

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA'S AMBER — PAGE 14

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

**BUST OF STALIN IS AN INSULT • NATIONAL KATYN MEMORIAL OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY • CURIOSITIES OF WAWEL THE BURZYNSKI SAGA • ORCHARD LAKE SEMINARY GRADS • DOES A COAT OF ARMS GO WITH YOUR LAST NAME? REFRESHING COLD SUMMER SOUPS • SZCZUR A REAL SPORTS HERO • YOUNG JACK KENNEDY AND POLAND**

## NEWSMARK

**POLAND ARRESTS ALLEGED MOSSAD AGENT.** The German federal prosecutor's office says Polish authorities have arrested an alleged Mossad agent wanted in connection with the slaying of a Hamas leader in Dubai.

A prosecutor's spokesman told The Associated Press that Germany is now seeking Israeli Uri Brodsky's extradition. However, Israeli ministers want him returned to Israel.

Brodsky is suspected of working for a foreign spy agency in Germany and helping issue a fake German passport to a member of the Mossad hit squad that was allegedly behind the killing of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in January. He was arrested in early June upon his arrival in Poland because of a European arrest warrant issued by Germany.

**"EYESORE" TO BECOME HOMES, SCHOOL.** Nearly four years after a wrecking ball took to Baltimore's old St. Stanislaus Church site, work is again under way to make way for a new project.

Developer Larry Silverstein is acquiring the property from the Franciscan Friars. He said his first order of business is to get a school building in shape for a Montessori school to occupy in the fall, and then he plans to build as many as 20 townhouses.

Silverstein has done ten other projects in Fells Point. "It's right up our alley. We restore old buildings and do urban infill, so to get a property like this in my backyard is a dream-come true," the developer said.

Some unresolved issues remain for the site, which many called an "eyesore." Silverstein said the so-called four-bay house that's still standing is unstable and can't be saved. He said the old church is not going anywhere, but he's welcoming ideas.

St. Stanislaus church closed its doors ten years ago. The former Franciscan stronghold was once the center of the neighborhood.

**PSAA DISTRICT 7 BRINGS HOME HLOND TROPHY.** The Aria Chorus, a mixed choir from Wallington, N.J. won highest points at the 49th International Convention of the Polish Singers Alliance, held in Buffalo, May 27-30.

The 49th International Convention was hosted by the Alliance's District IX, Buffalo, and chaired by Mary Lou Wyrobek. Co-chairs were by the Hon. Ann T. Mikoll and Janina Mazun.

In addition to competitions, and business meetings, members of visiting choirs toured Western New York. Combined choruses sang at a Mass at St. Stanislaus Church.

Other winners included the Oginski Chorus from Hempstead, N.Y., which won first place in Male Chorus Competition, and the Club Filaret from Detroit, which took first place in Female category.

**CRASHSITE THIEVES CAUGHT.** Four Russian soldiers were arrested for the theft of bank cards from the wreckage of the plane crash that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski and ninety-five others in April.

The thieves used bank cards stolen from the body of crash victim Andrzej Przewoznik to withdraw a total of about \$6,000 over a two-day period from Przewoznik's bank account. Russian investigators report that the four suspects have admitted the theft and are cooperating with officials.

The soldiers were on duty at the airport in Smolensk where the Russian-made plane carrying the Polish President and his delegation crashed while en route to a memorial ceremony at the site of the Katyn Massacre.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference in Warsaw, Polish government spokesman Paweł Graś apologized to the servicemen of the OMON Russian SWAT team for suggesting they were responsible for the theft of the credit cards. Speaking in Russian, Graś explained that he had made a mistake.

## Run-Off to Decide Presidency Kaczyński, Komorowski Top Vote-getters

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Bronisław Komorowski, the candidate of the pro-business Civic Platform (PO) grouping, won 41.54 percent of the vote in the first round of Poland's presidential election. His main rival Jarosław Kaczyński, representing the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party, came second with the backing of 36.46 percent of the voters. Under Poland's election law, a candidate must win more than 50 percent of the vote to become president. As a result the top two contenders will face each other in a run-off set for July 4th.

The vote followed an unusually short, less than seven-week election campaign conducted in the shadow of disaster. President Lech Kaczyński, Jarosław's twin brother, First Lady Maria Kaczyńska and 94 other political, military and religious figures as well as war veterans died in a plane crash in Smolensk, Russia while en route to a commemoration of See "Election," page 4

## A Tragic Fate Retold



PHOTO: STAS KMIIEC

A visitor to the Polish Consulate in New York examines panels depicting the background to the Katyn Forest Massacre of 1940. *Katyn: Genocide, Politics and Morality*, an extraordinary exhibit created by The Council to Protect the Memory of Combat and Martyrdom in Poland was displayed at the Consulate on May 20, in conjunction with the latest book on the subject — *Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Triumph of Truth* authored by Allen Paul. Story on page 4.

## Father Jerzy Joins The Ranks of Blessed Pro-Solidarity Priest Beatified in Warsaw



by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Some 150,000 pilgrims from all over Poland and beyond filled Warsaw's vast Piłsudski Square for the beatification of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, a pro-Solidarity priest murdered by communist Poland's secret police in 1984. The beatification mass, concelebrated by 120 bishops and some 2,500 priests was presided over by papal delegate Archbishop Angelo Amato who heads the Vatican's canonization office. See "Popieluszko," page 6

## Two Flood Waves Inundate Poland

Spring 2010: water, mud and toxic slime

By Robert Strybel

WARSAW—This year's spring floods have caused widespread destruction, grief and terror across Poland—a country still recuperating from the shock of April's air tragedy in which the Presidential Couple and 94 others perished. It was the worst deluge since the 1997 flood of the century which claimed 55 lives and devastated many parts of the country. Some of the 1997 victims had barely managed to rebuild their homes and their lives, when this year's floods again submerged or swept away everything they owned.

It began in mid-May with days of exceptionally heavy downpours which unleashed flash floods in the southwest, including Kłodzko Valley, among the hardest hit 13 years ago. The rains continued and

See "Floods ..." page 8



Firemen build dikes in Torun, north Poland.

## Why Was Hollywood at War with Poland?

An Interview with Professor M.B. Biskupski

*Hollywood's War with Poland, 1939-1945*, just published by the University Press of Kentucky, is a thoroughly documented study of how Tinsel Town portrayed Poland in films made during World War II. Its damning indictment shows that, while Hollywood generally ignored Poland, when it did deal with the country, it portrayed it in uncomplimentary, negative, and even false ways. Why Hollywood chose to present Poland so badly—the ally whose invasion caused the start of World War II—is the subject of this work which, while thoroughly researched and documented, remains very readable and of

interest to a popular Polonian readership. Its author, Professor M.B. Biskupski, discussed his book with the *Polish American Journal*.

Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski has held the Stanislas Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish-American Studies at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, since 2002. Born in Chicago of parents whose origins came from Mazowsze and Poland's eastern borderlands, he was a high school dropout who eventually received a fellowship and earned his doctorate from Yale University. Dr. Biskupski subsequently taught at St. John Fisher College, Rochester, New York, and the University of Rochester. He has been a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Warsaw See "... Hollywood ..." page 3

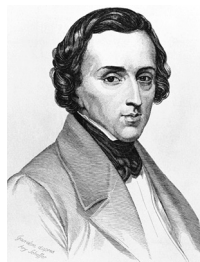


Professor M.B. Biskupski



## ALMANAC

## July • Lipiec



"Having nothing to do, I am correcting the Paris edition of Bach; not only the engraver's mistakes, but also the mistakes hallowed by those who are supposed to understand Bach (I have no pretensions to understand better, but I do think that sometimes I can guess)."

— Fryderyk Chopin

- 1 1569. **Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth** founded.
- 2 **MATKA BOSKA JAGODNA** Blessed Virgin of the Berries. The first fruits and wild berries are ripened by this day.
- 3 1844. Birth of **Rev. John Pitass** in Upper Slask, Poland. First pastor of St. Stanislaus parish, the Mother Church of Buffalo Polonia.
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY. (U.S.)** 1943. Death in an plane crash of **Wladyslaw Sikorski**, Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, and a vigorous advocate of the Polish cause on the diplomatic scene.
- 5 1945. Polish American World War II ace **Col. Francis Gabreski** scores his 28th downed enemy plane.
- 6 1922. Death of **Blessed Maria Teresia Ledóchowska** (b. April 29 1863), Roman Catholic nun and African missionary.
- 9 1823. Birth of Polish portrait painter **Henryk Rodakowski**.
- 10 1835. Birth of composer and violinist **Henry Wieniawski**.
- 11 1938. Death of **Mother Coletta Hilbert**, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph.
- 15 1410. Polish victory over the Teutonic Knights at **Grunwald**.
1871. Birth of famed Polish explorer and geographer **Henry Arctowski**.
- 16 **SAINT KUNEGUNDA** 1873. **Jan Matejko** establishes a school of fine arts in Krakow.
- 17 **BLESSED JADWIGA D'ANJOU** Queen of Poland (1373-1399).
- 19 1980. Lt. **Col. Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.
- 20 **BLESSED CZESLAW** Dominican companion of Saint Hyacinth and a disciple of Saint Dominic himself. He was the spiritual director of a duchess, Saint Hedwig of Poland. Blessed Czeslaw is patron saint of Wrocław, who is believed to have defended the city from the incursion of the Mongols in 1241. (d. 1242)
1936. Birth of Maryland Senator **Barbara Mikulski**.
- 21 1901. Dedication of **St. Josephat Basilica**, Milwaukee, Wisc.
- 22 1982. Official end of **martial law** in Poland that lasted for 586 days.
- 25 **ST. JACOB THE GREATER** Patron of laborers. By Polish custom, half of all eggs laid today are given to the poor. *Na Jakuby chmury, będą śniegu fury. Clouds on St. Jacob, wagonloads of snow.*
- 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** issues stamp in honor of Poland's millennium.
- 31 1928. **Halina Konopaczka** wins Poland's first Olympic gold in discus.

This paper mailed on or before  
July 1, 2010  
The August 2010 edition will be  
mailed on or before July 30.

## VIEWPOINTS

## Bust of Stalin is An Insult

Veterans organizations, visitors to the site, and local residents are among the many expressing their outrage at the erection of a bust of Jozef Stalin at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. All agree the statue of the Soviet madman bust should be taken down, but the National D-Day Memorial Foundation says the bust is not to honor Stalin, but to acknowledge his place in history as one of the Allied leaders in the fight against Adolf Hitler's Germany.

The bust joins existing likenesses of U.S. Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, as well as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Lee Edwards, chairman of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, one of the organizations involved in the protests against the statue, said he and others thought the prospect of a bust of Stalin was a joke when they first heard about it.

It was "too misplaced and ill-timed," he said.

Edwards said the foundation tried to deflect some of the criticism by installing the bust at a private ceremony and by adding a plaque that describes Stalin both as a wartime leader and as a genocidal dictator.

Stalin is infamous for his dictatorial rule of the Soviet Union, which ultimately led to the deaths of at least 20 million people, the largest number perishing during the terror

famines he engineered in the early 1930s to collectivize Soviet agriculture. He also entered World War II on the side of Nazi Germany, and only became an ally of the Western democracies when Adolf Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941.

To Poles, he is also the man who ordered the Katyn Massacre and was responsible for countless other crimes against Poland.

Placing his image at the D-Day Memorial is not only an insult to all who suffered under his control, but historically incorrect: no Soviet troops were part of the D-Day invasion.

"This is not a World War II memorial," Edwards said. "This is a D-Day memorial. If we focus on the fact of it being a D-Day memorial, then there is ... hardly any justification whatsoever" for Stalin being there.

The bust of Stalin must be removed. It is an insult to veterans, and all who suffered under his rule.

Contact your representatives in Washington and let them know how you feel.

Jeffery Fulgham is the Director of Development for the Day-Day Memorial Foundation ([www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org)). You can contact him directly at [jfulgham@dday.org](mailto:jfulgham@dday.org); tel. (540) 586-DDAY. If you have internet access, you can sign an on-line petition in favor of the bust's removal at the website <http://stalinstatue.com/>.

## NEWSWORTHY

**PAPAL DOCUMENTARY PREMIERS IN KRAKOW.** Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and wife Callista, in partnership with Citizens United Productions and Peace River Company, premiered their new documentary, "Nine Days that Changed the World," in Krakow, Warsaw and Rome.

The film opened at the Lagiewniki Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Krakow on June 8, at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on June 9, and at the Pontifical North American College in Rome on June 12.

"Nine Days that Changed the World" explores Pope John Paul II's historic nine-day pilgrimage to Poland in June of 1979, which created a revolution of conscience that transformed Poland and fundamentally reshaped the spiritual and political landscape of the 20th Century.

**ARRESTS MADE.** NYPD officers arrested two men in the murder of

cab driver **Jaroslaw Bielawski**, 62, who was found in his Lincoln Town Car in January with a gunshot wound to his head. Investigators say they believe one suspect, Gregory Johnson, 32, worked with Bielawski. Johnson and Auther Lattan, 22, both of Brooklyn, were charged with murder, robbery, and criminal possession of a weapon.

Bielawski, of Greenpoint, was a married father of two.

**INFORMATION ON POLISH ANCESTRY PRIESTS SOUGHT.** The Orchard Lake Schools maintains a list of Polish and Polish American Priests in the United States. The last count showed 2,289 names and addresses. The vast majority of these names are diocesan clergy with a small percentage religious.

Mail information to: **Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski, P.A.**, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, MI 48324. Fax: (248) 738-6727 or email: [olchancell@aol.com](mailto:olchancell@aol.com).

## QUOTES / compiled from news sources

## Cohen's Skewed View

"For the surviving Jews of Eastern Europe, there was no going home — and no staying, either. Europe was hostile to them, not in the least appalled or sorry about what had just happened."

— Washington Post *Op-Ed* columnist **Richard Cohen**, from his piece "What Helen Thomas Missed." Cohen cites General George Patton's anti-Semitism, and insinuates Polish-led pogroms among the reasons Jews deserved their own state. His column was in response to comments by retiring White House reporter Helen Thomas, who — when asked at a White House event about Israel — said that Jews in Israel should "get the hell out of Palestine" and "go home" to Germany and Poland.

"His omissions border on negligence.

"At the time of the 1946 Kielce pogrom, Poland and the other countries of Eastern Europe were under Russian Communist occupation and control. At least 15 other coordinated pogroms were also taking place throughout these Communist-dominated countries. There was a pattern to the madness.

"Poland was under a reign of terror. The violence was anti-Polish as well as anti-Jewish.

"U.S. Ambassador Arthur Lane was in Poland when the Kielce pogrom occurred. As a credible source, he pointed to the Communists as the ones responsible for it.

— Letter from **Frank Milewski**, Chair of Polish American Congress' Holocaust Documentation Committee, to the editor of the Washington

Post, in response to Cohen's generalizations.

◆◆◆  
"It is particularly painful that the Poland of today, a strong ally of Israel that works closely with its Jewish community, should be referred to in the same way as Nazi Germany."

— Response to Cohen's article by **Michael Schudrich**, chief rabbi of Poland, and **Piotr Kadlcik** is president of the Union of Jewish Communities of Poland.

◆◆◆  
"Poland is mostly absent from the popular Western vision of World War II, despite being the first Western Ally to stand up to the Nazi German war machine ... This ... made me realize how important it was to publish the Polish World War II experience. I am an American of Armenian descent who doesn't speak or read Polish. But I am convinced that this history needs to be told to the world ... For too long Poles, both in Poland and in the diaspora, were denied that basic right."

— Former entertainment attorney and co-founder of *Aquila Polonica Publishing* **Terry Tegnazian**, Wall Street Journal, June 1, 2010.

◆◆◆  
"If health-care reform means that kids of hedge fund managers can stay on their parents' health care until they're 26, kids of federal employees should be covered until age 26, too."

— **Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.)**, on moving up legislation designed to cover the children of federal workers covered by employer-sponsored health care.

## JUST BETWEEN US / Mark Kohan

## He Who Laughs Last ...

At a Pennsylvania Society luncheon in December 2008, then-Republican Sen. Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) told some jokes about Polish tickets deemed "tasteless" by a local paper. He asked first if there were any Polish people in the audience. When about ten people raised their hands, Specter went on, deeming the number insignificant.

He forged ahead with some supposedly funny jokes, including the old one about the man who interrupted him once, saying, "Hey, careful. I'm Polish!" Specter said he responded, "That's OK — I'll tell it more slowly." He also told two other tasteless jokes in the same vein.

"No one walked out, but it was offensive," one person told *The Huffington Post*. "I was offended, and I'm not Polish."

Shortly after this incident, the PAJ reminded Specter that — whether he remembered it or not — there were quite a few Poles in Pennsylvania, the state he represented, and they would remember him at election time.

And they did:  
Rep. Joe Sestak defeated Specter in the Pennsylvania Democratic Senate primary, knocking the five-term senator off the ballot in the upcoming election.

Now that's funny! Szkoda!

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## Why Was Hollywood at War with Poland?

*continued from cover*

at the University of Warsaw and a Fellow of the Central European University, Budapest. He is a past president of the Polish American Historical Association. The author or editor of numerous books (including *Polish Jewish Relations in North America*, edited with Antony Polonsky), Biskupski is the father of five (Olesia, Jadzia, Mietek, Misia, and Stasiu).

**PAJ:** Polish Americans have been struggling against the image of the "dumb Polack" ever since Archie Bunker made them his trademark on "All in the Family." In light of your book, one could argue that the "dumb Polack" stereotype goes back a long way before 1970. Your comments?

**MBB:** The image of the Pole — and especially the Polish-American as cloddish certainly pre-dates the films of the Second World War era. In the 1930s we had such titles as Warner Brothers' "Black Fury," in which Paul Muni played a Pole as a genial dolt. The film "Palooka" of the same era made the prizefighter probably intended to be a Pole-another dull-witted figure. The film "The Wedding Night" displayed a contemporary community of Poles living in Connecticut as virtual barbarians. The list could be extended. However, it seems most unlikely that the negative image of the Poles waited until the 1930s. It would be an intriguing topic of research to discover whether there was a Polish "type" in Vaudeville in an earlier generation. My suspicions are that the image of the Pole as an uneducated boor was established soon after the mass-migration at the close of the 19th century, when Poles occupied the lowest rung in American society and their ignorance of the English language and isolation from the host society made them seem all the more exotic and distastefully so. Poles did not enjoy a favorable image in American eyes from the beginning of their en masse arrival here and it has only slowly evolved.

**PAJ:** You attribute the pejorative image of Poles in World War II Hollywood films to three factors: Communist/leftwing influence among writers, the Roosevelt Administration's foreign policy, and the Polish-Jewish roots of some Hollywood moguls. Let's take each in turn. Anytime anybody asserts "Communist influence" in America he risks charges of "McCarthyism" and "witch hunt." Please comment on the extent of Communist influence in 1940s Hollywood. How would you answer charges of "McCarthyism?"

**MBB:** The Left was very powerful among screenwriters in that period and many of the most unkind representations of Poles or Poland were the product of radical leftists, often members of the Communist Party. We must also remember that the Left had a particular grievance against Poland for several reasons. First, Poland was widely perceived on the Left as a reactionary country still preserving many of the characteristics of a bygone era. Secondly, the Poles had defeated Soviet Russia in the war of 1919-1921—a virtual sin to the pro-Soviet Left. Finally, Poland was the victim of a double assault in September 1939 by Nazi

Germany and Soviet Russia. Hence any mention of Poland immediately raised the issue of Communist collaboration with the Nazis and the brief era when Hitler and Stalin were allies. Hence for the Left, Poland was at least an obstacle and at most an object of hatred. There was no pro-Polish element in Hollywood to counter the Left's powerful animus against Poland.

**PAJ:** Poland seems to have been an inconvenient ally for the Roosevelt Administration, complicating its efforts to warm relations with the Soviet Union during World War II. Do you think that the Administration actually wanted the negative portrayal of Poland found in those World War II films where Poland appeared, or would its goals have been served just as well as by mere silence about Poland? If the latter, why didn't the Office of War Information (OWI) demand that the anti-Polish vitriol be toned down?

**MBB:** There is no doubt that the studios and not the federal authorities were the more intent upon portraying Poland negatively. Indeed, we have memoranda from the Office of War Information criticizing films for being excessively anti-Polish or omitting positive aspects of Polish Americans which might have been easily included. In other words, the chief enemy of Poland in getting favorable treatment in Hollywood was Hollywood, not the Roosevelt administration. However, we have to remember one feature which complicates the picture. The Roosevelt administration was extraordinarily interested in a positive portrayal of the Russians. Given the foul behaviors of the Russians towards the Poles, to present the Russians positively required you to omit their behavior in relation to the Poles. Here, the virtual white-washing of Moscow had direct consequences for the way in which issues crucial to Poland were presented. To celebrate the Soviet Union you had either to misrepresent Poland, or to edit it out.

