino was a hellscape. As Lipinski describes in his memoir, "The area was a living testimony of what war is all about. There was not one tree that had its branches green with leaves. There were only naked limbs, stumps, sticking out here and there. Grass had also disappeared. Bare rocks, covered with dust were everywhere. Also, there was a testimony of what was there in the past — dead bodies."

The forces of the Polish II Corps, under the command of famed Gen. Wladyslaw Anders, who had led them out of the Soviet Gehenna, were tasked with taking the rocky summit. After fierce fighting that lasted several days, the Germans finally abandoned the ruins of the monastery under the cover of darkness. On the morning of May 18, a Polish flag was hoisted above the ruins by a patrol from Lipinski's unit, the 12 Podolski Lancers. The hill had been taken, but at a staggering cost. The months-long engagement at Monte Cassino cost 55,000 Allied casualties, including nearly 4,000 Polish soldiers.

AS LIPINSKI RECALLS, "I will never forget when we were leaving the Cassino area, we passed close to the temporary cemetery. Long columns of bodies wrapped in blankets were laying, waiting for burial. It had a chilling effect on me and on my buddies. We all realized that we had all been very close to be among these less fortunate, who not long ago had been young men, full of vigor and dreams about the future, having somewhere somebody dear who was praying for their safe return, that would now never come about. Our regiment had not suffered losses as heavy as those of the infantry battalions. Total casualties were 93 soldiers, which was one-quarter of the total manpower engaged in the combat."

The Battle of Monte Cassino, and the Italian Campaign while large during World War II, is often overlooked in American society today. But to Poles, it is a legendary

event in the modern Polish national saga. While the outcome did not impact the fate of post-war Poland, which had been decided weeks earlier at Yalta, the battle is seen as another example of Polish solidarity with Allied forces, as Poles fought "For your freedom and ours." Alas, only the former part of the slogan came true at war's end. The battle is all the more symbolic, and tragic,

neighborhood elementary school. As the clock approached the meet-up time, the lot began to fill, until it soon was packed with over 30 vehicles. Drivers fastened Polish flags and decorations to their vehicles, and two Fairfax County Police Cruisers arrived to lead the convoy.

With everyone ready, the convoy began to leave the parking lot en route to Lipinski's house, only to

"I did not expect such a display of gratitude from my countrymen. I accept it in the name of all my fellow soldiers, not all of whom were lucky as I to get out in one piece."

in that most of the men from the Polish II Corps, like Lipinski, were from Eastern Poland, lands that had been annexed by the Soviet Union and would never again be part of Poland. And yet still they fought, far from home, hoping that one day they too would be able to liberate their homeland. As is inscribed at the Polish cemetery in Monte Cassino, "We soldiers of Poland gave our lives to God, our bodies to the soil of Italy, and our hearts to Poland."

And so, as the 76th anniversary of the victory at Monte Cassino approached this May, an idea took hold to commemorate the battle, and those who fought in it.

As Lipinski, from his front lawn in Virginia the day before the anniversary, began answering the Polish journalist's questions about his wartime experience and his recollections from that bloody battle, a few blocks away cars filled with appreciative friends, acquaintances and strangers began to gather at a

find a stream of another two-dozen or so cars that could not even fit into the parking lot. It was then that it became apparent just how impactful the show of support would be for Col. Lipinski.

When the wails of the police sirens interrupted their interview, the Colonel looked confused. The journalist, yelling over the noise of the sirens, explained "they came here for you" and only then, after a few moments, Col. Lipinski realize what was happening, as car after car slowly drove by, adorned with Polish flags, shouts of thanks and homemade signs. The cars — carrying neighbors, members of the Polish American community, journalists and diplomats from the Polish Embassy, including the Defense Attaché Maj. Gen. Cezary Wisniewski — would stop briefly in front of Lipinski, united in showing a humble hero that 76 years later, his courage and sacrifice were not forgotten.

As Lipinski stood on the sidewalk and greeted each car with a salute, he began to tear up. Later, he would recall, "I am stunned by what is happening here today. I did not expect such a display of gratitude from my countrymen. I accept it in the name of all my fellow soldiers, not all of whom were lucky as I to get out in one piece."

Speaking through the face mask he wore, he added, "I am so moved ... all that I did was fulfill my obligation. I am not a hero."

But those in the dozens of cars driving in front of his house begged to differ.

◆ ◆ ◆

On July 25, Col. Lipinski will turn 95. All wishing to send him birthday greetings can do so by writing to:

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Attn: Col. Romuald Lipinski
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October is Polish American Heritage Month, a time for Americans of Polish descent to reflect on the contributions our ethnic group has made to the American way of life — from discoveries in the worlds of science and technology to accomplishments on the local high school football field.

Sadly, each generation loses a bit of its "Polishness." The names of great-grandparents who came here are forgotten. A traditional dish is dropped at a holiday. Names become anglicized or changed entirely.

The Polish American Journal serves as monthly reminder of all the good associated with being Polish. On our pages are stories of immigrant families who have bettered themselves in America. We report on Polish Americans who have attained top positions in all walks of life. We describe

and teach the customs *babcia* and *dziadek* brought to America. It has become — in part — our mission to make sure traditions are not lost, for they underline the most important aspects of life in America: family, faith, and community.

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Members of Polish Heritage Dancers Youth Group at the organization's Pączki Day fundraiser.



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Poland Marks Centennial of World-changing Battle

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — This year marks the 100th anniversary of the historic Battle of Warsaw, believed to have saved Europe from a bloody communist takeover. It was also been called the Miracle of the Vistula since Poland came very close to defeat.

Poland's Chief of State Józef Piłsudski had hoped to create a federation of Poland, the Baltic States and Ukraine, approximating the sprawling pre-partition Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. To prevent a possible repeat of the 18th-century partitions, he felt Poland needed an ethnic buffer separating it from aggressive, land-hungry Russia.

Piłsudski led a military expedition to Kijów (now Ukrainian Kyiv) to help safeguard the newly created independent Ukrainian republic. Unfortunately, the combined forces under his command and those of Ukrainian leader Symon Petlura could not withstand a massive Soviet counteroffensive. During the summer of 1920, Soviet forces managed to penetrate deep into Polish territory as far west as the city of Toruń.

Although on the verge of total defeat, Poland ultimately managed to pull together, muster its forces

and repel the invading Bolshevik hordes. Volunteers eagerly dug trenches around Warsaw. Boys of 13 and 14 tried to enlist and fashionable ladies donated their gold wedding bands and other jewelry towards the war effort.

Polish cryptographers had broken Russia's secret military code and could intercept messages to and from Bolshevik commanders. Piłsudski's brilliant tactical maneuver took the Soviets by surprise and sealed their ultimate defeat. The 1921 Peace of Riga resolved the conflict and created a border that would last until World War II.

Britain's ambassador to Germany, Edgar Vincent d'Abernon, called the conflict the "18th most decisive battle in world history." Germany was then seething with revolutionary ferment and the Red Army would have been welcomed by German workers as liberators from capitalist oppression. Had Poland been defeated, Lenin may well have realized his dream of spreading communism across Europe all the way to the Atlantic.

Since 1998, a re-enactment of the Battle of Radzymin is held annually on August 15. This year's event, which promised to be more spectacular than ever, was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Your DNA Test Results: Fact or Fiction?

by Stephen M. Szabados

DNA test kits seem to be a popular gift idea. The testing companies have filled our TV screens with ads promising to unlock the locations of our ancestral homes and magically fill out our family tree.

Can submitting a DNA sample fulfill these promises?

DNA testing is a powerful tool in genealogical research, but it is one of many tools that helps us fill in the blanks of our family history. Also, be careful as to when you take a DNA test. Submitting a sample as your first step in your family history research will usually produce confusing results. Basic document research should be the starting point in doing family history research.

Also, have a specific goal in taking the test. Are you genuinely interested in researching your family history, or do you just want to know your ethnicity? In both cases, please delay submitting your DNA sample until you know more about the origins of your family. Your DNA test results will not magically show you the answers and will probably be confusing unless you have done other research.

One reason many people seem to be taking the test is to reveal their

ethnicity. Am I Polish or German or Russian? This seems to be the reason because I see many of my matches have no family trees attached to the results. However, this set of results will probably be too general to answer people's questions. In fact, this is one of the many complaints I hear from people when talking about their results.

DNA testing for genealogy is a relatively new science. Determining your ethnicity is based on the use of algorithms (complicated formulas) and comparing your DNA to base populations. Each testing company has a set of algorithms and base populations that are different. So, each company may give you a different set of ethnic percentages. Also, the base populations extend across broad geographical boundaries, that have seen vast back and forth migrations of the different groups of ethnic people. So, it is difficult to differentiate the DNA of many ethnic groups from their neighbors. Intermarriage has mixed their DNA over the centuries. For example, the DNA of Germans is similar to the DNA of the French. Also, most people living along the Mediterranean Sea coast have similar DNA. Likewise, the Poles have mixed their DNA with their German, Russian, Austrian, and Scandinavian neighbors for many centuries. Remember, the use of DNA is a developing science, and the accu-

racy of the results will improve in the future. Can you wait?

If you just want to submit your sample to see the origins of your ancestors, this may not be the time for you to take the test. If you want to start researching your family history, your DNA test results may give you clues on where to look. However, I would recommend waiting until you have found some of the basic documents such as census records or birth, marriage, and death records, and completed three to four generations of your family tree.

Doing basic genealogical research will give your family history a better foundation, and your DNA results may not be as confusing.

If you do not want to do the research and your children gave you a test kit, submit your sample. However, be patient when looking at your test results. Do not be frustrated with your ethnicity percentages. You may have to wait a few years before it makes sense. Doing basic genealogical research will always help you understand the results faster.

If you do not want to immerse yourself in the details of doing research, make it a project with your children if they gave you the kit. Make them do the research, and you fill in the stories you remember. It should be a fun project and a great way to pass along your memories to your children and grandchildren.

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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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REMINDER

July and August Editions Combined

This month, subscribers will receive a combined July and August edition of the *Polish American Journal*. This replaces the separate August edition, as the PAJ is now published only 10 times a year.



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Included is a helpful genealogical contact sheet to help check your family records in Poland, track down ancestral homesteads and possibly even turn up long-lost relatives. For more information, please contact: strybel@interia.pl.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 35th 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 seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. 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

Residents Rally Around LOCAL MARKET

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — As in cities throughout the United States, many in Chicago marched to protest the George Floyd death while in the custody of police in Minneapolis. But during the Memorial Day weekend and in the days after, some of the protests became violent as looters began to destroy the stores in neighborhoods that need to have access to fresh food, pharmacies, and other basic life essentials. Chicago was certainly not spared.

Community residents in the Jeffrey Plaza area of Chicago's South-east Side quickly stepped up to save their Polish American-owned grocery store, **LOCAL MARKET**, by organizing and conducting a community "clean up" project.

The LOCAL MARKET opened on December 2019. This site had previously been a Dominick's grocery store. It had been left vacant for six years.

Due to large public demonstrations, the store was closed on Memorial Day weekend. But despite Chicago Police Department (CPD) presence, looters were able to breach the store's roof and damage some of its interior. The next day, close to 500 volunteers from the neighborhood arrived to clean up the mess and debris left by the looters. The store's security guards with help from the CPD managed to fend off looters before serious interior damage was done.

"The way the community has stepped up to support their store is something I have never seen before," Eva Jakubowski said. "So many people are depending on us because they really need us." Because of the community's clean-up efforts, LOCAL MARKET reopened on June 4, days earlier than expected. It showed that LOCAL MARKET had become an important and essential part of the minority community.

LOCAL MARKET owners, **Eva and Cezary Jakubowski**, also proved their commitment to the neighborhood, even during this COVID-19 pandemic. They established an upscale grocery store, where no other grocery store would consider locating. This South Shore community has pledged to continue policing Jeffrey Plaza and will have armed security personnel around the perimeter to safely secure their neighborhood store.

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE 2020. Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, communication liaison for the



Eva and Cezary Jakubowski's LOCAL MARKET.



(l. to r.): Rita Cosby, Conrad J. Lowell, Peggy Kusinski

KUSINSKI PHOTO: PETER SEROCKI / COSBY AND LOWELL PHOTOS: DARIUSZ LACHOWSKI

Alliance of Polish Clubs, organizer of the Chicago parade, announced that the planned 129th annual May 3 Polish Constitution Day Parade was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Rita Cosby** was to have been the 2020 grand marshal with **Conrad J. Lowell** and **Peggy Kusinski** as the vice marshalls. The Parade's slogan, "Do Not Be Afraid!" was selected to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Saint John Paul II. The selection of the parade's queen was also cancelled.

Rita Cosby, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, is an American television journalist, a former reporter for ESPN and MSNBC, a three-time Emmy Award winner, the recipient of the Jack Anderson Award for Investigative Excellence, and the Lech Wałesa Award. She is the daughter of Ryszard Kossobudzi, former *Armia Krajowa* resistance fighter, who participated in the Warsaw Uprising. After the fall of the Uprising, Kossobudzi was captured and spent time in a Nazi concentration camp. In 1945, he escaped with a few other prisoners. After the war, he immigrated to the United States and changed his last name to Cosby. Rita is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling biography "Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father's Past" about her father's experiences in 1944 as an *Armia Krajowa* soldier.

Conrad J. Lowell is a success-

ful Chicago entrepreneur and president/CEO of Lowell International Company. In 1993, he began to build an import business bringing Polish products to the United States. Today, Lowell Foods imports and distributes over 15,000 premium specialty products from Europe.

Conrad is living his American dream and believes strongly in giving back to the country that embraced him. In addition to creating jobs in the United States, he regularly provides financial support and food donations to charitable organizations and local communities.

He is a graduate of San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Finance and a bachelor's degree in French.

Peggy Kusinski began her sport journalism and broadcasting career in 1993 as an intern for the late Warner Saunders at WMAQ-TV in Chicago. She was also a contributor to NBC5's "Sports Sunday," worked as the afternoon SportsCenter anchor on ESPN Radio 1000, and hosted "The Point After" on Saturday mornings. Prior to joining the WMAQ-AM radio station, Kusinski was the first woman to host a sports talk show in Chicago as co-host of WMAQ-AM's "Sports

Huddle."

She won two National Emmy Awards while working as a producer at ESPN and acquired 12 Local/Midwest Emmy awards, including four while at NBC5, including the 2007 "Outstanding Achievement for Individual Excellence On-Camera Sports caster," the Edward R. Murrow Award, the Ring Lardner Award, and the Cable Ace Award of the Associated Press.

Today, Peggy covers sports in ChicagoPodcast as host of "The Sports caster and Her Son." A native Chicagoan from the Northwest Side, Kusinski was an all-city/all-state basketball player at Resurrection High School. She graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Radio and Television. Peggy sits on the board of directors of "Girls in the Game," and is active at her high school alma mater.

donations to their food pantries and approximately \$3,500 for masks and hand sanitizers, according to **Hubert Cioromski**, president of the Copernicus Foundation.

The Foundation has been coordinating its relief efforts with 45th Ward Alderman James Gardiner and Gladstone Park Neighborhood Association Vice President John Garrido. The Center even offered the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois its large parking lot as a testing or treatment center during this pandemic.

