

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1911

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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE



ŚWIĘTO MATKI BOSKIEJ JAGODNEJ
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

LEARNING FROM POLISH HEROES AND OBAMA'S GAFFE • LEST WE FORGET: KARSKI'S MESSAGE
THE BATTLE THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY • REWARDING POLONIA'S BRIGHTEST
POLAND'S INFLUENCE ON THOMAS JEFFERSON • KOMOROWSKI HONORS ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD

NEWSMARK

THE NEXT EDISON. High School freshman Jack Andraka of Crownsville, Md., won the \$75,000 grand prize at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.



Behind him stood Dr. Anirban Maitra, a professor in the Johns Hopkins University's department of pathology, who gave Andraka use of his lab to craft his invention: a cheap and effective "dipstick-sensor" method of testing blood or urine to identify early-stage pancreatic cancer and other diseases.

Jack Andraka, 15, invented a new simple and inexpensive method to detect incipient pancreatic cancer.

"Keep that last name in mind. You're going to read about him a lot in the years to come," said Maitra of the 15-year-old prodigy. "What I tell my lab is, 'Think of Thomas Edison and the light bulb.' This kid is the Edison of our times. There are going to be a lot of light bulbs coming from him."

His brother, Luke, a junior at North County High, won last year's MIT Technology for Humanity guided by Innovation, Networking, and Knowledge (THINK) Award, which recognizes students whose science projects benefit their communities. Two years ago, Luke won \$96,000 in prizes at the Intel ISEF, with a project that examined how acid mine drainage affected the environment.

CONGRESSMAN: ELIMINATING VISAS FOR POLES COULD POSE TERRORIST THREAT. Congressman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) says expanding the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), which would include Poland, could be used by terrorists intent on harming the United States.

In a letter to the editor of the political newspaper *Roll Call*, Smith, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee, said that the VWP is a "loophole for entry by those who may wish to do us harm."

Smith was responding to an opinion piece by Tad Taube, honorary consul for the Republic of Poland in the San Francisco Bay Area, who wrote in favor of opening up the VWP to Poles.

Poles are still required to obtain visas in order to enter the United States, a sore spot in diplomatic relations between the two countries. Despite being one of the most pro-American countries in Europe — participating militarily in both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as agreeing to host elements of the US missile shield — Poland remains one of only four European Union countries outside the VWP. The others are Bulgaria, Cyprus and Romania.

FANS PACK STADIUMS. Foreigners flocked to Poland for Euro 2012, according to PL.2012, the official organizer of the international soccer tournament in Poland. During the first four games, 162,000 fans packed Poland's stadiums, half of whom were foreigners. The country's five fan zones have welcomed over 740,000 people.

However, while tickets sold out in Poland, Ukraine, which co-hosted Euro 2012 with Poland, had trouble filling its empty seats. That may be due to fears about safety. Just before the tournament, the BBC's Panorama program aired a scathing documentary on racism and violence at soccer matches in Poland and Ukraine. Despite warnings from the British Foreign Office for English travelers of Asian and Afro-Caribbean descent to take special care while visiting Ukraine, many English acknowledge that the racism issue has been over-hyped.

A PRO-LIFE MARCH IN WARSAW with the slogan "Family — a Recipe for the Crisis" took place the day after about 5,000 gays and lesbians marched through Warsaw calling for added tolerance for sexual minorities. The approximately 2,000 participants were made up of primarily young families with children carrying banners reading "Stop Abortion," "I support the family," and "I choose life."

Body and Soles



THE PARISHES OF ST. STANISLAUS and CORPUS CHRISTI commemorated the Solemnity of Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) with a procession in the streets of Buffalo, New York's Historic Polonia, the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood, Sun., June 10.

Hundreds of faithful turned out to participate in this moving event that has been celebrated on the city's East Side for 139 years. This is one of the most beautiful public manifestations of the community's love, reverence, and devotion for the presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

The Corpus Christi procession tradition goes back more than 700 years in the Roman Catholic Church. It is liturgically celebrated either on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday or on the Sunday after the Most Holy Trinity. Following Mass, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament — displayed in a monstrance — is led around the parish. The procession is then followed by the benediction of the Holy Eucharist.

Among Buffalo Polonia's clergy participating in this year's services were: Fr. Mark Kreis of Corpus Christi Parish; Msgr. Matthew Kopacz, Diocesan Coordinator of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland; Fr. Thaddeus Bocianowski of St. Stanislaus; and Fr. Czeslaw Krysa of St. Casimir Oratory.

To learn more about Corpus Christi Parish, visit corpuschristibuffalo.org. For information about Buffalo Polonia's Mother church, visit www.StStansBuffalo.com or www.Facebook.com/StStans.

"Kasia" Honored by PMA

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The 32nd Annual Summer Ball, the major fundraiser of The Polish Museum of America (PMA), was a success.

Almost 200 guests filled the ballroom of the Rosewood Restaurant, June 8, to enjoy an evening of fine dining and dancing, but, more importantly, they came to honor the most respected entrepreneur in Chicago Polonia — Kazimiera Bober. She received the PMA's prestigious "Polish Spirit" Award.

Kazimiera Bober, better known as "Kasia," is living proof of The American Dream. See "Bober," page 4



Kasia Bober

Remains of World War II Bombardier Identified

CHICAGO — There are many graves at St. Casimir Cemetery on the Far South Side of Chicago, and one belongs to Emil Wasilewski.

Emil's coffin is there, but Emil isn't in the ground.

The empty casket was buried after his family learned that Lt. Emil T. Wasilewski, a decorated bombardier, was killed in action in Germany in 1944.

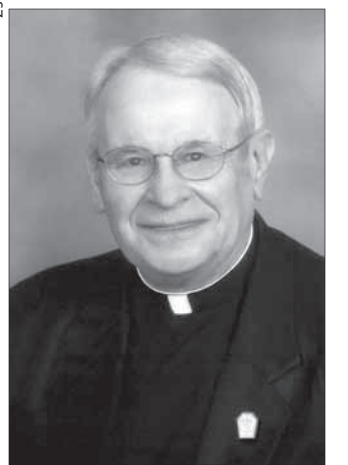
Wasilewski's body wasn't recovered, but his father, a Polish immigrant, wanted a place to grieve.

On May 7, 1944, just a few months before he was killed, there was a story in the Chicago Tribune under the headline "With America's Fighters."

"Emil T. Wasilewski, 5629 S. Laffin St., recently was graduated from Deming Army Air Field, N.M., as a lieutenant and was awarded silver bombardier wings after completing an 18-week course in high altitude precision bombing. Before entering the A.A.F., Lt. Wasilewski attended Lindblom High School."

Then in the winter of 2010-2011, Wasilewski — See "Wasilewski," page 4

Msgr. Ziembra Dead at 85 Orchard Lake Loss Felt Across Polonia



Msgr. Walter Ziembra

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — The Orchard Lake Schools have lost one of its greatest leaders. Msgr. Walter Ziembra passed into eternal life on Friday, June 8, 2012, in Petoskey, Mich. Msgr. Ziembra had been on the Schools' campus for 68 years. He graduated from St. Hyacinth Grade School in Detroit; graduated with highest honors from St. Mary's Preparatory at Orchard Lake (Class of 1944) and St. Mary's College in 1947. He was appointed to the Orchard Lake Schools' faculty in 1951, and was rector-president-superintendent of the Schools from 1967-1977. He retired in 1996. Msgr. Ziembra spent all 61 years of his priestly life assigned to the Orchard Lake Schools.

A native of Detroit's east side, Msgr. Ziembra, 85, was ordained in 1951 for the Archdiocese of Detroit. In 1966, he was awarded a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Michigan. Msgr. Ziembra served numerous positions on the faculty and in administration, including teaching in the Seminary, college, prep, librarian, dean of St. Mary's College, executive secretary of the alumni association, director of the Friends of Orchard Lake, secretary-general of the Orchard Lake Schools, charter member of Founder's See "Ziembra," page 4

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QUOTES / compiled from news sources

The Storm and its Aftermath

WHAT STARTED IT ALL

On May 29, while awarding the Medal of Freedom to the late **Jan Karski** (inset), President Obama used the expression “a Polish death camp” rather than wording that would have made clear that he meant a death camp that Nazi Germany operated on Polish soil during its wartime occupation of Poland.



PHOTO: GEORGETOWN UNIV. ARCHIVES

Warsaw has been waging a campaign for years against phrases such as “Polish death camps” or “Polish concentration camps” to refer to Auschwitz, Treblinka and other German killing sites. The language deeply offends Polish sensitivities because Poles not only had no role in running the camps, but were considered racially inferior by the Germans and were themselves murdered in them in huge numbers.

INSULT TO INJURY

“Even in the middle of the night, the reaction in Warsaw was incendiary. Poland wants Mr. Obama to apologize to Prime Minister Donald Tusk. America’s most important ally in the ex-communist world already feels bruised by the administration’s shilly-shallying on issues such as missile defense (back in 2009 Mr. Obama’s administration chose to announce its backtrack on that on September 17th, the anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland. That was akin to giving America bad news on Pacific security on Pearl Harbor Day). America has not lifted visa requirements for Poles (who can die alongside Americans in Afghanistan but not visit them without humiliating bureaucratic hassles). And instead of providing the promised Patriot missile battery to protect Warsaw, it sent some toy rockets as part of a sales pitch. (That, at least, is how Poles see it).

— **Edward Lucas**, *International Editor of The Economist*, in its Eastern Approaches blog.

WHY IT MATTERS

“When someone says “Polish death camps,” it is as if there were no Nazis, no German responsibility, as if there was no Hitler — that is why our Polish sensitivity in these situations is so much more than just simply a feeling of national pride.”

UGLY HEADS

An unfortunate aspect of Polish-Jewish relations has always been inflammatory remarks made by extremists whenever the Holocaust is discussed. Admittedly, both sides have provocateurs, evoking the other into a war of words that sadly generates more hate.

In his article “The ‘Polish Death Camps’ Uproar: Unwarranted Outrage When a Simple Correction Would Have Sufficed,” Menachem Rosensaft, a professor of law and son of Holocaust survivors, said the phrase “Polish death camps” is geographically correct, and “... the Polish officials’ harsh condemnation of President Obama’s unintentional reference to the camp to which Karski had borne witness as Polish rather than German or Nazi was not just over the top but petty, especially since the President was

— **Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk**.

“Using the phrase ‘Polish death camp’ is about the biggest *faux pas* imaginable when dealing with Poles. It ranks along with claiming that the Soviet Union saved eastern Poland from the Nazis in 1939, or maintaining — as some Russians still do — that the Katyń massacre was the work of the Germans, not the Soviets.”

— **From his article “Three Strikes and You’re Out,” Edward Lucas**, in the *Central Europe Digest*.

“If this seems picky, it’s probably because you have never been to Poland to see for yourself where the Holocaust was perpetrated.

“Once you see the barracks, the piles of shoes, the piles of human hair, the piles of personal effects — purses, suitcases, a child’s hair ribbons — then you go through Block 10 and hear of Dr. Mengele’s experiments, and see the ovens, you are never careless describing who was the perpetrator, and who was the victim.”

— **Phillyburbs.com writer J.D. Mullane**, *May 31*. He visited *Auschwitz in 2011 with a Holocaust survivor Danny Goldsmith*, from *Horsham*, who speaks to local school children about his experiences.

YOU CALL THAT AN APOLOGY?

“He [Obama] was referring to Nazi death camps in Poland. We regret this misstatement ...”

— **Tommy Vietor**, *spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council*, in the *Administration’s first attempt at damage control*.

“Regrettably, on a day many Poles and others had long anticipated — when Jan Karski, the brave Polish resistance fighter and underground courier, was to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously — the misstatement marred the event. To make matters worse, the administration’s two sentence statement later that day expressing regret, in the name of a National Security Counsel spokesman came across as bare-bones and insufficient to undo the hurt.”