**PAJ:** You note that Jews of Polish ancestry were prominent in 1940s Hollywood, e.g., the Warner Brothers, but that they had ambivalent attitudes about the "old country." Can you develop this theme?

**MBB:** It has been noted in other contexts that the Jewish immigrants to the United States at the turn of the century did not wish to return to the country of their former residence. Many Catholic Poles, by comparison, did not intend to stay in the United States, but regarded it as a temporary sojourn. The Catholic Poles overwhelmingly brought with them powerful attachments to their ancestral homeland. For the Jews of Eastern Europe the situation was far more complex. For some warm feelings for Poland remained with them — one may mention for example the publisher Jakob Vorzimmer or the

entrepreneur Ludwik Hemmerling — but for most their former homeland was associated with bad memories — at the very least alienation, for many actual discrimination. That this was the often the product of the Partitioning powers did not change the memories. Virulent nationalism was on the rise at the turn of the century and the Poles shared in this unfortunate phenomenon. To many nationalist Poles, Jews were either unassimilated or inassimilable. It is striking how many of the Hollywood Jews never spoke about their ancestral homelands and regarded those generations there as a closed chapter. This alone caused a division between Polish Catholics and Polish Jews in the United States. The Jews assimilated into a resident Jewish community and abandoned their former countrymen. For the Catholic Poles this was tantamount to betrayal. The seeds of animosity were planted as soon as the immigrants arrived.

**PAJ:** You indicate that Jews in Hollywood had some interest in presenting the issue of the extermination of European Jewry in film, but that the Roosevelt Administration fought those efforts. Can you expound on this a bit?

**MBB:** Hollywood Jews were very chary about presenting Jewish issues in wartime films. They were aware that polling evidence indicated that large segments of the American population harbored feelings of suspicion and dislike for the Jews. To even suggest that the War was over Jewish issues, i.e. the Holocaust was worrisome to the Jews who feared a public backlash. Similarly, the Administration did not want Jewish issues focused upon in order to maintain public unity: the war as moral crusade not the rescue of persecuted Jews. Both Washington and Hollywood saw Jewish issues as dangerous to confront. This explains the lack of films about the Holocaust. "None Shall Escape," a film set in Poland, is a notable exception. There are minor Jewish sub-plots in two other films ("To Be or Not to Be," "Once Upon a Honeymoon") largely set in Poland.

**PAJ:** You make the striking comment that, for Poles, raising the Polish flag over Monte Cassino was as sacred and symbolic as raising the American flag over Iwo Jima. Can you tell us how Hollywood recounted that event?

**MBB:** The film, "The Story of GI Joe," is focused on the allied assault on the Gustav Line, the well-prepared German defensive position stretching across Italy. A focal point in this line was the famous monastery of Monte Cassino. There were repeated attempts by Allied troops — including Americans — to take the position. All failed. But, the Poles were victorious in May 1944 and raised the Polish flag over the heights. Polish casualties in this ac-

tion were enormous and the victory allowed the Italian campaign to resume after months of being stalled. This was a major Polish contribution to the war made at huge costs. For the film to omit the Poles and suggest that it was an American victory is simply outrageous. The film incidentally was written by members of the Communist Party. In the film, it is the American flag that is raised over Monte Cassino—a fantasy, not an historical fact.

**PAJ:** You insist that there was no "conspiracy" to slur Poland in World War II Hollywood, but that various independent factors dovetailed to produce what happened. Poland, you say, had few friends and many enemies in Tinsel Town. Could events have been different and, if so, how? Is the Polish situation in Hollywood any different today?

**MBB:** There was no effective Polish "lobby" in the United States. There was no significant Polish presence in Hollywood. The Polish government-in-exile was virtually penniless and a very minor voice in the West. Hence, there was no strong voice for Poland. Even the Catholic Church, seemingly an ally of Roman Catholic Poland, did little for the Poles. After all, the American Catholic Church was dominated by the Irish and Polish influence in the Church hierarchy was almost invisible. The factors were in place to make it impossible for the Poles to receive sympathetic treatment by Hollywood.

**PAJ:** What inspired you to write this book? How long did it take, and what was your most memorable anecdote associated with its writing?

**MBB:** I began my research for the book several years ago and travelled about gathering information: from studio records, private papers, and government documents—including FBI reports—as well as many memoirs of actors, directors and studio executives. I started writing the book a few years ago, but was interrupted several times which delayed the process. In all I should say the project took more than five years. I remember watching World War II era films with my family when I was a boy. My mother was a great student of Hollywood and had a fantastic memory for films and their players. In addition to her enthusiasm, I remember very well the frustration and sadness of my family at the neglect of Poland in these films. We all knew what Poland had suffered during the war: they deserved more than this indifference. I should think my most striking experience — of which there was more than one occasion—was when I would discover that Hollywood screenwriters would simply invent whole episodes which were utterly without foundation to present the Poles in a foul light. Some of these creations are utterly fantas-



Fredrik Sobieski (Ralph Bellamy) prepares to hit Anthony "Tony" Barrett (Gary Cooper), because of Barrett's advances on Sobieski's fiancée, Manya Novak (Anna Sten) in "The Wedding Night." The film displayed a contemporary community of Poles living in Connecticut as virtual barbarians.

tic and were fabrications which the writer certainly realized at the time he was preparing the script. A good example is the supposedly accurate rendition of the memoirs of Joseph E. Davies, "Mission to Moscow," by screenwriter Howard Koch. There are scenes in the film critical of the Poles which do not appear in the book despite Koch's claims to the contrary.

**PAJ:** What kind of reception has the book received to date?

**MBB:** When I was in Poland briefly in March, there was considerable interest in the book—after all it touches a sensitive spot for Poles: why their suffering and achievements were ignored. It would be enormously satisfying to me were a Polish-language edition to be published. I have given a few lectures on the book here in the United States and have drawn large audiences. I have no idea what the sales figures are. Reviews are only beginning to appear so I cannot make a response. I anticipate that the political Left, of which I am very critical in the book, will be dismayed by the book and react accordingly.

**PAJ:** Do you intend to follow up on the themes Poland/Hollywood raised in this book? What else are you currently working on?

**MBB:** I think one book on films for a historian whose work is devoted to political and intellectual history is more than enough. I am finishing a very long work on the role of the United States in Poland's resurrection as a free country during World War I. It is a theme which has interested me for many years. I have almost finished another volume on why November 11th is Polish Independence Day and the myths and symbols surrounding it which have helped create the modern Polish political mentality. Finally, I just published a book a few weeks ago which is a collection of essays on the idea of democracy in modern Polish thought. In this effort, I worked with colleagues from Purdue and the University of Toronto.

**PAJ:** Thank you, Dr. Biskupski. We hope your book finds its way to every Polish American's bookshelf!

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## National Katyn Memorial Observes 10th Anniversary

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE, M.D. —The National Katyn Memorial Foundation's 10th Annual Katyn Remembrance, led by NKMF Chairman Richard Poremski, was observed April 25, 2010. The event took on an even greater significance as it was also dedicated as a memorial to Poland's President Lech Kaczynski and the other 95 governmental, military and civilian victims of the catastrophic airplane crash very near Katyn Forest/Smolensk, Russia on April 10, 2010. They were on a mission to honor the more than 20,000 Polish martyrs of the infamous 1940 Katyn Forest Massacre on its 70th anniversary.

The day began with a very well attended special Katyn mass and ceremony, conducted in Polish by Ks. Zdzislaw Nawrocki in the vast Holy Rosary Church, to commemorate all who perished at Katyn ... in the past by the hand of the Soviet Union and presently by the hand of fate.

For the first time in ten years, inclement weather necessitated that the main Remembrance ceremonials be held in the Great Hall of Polish

National Alliance (PNA) - Council 21. MC Tom Rybczynski opened the program to the overflowing audience with the procession of the lo-



Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski are shown at the ceremonies wearing their NKMF Katyn armbands.

cal SPK and PLAV color guards, led by Michael Sieczkowski who was outfitted as a 17th century Polish Winged Hussar, as Josef Surowiec sang the medieval hymn "Bogorodzica," and then later followed with the national anthems of Poland and the United States.

Invocations were given by Ks.

Andrzej Bieganowski and Rabbi Rhoda Silverman, who prayed and sang Kaddish in memory of Baruch Steinburg — Chief Rabbi of the



Consul General Wlodzimierz Sulgostowski, Major Maciej Wozniak and LCDR Konrad Szymanski presenting the Polish Embassy wreath at the Memorial.

Polish Army — and the several hundred Polish-Jewish army officers who also perished at Katyn along with their military brothers.

Representing the Embassy of the Republic of Poland was Consul General Wlodzimierz Sulgostowski, Vice-Consul Michal Sikorski and a contingent of military attaches

(as pictured above) led by Colonel Andrzej Kopacki, representing Poland's Army, Air Force and Navy. After his speech, Sulgostowski

young Krakowiaki Dancers in their colorful folk costumes, many other prominent persons also expressed heartfelt comments and sincere condolences concerning the somber day's dual-Katyn themes. The personages, most of whom are Honorary Members of the NKMF, included U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Maryland Delegate Carolyn Krysiak, Baltimore Councilman James Kraft, representatives for U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, PNA National Secretary Charles Komosa and author/historian Allen Paul.

The last speaker, recent college graduate Halska Graczyk, was very compelling as she spoke personally about her great-grandfather, Colonel Szymon Koperski, who perished at Katyn.

The final and closing note of the day was sounded by Maryland National Guard Major Jari Villanueva when he lifted his bugle sounding the mournful notes of Taps.

## Katyn Exhibit at Consulate

by Staś Kmieć

NEW YORK — This year marks the 70th anniversary of the sad chapter in Poland's history, when approximately 22,000 Poles, among them 15,000 POWs, were killed by the Soviet secret police (NKVD). Stalin personally signed the order to murder this mass of Polish Army officers, policemen, doctors, professors, lawyers, teachers, clergymen, as well as the political and intellectual elite. Their mass graves were in Katyn, Kharkov, and Miednoje. Until 1989, the horrible truth was obscured to the world, and officially denied to the post-war generations living behind the Iron Curtain.

**Katyn: Genocide, Politics and Morality**, an extraordinary exhibit created by *The Council to Protect the Memory of Combat and Martyrdom in Poland* was displayed at the Polish Consulate in New York on May 20, in conjunction with the latest book on the subject — **Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Triumph of Truth** authored by Allen Paul.

In a special evening of remembrance for the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre of 1940, Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka gave the opening remarks recounting one of the darkest episodes of World War II.

Nazi Germany announced the discovery of mass graves in the Katyn Forest in 1943. The revelation led to the end of diplomatic relations between Moscow and the London-based Polish government-in-exile. The Soviet Union continued to deny responsibility for the massacres until 1990, when it officially acknowledged and condemned the perpetration of the killings by the NKVD, as well as the subsequent cover-up.

"This exhibit serves an important purpose — that there were all kinds of Holocaust and inhumanity demonstrated during World War II," said New York State Senator Frank Padavan.

An investigation conducted by the Prosecutor's General Office of the Soviet Union and the Russian

Federation, has since confirmed Soviet responsibility for the massacres. It was able to confirm the deaths of 1,803 Polish citizens, but refused to classify this action as a war crime or an act of genocide. The investigation was closed on grounds that the perpetrators of the massacre were already dead. The Russian government also does not classify the dead as victims of Stalinist repression, which bars formal posthumous rehabilitation.

The Katyn massacre is a major plot element in many works of culture. The Polish film director Andrzej Wajda, whose father, Captain Jakub Wajda, was murdered in the NKVD prison of Kharkov, made a film depicting the event — *Katyn*. It was nominated for the Academy Award for the *Best Foreign Language Film*.

In 2008, British historian Laurence Rees produced a six-hour prime time BBC/PBS television documentary series entitled *World War II Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, the Nazis and the West*, which aired on U.S. public television. The Katyn massacre was a central theme. In 2009, Rees published an accompanying book.

Russia and Poland have remained divided on the legal description of the Katyn crime, with the Poles considering it a case of genocide and demanding further investigations, as well as complete disclosure of Soviet documents. In 2008, Polish Foreign Ministry asked the government of Russia about alleged footage of the massacre filmed by the NKVD during the killings. Polish officials believe that this footage, as well as further documents show-



Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka among some family members of those who perished in Katyn, and author Allen Paul (first from right).

ing cooperation of Soviets with the Gestapo during the operations, is the reason for Russia's decision to classify most of documents about the massacre.

On May 8, 2010, Russia handed over to Poland 67 volumes of the "criminal case No.159," launched in the 1990s to investigate the Soviet-era mass killings of Polish officers.

"This has been a continuing unfolding tragedy for many years and one that continues to this day," said author Allen Paul. He spoke in reference to the missing and lost documents — all part of a U.S. cover-up. Previously unpublished information of the new edition of his 1991 book describes a backroom deal in 1953 that gutted a recommendation for a Katyn trial at the Court of International Justice at The Hague. The author has called upon President Obama to issue a presidential directive to conduct a full-scale search of archives for reports on the cover-up.

I wish that more of those in attendance would have followed the very detailed exhibit, which was the purpose of the event. The compelling exhibit was a scholarly account of this systematic massacre.

The exhibit also was shown in the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building and the Whittall Pavilion in the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

asked for one-full-minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of the airplane tragedy. Sikorski then read deceased President Kaczynski's relevant and moving "Letter to the Katyn Families" prepared for the occasion of the Katyn 70th Anniversary.

At the podium, flanked by the

## Election: July 4th Run-Off Scheduled

continued from cover

the Katyn Forest Massacre.

Under Polish law, the death of a serving head of state forced the election, originally set for autumn, to be brought forward and made Sejm Marshal (parliamentary speaker) Komorowski the acting president. He had earlier been nominated as the PO's presidential candidate. The campaign, already billed as the strangest in Free Poland's 21-year history, was further compounded by the worst flooding since 1997.

Komorowski and Kaczyński led a field of 10 presidential candidates, most of whom garnered less than three percent of the vote. A true election surprise was the showing of young post-communist

Grzegorz Napieralski who received nearly 14 percent of the vote. Analysts see him as a king-maker in the second round, since his support can make or break either of the top two candidates. Behind-the-scenes bargaining with the front-runners for appointments or other concessions appeared likely.

Polish voters in the United States overwhelmingly cast their ballots for Jarosław Kaczyński who received 70% of the Polonian vote. Komorowski received 25% and the post-communist candidate Napieralski — a mere 2.5%. Similar results were achieved in Canada. The contrast is typical, as the Diaspora is usually more traditional and patriotic than people in the home country.

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## PAC Kicks Off 2010 Voter Drive



BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Members of the Downstate New York Polish American Congress Voter Registration Committee collect signatures for voter registration at a table in front of Kent Street's Polish & Slavic Center.

Pictured are (l. to r.): Paul Kaminski, Andrew Kaminski, Grace Michalski and Bogdan Bachorowski as they add additional registrants to their list.

The PAC holds regular voter drives. Those who signed up at this drive will vote in the upcoming senatorial, congressional and state elections, according to Frank Milewski, president of the Congress.

## Poet Priest Remembered

WARSAW — Poles celebrated the 95th anniversary of the birth of late poet **Fr. Jan Twardowski** (inset, right), nicknamed the “ladybird priest.” He fought in Poland's Home Army (Armia Krajowa) against Nazi occupation during World War II and took part in the Warsaw Uprising. He became a priest in 1948.

Twardowski's best-known works include “Love Seeks Love,” “Signs of Trust” and “Who Made the Blueberry?” He exalted in his works a love for everyday life and for nature's beauty. He received many awards for his poetry, and after his 2006 death was recognized with the Order of Poland reborn, one of the most prestigious awards in Poland.

His most famous quote is: “We should hurry to love people because they are gone so fast.”



## POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

### Sikorski Follows Through

The fall of Poland in September, 1939 was not the end of the war for Polish military forces. Indeed, it was just the beginning for the only Allied army to fight against Nazi Germany from the first day of World War II to the last. The next theatre of battle for Polish forces would be the Battle of France in the spring of 1940.

The formation of a Polish army in France actually began in early September of 1939 when the French government made available a military camp at Coetquidan. Recruitment began immediately from the large population of Poles living in France and Belgium, particularly those working in the coal mining area of Flanders. Following the capitulation of Warsaw, Polish troops escaping through Hungary and Romania made their way to France. By January of 1940 there were thirty thousand Polish troops in France and by June that number would swell to over eighty thousand in what came to be known as “Sikorski's Army” named for its commander, General Wladyslaw Sikorski.

While the Poles were ready to carry on the fight, they were slowed by inefficient French logistics, and when the Germans attacked on May 10, 1940 only two Polish infantry divisions and one air squadron were operational. The Polish High Command and the Polish Government-in-exile in Paris pushed hard for more supplies, guns, ammunitions and uniforms. Polish generals produced a document detailing the most important lessons learned in fighting the German *blitzkrieg* during the September '39 campaign. The document was ignored by French commanders.

But Sikorski pressed on and by early June the Poles had four infantry divisions, an armored cavalry division, four squadrons of fighter aircraft, and two independent brigades engaged in the field against the Germans. Originally assigned by the French Command to only rear-guard actions, the Polish divisions were moved to the front line when Nazi troops broke through French defenses. Though none of the Polish units were completely combat ready and equipped, they all continued to fight even after the French commander, Marshal Petain, called for

an armistice and demobilization on June 16th. Indeed, General Sikorski announced in a radio bulletin that Polish forces would continue to fight as an ally of Great Britain.

The Polish 1st Grenadier Division, after manning the Maginot line until June 14th, moved on to Lagarde where they withstood a week-long onslaught by German forces. The division was finally forced to withdraw to cover the retreat of the French 52nd Division. On June 21st, with the collapse of all French forces in the region, the Grenadiers were forced to disband and evacuate to Great Britain.

The Polish 2nd Fusiliers Division engaged in heavy fighting through June 19th stopping German forces at the Clos-du-Doubs hills. However, due to the surrender of nearby French forces, they became surrounded by German troops. They managed to break through enemy lines and by June 21 arrived in Switzerland, where they were interned.

The 10th Armored Cavalry Brigade fought in the Champagne, Bourgogne and Champaubert regions, protecting the flank of the French 4th Army, then routed German forces near Montbard. But toward the end of the battle in Montbard the French armies were in retreat and the Poles were fighting alone. Without fuel or ammunition, and practically surrounded, the Brigade was forced to withdraw.

The other Polish divisions and brigades suffered similar fates protecting the retreat of French troops. More than 1500 Polish soldiers were killed during the Battle of France, 4,000 were wounded, 13,000 interned in Switzerland, and 16,000 taken prisoner. General Sikorski managed to organize the evacuation of the remaining Polish troops to Great Britain where they would re-group and carry on the battle

◆◆◆  
*Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish American author of the award-winning book, Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two. He has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and has written a second historical novel set in Poland in World War II which will be released in May, 2011.*

## Zamość under German Occupation 1939-1945 / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

### The Early Expulsions

In early November of 1941, SS Brigadefuehrer Odilo Globocnik held a practice attempt of expelling the Poles from their villages. The individuals were initially taken to what had previously been a POW camp for Soviets that could hold up to 12,000 people. The plan was to then transport the people somewhere outside the region to make way for the German settlers and make the Zamość region a new German colony. It would no longer be called Zamość but Himmlerstadt, after the person who was behind the entire plan, Heinrich Himmler.

In a report submitted to its main office dated November 13, 1941, the local Zamość branch of Polskiego Komitetu Opiekuńczy ((Polish Care Committee) gives an account of its activities and the events of those first expulsions.

“On November 6th, 1941, 700 individuals from the villages of Huszczka Mała, Dulnik, Huszczka Duża, were expelled. After obtaining permission of the (German) authorities the PKO began feeding the expelled. On November 6th for supper we distributed 160 liters of coffee sweetened with condensed milk and 150 kilograms of bread. On November 7th at 5:30 in the morning we distributed breakfast consisting of coffee sweetened with condensed milk and 70 kilograms

of bread because PKO didn't have more than that. That transport was sent off at 7 a.m. in the morning. On that same day the village of Wysokie was expelled and about 600 individuals arrived at the camp. Feeding this transport consisted of 160 liters of coffee on the evening and 160 liters on the morning of November the 8th. Additionally, 30 cans of condensed milk were distributed for the children ... that transport left on November the 8th at 6:30 in the morning...On November 8th, 1941 in the afternoon hours, the villages of Boratycze and Białobrzegi was brought in. The people from Boratycze consisted chiefly of Ukrainians, and in the absence of any other aid, were taken care of along with the Polish people. This transport remains in the camp up to this time. Feeding consists of a mid-day meal (barley, sauerkraut made with meat), white coffee with sugar for supper and breakfast ... On the morning of November 12, coffee was distributed and the guards stopped us and forbade the PKO further access to the expelled. All the work of preparing and distributing provisions was executed by the personnel of PKO.”