In the past, the Foundation has served the community as an ethnic center for not-for-profit organizations to use for various events. Primarily as a center for the Polish community, it has promoted many Polonian cultural and artistic events. But as Cioromski points out, the Copernicus Center has become



Gateway Theater

COPERNICUS CENTER HERE TO STAY. Across the nation and in Chicago, cinemas and theaters remain empty. In the Jefferson Park area stands the beautiful 1,852 seat Mitchell Kobelinski Gateway Theater of the Copernicus Center. Once restrictions of large gatherings have been limited, there will be new challenges for the Gateway Theater and other facilities within the Center. However, the pandemic has not stopped the Center and its staff from being involved in the larger community.

During this COVID-19 crisis, the Copernicus Foundation has supported local churches and charitable organizations with over \$5,000 in

a performance center for many non-Polish ethnicities, thus reflecting the depth and high quality of Chicago's diversity.

The Copernicus Center offers much to the community, from its theater to its state-of-the-art Herbert Hall Annex, to its third floor King's Hall meeting room. Unfortunately, with the pandemic restrictions, the "Taste of Polonia," the Center's largest annual event which is held every Labor Day weekend, is doubtful in 2020.

The theater will not reopen until all safety precautions have been met, including an extensive professional cleaning. Since the theater is a ticketed venue, cautionary seating measures, such as social distancing between seats, will be observed.

Most importantly, the Copernicus Center is here to stay. In fact, once the pandemic subsides, the Center has plans to host a concert to honor first responders and health workers.

CHECK IT OUT. Anyone interested in Polish folk, classical, religious, or polka music would be well to visit www.poloniamusic.com. It contains words, music, and plenty of photos. This very informative and entertaining site is hosted by the extremely talented Bob Johnson.

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MINNESOTA VOICE

Lights of Reason and Faith Amid Minnesota's Violent Darkness

by Mark Dillon

With astonishing speed, a fire that ignited in Minneapolis, Minnesota in late May spread quickly across America and the world. It was the burning hate of a policeman's knee on a neck. The evil combustible energy of a brick or gasoline-filled bottle thrown into a window. The prejudice and sophistry that justify violence in the name of past wrongs.

Minneapolis' urban streets were a tinderbox after more than two months of cultural, spiritual and economic drought from self and government-imposed isolation intended to protect people from each other, and a potentially fatal disease carried on one's breath and hands.

Amid the boiling cauldron of double-digit unemployment and arrested community life at the source of the Mississippi River, and from the city's ash heap of more than 400 destroyed and damaged Minneapolis businesses and \$500 million in riot damage, voices are now pleading for healing, sanity, civil discourse and trust, among them Polish American voices.

A noteworthy one is Catholic Diocese of St. Paul Minneapolis Archbishop Bernard Hebda. A

week before the region's riots and protests, he and the state's Lutheran leaders publicly challenged the equity of the Minnesota governor's coronavirus-related restrictions on church gatherings.

"An order that sweeps so broadly that it prohibits, for example, a gathering of 11 people in a Cathedral with a seating capacity of several thousand defies reason. Therefore, we have chosen to move forward in the absence of any specific timeline laid out by Governor Walz and his Administration," Archbishop Hebda, a Harvard Law School graduate, wrote. "We cannot allow an indefinite suspension of the public celebration of the Mass."

Catholic churches throughout the region began to reopen at 25% capacity the weekend after the May 25 death of George Floyd. Archbishop Hebda would later lead a group of priests that also included Fr. Spencer Howe, pastor of historically Polish Holy Cross Church, on a walk through to the south Minneapolis site where the 46-year-old died.

Following Floyd's death Archbishop Hebda said in a statement "Particularly at this time when human fragility has been brought into focus by the Covid-19 pandemic, we



Fr. Spencer Howe, pastor of Holy Cross Church, leads an outdoor Zoom prayer service at the grotto of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Minneapolis.

are called to respect the worth and dignity of each individual, whether they be civilians in need of protection or law enforcement officers charged with providing that protection. All human life is sacred."

A FEW DAYS LATER on Pentecost Sunday Fr. Howe held an outdoor rosary/prayer service with the pastors of two nearby churches — Ss. Cyril & Methodius and St. Maron's — at the grotto shrine of Our Lady

of Perpetual Help at St. Anthony of Padua campus, a chapel and senior care facility with roots prior to Minnesota statehood.

In 2020, seniors have been among the hardest hit by coronavirus in Minnesota. As of mid-June, Minnesota led the United States in the percentage of Covid-19 deaths at nursing homes and congregate care facilities — about 80% of fatalities.

"We are praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our city, our state and upon our nation" Fr. Howe said.

Historically Polish areas in Minneapolis did not suffer nearly as much riot damage as neighborhoods south of downtown. However, mostly non-violent protesting still gradually migrated across the Mississippi to the Northeast neighborhood a few days after more than 4,000 National Guard troops were deployed.

Watchful neighbors wrote social media posts calling attention to the fact that co-mingled with non-violent marchers were folks who were stockpiling bricks, rocks and flammable materials in bushes and alongside streets.

Unlike Washington, D.C. and Warsaw, Minneapolis does not

have either a Thaddeus Kosciuszko monument or a Casimir Pulaski monument, although there is a Pulaski Hall in Northeast Minneapolis and a Lake Pulaski near the town of Buffalo. Both were unaffected by the violence.

TRYING TO HEAL RACIAL AND ETHNIC divisions along the banks of the Mississippi has been something that Catholic priests have been attempting to do since 1842 when missionary Fr. Augustin Ravoux came from France and sought to diffuse a genocidal war between the Chippewa and Sioux nations near what is now St. Paul, then called the town of Pig's Eye. Federal troops from Fort Snelling were eventually called in to restore peace between the tribes.

A much more positive chapter of non-violent advocacy for change was also celebrated the same week after the riots. On June 2, parishioners at Holy Cross, Fr. Slawek Murawka and Fr. Howe led a Zoom video presentation to mark Pope John Paul II's June 1979 visit to Poland, reading aloud the pope's remarks at the time in Polish and English, following by Polish songs, musical groups and a discussion.

Minnesota Polish Groups win History Grants

by Mark Dillon

The Polish American Medical Society of Minnesota (PAMSM) and Polish Cultural Institute and Museum of Winona have each received \$10,000 Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) Cultural Heritage grants.

PAMSM's *Kalejdoskop: Spotlight on Polish Americans in Minnesota* project has been funded for its first phase over the next 12 months. The project seeks to illuminate the experiences of Solidarity-era refugee immigrants in Minnesota through oral histories and the photographic work of Grzegorz Litynski, head of the Department of Travel, Documentary Photography and Photojournalism at the Technical University of Katowice.

From 1980 in Poland until the fall of communism in 1989, as a consequence of participating in the Solidarity movement, "many individuals experienced terrible repression, including imprisonment and torture by the state. Some of these individuals moved to Minnesota as refugees," explains project director and PAMSM President Dr. Kasia Litak

The medical association is partnering with POLESOM (Polish Educational Solutions of Minnesota), a Minneapolis group that hosts Polish language classes for Polish diaspora children and may create related learning experiences about the Solidarity period for young people.

As reported by the *Polish American Journal* this past winter, the *Kalejdoskop* project aims to fill a public oral history resource gap. Although persons of Polish heritage currently comprise an estimated 4.2% of Minnesota's population (240,000 of 5.7 million people based on U.S. Census Bureau and World Population Review data), stories about Polish immigrants have only

a token representation in the state's publicly accessible databases.

According to latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates, the Polish heritage presence in Minnesota is slightly smaller than that of the Asian heritage presence, which is also about 5.0% of the state's population. Poles are one of the state's most elderly demographic groups while Asians are one of the youngest, and fastest growing.

In his 2005 book *Poles in Minnesota*, author John Radzilowski reported that the median age of Polish Americans in Minnesota was 41.8 years for men and 43.8 years for women in 1980 — just before the Solidarity wave of immigrants to the state. The *Kalejdoskop* project may show how a new generation helped sustain Polish culture in Minnesota in the 1990s and is making an impact today in many fields.

How Poles Built Winona

In the first quarter of 2020, the **Polish Cultural Institute and Museum in Winona, Minn.**, also received a \$10,000 MHS grant to develop a schematic design and style manual for a planned exhibit to be called *They Built Winona*. This project was originally planned to be part of the Winona Kasbushian Polish community's year-long celebration of the centennial of the Kasbushian region's integration with the rest of a newly independent Poland in 1920.

In late spring, the City of Winona and the Polish Museum decided to postpone all centennial related events as well as the museum's annual Smazne Jablka (Apple Festival) until 2021 amid the coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings. The postponed events include a visit from Polish officials from the Bytow region, a concert, a banquet and presentations from educators from the University of Gdansk.

Children's Ombudsman to Aid Flame-gutted Polonian School

WARSAW — Mikołaj Pawlak, Poland's Children's Ombudsman (child-rights advocate) has declared he would help Long Island's flame-gutted Zbigniew Herbert Polish Supplementary School. The ombudsman's office will work with New York's Polish General Consulate to provide pupils and teachers

with textbooks and other essential learning aids that were destroyed by the blaze, Consul General Adrian Kubicki announced.

Faulty electrical wiring was given as the cause of the fire in which three classrooms went up in flames and 10 others were inundated with water during the fire-fighting ac-

tion.

The Polish Saturday School operates from Our Lady of Assumption in Copiague, N.Y. It teaches pupils whose age ranges from the youngest to the 11th class of high school. As many as 530 pupils attend the school operated by staff of around 30, including 20 teachers.

POLONIA PLACES

St. Stanislaus, Meriden, Connecticut

82 Akron Street,
Meriden, Connecticut
Status: Open

by Gregory L. Witul

In the late 1880s as droves of Poles settled in America, many of them found their way to New England. In the central Connecticut city of Meriden, a colony was soon formed as the Poles found work at the silver manufacturers around the region. With so many Catholic Poles in the area, Jan Damach thought they should organize, and on January 1, 1889 started the Society of St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr and Patron of Poland with the hopes of starting a Polish parish.

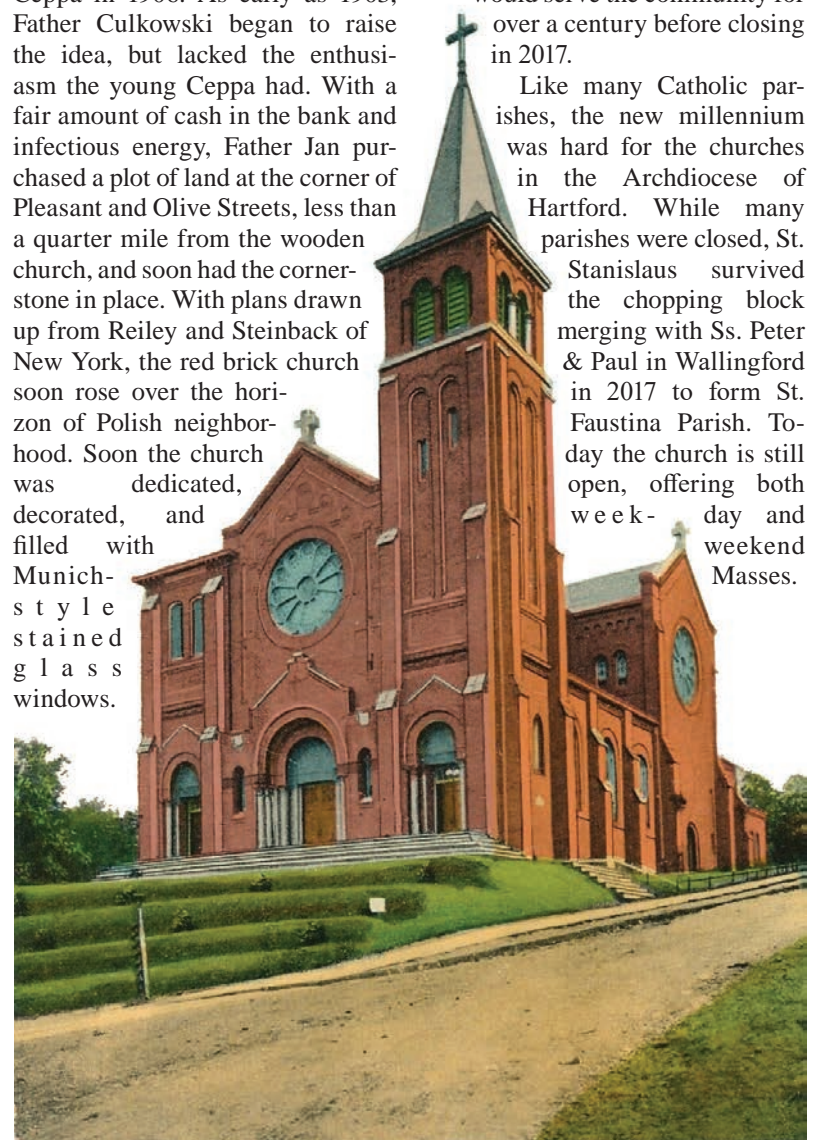
Over the next two and a half years, the society raised funds in their pursuit. On June 22, 1891 Joseph Skladzien transferred a piece of property to the Society of St. Stanislaus for the "use and benefit of the St. Stanislaus Polish Catholic Church" and the first Polish parish in Connecticut was born.

On October 23, 1892, Reverend Anthony Klawiter transferred to Meriden and seven days later the cornerstone to the first St. Stanislaus Church was put into place on the corner of Oak and Jefferson streets, with 159 members signing the parish charter the same day. This wooden church would serve the parish well for 15 years, but as the Polish community grew, it soon became too small.

The effort to erect a new church began to pick up steam under the pastorate of Reverend Jan Ludwik Ceppa in 1906. As early as 1903, Father Culkowski began to raise the idea, but lacked the enthusiasm the young Ceppa had. With a fair amount of cash in the bank and infectious energy, Father Jan purchased a plot of land at the corner of Pleasant and Olive Streets, less than a quarter mile from the wooden church, and soon had the cornerstone in place. With plans drawn up from Reiley and Steinback of New York, the red brick church soon rose over the horizon of Polish neighborhood. Soon the church was dedicated, decorated, and filled with Munich-style stained glass windows.

Following the church, a school was built in 1916 and staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The school would serve the community for over a century before closing in 2017.

Like many Catholic parishes, the new millennium was hard for the churches in the Archdiocese of Hartford. While many parishes were closed, St. Stanislaus survived the chopping block merging with Ss. Peter & Paul in Wallingford in 2017 to form St. Faustina Parish. Today the church is still open, offering both week-day and weekend Masses.



LONG ISLAND

The First Polish American Cabinet Member

by Basia Szydłowski

The first Polish American to serve in the Cabinet as United States Postmaster General was **John A. Gronouski**. Born in Dunbar, Wisconsin on October 26, 1919 of Polish-Irish parents, Gronouski attended St. Peter's School in Oshkosh, Wisconsin and studied at Oshkosh Teachers College. In 1942 he graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.A.

Upon graduation, Gronouski enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as a navigator with the Eighth Air Force. After being discharged from the service in October 1945, he returned to the University of Wisconsin earning a master's degree and Ph.D. He became a professor and researcher; however, in 1952 he was the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate against Joseph McCarthy. In 1959, he joined the Wisconsin Tax Department as research director and later executive director of the Revenue Survey Commission. In 1960 he was appointed state tax commissioner.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy selected him to be United States Postmaster General. In that position, he instituted a vertically improved mail system of delivery, proposed to do away with airmail postage and reclassified first class mail as priority class and added the use of zip code.