— **David Harris**, *executive director of the American Jewish Committee*

THAT’S MORE LIKE IT

“In referring to ‘a Polish death camp’ rather than ‘a Nazi death camp in German-occupied Poland,’

hardly the first to make such a mistake.”

Rosencraft’s article was printed in The Blog of *The Huffington Post*, June 4.

He justifies use of the phrase by its prior use (and before the Associated Press and other agencies called for its removal), quoting anti-Polonian Alan Dershowitz, the Associated Press, and other sources.

Rosencraft’s point, however, was mild when compared to the venom written by Conservative political commentator, radio talk show host, columnist, and attorney Debbie Schlussel:

“Barack Obama has done enough legitimately bad things that we don’t need to manufacture phony outrage over things he does that really aren’t so bad. Such is the case with the feigned shock

I inadvertently used a phrase that has caused many Poles anguish over the years and that Poland has rightly campaigned to eliminate from public discourse around the world. I regret the error and agree that this moment is an opportunity to ensure that this and future generations know the truth.”

— **Obama to Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski**.

THE UPSHOT

“The events of the past few days and the U.S. president’s reply may, in my opinion, mark a very important moment in the struggle for historical truth.”

— **Komorowski to reporters**, following *Obama’s apology*.

“The ceremony at the White House, President’s Obama inadvertent gaffe and its fallout in the media became a great lesson of history, so important especially for the young generations.”

— **Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka**, *Consul General of Poland in New York*.

ONE MORE THING

“Two years ago I posted a petition on the Kosciuszko Foundation web site asking media outlets to stop using the phrase ‘Polish Concentration Camps.’ Many prominent people, such as the Poland’s President Bronislaw Komorowski, Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Walesa, Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich, members of the United States Congress, historians, Holocaust survivors, and more than 300,000 people signed the petition.

“President Obama should ... sign the petition. Ambassador Feinstein should sign it as well.”

— **Alex Storzynski**, *president and executive director, The Kosciuszko Foundation*

LEST WE FORGET

“President Obama’s Presidential Medal of Freedom for Jan Karski shows how far Poles went to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. After escaping Soviet imprisonment and being savagely tortured by the Gestapo, Karski still risked his life to sneak past German guards into the Jewish ghetto to see how the Nazis were abusing Jews. Karski then disguised himself as a Ukrainian guard to visit a transfer station that sorted Jews on their way to the death camps.”

— **Storzynski in the Huffington Post**.

and fake moralizing over his comments, yesterday, about German Nazi death camps in Poland being a Polish death camp. Here’s a tip for Poland and ignoramuses in the lumpenconservatariat who now engage in revisionist history: Poles murdered millions of Jews, they maintained several death camps, and they wiped out almost all of both sides of my family, as well as those in hundreds of thousands of other Jewish families. This wasn’t just the Nazis. It was tens of thousands of eager Poles and more. Obama made no gaffe here. Poland’s willing executioners took their significant place among Hitler’s willing executioners.”

Her article, “Poles Were Complicit in Holocaust: Outrage Over Obama ‘Gaffe’ is Fraudulent, Ignorant,” was published on her website, May 30.

Some Serious Business at Church Festival

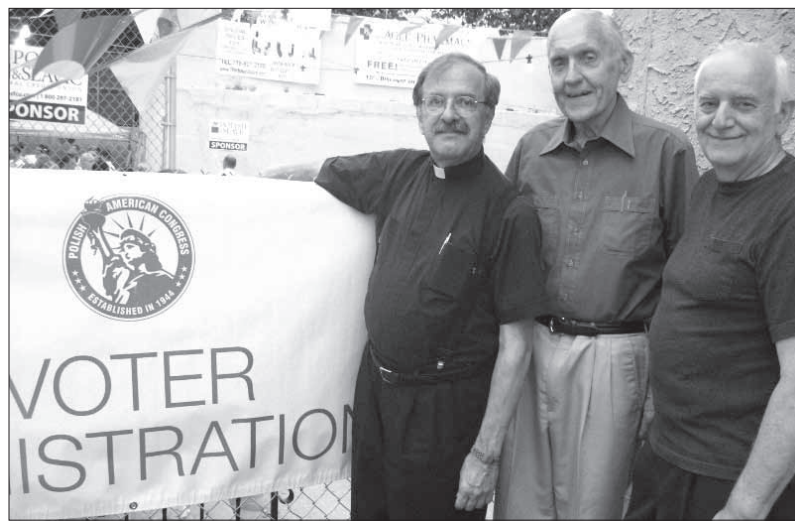


PHOTO: POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

MASPETH, N.Y. — The parish festival Holy Cross R.C. Church of Maspeth, N.Y. holds every June had something extra to celebrate this year — the 100th anniversary of the Church. Conducted on the parish property itself, the singing and dancing and the rest of the merriment was extra special in view of the centennial spirit that prevailed.

But there was also some serious business to take care of by making available the opportunity for those who were not yet registered to vote in next November’s elections to complete the necessary paperwork while the festivities were going on.

Shown in the photo above is the pastor of Holy Cross Church, Msgr. Peter Zenzian (left) who welcomed the Voter Registration team from the Polish American Congress, Frank Milewski (center) and John Czaplinski.

Catholic Bishops have become concerned about what they recognize as an increasing threat to religious freedom from government intrusion, said Milewski.

“Their church members are starting to understand that the right to vote is not only a privilege but also a duty,” he said.

LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT DALIA GRYBAUSKAITE, attending the NATO summit in Chicago, told members of the local Lithuanian community that Poland had chosen Russia as its friend over Lithuania. She was apparently referring to protests by Poles and Russians living in Lithuania against that country’s discrimination of ethnic minority schools. “We had expected Madam President Grybauskaite to talk about increasing her country’s record low defense budget at the NATO summit rather than aggravating relations with allies and neighbors,” Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman Marcin Bosacki commented.

Holy Land

Pilgrimage to the roots of Christianity, journeying through Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and Galilee as well as the Dead Sea and Masada.

November 18-27, 2012

BY MALGOSIA AND JUREK MAJCHERCZYK

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE begins its 26th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. For information call 732-680-0680 or visit our website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org.

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Ronald Syslo, President

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Msgr. Ziemia Passes

continued from cover

Day, and director of the Pope John Paul II Center.

During his tenure as CEO of the Schools, Msgr. Ziemia founded the Center for Polish Studies and Culture, the Center for Pastoral Studies, the Polish American Liturgical Center and the Orchard Lake Ambassadors. He hosted visits by Cardinal Karol Wojtyla — Pope John Paul II — to the campus in 1969 and 1976, and served as translator-interpreter for the cardinal's visits to other areas of the United States.

In 1971, Msgr. Ziemia and Edward Piszczek, then president-owner of Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, inaugurated "Project: POLE," a \$500,000 nation-wide public relations campaign to promote a positive image of Polish culture and heritage.

Major construction projects included a \$2.1 million residence hall

in 1971 and, two years later, a field-house donated by alumnus Robert Dombrowski. In 2001, Msgr. Ziemia was awarded the 2001 Fidelitas Medal for "fidelity in serving God and country through the realization of the religious and cultural ideals of the forefathers" of the Orchard Lake Schools. He shared the honor with his schoolmate and lifetime friend, Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski.

Among Msgr. Ziemia's publications, he translated the prison notes of Cardinal Stephen Wyszynski titled *A Freedom Within*, for which he received the Christopher Award, wrote several books of poetry and numerous articles about the Orchard Lake Schools and the American Polonia.

A funeral Mass was held June 12 at the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake. Burial was at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery.

Kasia Bober Recognized

continued from cover

She emigrated to the United States from Poland in 1975 with a dream of a better life for her children and herself. After a series of working odd jobs, she decided to take a chance on something she did well: cooking.

Despite difficult times and hard work, with perseverance and dedication, Kasia decided that her love of cooking would be the foundation of her new life. Thus, in December 1982, she opened Kasia's Deli and began offering her Polish-style home cooking. Not only did neighbors become her customers, but, as the news spread about the Polish lady whose cooking delights were exceptional, her clientele expanded beyond ethnic lines.

Regardless of how pierogi aficionados serve them, as an appetizer, a side dish, or an entrée, Kasia's has been inspirational in introducing pierogi to the American kitchen. Her outstanding pierogi-making skills and the art of producing great Polish food products have made her dream a reality and a success, and her award-winning pierogi became

Chicago's ultimate comfort food.

For years, Bober's products were showcased at neighborhood festivals and at "Taste of Chicago." Her pierogi were the first ever to be served aboard United Airlines, and *Newsweek* magazine selected Bober as one to the top 15 entrepreneurs, creating "exquisite food with the finest ingredients and whose product transcends ethnic orientation." In 1995, her pierogi empire expanded throughout the continental United States.

Still, even with her humility and quiet demeanor, Kazimiera Bober's accomplishments go beyond producing successful food products. Her real success is her strong commitment to her family, friends, and the community. She is a "true jewel" of the Polish American community and beyond. Her gracious support extends beyond her neighborhood and community to civic organizations, Polish events, and benevolent causes. Her years of in-kind donated support for The Polish Museum of America are unprecedented. No one deserves honors more than "Kasia." She is truly priceless.

Baltimore Appreciates Its Katyn Memorial

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE —12th Annual Katyn Remembrance Observed. The National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF), led by Chairman Richard P. Poremski, conducted its Annual Katyn Remembrance April 29, 2012 for the twelfth consecutive year since the Memorial was raised in 2000.

A very well attended Katyn-dedicated morning mass, celebrated by Fr. Zdzislaw Nawrocki in Polish at the historic Holy Rosary R.C. Church, began the day's related events. A traditional after-mass coffee and cake reception followed in the church's undercroft.



THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE RAWLINGS BLAKE offering her remarks at the 12th Annual Katyn Remembrance.

Traditionally costumed folk dance ensembles Krakowiaki and Ojczyzna raised their combined voices in the singing of the Polish and American national anthems, with many of the over-200 attendees joining in.

Opening and concluding Invocations were given by Fr. Andrzej Bieganski of Holy Cross PNCC. Rabbi Chaim Landau, 2nd vice president of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis, prayed and sang Kaddish in Memory of Baruch Steinburg — Chief Rabbi of the Polish Army — and the several hundred Polish Army officers of the Jewish faith who all perished at Katyn along with over 22,000 of their mostly Catholic military brothers.

Invited luminaires, most of whom are Honorary Members of the NKMF, addressed the audience circling the Memorial. They included U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes (ret.), U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, City Council President Bernard "Jack" Young, Councilman James Kraft and U.S. Brig. Gen. Annette M. Deener — MDNG. U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, and Gov. Martin O'Malley were all represented by their deputies.

Mayor Rawlings Blake praised the Polish American

communities' valuable contributions to the Baltimore mosaic, and complimented those same citizens for striving to preserve their history and culture. She was especially proud that the beautiful Katyn Memorial, with fountain and garden, was located in such a prime location and that it attracts a sizable numbers of tourists — many who linger on-site and are educated by its visual and informational presentations. The other city officers present concurred with and elaborated on the mayor's glowing remarks.

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland plenipotentiaries was Counselor/Chief of Protocol Piotr Erenfeicht — who delivered the day's keynote speech, Consul General Piotr Konowrocki and Military Attaché LTC Tomasz Kister.



THE NATIONAL KATYN MEMORIAL. The imposing and gleaming Memorial is showcased on Katyn Circle, in front the new Four Seasons Hotel.

At the Reception/Dinner in the Great Hall of PNA Council 21, Poland's President Lech Kaczynski and the other 95 victims of the catastrophic April 10, 2010 Katyn/Smolensk airplane crash were also remembered. On this solemn Sunday all who perished at Katyn were commemorated ... in the past by the hand of the Soviet Union ... and most recently by the hand of fate.

Wasilewski: Will be laid to rest in Arlington

continued from cover

ski's nephew, Wally Wade, said he got a strange phone call. The voice on the other end said he was from the United States Army.