**IN A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL** memo dated November 20, 1941 from the German mayor Weihenmaier of the district of Zamosc to

the German governor of the district of Lublin, E. Zörner, on the matter of the first expulsions of Zamość and the fate of the expelled Polish people:

“... the action of expulsions was completed on Sunday, the 9th of November. The transporting of the expelled individuals has been stopped because the authority in this matter, the German commissioner in Wołyn has not given permission for their acceptance. That is why some of the convoys are still at the border or behind in various camps. In the event that settling them in the Wołyn region becomes impossible, the land administrator (councilor Oeser) has received instruction to settle them in the district ...”

The continued fate of these first individuals expelled from the Zamosc region was documented in an underground Polish newspaper dated December 8, 1941:

“In the Hrubiesów and surrounding region are those expelled from Zamość ... They are supposed to be moved further to the east, only there are difficulties with transports at this time. The expelled remain in very difficult conditions-sick, weak and poorly dressed, a portion have already expired. The anxieties of the expelled is enormous, there are rumors that (the expulsions) are to encompass the entire district of Hrubiesów and Zamość as well as the regions of Jasło and Gorlice.”

Utilizing the combined forces of local German police and the SS, the Germans expelled the inhabitants of seven villages in the Zamość region as part of their initial experiment. These were the villages of: Huszczka Mała, Dulnik, Huszczka Duża, Wysokie, Białobrzegi, Bortatycze and Zawada totaling 2,098 individuals. The ease with which the expulsions had taken place was encouraging and further fueled the plans to make Zamość the first German colony in the General Government.

◆◆◆  
All quotes from *Zamojszczyzna: Son derlaboratorium SS. Zbiór dokumentów polskich i niemieckich z okresu okupacji hitlerowskiej*, Czesław Madajczyk, Volume I.

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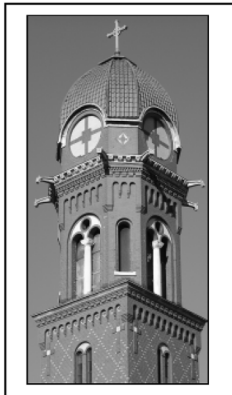
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## Honoring Pope John Paul II

The legacy of Pope John Paul II was remembered at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo, N.Y., on May 23 in a program called "In Song, Prayer and Word." Taking part in the ceremony were Polish American Congress, WNY Division President **Richard Solecki**, **Fr. Thaddeus Bocianowski**, **Hannah and Norman Weinberg**, **Rabbi Drorah Setel** and Deputy Consul General of the Republic of Poland **Marek Skulimowski**.

Students from Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School created drawings of Pope John Paul II while making presentations during their commemoration of the former pontiff's birth at St. John Gualbert RC Church in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

### THANKS FOR SAVING BIBLE.

**Bogdan Borusewicz**, Speaker of the Polish Senate, presented the Canadian government with a copy of the Gutenberg Bible that was one of the cultural treasures safeguarded in Canada during the Second World War.

### GOODBYE TO ALASKA. Fr.

**Miroslaw "Mirek" Woznica** has completed his five-year assignment in Alaska and is returning to his home diocese of Katowice, Poland. While in Alaska he worked at Immaculate Conception Church, Fairbanks, "the Little Church on the River," where he won the hearts of the parishioners. While at the parish he maintained the parish's successful soup kitchen, directed by parish-

ioner **Cindy Fields**. He also introduced devotions, such as Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays, Masses for priests, religious and new vocations on First Thursdays, Mass and prayer to the Sacred Heart on First Fridays, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet on the third Fridays. While he says he will miss seeing the Northern Lights, he adds, "The people are much more important to me than anything else." Among the international local clergy serving in the missionary diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska are Fr. Stanisław Jaszek, Yukon Subregion B, and Bro. Robert J. Ruzicka, O.F.M., Bush Interior Parishes.

### HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS PEN NEW BOOK.

"Children of Terror" is a book about two young girls — a Jewish girl from Germany and a Roman Catholic girl from Poland. Born the same year just months apart they experienced hatred and the terror of World War II but maintain a positive outlook on humanity as they tell their story. On a book tour to Western NY, authors **Inge Auerbacher** and **Bozenna Urbanowicz Gilbride** made several stops through Buffalo including the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum in Buffalo, to visit the John Paul II exhibit, and Temple Beth Zion in Amherst where they greeted the congregation.

### BUFFALO ASSISTS CORPUS CHRISTI.

Buffalo Common Council President **David Franczyk** an-

nounced a grant for capital improvement in the amount of \$10,000 for Corpus Christi Church, to be used toward the recently announced Phase II of the parish's Preservation Fund Campaign. Despite tremendous odds, last summer Corpus Christi successfully completed its first fundraising goal of \$1 million, and did so nearly one year ahead of schedule. As a result, the church has new slate roof, repairs were made to the south tower, and the Rose Window is being restored. The church, with its artistic and community legacy, has been officially recognized as a New York State Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The church's restoration efforts have been recognized with the prestigious Preservation Award from Preservation Buffalo Niagara in May. In Phase II of the renovations, about to begin, repairs to the North bell tower, new drainage tiles around the church, waterproofing the basement walls, restoration of the terrazzo floor and the mural behind the altar are all planned. Fr. Matthew Wydmanski, pastor of Corpus Christi, hopes for continued support in order to complete the restoration.

### STO LAT TO ... Msgr. Bernard A.

**Hebda** of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, under secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, on his appointment as Bishop of Gaylord, Texas. Msgr. Hebda, born in Pittsburgh in 1959, was ordained a priest in 1989.

## Popiełuszko: "Zło Dobrem Zwyciężaj!" — "Overcome Evil with Good!"

*continued from cover*

"By the Apostolic authority invested in me I hereby permit the venerable Servant of God Jerzy Popiełuszko, priest and martyr, an enduring and undaunted witness to Christ, who overcame evil with good to the point of shedding his blood, to be entitled to be called blessed and have his feast day celebrated on October 19," said Pope Benedict XVI in the papal declaration read out in Latin and Polish. Large lettering across the front of the altar roof proclaimed Father Jerzy's trademark motto: "Zło Dobrem Zwyciężaj!" ("Overcome evil with good").

The motto could also be seen on banners held up by members of the congregation alongside the priest's likeness, Solidarity banners and Polish flags. There were worshippers in colorful Polish folk costumes and miners in black parade uniforms and plumed-topped hats. Attending the beatification were priests and nuns, nurses, soldiers, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and thousands of ordinary Poles.

Father Popiełuszko was abducted, tortured and murdered by three communist secret-police agents who hurled his bound and battered body over a dam into the River Vistula. Father Jerzy, as he was affectionately known to his numerous admirers, was considered a martyr for the faith already at the time of his death, and his countryman, the late Pope John Paul II, had made frequent references to that effect.

The 37-year-old priest was murdered by the communist secret po-

lice in 1984 in reprisal for his patriotic monthly Homeland Mass (Msza za Ojczyznę) at Warsaw's Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church. The mass lifted the spirits of his downtrodden compatriots during the grim years of martial law (1981-1983) and afterwards but infuriated Poland's communist rulers.

A man of slight build and frail health with a somewhat boyish face, Popiełuszko was no fiery orator but spoke in calm, rather monotonous, droning voice. He never mentioned the word communism nor directly criticized Poland's communist rulers by name, but Homeland Mass goes knew that Jaruzelski's Zomo riot police were being referred to when he called for prayers for "those who persecute their own countrymen for Judas silver." He spoke of fidelity to God and country, of freedom, human dignity, truth, honesty and justice — all things most Poles felt were sorely lacking in communist Poland.

### SOVIET-TRAINED COMMUNIST

strongman General Wojciech Jaruzelski clamped Poland under martial law to crush the 16-month-old Solidarity movement, the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union. The country was cut off from the world, as all flights were grounded, phone lines were cut, public gatherings were banned, a curfew was imposed, industrial plants were militarized and some 10,000 Solidarity activists were jailed.

The murder might have never been discovered, because the victim's weighted-down body would

have soon decomposed in the depths of the Włocławek dam basin, were it not for one fact. Father Jerzy was abducted while travelling along a dark country road together with his friend and driver Waldemar Chrostowski who managed to escape and tell the story.

Under public pressure and extensive international media scrutiny the regime had no choice but to hold a trial in which the three killers and their mid-level direct superior were convicted of the crime. They have long since been released following a series of amnesties, but the higher-ups who ordered the killing have never been brought to justice nor even identified.

Jerzy was one of five children born to the devoutly Catholic Popiełuszko family in the village of Okopy in northeastern Poland's poor Podlasie region. His older brother Józef recalls how the entire family would pray on their knees together every morning and evening. Jerzy served as an altarboy and, on days when he wasn't serving at the altar, would rise earlier and walk an extra three miles to attend mass before going to school. He was drafted into a special army unit for seminarians which subjected recruits to atheist propaganda and various forms of humiliation and harassment to turn them against the Church. He was punished for refusing to remove his religious medalion and surrender his rosary. "How easy it is to suffer, when one suffers for Christ," he wrote to the director of his seminary.

When the peaceful Solidarność

**Sr. Geraldine Wodarczyk**, CSFN, assistant provincial, on being named delegate for religious in the diocese of Pittsburgh. In that capacity, she will act on behalf of Pittsburgh **Bishop David A. Zubik** in providing pastoral services to men and women religious of the diocese.

**Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera** on being ordained and installed as the 10th bishop of the RC Diocese of Scranton. The new bishop had served for 20 of his 27 years of priesthood in various parishes in the Scranton diocese. Most recently he was the delegate of Philadelphia's **Justin Cardinal Rigali** who led the diocese after the resignation of Bishop Joseph F. Martino.

The newly elected officers of the Polish American Priests Association: President **Fr. Eric S. Orzech** of St. Bernadette Parish, Cleveland, Ohio; Vice President **Fr. Ronald V. Osinski** of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Portage, Pa.; Secretary **Fr. James Miara** of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Bronx, NY; Treasurer **Fr. Walter Ptak** of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Wyandotte, Mich.

**Mr. Michael Dulak**, a New York State licensed optician and with his wife, Lynn, the parents of three boys, on his ordination to the permanent diaconate in the RC Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. A member of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Blasdell, Deacon Dulak has been active in his parish as a lector, Eucharistic minister, catechist and Re-

spect Life coordinator. His pastoral field ministry was at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy in Buffalo. "I wanted to become a deacon because love wishes to express itself in service," explained Dulak. "To serve Christ, the Church and others as an expression of that love is a great blessing, a source of joy."

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

**Father Eugene A. Kosnik** former pastor of St. Casimir's parish in Yonkers, 1977-1997, and of St. Charles Borromeo in Gardiner from 1997 until his retirement in 2004. He also served as administrator at St. Joseph's, Poughkeepsie. Born in Poland, d was ordained as a priest of the Society of St. Paul and was incardinated into the New York Archdiocese in 1976. He is celebrating 50 years of priesthood.

Archdiocese of Detroit Permanent Deacons celebrating anniversaries of their ordination: **30 years** — Deacon **Donald Junak**, St. Louis Parish, Clinton Township; Deacon **Norbert Motowski**, All Saints Parish, Detroit; **20 years** — Deacon **Richard Hulan**, senior status; **10 years** — Deacon **Gerald Smigell**, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Sterling Heights

**Fr. George Rutkowski** celebrated his 50 years of priesthood June 20, 2010 at St. Edmund Church in Warren, Michigan. Fr. George was pastor of our Lady Queen of Heaven (Polish) in Detroit for many years. The Church was closed a few years ago and Fr. George and parishioners packed up its contents and sent them to Poland to Matki Bozej Fatimskiej, a new church under construction in Włocław, a fitting decision as all the beautiful statues, pictures, and other accessories were purchased by the Polish parishioners many years ago.

Fr. George helps out at many churches in the area, and visits the ailing in nursing homes.

### 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.

**ST. JUDE NOVENA.** May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. J.T.

**ST. JUDE NOVENA.** May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the helpless, pray for us. Recite nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. M.B.H.

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



## Curiosities of Wawel – Crypts, a Conscience Crucifix and a Dragon



CHAPEL AND CRYPTS in the Wawel Cathedral.

### Part XVII

**ST. LEONARD'S CRYPT.** The royal crypts were connected and made open to the public in 1873. The crypt beneath the Wawel Cathedral holds the tombs of Polish kings, national heroes, generals and revolutionaries, including rulers of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, such as Jan III Sobieski and his consort Maria Kazimiera; the remains of American Revolutionary War Brigadier General Tadeusz Kościuszko; the national bards: Adam Mickiewicz and Juliusz Słowacki, as well as Władysław Sikorski – Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, along with Marshal Józef Piłsudski – founder of the Second Polish Republic.

Pope John Paul II offered his first Mass as a priest in the Crypt of the Cathedral in 1946. He considered being buried there at one point in time. The people of Poland had hoped that, following ancient custom, his heart would be brought there and kept alongside the remains of the great Polish rulers. John Paul II was buried under St. Peter's Basilica, a papal burial site since antiquity, instead.

**JADWIGA AND THE BLACK CHRIST'S CRUCIFIX.** The crucifix of Queen-Saint Jadwiga was brought by the then youngest daughter of the monarch of King Louis of Anjou, Hungary to her new kingdom's capital in 1384. Daily, Jadwiga spent hours praying before this remarkable Gothic sculpture. Allegedly, Christ spoke to her on several occasions. Since that time the crucifix has attracted those at the crossroads. The Holy See declared that hearing Mass here could release one soul from the purgatory each time.

After her father's death, Jadwi-

ga was crowned Queen of Poland. Her counselors urged the thirteen-year-old queen to accept the hand of Jagiello, Duke of Lithuania, who aspired to the Polish throne. Jagiello was much older than she and still a



The 14th-century Crucifix of Queen-Saint Jadwiga, which allegedly spoke to her.

pagan; but he was ready not only to become a Christian if Jadwiga would have him, but to bring all of Lithuania into the Church.

The queen faced a crisis of conscience. She would have preferred another suitor — the son of Leopold of Austria — Wilhelm, whom she was engaged to. In her dilemma, it is said that she walked to the cathedral. There she spent hours praying before the Black Crucifix, and it is believed that He spoke to her saying: "Do what you see." She decided to renounce her own will and accept the offer.

Jadwiga was a strong, beautiful, well-educated woman, known for her charity, care for the poor and sick, and the founder of numerous

hospitals, institutions of learning and the bishopric of Wilno. She died at the age of 25, shortly after giving birth to her first child. This also has been said to have been revealed to her by Christ. In her last will she gave all her crown jewels for the renovation of the University of Kraków.

The 13-foot-tall crucifix has formed the central part of a Baroque altarpiece since 1745. In 1987 Queen Jadwiga was beatified and her relics transferred from the white marble sarcophagus in the cathedral to the altar of the Christ Crucified. Pope John Paul II canonized the angelic queen in 1997.

**THE DRAGON'S LAIR.** Walking out of the cathedral, I strolled down to the bank to the Wisła River to the *Smocza Jama* (Dragon's Lair) — a limestone cave, where a metal fire-breathing statue created by Bronisław Chromy in 1972 represents the beast that according to legend was vanquished by a courageous hero.

The menacing dragon was fed a sheep stuffed with sulfur and tar, which caused an outburst of an internal fire. Suffocating, the dragon rushed to drink from the river. No amount of water could quell his aching stomach, and after swelling up from drinking half of the Wisła River, he exploded. The brave man ascended the throne as his reward.

Embedded in the western defense wall above the river is an eighteenth century plaque commemorating the dragon's defeat:

*Krakus, A Polish Prince ruled AD 730-750.*

*Here is the cave in which having killed the wild dragon he settled at Wawel, and founded the city of Kraków.*

*This inscription was made by Stanislas Jablonowski, Prince of Prussia and Captain of the Polish Army Artillery*

(translated from Polish)

The legend remains amongst the best-loved in Poland. The oldest version related to this mythic beginning of Kraków can be found Poland from the 13th century Chronicle of Blessed Wincenty Kadłubek, Bishop of Kraków and historian of Poland:

"In the tunnels of a certain rock there lived an immensely dreadful monster, whom some used to call the whole-eater. Every week his voracity called for a fixed number of cattle. If the settlers had not supplied the cattle (as sacrificial beasts) they would be punished by losing

the equivalent number of human heads."

Kadłubek credited the king's younger son Grakch (Krakus) with the dragon's ultimate demise. *Chronica seu originale regum et principum Poloniae* (Chronicles of the Kings and Princes of Poland), is a history of Poland in four volumes. The first volume's sources are legends, the second is based on the chronicle of Gallus, and the last two are based upon Kadłubek's own experiences.

Jan Długosz changed the version of the legend by writing that it was King Krak himself who killed the dragon. At the end of the 16th century Joachim Bielski introduced the character of a clever cobbler Skuba to the legend, and this exists as the most popular version.

In many versions of this story, the dragon in addition to cattle, especially enjoyed eating young maidens, and could only be appeased if the townsfolk would leave a sacrificial token in front of its cave each month. Every girl in the city was eventually sacrificed except one, the King's daughter Wanda. In desperation, the King promised his beautiful daughter's hand in marriage to anybody who could defeat the dragon.

I first learned of this legend from the American record — Beryl Berney sings "Friends around the World." I listened to it so many times that it was committed to memory. I mounted it as a play in the 3rd grade, later performed it as a puppet play for countless children, and then set the play on my children's dance group.

A visit to the Dragon's Lair begins at the foot of the Thieves' Tower by descending a dizzying staircase in a brick tower (a former Austrian well). The temperature suddenly drops. The lowest northern chamber was filled with water until the 19th century and the water was used to supply Wawel's buildings.

The cave in ancient times was a tavern and brothel. It was walled up by Zygmunt II August in 1565, but to the delight of many aristocratic adventurers resumed services in the 17th and 18th centuries. It is



In this illustration by Janina Domanska, Prince Krakus takes on the dragon.

claimed that kings themselves distinguished the chambers with their presence.

The cave was cleaned up in the 19th century when Emperor Franz Josef went down inspect it. After 1918, when Poland regained its independence, the *Dragon's Lair* was prepared for visitors by Professor Adolf Szyszko-Bohusz.

From 1966 to 1976 thorough preservation and conservation work was conducted, and in 2002 the interior lighting system was modernized.

Regardless of the dragon legend, the 200-foot-long cave is Kraków's oldest residence, inhabited by man from the Stone Age through the 16th century. It now attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Dazed with historical overload, and bemused in a world of an ancient world of procession, chivalry, and intrigue, I wandered from Wawel Hill towards the Old Town. A magnificently dramatic sunset was evident with astonishing bright-colored swirls that created a ring of fire in the skies. Crisp air floated through the music of the streets. The cobbled walkways were aglow with illuminated ancient façades, and the bustle of people milling in the streets added to its energy.

"The Legend of the Wawel Dragon," along with other tales of Old Poland can be purchased at the PAJ Bookstore. This beautiful series of richly-illustrated books brings Polish Legends to speakers of English, Polish, and German. Each book contains one legend in all three languages, and color illustrations in a medieval format.

Source material: *Smocza Jama*, Maria Dębicka

Next month: *The last day in Poland begins.*

## Documentary: A Polish Doctor with a Cancer Cure – The Burzynski Saga

*Burzynski – The Movie* is a provocative and compelling documentary which focuses on Polish Ph.D. biochemist Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski, a medical doctor and biochemist, who in the 1970s, discovered a treatment for cancer that has led to more cures than surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatments. His patented, gene-targeted treatment involves the use of antineoplastons, which help to activate tumor suppressor genes. Unlike accepted debilitating procedures, this active treatment is virtually non-invasive with low toxicity.

Burzynski first identified antineoplastons from human blood. Since similar peptides had been isolated from urine, he initially purified

urine as a bulk source. Since 1980 he has been reproducing his compounds synthetically.

Director/writer/cinematographer/narrator Eric Merola presents Burzynski's 14-year plight against accusations and federal court trials in a "David and Goliath" fashion. Burzynski won one of the largest legal battles with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Pharmaceutical companies together with the FDA used incomprehensible tactics to have Burzynski's medical license revoked and his important work stopped. The true motivation of the United States government's relentless persecution of Burzynski is revealed at the conclusion.

Court transcripts, medical re-



ports and moving patient testimony support the credibility of Burzynski's mission as the journey unfolds. With no hope given to them by conventional methods, the patients recount how the treatment improved their welfare and saved their lives — even from some previously incurable cancers.

Childhood brainstem glioma has never before been cured in any experimental clinical trial in the history of medicine; antineoplastons hold the first cures in history. If antineoplastons are approved, it will mark the first time in history a single scientist — not a pharmaceutical company — will hold the exclusive patent and distribution rights on a medical breakthrough.

Changing an industry's way of thinking and challenging current-day standards, Burzynski's ability to successfully treat incurable cancer with consistency has baffled the industry. A reference is made to the fate of the 19th-century physician Ignaz Semmelweis who discovered that puerperal fever, which affected

and lead to the death of new mothers following childbirths, could be easily prevented by simple hand washing. He was driven out of the medical profession and died in an insane asylum.