He resigned this position in 1965, to accept President Lyndon Baines Johnson's appointment for two years as Ambassador to Poland. In 1969, Gronouski accepted Johnson's offer to serve as Founding Dean of the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. He remained as Dean until 1974 and later taught at the school for fifteen years. In the late 1970s he served as Milwaukee's court-appointed master on school desegregation. He served as a member of the Eisenhower Commission and was chairman of the board for International Broadcasting in the 1980's which included Radio Free Europe.

He died on January 7, 1996 and is buried in Allouez Catholic Cemetery, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

HISTORY. At the Polish American Museum, a permanent exhibit that was purchased through the generosity of the membership is of Major Ludwik Idzikowski, a Polish military aviator born August 24, 1891.

At the outbreak of World War I, Idzikowski was conscripted into the Russian Army. He completed aviation school in Sevastopol, served in an air combat unit as an officer pilot in 1916. After the October Revolution, he managed to return to Warsaw, and in November 1918 Idzikowski joined the Polish Army in the rank of *podporucznik* (2nd Lieutenant). In 1919, he joined the Polish Air Force. During the Polish-Soviet War, he flew with the 7th fighter Kosciuszko Squadron, crewed mostly by American volunteers. After the war, he was an instructor, then commander of escadre training in the advanced flying school in Grudziadz.

In April 1926, Idzikowski was sent to France with a Polish military mission, where he tested aircraft purchased by the Polish govern-



Gronouski

ment. He planned to make his first transatlantic flight, which was more difficult because of winds of the East-West direction. A French attempt had been made in May 1927, but the aircraft, "The White Bird," disappeared over the Atlantic. Two weeks later Charles Lindbergh, made the first successful nonstop flight from New York to Paris.

After considerable hesitation, the Polish authorities, urged on by the press, purchased a special plane for a transatlantic flight from France. On January 1928, Idzikowski — now promoted to major — was accompanied by a second pilot and navigator Major Kazimierz Kubala. They commenced their first test trials for the flight on August 3, 1928 taking off at 4:45 a.m. from Paris Le Bourget airfield. However, after flying 1988 miles above the ocean, engine oil levels were falling caused by a cracked oil tank. A decision to return to Europe, since it was more than half way to America. After 31 hours of flight, oil depleted, Idzikowski decided to land on water and was rescued by a merchant ship crew.



Idzikowski

The following year, another attempt was made by Idzikowski and Kubala. They took off on July 13, 1929 at 3:45 a.m. from Le Bourget airfield. After flying almost 1400 miles over the ocean, the engine started to lose rpms and emit noise. A decision to land on Faial Island in the Azores. However, because of the irregular engine noise, Idzikowski decided to make an emergency landing on the rocky island Graciosa.

During the plane's landing on a field, it hit a low stone wall and overturned, wheels up. Idzikowski was killed in the crash, and Kubala was slightly injured. During the rescue, the aircraft was wrecked. Idzikowski's burned body was returned to Poland and buried with honors on August 17, 1929.

The exhibit at the museum contains personal papers, photos, medals and flying cap.

Copious Research Brings Radzilowski and Gunkel's *Poles in Illinois*

POLES IN ILLINOIS

by John Radzilowski and Ann Hetzel Gunkel
Southern Illinois University Press, 2020, 244 pgs.

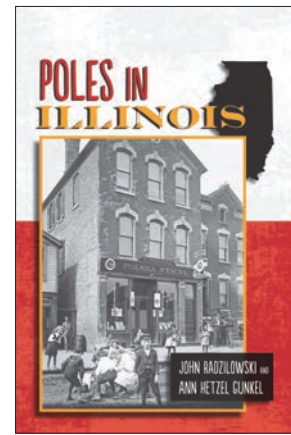
Review by Mary E. Lanham

When one thinks of large Polish-populated cities, names like Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Cleveland come to mind. Almost certainly at the top of such a list is Chicago, Illinois. But what is not discussed much are the Polish-centered communities throughout the Prairie State, not just in Chicago. *Poles in Illinois* seeks to fill those gaps by highlighting fraternal organizations, churches, and Polish-owned businesses, and the "lived experiences of ordinary Polish Americans" in the state. With an extraordinary amount of research, the authors managed to accomplish that monumental task.

Diverse aspects of Polish and Polish American life — religion, family, industry, and more — are depicted. There is a section on *Czyżago* of course, as well as a chapter on Poles in Illinois in the Cold War Era.

Whatever you're looking to learn about the Polish population in Illinois you're sure to find it. One of my favorite sections of the book is in the chapter called "Polonia: Polish Community Life in Illinois." The section is titled, "Libraries, Periodicals, and Reading." An excerpt from the section is below:

"The first Polish publisher in Illinois was Władysław Dyniewicz, who settled in Chicago in the 1870s and started the first weekly Polish newspaper ... A partial listing of his book-publishing endeavors shows the wide range of work that appealed to a Polish immigrant readership. This included translations of well-known writers, such as James Fenimore Cooper, Daniel Defoe, Leo Tolstoy, and ... Franz Hoffmann. Polish romantic and positive authors, as well as those writing



history, comedy and satire, and poetry, were also represented."

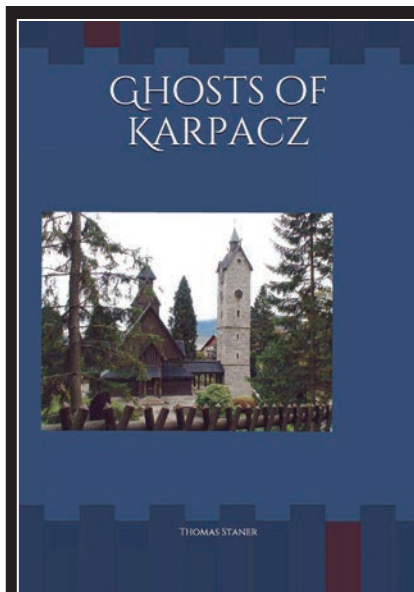
Later there is a charming first-hand account of a young reader whose father gave her a card to the Polish National Alliance library, which she went to frequently. She fondly recalled the friendly librarian who grew to know her and her family well and recommended books for them to borrow.

Poles in Illinois boasts an index, endnotes, 48 images, and three appendices with tables laying out Polish parishes sorted by date of founding, Polish schools, and Polish newspapers. All in all, *Poles in Illinois* by John Radzilowski and Ann Hetzel Gunkel is one that should not be missed and would be right at home on your bookshelf.

♦ ♦ ♦

John Radzilowski has taught history at the University of Alaska for thirteen years. He holds a PhD in History from the Arizona State University. He has authored or coauthored sixteen other works include *A Traveller's History of Poland* and *Poles in Minnesota*.

Ann Hetzel Gunkel is Associate Professor of Humanities and Cultural Studies at Columbia College Chicago and holds a PhD from DePaul University. She is also a former Fulbright professor at Jagellonian University. Her writing is in Polish American Studies and she serves on two editorial boards, *Ad Americam: Journal of American Studies* and *Polish American Studies*.



Interested in the possibility of multiverse and a good story?

GHOSTS OF KARPACZ

by Thomas Staner, MD

Cindy Kowal is looking for answers ... answers from science. A transplant from Central Europe few Americans know, she has brought to Alabama a hereditary curse. Far from the nidus of terror, she hopes an education in psychology might cast some light on the infliction, searching for a rational explanation to the Ghosts of Karpacz, that has permeated her family for countless generations. When spells begun, they provide the local medical community, the patient of a lifetime. Dr. Thad Stevens, neurologist, understands the singularity of her case and joins Cindy in her efforts to find a reasonable explanation. He and consulting specialists, perform an in depth analysis of their patient, including a Cat scan, EEGs, and MRI, even an attempt at psychoanalysis, eventually concluding brain surgery the best option. Each step only deepens the mystery of her condition. Soon her events will become part of an "Old World story." But the answer from science, appears as unreasonable, as the myth itself.

Thomas Staner, MD, is a Board Certified Neurologist and Board Certified Neurosurgeon.

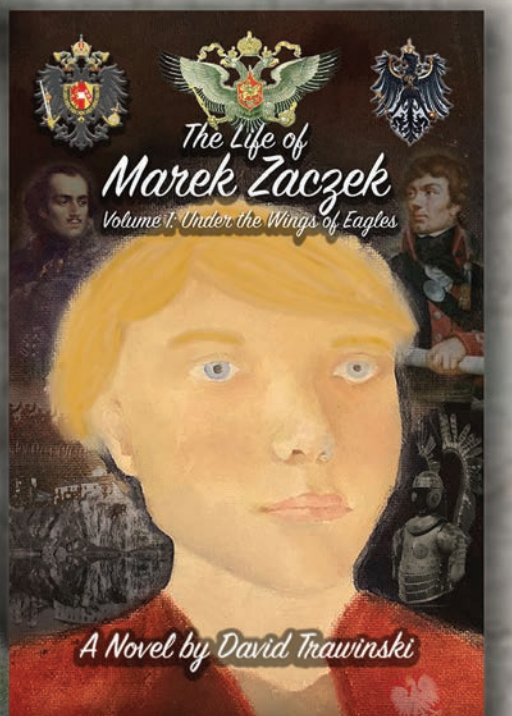
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Through America and Through Life With the “Pope from Poland”

Editor's note: Jerzy “Yurek” Majcherczyk is a Poland-born traveler, explorer, canoeist, and organizer of expeditions to Latin America. In 1981, he was a member of the team led by Andrzej Pietowski, which made the first descent of the river below Cabanaconde at Colca Canyon in Southern Peru and proclaimed the possibility of its being the world's deepest canyon, which was verified by the *Guinness Book of Records* in 1984, and *National Geographic* in January 1993.

He is a Fellow of the prestigious Explorers Club in New York City, and a member of the Polish Institute of Science in New York City. In 2003 Yurek was honored by the president of Poland with the Knight's Cross of Merit to the Republic of Poland for promoting Poland through-out the world.

by Jerzy Majcherczyk

This is a personal history which connected my life's events to John Paul II's pontificate. I was 26 years, five months and five days old when Cardinal Karol Wojtyła was elected Pope on October 16, 1978. John Paul II died on April 2, 2004 after being Pope for 26 years, 5 months, and 17 days. The coincidence of these numbers has always meant something to me.

My story begins in Kraków and continues.

STUDENT MARCH. We were preparing for our kayak expedition “Canoandes” in America, when someone burst into our student dorm yelling, “Did you know that a Pole was elected Pope?” We're in disbelief at first, but after a moment, an enormous joy grows within us, which turns into a huge gathering of students and a joy-filled march to the square in Kraków. There is a frenzy of joy, accompanied by the ringing of the Zygmunta bell. I remember it to this day! I also remember participating in one of the monthly Holy Masses near the student campus celebrated by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła *once a month* for us students, and also the philosophical discussions with our beloved Cardinal after Mass.

A GIFT FROM MOM. When I was leaving my native Siewierz on June 4, 1979 for America to begin the kayak expedition, my mom gave me a picture of the Pope from a newspaper, captioned, “Pope from Poland.” Shedding tears, she said these words, which I not only have remembered forever, but which also came true in their entirety, “Dear son, take this picture of the Polish Pope with you, and he will protect you and your friends from evil.”

Two days later, when we were flying out of Kraków. John Paul II was flying in with his first visit. We weren't lucky to meet him then. It was the first time that we missed each other. There were many misses like that later during our journey in America, until the time came for an audience many years later.

MAY 13 IN PERU. We were in a small village called Chivay at the gates of the Colca Canyon, when we heard these words over the radio that I remember until today: “This morning an attempt was made on the life of Pope John Paul II. He is heavily wounded and is fighting for his life in one of the hospitals in Rome.”

This news pierced my body like a needle and was causing my brain to explode. It's impossible! May-



(left) The author's first meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in September 1993. Jerzy Majcherczyk (center) and his wife Malgosia were in an audience of Polish American travel agents. (right) In October 16, 2003, Majcherczyk presented John Paul II with a stone from Medjugorje on the 25th anniversary of his pontificate.



be we didn't hear right. I couldn't stand on my legs and my voice was paralyzed. This world has gone crazy! Who could have done this? Why? Nothing made sense, all of a sudden. We weren't able to continue our further preparations to conquer the canyon.

We were able to catch Radio Warsaw. Bishop Dąbrowski, the secretary of the Polish Episcopate, was speaking. He called on all Poles living in Poland and abroad, to pray for the health of two of the greatest sons of the Polish nation, the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland, who was very ill, and the wounded John Paul II. In him was the only bulwark for the renewal which filled the hearts of all Poles with solidarity beginning with August of the previous year.

WE'LL CONQUER THIS CANYON FOR THE POLISH POPE! I knew that we had to do something, accomplish something, at best something enormous and crazy which would join us in thoughts, feelings, and maybe even suffering, with the Holy Father—the spiritual patron of our expedition. The newspaper photo which we carried with us for close to two years on the doors of our vehicle protected us against misfortunes. We crossed all of Mexico and Central America with him, Ecuador, and now Peru. No one ever robbed us or broke into our vehicle, in spite of the fact that we left it unguarded on streets of huge cities, and small villages. We also never had an accident or collision. His image paved the way for us many times through closed borders, and countless military and police checkpoints. It pushed aside the barrels of rifles aimed at us. That picture was our protective shield. We decided that we would conquer the unknown canyon for the Polish Pope.

WATERFALLS OF SUFFERING AND HOPE. When we began our kayak trip down the Rio Colca on May 18, 1981, we didn't realize that it was Karol Wojtyła's birthday. We also didn't realize that the following eleven days would be the most difficult days of our young lives, that we would be at the precipice of life and death many times, conquering every meter of a wild, virgin, untamed river, completely cut off from civilization. We constantly thought about what was happening with our Polish Pope. Was he alive? Finally, on the eleventh day, completely exhausted mentally and physically—and dead hungry—we came across enormous waterfalls. We went around them with inhuman effort, carrying all of our gear on our backs. It was then also then, to the sounds of the roar of falling water, that we heard the joyful news that

our great countryman was alive. We immediately came up with the idea to name the waterfalls *Cascadas de Juan Pablo II*, and so these tallest of waterfalls in the entire canyon, have continued to bear that name since May 28, 1981. It was an expression of our attachment to him, and our gratitude, by us, the participants of the Polish Student Kayak Expedition Canoandes '79, for the Holy Father's spiritual patronage of the expedition. And he appeared through the “protective shield” of the “Pope from Poland” photo carried on our expedition vehicle. It remains the only geographic name that bears the name of the great Pole to this day.

PLAQUE AT THE WATERFALLS. In May of 2006, we unveiled a commemorative plaque on the 25th anniversary of the of the discovery by Poles of the Colca Canyon. It is affixed to a huge rock near the waterfalls. In its center is a special stone from Medjugorje, which was personally blessed by John Paul II during the celebration of the 25th anniversary of his Pontificate. The stone bears the words “BENDITA POR EL PAPA – VATICANO 16.10.2003.” Above the stone is a bas-relief of John Paul II. The history of the stone from Medjugorje is incredible.

