

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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NEW UNIVERSAL MOVIE SLAMS POLES • **KOKOSKA HONORED BY POLAND** • **KOSCIUSZKO: A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME**  
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## NEWSMARK

**THUG OFFICER SENTENCED.** Chicago Police Officer Anthony Abbate was found guilty of one count of aggravated battery in the beating of Karolina Obrycka, a bartender at a Northwest side bar in February 2007. Abbate was previously indicted on 15 counts, including intimidation of a witness and aggravated battery.

In testifying, Abbate, who stands 6 foot 1 and weighs more than 250 pounds, contended he retaliated against Obrycka after she threw him into a shelf, causing him to hit his head. He had stepped behind the bar without permission at Jesse's Short Stop Inn.

The case hung on the security videotape, which had sparked outrage, contributed to the sudden retirement of Police Supt. Philip Cline and prompted an overhaul of the agency that investigates allegations of police misconduct.

Abbate has been suspended without pay, and a police spokesman said the department is seeking to fire him. Abbate and attorneys from both sides declined to comment after the verdict because of a gag order issued by the judge.

**TALIBAN TARGETING POLISH TROOPS.** GAZETA WYBORCZA reports Taliban rebels in Afghanistan have been zeroing in on Polish troops. Last month, they successfully hit a Polish armored vehicle and have been shelling Polish bases. The Defense Ministry is asking the Americans for help and preparing reinforcements.

The Taliban has learned how to destroy Cougar armed vehicles, used by the Poles, by repositioning improvised explosive devices in the vehicles' paths.

The Polish units in Afghanistan have been stripped of much of their equipment. The 12th Mechanized Brigade in Szczecin, for instance, has only a couple of Polish-made Rosomak personnel carriers left. None are armored and fit for Afghanistan.

The Polish troops in Afghanistan are also expressing alarm at the fact that the Taliban have been shelling their bases with increasing accuracy.

"We are like shooting targets. It's a miracle no one has been hit yet," says an ensign at one of the bases.

**COUNTING ON MISSILES.** Poland is counting on American Patriot missiles being installed on its soil, regardless of whether the United States makes decides to create an anti-missile base there. While reviewing the cost-effectiveness of the project, Washington has stressed the importance of military cooperation with Poland. Warsaw regards the missiles as an important symbol of the US commitment at a time when Russia is again flexing its muscles in foreign and security policy. About 100 U.S. soldiers and 196 Patriot missiles are to be deployed in the country by year end, but Polish officials are worried that these may be only unarmed training missiles.

**WOULD-BE ASSASSIN SEEKS BAPTISM IN VATICAN.** Ali Agca, who tried to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1981, now wants to be baptized in the Vatican.

According to the Turkish Daily TODAY's ZAMAN, Agca expressed to his attorney he is hoping to visit the tomb of John Paul II and meet with Benedict XVI.

Agca shot John Paul II on May 13, 1981 in St. Peter's Square. Later, John Paul II visited him in jail and forgave him. He is currently jailed in a Turkish prison for other crimes, but will be released next January.

**U2 HELPS MARK ANNIVERSARY.** The legendary Irish rock group U2 has allowed free use of one of its hits to memorialize the Polish-led freedom upsurge which led to the collapse of communism. U2's 1983 song "New Year's Day," inspired by Poland's Solidarity movement, has been used in a European Union TV spot to mark the breakthrough's 20th anniversary. The spot highlights the partially democratic elections of June 1989, the Soviet bloc's first non-communist government and Poland's admission to NATO and the EU. (More information at: www.U2.com.)

## Poland Recognizes Face Transplant Surgeon



PHOTO BY RICHARD P. POREMSKI

**DR. MARIA SIEMIONOW** is shown above after just receiving the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by the hand of Ambassador Robert Kupiecki. She led the surgical team that late last year successfully completed the first near-total face transplant in the United States at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio.

by **Richard P. Poremski**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. — It was a proud moment for Maria Siemionow, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in April 17, 2009. Her home country of Poland, represented by Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, had just awarded her the prestigious Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, in recognition of her outstanding medical accomplishments.

Dr. Siemionow was the lead surgeon of a medical team that recently completed the first near-total face transplantation in America at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio on December 10, 2008. The patient, in a 22-hour operation, had 80% of her face replaced with bone, muscles, nerves, skin and blood vessels from a recently-deceased woman. This completeness of transfer was medically necessary so that the new face will actually function as such and not just be a mask of sorts.

See "Siemionow ..." page 3

## Polish Museum Re-Opens Its Paderewski Room



©The Polish Museum of America

**PADEREWSKI ROOM**, circa 1940s.

by **Geraldine Balut-Coleman**

**CHICAGO** — The Board of Directors and the Paderewski Room Renovation Committee of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) are pleased to announce the gala re-opening of the Paderewski Room, which will take place on Friday, November 6, 2009.

The highlight of the archival collection at the PMA is the extraordinary repository of memorabilia documenting the multi-faceted career of an influential statesman, a renowned artist, a son of Poland, and a friend of Polonia: Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941).

The Museum will base the newly-redesigned exhibit's theme on Paderewski's roles. It will enable visitors to visualize Paderewski, in depth, and how he developed into a patriot, pianist and humanitarian. Adding to this theme, the visitor will view as well as read important documents that, at this point, have been seen by so few people. A description of the

See "Paderewski Room ..." page 4



**KATYN MEMORIAL DEDICATED IN NILES**  
 PAGE 8

## deRosen Mural in Peril



PHOTO: JOSEPH WARWICK

**DOYLESTOWN, Pa.** — A 45' by 15' mural painted by Jan de Rosen, which hung behind the altar at Holy Family Church in Pittsburgh, is in need of a new home. In December 2008, Holy Family Church was closed. On learning of the closing, Polonia and art lovers became concerned over the fate of the masterpiece titled, "Poland Always Faithful." The mural memorializes Polish Christianity and is painted in brilliant colors on a gold leaf background. In an attempt to save the mural, the Diocese of Pittsburgh plans to send it to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, however the costs of removing and transporting the work of art are astronomical.

The Pauline Fathers at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa are seeking bids on removing, transporting, and installing the artwork at the Shrine. Scaffolding and special techniques are needed to ensure the mural will not suffer any damage. Donations and benefactors to help with the costs are greatly needed.

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) has offered to donate the proceeds from its annual raffle to the Shrine for the purpose of supporting the transfer of the mural from Pittsburgh to Doylestown. The raffle will be held at their annual convention in Hartford, Conn., August 4-8, 2009.

Additional donations and benefactors are greatly needed to help with the costs. Individuals and organizations interested in assisting in raising funds to save this magnificent piece of art are asked to contact the Shrine at: National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 654 Ferry Rd, Doylestown, PA 18901; Tel: (215) 345-0600; www.czestochowa.us.

## 2010 Census Survey Shortest in History

Immigration Status Not Questioned

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The 2010 Census questionnaire will be sent out to every household in America by April 1, 2010. For recent Polish immigrants and non-native English speakers, this might be the first census they participate in, so it is important to understand what to expect from the census.

Since 1790, the United States government has conducted a census every ten years in order to count the full population in the United States. The 2010 Census will mark the 23rd census of the U.S. It is a constitutional right of all U.S. residents to participate in the census.

The census directly impacts every community in the U.S. including the Polish-speaking community. The census affects how \$300 billion dollars in federal funds is allocated yearly for states. The areas with the highest population counts will get the most funding. Census data guides local decision-makers on where to build senior citizen centers, healthcare facilities, schools, police stations, fire departments, new roads, and other development.

The 2010 Census has the shortest questionnaire in history — this simple form takes just a few minutes to complete and send back by mail. The 10 easy questions ask for such information as name, gender, age, date of birth, race,

See "Census ..." page 4

## ALMANAC

July • Lipiec

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful."

—Marie Skłodowska Curie

- 1 1569. **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth** founded.
- 2 Matka Boska Jagodna (Blessed Virgin of the Berries). On this day, the first fruits and wild berries are ripened by this day.
- 3 1619. Account of strike by **Polish settlers** in Jamestown, Virg. entered into records of the Virginia Company.
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**. (U.S.)  
1931. Statue of **Woodrow Wilson** unveiled in Poland in appreciation for his efforts on Poland's behalf.  
1934. Death of **Madame Skłodowska Curie**, 66, in France, Nobel Prize winner chemist who discovered radium and polonium.  
1943. Death in an plane crash of **Wladyslaw Sikorski**, Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile.
- 5 1945. Polish American World War II ace **Col. Francis Gabreski** scores his 28th downed enemy plane.
- 6 1923. Birth of **Wojciech Jaruszelski**, Polish army officer, political leader who declared martial law in Poland in an attempt to crush the Solidarity union.
- 7 1572. Death of King **Zygmunt August**, last of Poland's Jagiellonian dynasty.
- 8 1924. Birth of Congressman **John Dingell** (D-Mich.)  
1824. Birth of **Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski** (d. 1887), Union officer.
- 9 1823. Birth of Polish portrait painter **Henryk Rodakowski**.
- 10 1990. Pope John Paul II declares **Fr. Jozef Kalinowski** blessed.  
1835. Birth of composer and violinist **Henry Wieniawski**.
- 14 1904. Birth of writer **Isaac Bashevis Singer** in Radzymin, Poland.
- 15 1410. Polish victory over the Teutonic Knights at **Grunwald**.  
1871. Birth of famed Polish explorer and geographer **Henry Arctowski**.
- 16 1873. **Jan Matejko** establishes a school of fine arts in Krakow.
- 17 1629. Birth of Poland's warrior king, **Jan Sobieski**.
- 18 Feast of Bernadine Franciscan **St. Simon of Lipnica** (1482), 15th Century Polish church reformer, canonized June 3, 2007.
- 19 1980. Lt. Col. **Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.
- 20 1936. Birth of Maryland Senator **Barbara Mikulski**.
- 23 1885. Ojczyzna (Fatherland) founded in Buffalo. Semi-weekly newspaper. Ceased publication in 1887.
- 25 **ST. JACOB**  
*Jaki Jakób po południu taka zima też do Grudnia*  
*As Jacob does in the afternoon, so does the winter after December as well.*
- 26 **ST. ANN**
- 28 1812. Birth of prolific Polish novelist **Jozef Ignacy Krasinski**.
- 29 1908. **Bishop Paul P. Rhode** consecrated, first Polish American bishop in Chicago.
- 30 1966. United States Postal Service issue stamp in honor of Poland's millennium.

This paper mailed on or before **July 3**.

The August edition will be mailed on or before **July 31**

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## Tell Universal and its Corporate Partners to Jump off a Cliff

## Movie Calls Polish People Dumb

## Boycott All Universal Movies, Resorts

Universal Studios has released new comedy, "Land of the Lost." In it, Will Ferrell, who plays a nerdy professor Rick Marshall, explains the T-Rex dinosaur is stupid:

"Forget the Polish, it's the tyrannosaurs that are the real dummies."

Universal, by the way, calls this movie "a family comedy."

Before "Land of the Lost" came out, reviewer **Sheila Roberts** of MoviesonLine.ca asked Ferrell if he thought the insult would get the attention of the Polish community. His response: "I would be flattered

if there was. Yeah. I know, it's so funny."

He said the reference to Poles through Rick Marshall (his role in the movie) helped to define his character's "nerdy mind."

Sure, we understand that Ferrell was only trying to label his character as an idiot, but he could have refused to say the line. Do you think he would have said "Forget the Jews," or "Forget the Blacks"? The answer: no. Why?: because Hollywood is afraid of backlash, which means money out of its pockets. So why does it pick on the Poles? The answer is obvious: Poles accept these insults as status quo. We are easy targets because we forgive and forget too easily. Well, if you want your grandchildren — who more

than likely did not grow up putting up with Polish jokes — to think "Polish" equals "stupid," then jump to the next story.

"Land of the Lost," was directed by Brad Silberling, and written by Chris Henchy and Dennis McNicholas. It is a Universal Pictures release. Universal is owned by General Electric, which also owns NBC television. If you were planning a vacation to any one the Universal Studio resorts, we urge you to change your plans. Universals corporate partners include: American Express, Arrowhead Water, Coca-Cola, GE Money, Minute Maid, Powerade, and Xerox. Until Universal drops this line from the movie, do not support these companies. If you have the time, write to them and

let them know why.

Letters of protest can be written to: Jeff Zucker, President and CEO, Universal Studios, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608-1002. Phone: (818) 777-1000. E-mail: upixnews@unistudios.com. Keep your letters short and to the point. Do not weigh them down defending our heritage. We don't have to defend it to anyone, least of all Zucker and Universal.

Most critics are panning the movie and called Ferrell's performance "uninspired." That's little consolation now that it has been released. Your letters and boycott, however, will make GE, Universal and others in Hollywood reconsider whether such defamation is worth the cheap laugh.

## VIEWPOINTS / Michael Blichasz

## Support America. Buy American.

Recent media reports state that 80% of this year's college graduates are unable to find employment at any level. This forces us to once again reflect on the companies who left America in search of cheaper labor and fewer benefits for workers. I feel there should have been more done by business and labor leaders to keep a major portion of those jobs in the United States. Now we have to work extra hard to bring back a minimum of 50% of the manufacturing jobs that left the United States so we can have more employment available for people of all ages. It can be done if we all work together.

When there were more U.S. jobs available, unemployment was less noticeable. However, now that we see the results of the departure of so many jobs to foreign countries, we need to pay more attention to where the items we purchase are produced. It is important to remember that with the loss of production jobs, many other employment opportunities are also lost. Jobs like: research and development, sales and service, shipping, advertising, office and management, just to name a few.

Every time you buy American-made items, you are helping move inventory off the store shelves and

allowing American manufacturers to re-supply those items and at the same time support jobs from production to delivery and everything in between. Your action at the cash register will get that message across to business owners and could bring about a better balance between foreign-made and American-made products.

Today and every day I urge you to take action at the cash register where your purchasing power has a major impact. Let cashiers and store owners know that if they don't offer more products with American made labels, you will shop elsewhere. Stores need your business now more than ever so action at the cash register will have a major impact on business owners!

Now that we see what's happening to recent graduates, it's time to mobilize parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, friends and neighbors to become involved in the Buy American-Made Campaign. I know it's difficult to find American made products at many major retail stores,

and it's sad to even acknowledge this fact. However, it is a fact, and if we don't speak up and let business owners know that we're dissatisfied with the imbalance of foreign made versus American made products, everything will stay the same or even get worse. Whenever you enter a store, consider that by going out of your way to purchase American made items, you are helping support current employment opportunities and may also be helping expand our job base for even more American workers.

I welcome your comments and suggestions and ask that you spread the word to others. You can email me from my Internet site at: MichaelSupportsAmerica.com.

*Michael Blichasz is president of the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the Polish American Congress, the Polish American Cultural Center in Philadelphia, and host of the Saturday Variety Program on WNWR, 1540 AM, Philadelphia*

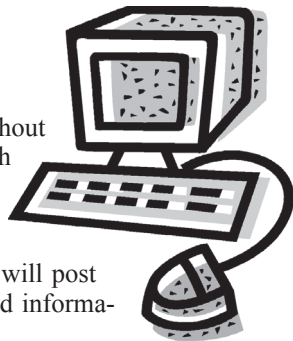
## Announcing New PAJ Blog Site

In an effort to reach Polonia throughout the United States and the World, the Polish American Journal is pleased to offer an exciting new internet blogging site — Polish American Journal Today (www.pajtoday.blogspot.com). On a regular basis, the site will post items of interest, current events and updated information on happenings throughout Polonia.

The website is a new-age compliment to the monthly subscription publication with daily entries.

Event news (in a brief format) can be submitted to PAJtoday@yahoo.com. Every effort will be made to post events. Check out PAJToday!

Please note: Submission of calendar events to PAJToday does not guarantee placement in the print edition of the newspaper. News on the blog site may or may not appear in the print edition, and the print edition will not appear on this site. Articles from previous issues may appear on the site at the discretion of the authors. It is our hope that we will keep Polonia informed and meet a new audience of internet-savvy readers and student researchers.



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## ACPC to Meet in Hartford

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) will hold its annual convention, August 4-8, at the Hilton Hotel in Hartford, Conn. The theme for the convention is "The Soaring Polish Spirit—Welcome to the Constitution State."

The convention will open with the First Company Governor's Footguard bearing the ceremonial flags of country, state, and Poland, followed by welcoming remarks from Anna Mae Maglaty, president of the host organization, the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford. The dignitaries extending greetings to the city and state are Mayor Eddie Perez, Governor Jodi Rell, and Conn. State Legislators, Senator John W. Fonfara, and Peter A. Tercyak. Remarks will follow from Conn. Congressman John Larson. Leader in the House of Representatives, and Dr. M.B. Biskupski, holder of the Chair for Polish Studies at the Central Conn. State University. The Polish Scouts will be in attendance presenting the old Polish tradition of presenting bread and salt to the president of the ACPC, Thaddeus, Mirecki. The keynote speaker for the convention is Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz. The luncheon speaker is Professor Anthony J. Bajdek, retired Associate Dean for Northeastern University and a vice president in the Polish American Congress.

The second day will begin with Professor Jonathan Shea, an accredited genealogist, proficient in Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, and Irish backgrounds. Dr. Shea will be addressing the subject of tracing family roots. The evening program will include dinner at the Polish National Home, a beautiful example of Art Deco architecture in the City of Hartford. The dinner is followed by the Marcella Kohanska Sembrich concert, which is open to the public. The winner of the scholarship this year is Jacqueline Noparstak, who will perform that evening.

The third day will begin with a morning presenta-

tion by noted iconographer Marek Czarnecki, whose topic will be "The History and Myth of the Black Madonna of Czestochowa." At noon there will be a bus tour with a quick review of some of Hartford's historic sites, among them the equestrian monument of Casimir Pulaski, where a wreath of honor will be placed at the base. The tour will proceed to a warehouse, where the history of the famous Polish pottery Boleslawiec will be presented, and where pottery items may be purchased and sent home.

The highlight of the tour will be a visit to nearby Windsor Locks and the New England Air Museum, a magnificent building of history and airplanes of the past and present. At this museum, two years ago, the permanent exhibit of the famous and legendary Kosciuszko Squadron was dedicated. The Polish community as well as both the ACPC and the Greater Hartford Polish Clubs helped raise the funds necessary to establish this exhibit which was first conceived at the Polish Studies Program under M.B. Biskupski at the Central Conn. State University. The speaker at this program at the museum will be Dr. Michael Alfred Peszke M.D. noted expert on Polish Air History and author of numerous articles and books on Polish Military History. His topic is "History and Legacy of the Kosciuszko Squadron." The lecture will be followed by a reception at the museum.

The final day will be the Awards Banquet at the Hilton Hotel. Awards will be presented and the installation of officers for the coming year will follow. Well-known Polish American judge, Christine Keller, will read the oath of office to the members being installed. The formal program concludes the following day with an 8:30 a.m. Mass at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church.

For convention information, contact: Anna-Mae Maglaty at (860) 521-7621 or Ann Oleasz at (860) 563-9117.

## A "Great Mystery" Indeed!

(thenews.pl) — Russian state television broadcast a report which accused Poland of collaboration with Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union. The report says that the government in Warsaw was in a secret alliance with Germany and Japan to invade the USSR.

The broadcast was made on National Remembrance and Mourning Day, set aside for Russians to commemorate victims of World War II. To mark the occasion, as well as the 70th anniversary of the signing of Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, Russian television broadcast the report, which claimed to reveal a "great mystery."

The journalists claim that it was not [Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav] Molotov's intention to sign the non-aggression pact with the Third Reich — an agreement which effectively sealed Poland fate — but he was forced to do so because the USSR was in danger from an invasion by Poland.

They cite documents, yet to be made public, which "prove" that Poles conspired with the Nazis and planned to attack the Soviet Union. Japan was also involved in the plot and its role was to invade the eastern borders of the USSR.

The report "clearly shows" that the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact was a necessity, saving the USSR from Poland's aggression and helped regain indigenous Russian lands, which had been seized by Poland.

Poland's embassy in Moscow has said it will take necessary steps in response to the allegations.

This is not the first case of Russian revisionism with regards to Poland. In May, the Russian Defense Ministry removed an article about Poland being responsible for World War II from its official web site after complaints from Poland's Foreign Ministry.

## QUOTES / compiled from news sources

### How Soon They Forget

"We enjoy a good joke but not a degrading insult."

— **PNCC Rev. Dr. Czeslaw Kuliczkowski** and his wife Donna, who walked out of the Wilkes-Barre, Pa. performance of Andre Rieu after the Dutch band leader took a cheap shot against Poles. The Kuliczkowskis wrote to their local PBS affiliate (a Rieu sponsor), the Queen of the Netherlands, and to the mayor of Maastricht, the city in the Netherlands from where Rieu comes.

The local PBS station acknowledged their complaint. The Queen has not yet formulated an appropriate response. The Mayor of Rieu's hometown promptly answered with an apology for Rieu's insensitivity. "I am sure there must have been some misunderstanding. I apologize for that," he wrote. The mayor also noted that the Dutch still thank the Polish army for liberating them in World War II.