The cruel reality of cancer affects our everyday lives — if not directly, then through our relatives, colleagues, or friends. In an intriguing story of government harassment, scientific sabotage and patent fraud, *Burzynski – The Movie* is highly informational and riveting.

The film is currently in limited national release. For screenings, background information, and DVD copies check: [www.burzynskimovie.com](http://www.burzynskimovie.com).



HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## A Chicago Society Foundation Presentation



(l. to r.): Jan Lorys (PMA Director), Michelle Kmiec (PMA Treasurer), Richard Ciesla (Foundation Secr./Past Pres.), Maria Ciesla (PMA Pres.), Walter Pieciewicz (Foundation Pres.), Anna Sokolowski (PMA Vice-Chair), and Donald Gutowski (Foundation Past Pres.)

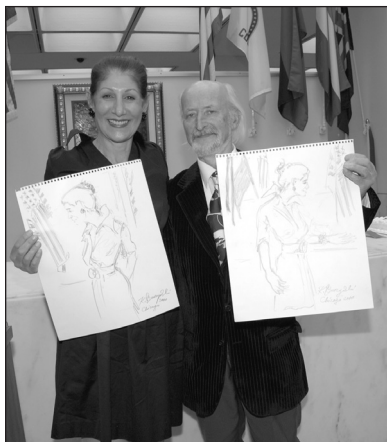
CHICAGO — The Chicago Society Foundation recently approved a \$5,000 donation to the Polish Museum of America (PMA). This donation will be used for professional development services. The Museum will apply this generous donation toward consultant fees in the area of public relations and development. The PMA is the oldest ethnic museum and the largest Polish/Polish American museum in the United States

**PIANOLA INSTITUTE AT POLISH MUSEUM.** On May 16, the Polish Museum of America presented a reproducing “player” piano (pianola) recital narrated by Denis Hall and Rex Lawson of the Pianola Institute of London, England, and performed on a rare 1925 Steinway Concert Grand Piano. This type of piano, manufactured in the

1920s, was concert size and a concert “sounding” piano. Certain artists, such as Paderewski, Grieg, and Rachmaninov, preferred using piano rolls to other types of recording methods because the rolls produced recordings much closer to live performances, than the recording discs of the day. Owning such an instrument was expensive and to have one in your home was considered prestigious. Thus, those who could afford a player piano would often conduct private recitals in their homes, and would be the “talk” of their community. This recital included Paderewski’s *Caprice, Cracovienne Fantastique, Opus 1/46, Melodie Opus 8/3*, and his *Legende Opus 16/1*, as well as Chopin, Liszt and Schubert pieces. The concert was dedicated to those who perished in the tragic plane accident in Smolensk Russia.



“Hungover” by Marta Niziolek



Pappas and Burzynski.

**PAPPAS WELCOMES CASEY BURZYNSKI.** Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer, welcomed Kazimierz (Caesy) Burzynski, a well-known Polish artist, at an art reception held in her office. Burzynski’s oil paintings of the late Pope John Paul II were displayed in Chicago’s St. Hyacinth Basilica and other Polish churches and buildings throughout Chicago and Poland. The Treas-

urer presented Burzynski with an “Award of Excellence” for making portraiture an art. “Casey,” in turn, presented Pappas with his pencil sketch of her which he sketched during this reception.

**74TH ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION.** The Polish Arts Club of Chicago held its 74th Annual Art Exhibition and juried competition on May 23 at the Polish Museum. Over 200 art lovers had the pleasure of viewing 86 works of art. These art works were a variety of watercolors, oils, acrylics, threads on canvas, woods, clays, wires, terra cottas, along with bronze sculptures. First prize (\$500 each) went to artist Charlotte Sasser and sculpture Slawek Murawski; second prize (\$300) went to Joanna Kapuscinski, and receiving third prize (\$200) was artist Teresa Gierwielanec Rozanacki. The jury consisted of Miroslaw Rogala, Ph. D., artist and lecturer, Jan Sliwinski, artist and scenographer, and Agnieszka Ziemacka Masters, art historian and critic.

## Orchard Lake Announces Seminary Grads

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — Very Rev. Msgr. Charles G. Kosanke, Rector/President of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary (SSCMS) conferred degrees upon eight candidates at the institution’s 121st Annual Commencement in May.

Graduating with a Master of Divinity were: Tomasz Jerzy Górny (Diocese of Springfield, Mass.); Sebastian Kladiusz Kos (Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn.); Adam Filip Kotas (Diocese of Santa Rosa, Calif.) Karol Jan Książek (Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn.) Piotr Jacek Pawlus (Diocese of Springfield, Mass.); Grzegorz Podolowski (Diocese of Orlando, Fla.); and Artur Dominik Przywara (Diocese of Charleston, S.C.). Earning a Master of Arts (Theology) was Patrick R. O’Lear, Sterling Heights, Mich.. Six of the men earning their M.Div degrees will be or have already been ordained to the priesthood in 2010. The other is expected to be ordained in 2011 after he completes a parish internship within his Diocese.

The 2010 Commencement Address was delivered by Rev. Canon Anthony D. Iwuc, a 1949 graduate of St. Mary’s College, where he received a BA, Philosophy, and a 1953 graduate of SSCMS, where he earned his M. Div.

Early in his message Fr. Iwuc focused on God, faith, and purpose, saying, “God puts a man in the right place at the right time to do that which he is meant to do.” He also emphasized the importance of the graduates’ support for the Orchard Lake Schools, their Alma Mater.

## Two Flood Waves Inundate Poland: Food Prices Expected to Rise

*continued from cover*

surging rivers across Poland began overflowing their banks and occasionally breaking through flood dikes. Initially lower-lying areas of major southern cities including as Wrocław, Kraków, Opole and Sandomierz were affected, as were countless smaller towns and villages in between.

But the swollen rivers Vistula (Wisła), Odra, Warta, San, Bug and Narew, fed by raging tributaries, soon spread death and destruction as the flood waters plowed northward towards the Baltic Sea, inundating one locality after another along the way. To a greater or lesser extent, all of Poland’s 16 provinces were affected by the flooding but, as always, it was the country’s southland that suffered the most.

Day after day, television news broadcast little more than flood reports, showing rescue teams reinforcing flood dikes with sandbags and army amphibians evacuating people and livestock. And everywhere were the flooded fields, farms and cities, the relentlessly surging flood waters carrying drowned cows, old fences, broken furniture and every manner of debris. Flood victims had a hard time holding back tears as they told reporters about their losses.

In many areas, the floods were so swift and sudden that people barely managed to flee to high ground, leaving everything behind. The lucky ones sought refuge on the upper floors of their homes, but as

the flood stage rose and there was nowhere to flee, some were evacuated by boats, amphibians and helicopters. The relentlessly rising waters inundated and even swept away parked cars, and on farms livestock drowned in closed barns. Chickens perched on tree branches, quivering cats floating by on doors, confused dogs on rooftops and pigs in their barnyards desperately swimming in circles in hope of finding a foothold were not uncommon sights.

**THE MAIN FLOOD-FIGHTERS** were State Fire Brigade rescuers, assisted by the army, police, Boy Scouts, assorted volunteers and local residents trying to save their property. Sandbags were used to reinforce existing earthen flood dikes, but these soon became waterlogged. In some places they were additionally weakened by burrowing beavers. The greatest devastation occurred when flood waters burst

through a dike, violently swamping supposedly protected areas.

Bridges got swept away, landslides pulled down homes and croplands were destroyed. Evacuees were taken to school gyms and other high-ground premises where they received food, clothing medical aid and a place to sleep. But many people stranded on balconies and in attics refused to be evacuated for fear of looters. During previous floods, thieves in motorboats would enter homes through upstairs windows and make off with computers, appliances and anything else of value that could be carried away.

Tarnów, Tarnobrzeg and Jasło in the southeast corner of Poland, Lanckorona south of Kraków, Kłodne in the Tatra Mountain area, Wilków in the Lublin region and Świniary near the central city of Plock were among the hardest hit localities. The entire right-bank area of the southern city of Sandomierz

was under water, and residents desperately built sandbag barriers to save a glassworks, the area’s major employer providing thousands with a livelihood.

When the flood waters began subsiding, homeowners couldn’t wait to return and begin the daunting clean-up and renovation. The government promised every flood-stricken family 6,000 zlotys (about \$1,700) for emergency expenses and many times more for those who would have to rebuild. Warsaw has appealed to the European Union for flood-relief funds. Across Poland, people donated money, clothing, personal-hygiene products and food to flood victims. But no amount of money could easily undo the shock and trauma of seeing the accumulated wealth of several generations mired in mud and filth. Since the killer flood of 1997, local flooding has occurred every few years.

Anyone who has never experi-

enced a flood cannot possibly envision what that actually entails. Toxic flood waters seep into every crack and crevice, coating every surface with foul-smelling slime. The foamy brown turbulence carries with it the contents of sewers, garbage cans, septic tanks and in some cases even low-lying cemeteries. As a result, flood-soaked upholstered furniture must be discarded, floorboards ripped up, walls rebuilt and appliances and non-upholstered furniture taken apart, scrubbed and disinfected. Pools of stagnant water become hatching grounds for swarms of mosquitoes plaguing rescuers and renovators alike. But, sad to say, our story does not have a happy ending. Before flood victims could get down to the giant clean-up and even begin thinking of starting all over, violent June cloudbursts unleashed a second wave of floods. Many previously hit areas were re-inundated, while localities that had remained high and dry in May were now engulfed by flood waters. Even those areas which did not directly suffer will have to pay. It is ultimately the Polish taxpayer who will foot the bill for the reconstruction of roads, railways, bridges, public buildings and other infrastructure. And the devastation of croplands, orchards and livestock means higher food prices to every consumer this year. Already following the first flood wave, strawberries were selling in Warsaw for more than double the price of May 2009.

### HOW TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS

The Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation has issued an appeal for aid to the flood victims in Poland. The PACCF asks you make out your 100% tax deductible donation check today, made payable to the “PAC Charitable Foundation” and mail it to: PACCF, 5711 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60646; Attn: Flood Relief for Poland.

If you have any questions, call (773) 763-9944 or email [paccf@paccf.org](mailto:paccf@paccf.org).

Also collecting funds is the Adam Bak Foundation. Please make your checks payable to “Flood 2010.” Those who want to transfer money from an account to account, must use the routing # (also known as ABA) – 021 00 00 21, Account number: 891 263 451, Account Name: Adam M. Bak Foundation Flood 2010. Address: 330 Dogwood Lane, Manhasset, NY, 11030. Any donations made to

help flood victims are tax free.

The Association of the Sons of Poland Fraternal Benefit Society and the Justyna Drozd’s Cougar Bar & Restaurant in Wallington, N.J. held a fundraiser for the flood victims on June 26. Donations are still being accepted at the Home Office of the Sons of Poland between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Dorothy Kostecka-Wiecznerzak at ASOP at (201) 935-2807.



## Donations Needed Karamanoukian Scholarship Announced



**SISTERS IN SERVICE TO MARY** care for needs of mentally, physically and emotionally disabled children.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Fr. Walter Grabowski, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Eden, was notified by the Sisters in Service to Mary in Poland of an urgent need for support for 60 severely handicapped children living in a nursing home. Boys and girls, from birth to 30 years of age live there, and are cared for by the Sisters.

The children are mentally, physically and emotionally disabled. Half are confined to bed and are in need of unlimited care. The rest walk with the use of a walker, crutches, or must use a wheelchair. The children often find it hard to breathe and eat because their respiratory and digestive tracts are affected.

In their letter, the Sisters mention the specific, immediate needs of the children and nursing home. Among them is the installation of a bathtub with hydro-massage (which includes proper water pipes and special modifications), fencing around the perimeter of the grounds, and painting the interior, which has not been painted in the ten years that they have been residing there.

"We have been blessed in the past with support of others, and we believe that with the generosity of concerned people, we will manage to provide for the special needs of our children," said Sister Agata Sieczkowska

The Polish Heritage Festival Inc. (located in Springville, N.Y.) will underwrite the administrative costs so that 100% of your donation will go to this humanitarian effort. All donations are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to: The Polish Heritage Festival, attention: Christine Jozwiak, P.O. Box 115, Springville, N.Y. 14141-0115. On the "memo" line of the check write: "Special children with special needs."



**AT THE INSTALLATION DINNER OF THE GENERAL PULASKI ASSOCIATION** of the Niagara Frontier, Dr. Hratch Karamanoukian of the Vein Treatment Center announced the \$1,000 third annual scholarship, this year given to Orchard Park High School senior David. W. Janca. Pictured at the installation are (l. to r.): Chief Federal Judge William Skretny; U.S. Attorney William Hochul; Erie County Clerk Kathy Hochul; dinner co-chair Elaine Kolbert; Pulaski Scholarship donor Dr. Karamanoukian; Col. John Kubisty (ret.); veteran and evening honoree Daniel Owczarczak; dinner co-chair Marian Kreutzer; WGRZ-TV anchor Mary Alice Demler; and Fr. Louis Klein of Queen of Martyrs R.C. Church.

The event was attended by 175 civic leaders. Skretny and Hochul were guest speakers. Proceeds from the dinner benefit the annual Pulaski Day Parade, which will be held July 18 in Cheektowaga.

## Constitution Day Observed



**THE ANNUAL "TRZECI MAJ" CELEBRATION OF** the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791, sponsored by the Polish Heritage Club of Uniontown, Pa., took place at St. Joseph Church with clergy, many lay people, and children in Polish attire. This year included a presentation by Polish Falcons of America President Timothy Kuzma, and a bilingual homily by Rev. Doc. Lawrence Hoppe.

### Did You Know?

- Among Poland's natural resources are deposits of crude oil and natural gas, but they cover only a fraction of the country's requirements, so the balance has to be imported.
- Most Polish names ending in "-owski", "-ewski" or even just "-ski" described people on the basis of where they came from: Wiśniewski (Wiśniewo or Cherryville), Dąbrowski (Dąbrowo/Oakville), Górski (hill-dweller) and Zaleski (from the other side of the forest).

— Robert Strybel

## POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES

# Western New York Summer Polish Festivals

by Michael Pietruszka

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 re-scheduling by the sponsoring organization without notice.

### JULY - LIPIEC

**Friday, July 2 and Saturday, July 3**

- KOSCIUSZKO CLUB STREET DANCE (Featuring Bob Uleck's Polka Relations). 7:00 p.m. (Fri.); 2:00 p.m. (Sat.). Kosciuszko Clubrooms, 252 Nevins Street, Dunkirk. (366-1044)

**Wednesday, July 7 Through Saturday, July 10**

- BRANTFORD INTERNATIONAL VILLAGES FESTIVAL. Warszawa Village, 126 Albion Street, Brantford, Ont.; Polonaise Village, 154 Pearl Street, Brantford, Ont.. (519-756-8767)

**Thursday, July 15 Through Sunday, July 18**

- CHEEKTOWAGA POLISH AMERICAN FESTIVAL (Featuring the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Knewz, Polka Family Band, Rare Vintage, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Ed Blazonczyk's Versatones, Jerry Darlak & the Touch, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, Ed Oliniski Orchestra with the Vignettes and John Kondal, and PhoCus). 7:00 p.m. (Thurs.); 4:45 p.m. (Fri.); 2:30 (Sat.); 3:00 p.m. (Sun.). Cheektowaga Town Park, 2600 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga

**Friday, July 16**

- POLISH CADETS' MISS BUFFALO ROCKIN DJ PARTY CRUISE. 5:30 p.m. Cadets Hall, 927 Grant Street, Buffalo. Wendy Higgins
- ROCHESTER RED WINGS BASEBALL "POLISH NIGHT". 5:15 p.m. Frontier Field, 333 Plymouth Avenue North, Rochester. Gene Golomb (585-323-2106)

**Sunday, July 18**

- GENERAL PULASKI ASSOCIATION PARADE. 1:30 p.m. Harlem Road, Cheektowaga. Mira Szramel

**Saturday, July 24**

- FANTASY ISLAND WITH THE POLISH CADETS. 11:00 a.m. Fantasy Island, Grand Island. Wendy Higgins

**Tuesday, July 27**

- BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS MEETING. 7:00 p.m. Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Avenue, Depew. Chris Tanski (892-7977)

**Saturday, July 31**

- POLISH FALCONS NEST 52 FAMILY PICNIC. St. Paul Exempts, Rochester. (585-544-1352)

### AUGUST - SIERPIEN

**Tuesday, October 3**

- BUFFALO BISON BASEBALL "POLISH FESTIVAL NIGHT" (Honoring U.S. Attorney William Hochul). 5:00 p.m. (Tent Party with the Knewz and Krakowiacy Dancers); 7:05 p.m. (Game vs. Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs). Coca Cola Field, 275 Washington Street, Buffalo. Sharon Goldyn (681-0278)

**Wednesday, October 4**

- PULASKI POLICE ASSOCIATION FAMILY PICNIC. Noon. Como Lake Park, Como Blvd., Lancaster. \$15.00. Al Ziemecki

**Friday, October 6 and**

**Saturday, October 7**

- ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA PARISH FESTIVAL. St. Stanislaus Parish Grounds, Hudson Avenue and Norton Street, Rochester. (585-467-3068)

**Sunday, October 8**

- BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC. 1:00 p.m. Lamm Manor Picnic Grove, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. Chris Tanski (892-7977)

**Monday, October 9**

- POLISH VILLA II MISS BUFFALO CRUISE (Featuring the Touch and DJ Entertainment Plus). Erie Basin Marina, Buffalo. Eddie (822-4908)

**Saturday, October 21**

- PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION HARBOR CRUISE. 11:15AM. Erie Basin Marina, Buffalo. \$29.00. Stan Gajewski (683-5818)

**Sunday, October 22**

- POLISH CADETS' FAMILY PICNIC. 1:00 p.m. Polish Cadets Hall, 927 Grant Street, Buffalo. Wendy Higgins
- MICHALSKI POST FAMILY PICNIC. Rochester. (585-377-1536)
- OWL FAMILY PICNIC (Featuring Jerry Darlak & the Touch). George Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville

**Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29**

- POLISH UNION OF AMERICA 37TH GRAND CONVENTION- St. John Gualbert Hall, Gualbert Avenue & Doat Street, Cheektowaga. (677-0220)

**Sunday, October 29**

- ZABAWA FESTIVAL (Featuring the Knewz). 11:00 a.m. Holy Trinity Parish, East 23rd and Reed Streets, Erie, Pa.
- THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SOLIDARITY. Rochester. (585-872-5953)

### SEPTEMBER - WRZESIEN

**Sunday, September 5**

- LABOR DAY POLKA WEEKEND. George Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. Bob Krawczyk (837-3582)

**Thursday, September 9**

- "FAREWELL TO SUMMER" (Fundraiser for the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan). Ed Reska

**Saturday, September 11**

- GENERAL PULASKI ASSOCIATION BANQUET (Honoring Seniors). Creekside Banquet Facility, 2669 Union Road, Cheektowaga. Brian Rusk

**Sunday, September 12**

- CLAIRE HUANGCI. U.S. CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION WINNER CONCERT (A Polish Cultural Foundation / Buffalo State College Department of Music Event). 4:00 p.m. Rockwell Performing Arts Center, Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo
- POETRY & PIG ROAST (A Polish Heritage Society of Rochester Event). 4:30 p.m. St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Avenue, Rochester. (585-248-0152)

If you have any 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: pietruszka@verizon.net. For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: www.polegl.org.



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## HAMTRAMCK BEAT / Michelle Odrobina-Jiompkowski

## By Whatever Mode of Travel, Hometown Tours Net New Sights, Sounds, and Perspectives

Staycation – a vacation at home or nearby – helps you to explore your town and to experience otherwise overlooked treasures. Which ever kind of travel you prefer, walking, driving or riding in sight-seeing, the journeys lead to discovery of nuggets of local history, interesting people and distinctive local flavor. Hamtramck is no exception.

**BICYCLE TOUR.** On July 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Jason Friedmann, Hamtramck Community and Economic Development Director with Preserve Our Parks will give a bicycle tour of Hamtramck through the group, wheelhousedetroit.com. Hamtramckan Phil Kwik directs Preserve Our Parks. Residents and visitors will get a taste of the different sides to the city. Artsy, historic and multicultural, the tour will include the growing Bangladeshi Avenue, the Polish Art Center, Hamtramck Disneyland, the Power House and a Buddhist Zen Center with a relaxing stop at Café 1923. The distance is 15 miles. For more information, contact [www.wheelhousedetroit.com/tours](http://www.wheelhousedetroit.com/tours). Cost is \$25; with bike rental, \$35.

**WALKING TOURS.** Chairperson of the Hamtramck Historical Commission, Greg Kowalski also gives walking tours by appointment. Kowalski recently guided an American History Teacher Group from Indianapolis, Ind., around town. The teachers included elementary as well as high school level educators. Their trip focused on a Polish presence in auto-related immigration, post 1876. Kowalski may be contacted at [gkowsk@ameritech.net](mailto:gkowsk@ameritech.net).