THE MAP OF PERU ON THE STONE FROM MEDJUGORJE. While at the top of Apparition Hill in Medjugorje with a group of pilgrims from Polonia, I quite unexpectedly began to think that in three days I would be in the Vatican at the celebration of the 25th anniversary of John Paul II's Pontificate, and that the 25th anniversary of the discovery of Colca Canyon would take place two and one half years later. I was thinking about how we could connect the two celebrations. I looked down at my shoes and saw that their tips were touching a brown-yellow stone. It seemed very strange to me since it was similar in shape to the contours of Peru. I picked it up and at that moment I knew that I would take it to the Vatican, though I didn't know what I would do with it further.

Everything happened in some sort of strange—as if choreographed—way. Before leaving the hotel on the morning of October 16, 2003, I “rented” a breadbasket from the restaurant, which I lined with a little Polish flag. I placed the stone inside and glued a silver-plated pendant with the bust of the Pope onto that stone. I packed all that into my knapsack, and we later arrived in front of St. Peter's Square with the group.

TO THE POPE WITH THE STONE. All of a sudden, fellow pilgrims began to signal to me that to enter St.

Peter's Square, one had to give up his baggage to be x-rayed, as well as to walk through a special gate. Just a routine check, like at any airport before boarding a plane.

Standing in line, I saw how handbags, bags and knapsacks placed on the conveyor belt, disappear into the mouth of a black box. Some of them were opened and thoroughly checked. Fully-equipped uniformed police officers, called *carabinieri*, stood next to us. A dramatic scene passed through my mind of me being handcuffed, accused of wanting to throw a stone at the Pope. Who would believe me that I had a different goal? I maintained nerves of steel, however, and calmly approached the checkpoint, took the knapsack off my shoulders, and placed it on the belt. I began to pray feverishly, “Hail Mary, full of grace...” My knapsack disappeared into the abyss of the black box. At the same time, the officer who never took his eyes off the monitor, looked away to another officer who was calling to him. Meanwhile my knapsack emerged from the other side of the box. I calmly retrieved it and walked to the pilgrims who were waiting for me. We looked at each other in disbelief trying to get our heads around what had just happened!

PAPAL BLESSING. Immediately following the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Pontificate, a few of us from the pilgrimage were able to get in line to the Pope's throne. Unfortunately, right before the throne, a huge tightly-packed group of górale pushed us out of the line. For a moment it looked as if we wouldn't get to see John Paul II's face, but Archbishop Dziwisz noticed me and said, “Wait here, off to the side, and as soon as the górale pass, we'll approach the Pope as the last group,” and that's how it happened. As soon as I found myself before my beloved Pope. I fell to my knees and asked: “Holy Father, do you remember Colca Canyon?” The Pope didn't say anything since he was already having problems with his speech then, but he smiled sincerely to me. At that point, I said, “Holy Father, please bless this stone which I have with me. It will be the cornerstone under the plaque at the waterfalls named after you which are found at the bottom of the deepest canyon on earth.” The Pope made the sign of the cross twice. I understood that the second was intended for me.

Unfortunately, the Pope had already died by the time we unveiled he plaque at the waterfalls. He had died 13 months earlier.

APRIL 2, 2005 IN PERU. John Paul II died while I was in Peru. It was similar to the deaths of my closest family members. I started

to ask myself why it happened the same way. It was the same with my beloved mom, my oldest brother, and now with the Pope. I promised myself that I would visit the Vatican at the next occasion connected with John Paul II. My dreams were fulfilled when I was at the Vatican on May 1, 2011 at his Beatification, and on April 27, 2014 at his Canonization.

PAPAL VOTIVES IN THE DEEPEST CANYON ON EARTH. Next to the main plaque with the names of the waterfall in Polish and in Spanish, the following five additional plaques are affixed:

IN THE TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL II OUR FOUNDER.

John Paul II Foundation.
Vatican 28 May 2011.

Just above it are two plaques, both with two emblems, stating:

IN THE TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL II GREAT POLE AND TEACHER.

The Community of John Paul II High School in Siewierz, Poland
May 28, 2011.

as well as:

IN GRATITUDE TO BLESSED JOHN PAUL II GREAT MAN, POLE AND POPE.

John Paul II Schools Community
Diocese of Kalisz, Poland 2012

Below are two more plaques, stating:

IN THE HONOR OF JOHN PAUL II, THE GREAT APOSTLE OF DIVINE MERCY.

John Paul II Foundation New Jersey Chapter. USA 28 May 2011.

and:

IN THE HONOR OF JOHN PAUL II, THE GREAT POPE, SHEPHERD, AND POLE.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish.
Blessed John Paul Square.
Brooklyn, NY. USA. 28 May 2011.

“JUAN PABLO SECUNDO” SCHOOL.

The largest monument that was left behind in memory of John Paul II, however, is a grammar school in the little village of Huambo, which lies on the rim of Colca Canyon. It is here that, since 2006, an entire generation of children learns who our great countryman was, and which nation he came from. The school is supported financially by participants of tours to Peru organized by Classic Travel. There is a five minute film on YouTube which can be found by searching the phrase “Escuela de Juan Pablo II en Huambo.”

AUDIENCE WITH JOHN PAUL II.

I am one of the lucky people who was able to be before the face of our greatest Pole and the successor of St. Paul on earth, John Paul the Great, more than once. The first time I saw him was in 1993, with a group of travel agents from the Society of Polish American Travel Agents (SPATA). I remember how I turned into a pillar of salt, not able to utter one word, at a time when I was supposed to give the Holy Father my first book. My wife Malgosia did it for me instead. Subsequent audiences went much more smoothly. I spoke to the Pope, accompanied by my sons. I carry all of these moments deep in my heart, and thank God that I lived during the time of that historic, and Polish pontificate. To this day, I'm looking for an answer to the question “What meaning does the period of his Pontificate have with the period of my life from my birth to his election to the See of Peter?”

— Translated for the Polish American Journal by Andrew Golębiowski.

Serendipity in the Time of COVID-19

by Richard Poremski

PERRY HALL, Md. — Serendipity: “The occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.” This explains exactly what occurred when Malgorzata “Gosia” Bondyra took advantage of an unfortunate situation and developed it into a very fortunate one. Malgorzata, president of Polish National Alliance (PNA) Lodge 238 and vice president of PNA Council 21, both in Baltimore, Maryland, is a student at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), Erickson School of Aging, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management of Aging Services.

Gosia attends classes both on campus and online as she works toward her graduation in May. Her

curriculum includes serving an internship at the Seven Oaks Senior Center in Baltimore County. She developed the idea of conducting a hands-on Polish cooking class, with a resulting delicious luncheon, for about 20 of the seniors.

The scheduled event had to be cancelled when the pandemic burst onto the United States scene in late March and the center was abruptly closed, as was almost every other non-essential public venue in Maryland, due to the governor’s declared State of Emergency. The governor then also later declared a strict civil lockdown. And that is when Gosia adroitly pivoted from receiving the very disappointing news to developing some very good news from it.

In a serendipitous moment, Gosia rose to the occasion after Kathleen Young, the Seven Oaks’

director, proposed to Gosia that the Polish cooking classes be broadcast live to the seniors on the center’s Facebook page. Gosia readily accepted the challenge and decided that the classes would be conducted and broadcast from her own home’s kitchen.

The Seven Oaks staff and volunteers enthusiastically endorsed and supported the proposal. It was also a win-win situation for both Seven Oaks and Gosia since the arrangement would allow her to completely fulfill her accreditation towards graduation in May. Michael Carnahan, officer of Council 21 and Lodge 339, skillfully undertook the recording, editing, photographing, promoting, and webcasting of the project.

And so, the one-hour Polish cuisine “Cooking with Gosia” classes began, presented twice a week since introduction, and usually with two dishes/items presented during each class. The 15 classes – and still counting – presented so far includes the traditional Polish dishes everyone knows like pierogi and gołabki. But she has also exhibited other delicious dishes like rosół/chicken soup, sałatka z kurczaka/chicken salad made from the soup’s chicken, zapiekanki/open-faced toasted sandwiches – a famous street food in Poland, and sałatka 10-cio warstwowa/a fabulous 10-layer salad consisting of 10 different individual food components.

The classes’ popularity continued via social media networking. The Seven Oaks Facebook page now has 697 viewers following



PHOTO: MICHAEL CARNAHAN

Demonstrator Malgorzata “Gosia” Bondyra with a tray of *zapiekanki*, piping hot from the oven. You can access the preparation video for this sandwich via the PNA link at the end of the article.

the cooking classes, a far cry from the originally planned class of just 20 seniors. Gosia’s culinary enthusiasts have logged-on from the United States, Poland, and even from down-under Australia. Director Young said that other Baltimore County senior centers have informed her that they are intrigued and inspired by the Seven Oaks extraordinary undertaking.

UMBC has recently recognized Gosia for her outstanding academic accomplishments and universal community involvements with a congratulatory email from the dean of the Erickson School, and topped off with a long and comprehensive

media interview by the university’s Communications Manager for the Humanities and Social Sciences that will be published and highlighted on the UMBC web site at graduation.

The virtual cooking classes will now be part of the Baltimore PNA’s cultural outreach program. So please do rattle those pots and pans and get ready to cook up a delicious Polish storm in your own kitchen. To view the “Cooking with Gosia” hands-on demonstration videos, and the accompanying written recipes, please visit the PNA Council 21 website: www.PNACouncil21.com.



PHOTO: MICHAEL CARNAHAN

You will find this famous and delicious open-face street food all over Poland, eagerly anticipated and gobbled-up by hungry pedestrians of all ages.

POLISH CHEF

A Fruity Polish Summer

by Robert Strybel

STRAWBERRIES & SOUR CREAM (truskawki ze śmietaną): Hull, wash and drain 1 qt ripe strawberries. Slice thin into large bowl and sprinkle with several t or T granulated or confectioner’s sugar (or to taste). Toss gently and let stand at room temp but not in direct sunlight 2 hrs or more. Fill fruit bowls and top each portion with a dollop of sour cream. Or top American style with whipped cream.

HOME-MADE STRAWBERRY SODA (domowa oranżada truskawkowa): If using very ripe strawberries in the previous recipe, a good deal of syrup will form. You can drain it off and mix it with cold club soda for a refreshing soft drink that is tastier and healthier than artificially flavored store-bought soda.

SUPER-EASY STRAWBERRY TORTE (najłatwiejszy torcik truskawkowy): Even young children can prepare this dessert and have the satisfaction of saying, “I made it myself! Prepare fruits as in “strawberries & sour cream” recipe (above). Optional: drain off syrup for use in home-made soda or as ice-cream topping. Spoon strawberries over plain store-bought sponge-cake and top with aerosol-type whipped cream. Optional: Decorate top with a few whole strawberries.

PEARS IN CHOCOLATE (gruszki w czekoladzie): Here is another super-easy dessert. On dessert plate swirl a T chocolate sundae topping or other chocolate sauce of choice. On it place a well-drained canned

pear half, cored-side-down. Pour a t chocolate sauce over it and top with a dollop of real whipped cream. Decorate cream topping with a whole, fresh berry (raspberry, strawberry, blackberry). Chocolate topping may be enriched with rum or cognac (1 T per ½ to 1 c sauce).

POLISH PLUM CAKE (placek ze śliwkami): Beat 1/2 c soft butter and 1 c sugar until smooth (about 2 min). Continue beating, adding 2 eggs 1 at a time. Mix 2 c flour with 2 t baking powder and 1/4 t salt and sift into bowl. Gradually stir in the butter-sugar-egg mixture, 1/2 t vanilla extract and 3/4 c milk, beating the whole time until smooth. Transfer dough to greased square or rectangular baking pan. Top dough with ripe Italian plum halves (węgierki) cut-side-up and sprinkle with a pinch or 2 cinnamon (optional). Dot with about 2 T cold butter and bake in preheated 350° oven about 40-45 min, or until inserted wooden pick comes out clean.

SPICED PICKLED PLUMS (śliwki w occie): Wash well and drain 2-1/4 lbs firm Italian plums. With pin or sharp wooden pick puncture each plum in several places. Place plums in 1-pt or 1/2-pt jars. Prepare marinade by combining in pot 1-1/4 c distilled or cider vinegar, 1-1/2 c water, 1 to 1-1/2 c sugar, 10 cloves, 6 peppercorns, 4 grains allspice, a small piece of cinnamon bark and 1 bay leaf. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer covered 10 min. When slightly cooled, pour strained marinade over plums in jars to cover. Seal lids and let stand until cooled to room temp. Tighten lids if neces-

sary, then rinse and wipe jars to remove any marinade. Store in fridge. An excellent relish with ham, roasts and other cold meats.

CHERRY COMPOTE (kompot z wiśni): Remove stems, rinse well in colander 1-1/2 lbs cherries and set aside to drain. Bring 5-7 c water to boil in pot, add 6 T sugar (more or less to taste) and bring to boil. Add the cherries, reduce heat and, when boiling resumes, switch off heat. Leave covered until cooled to room temp and refrigerate. A refreshing drink after a summer meal! Compotes can be made with strawberries, plums, apples, pears, apricots and/or other fruits, alone or in combinations of choice. A pinch of ground nutmeg or cinnamon may be added.

POLISH APPLE CAKE (szarlotka): Combine 2-3/4 c flour with 1 c confectioner’s sugar, 4 egg yolks and 1/4 t salt and blend ingredients into a uniform dough. Do not knead! Roll into ball, wrap in foil and refrigerate at least 30 min. Meanwhile, in saucepan combine 1 lb tart cooking apples, peeled and sliced, with 1/2 c sugar and simmer on low heat until apples are tender. To cooked apple, add 1-1/4 lb peeled, diced or sliced uncooked apples. Season with several pinches cinnamon, nutmeg or ground cloves or a combination of any 2 or all 3 (1 pinch of each). Divide chilled dough in half. Roll one half out thin into a rectangle or square to fit your baking pan. Pierce all over with fork and bake in preheated 390° oven 10-15 min. Sprinkle surface of baked dough with 3-4 T crushed vanilla wafers



POLISH APPLE PANCAKES (racuchy z jabłkami): Beat 2 c sour milk (zsiadłe mleko) or buttermilk with 2 eggs until creamy, adding 2 c flour, 1/2 t baking powder, 1/2 t baking soda and 1/2 salt and beating until smooth. Stir in 2-3 peeled and cored cooking apples, coarsely grated or thinly sliced. (Optional: 1/2 t grated lemon zest may be added to batter.) Heat 4 T butter, lard or oil in skillet, spoon in batter and fry pancakes to a nice golden-brown on both sides. Add more fat as needed. Drain on absorbent paper and serve at once. Dust with confectioner’s sugar or serve with jam, preserves or fruit syrup of choice.

and spread apple filling evenly over surface. Roll out remaining dough half and cover apples. Reduce heat to 350° and bake about 45-60 min.

APPLE SPONGE CAKE (biszkopt z jabłkami): Peel core and slice thin 5 large cooking apples. Beat 5 egg yolks add high speed until fluffy, adding 5 T confectioner’s sugar and 5 T sifted flour. Top mixture with 5 stiffly beaten egg whites and gently mix in. Pour 1/2 the batter into greased tube pan, add the apples, cover with remaining batter and bake in preheated 375° oven 30-40 min. Allow to cool slightly before removing from pan and dust with confectioner’s sugar. Serve warm or at room temp. This cake can be made with 4, 6, 8 or whatever of ev-

erything, depending on the quantity required.