"Just out of the blue, I'm just sitting here and I get a call from some guy at Fort Knox. 'We think we found your uncle.' I say, 'Yeah, right.' Random phone call. Out of the blue. ... I thought the next question was that the guy was going to hit me up for 100 bucks, you know what I mean?"

Wally blew it off, but his brother Don Wade, a financial planner who lives in Downers Grove, got a similar call. The Army sent Don a DNA kit. He wiped the swab under his tongue and along the inside of his cheek, and mailed it back. In the fall of 2011, Don got another call. The DNA was a match.

ACCORDING TO ARMY DOCUMENTS, Wasilewski was aboard a B-17G Flying Fortress on a bomb-



Lt. Emil T. Wasilewski

ing run to take out German oil refineries in 1944. The aircraft was shot down by enemy fire and crashed. Only one man survived.

The other eight, including Wasilewski, were killed and buried near the town of Neustadt. For years, the area in East Germany was closed to American forces by the Soviets.

A few years ago, 117 bone and tooth samples were submitted to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory. The remains of Wasilewski were among them, positively identified with the help of DNA from a nephew he never knew.

The Wade brothers, along with John Sikes — a great-nephew who kept Wasilewski's Purple Heart, the flag that was draped over the empty coffin, the death letter from President Franklin Roosevelt, Wasilewski's cigarette lighter and an old letter sent to the family from Sgt. George F. Clark, the only survivor of the crash — and many other relatives will make a trip to Arlington, where Wasilewski's remains will finally be laid to rest.

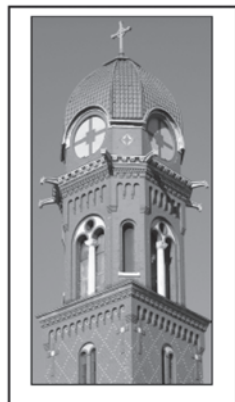
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HISTORY / Martin Wolk

The Polish-Bolshevik War 1920: The Battle that Changed the Course of History

Addressing crowds in Warsaw on November 11, 1918 — Poland's Independence Day — commander-in-chief Józef Piłsudski proclaimed that “the Polish state has arisen from the will of the whole nation.”

The Second Polish Republic was born after 123 years of the partitions. Later, at the Treaty of Versailles, the Allied Powers recognized the Republic of Poland as an independent nation. But the treaty wasn't much of a favor for the Poles. Instead of restoring Poland to its pre-partition borders, it gave important territories to her enemies. Prussia and Pomerania were given to Germany, and Gdańsk was established as the Free City of Danzig, administered by the League of Nations.

Also, not everything was decided at Versailles. No decision was reached on Poland's Eastern frontier. Meanwhile, in the east, the Bolshevik Revolution had toppled the tsar

and set up a new Communist dictatorship, with Vladimir Lenin at its head. Lenin, dedicated to spreading Marxism, was no friend of Poland and sought to spread Communist revolution from Russia to Germany and the rest of Europe. In the way of his grand plan was Poland, a reborn nation, not willing to give up to Communism.

PIŁSUDSKI KNEW that the Russians would try to retake Poland and that war with Russia would not be easy, but he was determined to make a stand. After intercepting Russian messages to her commanders, Piłsudski knew an attack was imminent. Russian forces were being amassed at the Polish border. The Polish-Soviet War began in February 1919 after fighting broke out at the border.

Both armies had their strengths and weaknesses. During the partitions, many Polish men were enlisted in the German, Austrian, or Rus-

sian armies. After Poland regained her independence, these men came home with training and experience. The Russian Army, also known as the Red Army, was less trained, but had many more men. A Russian commander during the war said “The Red Army is a hoard, and its strength comes from being a hoard.” This “hoard” had a seemingly endless number of men coming from the furthest corners of the country. Soviet high command regarded soldiers not as individual people but as a military resource that should be exploited to its limit. This mentality was reflected time and again as Russian soldiers were thrown into certain death situations.

Although greatly outnumbered, the Poles did enjoy some success in the beginning of the war. They had an ally in Ataman Seymon Petlura. He and his Ukrainian nationalist forces were ousted from the Ukraine by the Red Army, and found protection under the Poles, who hoped that as an ally he would raise more troops for the fight. There would be more success in the Ukraine when Polish Forces captured Kiev from the Bolsheviks on April 28, 1920.

But this success would not last, as Russia would recapture Kiev a short time later. The Russians went on to take Wilno (today Vilnius) on 12 June 1920. This was an especially hard blow to Piłsudski, who was a native of the city. At this point it seemed that nothing could stop the destruction of Poland's newly found independence. After months of fighting, all Polish troops had retreated to present-day eastern Poland.

Now the Red Army had reached Warsaw. Soviet commanders told their soldiers that they would be in Warsaw in a matter of days. Foreign newspapers were already report-

ing that Warsaw had fallen to the Bolsheviks. Piłsudski prepared his resignation papers in case Warsaw was lost. But as Russian morale ran high, Polish morale was boosted by the fact that there were soldiers reporting that they had seen St. Mary in the sky while fighting the Bolsheviks. And out of love for their country, the Poles were ready to lay down their lives to defend it from the Soviet invasion. Many volunteer groups, including school children, were formed to fight the Russians. And on August 15, 1920, as the Red Army tightened its noose around Warsaw, Piłsudski launched a flank attack and broke the Soviet offensive. Most of the invading army fled eastward in disorderly panic. This “Miracle on the Vistula” was the decisive battle of the Polish-Soviet War. The heroic death of a 27-year-old priest Ignacy Skorupka, a chaplain in a volunteer battalion, became one of the symbols of the war.

The Poles had killed 25,000 and captured 50,000-66,000 Russian soldiers, as well as over a thousand machine guns. Another 30,000-80,000 Russian soldiers were interned as they fled into East Prussia. Following another victory over the Bolsheviks on the Niemen River, the entire Russian offensive fell. The Polish Army marched forward, reclaiming large areas of land recently taken from them. A peace treaty was signed at Riga on March 18, 1921. Poland's Eastern border was finally established, but as it was in the west, not without a price. While Lwów and Wilno remained in Poland, other Polish areas were lost, including the city of Mińsk and surrounding territory. But Lenin's dreams of the Communist revolution in Europe were shattered.

In his book “Warsaw 1920,” Adam Zamoyski stated that the



Józef Piłsudski

Battle of Warsaw “ranks alongside Marathon and Waterloo for its importance in history.. It saved Western Europe from falling under Communism and changed the course of history.

A SMALL GROUP OF AMERICANS, led by Merian C. Cooper, fought in the Polish-Bolshevik war. Cooper was personally dedicated to the Polish cause through the family history of his great great grandfather, Colonel John Cooper, who fought alongside Kazimierz Pułaski during the American Revolution, was his close friend, and witnessed Pułaski's death at Savannah in 1779. Out of gratitude to Pułaski, who had come all the way from Poland to help America in its hour of need, Merian Cooper was committed to repay America's debt to Poland. Together with some other volunteer Americans, Cooper formed the 7th Squadron of the Polish Air Force, named the “Kosciuszko Squadron,” which fought with the Polish Army against the Bolsheviks.



General Rydz-Smigly (right) and the Chief of State Piłsudski (center) during the expedition to Kiev, April 5, 1920.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Poland's Influence on Thomas Jefferson

The political genius of Thomas Jefferson was undoubtedly inborn, but throughout his life he was influenced by the thinking of many individuals and the experiences of various countries and societies. Jefferson used this knowledge when he wrote the American Declaration of Independence.

It is known that Jefferson was greatly influenced by the writings of the Englishman John Locke. But Locke's writings were deeply imbued with the thoughts and ideas of the Polish Brethren, also known as the Socinians, a religious sect in Poland in the late 1600s that espoused freedom of religion and personal liberty. Locke's political thoughts were more specifically influenced by the Poles Wawrzyniec Goślicki and Samuel Przytkowski.

Przytkowski (1592-1670) put forth these radical ideas in his writings: freedom of dissent, conscience and religion, social equality, freedom from oppression, and separation of church and state. He argued against blind obedience to authority and in favor of the virtues of reason and free inquiry. He believed that morals could exist outside of the re-

ligious realm.

Goślicki (1533-1607), also known by the Latinized version of his name, Laurentius Goslicius, was another great Polish political philosopher. He published a very influential book in Latin, *De Optimo Senatore*, translated as *The Accomplished Senator*. It caused a stir among Europe's royals and was banned by Britain's Queen Elizabeth I for its anti-despotic support of freedom for the common man and limits on the authority of both church and state. Przytkowski's and Goślicki's thoughts echo in the writings of John Locke.

Jefferson's library contained the writings of Locke as well as a copy of Goślicki's *The Accomplished Senator*. When Jefferson wrote the *Declaration*, he transplanted the ideas of Goślicki into that famous document.

Consider the following passages from *The Accomplished Senator* and the *Declaration of Independence*: Goślicki wrote: “The public happiness of the community lives in the private happiness of individuals,” while Jefferson in the *Declaration* called “the pursuit of happiness”

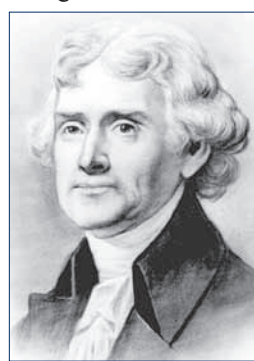
an unalienable right. Goślicki said that “all citizens are born equal,” while Jefferson wrote that “all men are created equal.” The *Declaration* states that “whenever any form of government becomes destructive of [basic liberties], it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.” This seems to be based upon what Goślicki wrote two centuries earlier, that “a nation frustrated by tyranny takes upon itself the undoubted right to fight for its freedoms.”

Like many of our Founding Fathers, Jefferson was a political philosopher who studied the various governments of Europe. The Kingdom of Poland drew attention because of its unique elective monarchy and domination of its parliament by the noble class, and the utter failure of this form.

Because of the structure of its government, by the late 1700s Poland had become dominated by foreign powers and lacked any semblance of a functioning economy, with the common man reduced to

a life of abject misery. Poland was often used as an example of a government not to be emulated by the United States.

Jefferson did not take part in the debates of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 because he was in



Paris. When he heard of the creation of the office of the president, he was appalled, calling it “a bad edition of a Polish king.” He feared that the president would serve for life, be dominated by the legislature, and come under foreign influence, just like the King of Poland. “What

we have always read of the elections of Polish kings should have forever excluded the idea of one continuable for life,” Jefferson wrote. He felt that term limits could ameliorate this threat, but the Constitution contained no such restriction.

But Jefferson was sympathetic to the plight of the Polish people and condemned the partitions of Poland. Late in life he wrote to John Adams that “the partition of Poland was the

atrocious of a barbarous government [Russia] chiefly, in conjunction with a smaller one [Prussia] still scrambling to become great, while one of the already great [Austria] ... descended to the baseness of an accomplice in the crime.”

Jefferson became friends with Tadeusz Kościuszko and the Polish author and traveler Julian Niemcewicz, and in his talks and correspondence with them expressed his hope for the emergence of an independent and free Poland. It was Niemcewicz who secured membership for Jefferson in the Royal Society of the Friends of Sciences in Warsaw. Kościuszko named Jefferson executor of his estate, and gave him the fur coat that he wears as depicted on his statue in the Jefferson Memorial in Washington.

Editor's note: Kościuszko's will left money to purchase, educate, and free black American slaves, which Jefferson did not carry out. This fact is ignored in an exhibit on Jefferson at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, and by the exhibition organizer, the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

New Basilica in Florida; Buffalo's Basilica Holds On

Miami's **Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski** dedicated Florida's fifth and most recent basilica named for the Virgin Mary Star of the Sea. The oldest church in South Florida, the new basilica, is located in Key West. Archbishop Wenski started the process of having the church named a basilica when he was first installed as Miami's archbishop in 2010. Since 1851 the parish has served Catholics in the area. The church building, rebuilt after a fire, dates from 1901. As the "pope's church" in south Florida, the new designation signifies "the special bond that joins this local Church to the successor of Peter," the archbishop explained.