**NEW POSITION.** Mayor Karen Majewski has a new job with the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She is the Project Intermediate Manager with IRLEE, the Institute of Research on Labor, Employment, and the Economy. The Web site is <http://www.irlee.umich.edu/>. Mayor Majewski earned her doctorate in history from U of M.

**PARADE TIME.** Labor Day marks the annual Polish Day Parade, Monday, Sept. 6, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the corner of Joseph Campau and Holbrook Avenues. Judge Stephen Sierawski of Sterling Heights will serve as the grand marshal. As the parade theme, the Orchard Lake Schools will be honored for their 125-year tradition of training men for the priesthood and upholding

the Roman Catholic faith and Polish heritage. Parade participants are encouraged to register six weeks in advance of the parade. For more information, registration forms and sponsorship, contact the office of Judge John M. Chmura, the parade chairman, at (586) 574-4925 or visit the parade Web site at [www.polishdayparade.com](http://www.polishdayparade.com) for registration guidelines and forms.

**NEW PALACE BAKERY.** Hamtramck's New Palace Bakery has branched out with selling their baked goods in the nearby city of Warren. At 9 Mile and Ryan, New Palace Bakery items are being sold alongside Kowalski products in a Kowalski Sausage retail store. Hamtramck is home to the original Kowalski Quality Sausage plant and retail store, established over 90 years ago.

**PIAST DEDICATION.** Hamtramck has a new library and conference center named the Sister Mary Columbine, C.S.S.F. Library & Conference Center. In memory of his beloved aunt, Sister Mary Columbine, Thaddeus Radzilowski, Ph.D., president of the Piast Institute introduced the title of the learning resource center in a dedication ceremony June 3. Sister Mary Columbine was born Theresa Radzilowska in Detroit. She joined the Congregation in the Sisters of St. Felix, and her first teaching assignment was at Detroit's St. Hyacinth School. Her many accomplishments were as a teacher, nurse and administrator with her eventual election to the office of the Provincial Mothers of the Detroit Province of the Felician Sisters.

Recognized as the project's major benefactor was Edward Ochylski, Jr., whose gift established the Piast library and whose endowment will maintain and provide for its expansion. On hand as well was former Detroit Mayor Roman Gibbs, the chairman of the Piast board who spoke as did Piast Executive Vice President Virginia Skrzyniarz. The Rev. Bogdan Milosz, pastor of Our Lady of Queen of Apostles gave the blessing.

Edward Ochylski, Jr. recounted first meeting Sister Columbine, when she was his school teacher. Ochylski founded the American Meat Packing Corporation in the Chicago Stockyards and later the Iowa Packing Company. Ochylski was awarded a 50-year citation by

the American Meat Packing Industry at the organization's 59th annual meeting, Sept. 29, 1984.

His primary charity continues to be the Catholic Church and he helped personally with visits to Poland to bring more than 200 immigrants to the United States. Most of them arrived during the Cold War. For his substantial gift to the Holy See, Pope John Paul II invited Ochylski to have dinner in his private dining room and the Pontiff initiated a personal correspondence with him. Edward and Eleanor Ochylski currently reside in Florida while remaining consultants to the Iowa Packing Company.

**STO LAT.** The Polish Art Center, A Treasury of Polish Heritage owners Joan and Raymond Bittner gather together many authors for book signings at their unique store. One of the latest was with author Cecile (Ceil) Wendt Jensen, M.A., who wrote, "Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy." She related that "Sto Lat" is a workbook to help researchers organize and undertake their own family research. "I highlight both traditional and digital resources. I used the familiar title of the song to indicate that, by using my methods, you can obtain — at least — one hundred years of Polish records. In many cases, you find two hundred years of documents for your family. I have been able to document my Mother's line for Poznan back to the 1690s."

Besides her new book, Jensen has written three pictorial histories for Arcadia Publishing: "Detroit's Polonia," "Detroit's Mount Elliott Cemetery" and "Detroit's Mount Olivet Cemetery." "I did the books in honor of my Przytulski, Wendt, Wojtkowiak and Zdziebko grandparents who were born in Poland. I used the proceeds to buy headstones for their unmarked graves at the cemeteries." The author's background includes being a high school teacher for 30 years in the areas of Art, Art History and Social Studies.

When asked about any ties to Hamtramck, she noted, "Recently, Ken Merique, a fellow board member of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan introduced me to a second cousin. Her father, Stephen Majewski, was the Mayor of Hamtramck from 1926-28. The past and current Mayor Majewski, who I count as a friend, are not related."

In her work as a Certified Genealogist, Jensen works as the director



Cecile Wendt Jensen. Noted genealogist spoke at Polish Art Center.

of the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) at the Orchard Lake Schools. "Currently, we are open each Friday by appointment to help researchers. We will be expanding our hours this summer, so I encourage researchers to contact me via email at: [cjensen@mipolonia.net](mailto:cjensen@mipolonia.net)." She adds that there is a need of volunteers to help organize, index and scan genealogical materials. While it is useful to read Polish, it is not a requirement, the director added.

### PERSONAL MUSINGS.

While it has been a pleasure writing this column for the past several years, this will be my last. I have enjoyed sharing news about my hometown and thank you for paying attention.

Happy Trails always to you from Hamtown!

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## Janowski Wins Pulaski Scholarship

PHILADELPHIA — The winner of the 10th annual Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarship for Advanced Studies, American Council for Polish Culture, was announced recently by Mr. Marion Winters, Chairman. The Committee awarded the \$5,000 scholarship to Ms. Vanessa Janowski (inset, above) of Pasadena, Calif. from among a record number of applicants.



A citizen of both Poland and the United States, Janowski is currently a Ph.D. student in Economics on the Brain, Mind and Society at California Institute of Technology. Her path to a Ph.D. began as an economics major at Yale University where she served as a research assistant to two professors.

During her undergraduate studies at Yale, Janowski served as president of the Polish Society and helped organize numerous events for the students and also for the Polonian Society. Upon graduation from Yale, the University awarded Janowski a European Union Studies Grant to study the integration of Poland into the EU. She spent several weeks in Poland conducting interviews with prominent university professors and top ranking government officials.

In order to strengthen her mathematics background for more advanced work in economics, Janowska went on to study for a Master's degree in Applicable Mathematics at the London School of Economics (LSE).

Throughout her studies at undergraduate and graduate levels, Janowski received several fellowships recognizing her extensive involvement in the community and specifically in Polish affairs: The Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish & Slavic FCU, and PSO.

The Pulaski Scholarship Committee was very impressed with Janowski's remarkable academic record that boasts a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 at Caltech and that she still finds time to serve the community and to play leadership roles in promoting Polish culture. A letter of recommendation persuaded the Committee that in selecting her for the Pulaski Scholarship, the American Council for Polish Culture will be recognizing "... a young leader who always acts on her commitment to Polish causes ... and sharing her knowledge and skills with others in the Polish American community."

## 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.

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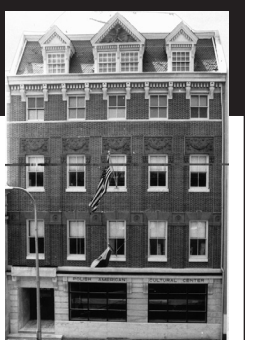
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# Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

## Till Death Do Us Part

JULY 25, 2025 — The chairs were ready and the light beer was on ice. It wasn't Simon Pure or Schmidts — or even Kochs — but at least it was beer. Every other month—well almost every other month, as long as one of us doesn't have a doctor's appointment—we get together on the porch. Some of the instruments are older than we are, which at this stage of life seems hard to believe. My triple box was made in 1934. Mark has a newer concertina; it's only 70 years old. He'll be along soon. It just takes him time to get out of the car. Thank goodness his son helps by carrying his concertina.

Before we start, we shoot the bull, talking about the days at Saints Peter & Paul's when Lush appeared with Big Steve, or the time at Polka Holiday in Watkins when nobody remembered being there. Those were the days!

We always start before the others show up. It's our time to just be a duo, a couple of old newspaper hacks doing what we love, playing the music of our fathers and their father's fathers.

We always manage to play the same tunes, well almost the same tunes. Charts? Nope! We don't use them. The notes, the black dots with those little flags are in our hearts, our heritage, our brains or what's left of our brains (plus — bifocals or not — it's just too hard to see the music). When we finally begin to play, we don't even call out a song, we just play. We know, maybe from habit, maybe because we just know what song is next. Sometimes we change, but the first couple of

notes of the song tells everyone what we are playing.

Time stands still, or so it seems. We put down these rectangular music machines to nurse a beer and talk about the Ben-Lee Restaurant, or the Broadway Market, or the day Cyman was Lush and Scrubby was Wal-ly at the Strand. Could it be that long ago?

Casey shows up, being helped from the car by his wife. The others will show up soon, former Nickel City stars and now just "porch players" like us. I guess it's important. The music is important. We can't let it die! It's part of our heritage and we can't let it die.

I blurt out, "Hey, did you guys see those pictures from that Polka Fest? Did bands forget how to dress for the stage? Most of 'em looked like they wandered in from the corn fields."

"Yeah," howls Rich. "Their shirts don't even match. They looked like bums."

Casey continues with, "Remember when bands wore sport coats, ties, and looked as good as they sounded? You'll never see that again."

Then we just start playing. We have to keep it alive. Can it be that long ago that we promised never to let the music die? It's been a long time, too long. The music is still being played ... heard. Maybe not at a huge festival or under a tent on a church parking lot, but, still hanging on, nurtured and loved like an old friend in his final hours. As long as we stay alive, so will the music, even it is just on my front porch.

## NEWSWIRE

### It's About Time!

COHOES, N.Y. — It's about time and in this case "It's about Time," a newly released CD by the Rymanowski Brothers Orchestra, has a double meaning, something overdue and having longevity.

The Rymanowski Brothers Orchestra is renowned in the Capital District of New York State. Their legacy started in 1947 in Cohoes with brothers John and Alex and has sustained a continuance to the present day. This distinction has made them a Capital District's favorite as the longest running Polish-American polka band. In addition, they undoubtedly are one of the longest running bands in the nation.

The band expanded to an eight and nine piece orchestra in 1949.

During the late 1940s and through the 1950s, they recorded on Lamb, Decca and Stella record labels. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, John's sons Dennis and Gerry joined the band which was scaled down to a five- and six-piece group. In 1974 the band recorded an LP entitled, "We Believe in Polkas." Their last recording was in 1981 and their new recording, "It's About Time," was long overdue.

In their sixth decade as a family band, they have performed at weddings, anniversaries, polka dances, picnics, festivals and broadcast media. The group plays polka music, as well as a variety of American pop and Standards.

This new recording reprises two selections, "My Johnnie" oberek and the "Drunkard's Lament" polka,

which were originally recorded in the 1950s. Also added was the much requested 1974 recording of the "Wishing Well" Waltz. This beautiful Polish waltz was originally sung by the late "Uncle" Al Rymanowski. His Polish vocalizing on this selection has made it a much requested number. Using today's recording technology the band was able to enhance this original recording by adding the current band and a harmony vocal by Gerry Rymanowski to accompany his Uncle.

"It's About Time" is available by contacting Gerry at (518) 235-8356 or Dennis at (518) 456-2854.

### 30th Anniversary Dance

MILLVILLE, N.J. — This year marks the 30th year of Polka Pete

& his Orchestra and in celebration they are holding a dance on September 11, 2010, at the Elks Lodge in Millville. The purpose of this dance will be to raise funds for the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of The ALS Association. Specifically, proceeds will be going to the Ocean City Board Walk to Defeat ALS.

The dance will take place at the BPOE Elks Lodge, 1815 E. Broad St. in Millville with music from 6-11 p.m. For more information contact Gary at (856) 327-3123 or Pete at (856) 825-4042. Email: Polkapete@comcast.net.

Visit Steve's Polka Pages of the PAJ at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com) Just click on the polka music button in the top banner.

POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## A Blast from the Past

It's *A Blast From the Past* and a new CD by Jimmy Kilian & Honky Chicago is a fabulous mixture of old tunes, done by veterans in the style that makes you want to sing, dance, drink, and enjoy every tune, every note, and every riff. With 15 tracks, 12 vocals and three instrumentals, you'll find everything from "Polish Sausage" to "Chicago is a Polka Town," "I Like Your Golabki" to "Gypsy" polka, and "Lovely Girl" to "Full Moon" polka.

The mix is reminiscent of those great honky style albums where the musicians are all in the same room, recording it live. Making this all happen is leader Jimmy Kilian on vocals, Rich Raclawski with his magic on the "Eagle" concertina, Ed Madura (clarinet/sax), Marty Dzik (trumpet), Bini Slowiak Husain (piano), Jimmy "Chainsaw" Kucharski (bass) and Bernie Gorak (drums).

As a concertina player, I have to single out the box playing of Rich Raclawski here, and his Eagle makes some of the sweetest old-time sounds heard on these great tunes. I can't even count how many times I've played "Full Moon" polka and "Old Time" oberek just to listen to the concertina. This collective effort by all these great musicians is truly a blast from the past that proves real polka music is still alive. The great old photos on the artwork are another added treat in this superb product.

Recorded at Bel-Aire Studios by Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., *A Blast From the Past* was engineered and mastered at Peppermint Studios by Gary Rhamy. Jimmy Kilian was the

producer and arranger.

**THE DICK TADY ORCHESTRA** based in Harwick, Pennsylvania has released *Button Box Magic*, the fourth recording in The Best of the D.T.O. series. Offering 23 tunes, many of them from the musical pen of Tady, this grouping will definitely appeal to button box lovers everywhere.

Tady offers a smoothness and crisp style to his music and uses a full array of instrumentation, incorporating acoustic, amplified and electronic instrumentation. "Good Luck on the Road" polka blends some nice button work along with the banjo, while "Rupnik's" polka adds the reed work of a sax to the mix. "Umpapa," another Tady original, brings in vocals, the crowd, upbeat instrumentation, and great finger work on those box buttons.

Dick Tady handles sax, clarinet, piano, button box, synthesizer, mandolin and vocals. Other musicians include Bob McBride (banjo and guitar), Joe Gill (drums), Tony Grandovic (accordion and keyboards), Ed Gould (bass), John Alese (bass), and Rich Hlubben (bass).

Button Box Magic is a D.T.O. Production on Corjal Records.

**GOOD TIME POLKAS.** You can take the boy out of Buffalo but you can't take Buffalo out of the boy and this is musically confirmed by The Varitones of Arizona on their new CD *Good Time Polkas*. When I saw "Pretty Lady," a G-Notes tune at track 11, it seemed like the perfect place to "drop the needle" so to speak. This song told me "these musicians bleed Polish red Nickel City blood."

Among the 14 tracks of music featured you'll also find "Bright Star" polka, a slick version of "Parkway" polka, "Hotdog Stas" polka, Lush's "Bright Star" polka and a first-rate version of "Iron Casket" oberek. There is always something special about obereks when they are played from the heart.

Heading this group of musical transplants is Buffalo boy Dave Bonczkiewicz on trumpet and vocals. Another Buffalo product, Ron Brzoska is on accordion and midi bass. New Jersey original Barry Lubrant is the second accordion, with Chicagoland original Bob Jayo handling drums and concertina.

"Good Time Polkas" was recorded and mixed at Third Eye Blind Studio in Arizona and is on the Sunshine label.

POLKA MEMORIES / Jimmy K and Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email : [pajpolka@verizon.net](mailto:pajpolka@verizon.net). For more Polka Memories visit [www.polkamemories.com](http://www.polkamemories.com).



**THE JERRY STANLEY BAND.** Chicago, c. early 1960. (l. to r.): Chet Kowalkowski; Eddie Novak (d.); Jerry Stanley (d.); Gene Kupiec (d.); and unidentified bass player.



**CHET KOWALKOWSKI** and members of the original Versatones band. Club 505. Chicago. (l. to r.): Jerry Chocholek, Kowalkowski, Rich Sendra, and brother Bob Sendra.



**JERRY MALKIEWICZ** with the Canadian Fiddlestix Binghamton, N.Y. 1977



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LANCASTER-BUFFALO

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

**Happy July 4th to All!**

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Hi Everyone! Happy July 4th to all! I hope you have an enjoyable and safe holiday. It seems like once Independence Day is over, Labor Day is just around the corner, and that's just too fast for me!

Speaking of holidays, on Memorial Day, **Full Circle** appeared at the Ukrainian Hall in Cheektowaga, N.Y. This was a very warm weekend and as luck would have it, the air conditioning failed. But everyone made the best of it. After all, we waited a long time for this kind of weather. There was a big crowd on hand to enjoy the band consisting of Lenny Gomulka, Jimmy Weber, Al Piatkowski, Roger Malinowski, Mike Matousek, and Mike Stapinski. They sounded just super as they are all talented musicians.

It was nice to have a little chat with **Marcia Rajewski**. Husband Ed had some medical problems but is doing fine now. Also, spoke to **Marty Biniasz** who got married on May 8th to Kimberly Oshei. The marriage took place at St. Stanislaus Church and the reception was at the Buffalo Yacht Club. Congratulations to the newlyweds! Marty still runs the Forgotten Buffalo Tours about twice a month and gets a wonderful response. A book about old Buffalo taverns is also a project he is working on. Dan Potts' kitchen provided a varied menu and everything was delicious and reasonably priced.

Full Circle has announced they will host a Southern Caribbean Cruise from March 11 thru March 19, 2011. It is called Polka Cruise with the Stars IV - Polka Heaven in 2011. For more information, call (724) 234-2033.

**CONDOLENCES.** Our deepest sympathy go out to parents Sue Saly Kole and **Robert (Flash) Krupka** on the loss of their daughter, Alicia, who passed away suddenly on May 31st. Alicia was 24 years old. It seems like there are no words that one can say to ease the pain the family is going through. We can just remember them in our prayers and be there for them.

**HOMETOWN FLAVOR.** On June 5, The **Polka Family** band played the Crownview Restaurant, Depew, N.Y. There were three local musi-

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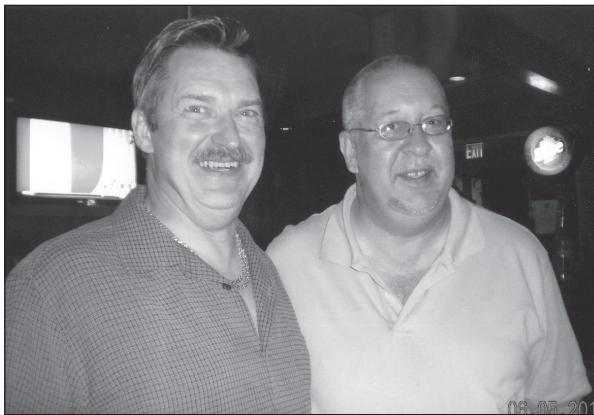
Full Circle at the Ukrainian Hall (l. to r.): Mike Stapinski, Lenny Gomulka, Jim Weber, Al Piatkowski, and Mike Matousek. Not visible on drums is Roger Malinowski.

cians playing with the band this night: Gary Krupski, John Fomenko and Art Gayler. Also, Hank Guzevich, Josh Szymczak, David Pietrzak and a drummer whose name I did not get, for a total of seven on stage. And they sounded excellent! I did spend a few minutes talking to Hank about the accident they had a couple months ago. Some of the former members of the band will not be playing with Polka Family anymore. Most of them have recovered and all but one are back to work.

There are still vivid memories of

cians to play so he can keep up the sound and high standards of the band.

Sometimes, this can be difficult as most musicians are already in a band and have commitments. After the band's trailer which had accumulated many thousands of miles was destroyed, another musician kindly donated a used one to the band for which they were grateful. We certainly wish Hank and the Polka Family band the best of luck and hope things will work out well for them. They are a huge part of the



Western New York polka promoters Val Bakowski and Hank Guzevich (left) and Gary Krupski, who filled in with Polka Band.



that night of the accident and they are all thankful it was not worse and everyone survived.

Hank said he is taking one day at a time as to the future of the band. He definitely wants to continue performing, as he has a family (four children and a wife) to support but he probably will not play as many jobs as they had previously. For one thing, he has to get quality musi-

polka scene.

I inquired as to how his mom, Nellie, is doing and he said she is fine. She spends a lot of time helping her daughter Alicia who has eight children. Alicia is married to musician Rick Vinecki.

Barb and Al Bakowski were there and I noticed Al was using a crutch. He mentioned he had fractured his knee cap. He has been through so

entertainment is free!

**July 21.** The Buffalo Touch plays at the Angola Gazebo from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Angola, N.Y.

**July 27.** The Polka Boosters Club Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music and refreshments included in your admission. Everyone is welcome. Please note this is on the last Tuesday of the month.