HOME-MADE POLISH PLUM BRANDY (domowa śliwowica): Rinse well 8 oz unpitted prunes, drain, dry, place in jars and drench with 2 qts 100 proof vodka. Into each jar 4-6 raisins add a sliver of orange or lemon peel that has been scrubbed well with hot soapy water and then scalded with boiling water. Seal jars tightly and store in dark place for 4 weeks. Shake jars lightly every few days. After four weeks, pour mixture through cotton-filed funnel into bottles, seal and store in dark cool basement several months. Come Christmas, crack open your śliwowica, fill your guests’ glasses and enjoy. Na zdrowie!

SPORTS

Kelce Brothers Among the Best

by Tom Tarapacki

There have been a number of outstanding brother tandems of Polish ancestry who played in the NFL. Among those who come to mind are Rob, Dan, Chris and Glenn Gronkowski, Lou and Walt (Majka) Michaels, Dick and Ed Modzelewski, Steve and Leo Wisniewski and JJ, TJ and Derek Watts. However, ranking right up there with the best of them are the Kelce brothers, Jason and Travis.

They have Polish ancestry, as well as some English and Scottish. The Ohio natives are both terrific players, even though their personalities are very different. Travis is more flamboyant and colorful, while Jason is a little bit more serious and stoic. Kansas City Coach Andy Reid, who coached both of them, said they're very different but "both have big hearts, love to play the game, both are tremendous players."

Jason and Travis Kelce were not highly-recruited out of Cleveland Heights High School, but both played at the University of Cincinnati and were drafted into the NFL. Jason was a sixth-rounder with the Philadelphia Eagles in 2011. Travis was suspended his entire 2010 season by the Bearcats for what turned out to be a failed drug test for marijuana, but he straightened things out and was a third-round pick of Kansas City in 2013.

Despite not being a number one pick, both have gone on to become among the best at their positions in the NFL. Jason, a center, is a three-time Pro Bowler and All-Pro, and was a member of the Super Bowl LII champion Philadelphia Eagles. Travis, a tight end, is a five-time Pro Bowler, and two-time All-Pro, and was a member of the Super Bowl LIV champion Kansas City Chiefs.



Travis (left) and Jason Kelce exchange jerseys

posure.

Ed Piszek, president of Mrs. Paul's Foods, was a good friend of Murray and Eagles owner Leonard Tose. The Polonia activist also was a long-time friend of the pope.

In December 1980 Piszek brought the photo to the pontiff on a visit to Rome. Piszek said, "The pope is an avid sportsman so he was very interested. I told the pope that Murray's team was entering its championship round and it has two Polish quarterbacks (Jaworski and Pisarcik). He didn't know what a quarterback was but I said, 'They're the big shots. They throw the ball.'"

"The pope said, 'I wouldn't want them to get hurt,' so he got two Papal medals and blessed them. He told me to give them to the two players. He said they were for their protection."

When he got home Piszek presented the medals to Jaworski and Pisarcik at a team meeting during the bye week before the playoffs. One month later, the Eagles were in Super Bowl XV, the first time the franchise made it to that game.

LEWANDOWSKI HITS 40 — AGAIN. When the German Bundesliga returned, Poland's **Robert**

off three straight impressive wins is light heavyweight **Jan Blachowicz**. He's hoping to face one of MMA's all-time greats, light heavyweight champion Jon Jones, in the near future.

NASCAR RETURNS. He didn't finish in the top ten, but **Brad Keselowski** did a lot of good things in The Real Heroes 400 Sunday at Darlington Raceway. In NASCAR's first race in more than 70 days, the driver of the Discount Tire Ford Mustang drew the pole and led for 80 laps in front of mostly empty stands. He also won Stage 2, but ended up at 13th-position at the checkered flag. Still, the finish moved him up to fifth-place in the NASCAR Cup Series driver standings, a gain of five positions.

Brad told the *Charlotte Observer* that he was "terribly conflicted" about returning. "I think it's important that we do things to get back going as fast as we can, but then on the same token, I really don't want to see anyone get sick that shouldn't get sick when it's preventable, so I'm really torn. I sympathize for those who have to make these decisions because there's really not a good option."

Brad's been doing good things off the track as well as on. His company, Keselowski Advanced Manufacturing (KAM), is utilizing its production capabilities to make 3D print face shields for hospitals.

TAK LUB NIE? When it comes to our national pastime, there are many Polish Americans who have excelled. Many of whom are quickly identifiable as Polish, like **Carl Yastrzemski** and **Ted Kluszewski**. Others, like **Al Simmons** and **Barney McCosky**, are less so.

There are many ballplayers whom people thought were Polish, usually because of Eastern European surnames that sounded Polish. In addition, before the rise of Eastern European nationalism following World War I, many people of Ukrainian or Lithuanian or similar background simply regarded themselves as being Polish.

In the past, Major League Baseball used to ask players about their ethnicity. The Baseball Hall of Fame has a list with players' ethnicity up until about 1965, going from **Edward Albosta** to **Samuel Zoladak**. It also included whether there was other ancestries; for example, **Joseph Koppe** is listed as Polish and Czech and **Joe Presko** is Polish and Croatian.

Here then, are some baseball players of the past who many people think are Poles but, as far as we can tell, are not at least partly Polish.

Whitey Ford — Probably because he was big and blond, his

name showed up on Wikipedia at one time as being Polish. He also grew up in an Irish-Polish-Italian area of Queens. In fact, the Yankees' lefty was Irish.

Ralph Houk — His family's original name was Hauch, and they came from Bavaria.

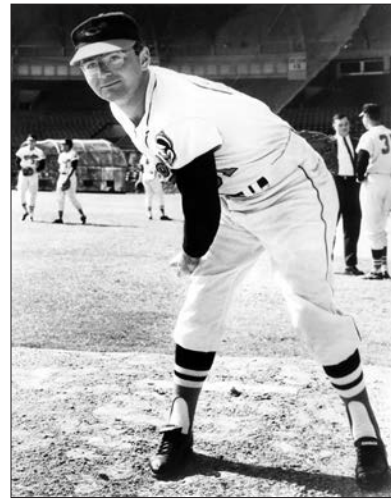
Johnny Pesky — The Boston Red Sox great was born to Croatian immigrants Jakov and Marija (Bajama) Paveskovich.

Andy Pafko — Both parents of this popular Chicago Cub were born in Prague, Czechoslovakia

John Smoltz — With that name, coming from Michigan, and being an accordion prodigy at the age of four, you'd might suspect that the Hall of Fame pitcher was Polish. However, according to his biography he's Italian on both sides.

Ted Simmons — Al Simmons's real name was Szymanski, but Ted's was Simmons.

Of course, it could turn out that one of those players did indeed has some Polish ancestry. However, based on what we know now, they do not.



Steve Dalkowski. Threw at over 100 m.p.h.

A LEGEND PASSES. Steve Dalkowski, the legendary pitcher, recently died at 80. He is considered by many to be baseball's hardest thrower ever, but he never played in the majors because he walked more batters than he struck out.

Born to working-class parents Stephen and Adele (Zaleski) Dalkowski in New Britain, Conn., he became a star pitcher in high school and signed a big contract with the Orioles in 1957. He looked like a regular guy, but Steve had a fastball that was estimated to be well in excess of 100 m.p.h. However, his wildness — both on and

off the diamond — kept him from the big leagues. His legend lived on, though, and inspired the character of Nuke LaLoosh in the *Bull Durham* movie.

Steve struggled with alcoholism much of his life, and was in a nursing home suffering from dementia when he died on April 19.

IN THE NFL. I haven't verified their ethnicity, but here are some picks who appear to be of Polish or Slavic heritage: **Cole Kmet** (TE, ND) Chicago, fourth round; **Tyler Biadasz** (C, Wisc.) Dallas, fourth; **Simon Stepiak** (OT, Ind.) Green Bay, sixth and **Derrek Tuszka** (OLB, North Dakota State) Denver, seventh.

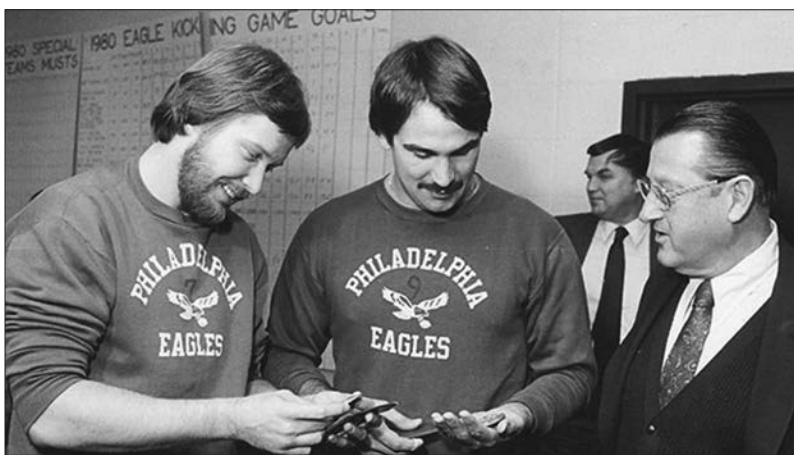


Heading the list of undrafted free agents signing with NFL clubs was defensive tackle **Mike Panasiuk** (left) of Michigan State, the

son of Polish immigrants. He was signed by Las Vegas. His younger brother **Jacob**, a defensive end, is still with the Spartans. Buffalo offensive tackle **Evin Ksiezarczyk** signed with Atlanta; **JJ Koski**, a wide receiver from Cal Poly signed with the Rams; and, **Ross Matiscik**, a long snapper from Baylor signed with Jacksonville.

I saw one undrafted free agent with an unusual name: Stanford long-snapper **Richard McNitzky**, a native of Texas. I had never seen that name before, and wasn't sure what to make of it. Doing a little digging, I found a possible ancestor: Gottfried August McNitzky who died in Denton, Texas in 1902. Apparently, he immigrated from what is now Wroclaw, Poland, and the name on the ship's manifest was **Machnitzky**.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. **Arnold Sowinski**, a standout French goalkeeper and coach, died of Covid-19 at 89 ... **Hans Tilkowski**, one of the best goalkeepers of the 1960s and a member of the German national team, died at 84 ... former big leaguer **Drew Rucinski** is among the Americans playing in the Korean Baseball League ... long-time Green Bay Packer offensive lineman **Bryan Bulaga** has signed with the Los Angeles Chargers.



Jaworski (left) and Pisarcik (middle) receive medals from Piszek.

THE POPE ON THEIR SIDE? In January 1981 the Philadelphia Eagles got to the Super Bowl for the first time ever. We don't know for sure, but it may have had something to do with Polish-born Pope John Paul II blessed Papal medals for **Ron Jaworski** and **Joe Pisarcik**.

As award-winning writer Ray Didinger told the story, it started in 1979 when Pope John Paul II visited Philadelphia. Jim Murray, the Eagles' general manager, brought his infant son, named John Paul, to the pope's parade. Murray had his son dressed in a John Paul T-shirt holding a sign that read, "I, too, am called John Paul, named in your honor for His glory."

The pope somehow spotted the child in the throng and walked over to bless him. Ed Mahan, the Eagles' photographer, took a photograph of the event, which received wide ex-

Lewandowski quickly reached the 40-goal mark for fifth straight season. Lewa suffered a knee injury shortly before the pandemic halted competition, but he was in his usual form when the soccer league restarted and his Bayern Munich squad beat Union Berlin, 2-0. The league's most prolific striker needed just 34 appearances in 2019-20 to reach 40.

FIGHT ON! In the U.S., the UFC was also holding matches without the usual large crowds watching in person. On the ESPN 8 main card, **Krzysztof Jotko** picked up his first win of 2020 by outpointing Eryk Anders. Jotko (22-4 MMA, 9-4 UFC) made it three straight wins. The middleweight from Elbag, Poland also stopped Anders' two-fight streak.

Another Polish fighter coming

Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

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

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

Polish American Historical Association
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050
www.polishamericanstudies.org

LANGUAGE

More Polish Contributions to English Vocabulary

continued from last edition

by Robert Strybel

Most folks today are familiar with *pierogi*, *kielbasa*, and *paczki* (and all their atrociously-spelled variations), but the Polish language has contributed more to the English dictionary than most people know. Here are some more examples:

POLONIA: The Latin word for Poland has become the name of Polish communities abroad, e.g. the American, French, Brazilian, etc.

Polonia.

(TO) POLONIZE: To make something or someone Polish; to persuade someone to take on characteristically Polish ways, customs, views or attitudes.

QUARK: This term for a soft white cheese came into English via German which had adapted it from the Polish word “*twaróg*.”

SEJM: Pronounced like English “same,” this is the name of Poland’s lower house of parliament, its principal lawmaking chamber.

SPRUCE: Medieval seamen

shipping timber from northern Poland were asked in Britain what cargo they were bringing. They thought they were being asked where they were from and replied: “*z Prus*” (from Prussia), and that was said to have given the English their name for the coniferous tree.

STAROST: From the Polish term “*starosta*.” This is an official who heads a *powiat*, a district, roughly comparable to a county in the English-speaking world.

STAROSTY: From the Polish term “*starostwo*,” the office of the

starost or county executive.

UHLAN: English got this term for a light cavalryman or lancer from German, which in turn had borrowed it from the Polish “*ułan*,” a Polonized version of the Turkish word “*oğlan*.” In Turkish, it had originally meant errand boy or servant.

VODKA: One reason Americans don’t call it “VOOT-kah” (from Polish “*wódka*”) is because there was no Poland on the map when the Russians were popularizing this tittle as their own in the

19th century. But Poland once actually won a court case to prove that what we know today as vodka was originally distilled in 16th-century Poland, not Russia.

VOIVODE: The official who heads a *voivodeship* (“*województwo*”) or province. The *voivode* is provincial governor who represents the central government in the provinces. The Polish term is “*wojewoda*.”

VOIVODESHIP: A Polish province. Poland is currently divided into 16 *voivodeships*.

THE PONDERING POLE

Monuments and Makowiec

by Ed Poniewaz

Along with the COVID virus, the big news causing a lot of consternation in the United States is the removal or destruction of monuments to Confederate soldiers, politicians, and Revolutionary War heroes who were slave owners or involved in the slave trade.

When I visited Poland in the early 1980s, I was standing with an acquaintance waiting for a taxi. I spied a World War II-looking monument, soldiers with guns, and fighting an enemy, across the street. I asked the person what the monument was for. Without even looking, he stared straight ahead and said, “Oh, those are our heroes.” Later, I found out it was about Russian soldiers “liberating” Poland from the Germans.

Most Poles consider the Russians backstabbers and invaders, so the sarcasm was understandable. Similarly, a portion of Americans think anyone involved with the Confederacy or slavery to be immoral. I will not opine on which monuments or statues belong, here or in Poland, and I am sympathetic to reviewing their viability. I do know that circumstances for which they were erected might not be plausible or sensible anymore. I do know that some of the Russian memorials have been replaced with Polish heroes and famous persons and this kind of reckoning is still going on. Perhaps that is the kind of approach in any country that needs to be considered rather than unilaterally tearing down the structures. Tearing down, unfortunately, seems only as civilized as the ideology or

action for which the old monuments were created.

Tasty Televising

The thinking part’s over so let’s eat! I flipped to the Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) and there was a cooking show. I usually pause to see what they are making and this time the word Poland was mentioned by the chef. Okay, now I am really paying attention.