❖ ❖ ❖  
"The concert of a highly perverse singer who calls herself 'Madonna' is deeply humiliating to Warsaw residents and Poles in general ... August 15 is a symbolic date. It's not a coincidence that Madonna booked that day for her concert in Poland. It's a provocation. She was

aware we were not going to just sit and pretend nothing happened, she knew very well how offensive this would be to us."

— **Parliamentarian Marian Budzynski**, who wrote a letter to the mayor of Warsaw, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, asking for her intervention in an effort to cancel an August 15 performance by the controversial pop star Madonna.

❖ ❖ ❖  
"I can't accept a situation where the true heroes of Solidarity, men like Walesa who created a new political system in Poland, are being rubbished, spat upon, turned into objects of manipulation. I think it is my duty as a director to fight against this."

— **Oscar-winning Polish director Andrzej Wajda**, who is making a film defending Lech Walesa and his pro-democracy Solidarity trade union against what Wajda calls efforts to rewrite history. Wajda sights the fiercely anti-communist Institute of National Remembrance and politicians who question Solidarity's achievements.



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## Siemionow Receives Commander's Cross

*continued from cover*

Connie Culp's face had been almost totally obliterated by a shotgun blast fired by her husband in 2004. She survived, but the results were devastating. To breathe, the 46-year-old Ohio woman needed a tube inserted into her windpipe. Only her upper eyelids, forehead, lower lip and chin remained. One eye was saved but it required a corneal transplant. She also lost her senses of smell and taste, but regained them after the daunting but highly successful operation.

The challenging surgical technique did not occur in a vacuum. It was a highly problematic situation from the very start, demanding several years of laboratory research and experimentation, including cadaver work. It was necessary to establish a host of revolutionary medical procedures and protocols, all of which needed to be fully vetted and ap-

proved of by various medical and professional boards. All of this, and the amazing operation itself, was presented and made patently clear during Dr. Siemionow's fascinating lecture, with revealing slides, at the embassy event.

Professor Siemionow is a world renowned scientist and microsurgeon. She earned her medical degree from Poland's Poznan Medical Academy in 1974, and then earned a Ph.D. in microsurgery in 1985. She specializes in microsurgery, hand surgery, peripheral nerve surgery, transplantation, and microcirculation research. Siemionow presently is a Professor of Surgery, Director of Plastic Surgery Research, and Head of Microsurgery Training at the Cleveland Clinic. She also serves as a Professor of Surgery at the Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences in Poznan.

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## Polish Americans and the 2010 Census

The Census Bureau is making final preparations to launch the 2010 census which will take place in April 2010. It is important for Polish Americans to participate fully to ensure that the communities we live in get the full representation in Congress and state legislatures they deserve and the full allocation of federal funds for our senior citizens, police departments, etc. The main reason for the census is to redraw districts for the U.S. House of Representatives and for state legislatures.

"The census is the one great event in which all residents of the United States participate. We join with all of our neighbors to take stock of who we are and what we are becoming as a nation," according to Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President of the Piast Institute. The Piast Institute is one of 56 Census Information Centers (CIC) in the United States. The Piast Institute's CIC is the only officially recognized resource for census and demographic information on the Polish Americans since 2005.

There is a major change in the 2010 census which makes it different from the previous censuses. **There will be no question on ancestry so that you will not have an opportunity to write in "Polish" as in previous years.** In previous census counts one out of six households received the "long form" which contained the ancestry questions along with other additional questions. The ancestry numbers were developed from that one in six sample.

The 2010 census will be a short form only sent to all households. It will only ask 10 basic questions – name, sex, age, date of birth, race, Hispanic origin, housing tenure and family relationship.

The questions formerly asked on the long form will be covered by the American Community Survey (ACS). **It will include a question on ancestry.** The ACS will be sent to a small percentage of the population on a rotating basis through the decade between censuses. No only will get such a questionnaire more than once every five years. **If you receive an ACS form it is vitally important to write "Polish" for the question on ancestry.** It is from this much smaller percentage of questionnaires in the on-going ACS that the Polish population will be calculated.

All Polish organizations should seek to become official census partners to help spread the word about the census and to bring the Polish community to the attention of the Census Bureau. You can use the occasion to ask the census office to see that the ancestry questions gets on the census form for 2020 to get a more secure count. For information on partnerships go to the U.S. Census home page and click on "Partners with US!"

For more information on the 2010 census call Polonia's Census Information Center at the Piast Institute at (313) 733-4535 or e-mail us at [skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org](mailto:skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org).

## Smith and Thompson Meet with PAC, Pulaski Association



RICHMOND HILL, N.Y.—The Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, Malcolm Smith (center left) and N.Y. City Comptroller William Thompson (center) are shown here with officials of the Downstate New York Division of the Polish American Congress and the Pulaski Association of Business & Professional Men. Both organizations are based in Brooklyn.

Senator Smith took over the Majority Leader post in January while Comptroller Thompson is finishing his term of office the end of this year. Thompson already announced his candidacy for Mayor in the coming elections this fall. Comptroller Thompson has been holding Polish American Heritage Month observances at City Hall for several years and will host his final reception on October 20.

## Paderewski Room

*continued from cover*  
significance of each document will also be provided.

The Paderewski Room and its artifacts have been unavailable for public viewing for a few years. Thus, in September 2008, the Paderewski Room Renovation Committee was formed and has been actively involved in planning the "new look" of this wonderful exhibit. Major renovations have been underway and the scope of the remodeling has increased from the initial intention. This room, the original 1937 Museum, had never been air-conditioned and had poor heating control. Last year, a combined heating and air-conditioning system was installed. This year, ductwork for the room was concealed for safer and more efficient air flow. However, the Museum's Board of Directors and the Committee felt that additional updates to this important exhibit were needed. Specifically, decorative stencil work, which surrounds the room, needed repair and conservation; the carpeting needed replacement or cleaning; walnut display cases were in need of upgrading; and the valuable upholstered furniture required stabilizing and cleaning. In addition, the exhibit's artifacts needed conservation treatment. In order to provide security, which was lacking in the old design, a protective glass partition surrounding the display of Paderewski's furnishings from the suite in the Buckingham Hotel in New York City, his last residence, was necessary. The Committee felt that this glass partition would allow for additional exhibit surface to display more of Paderewski's possessions and to secure the area.

The Committee's "in-house" project coordinator is Richard Kujawa, the Museum's engineer. He has been reporting directly to the Committee regarding the progress of each and every aspect of the renovation. Additionally, the Committee sought qualified and dedicated contractors, tradesmen, craftsmen, and artisans. After much research and meetings, it was pleased that Chris Jaworowski, Discovery Builders, Inc. of Chicago, agreed to be the project's General Contractor. The Museum is most fortunate, as Jaworowski specializes in the renovation of historic and older buildings, and brings a multi-talented, experi-

enced, organized, and conscientious perspective to this project.

Since his acceptance in January 2009, the Museum has seen great progress. The old carpeted floor has been replaced by a new oak floor; new, updated and 21st c. technological electrical installations are in place; the updating, repair, renovation of the room's walnut display cabinets and, in some cases, the creation of matching walnut cabinets are near completion; the walls and ceiling have been repaired and painted; and the original decorative stencil artwork has been repaired and conserved. Additionally, the existing windows have been repaired and updated along with replacing the old window glass with UV-orientated glass. Along with the "bricks and mortar" aspects of this renovation was the conservation and preservation of one-of-a-kind paintings, important Paderewski documents, papers, photographs and other Paderewski-orientated memorabilia. The Museum's paper and photographic conservators are working to have the necessary Paderewski materials ready for the long-anticipated re-opening of this historic room.

With some success, through the dedicated efforts of Jaworowski, a certain amount of *pro-bono* labor has been donated by tradesmen, artisans, and craftsmen, along with some *gratis* supplies from various companies. However, the Museum requires additional funds to complete this major renovation. Those interested in contributing to the Paderewski Room, can do so by making a check payable to: The Polish Museum of America (Paderewski Room), 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642

Finally, since the Paderewski Room is the original Museum space, the Committee will designate an area in the Paderewski Room in memory of its first curator, Mieczysław Haiman. His desk, published books and other items will be displayed. The Museum believes that Paderewski would have approved.

Understanding that all aspects of this special room represent an invaluable history of Paderewski's contribution to Polonia and the world, the Museum hopes that when this redesigned exhibit opens, all will be well rewarded.

## Census: No Questions About Immigration Status

*continued from cover*

and whether respondents own or rent their home. There are no questions about immigration status or social security numbers. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, are strictly confidential and are not shared with anyone, including any other federal agency.

The first visible sign that census is approaching is address canvassing. Census workers knock on doors to verify every address throughout the United States. They update this information electronically using hand-held computers. The Census address list is the most comprehensive list in the U.S. and is used for the nation's 911 operations, U.S.

Postal Service, and GPS technology (MapQuest, Google Maps).

For more information about the history of the United States Census, visit [www.census.gov/history](http://www.census.gov/history).

**A WORD OF CAUTION.** The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race and other relevant data.

"If someone knocked on the

door and said the word 'Census' – the tendency for many people is to forgo caution," said David Polino, president of the Better Business Bureau. "And that's exactly what we don't want them to do. Most people do safeguard their personal information to unsolicited phone callers or visitors; however the Census is an exception to the rule. Unfortunately, scammers know that the public is more willing to share personal data when taking part in the Census and they have an opportunity to ply their trade by posing as a government employee and soliciting sensitive financial information."

So, how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? Polino offers following advice:

**They will have identification.** If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

**They will only ask certain questions.** Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.

**They will not use email.** Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the look out for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

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

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## Genadek Wins National Young Artists Showcase Competition



Columbia Heights junior **ASHLEY GENADEK**, with her first place award entry in the Sister Cities Young Artists Showcase. The work is a photomontage showing important aspects of her path to peace.

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, Minn. — Ashley Genadek, a junior from Columbia Heights High School, won first prize in this year's Sister Cities International Young Artists Showcase competition. The announcement came from Sister Cities International headquarters in Washington D.C., where the judging took place. As first-place winner, Genadek will receive a \$1200 cash award plus a travel stipend of up to \$2000 to the Sister Cities International Conference in Belfast, Ireland July 29 through August 3.

This year's theme was "Your Path To Peace." Genadek's entry was a photomontage, and this was the first time that an entry of this type has won since the "Showcase" began in 1988. The purpose of the event is to encourage young people to participate in the Sister Cities mission of promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding, cooperation through one individual, one com-

munity at a time.

Young Artists Showcase is sponsored locally by the Columbia Heights, Minn. / Lomianki, Poland Sister Cities Committee in cooperation with the Columbia Heights Recreation Department. Each Sister City in the United States is entitled to submit one entry from a local student and another from a student in their Sister City outside of the United States. This year, artwork was submitted by 70 sister cities across the nation.

Genadek's entry was submitted to the national competition after she won first place and a \$100 cash prize in the Columbia Heights exhibition that took place at Murzyn Hall in April.

"We are so proud of Ashley, and what makes it extra special is that she is Polish just like our sister city," said Dolores Strand, co-chair of the Columbia Heights Committee.

## Veterans Remembered at Polish Heritage Park

OIL CITY, Pa. (westpamag.com) — Parishioners and guests gathered in the Assumption Catholic Church of Oil City, Sun., May 24 for the dedication of four monuments recently added to the Polish Heritage Memorial Park

A standing ovation was given to Franciszek "Frank" Jarecki, the Polish Air Force pilot who defected from the Soviet Empire on March 5, 1953 with a MiG-15 jet fighter. His actions and debriefings allowed the United States to formulate techniques for combating the state-of-the-art Russian plane, greatly expediting a conclusion to the Korean War.

The main speaker at the service was Oil City native Col. Perry Rearick, a retired Army Special Forces officer with multiple tours of duty in Europe and the Middle East during his 28 years in the military. Rearick spoke at length about Jarecki's courage, faith, and tenacity.

Rearick also shared the biography of Oil City's homegrown hero, Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski, who is considered one of America's greatest fighter pilots. Gabreski flew 266 combat missions in World War II and Korea, shooting down 44 enemy planes. After retiring from the military, he succeeded in a second



career with the aerospace industry.

The hour-long church service also included the singing of the Polish National Anthem and the National Anthem of the United States. Afterwards, the congregation walked to the nearby park, where the Polish American Veterans' Memorial was unveiled.

The monuments were blessed by Fr. Daniel Kresinski (above). The American flag flies between

the Polish National and the Polish State flags.

The Assumption Church was built more than a hundred years ago, when a group of Polish families emigrated to Oil City, Pa., according to Heritage Project coordinator Joseph C. Brozeski. The park will continue to add monuments until there are twelve, and it will double in size thanks to the recent donation of the two adjoining lots.

**QUIGLEY CALLS TO INCLUDE POLAND IN VISA WAIVER.** U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL) called on President Barack Obama to support a critical ally in Europe and Polish-Americans everywhere by including Poland in the Visa Waiver Program.

The inclusion of Poland into the Visa Waiver Program has gained wide-spread, bipartisan support in prior Congresses.

"Poland has proven to be an indispensable ally in the global campaign against terrorism," said Rep. Quigley. "Including Poland in the Visa Waiver Program will

have positive security, economic, and bilateral effects. In addition, there are thousands of Polish Americans in my district alone who would benefit by making it easier to have a loved one visit them, not to mention the local businesses that would benefit from tourism dollars. We owe it to a country that has stood by us, and to the people who would like to visit the United States."

A member of the European Union since 2004, Poland repealed its own visa requirement in 1991 which allows Americans to travel to Poland without the use of a visa.

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**VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM ON-LINE MUSEUM OPENS.** The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (www.victimsofcommunism.org) launched its on-line museum June 16, 2009 in Washington, D.C. at the residence of the Romanian Ambassador, Adrian Vierita. Wall Street Journalist John Fund delivered the keynote address to an audience of diplomats, elected officials and human rights activists from around the world.

"The museum's launch will be global in character," said Dr. Lee Edwards, Chairman of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. It will be broadcast simultaneously via the Internet to thousands of people worldwide, including many in communist-controlled countries. New technology enables Internet broadcasting, known as "streaming," to bypass communist blocking equipment designed to keep information away from their citizens, according to Edwards.



### 400th ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIRS STILL AVAILABLE!

Souvenirs Commemorating the Arrival of the First Poles to America, Jamestown, Virg. 1 October 2008 are still available! These items honor this important Polish American historical event which has come but once in our lifetime, get your favorite souvenir today!

Since the USPS has not issued stamps for this occasion (as opposed to Poland's), Zazzle Custom Stamps, postcards and mugs were created with the cooperation of the Polish American Center.org and the Polish American Journal. In addition, the Grand and Second Prize illustrations of the Polish American Journal's contest to commemorate this event are shown on several of the items. Zazzle is an authorized vender of the U.S. Postal Service. The new postal rates are reflected on the Zazzle Custom Stamps.

These items may be viewed and purchased on the following URLs on the web: [www.zazzle.com/firstpolesusa](http://www.zazzle.com/firstpolesusa) and [www.zazzle.com/earliestpoles](http://www.zazzle.com/earliestpoles)

When the window opens, click "JAMESTOWN POLES, Home Zazzle.com.store and click "View all Products" on the left or "Promote this gallery" on the right. When the items are shown in the following window, Click the item desired and follow directions. Any commissions from the sale of the items are donated to the sponsors.

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## RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

# Poles Remember Polish-born Pontiff

Poles marked the 30th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's first pilgrimage to his homeland, unveiling a giant cross monument in central Warsaw in honor of the late Polish-born pontiff.

The 30-foot-tall white granite cross stands on the site where John Paul II delivered a Mass in 1979 in then-communist Poland. The sermon is credited by many with inspiring the country's nascent pro-democracy groups and giving rise to the Solidarity freedom movement that helped topple communist rule in 1989.

"We Poles know that the overthrow of communism did not start in 1989 but 10 years earlier, here on this square with the words of John Paul II," Warsaw mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz said.

John Paul II, who died in 2005, is still a highly revered figure in his homeland. The pontiff's encouragement to his countrymen of peaceful challenge to the communist regime is credited by many with hastening its demise.

### POPE VISITS MONTE CASSINO.

Pope Benedict XVI visited the monastery at Monte Cassino, Italy and stopped to pray at the military cemetery there. He paid special tribute to the Polish soldiers who lost their lives in the final and successful assault on the German stronghold which led to its capture by the Allied forces.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

St. Hyacinth R.C. Church, Glen Head, N.Y., celebrating 100 years. Originally part of St. Hedwig's Parish in Floral Park, Fr. Karol Sarnecki established the parish and celebrated Mass at the Glen Cove Opera House until a wooden church was built in 1910. With sale of the original church to the Greek Orthodox Church, a new church was built and dedicated in 1986. The current pastor is Fr. Richard Kopinski.

Fr. Joseph Kozlowski on the

60th anniversary of his ordination. Fr. Kozlowski was pastor at St. Hyacinth's, Glen Cove from 1970-1992. He also served as Chaplain for the Nassau County Police Department and Pulaski Association as well as the Glen Cove Fire Department. In 1972 he was Grand Marshall of the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City.

Detroit RC Archdiocese Deacon Jubilarians: **Alexander Jablonowski**, St. John Fisher Parish, Auburn Hills—20 years; **Marion Jurewicz**, St. Martin de Porres Parish, Warren—10 years; **John Szwarz**, Christ the Good Shepherd Parish, Lincoln Park—10 years.

Detroit RC Archdiocese Vowed Religious Jubilarians: **Sr. M. Stephanie Kluczynski**, CSSF and **Sr. Cecilia Marie Zelmanski**, CSSF—80 years; **Sr. Angela Marie Holewinski**, CSSF and **Sr. M. Dina Klamecki**, CSSF—75 years; **Sr. M. Cordia Glinka**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Lauriana Gruszynski**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Anita Niemiec**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Euphrasia Owczarczak**, CSSF—70 years; **Sr. M. Gerald Budnik**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Lauriana Gruszczynski**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Patricia Pyszynski**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Edwardene Stoppa**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Fidelis Szymkowiak**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Luiza Wawrzyniak**, CSSF—65 years; **Sr. M. Frederick Bieszke**, CSSF, **Sr. Therese Michael Dudek**, IHM, **Sr. M. Gloria Ertman**, CSSF, **Sr. Teresita Eskra**, CSFN, **Sr. Mary Ann Konieski**, OP, **Sr. M. Eileen Malolepsza**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Martinez Rozek**, CSSF, **Sr. Helen Smyczek**, SMR, **Sr. M. Cynthia Strzalkowski**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Serra Szalaszewicz**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Eucharita Wisk**, CSSF—60 years; **Fr. Frederick J. Benda**, SJ, **Sr. Rosanne Marie Glaza**, CSSF, **Sr. Maurita Grabowski**, CSSF, **Sr. Nancy Marie Jamroz**, CSSF, **Sr. Carol Kowalski**, OSM, **Bro. Kevin Malinowski**, FSC, **Sr. M. Thomas Michalek**, OP, **Sr. Frances Mlocek**, SSJ-TOSF, **Sr. Lucinda Mroczek**, SSJ-TOSFBro.

**Bernard L. Polinak**, SJ, Sr. M. **Alexanne Rutecki**, CSSF, **Sr. Julie Slowik**, IHM, **Sr. Joanne Witucki**, IHM, **Sr. M. Edward Zalewski**, CSSF, **Sr. Kazimiera Znyk**, VS—50 years; **V. Rev. Thomas Kesicki**, SJ, **Sr. M. Frances Lewandowski**, CSSF, **Sr. M. Catherine Ryzewicz**, CSSF—25 years.

Eighty years ago the **Riverhead, Long Island, N.Y. town Board** voted with the unanimous approval of the residents residing on Cemetery St. to change its name to Pulaski St., the name it bears today, as the center of "Polish Town," a roughly 15 block area where the Poles settled in 1905 to work on the rich farmland of eastern Long Island.

**St. Stanislaus RC Church** in Meriden, Conn., on celebrating the 35th year of their parish carnival. Fr. Edward Ziemnicki, pastor of the parish, noted that the carnival proceeds go to support the parish grammar school and that last year \$37,000 was raised for that purpose.

Detroit Archdiocesan priest-jubilarians **Fr. Richard S. Rakoczy**—50 years; **Fr. Jerome A. Brzezinski**, **Fr. Alexander A. Kuras**, **Fr. Robert J. Kotlarz**, **Fr. Norbert F. Maciejewski**—40 years; **Fr. John J. Kiselica**, **Fr. Victor S. Roman**—25 years.

**JOHN PAUL II AS TUTOR.** In the early 1930s, **Walter Matuszyk**, who died in May at 88, in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, needed help in his German language course. His teacher suggested he get help from his fellow student in Wadowice, Poland, **Karol Wojtyła**. He did, and as a result earned a pass on his language exam.

**JP II EXHIBIT IN READING.** The exhibit "A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People," will be on view at the Franco Library and Learning Center at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa.. Sponsored by the Holleran Center for Community Engagement, the exhibit is free and open to the public from noon-four each day with extended hours on Thursday. Information: (610) 790-2882 or blessing.exhibit@alvernia.edu.