**Aug. 8.** Polka Boosters Club Picnic. Celebrating the Club's 40th Anniversary. Lamm Manor Picnic Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Music by Polka Booster bands. Hot dogs, hamburgers, Polish sausage, salads, chowder, pop and beer will be served. There will be a Chinese Auction with a variety of baskets. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call Chris at 892-7922 or Ron at 773-6387.

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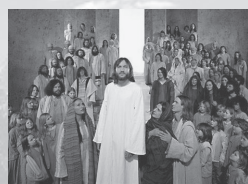
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## Gomulka Highlighted in Book about Massachusetts

CHICAGO (PMN)—A polka fan in an eastern state recently discovered in a book store an attractive, colorful book entitled "Massachusetts Curiosities," (Gelman and Gelman, Boston). When he leafed through the book, he was surprised to see a page title that read "Lenny Gomulka: Say Hello to Someone in Massachusetts." It introduced an informative page, which discussed famous songs from and about the bay state.

The top half of the page tells how Lenny, while driving near Ludlow, Mass., thought of and immediately recorded a song that was later proclaimed the "official state polka."

The remainder of the page is devoted to a list of other songs written in and about the state by prominent figures in a number of musical styles.

The page actually begins in a tongue-in-cheek sort of way, because they seemingly just have to show some disrespect for polkas, with the statement, "Lenny Gomulka may be no Lawrence Welk ... but he did write the official Massachusetts polka song."

think, a more creative composer."

In any case, this reference in a popular book on the state's attractions is a unique honor for a polka musician; all the more so since Gomulka is not only mentioned on this page together with several of the greatest musicians of our times, he is actually the headliner on the page. It may be the lone example in which a polka musician was mentioned side by side with leading mainstream musical figures and even given greater attention than they.

Reportedly, the book is available in the book sections of most Super Stop & Shop stores.



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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**  
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Kitchen - Full Menu 4pm - 10pm | Lite Fare 10pm - Close  
• Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push  
• Dennis Polisky and the Maestro's Men  
• The Polka Family  
• The Boys From Baltimore

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**  
Doors Open 10:30am | Band 12:30pm - 6:30pm  
Kitchen - Full Menu 12:30pm - 5:30pm  
• Polka Mass at 11:00am  
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Tommy Thomas ..... 410-285-5036 (Tommy is running a one-day bus trip from Baltimore on Sunday!)	Jill and Jimmy K ..... 440-319-1877 (Jill and Jimmy are running a bus trip from Cleveland!)
<b>Gil Ziemski</b> ..... 410-388-1998 or 302-436-4854	
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## THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

## Refreshing Cold Summer Soups

It is on those hot days of summer that Poland's many refreshing cold soups really hit the spot. They are not only tasty, nutritious and invigorating, but most are surprisingly easy to prepare. Here are some examples. We begin with soured milk which is the basis of many cold soups.

**SOUR MILK (zsiadłe mleko).** Although not a true soup, cold soured milk has long been a Polish favorite with a plate of buttered, dilled new potatoes or buckwheat groats and pork nuggets (kasza gryczana ze skwarkami) on the side. Some Polish delis in larger American cities are now marketing "zsiadłe mleko" as "fresh yogurt". To make your own, pour 1-2 qts whole or 2% milk into a glass or crockery bowl, reserving 1 c. With whisk beat the reserved milk with 1/2-1 c dairy sour cream or 1 c cultured buttermilk and add to remaining milk. Let stand in very warm place (80° is good!) covered with cheese cloth until clabbered. This make take 1-2 days. Refrigerate until ready to use. Before serving whisk until smooth. Note: Store-bought buttermilk or kefir is a substitute for sour milk, and zsiadłe mleko is now found in better Polish delis

**CHILLED LITHUANIAN BORSCHT (chłodnik litewski).** Peel 1 cucumber, cut in half lengthwise, then slice thin into bowl or tureen. (Optional: Seed portion may be scooped out and discarded if desired.) Add 1 bunch green onions

chopped, 6-8 coarsely grated radishes, 2 peeled, coarsely grated brined dill pickles and 1 c of the pickle brine plus 2 -3 T finely chopped fresh dill. Drench with 6 - 8 c cold smooth-whisked sour milk or buttermilk. Salt & pepper to taste. Cover and let stand in fridge for flavors to blend several hrs. Serve over sliced hard-cooked eggs in bowls.

**COLD BEET-GREEN SOUP (chłodnik na botwince).** Trim, wash well, drain and chop fine 1 bunch baby beets (including greens), place in pot, cover with water, add 1 T lemon juice, 1/2 salt, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook about 10 min. Set aside to cool. Peel and slice or dice 1 cucumber, chop 4 green onions (tops and bottoms) and slice very thin or grate coarsely 6 - 10 radishes. Combine with cold, cooked beets and 5 c cold soured milk (buttermilk or kefir). Add 2-3 T finely chopped fresh dill and refrigerate covered until well chilled. Serve over sliced hard-cooked eggs, allowing 1 egg per serving.

**COLD CUCUMBER SOUP (chłodnik ogórkowy).** Peel 2 cucumbers, cut in half lengthwise, then slice thin into bowl or tureen. (Optional: Seed portion may be scooped out and discarded if desired.) Add 2

peeled, coarsely grated brined dill pickles and 1 c of the pickle brine plus 2 -3 T finely chopped fresh dill. Drench with 6 - 8 c cold smooth-whisked sour milk or buttermilk. Salt & pepper to taste. Cover and let stand in fridge for flavors to blend several hrs. Serve over sliced hard-cooked eggs in bowls.

**FRUIT SOUP (zupa owocowa/chłodnik owocowy).** Start with about 3 c of any of the following single fruits or any combination thereof: small strawberries; blueberries; sour cherries (pitted or unpitted); peeled and sliced apples and/or pears; or halved, pitted plums. Place fruit in pot, add 5 -6 c water, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 8 - 10 min or until fruit is fully cooked. Dissolve 1 T potato starch (or cornstarch) in 1/2 c cold water or milk and stir into hot soup. Sweeten to taste (with sugar or sweetener) and (optional) season with a pinch of cinnamon, ground cloves or ground nutmeg. Simmer 2 -3 min. Serve over cooked egg noodles or fried croutons. A dollop of sour cream (or low-fat yogurt) may be added to each bowl. Note: This and other fruit soups may be served hot, warm, at room temp or chilled.

## GENEALOGY

## Does a Coat of Arms Go with Your Last Name?

Have you ever wondered what your Polish last name means? Many surnames started out as patronymic nicknames to indicate who one's father was. Andrzejczak, Tomczyk and Janowicz are the Polish equivalents of Anderson, Thomson and Johnson.

Other surnames described the inhabitant of a native village: Wiśniewski (from Wiśniewo or [Cherrywood]), Piotrowski (from Piotrowo [Petersburg]) and Wróblewski (from Wróblewo [Sparrowville]). Coat of arms accompany many Polish surnames.

For instance, the noble Wróblewskis were entitled to stamp their documents and property with the Jastrzębiec coat of arms. This heraldic device was shared by more than 1,100 families belonging to the Polish gentry. The clan-name, in this case Jastrzębiec (meaning something like "Hawkman"), usu-

ally was surrounded by a colorful medieval legend. And a nobleman would include the clan-name in his signature like the one below.



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For more information please contact: research60@gmail.com.

## ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

## A Brief History of Our Lady of Czestochowa: Amber Cloak and Crown

It is doubtful whether any other representation of Our Blessed Mother with Her Divine Child, possesses a more ancient and glorious history than the painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Tradition tells us that St. Luke painted it on the top of a cypress wood table which came from the home of the Holy Family. At the request of the faithful, Mary sat for the portrait. She was pleased with the finished portrait, saying "My grace shall accompany it." So begins the miraculous history of the painting.

Generated for nearly 300 years while hidden in Jerusalem, the painting was discovered by St. Helen while searching for the True Cross. She brought it back to Constantinople and presented it to her son, Constantine the Great, the first Christian Emperor of Rome. Constantine built a chapel for the portrait and where it remained for five centuries.

Miracle upon miracle was attributed to the intercession of Mary by persons praying before the portrait. Over the years, many enemies laid siege to Constantinople. The chapel became a center of hope for the people of the city. During one attack the city seemed ready to fall, but the people rallied to the painting and the city was saved. Another time the city was under attack and the chapel caught fire. Everything was destroyed except a small section of wall upon which hung the painting of Mary and Jesus. The intense heat and soot from the fire had darkened the already dark olive features of Mary and Jesus.

Eventually it was given as a gift by the Byzantine Emperor to a Ruthenian nobleman. The portrait was brought to Kiev and installed in the Royal Palace of Belz. It remained there for 579 years. In 1382 the painting received an injury from invading Tartar's. An arrow pierced it, leaving a scar which is still visible on the neck. Concerned with the safety of the painting, Prince Ladislaus Opolski decided to move it to one of his castles in Upper Silesia.

On the brow of a hill called Jas-

na Gora (bright hill) within a few paces of the town of Czestochowa, the horses drawing the wagon with the painting stopped. No amount of coaxing or goading could make them go on. Mary appeared to Ladislaus and told him this was to be Her new home. The Miraculous Image was placed in a chapel and given to the care of the Basilian monks of the Greek Rite. A few years later, Prince Ladislaus gave it over to the Latin Rite Hermits of Saint Paul who are still there to this day.

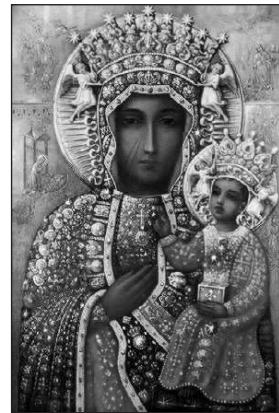
The year 1382 begins the remarkable record history of this miraculous painting. It figured in the heroic successful defense of Poland against invaders who were enemies of the Catholic Church. Over time, the monastery as Jasna Gora became a monastic fortress and focal point of Polish nationalism. In 1655 the monastery held out against a mighty Swedish army. In 1683 it was the Turks and in 1920 the Bolsheviks. As a result, Our Lady of Czestochowa was crowned as Queen of Poland (feast is May 3).

During all these stirring historical events the painting did not escape desecration and mutilation. In 1430 Hussites sacked the monastery. Pillaging they loaded all the treasures of Jasna Gora into wagons. The horses pulling the wagon with the painting would not move. The

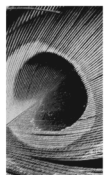
Hussites, threw the painting off the wagon and the horses moved. One of the raiders seeing the jewels and gold covering the painting slashed at it with sabers, cutting twice into the right cheek of Mary. When he went to strike it a third time he fell dead. The other raiders fled for fear of Divine Retribution.

Repeated efforts by skilled artists to patch the scars failed. Each time the facial cuts reappeared. It is believed to be the will of Mary that the scars should remain as a sign to any who would desecrate Her Shrine. In 1909, vandals tore off the gold crown and "overdress" of pearls. This sacrilege was repaired with the help of Pope, St. Pious X, who furnished new crown. Pope after Pope has granted spiritual favors to pilgrims visiting the Shrine, enriching it with many privileges. At present a painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa adorns the altar of the Pope's private chapel at Castel Gondolfo.

In St Bridget's Church in Gdansk, the secret meeting place of the Solidarity movement near the shipyards, there is a wonderful painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa — both Our Lady and the Baby Jesus have been crowned in white amber and precious jewels — gifts from the Polish people to honor their freedom and thank Our Lady for her blessings.



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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

# Szczur a Real Sports Hero



Hero **Matt Szczur** of Villanova has had some great moments on the baseball diamond and football field, but one of his greatest achievements came in a hospital. Szczur recently donated peripheral blood cells to a 19-month-old leukemia patient he has never met, in an attempt to save the girl's life.

Szczur was recently a fifth round pick of the Cubs, and is a two-sport star at Villanova University on baseball and football. Szczur was the first .400 hitter for Villanova this season since 1997, batting .443 (77-for-174) to earn first-team All-Big East honors. Baseball America ranked Szczur as the second-fastest runner among all college position players in the Draft and the 19th-best center fielder among all Draft-eligible players. The Cubs will try to sign Matt before he returns to Villanova for his senior football season. Szczur was MVP of Villanova's 23-21 win over Montana in the FCS Championship Game. He rushed for a career-high 159 yards as well as two touchdowns, and gained 270 all-purpose yards.

Three years ago, Szczur registered with the other Wildcats freshmen in the National Bone Marrow Donor Program, and was later identified as a match for the young girl. "It's crazy for me to be picked out. It's a 1-in-80,000 chance [to be a match]. But I was the one," he said.

The harvesting procedure was originally supposed to take place around the date of the football title game. But it was postponed once, then twice. Finally, the time arrived during the baseball season. Szczur began taking medicine (two injections every morning) to produce more white blood cells five days

before the procedure, which involves a needle in both arms, one of which (his left) had to remain in place throughout. The effects of the medications can include an enlarged spleen, so he had to miss ten games.

He felt bad because the baseball team was trying to make it to the Big East Tournament. "Nobody [else] looks at it that way," said Szczur at the time. "I feel like I'm letting them down a little bit. But I'm excited that it really happened and this girl can get better as soon as possible."

When Szczur returned to the Villanova lineup afterwards, he hit a home run with his first swing of the bat. Szczur later drove in two more runs with a single as Villanova handed the Mountaineer baseball team a 5-4 loss.

"It would be unbelievable for me to meet [her]," he told reporters. "Maybe one day she can come out and see me play. He isn't permitted to have any contact with her or the family for a year.

For Matt, the decision to make the blood cell donation was an easy one. It'll probably be a much tougher choice when it comes to deciding whether to pursue a baseball or football career.

**COMING ON STRONG.** **Mike Foltyniewicz**, a 6-foot-4, 190 pound righthander out of Minooka Community High School in Illinois, was selected No. 19 overall in the Major League Baseball draft by the Houston Astros. The 6-foot-5, 200-pounder, whose fastball has been clocked at 96 mph, was not projected as a first rounder by many but has shown steady improvement in the past year.

Foltyniewicz, who is signed to play at the University of Texas, finished with a 9-1 record, an earned run average of 0.38 and a 128/24 strikeout/walk ratio in 72 2/3 innings. His lone loss was a three-

hitter in which he didn't allow an earned run in a 1-0 defeat. He also had a huge year at the plate with eight homers and 39 RBI.

"He's just a dominant pitcher," said Minooka coach Jeff Petrovic. "He's really come a long way and has developed into a pitcher, not just a thrower ... He's worked really hard, and he's been fantastic. I'm blessed to have coached him for four years."

The Citadel's **Asher Wojciechowski** was picked 41st overall in the supplemental first round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Toronto Blue Jays. The reigning Southern Conference Pitcher of the Year became the highest draft pick in the history of The Citadel baseball program. The junior hurler went 12-3 in 17 starts this season. He threw 125.2 innings this season with an ERA of 3.58, and his 155 strikeouts are the most in Division I this season.

**KING OF PAIN.** That's how *Runners' World* described **Scott Jurek** in its April 2010 issue. The 36-year-old Seattle native is the most decorated ultrarunner of all time, best known for his unprecedented seven consecutive wins and course record at the prestigious Western States 100-mile Endurance Run over the Sierra Nevada mountains. Most recently, Scott finished 2nd at the World 24-hour Run Championships in France in May, setting an American record by running 165.7 miles in 24 hours.

Ultramarathoning or ultrarunning involves running longer than the traditional marathon length of 26.2 miles. The events can cover a specific distance or can take place during specified time, with the winner covering the most distance in that period.

"Getting started with this sport seemed like a natural progression," recalled Scott. "I spent a lot of time

Nordic skiing and I ran the trails to stay in shape for it. On the suggestion of a friend I competed in my first ultra, the Minnesota Voyageur 50 Miler in 1994. I placed second. It was one of the hardest things I had ever done. I really enjoyed it and I saw I had potential for success." He returned to the Voyageur the next four years, posting three wins and a course record.

Among Scott's other wins were the 135-mile Badwater Ultramarathon in Death Valley, the Hardrock 100-Mile Race in Colorado, and the classic 153-mile Spartathlon from Athens to Sparta in Greece. Jurek has been named a Running Hero by *Runner's World* magazine and three times was voted Ultrarunner of the Year by *Ultrarunning* magazine.

Scott grew up in Proctor, Minnesota, outside of Duluth. He told *Runners' World* that his father was a teamster, his grandparents "stubborn Polacks." Scott has blogged about "the ethics of hard work drilled into me at an early age from my Polish grandparents." He credits his hard work — and a vegan diet — for his success. Jurek follows an intense training regime, running a minimum of 140 miles a week while training and frequently eating 5,000 to 8,000 calories a day.

Scott works as a physical therapist in his private practice in Seattle and operates a coaching business called Beyond Running.

**MOVING UP.** Former light heavyweight and cruiserweight champion **Tomasz Adamek** has moved up to the heavyweight class with success, and next will face big Michael Grant in Newark, N.J. in August.

Tomasz Adamek began his heavyweight career by defeating fellow Pole **Andrew Golota**, then U.S. Olympian Jason Estrada, and then Top 10 heavyweight Chris Arreola. He dedicated his fight against Arreola to those killed in the plane crash in Smolensk. Adamek, who was born in Zywiec, said just after

the crash: "Poles living in America and my American friends have been calling me, saying words of sympathy because they know that I'm Polish. Today, in the United States of America, we are all Polish."

This is the second time this year that a plane crash has affected Adamek. He was friends with **Jacek Mazurek**, a businessman who owned a plane that broke apart near Wall Township, N.J., in February, killing five people.

Adamek ultimately wants to fight one or both of the Klitschko brothers, so fighting a tall boxer like Grant would help him prepare. The towering Ukrainians have dominated the heavyweight division in recent years. Recently, Vitali Klitschko retained his WBC heavyweight title with a 10th-round TKO of another Pole, Albert Sosnowski, in Germany.

**THEY SAID IT**

"Tell him he's an arrogant a - - , and every Steeler can get in without a cover except him."

— **Mark Baranowski**, owner of the *Cabana Bar* in Pittsburgh, in response to Steeler QB Ben Roethlisberger's conduct at his club.

◆◆◆  
"Fate took friends, people who I always admired. Many people so important for my home country — their families need us. They need compassion as they grieve."

— **Polish-born boxer Tomasz Adamek**, following the plane crash in Smolensk.

◆◆◆  
"One of the advantages of pitching in Illinois is that I haven't had as much mileage on my arm. Those kids from California, Texas, and Florida have that advantage of going year 'round, but I don't have the same wear and tear that they do."

*Pitcher Mike Foltyniewicz, on being a first round pick in the baseball draft from a northern state.*

HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

## A Triple Treat

Very talented triplets, Aleksandra, Izabela, and Monika Okapiec, are making quite a name for themselves in the field of entertainment. Popularly known as Alizma, the girls are not only strikingly beautiful, but very bright as well. They are virtuosos on the violin, while also studying voice and piano.

Poland is their country of birth. Introduced to the world of music by their mother, Hania, they were mastering the violin at six years of age.

At fifteen the girls became exchange students in the United States — in Delaware, Rochester, and Dallas, respectively. Always striving

to improve their musical horizons, they have successfully earned degrees in management, violin, voice, and piano.

Shenandoah University and Azusa Pacific University were their choices for higher learning.

Presently residing in the United States, these young ladies are fluent in both Polish and English and have an acquired knowledge of some French and German.

Their musical techniques, their vibrant style, and stunning performances are many. Yes, they are most impressive! They have performed for Vice President Biden, when he

was a senator, at his Christmas party. They have opened the Rose Parade in Pasadena, entertained at the Polish Embassy in New York City, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. They have also participated in the Jerry Lewis Telethon, appeared at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, and engaged in a European tour, and many venues too numerous to mention.

Performances by the Okapiec triplets are most entertaining and are truly enjoyable. Alexandra, Izabela, and Monika continue to share their many talents with audiences everywhere. Alizma is here to stay.

BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

## Health Part 1

Gdzie jest najbliższy ... (gdjeh yehst nai-BLEESH-shih) **Where is the nearest ...?**  
 lekarz .....(LEH-kahsh) **m doctor**  
 dentysta.....(dehn-TIHS-tah) **m dentist**  
 szpital .....(SHPEE-tahl) **m hospital**  
 Gdzie jest najbliższa ... (gdjeh yehst nai-BLEESH-shah) **Where is the nearest ...?**  
 apteka.....(ahp-TEH-kah) **f pharmacist**  
 psychodnia.....(pshih-CHOHD-nyah) **f outpatient clinic**  
 Jestem chory.....(YEHS-tehm CHOH-rih) **I am sick [male form]**

Phonetic hh is like ch in *loch* • Phonetic ai is like *eye*  
 m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

Jestem chora.....(YEHS-tehm CHOH-rah) **I am sick [female form]**  
 Mój przyjaciel jest chory.....(Muy pshih-YAH-chehl yehst CHOH-rih) **My friend is sick. [refers to a male friend]**  
 Moja przyjaciółka jest chora.....(MOY-yahpshih-yah-CHUHW-kah yehst CHOH-rah) **My friend is sick. [refers to a female friend]**  
 Potrzebuję lekarza który mówi po angielsku.....(poht-sheh-BUH-yeh leh-KAH-zhah KTUH-rih MUH-vee poh ahn-GYEHL-skuh) **I need a doctor who speaks English.**  
 The gender of a noun is important because in Polish an adjective modifying it must end in the same gender as the noun.