The chef is Alexandra August and the show is *Flavor of Poland* (www.flavorofpoland.com). Two things stand out with this show about Polish cuisine: The first is that Alexandra is creating dishes in the same manner and format as some of the other television star chefs we are most familiar with. Some of my favorites are Jacques Pepin, Emeril Lagasse, Rachel Ray, and Martha Stewart. She walks you through the process by throwing in spices and ingredients, folding, kneading, and mixing. It looks very professional.

The other part of her program, at least in the one that I watched, is to impart the history of the region and method for making the dish. That matches to other cooking shows I have watched, especially if it is about the culinary traits of a specific country.

August is a charming presenter and a thorough teacher. See the web site for videos of her episodes and some of her recipes. The presentation of the dish is very modern and inviting. *Smaczno!*

Polish or Not?

In just one viewing of the eth-

nicelebs.com website (I check this out periodically to see if any new Polish celebs have shown up), three past “Polish or Not?” queries were answered. I bought a lottery ticket that same day.

In the June 2019 Pondering Pole I asked if **Chelsie Kryst**, Miss USA 2019, described in Wikipedia as “whose dad is white and mother is African American,” was Polish or not. The clue was that “*Kryst*” could be a shortened version of say, “*Krystkowiak*” as in Larry Krystkowiak, coach of the NCAA University of Utah men’s basketball team. According to ethnicelebs.com Chelsie’s father is Polish but there is no explanation for the name *Kryst*. Not bragging, but when my wife and I watched the pageant I remarked throughout that Chelsie was one of my picks for the title. Beautiful, smart, exotic look, and strong personality.

Travis Kelce, tight end for the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs, was a “Polish or Not?” request in the January 2019 Pondering Pole. Travis was born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland and has a last name very similar to *Kielce*, Poland. [Ethnicelebs.com](http://ethnicelebs.com) has his ethnicity as Polish, English, and Scottish but does not give the percentages of each. The focus in ethnics is on his mother’s side and listed are names such as *Sadlowsky*, *Olchefskey*, and *Petranek*. Interestingly, there is no mention of where the name *Kelce* comes from. (More on Travis and his brother Jason on page 14).

She is now 17 years old, but in May of 2018 **Jo Jo Siwa**, dancer, singer, actress, and a big bowed YouTube personality appeared in



Jerry Stiller. Late comedian’s father was born in New York, to Jewish emigrants from Chijika, Galicia. His mother was born in Frampol, Poland.

“Polish or Not.” Her profile in ethnicelebs.com shows Jo Jo’s father, Tom, as Polish. Her paternal grandfather is Ronald J. Siwa, the son of Andrew Siwa and Emily Bielanski, and her paternal grandmother is Joan G. Potkowski, the daughter of Joseph Potkowski and Gertrude Rakowski.

Jo Jo has won the *Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards* for Favorite Viral Music Artist, Favorite Musical YouTube Creator, Favorite TV Host, and Favorite Social Music Star and has a net worth of \$12 million. An outstanding young woman and hopefully a great future.

If you are a *Seinfeld* fan and you are Polish then you know many if not all the “Polish” references. Remember the episode about the chocolate *babka*? Remember an early show about Jerry’s immigrant relative Manya and the controversy about people who give their kids

ponies? “In Poland, vee all had ponies!” cried Manya in response to Jerry’s seemingly reckless remarks. Admittedly, some of the Polish characters or mentions were not cute or flattering but for those that hit a familiar and comical nerve, it was cool to be included.

It is with a sad heart that one of the main personalities of the show and I would say one of our great comedians, **Jerry Stiller**, who played George Costanza’s father, Frank Costanza, passed away May 11 of this year. It is fitting in a way that a show with smattering of Polish references had Stiller in the cast who in fact has a Polish connection. From ethnicelebs.com, he is “the son of Bella (Cytrynbaum/Citrin) and William ‘Willie’ Stiller, a bus driver. His father was born in New York, to Jewish emigrants, from Chijika, Galicia. His mother was a Jewish emigrant, from Frampol, Poland.”

Despite his on-stage persona as abrasive and crabby, “every one of his acquaintances in and out of show business swear he was the kindest and most harmless man on the planet.ai” We are going to miss you Jerry, but you will live on as Stiller (from *Stiller and Meara*), Frank (Frank Costanza from *Seinfeld*), and Art (Arthur Spooner from *King of Queens*).

♦ ♦ ♦

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. If you send email, reference the PAJ or the Pondering Pole in the subject line.

Happy 90th Birthday

AUDREY (Lamczyk) MUELLER

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IN MEMORIAM

Jerzy Glowczewski
Polish World War II pilot,
97, Dies of Coronavirus

NEW YORK (AP) — Jerzy Glowczewski, a Polish-born fighter



PHOTO: KLARA GLOWCZEWSKA

Glowczewski in his Spitfire during World War II. He was a Polish pilot who fought with the Allies as part of the No. 308 "City of Krakow" Polish fighter squadron.

pilot who flew World War II missions with Britain's Royal Air Force after Nazi Germany invaded his country, and who later was an architect in Poland and the United States, died in New York City. He was 97.

Glowczewski died April 13 in a nursing home of complications from COVID-19, his daughter Klara Glowczewska told *The New York Times*.

Her father is believed to have been the last surviving member of a group of Polish exiles who joined the Royal Air Force to fight the Nazis.

Born in Warsaw in 1922, Glowczewski fled Poland with his stepfather when the Germans invaded in 1939. He joined the Polish army in exile in 1941, served with the Allies in Egypt and in Libya, and then traveled to Britain to train as a pilot.

He flew on 100 combat missions and was awarded the Polish Cross of Valor three times.

He returned to Poland in 1947, earned a degree in architecture and contributed to the rebuilding of Warsaw from wartime ruins.

He moved to the United States in the 1960s and taught architecture in his later years at the Pratt Institute in New York.



PHOTO: JULITA SIEGEL

Stefania Oriwol-Jarosz

Stefania Oriwol-Jarosz, born on May 18, 1929, in the town of Koł nad Wartą in Poland's Poznan Province, passed away on May 1, 2020, at the age of 90.

During World War II, from the age of 14, she bore the *nom de guerre* of *Zefirek* or *Stefa* depending on the type of insurgence she was doing. In 1943, she joined the Polish Scout team *Szare Szeregi No. 23*. Here she was given the name *Zefirek*. But it was during the Warsaw Uprising, as a Home Army nurse working under the pseudonym *Stefa*, that she participated in the fighting in the Warsaw district of Śródmieście Południe. After 63 days of combat and the surrender of Warsaw, she was captured and sent to German prisoner-of-war camps, first to Ożarów and Stalag XB Sandbostel. Later she was transferred to Stalag VI C Oberlangen, a female only POW camp as Prisoner Number 224328. In April 1945, General Stanisław Maczek and the First Polish Army Armored Division liberated those 1,736 prisoners-of-war.

From there she went with General Maczek to Italy, where she joined the Polish Army Second Corp under the leadership of General Władysław Anders. Because of her youth, she, along with 43 other Home Army children, went to Palestine and attended the *Szoly Młodszych Ochotniczek*, the Younger Volunteers School, in Nazareth. Soon, many of her school friends were returning to Poland, but she stayed behind to supervise her Polish Girl Scout troop. In August 1947, at the age of 18, she, along

with the Younger Volunteers, headed for England. There she continued her high school education and nursing studies in Foxley, Herefordshire, a popular Polish resettlement area.

In 1956, with a special ex-serviceman's entry permit, Oriwol-Jarosz, her husband, Marian, and daughter, immigrated to Chicago. Even with another daughter to care for, she sought additional schooling. She spent the next 28 years working at the Banker's Life and Casualty Company in Chicago.

Being a wife, parent, and professional woman did not keep her from being active in Polonia organizations. She was a member of the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division, The Polish Museum of America, and an active member of the Home Army Veterans' Circle, in which she held the position of vice president. She also assisted in helping the *Armia Krajowa* veterans in Poland. Oriwol-Jarosz was the recipient of many patriotic awards, including the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. In August 2019, she was the guest of honor at the 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising held at The Polish Museum of America.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman



PHOTO: G. BALUT COLEMAN

Ronald Korajczyk
Educator and
Dahlia and Day
Lily Specialist

Ronald W. Korajczyk, 86, was born on March 12, 1934, in Chicago and passed away on March 28, 2020. Ron, was the youngest of eight children of the late Marion and Stanley. He graduated from Chicago's St. Mel High School, now known as Providence St. Mel. Korajczyk spent time in Seattle in the U. S. Army reserves. Among his academic accomplishments, he was a graduate from the University of Chicago with a bachelor's degree in English, a Master of Science degree in Industrial Relations from Loyola University Chicago, followed by a Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Washington.

In 1957, Korajczyk began teaching English at Carl Schurz High School on Chicago's Northwest Side, and also spent one year of his tenure teaching mathematics. As he said, "There was such a shortage of math teachers and I was certified to teach high school math." In 1976, Korajczyk became the chairperson

of Schurz's English Department, a post he held until his retirement from the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in 1993. During his tenure at Schurz, he served as coordinator of several North Central Evaluation Committees. In 1974, he was instrumental in establishing the Polish Bilingual Program at Schurz, which already had a well-established Spanish Bilingual Program.

Following retirement, Korajczyk was a much sought-after professional substitute teacher in the areas of English, mathematics, and Spanish. For years, he substitute-taught at two CPS high schools, Prosser Vocational and Lane Technical, along with Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois.

Korajczyk was active in several educational and cultural organizations, including the Council of Educators in Polonia, The Polish Museum of America, and Loyola Academy's Polish Club. He was well-known at the Chicago Botanic Garden, where he was a long-standing member, often seen displaying his award-winning dahlias and day lilies. His own personal home garden provided a colorful highlight of his neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest Side.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman

Raymond J. Niwa**Chicago**
Symphony
Violinist

Raymond J. Niwa, 97, passed away on May 27, 2020. A native Chicagoan, he attended St. Hedwig Grammar School and Lane Technical High School. He graduated from DePaul University with bachelor's and master's degrees in Music. However, his university studies were interrupted by three years of military service.

In 1951, he joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) as a violinist, a position he held until his retirement in 1997. Prior to joining the CSO, he played with the Chicago Opera Orchestra, the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. During his career with the CSO, he was the featured soloist performances of Prokofiev's *2nd* and Szymanowski's *1st Violin Concertos*. From 1946-1997 he was a member of the Roosevelt University faculty, and from 1946-1948 he was a faculty member at DePaul University.

Niwa and his late wife, Eloise, an accomplished pianist, enjoyed entertaining members of visiting foreign orchestras in their home. Combining both professional and social aspects of their lives was important to them. They felt that language was no barrier.

The Niwas were also longtime members of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago and Raymond was an active member of the CSO Alumni Association, holding the position of treasurer.

His other interests included attending live theater, golf, travel, and tennis. Quite the tennis player throughout his lifetime, Niwa was most proud of being a Chicago Park District Tennis Champion in 1937.

A dedicated union member, Niwa founded the Players Committee of the CSO union, making significant contributions toward the welfare of his musician colleagues. He was part of the last generation of

CSO musicians who endured poor wages, job insecurity, and onerous working conditions.

— Geraldine Balut Coleman



PHOTO: G. BALUT COLEMAN

Anna A. Pawlowski
Sculptor and
Traveler

Anna Pawlowski, nee Różycka, 85, passed away at home in Northbrook, Illinois on May 10, 2020. Born in Brześć, Poland, on August 31, 1934, she escaped the communist regime in 1947, coming to the United States in 1949, and first settling in Chicago. In 1960, while on a trip back to Poland to visit family on the Polish ocean liner, *MS Batory*, she met her future husband, Joseph. They were married in 1963 at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Chicago's Northwest Side, and eventually settled in Lincolnwood, Illinois.

In 1961, she graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and worked as a commercial artist for the Stanley Stawski Distributing Company and at several interior design firms.

In later years, she became an active sculptor. An enthusiastic traveler, Pawlowski traveled to six continents seeking international adventures.

**Martha B. Pachnik**
Active in
Minnesota
Polonia

Martha B. Pachnik of Crystal, Minn. passed away April 11, 2020 at the age of 88. She was preceded in death by husband, Chester. Survived by sons, grandchildren, and her beloved companion Buzzy. Pachnik was very proud of her Polish ancestry and was a past board member of Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM).

Charlene Kaletka Delaney, American Director of the UNESCO English Language Camp in Toruń, Poland, recalled Pachnik had seen the photos and heard the tales from teachers who had volunteered at the UNESCO English Language Camp in Toruń. She was interested, and excited, "but what can I teach?" she asked. I reassured her, as I had told others, "Share your life's experiences; tell your story."

Delaney said Pachnik, known for her culinary skills, managed the Food Booth at the annual Festival of Nations and oversaw the kitchen at PACIM Soup Supper.

"But Martha was also an accomplished and respected professional seamstress who worked behind the scenes of 'Glamorama,' a high-end celebrity designer fashion show, as well as in crafting regional costumes for Dolina Polish Folk Dancers of Minnesota," said Delaney. "Her skills and artistry contributed to runway magic and the Festival dance floor ... Martha signed on to teach.

"In her classes at the language camp, Martha continued that magic, weaving tales of her work with fabric with stories of her life. Those lessons led to students sewing together, with Martha's help, a Camp quilt ... Each square was a unique piece of their experience and the gift Martha had shared," said Delaney.

Pachnik was also a devoted member of the Golden Valley VFW 7051 as a long-time women's auxiliary member and blood drive organizer. She retired from Dayton's alterations department as a master seamstress. She was also an artist, naturalist, and a person who loved Jesus.

**Father Martin Alphonso Stillmock, CSSR**

A private funeral Mass for Rev. Martin Alphonso Stillmock, CSSR, was celebrated April 1 at St. Clement Redemptorist chapel in Liguori, Mo. Rev. Stillmock died March 29 at St. Clement Redemptorist Mission Community in Liguori.

A longtime pastor and prolific author, Rev. Stillmock wrote numerous articles for more than 20 magazines, as well as "Teens Talk of Many Things," a book that included many of his popular "Teenage Problems" columns published in Catholic newspapers in the 1960s and 1970s.

Rev. Stillmock was born on May 30, 1932, in Omaha, Nebraska, the youngest of 10 children. His parents were founding members of the Polish St. Stanislaus Parish in Omaha, and his surviving sibling, 96-year-old Sister Rose Ann Stillmock, a Sister of St. Francis, served for many years as principal of Immaculate Conception and St. Stanislaus parochial schools.

Rev. Stillmock professed temporary vows as a Redemptorist on Aug. 2, 1953, and perpetual vows on Sept. 2, 1956. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 24, 1958.

In his first assignment, Rev. Stillmock served as a professor of English and religion at St. Joseph Preparatory College in Edgerton, Wisconsin. He instilled a love of the written word in his students and mentored many of them in parish ministry during the next three decades.

Rev. Stillmock was appointed to St. Joseph Parish in Wichita, Kansas, in 1972. After only one year, he was assigned as pastor and local superior of the Redemptorist community, a position he held until 1981. Rev. Stillmock was assigned as pastor and local superior of St. Alphonsus Parish in Davenport, Iowa, in 1981, where he served for six years. He returned to Omaha to serve as pastor and local superior of Holy Name Parish from 1987 until 1993, when he was assigned at St. Alphonsus Parish in Minneapolis. Rev. Stillmock remained there for 22 years, serving as local superior of the Redemptorist community 1999-2008.