**JP II ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS REVEALED.** In addition to the attempts on his life in 1981 in Vatican City and in 1982 in Portugal, information disclosed by Fr. Zdzislaw Krol, chancellor of the Warsaw Metropolitan Curia, points to a 1987 plot by a Bulgarian to kill Pope John Paul II in Czestochowa and another in 1983 by three Germans to kill him at an open-air Mass in Warsaw.

**JOHN PAUL II HS NEARS COMPLETION.** Scheduled to open in September, 2010, the steel framing has been completed for the new John Paul II HS in Montgomery County, Pa. The school is the result of the consolidation of Pope Pius X HS, Pottstown, and Kennedy-Kenrick, Norristown. To mark the progress, Justin Cardinal Rigali blessed a 24-foot high cross above the area slated for the school chapel. The cardinal said, "We remember fondly Pope John Paul II—whose anniversary of death we observe today—as an



"**TRZECIMAJ**," or the Polish Constitution Day Observance, was conducted by the Polish Heritage Club of Uniontown, Sunday, May 3 in Madonna of Czestochowa Church, Cardale, Pa.

The ceremony included Scripture readings, a bi-lingual homily, a Rosary Walk, and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament headed by the Rev. Canon Joseph L. Sredzinski, PFA National Chaplain.

example of one who embraced with great faith the cross of our Savior."

**NOTED RABBI DIES.** Rabbi Leon Klenicki, a longtime Jewish voice on Catholic-Jewish relations died at his home in Monroe Township, N.J. A professor of Jewish-Catholic relations at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, NY, he traveled several times to Poland to help develop programs of Catholic-Jewish understanding. In 1994 he pushed for the Church to completely open the records of Jews baptized during World War II to protect them from the Nazis.

He recalled that during the war his cousin was baptized and protected by sisters at a Polish convent. "The nuns said, 'Bring the rest.' But my grandmother said, 'No they want to convert us,'" he said. His grand-

mother died in the Auschwitz gas chambers, while his cousin survived and ended up in Israel.

**STO LAT TO ... Adam Cardinal Maida**, retired archbishop of Detroit, on being presented with the Msgr. Malloy Lifetime Achievement Award by the Catholic Lawyers Society of Detroit. Cardinal Maida has degrees in civil law and canon law and played an important role in clarifying the legal status of Catholic institutions. He was also the keynote speaker at the commencement exercises of Ave Maria School of Law

**Kathy Diipla, M.D.**, who will assume a leading role in the newly-formed "Children of the Polish Christian Holocaust Survivors" Committee in the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress.

## Msgr. Zientek Observes Golden Anniversary

SEALY, Texas — Msgr. Boleslaus Zientek of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination, May 23. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral in Galveston in 1959.

After serving in the Austin Diocese for 30 years, he was returned to the Houston Diocese, with the parishes of Sealy, Bellville, Wallis, Frydek, and Industry.

Msgr. Zientek was born in Brenham, the son of the late John J. Zientek and Francis Bilski Zientek. Family members include brothers Stanley, Alois, Julian, and Msgr. Benedict Zientek. His sisters, So-

phie, and Mrs. Stanley Januszewski are deceased.

"Thinking back over the last fifty years, it is astounding how the good Lord has made use of his unworthy instrument and minister," said Msgr. Zientek. "Also, all the great changes that we are blessed with since the Second Vatican Council over forty years ago."

He is enjoying his retirement and is blessed with "sufficient health" to be of service. Proud of his Polish heritage, he said he equates his love for his ethnicity with the first line of the Polish national anthem: "Poland shall not perish as long as we live to love her."

## Polish Catholics Chide Madonna Concert

WARSAW — Catholics in Poland are urging organizers to cancel an August 15 concert by the U.S. pop star Madonna. The event is scheduled for August 15, the Assumption of Mary feast (Wniebowzięcie Najświętszej Maryi Panny), a national holiday in Poland.

Marian Brudzynski, a member of the Mazowiecki regional assembly, said Madonna "cannot sing" on the religious feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and announced a protest committee is being organized to stop the concert.

Brudzynski, a former member of the conservative League of Polish Families party, said Catholics will do all in their power to prevent the

concert from taking place. The protest committee plans to ask Interior Minister Grzegorz Schetyna to cancel the concert, he said.

Brudzynski said if they fail to stop Madonna's concert they will stage a massive picket outside and added, "We want to stifle Madonna."

Krzysztof Zagoda, of the Catholic Society organization, said the concert would hurt Poles' religious sentiment as Madonna's performances are anti-Christian.

Stanislaw Malkowski, former Warsaw Solidarity union's chaplain, said the Catholic church and the Polish nation should protest loudly against the Madonna concert.

## MODLITWY

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

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Thank you for your help. A.D.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even and in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit. That person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the favor requested will be granted, even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Your initials should appear after the thank you. Thank You Holy Spirit. A.D.

**PRAYER TO ST. CLARE.** Ask St. Clare for three favors, one business and two impossible. Pray nine Hail Marys once a day for nine days with a lighted candle. Pray if you believe it or not. Publish. "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus Be Praised, Adored and Glorified Today and Every Day." Request will be granted no matter how impossible it seems. Publication must be promised. B.K.K.

**THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE.** Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. R.E.M.

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.** (Never Known To Fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart and succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you. Thank You, Dear Blessed Mother. H.D.N.

KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

## Travelogue – Adventures in Poland

### Part VII

For a final meeting before my departure to Kraków, Krzysiek met me and we headed for dinner at **Sphinx Restaurant** (al. Jerozolimskie 42). Similar to a *TGI Fridays* chain, there are several locations in the capital. With a sort of Egyptian theme in décor, the food covers everything from pizzas to fish, but focuses on meat dishes, with huge offerings of chips and vegetables. The portions are unbelievably enormous, the food is tasty, and the service – quick.

A short distance away we went to **Trafik Megastore**, an incredible multi-floored *Barnes & Noble/Borders*-type store, where I proceeded to buy CDs and books to further enhance my research library.

We said our farewells and I retired to my room at **Metropol Hotel** (ul. Marszałkowska 99a). Built in the '60s, but as the result of the major repair and many improvements, it is a modern hotel in the city. It is in an excellent location at the very heart of the city,

opposite the Palace of Culture and Science and within a 3-5 minute walking distance of to Warsaw's Central Railway station. The Underground Station, major bus lines and various shopping centers are located right opposite the hotel.

Across the street is the *Novotel Warszawa Centrum* (formerly *Forum*) featuring an impressive new lobby design and bar. A bit further is the *Jan III Sobieski Hotel* (1 Artura Zawiszy Square). Easily recognizable with a characteristic colorful modern style façade, the hotel is a member of Polish Prestige Hotels & Resorts, and cultivates renowned Polish hospitality with an unforgettable elegant atmosphere.

Looking out my balcony I gazed at the illuminated **Palace of Culture and Science** (Pałac Kultury i

Nauki). The marks of four decades of Communism have yet to be completely erased from the face of Warsaw. Of these the most apparent is this Palace standing in the city's center, as the tallest in Poland.

Originally commissioned by Stalin as a "gift from the Soviet people" the structure actually takes its inspiration from the capitalist world, namely the Empire State Building. Stalin had sent a secret delegation to New York to learn both about the building and American construction methods.



**ON THE EXPRESSTRAIN TO KRAKÓW**, a gentleman reads *Polityka* with a cover story on our new President entitled *Czy to już Czas?* (Is this already the time?).

One of the most notorious examples of Socialist Realist architecture in the world, over 5,000 workers were brought in from the Soviet states to complete the Palace. Housed in a purpose-built village in Jelonki, west Warsaw, where they were effectively cut off from the outside world, they worked around the clock, and finished in just three years. Despite the Olympian efforts of the laborers, Stalin never lived to see his pet project.

Built using an estimated 40 million bricks and housing 3,288 rooms, the Palace's purpose was to serve not only as the party headquarters, but also as the "the people's palace." Invitations to the annual New Year's Eve Ball were issued to the best workers in socialist Poland. Regardless, the building became an object

of hatred and a stain on the skyline

The crowning glory of the ground floor is the *Sala Kongresowa*, a decadent red theatre space apparently inspired by La Scala. Holding 2,880 its original use was to host party conferences. Through the years it became better known as a concert venue – hosting acts as diverse as the Rolling Stones in 1967, to the Chippendales in 2006. The next morning, following a sumptuous complimentary breakfast at *Metropol* of fruit, fresh rolls, pastries, cereals, salads, spreads, mushrooms, pickles, olives, meats, cheeses, pate, yogurt, eggs, sausage, bacon, and juices, I was on my way to Kraków by Express Train ([www.krakow-info.com/trains.htm](http://www.krakow-info.com/trains.htm)).

Whether it is the taxi driver, hotel porter, or restaurant waiter, everyone has a story to tell in Poland and many have a connection to the United States that they want to share with tourists. In most cases the conversation is cordial and quaint. Beware, though, of the ultra-friendly railroad or bus terminal porter. The one who manages to discreetly apprehend your luggage onto his trolley; the one who speaks 10 languages, including English and then proceeds to give you his life story, ending in a desperate situation; the one who offers to assist you with your ticket purchase; and the one who, although not an employee of the station will charge you an exorbitant fee for his services. These colorful characters still exist in modern Poland, so take note.

After heaving my luggage on top of the rack in my cozy and meticulously clean, first-class six-seat train cabin, I pulled back the clear glass door and nestled in my reserved seat and began reading the complimentary travel magazines. I have traveled many a train in Poland, but I was unaware that this method of transportation had advanced to this extent. Take note: there are still older, less comfortable trains in service, but I was riding to Kraków in style.

As the train pulled out, I nostalgically bid Warszawa goodbye and was anticipating my new solo adventure in Poland's legendary capital. The journey was a never-ending parade of rolling hills and quiet, gentle landscapes in hues of Fall green, gold, brown and beige dotted with cows, goats and ducks.

The train was full of businessmen and women and with that came a few distracting cell phone conversations. The drink attendant served complimentary beverages and a Lindt Orange Intense Chocolate, and I took interest in the gentleman across from me, as he was reading *Polityka* with a cover story on our new President entitled *Czy to już Czas?* (Is this already the time?).

As we neared Kraków the hypnotic, comforting sites shifted to an industrial mode. Upon arrival (after just two hours and 55 minutes), the passengers disembarked in a quiet and orderly fashion. I quickly found a taxi and off I was to my hotel.



**WARSAW'S PALACE OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE** marks four decades of Communism and is the tallest building in Poland

The **Hotel Orbis Cracovia** (al. F. Focha 1) still retains its Communist-era façade, but major interior renovations have been done, with exterior work to commence in two to three years. With advance notification from PAJ of my arrival as press personnel, I was welcomed to the hotel and extended the courtesies offered to the media.

Having stayed at this particular location as a child during my first trip to Poland during Communism, and then periodically since then, I knew what to expect from the rooms. I had experienced the "new" rooms during my last stay in 2002. Aside from nostalgia, the hotel was in a location within walking distance to the Old Town and was most always affordable.

I turned the key to the door and was amazed. I had been upgraded to a suite by the hotel director Tomasz Kowalski. The room was elegant with an entrance foyer, sitting

but did not manage to read the specifics. Quite by accident, I had found the exhibition of my favorite Polish artist, a genius of folk interpretation with an Art Deco style.

At the travelers' business office, complete with printer, computers and internet capabilities, I contacted the press director of the museum via e-mail and would check for a response the next morning.

An evening stroll into the Old Town brought back the sentiments I feel for this beloved spot. The area is now even more stunning, since the addition of nighttime floodlighting accentuate its ancient structure.

I ventured into the **Empik Megastore** and was surprised to see posters advertising the appearance of internationally-acclaimed Jazz vocalist **Anna Maria Jopek**. Ms. Jopek was signing copies of her latest CD and meeting fans. I quickly purchased two copies for my sisters and stood in line. Just ahead of me a nun, who was also a concert "groupie" of the artist, awaited her turn. The nun, who Jopek knew well, appeared to be overwhelmed with excitement. The two greeted each other and reminisced.

Upon meeting this contemporary music legend, I introduced myself and presented her with my PAJ Press business card. Ms. Jopek is the daughter of the late Stanisław Jopek, *Mazowsze's* vocal soloist extraordinaire. I relayed having known her father and told her of our conversations about the Opera World and my many articles and reviews of his work. We discussed her impending tour of the United States and I walked away exhilarated.

The next morning I met with the Mr. Kowalski for coffee, we discussed my work, along with specifics about the hotel and his Buffalo connection – his uncle moved to the city during World War II and recently died there. He promised that on my next visit he would connect me to the artistic personnel of the Jagiellonian University's folk group – *Słowianki*.

With a response from the museum, I headed across the plaza and up the stairs of the National Museum for a date with the artistic work of Zofia Stryjeńska.

*Continued next month*

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## HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Lech Walesa Honored

CHICAGO — May 29 was an eventful day for Chicago's Polonia. Lech Wałęsa, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient and former President of the Republic of Poland, was not only honored at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), but was the guest of honor at the "Freedom '89 – Born in Poland" concert which took place later in the evening. That afternoon approximately 500 guests witnessed Sharon K. Hahs, President of NEIU, along with its Board of Trustees, formally dedicate a campus building, Lech Wałęsa Hall, in honor of Wałęsa, a man who changed the course of history.

This dedication coincided with the official celebration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism in Poland, in which Wałęsa played an instrumental and important role. Wałęsa said "I never imagined that this would happen to me regular mortal ... to have you (NEIU) name a building after me ... I am overjoyed." He continued to say, with no written script in hand, "... (we) must look beyond the borders for the world to benefit and the USA must lead."

After a reception held at NEIU,



Lech Walesa and Anna Sokolowski at concert.

Wałęsa travelled to Chicago's Millennium Park and its Pritzker Pavilion to join over 5,000 concert goers, as the Chicago Polonian community celebrated the 20th anniversary of the non-violent fall of communism in Poland. Alan Krashesky, popular news co-anchor/reporter for ABCTV Chicago and Emmy award winning journalist, was the Master of Ceremonies of this emotionally-filled evening. Of the sev-

enteen pieces performed, eleven were Chopin compositions played in a classical style or in a jazz mode. This hour and one-half hour concert was a well-synchronized program with historic documentary films dating back to Stalin's stronghold on Poland, the struggles of the Poles during the communist era, the birth and subsequent strength of *Solidarność*, Pope John Paul II visit to Poland, followed by the



Ewa Pietrasienski, Sharon K. Hahs, and Walesa.

downfall of communism and rebirth of a Polish Republic. Lech Wałęsa was overwhelmingly pleased by this concert production. Not only were the performances outstanding, but Polish pride beamed with each and every number. Kudos to classical pianist Janusz Olejniczak, jazz pianist Leszek Możdżer, jazz vocalist Anna Serafińska, tenor Leszek Świdziński, as well as "Rock Loves Chopin" band, Chór PASO (Cho-

rus of the Paderewski Association Symphony Orchestra) Wici Dance Ensemble and Folies Dancing Company. Songs such as "For Poland to be Poland" and "Walls" brought the audience into emotional standing ovations and with tears in their eyes and Polish flags waving, the Pavilion vibrated with song and pride. The audience did not want the concert to end.



Kazimierz Garbacz; O. Regis Barwig, OSB; Michal Osuch; Bishop Thad Jakubowski, Archdiocese of Chicago; Cardinal Jozef Glemp; Kanon Jaroslaw Mrowczynski of Warsaw; Tadeusz Dzieszko.

**KATYN MEMORIAL DEDICATION.** It is estimated that over 4,000 Polish soldiers were executed in April 1940 in the Katyn Forest by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's secret police. During that same month the Soviets exterminated about 22,000 other citizens of Poland from the surrounding area in and around the Katyn Forest. Among the victims were Polish military personnel, some of Poland's intelligentsia, priests, police, and civilians

On May 17, over 1,000 Poles/Polish Americans gathered at St.

Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Ill., to attend a memorial mass and the formal dedication of the Katyn Massacre Memorial. Included among those in attendance were some of the widows and children of Katyn martyrs.

Jozef Cardinal Glemp, Primate of Poland, traveled from Poland to bless this memorial. The mass and the dedication were emotional events, as the crowd prayed in tear-filled silence. Concelebrating this memorial mass were Jozef Cardinal Glemp, Bishop Emeritus Thad



Katyn Memorial

Jakubowski and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Paprocki, both of the Archdiocese of Chicago; Rev. Michal Osuch, Pastor of St. Hyacinth Basilica, and Rev. Tadeusz Dzieszko, pastor of St. Constance Parish.

Designed by Polish artist/sculptor, Wojciech Seweryn, whose own father died at Katyn, this monument depicts the Blessed Mother holding a Polish Army officer, who hands are bound and a bullet in his head, a *Polish Pieta*. This memorial is a bronze and granite structure consisting of white granite angel wings symbolizing the white eagle, Poland's national emblem, a black granite cross, and a bronze "Pieta." It was erected through the efforts of the Alliance of Polish Clubs.



Alex Storozynski and Dr. James Pula.

**THE PEASANT PRINCE.** Friday, May 9 marked a wonderful evening at The Polish Museum of America. The Chicago Chapter of the Kościusko Foundation hosted a book review and soirée in which over 200 guests gathered to hear Alex Storozynski discuss his newly published book, *The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kościusko and the Age of Revolution*. How fitting that the recently-elected president of the Kościusko Foundation would write a history about Kościusko. Storozynski, a former NEW YORK DAILY NEWS writer and Pulitzer Prize winning editor, shared many unknown and documented facts about Kościusko and his major role as a Revolutionary War military genius,

facts not revealed in U.S. History books. Numerous guests wondered why Storozynski chose *The Peasant Prince* as the title of his book. Well, during the Kościusko Uprising of 1794 against Imperial Russia and the Kingdom of Prussia and wanting to identify with the valiantly brave peasant soldiers, Kościusko wore their white sheep skin coat so as to be in unity with them. After his presentation Storozynski signed copies of his book. Storozynski mentioned that many believe that Kościusko should be honored as a Revolutionary War hero, and not necessarily Pulaski. There are those who think it's all in the name! Kościusko is just too hard to pronounce.

**WITOLD RYBCZYNSKI.** On May 7, Chicago's Main Library, the Harold Washington Library, hosted Witold Rybczynski, award-winning architect, critic and author. Rybczynski discussed and later signed his new book, *My Two Polish Grandfathers: And Other Essays on the Imaginative Life*. This delightful and enlightening book, part memoir and part family history, is Rybczynski's personal story of the upheavals of his Polish parents' lives during World War II and "his own resulting intellectual development and the universal languages of art, music and architecture." The book is a col-



lection on nine autobiographical essays which encompass his parents' cultured and sophisticated lives in pre-World War II Warsaw, his mother's escape to Scotland, his father's involvement in the Polish resistance, his parents' miraculous reunion, the family's experience as Polish outsiders in Scotland, then the family's immigration to Quebec, Canada. Now a renowned architect and a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, Witold offered a tribute to a Polish generation that helped him in defining his postwar American cultural experience.

**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO HONORS PRCAU LEADER.** The Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry held its annual night of tribute to its Catechetical Ministers on May 12 at the Drury Lane in Oak Brook, Ill. The evening gathering honored those whose dedication, support and belief in the ministry of catechesis was recognized by parish leadership.

This trilingual event (English, Polish and Spanish) honored 199 individuals of whom 35 or more were Polish/Polish Americans.

Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of the Chicago Diocese, presented the awards.

However, what made this evening significantly important was the Special Recognition Award given only to Anna Sokolowski, Vice President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, for her role as a mentor, advisor, and promoter of Polish Youth Ministry.

It is only the second time that in this office's history that such an award was presented.

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## POLONIA EAGLE OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Hot Fun! Summertime in Polonia!