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PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

## Work Processes

Every day, we go through a number of routines that create the flow and hum that make life work. If you are obsessive, it can make you crazy. If you have no work processes, then you will really drive me crazy. It is a pleasure to be around the ones that make sense and are reasonable.

Holidays and traditions are the big regular things we do that have structure and meaning. Getting ready for work is a minor event that follows schedules and steps that need to be done. When I work in the yard, my method for cutting, trimming, and weeding follows a certain regimen. On a scale of 1 to 10 for work processes, I'm a 7 or 8 for structure.

Catholicism is imbued with all kinds of ceremony and formality surrounding the sacraments and other official business and events. As a lover of the Catholic faith, I have thought many times about the way we do things, especially the best way to celebrate the Mass, a "What-if-I-were-the-priest?" kind of thing. I am not talking about doctrine or theology, but merely the format and convention used to carry it out. Some people love the Mass because of the built-in "ritual" and others criticize it because it is too laden with formality. Every religious service has a work process, like it or not.

As Polish ethnic Masses are concerned, there are three kinds: Polish, English with tinges of Polish, and Polish and English where Polish is primary. Depending on what location or occasion, a Polish language and liturgy might prevail or, many

of the parishes that were once all Polish are now mixes of Polish and English, or Polish and Spanish, etc. I like to concentrate on the Polish and "something else" where the theme is primarily Polish.

Please know this is not criticism, but analysis. I was recently in an Orthodox Church and I thought the mix of languages was perfect. An English-speaking and Romanian-speaking cantor traded singing the prayers and responses very smoothly and equitably, with an edge probably to the dominant Romanian. The priest followed suit. Whatever the percent, I thought it worked very well and the liturgy moved along very nicely. Two hours seemed like one.

Most of the time my spiritual experience at the Polish-ethnic Mass is exceptional. I have, though, experienced a church where the priest did not have a clue on how to act in front of a congregation of Poles. The Catholic Church in general is very sensitive to the language and traditions of minority people, so this is not a major problem.

**IF I HAD TO DESIGN** my ethnic Mass for the salvation of Polish and Polish-American and English speaking souls, this is how I would do it:

**Music.** Where Polish is primary, I like to hear more Polish language songs. Not all, but at least some or substantial. One of the most beautiful Masses in Polish I ever attended was when a group of visiting Gorals did the music and singing. I will never forget it. Later they did some

dancing which also was excellent.

**Our Father.** This should be in Polish. If you are Polish American, you should learn how to say/sing the Our Father in Polish. If you are an American and have connections to a Polish church, you should learn the Our Father in Polish. All of us know certain words and songs and phrases in other languages. Remind those who say, "I can't possibly pronounce that!" that they will not be reduced to a lower caste to learn a little Polish. This has nothing to do with being politically correct, just being correct, and respectful, and nice.

**The Gospel.** I think it is strange in a mixed group to not do the Gospel in both languages. If there is a liturgical rule here, let me know. Normally the epistles are one each but the Gospel, even with predominant Polish is done in English.

**Sermon.** Make it short! (Just kidding, Father.) I think a short talk in the secondary group's language is necessary and acceptable with the bulk of the message in the dominant group's language. If the presider (as in the case of a visiting priest, Bishop, etc.) does not speak in the native tongue, then a quick summary translation in the primary's language with the rest of the sermon in the language most comfortable to the presider.

Not necessarily a Polish thing, but one of my all-time favorite priests, Fr. Vince Mogelnicki always introduced the guest con-celebrant priests and others on the altar at the beginning of Mass. Father always said a word or two in praise of the folks (choir, cleaners, decorators, etc.) who helped with the preparation and production of special events.

I am a pretty conservative guy but am certainly open to ingenuity and creativity that enhance or enrich the meditation, solemnity, commu-

nity, and the spirituality of the Mass and to have it appeal to more people with language, music, etc. I love the Polka Mass, the Goral Mass, the Hawaiian Mass, and the Mass at St. Patrick's "cathedral" in downtown Chicago. The reason for the Holy Mass is to bring us closer to God. I respect and love the diversity of our religious citizenry and I would want others to respect and acknowledge the Polish presence when joining us in places of worship.

### WORK PROCESSES THAT

**WORK.** New Yorkers are most likely very familiar with the Veselka restaurant in Manhattan's East Village but if you're out of state and can't make it to New York soon, pick up the newly published book on the Veselka by the current owner Tom Birchard, *The Veselka Cookbook, Recipes and Stories from the Landmark Restaurant in New York's East Village* (Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Press, New York, 2009). Veselka was founded in the East Village Ukrainian community by Ukrainian Wolodymyr Darmochwal but the food and feeling is of course familiar to us Polish folks.

There are a few things worth mentioning: The book project was done with a lot of love. The affection that Tom Birchard has for the food and the people resonates. The "pierogi makers" are Polish ladies "who are responsible for a large percentage of the restaurant's business: These women chat in Polish as they roll and stir and pinch for eight hours a day to feed the craving for pierogi that haunts so many of Veselka's customers." Veselka serves about 3,000 pierogi per day and serves 5,000 gallons of Borscht (beet soup) in a year. The work processes developed by Wolodymyr Darmochwal are working as the restaurant is fifty years old now.

Rick Sikorski is a guy who start-

ed with an idea for working out. His concept has worked so well that he is now worth about \$40 million as the founder of Fitness Together, "one of the world's largest wellness organizations" (<http://corp.fitness-together.com/about-fitness-together/history/>.) Fitness Together oversees franchise operations that specialize in one-on-one personal fitness training and "today, the combined franchise network includes more than 600 franchises across the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Israel and Ireland." Great job Rick.

**AND COUNTING...** Pro golf update. **Jim Furyk** scored another top-ten at The Memorial Golf Tournament in Dublin, Ohio. He is quickly approaching \$3 million in earnings already this year. **Matty Kuchar** tied for 8th at The Memorial and bumped just over \$2 million in 2010. The Polish are coming!

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If you have a thought about this month's topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com). Note: if you send eMail, please reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

### SIR ELTON REMEMBERS

**VICTIMS.** Elton John sang "Candle in the Wind" for the victims of the Smolensk crash when he came with his only concert to Poland, May 30.

The song, originally written in 1973 in tribute to Marilyn Monroe, was re-recorded by the artist in a new version after the death of Princess Diana.

Sir Elton sang at a sold out Polonia Stadium in Warsaw.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

## Young Jack Kennedy and Poland

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt chose Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr. to be U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain in 1938, it seemed like a strange choice. Kennedy, patriarch of what was to become an American political dynasty, was an Irish Catholic with anti-British sentiments.

The elder Kennedy was also an admirer of Germany, England's long time nemesis. The ambassador was a staunch supporter of appeasement toward Hitler and thought highly of the fascist Generalissimo Franco of Spain. He favored sacrificing the "disposable countries" of East Central Europe to Germany in exchange for world peace and preservation of economic stability. Even after Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, Kennedy continued to advocate for American peace feelers toward Hitler, something that FDR rejected out of hand.

Ambassador Kennedy's twenty-two year old son John, on leave from his studies at Harvard, was serving as his father's secretary in London during the summer of 1939 when the ambassador suggested he take a trip through Europe to see first hand the situation there, which was inexorably headed toward war.

Young Jack Kennedy traveled to Paris, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, the Free City of Danzig, Poland and the USSR. As an American ambassador's son, he was given diplomatic courtesies at

each American embassy he visited. In Danzig, he was even able to meet with German Nazi officials.

Jack spent four weeks in Warsaw and from there he wrote that the situation was "so damn complicated ... Poland is determined not to give up Danzig ... What Germany will do if she decides to go to war will be to try to put Poland in the position of being aggressor, and then go to work. Poland has an army of 4,000,000 who are damn good but poorly equipped." He accurately predicted that "the Poles are not Czechs and they will fight [but] Poland will be alone."

Making the rounds of the upper crust of Polish society, he described how "people bow and scrape and the servants wear white wigs etc. All of the young people here own estates of around 100,000 acres with 10,000 or so peasants."

Jack Kennedy thought war in Europe would be avoided, but no doubt was not surprised when it came just as his trip ended. His journey had given him insight into how the German propaganda machine had whipped up its population into a war-like state, and Poland's determination to resist Nazi aggression.

In October 1939, just a few

weeks after the war had started, JFK wrote an editorial that appeared in Harvard's newspaper, the *Crimson*, entitled "Peace in Our Time." In it, he echoed his father's defeatist, non-interventionist views. He urged President Roosevelt to broker a peace settlement with concessions to Germany, a peace based upon reality, he said, lest Europe be destroyed.

Regarding Poland, he wrote that the conquest of that nation should be ignored: "The restoration of the old Poland is an utter impossibility, come what may." Peace, he conceded, "would mean a puppet Poland under German control, and eventually it would mean a free economic hand for the Nazis in eastern Europe."

Despite these opinions, Jack Kennedy in 1940 organized a Harvard student committee to raise funds for Europe's invaded populations. Slowly, his world view changed. He became an admirer of Britain's new feisty Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Eventually, his isolationism turned to interventionism as the war escalated. Several weeks before Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Navy, where he served heroically in the war in the South Pacific.

John F. Kennedy emerged from World War II with a new maturity, ready to confront a re-made world, and with newfound political ambitions instilled in him by his father.



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## SPEAK UP / Letters to the Editor

## The Latest Betrayal

I recently finished reading "A Question of Honor" by Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud. Ostensibly about the callously forgotten heroism of the Polish aviators fighting for the RAF in World War II, it was really more about the overall betrayal of Poland by its presumed allies, England and America. Filled with remarkable detail, it is truly painful reading for any American of Polish descent. While I was previously aware of Roosevelt's international double-dealing with Stalin at Tehran and Yalta on "the question of Poland" through my studies of U.S. diplomatic history, this book provided additional insights into his domestic perfidy. To garner Am-Pol votes for his fourth term, FDR cynically misled and outright lied to the Polish American Congress and its president, Charles Rozmarek, that he would ensure Poland was reconstituted as a nation with its pre-war borders. Instead, he had already agreed that the USSR could incorporate eastern Poland into its Communist realm. As a result, FDR swept more than 90 percent of Polish American votes in 1944, before those deluded voters could see that, in my parents' words, he had actually "sold Poland down the river."

The book, written in 2003, ends on a positive note. Describing how Poland, after gaining its own freedom, and fa-

cilitating that of others formerly under Soviet domination through the extraordinary efforts begun by the Solidarity movement, was finally admitted to NATO in 1997. Ironically, a short dozen years later, that seemed to matter little to another Democratic president who unilaterally and guilelessly betrayed the land of our forefathers once again when he announced that he would not install ballistic missile defense systems in Poland. To add incredible insult to the injury, Obama did this on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland. While it is arguable whether the systems would be effective against Russian nuclear missiles, this amateurish attempt to curry Russian favor nevertheless simply signaled to Poland's age-old enemy that, NATO membership notwithstanding, the current U.S. administration, like their scheming predecessors, considered Poland to be within the Russian sphere of influence.

What is galling to me — and my main point here — is that there was no great outcry from the Polish American community. Instead, I recently saw how the people of Buffalo, my hometown, with its significant percentage of Am-Pols, welcomed this mountebank with open arms. It is distressing that they are unable to see behind the rhetoric and chi-

canery, like our grandparents in FDR's time, and hold his actions against him instead of reflexively and unthinkingly continuing to vote persons like him into power simply because of inherited party affiliation. (To say nothing of the fact that, as presumed Catholics, they have conceded extraordinary influence to the most anti-life president in our history). On the domestic scene, his deficit spending to serve his select constituency and perpetuate his power and of those of his ilk will be a burden on our children's children's children unless it is reversed. (Economics 100: governments cannot create wealth — they only expropriate it. It was not for nothing that in March 2009 the European Union President, Mirek Topolaneck of the Czech Republic, said that Obama's deficit spending and bailouts were "a road to hell.")

I can only hope and pray that a majority of Am-Pols will actually observe with their own eyes and think about all this before the next elections, to halt him and those like him who are heedlessly selling both the land of our forebears, and the future of our own native land, "down the river."

Edward J. Kurzanski  
Leesburg, Virginia

## THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



Reflecting Upon General Pilsudski. Wawel Castle, Krakow, Poland. May 23, 1976.

## OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

**RAYMOND V. GURZYNSKI**, 94, was a longtime coach and professor emeritus at Ursinus College. Mr. Gurzynski earned a bachelor's degree from the college, where he lettered in football, track, and baseball, and was a member of the Student Council. He then taught at Stewart Junior High School in Norristown for five years and earned a master's degree in education from Temple University. He returned to Ursinus as a health and physical education instructor, track and cross-country coach, and assistant football coach. He also was head football coach for several years. His track and field teams won two Middle Atlantic Championships and had four undefeated seasons. He received numerous accolades, including being installed as a member of the Ursinus Hall of Fame.

**FRANK X. KRZYAN**, 96, was elected President of the City Council of Youngstown, Ohio, and was mayor of Youngstown for 3 terms from 1954 to 1960. In 1973, he was appointed judge of the Municipal Court by the governor of Ohio, and served from 1973 to 1987 until his retirement. Mr. Kryzan graduated from Youngstown College in 1938, where he was a founding member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He later served in the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant, assigned to the 26th Yankee Division of the 101st Infantry Regiment under General George Patton. He received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and two Combat Stars for his service.

**SISTER BONAVENTURE KUSEK**, 91, former president of the Resurrection Health Care System, died on May 22. Born in Elyria, Nebraska into a farming family, Matilda Kusek (Sister Bonaventure) moved to Chicago to be closer to her sister Lenore, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Resurrection. In 1942, Matilda followed in her sister's footsteps and joined the same congregation. In 1953, after attending Loyola University Chicago Business School, Sister Bonaventure began her life-long career in health care, by first working in the purchasing department of the newly-opened Resurrection Hospital. In 1969, she became the Hospital's chief executive officer (CEO), a position she held until 1993. During her tenure as Resurrection Hospital's CEO, Sister Bonaventure transformed one hospital into the largest Catholic health care

system in Chicago, combining several hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, as well as community and outpatient centers into one large network. Her last position was answering phones as a receptionist at a Resurrection rehabilitation center in Park Ridge, Illinois. This was part of her long dedicated mission of service to others. Sister Bonaventure Kusek is survived by one brother and four sisters. (G. Balut Coleman)

**FRANCES LIPINSKI**, 63, was a longtime volunteer for the Special Olympics and fundraiser for children with autism. Mrs. Lipinski first became involved in the Special Olympics about 20 years ago through her job at Specialty Consultants Inc., a Pittsburgh-based headhunting firm. She graduated from St. John the Baptist High School, and not long after married her husband, Joseph, who she was married to for 25 years.

**ROBERT MUCZYNSKI**, 81, a Polish/Slovak American composer and pianist, died in Tucson Arizona. Mr. Muczynski was born in Chicago, attended Chicago public schools, and received his undergraduate and master's degree

in piano performance from DePaul University. While at DePaul, Robert was the composition student of the renowned Russian émigré, Alexander Tcherepnin and a piano student of Walter Knupfer. He went on to teach composition at DePaul, as well as Roosevelt University and Loras College. In 1965, Muczynski began a long career at the University of Arizona at Tucson as chair of composition and composer-in-residence, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. He received his first symphony commission from the Fromm Music Foundation in 1953, followed by the Louisville Orchestra Commissioning Project in 1954 for his Concerto No. 1 for Piano and Orchestra. At the age of 25, he was the youngest composer accorded a commission and a performance as soloist with the Louisville Symphony Orchestra under conductor Robert Whitney. In 1958, he made his Carnegie Hall debut in a program which consisted of his own solo piano pieces. During that same year, he pre-

sented his work at Chicago's renowned Grant Park Summer Symphony Festival under Nikolai Malko, followed that same year by a performance with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Throughout his career, he composed primarily music for piano and chamber orchestras. His orchestral works were also performed by the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and the National Symphony of Washington, D.C. For over 50 years, he produced approximately 50 published compositions. In 1996, he wrote his last composition, "Desperate Measures (Paganini Variations)," Opus 48, for solo piano. Robert's versatile musical talents extended into the area of flute and saxophone compositions, including, but not limited to, his Flute Sonata (1961), Saxophone Sonata (1970), and Moments (1992) for flute and piano. Robert Muczynski's music is available on numerous compact discs. (G. Balut Coleman)

**HENRY S. NASIELSKI**, 91, graduated from Camden High School in 1936 and later graduated as valedictorian from Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania in 1940. Nasielski rose through the ranks at RCA and worked in commercial broadcasting and some top-security government projects. One of his biggest accomplishments was pioneering missile-defense systems in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He also contributed to the design of the first handheld color camera. He was very involved in several New Jersey Polish organizations, also serving as president and financial secretary for the Polish National Alliance Lodge 160. He also served in the U. S. Army Air Force as a radio communications specialist and pilot as part of the 31st fighter group, which flew with the 308th Fighter Squadron.

**SISTER HELEN VERONICA PAWLAK LSIC**, 97, of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, joined the Congregation in 1935 made her first profession of vows in 1938, and her perpetual profession in 1943. Sr. Pawlak served through dietary service, nursing and activities for the elderly. She qualified as a practical nurse in 1956, and served in St. Joseph's Convent in Woodbridge, and St. Mary's Catholic Home in Cherry Hill.

**FRANK E. SWIACKI, SR.**, 90, gradu-

ated from Northeast High School in 1936, and became a mechanic at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. He served in the Navy during World War II, where he fought during a battle that destroyed a German U-boat, participating in Operation Teardrop, designed to sink enemy submarines believed to be approaching the East Coast. After being discharged he worked at the Naval Supply Depot in Philadelphia and earned a bachelor's degree at night from La Salle College. Swiacki also went on to win competitions at Toastmasters International conventions for his newfound skills in public speaking. He was also involved in Polish and church organizations, and very active at Our Lady of Calvary Church.

**MATTHEW M. WESOLOWSKI**, 17, was born in Buffalo as one of the world's first babies to be carried in the womb by his own grandmother, making worldwide news when he was born to the oldest woman in the United States to give birth through in vitro fertilization. Wesolowski was a junior at Spring-Ford High School in Royersford, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles northwest of Philadelphia. He moved to Pennsylvania with his parents after his birth.

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TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. "Firefly Polka" was written by a. Joe Jarosz b. Li'l Wally c. Marion Lush
2. Krzyztof Penderecki wrote a piece of music for the a. Rockefeller Center Easter Show b. 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing c. Carnegie Hall Holiday Contest
3. The Kosciuszko House Museum, the actual house he used during his American stay in 1797, is in a. Savannah. b. Philadelphia. c. Baltimore.
4. Poland is the second largest breeder of Arabian horses, the first being a. Germany b. Saudia Arabia c. United States
5. A soup kitchen near Rome's train station was dedicated to Pope John Paul II by a. the Mayor of Rome b. Pope Benedict c. the College of Cardinals
6. Joe Klecko starred for the New York Jets from 1977 to a. 1979 b. 1983 c. 1987
7. The Polish-American Society of Tidewater honors Polish artisans (glassmakers) in early a. Boston b. Williamsburg c. Jamestown
8. W.T. Brenda, a traditional romantic artist of Polish 19th century painting, became a world-recognized authority on a. surrealism b. mask-making c. seascapes
9. Rivaling the famed Gibson Girl was the a. Benda Girl b. Modjeska Beauty c. Polish Debutante
10. If you cook with ocet, you are using a. vinegar b. chocolate c. parsley

ANSWERS 1-a; 2-b; 3-b; 4-c; 5-b; 6-c; 7-c; 8-b; 9-a; 10-a.

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes

The Price of Peace

YALTA, *The Price of Peace*

by S.M. Plochy  
 Viking, 2010, 480 pp., notes, maps, index, \$29.95

Plochy provides a fascinating history on the ending of World War II and the events of the Yalta Conference. The Big Three consisted of an American president who was ill and distant, a Brit who was concerned with getting reelected and did not have much hope that a final agreement would be reached and a Russian who won many of his arguments, beginning with the location. Churchill and Roosevelt did not always agree and Stalin took advantage of it to take control of the conference.

As far as Stalin was concerned, Poland would not have been on the agenda, considering it was already under Soviet control. But this did not happen. Its borders and government were discussed endlessly, Churchill and Roosevelt agreed that Poland should harbor no hostile design or intrigue against the USSR. Churchill wanted the Poles to be in a position to be free and live their own lives as they wished. After all, the Allies had gone to war against Germany that Poland should be free and sovereign. And they believed Stalin when he said Poland would be free to govern themselves.