Although he officially retired in 2009, he remained in residence in Minneapolis until 2015, when he was assigned to the Liguori Mission House in Liguori. Last year, that community combined with the former St. Clement Health Care Center community to form the new St. Clement Redemptorist Mission community in Liguori.

Burial was in the Redemptorist Cemetery in Liguori.

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DANCE TIME

Looking Back with Eddie Guca and Jimmy Weber

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Missing live polka music in my life over the past several months when we would typically be attending many festivals and events, I have been spending a lot of time chatting about polka memories spanning the course of many years. In doing so, I decided to reach out to some polka superstars to get their reflections of some of their most treasured memories as polka musicians.



ED GUCA (above) has been playing polkas for the better part of 60 years and was inducted into the International Polka Hall of Fame in 2009.

When I asked Ed about his favorite memory as a polka musician, he noted that it was a toss-up between his Hall of Fame induction, being recently honored in Ludlow by the International Polka Association, or the following story of a trip to Poland.

"The Poland trip took place in May of 1977 and was designated as The First World Polka Festival in Poland. It was organized by "Erie Polka Days" promoters Tony and Nancy Jankowski and it was my great privilege that Tony asked Ed Guca & The Polish Canadians to be part of that festival along with four other bands, including Happy Louie and Julcia.

"On the way to Poland with over 90 fans on the plane, we left on LOT airlines from New York late at night and fell asleep in the air. When we woke up we were still up in the sky and John Rohal and I had our violins with us. Tony asked

us to play a couple of tunes so John and I started off with "Goral" polka. At once a couple of ladies got up and started dancing in the aisle. Oh no! Tony suggested we stop as we were shaking the plane many miles above the earth's surface.

"When we arrived in Poland, we decided to keep all our instruments and microphones with us while the rest of the bands let them be taken to Katowice where all were to do a big concert. Our band was the only band that could entertain our people throughout the tour. We traveled to Warsaw, Lublin, Rzeszow, Cracow, Zakopane and Katowice and at every place; we set up and had a polka dance for our people. You have to remember that at that time Poland was a communist country and we witnesses long lineups at meat stores and not much selection in department stores but, on the black market, you could get up to 180 zloty for one American dollar.

"Well, a bottle of the best Russian champagne was 18 zloty. Do the math. At the Holiday Inn in Krakow, my Polish family came to see me and I invited them for dinner. There were eight of them and I was a little scared of what the bill would be. The next day I asked our tour guide what the damage was. It was \$12 (USD) for all. We were millionaires!

"Now, at every dance we played at we always ended off with "Jeszcze Polska Nie Zginęła." On the first day in Katowice, we played at a picnic and also ended with "Jeszcze Polska." A student from the Polish University who wrote for the student paper asked me why we played the old Polish hymn as they don't hear it in Poland anymore. I told her that in Canada and the United States, we do it at every performance as we believe it is the true Polish anthem.

"The next day as we played the concert with all the bands, an official came up to me and very politely asked me if I could not play "Jeszcze Polska," as they now have a "better" and "nicer" Polish anthem. There were a few soldiers with rifles around him, so there would be no "Jeszcze Polska."

"Now also when we played in Krakow, all the other tour parties from the other bands had joined us and were disappointed that the bands that travelled with them did not have their instruments to play for them. So at the concert in Katowica we got a roaring applause when we finished our numbers. And after, Happy Louie came up to me and said, "Ed, you were number one today." That was such a thrill for me to hear that from Louie.

"The Poland trip was two weeks in which I experienced some of the best polka memories of my life and experienced my heritage.

"Leaving Poland we landed in New York and I was a bit hungry so I had a hamburger and coke at the airport. The cost was \$12.99 (remember, this is 1977). I quickly came to the realization that I was no longer a 'millionaire.'

The musicians that performed with The Polish Canadians in Poland were: Guy Robinson (drums), Tim Rohal (bass), Ronnie Zimmicki (concertina), Mike Lukas (trumpet), John Rohal (violin), and myself (sax, violin, clarinet and vocals).



JIMMY WEBER (above) is another esteemed musician who also graciously shared one of his favorite memories with me.

Jimmy began playing in his first band in 1970 and was inducted into the IPA Hall of Fame in 2006. When asked about his most valued memory as a musician, Weber was quick to offer his thoughts.

"The true answer is those moments are happening many times

and it changes over time. When I was young, it was seeing the polka stars I had listened to on the recordings. Seeing Li'l Wally, Marion Lush, Frank Wojnarowski, Ampol Aires, The Versatones live for the first time was a huge thrill for me. The next moment would be really picking a band and musician that really influenced me in the way I played polkas. While some had a huge influence on me, there were many on that list that contributed in how I play and sing today.

"Another step would be becoming proficient as a musician and with The Sounds to approach the performance of some of the A-listers or top bands of the day. Not being blown off that stage was a really good feeling.

"The biggest moment was in 2006, when I was inducted in the IPA Polka Hall of Fame. Going from admiring those who were in already in it, and then me being a part of it was truly special and emotional. To me, it meant that somehow, some way, through all of the travelling and practicing, I was able to make a difference to the polka industry. Whether it was a performance, album, song, just being friends with people from the U.S. and Canada or something I did (and didn't get arrested for), that made enough of an impression on people to vote me in.

What more could a person ask for? I am truly blessed in many ways."

I would like to thank Eddie and Jimmy for taking the time to share these incredible memories that I could, in turn, share with all of you. We look forward to seeing them and all of our favorite musicians return to the stage very soon.

ROBIN TO THE RESCUE (AND GERI, TOO)! As seems to be an unfortunate trend in polka festivals, United States Polka Association Convention, typically held over Memorial Day weekend was cancelled. Thanks to technology, a lot of hard work, commitment, ingenuity, and a clear love of polka music, **Robin Pegg** and **Geri Chadwick** pulled off a "virtual festival." This event spanned the four days and gave



Geri Chadwick (l.) and Robin Pegg.

fans the chance to "get together" to relive their memories with stories, chats, and pictures scrolling across the screen showcasing decades of memories starring USPA.

Utilizing Facebook Live, the couple pulled off a weekend polka festival that over 2,000 people virtually attended. Home Edition featured music from all of the bands that would have been performing over the weekend complete with a welcome party, Bloody Mary pool party, and even Sunday polka Mass. The Mass was beautifully celebrated with music courtesy of Nathan Newman.

Even the USPA awards were done in a live setting via USPA Home Edition. (For a list of winners, see "Chuck's Notes" on page 18). A huge congratulations to all of the awardees on their very well-deserved accomplishments.

If you didn't get a chance to catch this Online Festival, you will have another opportunity to experience Robin and Geri's talent and hard work as they present Buffalo Polka Boosters' 50th Anniversary Picnic. The event will take place on Sunday July 26, 2020 from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

We are beyond overwhelmed for the generosity of Robin and Geri for helping us stay connected and celebrate polka music together. You can visit Buffalo Polka Boosters on Facebook to keep up to date as the event draws closer.

This broadcast is sure to host great music and some wonderful surprises.

Special Delivery Releases Second Studio Recording

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Special Delivery, has released its second recording, "Lock, Stock, and Barrel." The CD is a collection of modern and traditional Polish American polka, oberek, and waltz music.

"Folks loved our first CD and were asking when the next one would be released" said vocalist and accordion player Ted Szymanski. "It took us five years, but we finally got it done."

The new CD contains 15 songs and includes a medley of old-time Polish American waltzes called "Bring Back the Waltzes."

Vocalists Szymanski and Mark Kohan sing a Polish Highlander melody, "Hej tam lod Tater" ("There in the Tatras"), which includes an instrument used in Polish folk

music, but for the first time in a polka, the hurdy-gurdy.

Vocals on "Lock, Stock, and Barrel" are in Polish and English. In addition to "Hej tam lod Tater," which is sung in Highlander dialect, Polish vocals on the CD include "Johnny's Breakup," "Skinny Dipping," "Hop Cuik," "Young Wife" and "Goralu, Goralu" waltz. The band also pays tribute to late Buffalo band leader Gino Kurdziel, re-recording his version of the Connecticut Twin's classic "Mamie on the Bicycle."

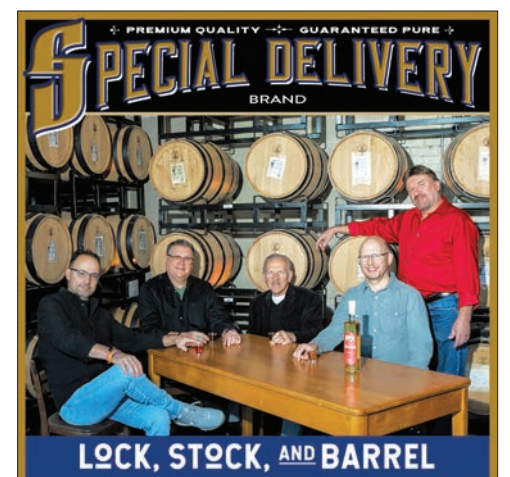
English-language vocals, a mix of originals and familiar tunes, include "It's Good to See You," "How Do You Do?" "Yesterday's Gone," "I'd Love You to Want Me," and "Seems Like Yesterday."

There is also an instrumental polka on the CD, "671 Polka Rhapsody," which showcases the musicianship of saxophone player David Miesowicz, trumpeter Chris Gawlak, and guest clarinet player Kyle Kohan, who also performs on "Skinny Dipping" polka.

"Lock, Stock, and Barrel" was recorded at Max Studios in Depew, N.Y.

To order a copy, or to hear song samples, visit the band's website thespecialdeliveryband.com, or send \$15.00 plus \$4.00 s&h to: Special Delivery, c/o Tom Goldyn, 38 Croydon, Depew, NY 14043. Please make checks payable to Thomas Goldyn.

DJs and IJs can request a free copy by writing to the above address or sending an email to info@thespecialdeliveryband.com.



The recording will also be available on iTunes, CDBaby.com, Spotify, and other popular music downloading sites.

CHUCK'S NOTES

Check out Kenny Olowin's Radio Shows

by Chuck Stastny

Congratulations to the following winners of the annual United States Polka Association (USPA) Awards just announced:

Male Vocalist: John Gora - John Gora and Gorale

Female Vocalist: Stacey Morris - Nutones

Favorite Song: "Walentyna" - John Gora and Gorale

Favorite Recording: *My Polish Roots and Beyond* - John Gora and Gorale

Favorite Band: Polka Country Musicians

IJ/DJ of the Year: Mark and Cherie Trzepacz - TGI Friday Show

New Horizon: Victoria Koslosky

Lifetime Achievement Award (Deceased) — Ed and Nina March

Lifetime Achievement Award (Living Category) — Eddie Ostry

Congratulations to the following winners of the annual International Polka Association (IPA) Awards recently announced:

International Style Polkas

Male vocalist: Ted Lange

Female vocalist: Lynn Marie Hrovat-Rodick

Favorite Band: Squeezebox

Favorite Album: *Smiles are Made Out of Sunshine* - Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen

Favorite Song: "Snuggle with Me" - Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen

Polish Style Polkas

Male vocalist: John Gora

Female vocalist: Stacey Morris

Favorite Band: John Gora & Gorale

Favorite Album: *My Polish Roots and Beyond* - John Gora & Gorale

Favorite Song: "Walentyna" - John Gora & Gorale

Hall of Fame

Deceased category: Tony Krupski

Living category: Bill Shibilski, Dave Zychowski, and Rick Rzeszutko

Pioneer category: Ellsworth "Babe" Wagner

Trustee's Award: Robbie Piatkowski

New Recordings

SqueezeBox has at least one new CD in the works ... Watch for a new CD with **Klancknik & Friends** ... **Special Delivery's** "Lock, Stock, and Barrel" is scheduled for July 15 release ... **Brave Combo** has been in the studio.

Fred Ziwich just created a set of 24 tracks for a CD album entitled "Polkas for Social Distancing." This eclectic set of pandemic polkas is creative and fun. Check out

this latest CD by Ziwich.

DynaBrass just released a new CD entitled "20/20 Polkas" to follow their multi-award-winning CD "Dance All Night." DynaBrass is currently led by Joe Zalewski of Toledo PolkaMotion (TPM) fame in the absence of Jeff Mleczko. On this CD there are several potential hit songs. Stand out tunes include: "The Girls Just Wanna Dance," "One Step Two Step," "Someday You'll Love Me," "Walking on the Waves," "Journey of Love," "Alcohol," and more. The lead vocals of Dale Kivinen continue to impress. There are 15 tracks on this CD, including the final cut, the classic "In Heaven There is No Beer" with a new verse. This is a recording that belongs in your collection. Grab your copy today!

If I were you, I'd consider purchasing the latest two CDs by **Michael Costa & The Beat**. "The

Question" and "The Answer" are both standout studio projects! The Beat should be noticed and recognized.

Also take notice of **Alex Vi-necki**, a super up-coming talent! He is with Box On, yet will often perform with other groups including his uncle Hank Guzevich, leader of The Polka Family.

There are five CDs coming from **The Music Zone** of reissued classic music. The CDs include:

Gene Wisniewski & His Harmony Bells Orchestra - *Polish Folk Sing Along*

Al Soyka and Chet Gawron - *Polka Pioneers*

Jimmy Sturr & His Orchestra with the Matusz Singers - *Trip to Poland*

Larry Chesky - *Polka with Chesky*

Connecticut Twins - *Complete Anthology, Volume 6*.

Survey Says: Polka Festivals — a look inside the numbers

by David Jackson

It's that time of year when Polish festival season would normally be in full swing. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has caused the cancellation of nearly all of these beloved events.

Eventually, this public health crisis will end, and many of our festivals will return. However, we must recognize the incredible amount of hard work that goes into presenting these festivals and think about what our festivals might look like in the future.

Recently, I did an anonymous survey of festival organizers and workers. I call them festival activists, because the organizers and workers at festivals are indeed activists in our communities. I published the full results of the survey in the *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, and the editor of that publication has graciously allowed me to describe some of the findings here in the pages of the *Polish American Journal*.

ABOUT 56% OF FESTIVAL activists are women, with the plurality (29%) being in the 50-59-year-old category. About 26% are in the 60-69 category, and another 14.5% are 70 or older. Only a little over 30% are 49 or younger. On average, they have volunteered for their festivals for more than 12 years. This



Polish food and refreshments rated high as reasons to attend festivals. Above: cooks prepare *placki kartoflane* (potato pancakes) at last year's Little Poland Festival in New Britain, Conn.

is possibly a problem for the Polish American community. If we want our festivals to continue, all of us are going to have to shoulder some more of the burden.

IN TERMS OF MUSIC, about 79% of respondents indicate that polka bands play their festivals. Coming in a distant second, 6% report Polish rock or pop bands play. About 83% agree that "it is important for a festival to offer authentic Polish music" while 80% at least somewhat agree that polka music is "authentic Polish music."

In terms of authenticity, 69% responded with "extremely important" to the question of, "How important to you is the authenticity of what is presented at your festival?" Another 27% of respondents said it

was "very important." Nearly 82% strongly agree that "it is important to offer authentic Polish food."

Not surprisingly, almost 92% of festival activists strongly agree that "It is important to preserve Polish and Polish American heritage."