Faced with closure in the recently concluded parish reorganization in the Buffalo Diocese, the parishioners of **St. Adalbert's** parish appealed to the Vatican that their status as a basilica should grant them an exemption from the diocese's plans to close the church. They won recognition of their status and were made an oratory, merged with nearby **St. John Kanty** parish. The parishioners were named Citizen of the Year by Buffalo's *Am-Pol Eagle* newspaper in the category of Religion for 2012.

BISHOPS DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

Adding their voices to the growing number of Catholic bishops, universities, cemeteries, dioceses, business leaders, social agencies and that of their Protestant and Jewish colleagues, **Bishop Joseph C. Bambera** of the RC Diocese of Scranton, Penn., Pittsburgh's **Bishop David A. Zubik**, and Peoria, Illinois' **Bishop Daniel Jenky** denounced the government's Health and Human Services mandate as a blow to the "fundamental right to religious liberty for all citizens of any faith." He urged Catholics to visit the US Bishops website at www.usccb.org/conscience to learn more about the "severe assault on religious liberty. While the regulation would require Catholic institutions to offer contraceptive and abortive medication through their health plans, a more fundamental issue is the government's attempt to limit what can be considered religious activity. The mandate's opponents see this as an attempt to push the Catholic Church out of its traditional role of serving the people's educational and social needs and limit the Church role to worship in churches. Catholic agencies and institutions were given one year to develop plans to comply with this mandate. Bishop Jenky has

come under attack by the Americans United for Separation of Church and State declaring his criticism of the Obama Administration's ruling as engaging in politics and violating the separation of church and state. **Tom Brejcha**, founder of the St. Thomas More Law Center defended Bishop Jenky as accurate in his comparison of the government mandate with similar anti-church policies under Hitler and Stalin, preventing the church from engaging in education, healthcare, and social services. Attorney Brejcha went on to say, "We think he should keep [speaking out]. He should do it louder and clearer and [say] that it's the responsibility of church folks, Catholics, all of the Christians, people of every religion to speak up."

STO LAT TO ... Recently elected officers of the Polish American Priests Association: **Fr. Walter Ptak** of Detroit (president); **Fr. Erik Orzech** of Cleveland (vice-pres.); **Fr. Nicholas Caffano** of Saginaw, Mich. (sec.); **Fr. Ronald Osinski** of Altoona, Pa. (treas.): The meeting was held in Gary, Indiana where the assembly was welcomed by **Bishop Dale Melczek**. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8-12, 2013, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

PNCC YOUTH TO CONVENE IN NIAGARA FALLS ...

July 22-27, 2012 has been set for the National Youth Convocation of the Polish National Catholic Church, under the sponsorship of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh diocese, host of the weeklong event at Niagara University. Each parish is expected to send one chaperon for each six young people attending the meeting.

RETIREMENT GALA FOR BISHOP PEPOWSKI.

A Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Lancaster, N.Y., at 11:00 a.m. will be followed by a reception and dinner on September 22. This will mark the retirement of **Bishop Thaddeus Pepowski** as bishop of the PNCC Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese.

CHURCH ART PRESERVED.

A collection of over 40 stained glass windows and several statues and other religious artworks is housed in former **St. Francis Xavier Church**, Buffalo, N.Y. Among these is a painting of Christ from the 1930s by a Buffalo priest **Fr. Szarkiewicz**. Only eight of the windows are currently on display due to the lack of funds to restore and mount them

properly. The **Szynoradzki** family has come forward to sponsor the "St. John" window, while the **Apolonia Guild of Dentists** have done the same for the "St. Apollonia" window, since she is the patroness of dentists.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

50 Years of Priesthood. **Fr. Edwin W. Balazy**, RC Archdiocese of Detroit, who attended St. Mary's College and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake before his ordination and service in Detroit area parishes; **Fr. Raymond Lucasinsky**, CMM, a Wilkes Barre, Penn. native who attended school in Hamtramck and the University of Detroit, worked in Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and serves parishes in Dearborn Heights; **Fr. Clifford F. Ruskowski**, who attended the University of Detroit and SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary and worked in diocesan parishes as well as on archdiocesan television and radio programs; **Fr. Francis A. Zielinski**, who attended St. Mary's College Orchard Lake and St. John's Seminary before serving in various parishes of the archdiocese.

40 Years of Priesthood. **Fr. Edward Belczak**, who served on the archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal and continues his service at St. Thomas More Parish, Troy; **Fr. Frederick Benda, S.J.**, who was on the faculty at the University of Detroit and administrator of Gesu Parish.

25 Years of Priesthood. **Fr. Justin Kusibab, OFM Conv.**, who entered the Conventual Franciscans in 1978 and served in Church institutions in Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, was chaplain to the Felician Provincialate in Livonia, and now resides at the All Saints Friary in Dearborn Heights; **Fr. Walter Ptak** named Orchard Lake Schools' Alumnus of the Year in 1999.

Madonna University in Livonia Mich. celebrating 75 years of the Felician Franciscan tradition in Livonia, Mich. University president **Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa** greeted attendees at the second "Be Polish for a Night" celebration at Laurel Manor which showcased a scholarship silent auction.

St. Mary's Villa for Children and Families in Conshohocken, Pa. on its 100th year of service under the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Young people come to the villa through referrals from the child-welfare system. The villa was the location for the 1965 movie "The Trouble with Angels" starring Rosalind Russell.

St. Leonard's Home in Hollidaysburg, Pa., celebrating its 65th year. Altoona-Johnstown **Bishop Mark Bartchak** visited the home to mark the anniversary of service by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

DOUGH BRINGS DOUGH. For years, money has stood in the way outfitting **St. Vincent de Paul's Dan O'Meara Center** with an authentic pizza kitchen. Now, the Phoenix-

Where Least Expected



Fr. Jarek Nowacki

by **Susan Smigielski Acker**

TIDEWATER, Virg. — When one thinks of places in the United States where Polish Catholics settled places like New York, Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania come to mind.

However, Southeastern Virginia has its fair share of Polish culture, including a 30-year tradition of celebrating Mass in Polish once a month.

The Polish Apostolate of Tidewater marked the anniversary of the Polish-language Masses at the location where it all began — at **St. Mary's Catholic Church**, a small church in the rural portion of Chesapeake. It founded by Polish emigrants in 1915, who were mostly farmers. The gold-edged white altar is from Poland.

Frs. **Jarek Nowacki** and **Nixon Negparanon** celebrated the anniversary mass for the 82 people in attendance.

The idea to have a Mass began soon after the Gdansk Shipyard uprising in August 1980. Many

Poles came to Virginia with the help of the Catholic Charities resettlement program. **Dorothy Redman Lukasiewicz**, formerly of Virginia Beach and currently living in Richmond, Va., and the widow of a U.S. Marine Captain **Frank Lukasiewicz**, volunteered in the Diocesan Refugee Center. She saw the need for a Mass in Polish.

She and her friends **Felicia Jadzia Smigielski** and **Mary Szymanski**, both of Norfolk, approached the Bishop **Walter F. Sullivan** (now retired) about having a Mass in Polish. A Polish-speaking priest, the late **Stanislaus Chmura**, was found on the Eastern Shore.

The first Mass had nearly 300 people in a church that barely held 200. Many had to participate outside.

A permanent home was found at **St. Pius X Catholic Church** in Norfolk, where the Mass continues on the second Sunday of the month, except in July and August. It is usually celebrated by **Fr. Henryk Lorenc**.

based non-profit organization will use more than \$110,000 in donations received over the last couple of months to get the pizza kitchen up and running and turn its monthly pizza night into more than a limited pilot program. The kitchen produces about 3,500 meals Monday through Saturday. The kitchen has the capacity to produce up to 10,000 meals a day, but 3,500 meals are enough to feed the guests who come through and provide free food to 17 other non-profit organizations.

"We try to make it just like a restaurant, but you don't get a bill," said **St. Vincent Executive Director Steve Zabilski**. Guests are given menus, and a server delivers the food to the table.

Pizza night usually draws up to 200 more guests than a typical meal service, and serving pizza more than once a month should get more people through the doors.

FOOD, FUN, AND FOLKART.

Tasty pierogi, lively polkas, and charming folk art will highlight the 2012 Polish Arts Festival at Rochester, N.Y.'s **St. Stanislaus Parish**: Fri., Aug. 3, 5:00-11:00 p.m., and Sat., Aug. 4, 4:00-11:00 p.m., on the parish grounds (corner Hudson Avenue and Norton Street).

Pierogi, gołąbki, kielbasa, ka-

pusta, and homemade baked goods will be served in the auditorium from 5:00-8:00 p.m. each day (or as long as food lasts). American fare such as hots, hamburgers, potato pancakes, fried dough, ice cream, and beverages will be available on parish grounds. The festival will also feature games of chance and activities for all ages. Polish pottery will be available for purchase, and parishioner **David Bryniarski** will demonstrate the traditional art of creating pisanki (hand-decorated eggs). The Cracovia Dance Ensemble from Canada will perform on Saturday.

Guided tours of historic **St. Stanislaus Church** will be offered at 6:30 p.m. each evening. **Ray Serafin's Brass Magic polka band** will play on both Friday and Saturday preceded by "Melody Lane" (Friday only). \$5,000 in raffle prizes will be given.

Admission to the festival is free. Parking is available at nearby **Benjamin Franklin High School** as well as in the parish's lot. The festival grounds and parking areas will be patrolled by security guards on both evenings.

For more information, call the rectory at (585) 467-3068 or visit www.polishartsfest.org.

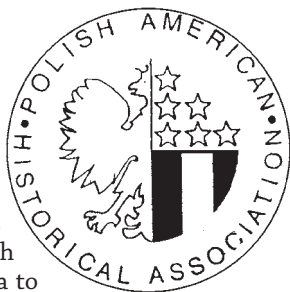
Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

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

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

PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06505
www.polishamericanstudies.org



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.

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

THANK YOU, SAINT JUDE! My wife recently was admitted to a highly competitive professional course, access to which is very difficult. Completing the course is prerequisite to real employment in that field, and required successful passing of four examinations with at least an 80% score. Failure to do so results in termination from the course. The course was challenging because it involved interpretations of legal language, and my wife's native language is not English. I prayed to St. Jude as the patron of difficult cases, promising public acknowledgement of his intercession and assistance if my wife passed the exams. She passed all four, and has successfully completed this course. Thank you, Saint Jude, reliable patron of difficult cases. Pray to St. Jude! JMG, Washington, D.C.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Rewarding Polonia's Brightest

PHILADELPHIA — Five winners of the 12th Annual Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies, administered by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), were announced recently by Mr. Marion V. Winters, Chairman.

The Committee awarded \$5,000 to each of the following Polish American students:

Robert Cyparski is a Doctor of Pharmacy candidate at the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy, Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virg. He has been employed by pharmacies for nearly ten years now, being elevated along the way from Drug Associate to Licensed Pharmacy Intern, and even picking up a couple of scholarships from the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy. Not to be overlooked were three scholarships from the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union. Over the past year, Cyparski has been gaining APPE Clinical Rotation Experience with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg, WV, and other institutions.



Renata Dajnowski, a U.S. citizen of Polish birth, boasts a 4.00 GPA in her quest for a Master of Science degree in Education: Curriculum & Instruction, which she expects to earn shortly as she has only a few classes to finish. She has already acquired a Masters Degree in Education in Poland. Since 2003, Renata has been serving as the principal and teacher at the Polish School in Portland, Ore., where she is responsible for overseeing 68 students, ten teachers and the Parents Council. Additionally, she has been holding a Certified Substitute Teacher position since 2007 in the local school district. Renata also was employed as a Polish Language Teacher at the Portland Community College.