Once again, Summer in Western New York, Central New York and Southern Ontario presents a great opportunity to explore one's Polish roots and soul, and reconnect with the traditions of our forbears. Here is just a taste of the Polonia activities coming up in the area this Summer. All telephone numbers are in area code (716) unless otherwise noted. All events and activities are subject to cancellation and rescheduling by the sponsoring organization without notice.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 9 THROUGH SATURDAY, JULY 11

• BRANTFORD INTERNATIONAL VILLAGES FESTIVAL (Including Two Polish Villages). Brantford, Ont. (519-756-8767)

## SATURDAY, JULY 11

• BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS PICNIC (Featuring the Knewz). 2:00 p.m. Lamm Post Grove, Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. \$15/Member; \$1August Non-Member. Chris (892-7977)

• JERRY DARLAK & THE TOUCH IN CONCERT. Batavia Downs and Gaming, Batavia

## SUNDAY, JULY 12

• OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA / POLISH DAY MASS (Featuring Soprano Brittany Mruczek). 1:30 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Road, Lewiston. (754-7489)

• IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LAWN FETE (Featuring the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY). 2:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Parish Grounds, Rte. 62, Eden

## FRI. JULY 17- SUN., JULY 19

• 31ST ANNUAL CHEEKTOWAGA POLISH AMERICAN FESTIVAL (Featuring the Knewz, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, Rick Gazda Band, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Maestro's Men, Polish American String Band and Bud Hudenski & the Corsairs). 4:45PM (Fri.); 2:30PM (Sat.); 3:00P (Sun.). Cheektowaga Town Park, 2600 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga. Hon. Mary Holtz (686-3465)

## SAT., JULY 18 AND SUN., JULY 19

• SPIRIT, THE MUSICAL (A Play by Michael and Paul Marszalkowski; Directed by Tony Pastor Jr.). 7:30PM (Sat.); 2:00PM (Sun.). St. Francis High School, The Theater, Alumni Hall, 4129 Lakeshore Road, Athol Springs. \$12. (400-4190)

• POLISH AMERICAN FESTIVAL MASS (Celebrant: Rev. David Bialkowski; Featuring the Quo Vadis Choir and S. Maximillian Kolbe Assembly Honor Guard). 4:30 p.m. Cheektowaga Town Park, 2600 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga

## SUNDAY, JULY 19

• GENERAL PULASKI ASSOCIATION PARADE (Grand Marshall: Sandi

Schmid). 1:30 p.m. Harlem Road, Cheektowaga. Mira Szramel (681-6739)

## FRI. JULY 24-SAT., JULY 25

• SPIRIT, THE MUSICAL (A Play by Michael and Paul Marszalkowski; Directed by Tony Pastor Jr.). 7:30 p.m. St. Francis High School, The Theater, Alumni Hall, 4129 Lakeshore Road, Athol Springs. \$12. (400-4190)

## SAT., JULY 25-SUN., JULY 26

• ST. CASIMIR LAWN FETE. Noon. St. Casimir Parish Center, 1833 Clinton Street, Buffalo

## SUNDAY, JULY 26

• POLKA VARIETY CLUB PICNIC. Chicken Coop, 299 Leydecker Road, West Seneca. Len Zak (896-1476)

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

• CREEKSIDE CONCERT SERIES (Featuring the Bedrock Boys). 7:00 p.m. Pulaski Cultural Center, Cheektowaga Town Park, 2600 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga

## FRI., AUGUST 7- SAT., AUGUST 8

• ST. STANISLAUS PARISH FESTIVAL. St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Hudson Avenue & Norton Street, Rochester. (585-467-3068)

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

• BUFFALO BISON'S POLISH FESTIVAL NIGHT (Honoring Renee Harzewski and Roger Puchalski of the Am-Pol Eagle Newspaper; Featuring the Knewz at the Tent Party; Game vs. the Rochester Red Wings). 5:00 p.m. Coca Cola Stadium, 1 James D. Griffin Square (275 Washington Street), Buffalo. Mark Gordon (846-2018)

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

• ROCHESTER RHINOS SOCCER POLISH NIGHT (Game vs. Portland Timbers). 7:35 p.m. Marina Auto Field, 460 Oak Street, Rochester. Gene Golomb (585-323-2106)

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

• MASS (Featuring Soprano Brittany Mruczek). 11:00AM. Assumption Church, 435 Amherst Street, Buffalo. (875-7626)

• POLKA MASS (Featuring John Stanczyk & the Statesmen). 11:30AM. Annunciation Church, 7580 Clinton Street, Elma. (684-7439)

• ANNUNCIATION LAWN FETE (Featuring Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push and the Polka Country Musicians). Annunciation Parish Grounds, 7580 Clinton Street, Elma. (683-5254)

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

• RAY SERAFIN'S BRASS MAGIC IN CONCERT. 6:30 p.m. Irondequoit Gazebo Farmers Market, 1280 Titus Avenue, Irondequoit. (585-323-2106)

## SAT., AUG. 22 AND SUN., AUG. 23

• CORPUS CHRISTI DOZYNKI POLISH

HARVEST FESTIVAL. Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark Street, Buffalo. (896-1050)

• ZABAWA FESTIVAL (Featuring the Knewz). Holy Trinity Parish Grounds, 2220 Reed Street, Erie, PA. (814-456-0671)

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

• OWL FAMILY PICNIC (Featuring Jerry Darlak & the Touch). Noon. Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. \$20. Hank Mazurek

• JERRY DARLAK & THE TOUCH AT THE FAIR. 1:00 p.m. Slade Park, Erie County Fair, 5600 McKinley Pkwy., Hamburg

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

• SENIOR CONCERT SERIES (Featuring the City Side). 6:00 p.m. Cheektowaga Senior Center Gazebo, 3349 Broadway, Cheektowaga. (686-3930)

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

• ROCHESTER REDWINGS BASEBALL POLISH NIGHT (Game vs. the Buffalo Bisons). 7:05 p.m. Frontier Field, One Morrie Silver Way, Rochester. Gene Golomb (585-323-2106)

## SUN., SEPT. 16- TUES., SEPT. 8

• POLISH FILM FESTIVAL TORONTO. Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Avenue, Toronto, Ont. (416-531-9950)

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

• FAREWELL TO SUMMER (Benefit for the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan). 6:00 p.m. Millennium Hotel 2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. Ed Reska (648-0370)

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

• DOZYNKI POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL (Featuring the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY). Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster. (685-5766)

• BACK IN THE SIANDA (Featuring Stas Bulanda). 6:00 p.m. Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. \$12. (837-2684)

## SEPTEMBER 19- 20

• RONCESVALLES POLISH FESTIVAL (Featuring the John Gora Band, Concertina All Stars, Freeze Dried, Polka Family Band, Lechowia, Radosc Joy, Cracovia, and Many Others). Noon. Roncesvalles Avenue, Toronto, Ont. (416-537-2701)

**POLONIA TIDBITS.** City of Buffalo Corporation Counsel **Alisa Lukaszewicz** unexpectedly resigned her position to return to the private practice of law in late May ... The **Buffalo-Rzesow Sister City Committee** invited interested persons to join its Facebook group, Buffalo Rzesow Sister Cities International ... OperaBuff of WNY named **Dr. Thomas Witakowski** its Educator of the Year ... NYS Court of Claims

**Judge John Michalski** of Amherst was reappointed by Governor Patterson and is awaiting confirmation by the Senate ... **Peter Jassem**, chair of the Toronto Chapter of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, was recently presented with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland ... NYS Assembly Member **Dennis Gabryszak** of Cheektowaga has been named chair of the Legislative Task Force on University -Industry Co-operation.

**St. Adalbert Basilica Parish and School** held a general reunion dinner and the **Polish Army Veterans Association of America** hosted its 30th National Convention in Grand Island at the end of May ... Lancaster resident **Mark Pietruszka** was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America ... **Justin Kohan** of Hamburg passed his audition for the Erie County Fair Pepsi All-Stars Marching Band. He was also accepted to a week-long jazz camp at SUNY Fredonia ... The Polish-Canadian Yacht Club **Zawisza Czarny** hosted its Zawisza Cup regatta in Hamilton, Ontario the last weekend of May ... WNY native **Tina Parol** (born Tina Borusowski), who wrote the song "Rock Boy" for Britney Spears' Circus CD, has her own hit with Who's Got Your Money? ... The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo honored **Peter Gorecki** at its Biesiada Dinner at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca on the 3rd ... Polish pianist **Beata Golec** performed and served as the artistic director for "A Concert to Benefit the Supper Program at Rochester's Blessed Sacrament Church on June 5. More information on Ms. Golec is available at <http://www.beatagolec.us/>.

The Subversive Theatre's run of **Slawomir Mrozek's** one-act play "On The Sea at the Great Arrow Building in Buffalo" closed on June 6 ... **Drew Cerza**, Buffalo's Wing King, has been named interim president of the Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau ... The **Polish Literary Club** of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester presented a Polish language program entitled "Romanticism in Polish Literature" in the garden of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on June 7 ... On June 7, Buffalo native **Tom Dudzick's** new play, "Our Lady of South Division Street" closed at Stony Point's Barn Playhouse and Olean's **Transfiguration Parish** held its 100th Anniversary Polish Festival ... **Rev. Christopher Zuger** of Texas, who is writing a book about the experiences of Polish refugees in Siberia, visited with local Siberian survivors before the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress meeting at St. Stanislaus Parish on June 11.

The **Polish Legacy Project in Buffalo** — World War II has established an online discussion site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PolandBuffaloWWII/> ... A new source of information about the artistic offerings in the **Toronto Polonia** can be found at <http://artspolonia.engineersource.org/> ... June 14 brought the



PHOTO: DAVID G. ROSNER

**PAGEANT WINNERS.** Pictured above are the First Place winners of the Polish Heritage Festival Pageant, held at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg, N.Y., May 29-30. By category, they are: Babies: Madison Smith; Sweetheart (ages 3-5): Rachel LaRussa; Countess (ages 6-8): Whitney Verbeck; Duchess (ages 9-12): Katie Kromer; Princess (ages 13-16): Morgan Breski; and Queen (17 and over): Corinne Lasek.

**Annual Corpus Christi procession** between St. Stanislaus Church and Corpus Christi Church on Buffalo's East Side, the **Annual Polish Veterans' Pilgrimage** to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, and the **Chopin Singing Society's** performance in the Lackawanna Centennial Concert at the Our Lady of Victory Basilica.

**Lucyna Diedzic** taught a Polish for Travelers language course as part of the Maryvale Community Education program in Cheektowaga during June ... The **Polish Combatants' Association** of Canada held a banquet In Tribute to the Canadian Veterans of Afghanistan at the Toronto SPK Hall on the 20th ... The **Polish Canadian Open Golf Tournament** took place at the Granite Ridge Golf Club in Milton, Ontario on June 20 and 21 ... The **Polish Consulate** in Toronto presented "Noc W Weneccji" on the 21st ... Also on the 21st, the 4th Annual **John Paul II Grand Parade** was held in Brampton, Ontario ... **Valerian Ruminski** appeared as "Basilio" in a production of the Barber of Seville at the Riviera Theater in North Tonawanda at the end of June.

The **General Pulaski Association** announced that Alexandra Sandi Lawkowski Schmid will be the Grand Marshall of this year's Pulaski Parade in Cheektowaga on July 19 ... "Spirit," The Musical, a play written by WNYers Michael and Paul Marszalkowski, will be staged at St. Francis High School in Athol Springs on July 18, 19, 24 and 25. More information on this show can be found at [www.spirit-musical.com/](http://www.spirit-musical.com/) or the SPIRIT Facebook page ... The Buffalo Bisons baseball team will honor **Renee Harzewski** and **Roger Puchalski** at its Annual Polish Festival Night at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 11. Group tickets are available from Mark Gordon at (716) 846-2018 ... "They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust," the work of Toronto artist **Mayer Kirshenblatt**, will be on display in the Jewish Museum in New York City until October.

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. July 6 for the August edition) at: POLEGL, P. O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223.

My e-mail address is: [pietruska@verizon.net](mailto:pietruska@verizon.net).

For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, visit my website at [www.polegl.org](http://www.polegl.org).

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## Another Success for Arts Club



Ewa Bialecki and Jolanta Pawlikowski

CHICAGO — The Polish Arts Club of Chicago held the successful opening of its 73rd Annual Fine Arts Exhibition on May 17 in the Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America. Approximately 200 guests had the opportunity to view the talents of 40 artists and sculptors, who displayed 117 varied works of art. Jolanta Pawlikowski chaired this juried exhibition. The judges of this exhibition were Jerzy Kenar, renowned sculptor, Jan Sliwinski, artist and scenographer, and Agnieszka Ziemacka-Masters, art historian and critic. First Prize awards of \$500 were given to both Ewa Bialecki for

her oil painting entitled "The Sunset" and to Slawomir Murawski's bronze sculpture, "Bicyclist." The Second Prize winner, receiving \$300, was Andrzej Domanski for his oil, "Landscape", and the Third Prize winner was Piotr Bialecki, receiving \$200 for his oil, "Przedwiosnie" (Spring). Seven - \$100 prizes was given to those receiving Honorary Mention status. These artists were Anna Cieslikowska, Charlotte Sasser, Lidia Rozmus, Anastasia Luka Schupp, Jolanta Nawrocka, as well as sculptors, Marta Niziolek and Dariusz Smoll. This exhibition closed on June 6.

—Geraldine Balut Coleman

### Two Poles Among Flight 447 Victims

PARIS — Two Poles were among the victims in the Air France Flight 447 disaster. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Warsaw said that two young Poles were on the flight's passenger list according to information received from a travel agency in Poznan where the tickets were purchased.

The French Foreign Ministry also confirmed that two Polish citizens were on board the plane. The ill-fated French airbus was en route to Paris from Rio de Janeiro with 228 passengers on board.

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## PAHA

[www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)

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 \$30.00.



I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

MAIL TO: PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050

HAMTRAMCK BEAT / Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

## Hamtramck Remembers Little League World Championship

Hamtramck has long been known as a sports town, not surprising considering the number of notable sports figures who have had their roots here. Inside the Hamtramck Community Center, row upon row of photos of outstanding athletes grace the walls of the Conklin Hall located on the second floor.

The town reached its apex of sports success with Hamtramck's win at the Little League World Series 50 years ago with the 1959 Little League and 1961 Pony League World Champions.

**WORLD CHAMPS.** This summer, the Hamtramck Recreation Department, along with the Hamtramck Historical Commission, will honor that extraordinary team and its accomplishment, Saturday, July 25, 2009.

According to the online e-newsletter, HAMTRAMCK STAR, the 1959 Hamtramck roster included John Chester, Charles Cline, Sidney Cline, Richard Dembeck, Arthur Deras, Reginald Ferrebe, William Heald, Kenneth Jones, Steven Lepkowski, Michael Milewski, Mark Modich, Joseph Piasecki, Eugene Pionkowski, James Polich, Gregory Priewski, Matthew Przytoysz and Mark Scott. The Hamtramck Star has a link to this original roster of the memorable team.

Among the festivities scheduled for July 25 will be a 2009 Little League Exhibition Game at Playfair/Keyworth Stadium followed by a commemoration luncheon from 1-3 p.m. at the Polish National Alliance Banquet Hall at 10211 Conant Ave. From 3:30 to 8:30 p.m., a community carnival will be held at Keyworth Stadium. At 8:45 p.m., Outdoor Cinema will present a showing of the movie, "The Sandlot," also at the stadium. For more information, contact Tara Althahabe at the Hamtramck Recreation Department at (313) 892-2637.

**OPEN-AIR MARKET.** Vendors are invited to sell their goods at the city's second annual International Bazaar held on the last Saturday from May through September at the city-owned parking lot on Caniff at McDougall from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**POLISH DAY PARADE.** Hamtramck's historic sports win will also be celebrated via the Polish Day Parade theme this year, according to Judge John Chmura, parade chairman. The parade kicks off at 1:30 p.m. on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2009.

The deadline for parade participants to send in their registration is July 20. Applications may be ob-

tained by going to the parade Web site at [polishdayparade.com](http://polishdayparade.com). For more information, also contact the chairman's office at (586) 574-4925. Wally Ozog, national president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, PRCUA, will serve as this year's Grand Marshal.

**STATE OF THE CITY.** Mayor Karen Majewski gave her State of the City Address, June 7 at the Hamtramck Public Library, Albert J. Zak Memorial. Among her remarks were the following: "... I can tell you that, when Gov. Jennifer Granholm's Cities of Promise program was initiated in Hamtramck several years ago, like all the targeted cities, we chose a signature project — a single project that would be our showpiece. In those years, the Cities of Promise team has been of invaluable support to us, opening many doors in Lansing, helping us build working relationships across the State of Michigan, facilitating opportunities for assistance, and helping us navigate sometimes convoluted processes.

"Through the intrepid advocacy of this team, I'm happy to say this much: we are now in very serious negotiation with DTE (Detroit Energy) to secure a building for our Signature Project, the Hamtramck Historical Museum. As you know, this is a cause dear to my heart, as an historian and archivist. I expect the remaining steps to proceed relatively quickly, and to be able to come back to you with more exciting details very soon."

**SCREENPLAY IN THE WORKS.** Matt Feazell, husband of Karen Majewski is at work on a screenplay. In an e-mail, he writes, "This is for a live-action, feature-length movie based on my comic strip character. It'll be an all-ages comedy with a boy-meets-girl theme and lots of zombies. The film group interested in producing it was also behind the vampire movie, "After the Blood Rush," that was filmed in Hamtramck two years ago.

"The Amazing Cynicalman' will be a low, low, low budget movie, but I hope it will be as much fun to watch as it is to make," said Feazell. "We've got a short teaser up on YouTube and it's embedded on my Web site: <http://home.comcast.net/~mattfeazell/MOVIE/index.htm>

**PUBLICATION CEASED.** THE CITIZEN shut down April 21, 2009, after 75 years of community service to Hamtramck. The Medow and Mayberry News Group also stopped publication of its two other suburban papers.

**NEW PAPER.** THE HAMTRAMCK RE-

VIEW has become the replacement for THE CITIZEN. A past "Citizen" owner, Mike Wilcox is the editor/publisher while Charles Sercombe also holds the editor position. The Hamtramck Review is distributed on Fridays as a complimentary publication. For more information, e-mail [hamtramckreview@yahoo.com](mailto:hamtramckreview@yahoo.com). The Web address is [www.hamtramckreview.com](http://www.hamtramckreview.com).

**POLISH NIGHT.** On July 8, Polish Night will be celebrated at Comerica Park when the Detroit Tigers square off against the Kansas City Royals. The PRCUA sponsors the pre-game entertainment starting at 6:30 p.m. According to Barbara (Raczynski) Toboy, PRCUA national director District 10, the show spotlights Polish folk dance groups, the introduction of representatives from various Polonian organizations, and the singing of the Polish and American national anthems. Game time is 7:05 p.m. For tickets, contact Ralph Raczynski at (586) 754-0411 or Lesley Marshall at (313) 471-2257.

**PNA COURSE.** The Polish National Alliance Educational Department will once again host the PNA Youth Course at the Orchard Lake Schools during July 18-25. Students, ages 10-15, are eligible to participate in the Polish language, song and dance summer course.

Sprinkled in-between the studies are arts and crafts, dances, an ice cream social and other activities designed to give the youth, who come from across the country, an enjoyable and educational experience. For more information, contact the PNA Educational Department at (800) 621-3723, ext. 312 or at the PNA Web site: [www.pna-znp.org](http://www.pna-znp.org). Theresa Abick, a PNA national vice president, originally from Michigan, organized the summer course. Barbara Martin, a PNA national director, and other Michiganders serve as hosts.

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER.** Rev. Stanley Ulman, former longtime pastor at Hamtramck's St. Ladislaus Roman Catholic Church, was the commencement speaker at the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary graduation ceremonies at the Orchard Lake Schools campus.

**PERSONAL MUSINGS.** My best wishes go out to my friend, Frances Palaszynski of Lackawanna, New York. I look forward to attending the Alliance College reunion held in October at The Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania. I hope to see Frani and other former Kujawiaki members with whom I shared so many good times.



## How Will You Be Remembered?

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can

specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. **The National Polish Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that needs your help and legacy.**

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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

## Maestro's Men Release New CD

COLCHESTER, Conn. — Dennis Polisky and The Maestro's Men have released a new CD "Don't Stop The Music."

The new recording features vocals by Jackie Libera, Rich Bernier and special guest Eddie Skinger. Polkas, obereks and a waltz make up the seventeen selections.

"This recording has been a long time coming. I actually starting writing ideas for the CD in early 2007," said Polisky "Sadly, that year, my dad Ray took ill. Of course my focus and our entire family focus was on dad."

Ray Polisky, who was Dennis' clarinet and sax teacher, idol and best friend, passed away in January 2008. Ray inherited all his instruments, music and papers.

"As I was going through his papers I found one he left me slightly faded titled 'Don't Stop The Music.' This touched me deeply. I know dad would want me to continue and move on with the music he had taught me," said Polisky.

Inspired, he went back to the songs he started in 2007 and renamed the project "Don't Stop The Music."

Unfortunately in July 2008 while performing on stage, Dennis suffered a detached retina. "Within 48 hours I found myself in emergency surgery. I was grateful the surgery was successful, but I was laid up for six weeks."



**DENNIS POLISKY WITH HIS DAD** during his first polka band performance. "This was my first year of lessons from dad and later that same year I had the honor of performing with him," said Maestro's Men leader Dennis Polisky. "I am so grateful someone snapped this picture. It was a long time ago but to me seems like it was just yesterday."

It was during his recovery time the remainder of the songs and ideas came to Polisky. "Our title song sung by Jackie Libera tells the story of that note from dad and what it meant to me. In December we began the recording process. To me there was something extra special about this recording. The band played their hearts out. I wanted everything to be extra special down to every detail. I performed the entire CD using my dad's clarinet mouthpiece. I felt he was there watching over this project. This recording means a lot to us."

To order your CD send \$17.00 (includes shipping) to: Dennis Polisky, 28 Westerly Terr., Colchester, CT 06415.

You can join the band's mailing list by writing to Karen. olszewski@comcast.net, or by visiting its website www.maestrosmen.com.

### THE POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

## The Fabulous Jolly J's: The Interview

Has it been 33 years since we last heard the Jolly J's live on stage? I can't recall the first time I saw The Jolly J's. It may have been at Erie Polka Days, but it was their appearances at The Fountain's Pavilion, a 1940s dance hall in Johnson City, NY, that had infected me with their power, presence and polkas. It gave me a chance to meet them one-on-one.