The astronomical amount of work these men and women do to

preserve Polish American culture deserves to be recognized. Here is a partial list of tasks performed by festival activists: volunteer coordinator, entertainment booking, marketing, proofreading, selling 50/50 tickets, volunteering in game booths, face painting, working in the medical tent, selling and serving food and beer, cooking food, fundraising, buying insurance, procuring licenses, maintaining social media and web presences, working at the gate, cleaning up, writing grants, mopping floors, collecting trash, counting money, accounting, working bingo, and more. One respondent described their contribution well, writing (all responses are printed verbatim), "Food preparation and serving. Supplying home baked breads, krusciki, kolaczki, sweet bread, pies for bakery booth, preparing theme basket for raffle booths, advertising mailings, major prize booths, made pierogi and gołabki by the thousands, czarnina by the gallons, mizeria (etc.). Always home-made, except as volunteers aged, we had to farm out some things."

THE TYPICAL FESTIVAL lasts two or three days, and activists estimate attendance at their festivals from a low of 200 to a high of 100,000. The average is 7,384. The percentage of festivals affiliated with a church can be estimated at about half. The others are sponsored by secular Polish American organizations, business promotion groups, or other groups. About 60 percent of festivals are held in Polish American neighborhoods, while 40 percent are held in picnic groves, downtowns, and other public spaces.

FESTIVAL ACTIVISTS believe food is a central draw for their festivals. In answer to the question of what they believe is the biggest attraction for people to come to their festival, representative answers include (again, verbatim quotes):

- Food, Pierogi, Golobki (sic), Polish Beer
- Polish cuisine. It sells out quickly!
- the food - people miss what their babcias used to make.
- Our food, Polish Beer, and the Polka band and Polish dancers. We always sell out of pastries and the potato pancakes.
- Authenticity, food and music

People come for Polish food, including specific items such as pastries and potato pancakes. They come for authentic food, which is sometimes defined as food they cannot get anymore; food like their grandmothers used to make.

POLKA MUSIC is also viewed by these activists as a central draw for festival attendees. Here is another set of answers from different respondents to the question of what the most significant attraction is for their festival:

- Polka music, food
- What bands they choose to have
- Ethnic food and polka music
- The quality of the entertainment
- Hiring the best bands
- the music, camaraderie, the PARTY!

The importance of polka music to festivals overall may be slightly overstated by these respondents, because a number of them represent explicitly polka festivals (as opposed to church or secular comprehensive Polish festivals). While the respondents overwhelmingly believe polka music is authentic Polish music, they do not mention authenticity of the bands as a draw.

Instead, the focus is on their quality of musicianship, and the contribution they make to the party atmosphere of the festival. One re-

spondent believes polka music is losing its ethnic connection, writing, "Polish lyrics add charm to the genre, but the majority of songs are sung in English and are often 'covers' of popular and Country tunes. This is inevitable since few existing polka fans understand Polish and new fans are drawn by songs they understand and recognize."

Polish festivals are the result of hard work by activists who will not be able to do the work forever. Festivals present authentic Polish food and polka music, which not everyone agrees is authentic Polish music. Some activists are concerned with the loss of the Polish language, and only a small number of them are fluent in the language (About 10% of them are fully fluent in the Polish language, while another 39% "understand some of it, but would be uncomfortable in a native speaking environment"). Some Cajun festivals have French language speaking contests as a means of preserving their language. Perhaps we could do the same to help preserve our beautiful ancestral language.

◆ ◆ ◆

David J. Jackson is professor of political science at Bowling Green State University. His research interests include U.S. political behavior and the interactive relationship between politics and culture. He is the author of *Entertainment and Politics: The Influence of Pop Culture on Young Adult Political Socialization*, a second and revised edition of which was published in 2009. He has published articles in such journals as *Political Research Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Polish American Studies*, *American Review of Canadian Studies*, and the *International Journal of Press/Politics*. In 2007-2008 he was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Łódź. His book *Classrooms and Barrooms: An American in Poland*, was published in 2008.

Thank you ...

to all my listeners for your support for more than a half-century, which has led to my election to the Polka Music Hall of Fame by the International Polka Association.



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Bayway Home Closed, Club Still Active

While Elizabeth, N.J.'s Bayway Polish Home closed its doors last year, events sponsored by the Bayway Polish Club are now held at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, N.J.

Like many other organizations forced to cancel events during the pandemic, the Club has put its past few events on hold.

To learn more, write to info@baywaypolishclub.club.

JULY POLKA BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays courtesy Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and on the web at www.987jack.fm. Live streaming at www.PA_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

2	Stan Malewicz		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Dubois, Pa.
3	Ken Yash		Musician / Vocalist (Maestro's Men)	Mass.
4	Hank Haller	1935	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
4	Jim Ernest	1937	Musician (Trumpet) (Lou Prohut Orch.)	Pa.
4	Joe Rudzinski	1951	Musician	Virg.
4	Leon Kozicki	1930	7-19-17 Bandleader / Musician / IPA	Chicago
4	Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak	1948	7-22-16 Musician / Vocalist (Dynatones)	N.Y.
5	Mary Ann Kroll		Musician / Vocalist (Accordion)	Cleveland
5	Mike Costa	1961	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	N.J.
6	Larry Placek		Former D.J.	Pa./Ga.
6	Steve Litwin		Concertina / Journalist	N.Y.
6	Tom Frydryk		Musician / Vocalist (EFO)-	Mass., Fla.
6	Dennis Polisky	1959	Bandleader / Musician / Arranger	Conn.
7	Gil Yurus		Former Polka D.J.-	Washington, Pa.
9	Jack Tady	1938	Bandleader / Musician / D.J.	Pa.
10	Steve Okon		Musician	Conn.
11	Cousin Ozzie (Dick Ozimek)	1937	Musician / DJ. / I.J.	Fla.
12	Eddie Blazonczyk Sr	1941	5-21-12 Bandleader / Vocalist / D.J. / Promoter	Chicago
12	Paul Konkus	1944	Musician / Vocalist / D. J.	Pa.
12	Stas Golonka	1944	Bandleader / Vocalist	Chicago
13	Eddie Liszewski	1931	1-26-12 Bandleader / Musician / D.J.	Creekside, Pa.
13	Terry Narvey	1948	Musician (Drummer)-(Corsairs)	Dubois, Pa.
13	Russ Patrician	1943	Musician	N.Y.
14	Freddy Guzewich	1960	Musician / Vocalist (Polka Family)	Pa.
15	Polka Man Jack Baciewski		Musician / D.J. / I.J.	Conn.
15	Wally Dombrowski		Musician / Vocalist / (PCM)	Conn.
16	Jeff Numec	1955	Musician	Ohio / Ariz.
17	Wayne Sienkowski	1959	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Ampol-Aires)	Chicago
17	Eddie Blazonczyk Jr.	1967	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
18	Don Lucki	1933	12-21-06 Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ-(Naturals)	Chicago
19	Wesoly Bolek (Bill Borek)	1941	6-12-06 Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / D.J.	Fla., R.I.
20	Emil Simodejka	1930	7-12-12 Vocalist (Joe Misti Band)	Minersville, Pa.
21	Joe Macielag	1935	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo
22	Roman (Travers) Truskolaski	1928	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger (Ampol-Aires)	Chicago
22	Joey K. Kozenko	1935	Former Polka D.J. (WQTW Radio)	Latrobe, Pa.
26	Bud Hundenski	1944	1-23-16 Bandleader / Musician (Corsairs)	Pittsburgh
26	Tom Lipchinski	1957	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Dynasonics)	Pa.
26	Paul Hapawski	1960	Musician	Pa.
26	Dr. Joe Binkiewicz		Musician	Ohio
26	Karen Olszewski		Musician / Vocalist	Conn.
27	Eddie Noga	1922	5-18-16 Musician (Li'l Wally & Li'l Richard)	Chicago
27	John Gora	1959	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Promoter	Fort Erie
27	Polka Chet Kuklewich	1940	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	N.J.
28	Frank Yankovic	1915	10-14-98 Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Cleveland
29	Happy Adolph Kurdyla		9-9-98 Polka Promoter	N.J.
30	Bob Sendra	1943	Drummer (Original Versatones)	Chicago
30	Dave Gawronski		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo
31	Harry Golmont		Former Polka D.J.	Pennsylvania
31	Pauline (Penko) Anderson		Musician / Former Polka D.J.	Pennsylvania

AUGUST POLKA BIRTHDAYS

1	Li'l Wally Jagiello	1930	8-17-06 Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ / Promoter	Chicago / Miami
1	John Daigle	1980	Musician (Drummer)	Massachusetts
2	Ray Barno		Bandleader / Musician	N.J.
2	Tony Blazonczyk	1972	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
3	Polka Mike Rudzinski	1952	Polka D.J. / Musician	Dubois, Pa.
3	Mike Stapinski		Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
3	Cindy (Koslosky) Olszewski		Former Polka D.J. / Former Miss. USPA	Pa.
4	Happy Louie Duseault	1934	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Massachusetts
5	Tammy Spalding		Musician / Vocalist (Nutones)	Pa.
7	Eddie Guca	1944	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Canada
7	John Furmaniak	1948	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Chicago
7	Bobby Zima	1952	Musician (Drummer) / Versatones	Chicago
10	Marion (Luszcz) Lush	1931	5-4-93 Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
10	Helen (Szubzda) Curtin		Polka D.J.	Massachusetts
11	Billy Siegel	1950	Musician / Vocalist	Pa.
12	Richie Midura	1935	Musician (Sax & Clarinet) Conn. Twins	Conn.
13	Carol Forman		Vocalist (Promoter EFO)	Massachusetts
16	Jerry Chocholek	1942	Musician (Original Versatones)	Chicago
17	Bernie Koslosky	1960	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	Minn.
18	Stan Rutkowski	1956	Musician (Touch Of Brass)	Ohio
19	Debbie Morano	1952	1-6-14 Polka D.J. Johnstown	Pa.
19	Mike Matousek	1956	Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician / Emcee	Md.
20	Stephan Kubiak	1929	12-28-07 Bandleader / Vocalist / Musician	France
20	Kenny Machelski	1950	Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo, N.Y.
22	Li'l John Nalevanko	1952	Bandleader / Musician / D.J. / Promoter	Pa.
23	Anthony (Tony) Maddie	1955	Musician	Ohio
23	Stan Golembewski		Polka D. J. / Promoter	Ma
25	Robin Pegg	1958	Musician / Vocalist	Uniontown / Buffalo
30	Wild Wilson	1960	Polka D.J. / I.J.	Minn
30	Jean Marie Marzuchowski	1961	Musician / Vocalist	N.J.
30	Don Jodlowski	1940	11-15-14 Bandleader / Musician	Chicago

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Chopin's Face Brought to Life in Artist's Incredible 3D Portrait

ILLUSTRATION: HADI KARIMI



Visual artist Hadi Karimi has created a 3D rendering of Frédéric Chopin's face. He had only two known photographs of the famed Polish composer and pianist. The artist also relied on Chopin's death mask and locks of his hair to create this image.

TEHRAN, Iran — Chopin, reborn from the ashes. This is remarkable.

The great 19th-century composer and pianist, Frédéric Chopin, has been reborn in digital form.

In the beautiful new renderings, Cho-

pin's face can be admired in 3D and in color, as if the Polish Romantic were alive today.

It's all the wonderful work of Hadi Karimi, an Iranian visual artist who creates 3D sculptures of Hollywood stars and other famous figures.

For his digital creations, Karimi usually relies on existing photos and videos of the subject. But with his new creation, this was a little trickier. Chopin's real face, it seems, has been somewhat lost in history.

There are just two known photographs of Chopin: a daguerreotype, taken by Louis-Auguste Bisson in his Paris studio in 1847, which, because the composer was rather ill when it was taken, doesn't show him in his best light.

The second is a reproduced version of a deteriorated photograph of Chopin, discovered in 1936, that was possibly taken in 1845 when he was still composing. Sadly, the originals were lost during the Second World War, along with the name of the photographer.

With no 'true' photographs to play with, Karimi worked from the composer's death mask, which was made by sculptor Jean-Baptiste Clésinger a few hours after Chopin's death, on 17 October 1849.

The artist also used a lock of the composer's hair, which is kept in the Warsaw Museum.

All the sculpting and color mapping was done using ZBrush, a digital sculpting tool that combines 3D and 2.5D modelling, texturing and painting. For Chopin's floppy locks, Karimi used XGen, an interactive tool used for creating realistic-looking hair.



LEFT: WIKIPEDIA / RIGHT: POLISH INSTITUTE

The only known photographic images of Chopin: (left) from a daguerreotype by Louis-Auguste Bisson, c. 1849, and (right), an image discovered in a private home by Alain Kohler, a Swiss physicist and Frédéric Chopin connoisseur. Experts believe this daguerreotype was taken between 1840 and 1845.

"Wonderful," one Twitter user enthuses, while another calls it a "masterpiece."

Since Karimi posted his creation on June 1, he has been working on a facial reconstruction of Franz Schubert, also based on his death mask.

— Maddy Shaw Roberts

Applications Available for PAJ Foundation 2020-2021 Scholarship

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF) is currently accepting application for its 2020-21 scholarship for college students of Polish or Polish American descent. The \$1,000 scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students.

Applications will be accepted from June 1 to August 31, 2020 with winners announced on September 30, 2020. Funds will be dispersed to the winners upon proof of full-time studies at an accredited institution.



To be eligible, the applicant must:

- be an American citizen, either by birth or naturalization.
- be of Polish or Polish American descent.
- be a full-time college student, currently enrolled at an accredited college/university in the United States,
- with confirmed future attendance at an institution in the Fall of 2020.
- describe his/her involvement with the Polish community — past, present, or future.

A complete application package — and \$15.00 application fee — must be received in its entirety no later than August 31, 2020.

Factors for consideration include (in order of importance):

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

The complete application package can be downloaded from Polish American Journal's website by following the links to the Polish American Journal Foundation and the Scholarship Application.

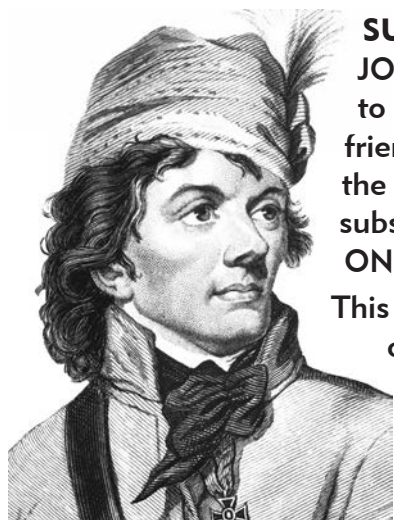
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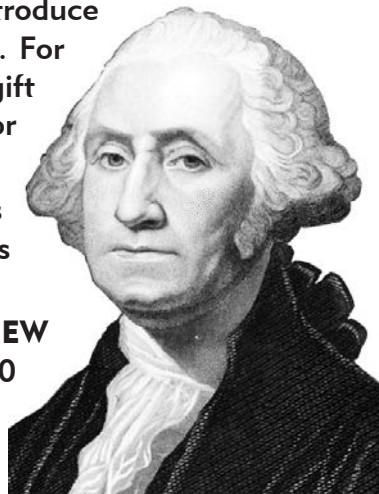


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