Patricia C. Hayes has undertaken quite a scholastic challenge — a highly competitive dual degree program, Bachelor of Business Administration degree and a Master of



Business Administration degree at a private university, Robert Morris Univ. Chicago. She anticipates completing the program next year. Working with another student, Patricia prepared a marketing analysis, which their instructor graded at 100% and informed them that she plans to use it as a good example for her next class. Patricia has been working for Walgreens Pharmacy as an Associate Beauty Advisor & Customer Service Rep. since 2008.

Benjamin H. Schultz is a candidate for a Doctor of Musical Arts, Vocal Performance, which he will be receiving in 2012 from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. He had earned a Master of Music Degree, Magna Cum Laude, at Belmont Univ. in 2010. Since 2011, Benjamin has been serving as an Adjunct Professor of Applied Voice at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Platteville. At Belmont University he served as a teaching assistant in 2009 and 2010. He has also had administrative experience as a Marketing & Operations Manager, and also as an Assistant Director of University Opera in 2010.



Marta Wegorzewska, U.S. citizen born in Poland, emigrated to the United States at age four. She was raised in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, which she describes as “a community of transplanted Poles who created a culturally rich environment that shaped my Polish identity.” Today, she is a Graduate Researcher at the University of California San Francisco, which she initiated in 2008. Here too, she is heavily engaged in Polonia activities, organizing monthly social gatherings with a group of Polish friends to practice speaking Polish. Her aim is to pass down to her children the language their grandparents speak. Her religious spirituality has followed her to SF where she continues



to practice her Catholic faith. Since her high school days she has pursued diverse teaching opportunities. Marta has been a teaching assistant for numerous courses, including biology laboratory, calculus, and physiology.

The American Council for Polish Culture is highly pleased to have chosen such exceptional scholars for the 2012 Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies. Polonia may take pride in the remarkable accomplishments of these students who will be playing leadership roles soon in their respective fields and may be expected to continue their participation in Polonia activities within their communities and beyond.

— Marion V. Winters

Freddy K. Jr. Scholarship to be Present at Polish American Festival

CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. — The Freddy K. Jr. Memorial Scholarship will be presented to Hamburg High School graduating senior **Justin Kohan** (inset) at this year's Polish American Heritage Festival.

The presentation will be made by Freddy K., Sr., and his wife, Linda, Fri., July 20. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to high school seniors who are actively involved in the music field. It is named in honor of Freddy Kendzierski, Jr., a rising young star in the polka industry, who lost his life in 1997. To date, there have been 15 winners. Among them is Ryan Joseph (Ogrodny) of White Oak, Pa., who today is a member of the Alan Jackson band.



Kohan, of Orchard Park, N.Y., will be attending the New England Conservatory of Music (NEC) this fall, where he will major in Trumpet Performance. He plans to complete understudies at NEC, followed by graduate studies at The Juilliard School or The Curtis Institute, and then a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including the John Philip Sousa Award, Buffalo Musicians Association Scholarship, Erie County Music Educators Scholar-



KAITLIN NIZOLEK of Stamford, Conn. was recently awarded a scholarship from the Stamford Old Timers Athletic Association as the top athlete/student at Stamford High School. Kaitlin played for four years on the lacrosse team, was manager of the varsity soccer team, and is an avid runner. Scholastically, she is ranked 18th out of 306 students, and will be attending the University of Maryland this fall. Pictured in the photo are her father, Kevin Nizolek, Kaitlin and Robert Augustyn, Guidance Counselor at Stamford High School.

ship, Joseph Sugar Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Musicianship, The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, among others.

Kohan is the son of Mark and Kyle Kohan. Mark is the editor of the *Polish American Journal* and a former Cheektowaga Polish Heritage Festival Committee member and honoree. Kyle is a music teacher at Frontier Middle School. Justin has numerous family members who are or have been involved in the polka music industry, including his parents, uncles Casey Kliszak, David Miesowicz, Chris Stamer, Anthony Rozek, Adam Winkowski, and the late Herman “Herky” Winkowski.

Freddy K., Sr. of Bridgewater, N.J., is a member of the Polka Music Hall of Fame, a director of the International Polka Association, and has been actively involved in the polka music field for over 40 years.

To learn more about the scholarship, visit freddykjrmusicsscholarship.com, or write to: The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund, 50 Totten Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island **Polish Cultural Exchange Commission** held a presentation on the Crazy Horse Memorial. Guest speaker was Clifford G. Archie, president of the Polish Cultural Society of Greater Hartford.

ILLINIOS

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America is hosting a “**Duplicate Book Sale**,” July 21 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and July 22 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The Polish Museum of America Library is selling duplicate books in English and Polish on various Polish subjects, as well as a variety of books on non-Polish subjects. If you love books, this is the place to purchase them at discount prices. Give a book a home!

Funds raised by the sale will help finance necessary improvements to the 97-year old library and ensure its continued functioning. The books and items sold, come primarily from donations. Books not sold during the July 21-22 event will be available for purchase in the library through August 10, 2012 during regular work hours.

For more information, call (773) 384-3352 ext. 101.

CHICAGO — The work of diplomat and musical sensation **Ignacy Paderewski** will be the topic at the Polish Genealogical Society's Summer Meeting, August 12.

Richard Kujawa, operations manager of the Polish Museum of America will discuss the ways in which Paderewski supported and encouraged the Polish Community in the United States.

His talk will be followed by a tour of the recently renovated Paderewski Room, completed in 2009. The Polish Museum of Amer-

ica lays claim to having a collection of the most significant artifacts of his life: both as a musician and statesman.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave.

MARYLAND

BETHESDA — **Krystyna Boron**, is a principal of a brand-new independent publishing house, DL Books LLC. A lawyer, lover of books, and translator, she created this company to showcase interesting literary works from Europe, as too few of them have a chance of reaching American readers.

For her first published work, she selected Nowolipie Street, Józef Hen's moving memoir of childhood and adolescence in interwar Warsaw, for which she was also the translator. The book is available in digital and paperback format from major book vendors, local bookstores, and directly from the publisher.

To learn more, visit www.dlbooksonline.com and Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/DLBooksLLC>. On those web pages, there is a “look inside” feature (to read pages from the book), and you can also view and hear the author talk about the book.

MASSACHUSETTS

LEXINGTON — Resident **Jan Maliszewski** has been nominated for an Emmy Award in the category Outstanding Directing in a Lifestyle/Culinary Program for directing the PBS show *Cook's Country* from America's Test Kitchen.

Maliszewski is president of DGA Productions, based in Watertown, Massachusetts.

Cook's Country from America's Test Kitchen features the best regional home cooking in the country and relies on the same

practical, no-nonsense food approach that has made *Cook's Country* magazine so successful. Filmed in a renovated 1806 farmhouse, the show presents family-friendly recipes, scientifically re-imagined for the modern home cook. Maliszewski has directed the show for the past four seasons.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — The **Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish Festival** will be held on July 21, 2012, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on the church grounds. As always, the admission to the festival is free. Games, raffles, gift basket booth, and silent auction. Polish food (pierogi, kielbasa, kapusta, desserts, etc.) Don't miss the Polish Beer tent. The church is located at 22nd Avenue NE and Fourth Street.

MINNEAPOLIS — **Twin Cities Polish Festival**, August 11-12, 2012. Main Street, SE Minneapolis On the Mississippi River Bank. Details at: www.tcpolishfestival.org/.

ST. PAUL — **Genealogical Book Sale**. August 25, 2012. Hundreds of genealogy related books, some out of print. MGS Auditorium, 1185 Concord Street North, Suite 218, South St. Paul. Visit www.mngs.org for more details.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — The **General Pulaski Association** of the Niagara Frontier is seeking nominations for “unsung heroes” in the Polish community. Winners will be feted Sat., Sept. 8 at a banquet. To include someone for nomination, send photo and bio to Pulaski Association, 101 Reo Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14211.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, is

proud to announce **Debbie Majka** has been selected as the Grand Marshal of the 2012 Pulaski Day Parade, which will take place Sun., Oct. 14, 2012 beginning at 12:30 p.m. on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The theme of this year's parade will mark the 404th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlers in America at Jamestown, Virg., on October 1, 1608. These first American workers helped establish the glass manufacturing industry in the New World and will be saluted as we promote the cause of American workers during the parade.

The PAC selected Majka in recognition of her many years of leadership and service to the Polish American community in Southeastern Pennsylvania and her extensive involvement with many Polish American organizations. She is the president of the American Council for Polish Culture, and active with the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia and the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District. She is vice president for Cultural Affairs for the National Polish American Congress. Majka is also involved with the Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus, No. 321, Polish Singers' Alliance of America, Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School, and the Associated Polish Home in Northeast Philadelphia.

In 2011, Majka was appointed the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland for the Philadelphia area. She is also the host of “Polonia Today,” a Sunday afternoon broadcast on 860 AM Radio.

For additional information, contact the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District at (215) 739-3408, or email mail@PolishAmericanCongress.com.

HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Komorowski Honors Illinois National Guard



PRESIDENT KOMOROWSKI, Governor Quinn, and ILNG Soldiers.

Although the primary reason for visiting Chicago was to participate in the NATO Summit, **Bronisław Komorowski**, President of the Republic of Poland, managed to find time to visit the Illinois National Guard (ILNG) Marseilles Training Center. Various training exercises were performed by the ILNG and Polish Army soldiers.

Flown to Marseilles in downstate Illinois via a Black Hawk helicopter, a product of Poland, President Komorowski was greeted by **Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn** and **Major General William L. Enyart** of Belleville, Adjutant General of the ILNG.

President Komorowski honored Gov. Quinn and Maj. Gen. Enyart at a special award ceremony by presenting them with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, along with nine members of the Illinois National Guard. These Illinois guardsmen were: **Brig. Gen. Johnny Miller** of Tamms, **Col. Albert Cox** of Newark, **Lt. Col. Drew Dukett** of Roodhouse, **Lt. Col. Joseph Schweickert** of Peoria, **Maj. Eric Davis** of Mount Pulaski, **Master Sgt. Richard Schap** of Sycamore, **Master Sgt. Terry Martin** of Dunlap, **Master Sgt. David Ray** of Millstadt, and **Sgt. 1st Class Ryanzo Perez** of Springfield. This honor is bestowed upon foreigners for distinguished contributions to international cooperation with Poland.

Major General (retired) Randal Thomas of Springfield, **Maj. Stanley Manes** of Champaign, **Capt. Andrew Adamczyk** of Springfield, **Capt. Douglas Coop** of Jacksonville, and **Sgt. 1st Class Michael Markham** of Glenarm were presented with the Polish Armed Forces Medal by Poland's Minister of Defense, **Tomasz Siemoniak**, for their service and support to Polish land forces.

For the past eighteen years, the Polish Armed Forces and the ILNG have partnered and trained together as part of the State Partnership Program between Illinois and Poland. Training exercises have been and are being conducted in both Illinois



Medal recipients.

and Poland. Since 2003, ILNG soldiers have co-deployed with every Polish Army rotation to Iraq and Afghanistan. Prior to deployment, Polish soldiers travel to the Marseilles Training Center to conduct joint training as part of their military and civilian partnership through the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. This Illinois Program with Poland is one of the oldest and largest of all state partnerships in the United States. This partnership was originally created to assist Poland with military transformation and acceptance into NATO.

KOMOROWSKI PRESENTS MEDALS. Prior to his return to Poland, President Komorowski met with members of Chicago Polonia. A May 21, "By Invitation Only," reception, hosted by Poland's Ambassador to the United States, **Robert Kupiecki**, was attended by approximately 150 guests at Chicago's Renaissance Blackstone Hotel.