They were polka family before there was a Polka Family. They had youth, stage dynamics, crowd participation, and started a polka revolution which just happened to be the title of one of their most popular record albums.

Hailing from Ohio, the band started as a family band, The Jancura Trio, and became five strong with Ron Jancura on trumpet, Rose (Saxy Rose) Jancura on clarinet and sax, Linda Jancura on accordion, Rich Gretchen on drums and Gary Pastor on bass as the original group. In the years to follow, the band began traveling all over the country with Ron Jancura as the leader, Rose Jancura/Rosnick now Zelinski, Linda Jancura now Gretchen, Rich Gretchen, John Rosnick, and Frank Santa.

The J's appearance on the Polka Variety Television show increased the recognition and popularity of

the group and their 45 RPM record, "Jolly Submarine" polka. The Jasiu i Marysia" waltz, was rated among the top hits for 1967. They played for the 1968 United States Polka Association Convention in Connecticut.

Recently I was able to re-connect with Rose and Ron of the J's and exchange some thoughts about the band and their glory days on stage and touring with the famous Jolly J's bus. They graciously agreed to an interview about those "Swing & Sway" days with the Jolly J's. ("Swing & Sway with the Jolly J's" was another hit album released by the band)

**Polka Insider:** In their era The Jolly J's were innovative and ahead of their time especially with their music, on stage performances and crowd participation. Did the band realize just how ahead of the curve they were at that time?

**Jolly J's:** We realized that there were a lot of bands with great sounds and styles but we wanted to be true to our style and develop our sound. One of the great quotes that still makes sense is: "You can read the book or you can write the book."

What made us unique besides playing our original songs, was our choreography with our songs, our jumping up and down, having two girls in the band, our young good looks (quoted by several polka articles), our variety in sounds with everyone in the group being able to sing, and playing from our hearts. We really loved it and loved the people.

**Polka Insider:** How many albums did the Jolly J's record?

**Jolly J's:** We recorded six al-

bums: "Swing and Sway with the Jolly J's," "Playing In a Polka Band," "We Love You," "Polka Revolution," "Love Again and Always, and "Top of the World."

**Polka Insider:** "Polka Revolution" is probably the song I remember most from those days. It certainly had an impact on your fans. What particular songs do you feel became identified specifically with the Jolly

"Polka Revolution" written by Ron was powerful; Rich on the Polish vocals, especially, "Zegnal Goral." Rose singing "Top of the World," Rose and Linda singing "Pognala Wolki," Ron and Rose singing most of the songs Ron had written, along with the ones already mentioned. Our ending was unique. We'd have the people in front of us jumping up and down with a medley of polkas already mentioned. And the crowd kept wanting more even after the "Polish National Anthem" and "God Bless America."

**Polka Insider:** How would you describe the polka scene, festivals, at that time?

**Jolly J's:** Spectacular! Fun to

the max! Lots of multi-day events with great bands, fans, and good fun! From Detroit to New London to Ocean Beach to Cleveland to Long Island to upstate New York and Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, and Ohio and New Jersey and Maryland and West Virginia. Polkas were a hit and crowds would participate by singing, dancing in lines in front of the stage, and — of course — jumping up and down with the band.

**Polka Insider:** When did the band quit performing and why?

**Jolly J's:** We quit in 1976 and it was time after 18 years of playing as a group.

**Polka Insider:** Are any of the former Jolly J's still involved in music, especially polka music?

**Jolly J's:** Most of the J's felt like it was not as enjoyable to play without their Jolly J family. Just recently as a hobby we have started working on putting some of the old songs on

CDs for our personal enjoyment.

**Polka Insider:** What did life bring to the Jolly J's after the band?

**Jolly J's:** Rose taught vocal music in junior high school for 33 1/2 years and is now still substituting music in Ohio and West Virginia. Ron works for an investment agency. Linda works for the Post Office. Rich still plays occasionally with the Yudash Family Band. Frank Santa still plays bass in various polka bands.

**Rose:** Being a music teacher, and involved with all kinds of music, but nothing comes close to the sounds of a good polka.

**Polka Insider:** Would the band ever consider a "reunion" performance, either live or on recording?

**Jolly J's:** We were able to play for our parents' anniversary and played at two family weddings.

**Polka Insider:** Any other comments you wish to add?

**Jolly J's:** Thank you for helping us remember those days when we were young. We are grateful to have had the chance to make so many good friends and enjoy the true meaning of the words "We Love You."

◆◆◆

Love again and always from the Jolly J's!



Ron Jancura (trumpet); Rose Jancura Rosnick Zelinski (sax/clarinet); John Rosnick (accordion); Linda Jancura Gretchen (accordion); Fran Santa (bass) and Rich Gretchen (drums).



Ron Jancura



Rose Jancura Rosnick Zelinski

## NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

## Got Knewz, Again

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On May 17, the **Knewz** had its big CD release party at Potts Hall. Everything was just great: the crowd, the band, the music, the people, the food, and the new CD entitled, *Got Knewz. Again*, the Knewz have put together a pleasing mixture of many original new tunes and some older ones, sure to make everyone happy. It was nice to see three generations of many families in attendance, including the **Richie Kurdziel** family, the **George Pasierb** family, and the **Wally Matyjas** family. Twins **Jackie** and **Paul Picciano** were continuing the celebration of their 40th birthday. Their brother, **Tom**, is the leader of the Knewz and proud parents are **Joanne** and **Dave**. Also, it was nice to see newlyweds **Julie** and **John Rhodes** here as they had gotten married the day before at Shanghai Red's. Julie is the daughter of **Pat** and **Chet Sobotka**. Congratulations to all of the above.

**CONGRATULATIONS ...** I also have to mention that **Lori Urbanczyk** earned her Master's degree in Special Education ... We have to congratulate **Barb** and **Hank Krzykowski** on the birth of their first grandchild. Their daughter **Kara** gave birth to a baby girl, **Amelia**, on May 25 ... On June 3, **Nicholas Machelski, Jr.** was born. Proud parents are **Kimberly** and **Nicholas Machelski** and smiling grandparents are **Carol** and **Ken Machelski**. The Machelski name lives on! ... **Dennis** and **Lynn Ratajczak** had their grand wedding reception at the Protocol on May 30 ... Congrats to **Elizabeth Rozek**, who graduated from Erie Community College. A huge party was held at Lamm Post on June 14.

**GET WELL WISHES ...** go out to **Len Zak**, president of the Polka Variety Club. Our good wishes go out to everyone!

**AT THE FAIRGROUNDS.** The weekend of May 29 and 30, the **Pol-**

**ish Heritage** festival took place at the Hamburg Fairgrounds. I did stop by on Friday night to see **John Gora & Gorale**, and they did an excellent job. John is such a great entertainer — singing out in the audience, dancing and talking to the young children and just getting everyone involved. It was appreciated that all the entertainment was indoors this year. They did have a nice variety of bands, singers, dancers, food, contests, pageants, displays, etc. for only a \$5 admission and of course, parking was free.

**WHAT A CROWD!** On May 30, **St. Adalbert's Basilica** had a reunion which included tours of the school and church, a Mass featuring the Chopin Singing Society and a dinner reception catered by Potts with music by the **Concertina All Stars** at the Harvey Morin Post. I was just amazed at the response this reunion received. There were close to 500 people at the dinner dance! The committee who arranged all this should be commended for doing a wonderful job. It was interesting to see the displays set up featuring many photos of First Communion classes, Graduations, classroom photos, etc. I personally did not attend St. Adalbert's, I lived in Kaisertown and went to St. Casimer's. However, it was nice to see many familiar faces at this event.

**IN SYMPATHY.** I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to **Mark Trzepacz** and family on the passing of his brother, **Michael**, on May 29 ... Also, my condolences to **James Jozwiak** and family on the death of his mother, **Dorothy**, on May 30. (James was in charge of the Polish Heritage Fest) May they rest in peace.

**RAY JAY COMES TO TOWN.** I couldn't wait for June 6 to arrive when I heard **Ray Jay & the Carousels** were booked for the opening of the Lamm Grove. It's been many years since Ray Jay appeared in our



John Gora (with microphone) and Gorale at the Polish Heritage Festival.



Bob Wilcox and Hank Krzykowski at the Fairgrounds for the festival.



Peter Wojcik and Sue Krysa at Pott's for the Knewz's CD release party.



Twins Jackie and Paul Picciano celebrated their 40th birthday at Pott's.

area and the band has always been one of my favorites. There was a moderate crowd there but I thought the place would be packed. Ray Jay and the band started right on time and that distinctive sound and Chicago style was right on from the first number to the last. So many favorites were heard this evening such as "I'll Marry You Next Saturday," "Bije Mamcia," and "Pin-Up Girl." It was great to hear so many recognizable polka tunes with clear and precise Polish vocals. There were no trendy tunes or rock numbers set to a polka beat but polkas, obereks and waltzes played like they were in the past.

I did ask Ray Jay (last name is Jarusinski) if any new recordings would be forthcoming and he said probably. I also talked to one of the band members, Ed Ogrodny about his nephew Ryan Ogrodny. You remember Ryan who sang and played violin with Henny and VersaJ's for many years. Well, Ryan and his

mom Diane are in Nashville where Ryan is very much involved in country music. He is doing well and loves it!

**REUNION SCHEDULED.** Do you remember the *Polka Saturday Night* TV show from the 1980s featuring **Big Steve & the Bellares**? Well Robin Pegg is working hard putting together a tribute to Big Steve and the band that played on the show, which will be held on Nov. 28 at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, NY. That is the Saturday after Thanksgiving so keep this date open as this will be a special event! In connection with this dance, I will be talking to the members of the band and sharing their memories with you in future columns.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4 — Phocus plays in the July 4th Parade from the Thruway Mall to Town Park

July 4 — Bedrock Boys play in the pavilion at Cheektowaga Town Park from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. followed by the Boys of Summer

July 4 — The Knewz are playing at the Seven Springs fest in Champion, Pa.

July 8 — Cityside — Hamlin Park concert series — 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Bring lawn chairs Girard St., East Aurora, NY

July 11 — Polka Boosters An-

## Honky Express Plays PNC Polka Dance

WALTON HILLS, Ohio — Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church presents its first polka dance Sat., July 25, with music by Cleveland's Honky Express. The event will take place at Sacred Heart PNCC Hall, 14660 Alexander Rd.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. with music and dancing from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Polish food and a cash bar will be available. No BYOB.

For more info or large table res-

ervations call Fr. Jerry at (440) 317-0695.

nual Picnic at the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr. Williamsville, NY from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Food, refreshments and music by the Knewz. Member are \$15 and non-members are \$18 - Children under 5 are free and kids between 6 and 12 pay \$10.00. There will be a Chinese Auction. For Info — call Chris at 716-892-7977 or Ron at 773-6387 Everyone is welcome!

July 11 — Jerry Darlak and the Touch play at the Taste of Buffalo, Huron St. stage downtown from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

July 16 — Jerry Darlak — Boat ride on the Lockport Locks

July 16 - 19 Cheektowaga Town Park Polish Fest - Starts off on Thurs. at 7:00 p.m. with the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra. The following days, there will be a Parade, dancers and singers and music by The Knewz, Polka Family, Rick Gazda, Maestro's Men, Polish American String Band (the Mummies), and Bud Hundenski and the Corsairs with Joe Macielag. Lots of great free entertainment!

July 25 — Cityside plays in the Entertainment Tent at Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Lawn fete from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

July 26 — Cityside appears in the Beer Tent from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. John Vianney Lawn Fete on Southwestern Blvd. in Orchard Park, N.Y.

## Christmas in July Dance

PARMA, Ohio — Cleveland Polka Association's "Christmas in July" with Santa, koledy (Polish Christmas carols) and the music of Andy Fenus & the Trel Tones, will take place Sun., July 19, 2009 at St. Sava's Picnic Grove 2300 W. Ridgewood Drive in Parma. Gates open at 2:00 p.m. with music from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00. For more info call: (216) 661-5227.

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# NARAS Dumps Polka Grammy Category

Reactions Vary from "now things have gone too far" to "business as usual"

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — The trustees of the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) voted to rename and expand the Folk Field, restructure the Latin Field, and eliminate the Best Polka Album category. This brings the total number of Grammy categories that will be recognized in January 2010 to 109.

Due to the increasing growth of traditional music, The Academy has split the category Best Contemporary Folk/Americana into two categories: Best Contemporary Folk Album and Best Americana Album. Additionally, the Folk Field has been renamed American Roots Music, which will now include the Best Traditional Blues Album, Best Contemporary Blues Album and Best Bluegrass Album categories. In the Latin Field, the Best Latin Urban Album will now be combined with Latin Rock or Alternative into Best Latin Rock, Alternative Or Urban Album. To ensure the Awards process remains representative of the current musical landscape, the Best Polka Album has been eliminated, which brings the total number of Grammy categories to 109.

For more information about The Academy, please visit [www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com).

## What Are They Saying?

### Reaction to the End of an Era

Below is a sampling of the comments from the the alt.music.polkas newsgroup, newspaper and news service releases, and other public forums. Because many people mask their identities on alt.music.polkas, in most cases we are only listing their username or first name.

"Polka fans are used to being mocked and maligned, but now things have gone too far."

— **Kathy Flanigan** of the (Milwaukee) Journal Sentinel

[I feel] "a little bad, but I'm grateful, man ... The Academy did a lot, not only recognizing me but recognizing polka music ..."

— **Jimmy Sturr**, who has dominated the category with 18 wins in the past 24 years, in *The Republican*, Springfield, Massachusetts.

"In retrospect, the polka Grammy was dominated by one person, which caused other polka professionals to say 'why should I participate' and therefore the lack of entries (sic) each year hurt the status of polka music."

— **bakergeorge65** on alt.music.polkas.

"If there were 1000 polka musicians paying their yearly dues, NARAS would think twice about 'dissing' polkas. They would not want to lose the revenue. Until all of polkadam unites with a valid polka organization, like folk, country and others have, we will just be an amusement to 'big' business."

— **Accmandan** on alt.music.polkas.

"I think the fact that it was so dominated by one artist ... that kind of killed the incentive for a lot of people to enter."

— **Carl Finch**, whose *Tex-Mex-Tejano-Conjunto-Polka fusion band Brave Combo* upset *Sturr* to take the award in 1999 and 2004, on the impact of *Sturr's* Grammy success on other polka musicians.

"Sorry guys, but this is elimination of a category with a lack of overall participation from musical groups of a genre of music where the sales of CDs of each band or artist probably consist of at most a few thousand CDs. (If that!) We are basically turning into an underground music type with an ever-shrinking demographic. Yes, we have fans. No, Polka music is not dead, but we cannot expect to be recognized on a national level with these other types, styles or genres of music."

— **Ted Borzymowski** on alt.music.polkas.

"This decision is reflected by the number of entries, and the number of entries are telling us that there aren't many Polka albums being produced. As a result, Polka music is being incorporated into folk music and we're encouraging Polka artists to still make entries. They would either be entered into Contemporary Folk Album or Traditional Folk Album."

— **NARAS' Vice President of Awards Bill Freimuth**.

"They must have meant something else. How foolish, if that's what they think. Polka's been around for hundreds of years. I think that they're saying we really didn't have enough entries. Last year, there were about 35. A lot of the other categories didn't have that many ..."

— **Jimmy Sturr** in the *Albany (N.Y.) Times Herald-Record*

"The fact of the matter is we are a small niche in what is a gigantic musical landscape. And as the internet gets more prevalent around the world, the amount of music available to everyone gets even larger. Every year, we have fewer bands, fewer dances, fewer festivals. One can point fingers endlessly as to who's at fault for this. It's life."

— **Daigs** on alt.music.polkas.

"I feel that the academy's decision to remove the polka category from their competition is discrimi-

natory against a music genre that has been part of the American culture for more than a hundred years. Polka music has entertained hundreds of thousands of people over this period of time in dance halls all across the country."

— **"Happy" Louie Dusseault** in *The Republican*, Springfield, Massachusetts.

"I also think we have given the polka Grammy way too much legitimacy. I know I may be in the minority, but I am not too upset by this."

— **Kevin** on alt.music.polkas.

"The Grammy snobs might think that polka's three-quarter time is up. But this is a genre that's been around for more than a century longer than rock 'n' roll, and as long as there are knockwurst, hairpieces and lederhosen, it will proudly waltz on."

— *Los Angeles Times*

"I'm sad. But for me, I have no complaints. I've had a wonderful run. It's too bad for the younger people coming up. But myself, I have no complaints."

— **Walter Ostanek** in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*.

"I'm just grateful that they recognized me ... Look, I'm in the Grammy museum with my clarinet alongside Eric Clapton and I think Quincy Jones."

— **Jimmy Sturr** in the *Albany (N.Y.) Times Herald-Record*

"It's not that the polka world's not used to it ... The polka world expects it. It's like, 'Yeah, the man did it to us again.'"

— **Carl Finch**, *Brave Combo*.

"The polka people just continue to party on. Over time you get used to the mockery by the 'cool' set. Apparently it's better to be trendy than have fun."

— *From "Don't mess with polka" by Ken Krall, News of the North. Net.*

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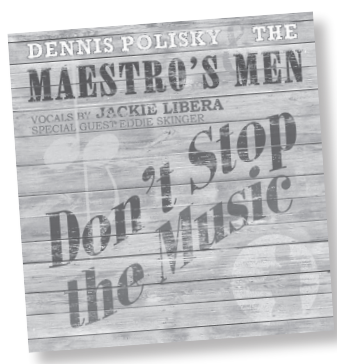
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• The Knewz  
• The Maestro's Men  
• The Polka Family

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## "The Peasant Prince" Arrives at Polish Embassy



**KOSCIUSZKO BOOK GENERATES GREAT INTEREST.** Alex Storozynski (pictured above seated at right) is the author of a new book entitled "The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution." Storozynski is speaking to, and signing his book for, Zuzanna Falzmann, Washington Correspondent for Poland's POLSAT News TV.

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The intriguing question of "So just who was Thaddeus Kosciuszko anyway?" has now been definitively answered by author Alex Storozynski. He rediscovered the heroic and tragic story of a great Polish and American revolutionary patriot who bravely answered the clarion call to arms for freedom's fight on two continents.

Storozynski's book — "The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and The Age of Revolution" — unearths many previously unknown important details and historical facts that enlighten, and even delight, the reader delving into Kosciuszko's amazing life.

General Kosciuszko (1746-1817) fought for the freedom of his Russian-subjugated Poland. Earlier he played a crucial and pivotal role in America's Revolutionary War against England. Always a proponent of the oppressed, he championed the rights of peasants, Jews, women, and most notably those of African Slaves and American Indians here in America. His friend and kolega, Thomas Jefferson, called Kosciuszko "the purest son of liberty I have ever known."

On May 13, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Counselor Mariusz Brymora hosted Storozynski and his book that has generated so much interest, and which has received very favorable reviews. Storozynski held the large audience

spellbound as he delivered his lecture — illustrated with informative slides — on Kosciuszko, that mirrored the book. An extensive Q&A session followed.

Poland's news media — TV, radio and print, attended the Embassy in force and interviewed Storozynski at length. C-Span Book TV filmed the lecture for broadcast here in America.

Storozynski, 47, born to émigré parents in the Polish enclave of Greenpoint in New York City's borough of Brooklyn, is something of a renaissance man. He is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, a former member of the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS editorial board, founding editor of AMNEW YORK, and former city editor of the NEW YORK SUN. He has also been regularly published in many other newspapers both here and abroad.

Storozynski has earned commanding academic degrees and is bestowed with many professional awards. As a banker, he served as chairman and vice-chairman of the very successful Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, which has more than \$1 billion in assets. In 2006, Polish President Kaczynski awarded him the "Gold Cross of Service" for his insightful articles about Poland.

Storozynski is presently serving as the newly-elected president of the preeminent Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City.

### BOOK REVIEWS / John Grondelski

## Kosciuszko: A Man Ahead of His Time

**THE PEASANT PRINCE: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution** by Alex Storozynski, New York: Thomas Dunne Publishers/MacMillan, 2009. HB, pp. 384, \$29.95 To Order: <http://us.macmillan.com/thepeasantprince> or 888-330-8477

Everybody living in or near New York knows Kosciuszko. Kosciuszko (properly pronounced "Koz-qui-OZ-cow") is a bridge on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway that is usually the site of major rush hour backups. (Pulaski is another bridge, over in New Jersey). The *literati* might recall vague mentions of those Kosciuszko and Pulaski, not as bridge but as people in American history, although it is probably too much to expect the average American to identify them as Revolutionary War heroes (even if Pulaski was the only foreign officer to give his life for the new Republic). Those with some Polish roots might even recall something called the "Kosciuszko Foundation" in New York City.

This general ignorance would probably not surprise author Alex Storozynski, the president and executive director of the Kosciuszko Foundation. As he notes, "while the story of the infamous traitor Benedict Arnold is taught in schools across America, the prize he was trying to sell to the British, Kosciuszko's handiwork of two and a half years in the Hudson Highlands [West Point], has been but a footnote in history books" (p. 92).