The "Polish problem" — the borders of the state and the composition of the government was one of the last items on the agenda, after debating the boundaries and future of all Europe, Nazi war criminals, prisoners of war and more. The British and America recognized the London-based government and Soviets wanted the Lublin coalition to govern. Churchill put his trust in Stalin's proclamation that Poland would be independent and free, and did not consider it a problem at the conference. He had stated "It was for this that we went forward against Germany, that Poland would be free and sovereign."

The meetings included interpreters, delegates, advisors ambassadors and foreign ministers, yet there is no official record of the Yalta conference. Personalities of the many who took part create an interesting read.

There is new and valuable information on the events and discussions of the Big Three in this book that is worthy of the extensive research Plochy undertook. This is the first comprehensive account of the Yalta Conference since the end of the Cold War. Using formerly unavailable Soviet documents, published and unpublished diaries, as well as comments from Churchill's doctor and Roosevelt's daughter, helps bring all the characters to life. Here is a scholarly book for academics and the general public.

ROME'S MOST FAITHFUL DAUGHTER

The Catholic Church and Independent Poland 1914-1939

by Neal Pease  
 Ohio University Press  
 2009. Index, illustrations, bibliography, notes, 312 pp., hardcover \$49.95, paperback \$26.95

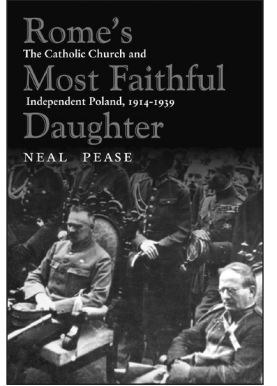
In creating this book, Pease describes and explains the significance of Catholicism in Polish politics in the inter-war period and the state of Poland in the wider Catholic world. The book title is as contradictory as Poland itself.

Poland was off to a shaky start when the Second Polish Republic was created in 1921. The inter-war government was tremulous, with Marshall Jozef Pilsudski pulling and tugging at the Catholic Church. His behavior was a poor example of a dedicated Catholic.

The Church looked at independent Poland as a troublesome country. The Pope hoped, with the unification and conversion of all of Poland's people to Catholicism, it could extend its reach into Russia.

The Republic had its own problems in reuniting the three divided territories with a mix of Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox population and nationalities. The Second Republic would not cooperate with Rome in accepting the Pope's candidates for bishop and challenged him on his new East-Slavic Rite. The Second Republic, the Catholic hierarchy in Poland and the Holy See had their own set of agenda and interests. By the 30s the Polish government elected to go its own way, outlasting the Vatican over the future of Christianity in east European, claiming they would not support the Church's directives. Ironically, the experiences in World War II and Communism made the Catholic Church in Poland an acknowledged representative and moral voice of the Polish nation.

Historians and academics will value the substantial amount of information on this fragile time in Poland. Pease is an associate professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and author of several books. This is the 10th volume of the Polish and Polish-American Studies by the Ohio University Press.



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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Joanna Czechowska

The Air Force Club

I am five years old and sitting at a large table with a roomful of people who are ticking off numbers on their bingo forms. My father is calling out the numbers in Polish and then in English (osiemdziesiat osiem, 88), while my mother and other ladies-who-help hand out kanapki and pour the tea and coffee. It is Sunday afternoon and we are playing tombola in an upstairs room of the Polish Club in Derby, a small town in provincial England. It is one of my earliest memories.

The club was called Dom Polski but was also known as the Air Force Club. It was founded by expatriate Poles, including my father, who had previously served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

Now it is 70 years since a small group of young men managed to defeat the German Luftwaffe over the skies of Britain and thus prevent invasion. Their actions help save their country, and by extension the world, from Nazi domination. Among those pilots were 16 squadrons of Polish pilots, one of which was called the 303 or Kosciusko Squadron. This particular squadron logged more kills than any other pilot group.

To put what they did in perspective, it would be the equivalent of passing your driving test aged 19, driving a car for two days then being put on the Formula One race track against Michael Schumacher. Only he isn't trying to overtake you, he is

trying to kill you.

After the war, in recognition of their courage during the Battle of Britain and other conflicts, Churchill said, "His Majesty's government will never forget the debt they owe to the Polish troops." Poles were given special leave to remain in the UK and they settled in all parts of the country. My father and his colleagues founded the Air Force club in 1950 and it became the hub of the Polish community in Derby.

My early memories are of the reception area where a silver Polish Eagle, complete with its imperial Crown, hung on the wall. From the reception, the door led to a bar and then to a dance floor and stage. The walls of the dance hall were covered with black and white photos of Polish Battle of Britain pilots. I also remember a huge propeller from a Spitfire fighter plane was fixed to the wall. Upstairs there was yet another bar and Polish restaurant.

Going to the club was a weekly occurrence for our family and most of the other Polish families in Derby. There was Polish school on a Saturday morning, dances on Saturday nights and bingo with afternoon tea and coffee on Sundays. The Girl Guides and Boy Scouts held demonstrations there, and children put on displays of Polish dancing. Once there was a beauty contest where my eldest sister won first prize and a fancy dress party where one member attracted strong criticism

for coming dressed as Hitler! The place was vibrant, alive and thriving — filled with noise and cigarette smoke.

After my father's death in 1971, we continued to attend the Polish Club. The Saturday night dances remained a fixture and two of my sisters had their wedding receptions there. The club continued to thrive during the 1970s but as the older generation died and the second generation assimilated and married into the British community, ties began to weaken.

In 1989, the Air Force Club closed its doors for the last time and the building is now empty. It seems a sad end. One consolation is that it was the same year the Berlin Wall came down and Poland once again became a free nation, so perhaps the death of the Polish club in the same year was a sign that its work was complete. There was no longer any need to reproduce an ersatz community when the real one was now easily in reach.

Joanna Czechowska is the author of *The Black Madonna of Derby, the story of three generations of a Polish family living in post-war Britain.* Available from Amazon. Joanna's website is at: www.jczechowska.com.

Baba Jaga Corner: Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: www.palishsite.us

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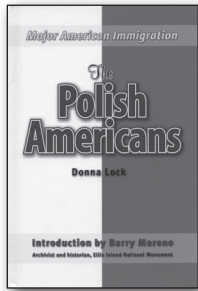


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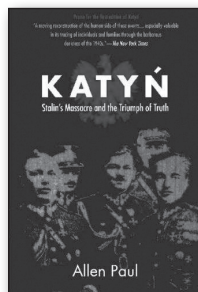


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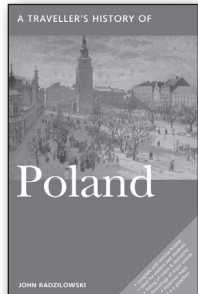
Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. Twenty years ago, Allen Paul wrote the first post-communist account of one of the greatest but least-known tragedies of the 20th century: Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportation of so-called "bourgeoisie elements" to Siberia. Today, these brutal events are symbolized by one word, Katyn.

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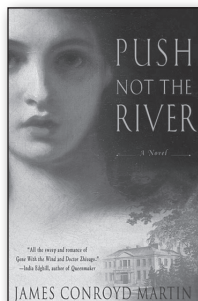
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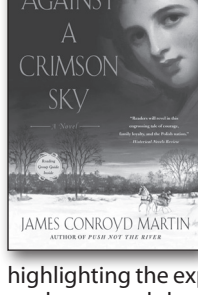


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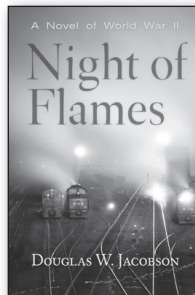
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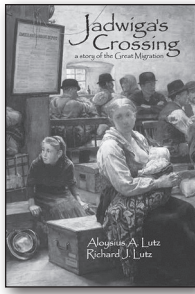


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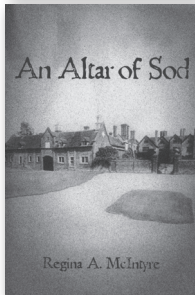
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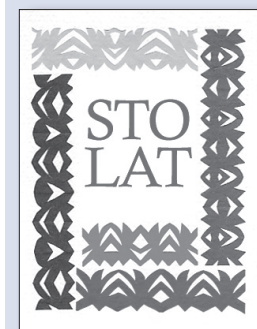


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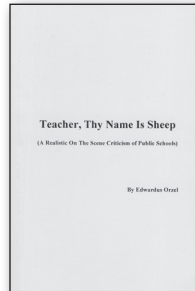
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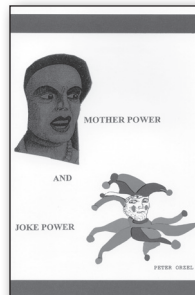
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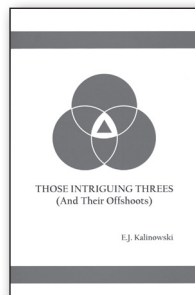
**TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP**  
by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Edwardus Orzel)  
**\$9.95**

Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.  
Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, first wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004. Among his views are "Give me a Principal with Principles." "It takes good parents, and good teachers, not a village, to raise good students," and "TV is today's mother, father, and teacher" among others.



**MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER**  
by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Peter Orzel)  
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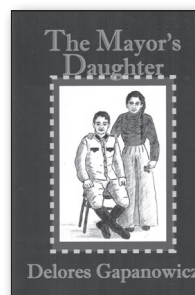
Kalski Books, 1998. 142 pp., pb.  
*Mother Power* is a compendium of psychological sketches on personalities in various fields: politics, military, medicine, theater, and religion, written in a pertinent, pithy manner pointing out how mother influence determined the success of the famous and infamous. *Joke Power* stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision. The author is a retired high school and junior high school teacher, who has penned numerous polemic observations in community and regional newspapers.



**THOSE INTRIGUING THREES  
(and Their Offshoots)**  
by E.J. Kalinowski  
**\$9.95**

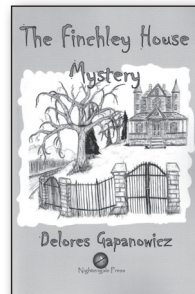
Self published / Kalski Books, 2009. 166 pp., pb.

Why are there so many threes in the Bible — both the Old and New Testament? Creation abounds in threes? Have you noticed the amount of triadic construction in nature? The premise of this book is the prevalence of threes in our world and how apparent these triadic aspects are if one takes the time to observe them.



**THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER**  
by Delores Gapanowicz  
**\$12.95**

Edition illustrated  
Nightingale Press, 2007. 176 pp., pb.  
Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms didn't spend all their time milking cows and picking potatoes.



**THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY**  
by Delores Gapanowicz  
**\$13.95**

Nightingale Press, 2005  
For Ages 9-12. 132 pp. pb.  
Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.

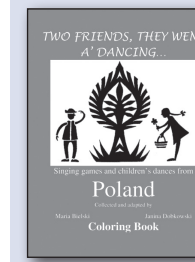
Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true?



**TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING**  
by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski  
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Singing games and Children's Dances from Poland  
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The book contains lyrics (in both English and Polish) of ten popular singing games, and a vocal music score with chords. Clear step-by-step movement and dance instructions are outlined precisely with the text. In addition, a CD of the recorded songs with accompaniment is included, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, and children can immediately enjoy the songs and games. Each page has an original "wycinanki" (Polish cut-out style) illustration, designed by the artist, Joanna Bielska, which can be reproduced for coloring or craft projects.



**TWO FRIENDS, THEY WENT A' DANCING COMPANION COLORING BOOK**  
**\$4.00**

by Maria Bielski and Janina Dobkowski  
Using these "wycinanki" icons, you can draw the story of each song, color the enlarged full page cut-out, or reproduce any of these icons for educational purposes. Some craft ideas are included.



## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## CALIFORNIA

**YORBA LINDA** — The Polish National Alliance Orange County Lodge 3193, will host its **30th Annual Polish American Day**, Sun., Aug. 01, 2010 at The Pope John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Dr., just one block south of Imperial Highway.

The event begins with a Polish-language Holy Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by dancing and entertainment from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Roger & the Villagers, one of California's finest polka bands, will provide music. The Polonia Polish Folk Dance Ensemble will also perform various dances from regions of Poland. Booths including Kozlowski Farms from Sonoma County and POLAM Federal Credit Union will be featured. Polish food — "the best outside of Poland" — will be available prepared by Teresa Turek Catering throughout the day.

Donation to the festival is \$8.00 for adults; \$6.00 (seniors); \$3.00 (children 5-12 and under 5 free with adult admission. This event is one of the biggest gatherings of Polish Americans in the West.

For information call Tony Nowak at (951) 808-9580, Patty Kobzi (714) 998-8222 or visit [www.pna-znp.org/content/events/events.htm](http://www.pna-znp.org/content/events/events.htm).

## ILLINOIS

**CHICAGO** — The **Polish Museum of America** (984 N. Milwaukee Ave.), is sponsoring its annual used book sale Sat., July 17 (10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) and Sun., July 18 (11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.), in the first floor Social Hall. Books on Polish subjects, written in either Polish or English will be available. Polish Museum mementos will also be sold. Payment is accepted in cash or by check only. Credit cards are not accepted. For further information, call (773) 384-3352 X101.

## MINNESOTA

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The **Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota** is proud to announce that Miss Victoria (Tori) Piorek will perform the duties of Miss Polonia



**Piorek: Miss Polonia 2010**

2010 and will represent the organization in the Richfield July 4th parade on July 4 and the Minneapolis Aquatennial on July 21.

Following in her grandparents and parents shoes, Piorek has danced with the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers for 14 years. She has been acting as co-director for the group as well as for the teen Polish dance group Chabry. She will be traveling to Rzeszow, Poland in 2011 to attend the world-wide folk dance festival, held every three years.

Piorek is incredibly proud of her Polish background and hopes to always stay involved in the Polish community. She is currently working towards her BA in Human Resources while working full time as an Executive Assistant at the University of Minnesota.

## NEW JERSEY

**CARLSTADT** — A first for the Polish American community: two fraternal — the **Association of the Sons of Poland**, headquartered in Carlstadt, N.J., and the **Polish Union of America** from Buffalo — have joined forces to provide members and friends with two special tourist attractions.

The first will take you to Pennsylvania Amish Country from Wednesday, August 4 to Saturday, August 7 at a cost of \$525 per person. The second is a Dickens Christmas Tour in Ohio from Tuesday, November 2 to Friday, November 5 at a cost of

\$499 per person with full payment due on September 30th.

For more information, call the Polish Union at (716) 677-0220 or the Association of the Sons of Poland at (201) 935-2807. If interested, a deposit of \$100 should be sent immediately to the Polish Union of America at 745 Center Road, West Seneca, NY 14224.

## NEW YORK

**NEW YORK** — The **Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union** of Greenpoint allocated \$2.5 million as a special dividend payout to help clients in the tough economic times. Dividends were paid to individuals and businesses who have been members since December 31, 2009. They received a one-time payout equal to 0.25 percent of average balances for 2009.

**ROCHESTER** — **Lodge 512** of the **Polish National Alliance** will celebrate its 110th anniversary, Sept. 25 at St. Stanislaus Auditorium on Hudson and Norton Sts. Cocktails at 6:30, dinner at 7:30, followed by dancing to True Colors. Tickets are \$30.00 (adult) and \$20 (student). For tickets, call (585) 266-5876 or 872-5953.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**PHILADELPHIA** — The Polish American Congress Eastern PA District, announced that **Ed and Jean (Abramczyk) McCloskey** will be the Grand Marshals of the 2010 Pulaski Day Parade in Philadelphia. This is the second time that a husband and wife have been selected as Grand Marshals.

Ed, a retired Philadelphia Police Officer of 27 years, has been involved with the Polish Police Association since its inception 34 years ago and currently serves as Second Vice President. Jean is the Chairperson of the Pulaski Dinner Dance. They have been involved in Polish American activities for over 50 years including the Pulaski Day Parade.

The McCloskeys will lead the Pulaski Day Parade in Center City Philadelphia on Sunday, October 3. For more information about the pa-

rade, call the Polish American Congress office during regular business hours Mon.- Fri. at (215) 739-3408.

**SWEDESBURG** — July 23-25. Annual Polish Festival, **Sacred Heart Parish**, 120 Jefferson Street. Fri., 6:00-11:00 p.m.; Sat. 4:00-11:00 p.m.; Sun., 4:00-10:00 p.m. Polish food, games & much more. Sloneczniki Children's Folk Dance Group will perform on Sunday. Info call rectory (610) 275-1750.

**BENSALEM** — Aug. 1. Polish Army Veterans Post #12 **Polish Soldiers' Day**, Polish Veterans Park (Polanka's), 3258 Knights Road, Bensalem. Mass 1:00 p.m. followed by Commemorative Exercises and picnic. Info call Polanka (215) 639-1019.

**SCHNECKVILLE** — Aug. 1. PNA Council 171 Polish Festival **Dozynki** at Schnecksville Fire Co. Pavilion, Rt. 309 (North of Allentown). Gates open 11:00 a.m. Polish Mass Noon. Music by Eddie Derwin & The Polka Naturals Band and the Reverse Band from New York. Refreshments available. Info call Michael Pierzga (610) 759-2775.

**FORT WASHINGTON** — Aug. 3. **Concert (Polish American Fest)**, St. Thomas' Church Bethlehem Pike and Church Road (Rt. 73). Performance by PKM (Polish Intercollegiate Club Dancers), 7:00 p.m. Moonlight Concert, 8:00 p.m. with Malgosia Fiebig from Gdansk, Poland, performing on the carillon Free admission. Info call (215) 233-3970.

**PHILADELPHIA** — Aug. 5-7. Annual Festival, **St. Adalbert Parish**, Thompson Street & Allegheny Avenue, Port Richmond section. 6:00-10:00 p.m. Music by Polish American String Band (Thur.); Polka Trio Band (Fri.); and Continental Polish Music (Sat.). Games of chance, refreshments and more. Call rectory at (215) 739-3500

**BETHLEHEM** — Aug. 6-15. **Bethlehem MusikFest**, Spring & Main Streets. Noon to 11:00 p.m. Hundreds of performers including polka bands every day. Info call (610) 332-1300 or visit [www.MusikFest.org](http://www.MusikFest.org).

**PHILADELPHIA** — Aug. 13.

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation **Sixth Annual Summer Concert**, Ethical Society Building, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square. 7:00 p.m. Info/reservations contact Fred Wolanin at [ajwolanin@gmail.com](mailto:ajwolanin@gmail.com) or call Teresa Wojcik (215) 752-9270.

**PHILADELPHIA**. Aug. 14-15. **Walking Pilgrimage**, beginning from St. Adalbert Church, Port Richmond section, Philadelphia, to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa. Info call rectory (215) 739-3500.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**CRAZY HORSE** — Sixteen girls and five boys from the Dakotas, Alaska, Oklahoma and New Mexico started classes last month at the first Summer University Program at **Crazy Horse Memorial**.

The courses run through Aug. 13. The privately-funded program, offered under the auspices of USD, is new to the nonprofit Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation.

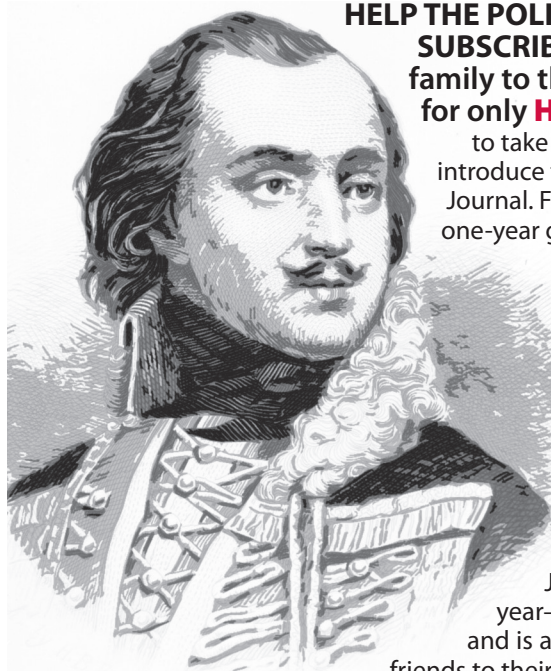
Late sculptor **Korczak Ziolkowski** envisioned a university and medical training center shortly after dedicating the nonprofit Memorial in 1948 to honor and help American Indians. His wife, Ruth Ziolkowski wished for the first dormitory and classroom facility on her 80th birthday in 2006, and well-wishers responded with nearly \$200,000 that has helped to fund architectural planning and engineering designs.

In 2009, Sioux Falls philanthropist and businessman T. Denny Sanford gave \$2.5 million for the construction after Muffy and Paul Christen of Huron provided a \$5 million endowment to the South Dakota Community Foundation. The endowment's annual investment earnings will pay for the educational program's ongoing operating costs.

The Crazy Horse classes are aimed at college preparation and freshman-level English, algebra and American Indian Studies. The students can earn up to 12 college-credit hours, including time working in paid internships at the Memorial's visitor complex.

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