At this reception, Komorowski presented medals to eleven Polish Americans and/or Poles for their outstanding achievements in promoting and preserving Polish culture and history, as well as entrepreneurialism. Receiving the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit was **Zygmunt Biernat**, a Tobruk defender and organizer of the Polish Army (AK) Veterans Association. That same medal was awarded to **Maria Ciesla**, president

of the Polish Museum of America, and **Stanisław Stawski**, a member of the Warsaw Uprising and CEO of Stawski Imports. The Polish Officer's Cross of Merit was presented to **Wiesław T. Chodorowski**, a member of the Warsaw Uprising and co-founder of the Polish Army (AK) Foundation in the USA, and **Frank Spula**, president of the Polish American Congress and the Polish National Alliance. Additionally, the Cavalier's Cross of Merit was awarded to **Ari Zweig**, businessman and philanthropist, **Tadeusz Czjakowski**, president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs in America,



QUO VADIS participants with President Komorowski.

sionals of Polish heritage. It was founded with the vision of presenting opportunities to young people of Polish descent. This event will enable attendees to gain valuable leadership skills through outstanding and interesting speakers, as well as interactive workshops and networking. Additionally, these meetings will provide participants and their counterparts from around the globe to connect, exchange ideas, and strengthen their respective communities with the spirit and values for all who share a Polish heritage background.

The theme for this Quo Vadis Conference in Chicago is "**Modern Leaders: Own Your Identity.**" This is a great chance for young Polonians to share their Polish identity with other ethnic, educational, and professional communities.

The Chicago event will feature as its keynote speaker: **Laura Schwartz**, White House Director of Events for the Clinton administration, commentator for CBS News, and founder of White House Strategies. Additional speakers will be **Justine Jablonska**, Press and Media Advisor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, **Lukas Grabiec**, Corporate Counsel for Intel Corporation, and **Ellen Ericson**, Fortune 500 Business Etiquette and International Protocol Consultant.

Launched in 2009, by Polish Canadian young professionals, Quo Vadis conferences were held in Toronto, Windsor, and Ottawa. This year's Canadian conference will take place from August 17-19, 2012 in Canmore, Alberta.

While in Chicago for the NATO Summit, the principals of this event met with President Bronisław Komorowski and received his endorsement.

Co-chairs of this conference are **Agnes Ptasznik**, Assistant Attorney General with the General Law Bureau, and **Joanna Koson**, an Ac-

counts Receivable Coordinator at Baker & McKenzie, LLP. For further information about this conference, contact chicagoquovadis@gmail.com.



ART OF ASSOCIATION: MODERN POLISH POSTER EXHIBIT.

An enthusiastic art-loving crowd of approximately 400 filled the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America (PMA). On April 13, seventy intriguing and, sometimes, thought-provoking modern posters created by twenty-two outstanding Polish artists, students, and faculty members of the Szczecin Academy of Arts were on display.

Among them were works by internationally-acclaimed artists: **Leszek Żebrowski**, **Grzegorz Marszałek**, and **Lex Drewinski**. All twenty-two masters of poster art presented their unbelievable creative talents. This exhibition provided Chicago's art community and the public-at-large a rare opportunity to view posters that had been previously unavailable. This wonderful poster exhibit was possible under the curatorship of **Monika Nowak**, Graphics Art Curator of the PMA, and **Leszek Żebrowski** of the Szczecin Academy of Arts.

Orchard Lake Holds Polish-Style Country Fair

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — Memorial Day Weekend was the kick-off for the 41st annual St. Mary's Polish Country Fair.

This admission-free four-day event attracted approximately 110,000 visitors. **Orchard Lake St. Mary High School** touted the event as the nation's largest high school fair and the largest fundraiser for this legendary educational institution.

This country fair offered something for all ages, from dancing, bingo, carnival rides, art and crafts, and entertainment ranging from Orchard Lake St. Mary's Jazz Ensemble, the Night Hawks Jazz Orchestra to the ever-entertaining Polish Muslims and the Howling Diablos. Naturally, there was a Las Vegas style tent and a wide range of authentic Polish cuisine. Money raised benefits St. Mary High School.

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QUO VADIS CHICAGO 2012.

For the first time, Quo Vadis will be hosting an annual conference in the United States and it will be held at Chicago's Knickerboker Hotel and Loyola University Chicago: Water Tower Campus from August 24 - 26, 2012. A special reception hosted by the Polish Consulate of the Republic of Poland will be held for all participants of the conference. Attending this event will be participants from the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Quo Vadis is an annual conference for college and graduate students, as well as young profes-



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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Heritage Festival Returns to Cheektowaga

The **34th Annual Polish American Arts Festival** will be held in the Cheektowaga Town Park the weekend of July 19 through 22. This year's entertainers will include the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Phocus, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, New Direction Band, Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble, Maestro's Men, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, and Jimmy Sturr. Rev. Michael Burzynski, pastor of St. John Gualbert Parish, will celebrate Mass in the park at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. The Quo Vadis Choir and St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly Color Corp #1944 will participate in the Mass. The Annual General Pulaski Association Parade will step off at 1:30 p.m. on the 22nd.

POLONIA TIDBITS. World War II veteran **Stanley Maziarz** led the Memorial Day Parade in North Tonawanda ... Members of **Polish Veterans of World War II (SPK)** Post #33, Polish Army Veterans Association (SWAP) Post #1 and the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress gathered at the Polish Veterans' Plot in St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga to mark Memorial Day ... **Alice Kryzan**, local environmental attorney and unsuccessful Congressional candidate, passed away on June 2 ... **St. John Kanty Parish** celebrated a Polka Mass and held its annual "Summerfest" on June 3 ... The Vatican has accepted the retirement of **Bishop Edward Kmiec** of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo ... The **Polish Falcons** of Depew open their parking lot every Thursday evening during the Summer for a Cruise Night.

Deborah, Anthony and Carl Sibranni opened a new restaurant and theater at the location of the former **Echo Society** clubrooms on Portage Road in Niagara Falls. The new owners have tried to maintain the sense of "Polishness" of the renovated building ... The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY hosted its Annual Outing at the Bowen Grove in Lancaster on the 6th ... Also on the 6th, the Canadian Chopin Society presented pianist Leonard Gilbert and soprano Paulina Swierczek in a benefit concert at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga, Ontario ... The 10th Annual **Polish Heritage Festival** took place at the Hamburg

Fairgrounds on June 8 and 9. This year's festival featured the Chadron Polka Band, Polka Relations, Batalion "Burza," Dave Gawronski, New Brass Express, Buffalo Touch, and the Polka Family ... Amherst native **Rob Gronkowski** signed a new contract with the New England Patriots football team that will pay the tight end \$54 million over the next six years ... "**Magiczny Wieczor**," featuring Janusz Borowiec, Kinga Mirowska, Kieran Donworth, Michal Kozlowski and Janusz Bosak, filled the Clarkson Presbyterian Church in Mississauga with beautiful music on the 9th.

Soprano **Mary Beth Wrobel** sang the U.S. national anthem at the Cheektowaga War of 1812 Cemetery bicentennial ceremony on the 10th. Consul General Marta Moszczenska represented the Canadian government at the event ... On June 10, the 95th Annual Pilgrimage to honor the memory of the Polish American volunteers of **Haller's Blue Army** was held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The featured speakers at this year's ceremony were Polish American Congress National President Frank Spula and Polish Falcons of America National President Timothy Kuzma. The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress, Polish Heritage Society of Rochester and various Polish veterans organizations traveled to Canada to participate in this year's commemoration ... Polonians across the area came together at mid-month to view the **UEFA Euro 2012** football (soccer) championships held in Poland

and Ukraine at the Adam Mickiewicz Library on Buffalo's East Side, Syracuse Polish Home, Back Nine in Rochester and other locations ... Alan Kurtzman, president of the New York Store in Lancaster, was appointed to fill the vacancy resulting from Cheektowaga Councilman **Jerry Kaminski's** resignation from the board of directors of the Professional and Businessmen's Association.

The **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College co-sponsored a screening of "100 Voices: A Journey Home," a film following the journey of a group of Jewish cantors to Poland, with the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival at the Maxine and Robert Seller Theatre in Getzville on June 17 and 27 ... The Symfonia Polish choir presented "Polskie Wesele" at the Polish Legion Hall in Hamilton, Ontario on the 24.

Erie County Executive **Mark Poloncarz** will be honored as the Buffalo Bison's baseball team's Polish American of the Year at the its "Polish Festival" Night at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 14.

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If you have any item for this column, please send the information to me 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.

BRUSH UP / Prepared by the Polonia Media Network

Seasons and Dates

wiosna (VYOHs-nah) f **spring**
lato.....(LAH-toh) n **summer**
jesień (YEH-shain) f **autumn [fall]**
zima.....(ZHEE-mah) f **winter**

Phonetic ch is like ch in loch m, f, n = male, female, neuter

dzień..... (djain) m **day**
tydzień..... (TIH-djain) m **week**
miesiąc (MYEH-shohnts) m **month**
rok (rohk) m **year**

Którego jest dzisiaj? (Ktuh-REH-goh yehst DJEE-shei?)
What date is it today?
Jest 18-go lutego (Yehst oh-shehm-nahs-TEH-goh lu-TEH-goh)
It is the 18th of February.
Dziś jest 2-go Maja (Djeesh zehst druh-GYEH-goh MA-yah)
Today is the 2nd of May.
Jaki dziś dzień tygodnia? (YAH-kee djeesh djain tih-GOHD-nyah)
What day of the week is it?
Dziś jest wtorek..... (Djeesh yehst FTOH-rehk)
Today is Tuesday.

ASK "OUR MAN" IN WARSAW / Robert Strybel

Learning Polish Takes Time

Q: Would you know of any quick and easy way to learn Polish. I'm planning my first trip to Poland later this year and would like to be able to communicate with relatives and people in general. When I was a kid my grandparents talked Polish but I wasn't really interested in learning back then.

**Bill Jankowski
Warren, Mich.**

A: Unfortunately there is no quick and easy to learn Polish or any other language for that matter. It takes time, patience and diligent application. However, with today's online language courses, it's easier, more convenient and cheaper than it once was. You can not only read but hear the Polish language spoken without leaving your home. Check out this website: http://mylanguages.org/polish_audio.php

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Q: I was told they we are the only church in the world that has the bride stand on the right and the groom on the left at a wedding. Is that true? That's the way we have always done it.

**Rev. Walter Ptak
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Parish, Wyanadotte, Mich.**

A: You are simply following a chivalrous, age-old Polish tradition which accorded the superior, better, right side to the lady. This applies not only to the bride and groom. The polite Polish male always walks on the left side. That marks a departure from the Anglo-Saxon practice of the man always walking on the curbside.

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Q: I was a 15-year-old girl when my parents moved with me from Poland to New York 20 years ago. I attended a New York high school and college, got a Bachelor's degree and have had considerable New York City corporate experience. I am sin-

gle and have been back to Poland on vacation many time, but currently, I am contemplating moving back to Poland for a one-year trial period. I have no clue what I would do for income, but I do have dual citizenships. I thought about teaching English. What would you suggest?

— Polish Girl in New York City

A: The trial period seems like a good idea. A year isn't that long a time and it'll give you a chance to see how well you are able to adjust life in today's Poland. With your corporate experiences, I suggest you send CVs to American companies with offices in Poland. Although in the 1990s most anyone who knew English could easily find a teaching job, nowadays schools usually require qualified teachers with the proper credentials. Whatever the case, good luck!

Send your Polish-related question to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland; e-mail to: strybel@vp.pl

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34TH ANNUAL CHEEKTOWAGA POLISH AMERICAN FESTIVAL
July 19-22, 2012




Schedule Subject to Change Without Prior Notice

- Thursday, July 19**
7:00 p.m. Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra
- Friday, July 20**
4:45 p.m. Phocus - Buffalo, NY
5:45 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, MA
7:00 p.m. Polish Heritage Dancers - Buffalo, NY
8:15 p.m. Phocus - Buffalo, NY
9:15 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, MA

- Saturday, July 21**
2:30 p.m. New Direction Band - Buffalo, NY
5:00 p.m. Mass. Celebrant & Homilist: Rev. Michael H. Burzynski, Pastor, St. John Gualbert, Cheektowaga, NY
Deacon Edward Walek, St. John Gualbert, Cheektowaga
Guest Choir: Quo Vadis; Honor Guard St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly Color Corp #1944
6:15 p.m. Cracovia Dance Ensemble, Brampton, Ont., Canada
7:15 p.m. Maestro's Men - Colchester, Ct.
8:15 p.m. Jimmy Sturr - Florida, NY
9:30 p.m. Maestro's Men - Colchester, Ct.
10:30 p.m. Jimmy Sturr - Florida, NY

- Sunday, July 22**
3:00 p.m. Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble - Cheektowaga, NY
4:15 p.m. Maestro's Men - Colchester, Ct.
5:45 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, MA
7:15 p.m. Maestro's Men - Colchester, Ct.
8:30 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, MA

All Performances Will Take Place At The Outdoor Cultural Center in Town Park on Harlem Road. Food Will Be Available During The Festival Catered By Ray's Catering, Nowak's Catering and Polish Villa II. Demonstrations Will Be Featured Throughout The Weekend As Well. The General Pulaski Parade Will Take Place on Sunday, July 22nd at 1:30 p.m. The Parade Will Start At Thruway Mall, Continuing North On Harlem Road, Ending At Town Park.