Rather than despair, Storozynski provides the ideal remedy: a fast-paced, well-written and complete biography of this unfairly forgotten hero of America and Poland, a man upon whose death the contemporary Scottish poet Thomas Campbell wrote "and freedom shrieked — as Kosciuszko fell." In the course of that book, Storozynski shows Kosciuszko as a dedicated apostle of freedom, not just by fighting the British in America and the Russians in Poland, but in his attitudes towards blacks, serfs, peasants, Native Americans, and Jews.

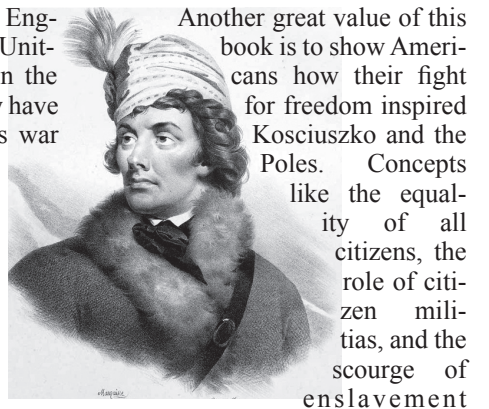
Architect of West Point, military engineer that helped turn around key battles in New York and the South, rebel for Polish freedom, hero of Raclawice, exile in France and Switzerland—Kosciuszko lived a full life, but has rarely been the subject of a full-length biography. James Pula's *Thaddeus Kosciuszko: The Purest Son of Liberty* (Hippocrene, 1999) is one exception. Gary Nash's, *Friends of Liberty: Thomas Jefferson, Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Agrippa Hull* (Basic Books, 2008) and Francis Kajemcki's *Thaddeus Kosciuszko: Military Engineer of the American Revolution* (El Paso: Southwest Polonia Press, 1998) and his *Discordant Trumpet: Discrimination of American Historians* (2003) all appear, by their titles, to examine only one part of Kosciuszko's rich and broad life. Storozynski's biography thus fills an important gap. [Dirk Wales's *Twice a Hero*, reviewed in these pages, is a good introduction to the lives of Kosciuszko and Pulaski for juvenile readers).

Most Americans, to the degree they know anything about him, have heard that Kosciuszko took part in the Revolution. Few know more details, including his role in critical struggles at Ticonderoga and Saratoga, his design and construction of Fortress West Point (which kept

the British from cutting New England off from the rest of the United States) and his activities in the Southern campaign. Some may have heard that Kosciuszko left his war wages (which Congress paid almost fifteen years late) to free slaves, though few know how executor Thomas Jefferson—with whom Kosciuszko maintained a lifelong friendship—edited Kosciuszko's will to designate money to free *his* slaves and then never bothered to do so. But few Americans know that, after the Revolution, Kosciuszko returned to Poland and tried to bring his American experience of freedom to bear there. He was part of the efforts to reform Poland, leading up to the Constitution of the Third of May (1791) and the final partition of the country. He was Commander of the failed 1794 revolt against the Russians. After detention in Russia, Kosciuszko eventually made his way back to America, renewed ties of friendship with then Vice President Jefferson, returned to Europe, took part in a clandestine diplomatic effort on behalf of the United States to allay growing tensions with revolutionary France, sought unsuccessfully to recruit the French (including Napoleon) to renew the fight for Poland, and finally ended his days in 1817 as an exile in Switzerland. This book gives us that story *in toto*.

What is impressive about this book is its balance and economies. Storozynski wraps up the story of Kosciuszko's role in the American Revolution by page 119, showcasing what was really important about it—and why—without getting bogged down in boring detail. He then moves on to Kosciuszko's Polish adventures, explaining to American readers how politically moribund late 18th century Poland had become, what progressive reforms were finally being implemented, why they threatened the neighboring autocratic trio of Russia, Prussia, and Austria, and how eventually the mantle of leading a peasant uprising against the partitioning powers and their collaborators in the Polish nobility fell to Kosciuszko. The book's title comes from the fact that, after the Battle of Raclawice where, the first time armed Polish peasants defeated a superior Russian army, Kosciuszko shed his formal general's uniform for a simple peasant *sukmana* or cloak.

Storozynski keeps the story moving, the writing style has verve and momentum, and the author has an ear for a turn of phrase (e.g., chapter titles like "Fiddling Lords and Enslaved Hoards" to describe the *szlachta*/peasant divide in Poland). He also has an appetite for the occasionally salacious. He opens the book with Kosciuszko's failed effort to elope with Louise Sosnowska. He later recounts how Poland's fate during the reign of its last King, Stanisław August Poniatowski, was determined by who was sleeping with whom (including Stanisław with Catherine the Great). Finally, Storozynski is a great name dropper. In the course of this book, Kosciuszko rubs shoulders with George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Napoleon Bonaparte, Czars Paul and Alexander, and Earl Grey. Looking at this who's who of eighteenth and nineteenth century America and Europe, it's hard to deny what a central figure Kosciuszko was and how exciting a life he led. Storozynski manages to convey that excitement.



Another great value of this book is to show Americans how their fight for freedom inspired Kosciuszko and the Poles. Concepts like the equality of all citizens, the role of citizen militias, and the scourge of enslavement (something Kosciuszko saw, if not his American hosts) were all part of the baggage Kosciuszko brought back to Poland. How different would not only Polish but European history look these past two centuries if the concept of equality for all citizens in a pluralistic Polish state under the progressive Constitution of the Third of May had survived! Dare one think that if Poland had managed to implement a democratic order that attracted Prussian industrialists, not only might Poland have advanced economically but Prussia had a counterweight against its later militaristic and dictatorial tendencies? Dare one imagine that if Poland had achieved freedom for its serfs by 1800, Russia might have been pulled in the direction of undertaking social reforms that let it avoid the disaster of communism and started building foundations for a genuinely responsive democratic polity, a challenge it still faces today?

Finally, Storozynski shows how Kosciuszko's egalitarianism made him a man ahead of his time, including ahead of many of his contemporary American friends whose credo "all men are created equal" was already deemed quite forward-looking. Kosciuszko's relations with blacks, Jews, and American Indians in America were avant-garde. He had a black *aide-de-camp*, Agrippa Hull, whom he apparently treated as an equal. He gave his pistols to an American Indian visitor. There is reason to believe that Philadelphia Jew Haym Salomon helped fund Kosciuszko's 1784 return to Europe, even while U.S. Superintendent of Finance Robert Morris maneuvered to avoid paying America's arrears to the General. In Poland, Kosciuszko authorized the establishment of an all-Jewish brigade that took part in his Insurrection of 1794, a phenomenon (alongside his armed peasant brigade) that Storozynski maintains was unprecedented. In terms of overcoming racism and anti-Semitism, Kosciuszko was quite the modern man.

It should be obvious that every Polish American should have this book. Even more important, however, every Polish American should give this book to non-Polish American friends. This book can help build bonds of mutual understanding, help Americans to take pride in what their country has meant—and still can mean—to people aspiring to freedom around the world. It can also help Americans to understand that their bonds with Poles are not just twenty years old. Poles have not just been enamored of America since the fall of the Iron Curtain. Poles have contributed to America—and not just on the factory floor. This book merits dissemination far and wide—if only to ensure that people know that Kosciuszko was more than just the name of a tasty mustard.

John M. Grondelski writes from Bern, Switzerland.

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## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes MLIS

## WARSAW 1944

*Poland's Bid for Freedom*

by Robert Forczyk

ill. by Peter Dennis

Osprey Publishing, 2009, 96 pp., \$19.95.

This 8 x 11" book is part of Osprey's "Campaign" series, which provides a rich history of the largest single operation organized and executed by a partisan organization in World War II. It contains black and white photos, maps and full color illustrations.

During the month of fighting to save the city, over 5000 members of the Underground army, Armia Krajowska, fought valiantly, from building to building, to retain the city. German forces eventually gained control of Warsaw bridges and airbases, while the Soviets sat waiting for the rebellion to be annihilated before allowing the First Polish Army under the Red Army to cross the river.

A chronology, condensed biography of opposing leaders, a history of the Home Army and maps of the city is provided. The many black and white photographs and color illustrations enhance the book. The small print allows for a tremendous amount of information in its 96 pages.

This book, number 205 in the Osprey's "Campaign" series, gives accounts of history's greatest conflicts, dealing with strategies, tactics and battle experiences.

## SOPHIA, MY LIFE'S JOURNEY

by Sophia Horbacz, Peppertree Press, 2009, \$12.95

Sophia has provided a memoir of her life in Poland and America. Beginning with the death of her father in Ruszelczyce, Poland, during World War II, the family was able to move to the United States in 1961. She had graduated from middle school in Poland and attended high school in Jersey City, New Jersey before she could even speak English. Fortunately there were Polish Sisters to help her with the language.

The family struggled to make a life for themselves. Sophia marries, before realizing her husband had a drinking habit and was bipolar. Their life was difficult, but they bought a house in New Jersey and raised a family. Sophia's journey is a little disjointed, but still, it is another story of the resilience of the Polish people.

## BABCIA'S WISH

*A Ghost Story of Old Poland*

by Eryk Jadaszewski, Polish Hussar Supply Plus, 2009, 85 pp., \$14.99.

This 8 x 12" book has an interesting, if weak, folktale from Zale, a small village in Poland. Janek becomes ill after being caught in a storm and unable to attend his Babcia's funeral. But that night he is visited by her ghost and is urged to take her to the cemetery. An explanation of the tiny, blue-bearded Domowoj seen by many as a guardian and pro-

ceptor of the home, is also part of the story.

The full-color photographs are sharp, and the colored pencil illustrations add to the story. But proof-reading, page layout and use of another font would have helped.

## EARTH DAY

*An Alphabet Book*

by Gary Kowalski

ill. by Rocco Baviera

Unitarian Universalist Association, 2009, \$12.00. (age 3-9 months)

This book has full-page color pages that celebrate all that is good on earth—giving thanks from apples and apricots to zinnias and zebras. The alphabet is accompanied with playful illustrations of flowers and animals that will be a great read and keep babies interested.

## HIDDEN IN THE ENEMY'S SIGHT

*Resisting the Third Reich*from *Within*

by Jan Kamienski

Dundurn Books, 2009, index, photographs, illustrations, 304 pp., \$26.99.

This personal memoir of Jan and his family's traumatic existence during the war depicts a matter of survival, by any means. Even if it meant working for the Germans, while at the same time working undercover for the Polish Resistance.

Jan was sixteen and living with his family in Poznan, when the war began. He learned German and quickly became adept at survival. A professor invited him to join his art class—this was to carry him through the war, integrate in the wartime society of Germany and illustrate wartime posters and propaganda.

When the Germans overtook the country, his German-born mother received a special passport, placing the family in a semi-legitimate status. Jan joined the Polish Resistance, received false documents to move to Dresden where he was to serve as a safe haven for patriots moving through the city, and monitor German activities. After several menial jobs he landed a steady job in a German plant inspecting small things. Later he learned these were torpedo parts. He obtained work as a messenger for the Germans to cover his Resistance work and lived there during the war and the first years of Soviet occupation. He also began writing and illustrating for the Germans while secretly providing prisoners with information from the BBC.

During the bombing of Dresden he valiantly tries to save his friends, allowing the reader to become part of the scene. The harrowing adventures of Jan are an intimate reminiscence, full of feelings, daring, suffering and hardship. Many times he finds Germans who hate the war and Hitler as much as he does.

Kamienski now lives in Winnipeg and has had a long career as editorial cartoonist, writer and art critic, commercial artist and designer.

## Pulaski Scholarships Awarded



Two winners of the ninth annual \$5,000 Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies were announced recently by Mr. Marion V. Winters, Committee Chairman, American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). The Committee awarded scholarships to **Anne Marie Choike** of Ann Arbor, Mich., (above, left, with Carolyb Meleski, president of the Friends of Polish Art), who recently graduated and received a Juris Doctor and a Masters in Urban Planning degrees from the University of Michigan (UM), and **Agnes Sekowski** (photo, right) of Austin, Texas is a graduate student in her second year of study at the University of Texas (UT) working toward a Master's in Urban Planning degree as well as an MA with a major in Russian, Eastern European & Eurasian Studies.

Application information on the Pulaski Scholarships for the year 2010 may be obtained after Nov. 1, 2009 by visiting [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org) or by contacting Mr. Winters at [mwinters@charter.net](mailto:mwinters@charter.net) or (508) 949-0160.

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NEW!

## The Finchley House



Delores Gapanowicz

## THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY

by Delores Gapanowicz

Nightengale Press, 2005

For Ages 9-12

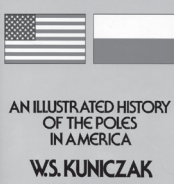
132 pp., pb.

\$13.95

Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.

Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true? No one dared to investigate until Paul and Tom decided to find out once and for all. The boys and their sisters dared to go up the hill toward the old old house and their adventure began — scary from the start.

## MY NAME IS MILLION



AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE POLES IN AMERICA

W.S. KUNICZAK

## MY NAME IS MILLION

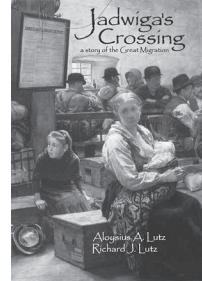
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**MORE FINDS AT AUSCHWITZ.** (AFP). Hundreds of personal items likely to have belonged to Hungarian Jews who perished at the Nazi German Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in occupied Poland have been uncovered at the site. "Several hundred objects, including some with inscriptions in Hungarian, have been found during conservation work near Crematorium Number Three," one of locations where the Nazis burned their victims' corpses, said Jaroslaw Mensfelt, spokesman of the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial museum.

Jews sent to the death camp were permitted to carry personal items as part of the Nazis' plan to trick them into believing they were being resettled. The illusion was maintained until the end, as the deportees were sent to what they were told were shower blocks but were in fact the camp's notorious gas chambers.

Although Hungary was a World War II ally of Germany, it held back from helping the Nazis in their plan to exterminate Europe's Jews.

## PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## Ethnic and Green

Even though my favorite colors are red and white, green is the new black.

Whether you believe the planet is going to catch fire any day now or if you find yourself chanting "drill, baby, drill," the environment is a very popular topic these days. I must admit, I cannot bear to see a piece of plastic, aluminum, glass, or styrofoam in a trash can and I frequently have these urges to take off my clothes and jump into a pile of mulch. God help me, I'm turning into a tree hugger.

My memory tells me that Poland has a beautiful countryside, mountains, lakes, forests, and citizens that in general love being out in the "country" or at least still want a connection to the land. Polish citizens love their cities but love their rural and small village heritage just as much. Polish folk culture like most folk comes from the country. My memory also reminds me that this coal mining and coal using nation has a lot of pollution. Like all industrial nations, the Poles' need for energy and modern conveniences produced some bad outcomes for the environment.

This Pole was pondering Poland's current ecological status. The 2005 report by the European Union's European Environmental Agency (EEA) entitled The European Environment – State and Outlook 2005 ([www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/20051122115248](http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/20051122115248)) is a snapshot of overall environmental quality for the EU nations. The report is a review of nine categories that include Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy Consumption, Renewable Electricity, and others. The conclusion of the agency is quite positive on the future health of the Polish ecology.

With the exception of organic farming, Poland is performing well across the scorecard and compared to the EU-25 average. In common

with many of the EU-10 Member States eco-efficiency improvements in energy, greenhouse gas emissions and transport are priorities. In the short term, Poland is not at risk of run-away trends worsening environmental conditions.

While dated, this is wonderful news and is contrary to my impression of Poland's environment condition for the post communist-controlled economy. The next step is to move them into the negative growth column for pollution indicators. Check it out and if you have more timely, encouraging, or unique news on the Polish environmental state, send it to me.

The hook, though, that got me thinking about the Polish ecology was an email mention about the wife of John Muir, the great American naturalist, author, and early advocate for the preservation of the U.S. wilderness ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Muir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Muir)). This "Son of the Wilderness" (*The Life of John Muir*, Linnie Marsh Wolfe, Andrew A. Knopf, New York, 1946, p.1) and the founder of The Sierra Club traveled throughout various lands in North America including the Yosemite Valley, the Alaskan coast, and the Sierra mountains of California.

Mutual friends introduced him to his wife, Louie Wanda, the only daughter of Dr. John Theophile Strentzel, a one-time political exile from Poland. Muir and Strentzel were married April 14th, 1880, and lived on the ranch owned by Louie's father in Martinez California near San Francisco. Dr. Strentzel would bequest the bulk of the acreage to John and Louie as a wedding gift.

The marriage to Dr. Strentzel's daughter made Muir exclaim, "I am now the happiest man in the world!"

John and Louie had two daughters, both given Polish names, Wanda and Helen. Although Muir was traveling throughout the United

States and the world for the rest of his life, he remained close to Louie and his daughters.

**READERS WRITE.** Received a letter from Fred Cierpial of Marlboro, New Jersey, regarding General Pulaski and whether he was in Monmouth County during the Battle of Monmouth during the Revolutionary War.

The historian and friends of the Monmouth Battle would like to complete a portion of Pulaski's life after he left Valley Forge. I have ascertained that he went to York, Pennsylvania after leaving Valley Forge for a few days. After this there is a blank as to his whereabouts. Supposedly he signed the guest book during the Battle of Monmouth. The guest book is at a tavern in the English town, which is four miles from the battle grounds.

I would like to find some one who could help me, if possible, or if they could point me in the right direction in order to answer the question.

If you have information pertaining to Fred's question, please let me know.

*Dziękuję bardzo* to Fred Cierpial for the question on General Pulaski and to Jack Jackowski for the information on Dr. John Strentzel and to all those that wrote or contributed to the Pondering Pole.

If you have an answer to this month's question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, Missouri 63139; e-Mail [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com).

Please note: if you e-Mail me, put a reference in the subject line about the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole. I will not open an e-Mail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

## POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## The Foods of a Polish Wedding

## Part 3 of 3

Here is the conclusion of our series on Polish wedding food, with some more dishes enjoyed at Polish weddings on both sides of the Atlantic.

## — COLD DISHES —

**JELLIED PIG'S KNUCKLES (zimne nogi):** Singe 6 split pig's feet over flame to remove any remaining bristle. Wash well, place in pot, cover with cold water and bring to boil. Simmer several min, then pour off water. Add fresh cold water to cover (about 2-1/2 qts) and 1 T salt, bring to boil once again and reduce heat. Skim off any scum that forms at top. Add 8 peppercorns and 1 bay leaf and cook on low heat 2 hr. Add 1 portion soup vegetables (like fro chicken soup above) and cook another 2 hr or until meat falls away from bone. When meat is nearly ready, add 2 - 3 buds crushed garlic. Remove pork feet. Drain stock, discarding vegetables and spices. Remove the meat from bones, discard bones and dice meat. Transfer meat to glass or crockery pans and drench with stock. Chill in fridge until set. Before turning out, scrape off and discard the congealed fat at top of containers. Cut into serving-size squares. Provide cruets of vinegar, lemon juice, a 50-50 vinegar-lemon juice mixture.

**COLD-MEAT PLATTER (pólmisek wędlin):** On a bed of lettuce on platter arrange slices of better-grade cold meats such as Polish canned ham and Canadian bacon, roast pork loin, dried Krakowska, hunter's sausage, cooked fresh kiełbasa, kabanosy, etc. Decorate platter with sprigs of parsley, pickled mushrooms, gherkins, radish roses and/ or bell-pepper rings or strips.

**HERRING IN HORSERADISH SAUCE (śledź w sosie chrzanowym):** Drain 16 oz jar of marinated herring, discarding onions and spices. Cut into bite-size pieces and toss with 2 small thinly sliced onions and a peeled, diced cooking apple. Arrange herring on serving dish. Fork-blend 1/3 c sour cream, 1/3 c mayonnaise, 1 heaping T prepared horseradish juice of 1/2 a lemon and 2 t confectioner's sugar. Pour over herring. Chill at least 1 hr before serving.

**MIXED VEGETABLE SALAD (sałatka jarzynowa):** In salad bowl combine 3-4 c cold, cooked, diced potatoes, 2 cans drained peas & carrots, 2 cans drained navy beans, 4 diced dill pickles, 1 bunch chopped green onions, 1 bunch diced radishes, 2 - 3 peeled, cored, diced apples and 4 - 6 diced hard-cooked eggs. Toss ingredients gently, season with salt & pepper, garnish with 3 T chopped fresh parsley and lace with just enough mayonnaise to thinly coat ingredients.

**POTATO SALAD VINAGRETTE (sałatka kartoflana z winegretem):** In salad bowl combine 1 qt diced, cooked, cold potatoes, 4 finely chopped green onions, 1 heaping T. capers and 1 - 2 diced dill pickles. Fork-blend 1/3 c vinegar (white distilled, wine vinegar or cider vinegar) with 1/2 c salad oil, 1 t prepared brown mustard, several dashes of garlic powder, 1/8 t pepper, 1/4 t ground caraway and 1 t sugar. Pour over salad and chill well before serving.