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Friends of Polish Art Host ACPC Spring Meeting

MIAMI — The Spring Board Meeting of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) was held in Troy, Mich., hosted by the Friends of Polish Art of Detroit. In recognition of the Club's 75th anniversary, a number of its members were introduced and honored for their singular contributions toward the club's historic and notable achievements over the years.

ACPC President Deborah Majka summarized congratulations to the Club members.

"Seventy-five years ago, in 1937, the Friends of Polish Art of Detroit, was organized by a group of Americans, both Polish and non-Polish, who were interested in learning about Polish culture and disseminating that information among their fellow Americans," she said.

"Affiliated and supporting organizations are the life-blood of the American Council for Polish Culture, and 11 years after your founding, in 1948, the Friends of Polish Art hosted the convention in Detroit where the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, was born. Over your 75 year history, your FPA Club has enriched its community and added luster to the ACPC reputation with multi-faceted cultural and social activities."

The ACPC Board Meeting followed.

Camille Kopielski, chair of the ACPC \$2,000 Summer Studies in Poland grants program, reported that the committee received six applications. The committee will announce the names of the two winners at the ACPC Annual Convention in July at Williamsburg, VA. One of last year's winners, Nicholas Krol, submitted a detailed report of his Polish Language Course at the Wroclawski University in Poland.

Robert Dutka, investment committee chair reported on current

stock market conditions and discussed ACPC's investment options. Gregory Biestek, treasurer, provided a full and detailed report on the status of ACPC's monetary accounts and how they have fared over the past year.

Alicia Dutka, music chair, was pleased to report that the ACPC Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Vocal Competition 2012 had three applicants — all quite accomplished artists with wonderful voices. The Sembrich Committee chose tenor Andrzej Stec as the winner of this year's competition and looks forward to a wonderful concert at the ACPC annual convention.

Carolyn Meleski, chair, Wachtel Literary Competition, which is administered by ACPC, reported that since January of 2012 two awards were made. The Polish Heritage Society of Rochester presented an award to Alexa Foley of Victor, N.Y. for her essay on David Kaczynski, brother of the Unibomber, Ted Kaczynski, who has worked to abolish the death penalty in New York by exposing its flaws. The Polish Arts League of Pittsburgh gave a prize to Alice Navedeh of Wexford, Pa. for her synopsis of the three Polish writers and artists who made her road to reading pleasurable.

Richard Wiermanski, ACPC past president, advised the members that the ACPC 2012 Annual Convention is scheduled to take place in Williamsburg, July 18-21, 2012. The theme for the convention is: Our Polish/American Heritage. A notable activity scheduled for the convention is a dedication ceremony at nearby Jamestown to unveil a historical marker commemorating the arrival of the first Poles to America.

Readers are warmly invited to join the ACPC.

— Jo Louise Winters, PR Chair

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

The "Dark and Silent Ones"

Colonel Kazimierz Iranek-Osmecki, code name, *Antoni*, was dropped into Poland by parachute on March 14, 1943. As Commander of an Armia Krajowa counter-intelligence detachment, *Antoni* discovered the German V-1 and V-2 testing facility at Peenemunde and later fought in the Warsaw Rising.

Captain Adam Borys, code name, *Plug*, was dropped into Poland on Oct. 2, 1942. After organizing the Agat Group to fight against the Gestapo, *Plug* master-minded the assassination of SS officer, Franz Kutschera, the Reich's Police Chief in Warsaw.

Major Hieronim Dekutowski, code names *Zapora*, *Odra*, *Rezu* and *Stary*, was dropped into Poland on Sept. 17, 1943. Among many clandestine operations, *Zapora* also established hiding places and safe-houses for Jewish refugees. After the war he was active in the Polish anti-communist movement until his arrest by the Polish Communist secret police. He was tried in secret and executed in 1949.

Elzbieta Zawacka, code name, *Zelma*, was the only known female covert agent to be dropped into Poland. After the war she was also arrested and tortured by the Polish Communist secret police and spent several years in prison.

These brave freedom fighters were part of the elite special-operations group of the Polish Home Army known as *Cichociemni*, the "Dark and Silent Ones." Created by General Wladyslaw Sikorski before his tragic death, it was a highly secret organization of volunteers whose purpose was covert operations behind enemy lines in Poland.

Originally more than 2,400 volunteers secretly left their regular army units for specialized training designed by 6th Detachment of the Polish General Staff and the Brit-



ELZBIETA ZAWACKA was a Polish university professor, scouting instructor, and a freedom fighter during World War II. She was also a Brigadier General of the Polish Army (the second and last woman in the history of the Polish Army to hold this rank), promoted by President Lech Kaczyński on May 3, 2006. The only woman among the *Cichociemni*, she carried documents from Nazi-occupied Poland to the Polish government in exile and back. Her regular route ran from Warsaw through Berlin and Sweden to London.

ish Special Operations Executive (SOE). The training, conducted primarily in Scotland, included covert operations, topography, cryptography, sharp-shooting, Judo, and learning a complete new identity. Only 605 completed all the training; of those, 344 secretly parachuted into Poland as covert agents of the Armia Krajowa (AK). The oldest was 54 and the youngest was 20.

Once in Poland the *Cichociemni* were generally attached to special, covert units of the AK and other underground organizations, performing intelligence gathering, coordinating airdrops, serving as instructors in secret military schools, and — most commonly — conducting sabotage operations, partisan warfare and assassinations. Of the 344 covert operatives dropped into Poland, 112 were killed in action.

Most of those deaths were a result of direct action by German soldiers and torture by the Gestapo, although at least ten were known to have been executed by Polish Communists after the war. Of 91 *Cichociemni* who participated in the Warsaw Rising 18 were killed in action.

On August 4, 1995, the Polish Special Forces unit, GROM, adopted the name and traditions of the *Cichociemni*.



Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish American author of the award-winning book, *Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two and a frequent contributor to this newspaper. His second historical novel set in Poland in World War Two, The Katyn Order, was released in May, 2011.*

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Money Matters

Like it or not, when speaking of how our economy is doing there are a couple considerations: what we are doing and what the rest of the world is doing. Right now, the big players are not the Europeans or the Americans. The aggressive, hard-charging players are the Asians. Feed a person for a day or you can teach him to fish, and look out, he might start fishing!

The talk in this country is the stagnant economy and the talk coming out of Europe is the "crisis." One economist I interviewed described the European economies as sluggish pertaining to growth. Another described them as stuck in the socialist rut (or "model" if you want to be technical or polite) of malaise: high taxes, oppressive debt, and languishing unemployment. The Greeks have fallen into the pit of despair; the Poles, as much as I can tell, are holding their own and are even slightly edging upward. Now-a-days, that ain't so bad.

The statistics I am reviewing and reporting come from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development or the OECD (www.oecd.org). The mission of the OECD "is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world" so these guys provide the information and analysis for your nation's good economic health. Check it out and for the record,

some of the significant numbers for the Poles (2010 data; 2011 still not in) are unemployment 9.6%, general government debt 62.4%, and taxes (as a percent of labor cost) for the average worker at 34.3%. The same numbers for Germany (an economy almost four times bigger than Poland's) are 7.1%, 87.0%, and

Since 2006, the Polish economy has grown an average of almost 5% per year.

taxes at 49.1%. These numbers are relative depending on how each country measures them (for instance how does Poland and how does Germany define unemployment). The sweetest looking stat I see for the Polish economy (here the "economy" is defined as the Gross Domestic Product or GDP which is the amount of goods and services produced) is growing at an average of almost 5% per year since 2006. That is a good thing.

There are many factors that go into creating the conditions needed for a robust economy and a positive financial outlook. While there is always room for improvement, apparently the Poles are doing some things right as they are producing more rather than less stuff each year. Similar to most of the western nations though, there is the ever looming pressure to slide back into the socialist realm of providing govern-

ment dependence and entitlements for the citizens. The transition from a controlled or socialist economy is a tough one but I hope the Poles keep on fishing.

POLONIA'S MONEY MATTERS.

Most of the Polish entities, like most individual Poles here and abroad, do a good job of raising funds for maintenance and special projects, are good stewards of how they spend the money raised, and do a reasonable and efficient amount of planning and saving. The American Polonia would not have accomplished what it has over the years by not being frugal. I do believe at this point that the real or imagined pressure for maximizing revenues can be counter-productive.

There was a time when Polonia had much more time and people than money and some groups simply can't afford to pay for help emptying trash cans, clearing tables, keeping the bathroom paper towels stocked, or cleaning up after the affair. I get that but I also feel like part of the worry about the money is psychological baggage we probably could lose. (At one point I finally figured out that driving 20 miles to use a coupon was not worth the expense of the gas.) I know it increases the cost of doing business but at this time in our ethnic lives a little extra help with the grunt work, while pinching the bottom line, is

supremely worth it for many reasons.

We always say it would be nice to get more of the young people involved. Maybe give the kids a job and pay them a few bucks and perhaps the excitement and glamour of the church picnic will transform them. That is if they can look up from their cell phone for just a minute. There are disabled or jobless folks that need a helping hand. There are immigrants that can use a few extra bucks. If you show them how to fish (or make golabki) they might just keep coming back to the old pond.

POLISH OR NOT? I looked up Tom Skerritt, the movie actor, on the IMDB (International Movie Database, www.imdb.com) website. Tom was born in Detroit, Michigan and if you select the hyperlink for the city in his bio it takes you to a page called "Most popular people born in Detroit/Michigan/USA." Since Detroit is such a Polish city, this list is a quick check to find movie people with Polish connections. Besides Tom (mom's name is Helen), the actress Elisabeth Harnois was born in Detroit and made me curious because she has a Polish face and she has a Polish first name. Tom and Elisabeth, Polish? Check the list out and let me know if there are others that are Polish.



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

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Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

The Thrill is Gone

by Larry Trojak

It was just two months ago that this space was dedicated to marking the Versatones' retirement from polkas. Now, in a cruel twist of fate, that event seems all the more poignant with the May 21st passing of Eddie Blazonczyk. As a result, we are once again looking at the impact Eddie had on polkas, but from a dramatically different perspective. The passing of someone so influential, so industry-changing, so iconic, deserves at least that much.

For a couple of reasons, we won't spend a good deal of time getting bogged down in biographical data here. First, if you are reading the polka section of the PAJ, chances are very good that the Blazonczyk story is one with which you are already very familiar. And second, the outpouring of words at his passing was immediate and impressive. A quick Google search yields a score of well-written stories which appeared in major national publications such as the New York Times, entertainment blogs, newswires such as the Associated Press, the major Chicago press outlets and more. He was simply that good a talent and, by extension, that newsworthy.