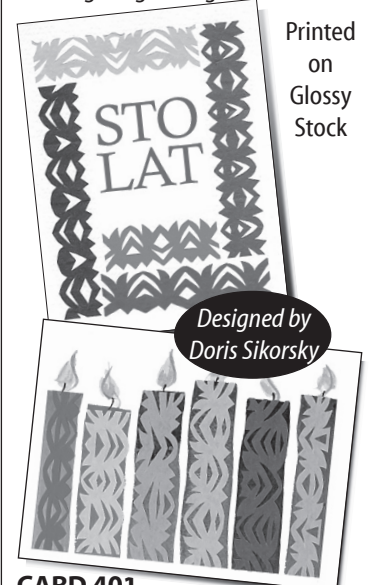
**BEAN SALAD (sałatka fasolowa):** In salad bowl combine 5 c canned, well-drained navy beans, or peas, 1 peeled diced cucumber, 3 chopped dill pickles, 1 bunch chopped green onions, 1 diced green bell pepper and 2 buds crushed garlic. Toss gently. Drizzle with juice of 1 large lemon and 3 T salad oil or to taste. Season with salt, pepper, basil and a little sugar and vinegar for a tangy, sweet & sour flavor. Optional: Stir in 1-2 heaping T mayonnaise and toss gently to coat ingredients.

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## ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

## Discovering Green Amber

In the early nineties, when I first fell madly in love with Baltic amber — for its beauty, folklore, history and intrinsic ties to my ancestral homeland — I was offered a large lot of beautiful mossy green amber set in handworked sterling silver. I asked the seller if it could possibly be a real color.

"Absolutely, the finest and ... the rarest amber of all," he claimed.

Eyes wide open, I opted to purchase the entire lot on the spot. A few months later, at malls and flea markets across America I began to see this same fine, "rare" amber in ever increasing quantities and at reasonable prices. How rare was green amber, I puzzled, if suddenly it was everywhere?

My green amber collection was indeed, quite unusual. The Polish silverwork and original designs were beautiful — heart-stopping, even.

Most of all, the eye-pleasing color made one want to reach out and touch it — soft, lush, and unbelievably green. This amber, as I was to discover a little farther down the road, is treated either with a jeweler's paste on the back and then heated, or the amber stone is simply heated, then set into a frame with a silver backing.

Of course, the real methods are guarded, as are many secrets of the gem industry. Today green amber is accepted by the Amber Association in Poland simply as a variation of amber color enhancement. Just as peridot, citrine, turquoise and most all gems are treated and stabilized to bring out luster and shine; similar treatments are used to enhance green amber.

Natural green amber is a mix of clear amber and a pale greenish-yellow tone. Generally it contains many, many inclusions of plant and earth humus. These inclusions are large and the amber is beautiful and unusual. This type of amber is sometimes referred to as earth amber. It contains sediments and veritable

gardens of organic materials. You'll know this amber, if you ever have an opportunity to see it, by its distinct characteristics of dark inclusions and yellow-green color. It does not look anything like green amber on the market today, that is, the real green amber.

Was I angry with the dealer who sold me the real green amber? No. As it turns out, he was later happy to explain the process. But I learned a valuable lesson: Always purchase your amber from a source you can trust and don't be afraid to ask questions. A reliable dealer will tell you the truth.

Green amber also came to the forefront in the mid-nineties at a time when the amber industry in Poland was flagging. It is my opinion that green amber was created as a new variation to create interest. The amber industry, under communism, was not a source of joy for the Poles, but rather a job that saw their fruits of labor (uninspired) leave the country labeled "Made in the USSR."

When Poland broke away from the Soviet system, many little private amber firms were founded, and the art of amber gradually began to return.

Green amber excited the marketplace and placed amber once again as a fashion-forward gemstone. Not only that, but it also allowed the entire amber industry to focus on all the color variations in amber, both enhanced and natural, which is precisely why we are so fortunate today to be experiencing a Renaissance in the art of amber.

*Andzia and Holly Chmil are owners of Andzia's Amber Jewelry, known on the web as amberjewelry.com. Andzia began working with amber in 1995 and her daughter Holly came on board in 2004 as a web developer. The company has been recommended by the prestigious International Amber Society in Poland every year since 2003. Send your questions about amber to: [andzia@amberjewelry.com](mailto:andzia@amberjewelry.com).*



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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## Keselowski's A Winner

Brad Keselowski raced to his first NASCAR Nationwide Series victory of the season, taking the lead off a restart in the final laps at Dover International Speedway. Keselowski, who led only those final two laps, celebrated his third career victory and his first of the 2009 season.

Keselowski won his first career Sprint Cup race earlier this year after a wild finish in Aaron's 499 at Talladega Superspeedway. Keselowski, a Nationwide Series regular running a limited Cup schedule this year, grabbed the lead from Carl Edwards after he made contact with him just before the finish line. Keselowski, driving the No.09 Chevrolet for car owner James Finch, recorded his first Cup win in just his fifth start.

Brad comes from a strong family racing tradition. In 1998, Keselowski made the transition from working on cars for his family-owned team, K Automotive Motorsports, to racing. K Automotive is a family-run, family-owned team based in Auburn Hills, Mich. His parents, Bob and Kay, oversee operations. Brad's older brother Brian competes part-time in both the ARCA RE/MAX Series and the Nationwide Series.

**OZARK PASSES.** Former Philadelphia Phillies Manager **Danny Ozark**, whose teams twice won 101 games, recently died at the age of 85. He was born Daniel Leonard Orzechowski on Nov. 24, 1923, in Buffalo, N.Y., to parents of Polish descent. His father changed the family name to Ozark.

A 6-foot-2, 200-pound first baseman, Ozark broke into the minors in 1942 with the Brooklyn Dodgers' affiliate in Olean, N.Y. It wasn't long before he was drafted into the Army and shipped to Europe, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After his discharge, he returned to the Dodgers in 1946 and traveled to a succession of minor league outposts, including Abilene, Texas; St. Paul, Minn.; Elmira, N.Y.; and Fort Worth, TX, while the great Gil Hodges maintained his hold on first base with the Dodgers. He started as a first baseman in the Brooklyn Dodgers' organization in 1942. Following his career, he turned to coaching, beginning as the Dodgers' Class B team manager in Wichita Falls in '56.

Ozark joined the Los Angeles Dodgers as a coach in 1964, and worked with the Dodgers until the Phillies hired him as their manager Nov. 1, 1972.

The Phillies won 71, 80 and 86 games in his first three seasons before they won 101 games in 1976, returning to the postseason for the first time since '50. The Reds swept

the Phillies in the National League Championship Series in '76, but Philadelphia won 101 games in '77 to make the playoffs again. Again the Phils lost, this time to the Dodgers in the NLCS. The Phillies won their third consecutive NL East title in 1978, but fell short again to the Dodgers.

Ozark was dismissed during the 1979 season. In 1980, the club that Ozark had nurtured throughout the previous decade finally won the franchise's first world championship.

Ozark later managed the San Francisco Giants on an interim basis after Frank Robinson was fired in 1984. The Giants were 24-32 under Ozark.

Ozark went 594-510 (.538) as Phillies manager. His winning percentage is seventh best in team history. He was named Manager of the Year in 1976 by The Associated Press and The Sporting News.

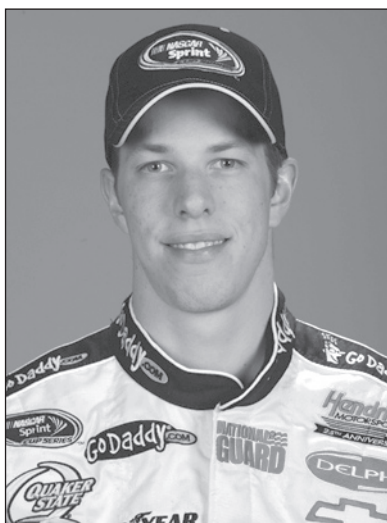
Ozark is remembered as an outstanding manager, but also as a good, caring man. He was also known for his colorful malaprops. For example, when once asked how team morale was holding up, Ozark responded, "Morality isn't a factor at this point."

Ozark was married to the former Ginny Zdinski, and they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in February. In addition to his wife, Ozark is survived by two children, Dwain and Darlene; three granddaughters; and four great-grandchildren.

**ON THE FAST TRACK.** **Marcin Gortat** is gaining a reputation as a solid NBA center, but he is already well-known for what is probably the loudest and fastest car in the NBA.

Gortat has a new black BMW M5, on which he has made numerous modifications that now include an 800 horsepower engine, which is big even for a high-performance vehicle, and plenty of supercharged accessories. A part-time mechanic in his native Poland before he signed his first NBA contract, Gortat admittedly has been stopped and ticketed a few times. He usually gets only warnings now, since he is a big contributor for the Magic. Marcin is also personable guy, well-known and well-liked in Central Florida.

"It could go over 200 m.p.h., maybe 225 m.p.h.," he said. "I don't want to drive that fast, but what matters is how quick it goes from 0-60. I can pull up next to a Ferrari or Lamborghini at a light, look over, and they might start laughing. But when it turns green, I'm gone, waiting at the next light when they get there, and



BRAD KESELOWSKI

I'm the one laughing then."

Gortat is in the second year of his original NBA contract, paying him \$711,000 this season. Since coming to the Magic in 2007 as a second-round pick, he has improved considerably this season. "The Polish Hammer" has done an excellent job backing up Dwight Howard, widely considered the best center in the league. Gortat is a free agent this summer, and his role in helping the Magic make it to the NBA Finals should help him earn a hefty new contract.

## Kokoska Honored by Polish Government

by B. Chapinski

WILLIMATIC, Conn. — Stan Kokoska is one of the Polonia's most unique people. He was born of a poor family that included several children. As a small child he was adopted by Anglo-Americans. As a young adult he was an exceptional athlete. The call of the Korean War not only interrupted his potential to play professional baseball, his education was halted.

Upon completion of military service, where he was a Second Lieutenant, Kokoska reentered studies to continue his education. Eventually he became a mayor of Willimantic, Conn., the first Polish American to do so.

As a teacher and then a consultant for the State of Connecticut, he and his wife raised four children.

Kokoska, a kind hearted, versatile individual, has been an activist for Polonian causes his entire life. He has not only assisted the down trodden of Polonia and others; for decades he has sought to improve better understanding and interaction amongst various segments of society. For years Kokoska has sent books, clothing, and other items to cement friendships and advance knowledge with citizens of Poland.

Kokoska has held numerous positions in Polish-American organizations. He's been a frequent traveler to Poland. In his 50s he mastered understanding much of the Polish language. Kokoska is also a founder and creator of the Polish

## Key Players



**THE GENESEE-ORLEANS REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL** presents "Accordion Fest," Sunday, August 2, 2009, at the LeRoy Country Club, 7759 East Main Rd. (Route 5), LeRoy, N.Y.

Hosted by the LeRoy Country Club, the event will be held from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

"Accordion Fest" features accordion music from Italian, Irish, Polish, and Eastern European traditions; mini concerts by Nordavind and The Irish Party House Band; and "open mike" sessions. Representing the Polish music tradition will be Western New York concertina legend **Casey Kliszak** (photo, right).

There will also be displays of historical accordions and a Q&A with Roxy's Music.

Full menu and lighter fare available at the Country Club. Please bring your lawn chairs.

This event is presented with support from the Folk Arts Program of the New York State Council on the Arts. For more info call Karen Canning at (585) 343-9313; or info@goart.org.

Pictured above are participants from last year's festival.



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## Mother of Taser Victim Losing Faith in Justice

VANCOUVER — Speaking outside the Vancouver public enquiry into her son's death, Zofia Cisowska, mother of Robert Dziekański, stated that she has "lost faith" in the Canadian justice system and wants the British Columbia government to appoint a special prosecutor to re-examine the events that led to the tragedy. "So far, the inquiry revealed that the RCMP and the Criminal Justice (Branch) had only one thing in mind, which is to blame my son for his death," said Cisowska. "I have lost faith in Canadian justice."

On his arrival in Vancouver airport in October 2007, Dziekański, 40 — tired and frustrated after a 24-hour flight and because he could not find his mother after ten hours of

waiting in the airport — was tasered five times by RCMP officers, who confused his state as dangerous.

When Poland's Little League champions came to the United States for the Little League World Series, the above noted individuals were responsible for travel, housing, clothing, etc. It is because of people like Kokoska that countless thousand of children have been made happy and have advanced potential. These youth can now more adequately comprehend others and reach beyond immediate environments. He has expanded horizons to enhance harmony.

In May of this year, the President of Poland joined the long list of American individuals who have acknowledged Stan's efforts to make a significant contribution for human relations. The Warsaw Head of State had members of his diplomatic corps award Kokoska the prestigious Member Cross of the Order of the Republic of Poland.

It is because of unique people, such as Kokoska, that dialogue flourishes. Those of his stature not only make Polonia more productive; they enrich mankind as a whole.

◆◆◆

Donations to Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation can be sent to 222 Ocean Drive East, Stamford, CT 06902.

## Kresy-Siberia Foundation To Launch Virtual Museum

by Henry Sokolowski

WARSAW, Poland — The 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II will be commemorated in September of this year, yet the history of the war, as it was fought in Poland and directed against its population of 32,000,000, has always been poorly known by most people in the West.

The least well-known story is that of the eastern Kresy (borderland) provinces. The Soviet Union invaded on September 17, 1939 and occupied the eastern half of Poland in a deal with Germany. What followed was the slow and methodical annihilation of the Polish population and its culture and religion. Many citizens were imprisoned or deported to Siberia for slave labor. It is the descendants of these Poles who today are determined to make sure that the stories of their parents and grandparents are preserved for posterity.

### THE KRESY-SIBERIA GROUP AND FOUNDATION.

The Kresy-Siberia Group is an internet-based organization “dedicated to researching, remembering and recognizing the Polish citizens of various faiths and ethnicities deported, enslaved or killed by the Soviet regime during World War II.” It was established in 2001 by a number of survivors and their descendants to tell the stories of the Soviet occupation of the eastern Kresy to the world, primarily in the English language. The online discussion group helps those seeking to understand their roots, while the website has been gathering memoirs, materials and resources, and the online gallery has collected thousands of photographs and documents posted by our members.

In order to further the cause of research and remembrance, a number of

energetic, passionate and capable members have created the Kresy-Siberia Foundation (KSF), or Fundacja Kresy-Syberia, a charitable organization based in Warsaw (for patriotic reasons) with branches being formed around the world. The Foundation is about to move into new offices provided for it by Wspólnota Polska, in the heart of Warsaw.

The Foundation is unique. It is: multi-ethnic and multi-religious, as was pre-war Poland; bilingual, Polish and English (to start); at home on the internet and connected world-wide (the President runs the organization from Sydney, Australia, even though the offices are in Warsaw). Most importantly, the Kresy-Siberia Foundation has taken on the task of bringing together the Polish Diaspora to create a large and powerful organization with a singular mission: to research and preserve the World War II history of the Kresy provinces and correct the errors and omissions in the history books.

The Foundation is bringing together the Polish survivors of the war, their descendants, exiled archives of Polish World War II materials (such as the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, The Piłsudski Institute in New York and the Polish Institute in London), Polish government ministries and non-governmental organizations (such as the Ministry of National Remembrance and Ośrodek Karta), well known public figures such as Ryszard Kaczorowski (former President of the Polish Government in Exile in London, now the Honorary President of the KSF), Norman Davies, Prof. Tadeusz Piotrowski, Sir Martin Gilbert and many others, in a co-operative effort to preserve this incredible history.

The core of the Foundation will be the Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum or

Virtualne Muzeum Kresy-Syberia. Less expensive to build and maintain than a bricks and mortar museum, yet readily accessible to hundreds of thousands of visitors, the Virtual Museum is being built using the most modern technology available and will be not just a storehouse of a vast amount of material but a user-friendly and engaging educational tool for adults and children alike. The Virtual Museum will effectively complement the physical museums of Polish history which dot the globe.

In the United States, the Foundation is not yet well known. Our chief in America is well known professor of political science and survivor of Siberian exile, Dr. Witold Łukaszewski of Texas. Regional groups have just begun to coalesce in New York/New Jersey, Chicago and Buffalo. We are looking for men and women who can contribute at least some of their time and skills to the Foundation.

The Kresy-Siberia Foundation and the Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum will be introduced on September 17, 2009 in a series of events held in cities around the world. The main event will be held in Warsaw in conjunction with the ceremonies commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland. Other cities holding events include Sydney (Australia), Toronto (Canada), and London (England).

For more information or media enquiries please phone or e-mail North American representative Henry Sokolowski at (905) 569-0642 or [hsokol@sympatico.ca](mailto:hsokol@sympatico.ca) or American representative Witold Łukaszewski at (936) 271-0305.

To join the group, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kresy-Siberia>, or visit its website at [www.kresy-siberia.com](http://www.kresy-siberia.com).

### THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



Adorned for Mary's Month of May. Biejaczow County, S.E. Poland. May 1976.

### HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

## An Apron of Roses

A lovely tale has been passed down to us. It concerns Jadwiga. She was very devoted in her religion, a most dedicated and pious Christian.

It pained her that outside the castle, her abode, were large numbers of poor people in desperate need of food. Her husband, the King, did not approve of charitable acts of kindness.

Jadwiga was most clever. She went to the castle's well-stocked kitchen and smuggled assorted breads, cooked meats and tasty cheeses. She concealed her bounty in her oversized apron and left the castle by way of the back door. However, the King's advisors told him that his bride had strange comings and goings. Mistakenly, the advisors felt that Jadwiga was taking secrets to the rebels and to others who were plotting against her husband. This news made the King very furious and he became very determined to discover what Jadwiga was doing after dark.

One night as she was leaving the castle through a secret door, the King lay in wait and suddenly sprang out of the bushes. He demanded to see what was in her apron. Lo and behold, a miracle occurred. All the food she was carrying which would have earned her an immediate death sentence, turned into a garland of roses.

To this day, Jadwiga wears an apron of roses.

### TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. Kontusz is a a. leather boot b. sword c. coat
2. Wanda Landowski was recognized for her talent playing the a. flute b. harp c. harpsichord
3. "Święty Jacek z pieragami" means St. Hyacinth and his a. pierogi b. pickles c. pear pies
4. Piekarski is derived from a. gardener b. baker c. goldsmith
5. "Totus Tuus," in Latin meaning "all yours," is also the name of a a. highway b. car c. train
6. Moe Drabowsky set a World Series record in strikeouts as a a. relief pitcher b. left-hander c. shortstop
7. Joanne Krupa, supermodel, tours to play a. poker b. billiards c. softball
8. Mizeria is a summertime treat made with a. cherries b. cucumbers c. green tomatoes
9. A medieval society is a. Krakow's Brotherhood of the Rooster b. Krakow Gentry c. Sons of Krakow
10. On St. Hedwig's Day, God grants honey to the cabbage if it is not a. snowing b. raining c. windy

**ANSWERS.** 1.c coat 2.c harpsichord 3.a pierogi 4.b baker 5.c train 6. a. relief pitcher 7.a poker 8.b cucumbers 9.a Krakow's Brotherhood of the Rooster 10.b raining.

**MEDALLIONS FIND HOME IN MUSEUM.** Israel's national museum reported that a Polish noble family has received compensation for two 1,700-year-old medallions that were seized by the Nazis during World War II. All three medallions were part of a collection of thousands of antiques, paintings, tapestries and other artifacts that Countess Isabella Działynska amassed in the 1800s and kept at her castle in Goluchow, Poland. Under the arrangement, the medallions bearing Jewish symbols will remain on display in the Israel Museum. It repurchased one from the heirs, and a donor purchased the second and gave it to the museum on a long-term loan. None of the parties involved would divulge the sums paid.

### CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

## Mark Twain's Polish Acquaintances

Vienna in 1897 was the vibrant capital city of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, that comprised more than a dozen nationalities, including Poles. The Empire had taken southern Poland in the 18th century partitions and called it the province of Galicia. Its residents became Austrian citizens and Vienna drew a share of opportunistic Poles. By the end of the 19th century, one in five Viennese was Polish.

Enter the world famous American author, sixty-one year old Samuel L. Clemens, also known as Mark Twain. He, his wife and two daughters arrived in Vienna in September 1897 for a long stay. The reason? Elder daughter Clara wanted to become a pianist and study under the world's foremost piano teacher, Theodor Leschetizky. That was the Professor's Germanized name. The actual spelling was Teodor Leszetycki, for he was a Pole, born in Łańcut. Among those he had taught was the great Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

Once in Vienna, Clemens took a liking to the professor, whom he affectionately called Leschy. The Clemens family was drawn into his circle, were often his guests at concerts, attended recitals at his villa, and were introduced to the leading personalities of the classical music world. The two families went sleighing together in winter and spent time at Leschy's lake home in summer. Though daughter Clara abandoned her piano lessons after less than a year, the families remained close. And Clara became smitten with another of Leschy's pupils, the Russian Ossip Gabrilowitsch, whom she would later marry.

Another Pole with whom the Clemenses became acquainted was Count Karol Lanckoroński, an art patron and collector and one of the richest men in Austria. They also were friends with Polish Count Mieczysław de Laszowski, an Austrian diplomat, and his Scottish born

wife Emily. The Countess was a novelist who dedicated one of her books to Mark Twain in cryptic verse, leading some to suggest she was romantically attracted to, or even had an affair with, the American author. That is very unlikely.

In March 1898, Clemens was introduced to a brilliant young man who would become known as the Polish Edison. He had invented a device that intrigued Clemens. This inventor was Jan Szczepanik, a twenty-five year old Pole resident in Vienna, and his invention was the raster, a machine that used photography to improve the weaving process. Clemens was always fascinated by new inventions and especially interested if he smelled a profit. He met with Szczepanik and his business manager and reached agreement to buy the American rights to the raster for \$1.5 million, though he later backed out of the deal on the advice of his financial advisor.

Nevertheless, Szczepanik and Clemens became firm friends. They enjoyed drinking beer together and talking for hours, and often went bicycling. Clemens wrote that Szczepanik was a man of personal charm who had "black hair, very striking face, mobile and alert, splendid eyes... an interesting young creature ... well born, educated, dresses nicely."

Twain wrote two short articles about the inventor that were published in 1898. The first, "The Austrian Edison Keeping School Again," is fiction loosely based on fact that describes Szczepanik's supposed obligation to teach school every other month in his home village in Moravia. Why Twain puts Szczepanik's home in Czech Moravia rather than Polish Galicia where it actually was is a mystery, but perhaps the author was simply misinformed. He does, however, properly use the Polish phrase *do widzenia* (goodbye) in the story.

The second article is pure fiction

with Szczepanik as one of the characters, "From the London Times of 1904," a piece of moralizing against absurd injustice, that features another of Szczepanik's inventions, the telectroscope, an early type of television.

Another story Twain wrote was "Stirring Times in Austria," a true account of a tumultuous session of the Austrian Parliament that he witnessed. The president of Parliament, Dawid Abrahamowicz, was a Pole of Armenian background who played a central role in the drama, which involved making Czech the official language of the Czech provinces. After Abrahamowicz was forcibly removed from his desk by unruly members, police were summoned, the Emperor dissolved Parliament and dismissed Prime Minister Kazimierz Badeni, another Pole.

In another Twain story from this time, "No. 44, the Mysterious Stranger," he gives the strange name of 44 to the character of Young Satan. Twain scholars have speculated for years about the meaning of 44. One, Louis Budd, believes Twain borrowed it from the name of a character in a story by the Polish author Adam Mickiewicz, surmising that Twain was introduced to Mickiewicz's writings by one of his Polish acquaintances. Count Agenor Goluchowski was another high-ranking Pole in the Empire, the foreign minister. Clemens met Goluchowski socially and through him was granted a meeting with Emperor Franz Josef before the author left Austria in May 1899.

Twain traveled throughout the world, but never made it to traditionally Polish lands. The closest he got was Slovakia, just to the south. But as a result of his stay in Vienna, he was at least able to become acquainted with several Poles whose company he enjoyed, who fired his imagination, and who left a favorable impression upon him.

**OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal**

**STANLEY W. DANOWSKI**, 84, originally dropped out of high school to serve with the Marines in Guam and New Georgia during World War II. He later returned to graduate in 1947. He graduated from Temple University Technical Institute, and became an electronic technician in Philadelphia for Eckert-Mauchly Computer Corp, one of the major figures in developing the ENIAC computer. He earned his bachelor's degree in physics from what is now La Salle University, and eventually retired from what is now Unisys Corp. as a senior engineer.

**CORNELL N. DYPYSKI**, 77, was one of Baltimore's longest-serving state legislators who was in both the House of Delegates and Senate. Dypski graduated from the Polytechnic Institute and attended the University of Baltimore. He worked as an insurance salesman and was a court constable before becoming an administrative officer for the state Motor Vehicle Administration. He won election to political office with the slogan "Three Cheers for Dypski."

**ADELE PUDROWSKI HUDSON**, 82, was a retired science teacher at Hackett Elementary School in Kensington, who taught for exactly 32 years to the day. Hudson had also taught as a substitute teacher in Philadelphia, and served as science coordinator at Hackett. She graduated from Chestnut Hill College with a degree in chemistry, and worked as a chemist at Rohm & Hass. Hudson also served as vice president of United Humanitarians, a post held by her husband until his death.

**ARTHUR MRUMLINSKI**, 65, was a Chicago teacher and principal whose career spanned decades. Mrumlinski worked at John F. Kennedy High, and then Lindbloom High School where he moved up the ranks to assistant principal over his 29-year career. He then went to the Chicago Public Schools' office of accountability, working on various school problems and programs. He was responsible for the "Class Link" program, and internships at the Argonne National Laboratory in DuPage County. After retiring he returned to the classroom, working for the Dominican University's "Transitions to Teaching" program.

**DANNY OZARK**, 85, was the former Phillies manager who led Philadelphia to three consecutive National League East titles, but fell short of the World Series title each time. Ozark's streak of three consecutive NL East titles in the late 1970s is unmatched in team history. His teams went 101-61 in 1976 and 1977, and 90-72 in 1978 for three straight NL East titles. He was born Daniel Leonard Orzechowski in Buffalo, N.Y. His father changed the family name.



**MICHAEL TRZEPACZ**, 45, of Lake View, N.Y., May 29, 2009, following a motorcycle accident. He was the son of Daniel J. and Jeanette (nee Karaszewski) Trzepacz; dearest brother of Mark and Elizabeth Shea; husband of 12 years of Nichole. Trzepacz was a member and past commissioner of the Lake View Volunteer Fire Dept., a member of the Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society, and the Red Knights Firemen's Motorcycle Organization, and an employee of NYSDOT. Memorial donations may be made to Mercy Flight, 100 Amherst Villa Rd., Buffalo, NY 14225.

**NORBERT WARKOCKI**, 83, of Las Vegas, passed away May 31, 2009. He was born Aug. 11, 1925, in Chicago, and was a 15-year resident of Nevada. As a U.S. Army veteran who served in the 106th Infantry Division during World War II, he was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and became a prisoner of war. Upon return from combat, he married his childhood sweetheart, Lucille July 3, 1948, in Chicago. He worked as the chief executive officer of Griswold Industries in Newport Beach, Calif., until he and Lucille retired to Las Vegas.

**ALBERT F. ZAREMBA**, was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Zaremba worked at RCA, retired from GE as a Vice President and retired from Thomson as Senior Vice President. At all three companies, he was an international negotiator responsible for patent agreements relating to consumer electronic products in the United States and Asia. He was a member of the Asia Society, Japan Society, and World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Additionally, he was a volunteer at InterFaith Caregivers and taught CCD at St. Isaac Jogues R.C. Church in Marlton, New Jersey.

**AMONG THOSE** who recently lost their lives in the Armed Services are: **Spec. Adam M. Kuligowski**, 21, from Derry, New Hampshire, who served in the Special Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); **Lance Cpl. Blaise A. Oleski**, 22, from Holland Patent, New York, who served in the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force; and **Staff Sgt. Mark A. Wojciechowski**, 25, of Cincinnati, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

**BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn**

**Time For a Revision of World War II History**

There is a trend to take a different approach to the history of World War II recently. DER SPIEGEL, the main German newspaper, posted a controversial article entitled "Hitler's European Holocaust Helpers." The pretext to the article was the recent trial of John Demjanjuk, who allegedly was a part of Ukrainian guard in a Nazi death camp in Sobibor during the war.

The authors of the article, "The Spiegel Staff," argue that not just Nazi Germany is responsible for the Holocaust machine but many nations in Europe contributed due to their anti-semitic sentiments.

The Spiegel article strikes a new chord since until present time it was unheard for Germans to question German role as main aggressors. The article does not show all aspects of the war, but it is a good starting point since Germans and Nazi Germany were not only aggressors, and the war was not a pure fight of good and evil. While the article is condemning Poland and Baltic nations (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia) for their anti-semitic feelings and actions, it only briefly mention the complexity of the history of this part of Europe which was first invaded by Soviet forces where Jewish origin apparatchiks were overrepresented. The resentment to previous Soviet regime which was replaced by Nazi contributed to anti-semitic feelings.

The English version of the article is available at: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,625824,00.html>

**I JUST FINISHED READING** the book by Norman Davies entitled "No Simple Victory – World War II in Europe: 1939-1945." Davies is a renowned British history professor and author of several history books devoted to the history of Poland, and its war history. Davies did not write a typical World War II history book, full of facts, events and

battles in chronological order. His book is a multi-faceted analysis of the war and it is not free from the author's opinions. Davies represents an important and new voice in the discussion about World War II. Davies demands to take a step back and change the perspective to the war by Western historians which influence Western societies. Davies argues that war is seen mainly through its Western front although the main battles took place in Eastern front, the majority of military actions, the main war circus was in the East. The Western Front battles of El Alamein and the D-Day landing are usually overemphasized compared to the Eastern front battles in Kursk or Stalingrad where more people died and Germans bore huge material losses. He also asks why Soviet gulags, like Vorkuta, are looked upon through a different prism than the concentration camps in Auschwitz-Birkenau or Dachau.

Just like Der Spiegel, Davies argues that the war cannot be seen only as a simple fight between good and evil. Soviets and Nazi were two "gangster powers" until Nazi Germany unexpectedly invaded the Soviet Union. Only after the Soviet Union was invaded did it join the allied forces. Davies is also critical of the allied forces and some of their actions. He questions the rationality of the carpet bombing of Dresden and its German civilian population. He also questions the military sense of such action.

The history of the Eastern front during World War II is still largely unknown, since not all of the archives have been opened. A lot of information is missing and will never be accurately known. Millions of Russians were never accounted for. The huge number of Soviets soldiers — almost 20 million — were killed during World War II. How many of these deaths could have been avoided if the soldiers were better equipped, if they were not killed by the fifth column of political guard, if POWs were allowed freely back home and not treated like betrayers. Finally, how many more Soviet deaths could have been avoided if Stalin did not order his purges of the 1930s? How many people know the survival rates of Soviet POWs in German concentration and labor camps were close to zero? Soviet POWs were first to

be gassed in Auschwitz; they were the experimental guinea pigs, the Jews were next.

Norman Davies quotes Chou En-lai's response to a question about the achievements of the French Revolution. His response was "too early to say." Every historical event needs time and different perspective to be rationally judged after the years. According to Prof. Davies the war view is still influenced by local or regional biases of different countries and interest groups.

There need to be lot more done to untangle the history of World War II. The Soviet Union never officially apologized to any of the neighboring countries for invading them. Russia not only angrily rejected claims that a Stalin-era famine in Ukraine amounted to genocide, but Russia's Supreme Court recently turned down an appeal to re-open an investigation into the massacre by Soviet secret police of Polish military officers and intellectuals in Russia's Katyn forest during World War II.

**A CONTROVERSIAL RESEARCH**

paper was recently posted on Russia's Defense Ministry Web site. Col. Sergei Kovalyov — the author of the article entitled "Fictions and Falsifications in Evaluating the USSR's Role On the Eve of World War II" — believes Poland is responsible for the beginning of War World II. According to him, Poland should have agreed to the Nazi demands to turn over control of the city of Danzig as well as a land corridor between Germany and the territory now known as Kaliningrad. If Poland did it, he suggests, there would have been no World War II. This is of course a lunatic statement which suggests that Russia and many Russians are still in the state of denial about their own history. But it is not only Russia, but the whole world which needs to take a second look into the war and not to see it in a simplified way, either as a fight between good and evil, or only as the place of the Holocaust. The war was much more complex, and much more needs to be done to understand its history. At least there are some efforts to understand it better and not make such a mistake again.

Visit Baba Jaga's Corner on the web at [www.polishsite.us](http://www.polishsite.us).

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**BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network**

**Weather, Part III**

wiosna.....(VYOHs-nah) f  
**spring**  
 lato ..... (LAH-toh) n  
**summer**  
 jesień.....(YEH-shehn) f  
**autumn**  
 zima ..... (ZEE-mah) f  
**winter**  
 Jaka jest temperatura? ..... (YAH-kah yehst tehm-peh-rah-TUH-rah?)  
**What is the temperature?**  
 Jaka jest prognoza pogody na jutro? ..... (YAH-kah yehst proh-GNOH-zah poh-GOH-dih nah YUH-troh?)  
**What is the weather forecast for tomorrow?**  
 Dziś jest ..... (Djeesh yehst)  
**Today it is ...**

Phonetic hh is like ch in loch • Phonetic ai is like eye  
 m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter  
**Jutro będzie** .....(YUH-troh BEHN-djeh)  
**Tomorrow it will be ...**  
**pochmurno**.....(pohh-MUHR-nyeh)  
**cloudy**  
**wietrznie**.....(VYEHCH-nyeh)  
**windy**  
**slonecznie** ..... (swoh-NEHCH-nyeh)  
**sunny**  
**zimno** ..... (ZHEEM-noh)  
**cold**  
**gorąco**..... (goh-ROHN-tsoh)  
**hot**  
**ciepło**.....(CHEHP-who)  
**warm**

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## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## CALIFORNIA

LAKESWOOD — Stephen J. Danko, Ph.D., PLCGS, will be the main speaker at a Family History Seminar presented by the **Polish Genealogical Society of California**, Sat., Aug. 22, 2009. There will be a 9:00 a.m. check-in, and seminar runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event takes place at the Weingart Senior Center, 5220 Oliva Ave., located two miles north of the Long Beach Airport, near the intersection of Lakewood and Del Amo Boulevards.

Lectures include: "Genealogy and the Changing Map of Eastern Europe," "A New Look at Immigrant Passenger Manifests," "Using DNA and Indirect Evidence to Establish Family Relationships," and "Genealogy Blogs: New Ways to Disseminate Genealogy."

The registration fee (\$40 for members, \$50.00 for non-members) includes a morning snack, and a Polish luncheon.

For more information call or email (310) 378-0877; president@pgsca.org, or visit www.pgsca.org.

## ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The **Polish Arts Club of Chicago**, an affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture, held an installation luncheon June 14, 2009 at the Park Ridge Country Club. Following lunch, a musical presentation was given by the 2008 Polish Arts Club music contest winner, cellist Helen Weberpol.

CHICAGO — **NARÓD POLSKI**, the newspaper of the **Polish Roman Catholic Union of America** (PRCUA), is now available digitally. The newspaper, edited by Kathryn Rosypal and Lidia Kowalewicz, includes 13 pages in English and seven pages in Polish.

As of May 4th publication, all subscribers, as well as visitors, can go to the PRCUA website [www.PRCUA.org/NarodPolski](http://www.PRCUA.org/NarodPolski) to download the full 20-page, colored, digital publication. It appears in a graphic, highly readable, and environmentally friendly PDF format. The digital newspaper is free-of-charge to any-

one who wants it.

The printed version of **NARÓD POLSKI** will continue to be mailed to all PRCUA members who currently receive the publication in the mail.

## MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — Seventy-five cartons of clothing, school supplies, and other goods weighing over 1800 pounds were sent to **49 Polish orphanages** by St. Agnes Men's Club in St. Paul and Polamer Parcel in Minneapolis.

Donations are being accepted to cover the cost of shipping, which was \$2,181. Please send contributions to: St. Agnes Men's Club, c/o Bernard Koalska, 95 West Rose Ave., St. Paul, MN 55117-1827. Upon request, Koalska will provide donors with a list of orphanages.

## NEW YORK

PORT WASHINGTON — The **Polish American Museum's** Third Annual Founders Scholarship Awards and Concert was held on May 3, 2009. The 2009 scholarship awards, two in the amount of \$500 to each recipient, were given to:

Christopher Osman, a student at North Shore High School, Glen Head. He will be attending the School of Engineering at the Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee in the fall; and,

Natalie Sliwowski, a student at Islip High School, Islip. She will be attending College of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island majoring in International Relations.

Colleen Stack, a freshman at the Friends Academy, Locust Valley entertained with her musical selections by Paderewski, Chopin, Gottschalk and others.

SYRACUSE — **Robert Synakowski**, president of the Syracuse Polish Home is the "Pole of the Year."

An officer of the Polish Home, Synakowski is following a path started by his grandfather and father.

A graduate of the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J., he also studied at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, originally

going to teach with the Kosciuszko Foundation. Synakowski fell in love with the country, the people and the food staying for three years teaching the English language.

Currently, he teaches English at the Seymour Dual Language Academy in Syracuse, where his students are from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

Synakowski is interested in Polish history as well as Polish American history, including the history of our Central New York Polish Community.

He was elected vice-president of the Polish Home in 2002, and president in 2004. He became involved in the Polish Home to help re-embrace Polish culture and introduce other aspects besides polkas and pierogies, such as the Polish Cafe atmosphere, more diverse foods and Polish beer.

The Polish Home was originally founded to "Americanize" Polish immigrants. Synakowski believes its mission now should be to "Polonize" Americans.

Membership has grown considerably by expanding their horizons beyond the original Polish neighborhood and into the greater Syracuse area. To get the word out, The Polish Home now prints a monthly newsletter, and maintains a web site.

## PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH — The Western Pennsylvania Polish Community will gather Wednesday, August 26 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oakland for a special commemoration of the miraculous image of **Our Lady of Czestochowa**, known as the Black Madonna and the Queen of Poland. The celebration will include the celebration of mass at 7:00 p.m. by His Excellency, the Most Reverend David Zubik, Bishop-Ordinary of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, followed by a community reception.

The August 26 events are sponsored by the Polish Falcons of America in cooperation with the Polish Clergy Association of Pittsburgh and neighboring dioceses of Greensburg and Altoona-John-

stown.

Information on the event, including group access and chartered bus parking, can be obtained by contacting the Polish Falcons of America, (412) 922-2244 or email: [info@polishfalcons.org](mailto:info@polishfalcons.org). Information is also posted on the organization's web site at: [www.polishfalcons.org](http://www.polishfalcons.org).

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. Senator **Barbara A. Mikulski** (D-Md.) applauded the Senate's passage of a resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the end of communist government in Poland. Senator Mikulski introduced the resolution, which was co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of her Senate colleagues.

"In the aftermath of the Second World War, the people of Poland found themselves under the oppression of a harsh communist government put in place by their Soviet occupiers." Senator Mikulski said. "They did not choose communism — it was forced upon them."

After over 40 years of struggle, in early 1989 the historic Round Table discussions were held between the communist government of Poland and representatives of the democratic opposition on a peaceful transfer of power. As a result, on June 4, 1989 the first democratic parliamentary elections in Poland were held. This date is symbolically celebrated as the fall of communism in Poland.

"This anniversary is a great occasion for the Polish people, for the government of Poland, and the history of the relationship between the United States and Poland," said Mikulski.

"It is fitting that the Senate commemorate this anniversary, that we express our admiration for the resolve that the Polish people demonstrated in the face of political oppression under communist rule, that we congratulate the people of Poland for their accomplishments in the years since the end of communist rule, and that we express our appreciation for the close friendship of between the United States and Poland."

## New Executive Director at NPC

WASHINGTON, D.C. — **Patricia Whitelaw-Hill** has been named executive director of the National Polish Center, the only national organization representing Polish Americans with its own building in the nation's capital.



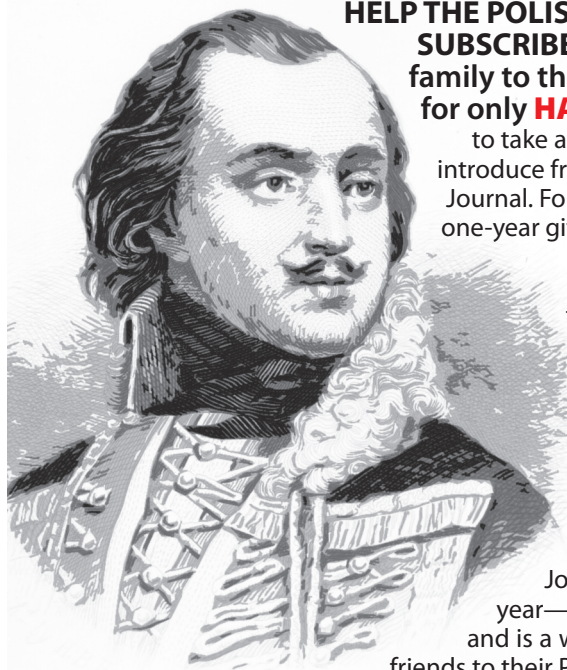
Whitelaw-Hill's extensive non-profit and fundraising experience, communication and facilitation skills, leadership, teamwork and administrative experience and in-depth knowledge of Poland and Polish Americans will contribute significantly as the Center moves forward to strengthen and grow its program.

With experience in Poland from the communist era through Poland's entry in the European Union, Whitelaw-Hill brings significant skills and experience to the position. A graduate of the University of Maryland (B.S. in Communications) and Georgetown University (M.S. in Linguistics), she has been awarded a Fulbright Grant, a U.S.I.S. English Teaching Fellowship in Albania, a scholarship to Georgetown University Graduate School and a Fellowship at the Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute. A former Peace Corps volunteer, she taught English as a foreign language (TEFL) in Albania, Romania, and Cameroon and was an English as a Second Language teacher trainer and program director in Washington, D.C., Poland, Korea, and the former Yugoslavia. Fluent in French, with professional working proficiency in Polish, Macedonian, Serbian, and West African Pidgin.

She most recently served as the executive director of the National Society Colonial Dames 17th Century in Washington, prior to which she supported her husband, Christopher Hill, in his diplomatic duties as ambassador at the American Embassies in South Korea, Poland, and Macedonia.

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