But we will talk about his impact on polkas, and to that end, it needs to be said that Eddie was a real treasure in the polka field but one which we sometimes took for granted. Consistent excellence has a tendency to do that to an audience. Eddie had no use for mediocrity (indeed, one doubts if he knew the meaning of the word), so we never got it from him or his musicians—he was always “on.” Every performance was a clinic in the way polkas should be performed, the way an audience should be treated, the way this art form should be respected. And if we sometimes tended to forget his contributions, we were (thankfully) reminded of it in a big way, such as in 1998 when he was presented with a National Heritage Fellowship award from the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). More than simply an honor from peer groups like the IPA or USPA, which he also cherished, this was recognition from an organization that has feted the likes of bluegrass icons Earl Scruggs and Bill Monroe, blues legend BB King, gospel giant Mavis Staples and hundreds more. The NEA, it seems, had to wake us up to the realization of what an incredible talent we had in our midst.

Perhaps the only positive result to come of this unfortunate event, Eddie's untimely passing has yielded the inevitable flood of live Versatones recordings throughout cyberspace. In today's information-heavy/social media-driven world, sharing live performances is our way of honoring a memory; in many respects it's similar to people trading anecdotes at a wake. His stature as the “best of the best” has resulted in an unearthing of a literal gold mine

of audio treasures, many of which reach all the way back to his early days in polkas. And in hearing these gems, the thing that boggles the mind is not just how good Eddie was, but how long he's been that good. From the moment he took to the stage assuming the leadership role of the Versatones in the '60s, there's little doubt his place in the polka pantheon was established. It's right there on tape (or in binary code, anyway) for all time.

I've probably heard Eddie play live over 100 times—not a lot compared to many of his more passionate fans, but a good deal nevertheless. In that time, I've never heard him have a bad day. Never. In fact, I recall once heading to Bel-Aire Days at Chicago's Polonia Grove in the early '70s and upon arrival was disappointed to find out that Eddie was not going to have his signature two horn sound that night (one of the band members was away at camp for the Army Reserves, if I recall). Instead, they would be using Eddie Madura (Li'l Wally, The Casinos) on clarinet. In retrospect, it was one of the best nights I ever heard the Versatones have and it totally changed my perception of what it takes to deliver the goods. The band was insanely good, Eddie was both adding to the power and feeding off it, and the crowd was treated to one of the best sessions in polka dynamics imaginable. I'm sure I wasn't the only one that night who left the Grove wondering if

there was anything this guy couldn't do. And he continued to do it for better than four decades.

In this paper, some 25 years ago, I wrote a review for one of Eddie's LPs and in doing so, said that, if ever there was an ambassador to take this

music of ours to the masses, it should be him. Today, I'd say he did that and then some: redefining the music without sacrificing its ethnic soul, and, in so doing, destigmatizing it to the non-polka audience. That's a huge undertaking, yet he seemed to enjoy both the responsibility and the task at hand.

With his passing, polkas lost a great personality, an outstanding bandleader, and one of the finest polka vocalists to ever hold a mike. However, we also lost our cultural compass as it applies to this music we love so much. Eddie was the trend setter, the one by which all things polka could be measured. He gave all of us reason to aspire to greater heights in the business. He showed us that intensity, commitment and a true love of the music were key, whether playing to a small crowd in the back room at Club Antoinette or to 60-deep at Seven Springs. From the polka fans' perspective, he never disappointed, always gave the proverbial 110% and—without fail—left us longing for more.

Will we manage without him? Yes, of course; life goes on. But now that the dust has settled, we do have to face a cold hard fact: we've lost one of the true greats in polkas, and polkas without Blaz will never be the same. That, in itself, is one hell of a legacy.

Cześć jego pamięci!



POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

NEW RECORDINGS

A Welcome Sound

The Steve Drzewicki Band calls Michigan home, but they could easily fit into any polka niche in Pennsylvania, New York, or Ohio. Like so many of the bands from these regions, the Drzewicki group has that hometown feel that translates into good music at dances, in taverns, and at church festivals.

Their latest 18-track CD, simply titled “Steve Drzewicki Band,” presents a mixture of polkas, waltzes and obereks including several originals. The lead track, “The Dog Chewed Up My Shoes,” became one of those tunes that seemed out of place at first, but soon had me hitting the repeat button. “Happy Frank's” oberek also deserved several replays here. Familiar tunes like “Open the Window,” “Peanuts” polka, “Matka” waltz, and “Let the Sunshine In,” demonstrate the dedication of this band to their audience.

Performing on this CD are: Steve Drzewicki (drums); Gary Mueller (fiddle, bass, trumpet and accordion); Stan Kowalski (accordion); Mike Corbin (trumpet and tuba); Doug Lull (accordion); and Dan Sliwinski (piano). It was recorded by Swival Enterprises. E-mail the band at: ssdrzewicki@

charter.net or write to Drzewicki at 1928 S. Villa Ct, Essexville, MI 48732.

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS. “Follow Directions” brings listeners the first recording by the New Direction band of Buffalo, N.Y. A collection of Nickel City polka veterans perform a combination of standards and new tunes in that classic, basic style that was made for listening and dancing.

Tunes like “It's Polka Time Somewhere” polka, “Our Break Up,” “Sweetheart I'm in Love with You,” “Zip Zip,” “Polka Joy,” and “New Caledonia” give this project a balance of old and new products by this new band.

Behind the instruments of New Direction are: Ron Urbanczyk (concertina), Jim Raczowski (drums); Bob Krupka (trumpet); Frank Zeczak (clarinet, sax and trumpet); and Bill Barnas (keyboard, bass, and fiddle).

On the Sunshine label, this musical project was recorded by Tom Wanderlich and Tom Picciano of Creekwood Studios. Visit the New Direction on the internet at: www.thenewdirectionband.com.

Music Zone Releases The Complete Bay State IV

The Music Zone announces the release of *From A To Z: The Complete Bay State IV*

Available for the first time, the 2 CD box set offers the complete recordings of the Bay State IV spanning over four LPs, as well as a bonus track never before available to the public. Recorded in 1989 and never released, “Whistling At The Girls” polka rounds out this 49-song polka set.

This box set is available directly from The Music Zone at: www.themusiczonestore.com, www.jimmykpolkas.com, and www.polkaconnection.com.

Founded in 2009, The Music Zone specializes in restoring and re-mastering recordings, preserving them forever in digital and CD format. More information can be found at www.themusiczonestore.com or by writing to Contact: The Music Zone, 1D Tina Drive, South Deerfield, MA 01373.

JUST FOR OLD TIMES SAKE. The Soundsations of South Bend, Ind. have released a CD, *Just For Old Times Sake*, a 15-track mix-

ture of polkas, waltzes obereks, and country tunes.

“Pulaski Post” polka and “See if I Care” polka are featured with familiar songs like “In the Tall Castle” polka, “Przybyli Ulani,” and “Babulinka” oberek. “Crying Time/Together Again” and “Crystal Chandeliers” add some country to the mix with great vocals featuring Stephanie Futa Carter.

The Soundsations are Kenny Bartkowiak (accordion and acoustic guitar); Paul Futa, Jr. (concertina, bass and trumpet); Tom Williams (sax, clarinet, and piano); Pat Cukrowicz (drums); Steven Futa (electric guitar); and Stephanie Carter (vocals).

For more information on the CD or performances, e-mail or write to Kenny Bartkowiak, 58191 Wayne Lane, South Bend, IN 46619; at: kennyb1223@sbcglobal.net.

BRAVE COMBO RELEASES NEW CD. Denton, Texas' Grammy Award winning Brave Combo announces the release of its new CD, *Sounds of the Hollow* (DenTone Records), a “15-song mash up of

astonishing global diversity.”

“Sounds of the Hollow is an album of passion and variety, demonstrating our passion for variety,” said bandleader Carl Finch. “The song list includes polkas, cumbias, rumbas, a waltz, a twist, a tango, and even more disparate styles. This is also the first official Brave Combo recording to feature our newest member, and musical powerhouse, Ginny Mac on accordion.”

The indomitable ensemble continues to discover, explore, fuse, and confound with the new album, living up to its reputation as a self-contained musical United Nations.

Band members are keyboardist, guitarist, accordionist, and singer Carl Finch, Jeffrey Barnes (woodwinds, sax, and harmonica); drummer Alan Emert, bassist Little Jack Melody, and Ginny Mac (accordion). All but Emert contribute vocals to the mix.

For more, visit www.brave.com/bo; www.facebook.com/bravecombo; www.youtube.com/bravecombo; www.myspace.com/bravecombo.

TOLEDO POLONIA

Polkas at the LaGrange Street Festival

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Hello summer! To all polka fans traveling through the Midwest for the next few months, be sure to stop in Toledo for any of the following events that may fit your schedule:

The **28th Annual LaGrange Street Festival** begins Friday night July 13 and goes throughout the weekend. Located in the heart of ethnic North Toledo, The LaGrange Street Fest, as it is called by locals, attracts well over 20,000 visitors throughout the three-day weekend.

Live polka music commences Friday at 5:00 p.m. and continues throughout the weekend.

Friday features the Polka Zone and Badinov, with the Polka Zone starting at 5:00 p.m. and alternating with Randy and the boys until the end of the festival day at 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, you can find Ted Lange's Squeezebox Band starting the day at 1:15 p.m. alternating with The Mixx until 4:30. After the first of two Echoes of Poland Song and Dance Ensemble concerts from 5:00-6:00 p.m., DynaBrass and Badinov will play throughout the evening from 6:00-11:00 p.m.

Sunday, the Polish American Concert Band starts the day with a concert from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Echoes of Poland presents their second concert from 2:00-3:00 p.m. The polka music starts at 3:00 and continues until the end of the festival at 7:00 p.m., featuring Duane Malinowski alternating with the DynaBrass. At 5:00 p.m., Toledo's own version of "Dancin' with the Stars" takes place, as contestants are paired with Echoes of Poland dancers for an old-style dancing contest.

A few more opportunities for polka dancing this summer in and around Toledo are to be found at the following, all with Randy Krajewski and his band:

July 21. PRCUA National Golf Tournament at the Polish Roman Catholic Union Hall on Detroit Avenue 7:30-11:30 p.m.

July 28. All Saints Parish Festival in Rossford, Ohio 5:00-11:30 alternating with rock band

August 5. Regina Coeli Parish Festival, Toledo, afternoon

Look for a new twist with Badinov, as Jimmy Rutkowski, leader of A Touch of Brass for the past 29 years, joins in the polka fun with Badinov. Jimmy has been known throughout the Midwest for fine vocal and brass performances, and it is always a treat when he joins the top-notch musicians in Badinov.

See you soon at a polka dance!

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

When Hype Meets Expectations

BUFFALO, N.Y. — There was a lot of hype and excitement when Buffalo's newest band took the stage at Potts Hall, May 19. And, they did not disappoint! The **Tru Heritage** band did a fabulous job and sounded super. They played many traditional Polish tunes including many Eddie B. songs done very well. The members of the band are Eric Bakowski on concertina, Jimmy Adamczyk on accordion and vocals, Chris Bukowski on drums, Al Krew on bass and vocals, Bruce Nowak on sax and vocals, and Frank Salvaggio on trumpet. They make great music together. What I noticed at this dance was that lots of musicians from other bands attended which was good to see. I hope this newest band stays together for a long time and wish them the best. It's always a positive thing when we get new groups.



CHRIS BUKOWSKI, drummer for Tru Heritage.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ... Marie Krupski on her recent retirement from the New York State Dept. of Labor. I'm sure husband Tony, children and grandchildren will keep her busy ... **Carol and Ken Machelski** will be downsizing and moving from their large home in Hamburg to a small ranch in Cheektowaga. Best wishes go out to them for happiness in their new place ...

Barb Bakowski's military duties are now at Ft. Drum which works out quite well as she is able to come home weekends to spend time with hubby Albert and Eric, Allen and Rayanne.

CONDOLENCES. Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Arlene Mruk** who passed away, May 26. Arlene was active in many organizations including the Polka Boosters Club.

May she rest in peace.

WOW! It was very exciting to learn that I had won the "2011 Polka Reporter of the Year" award from the United States Polka Association for the second year in a row. This recognition is really appreciated — it's wonderful feeling to receive such an honor. I have to thank Mark Kohan, editor of the Polish American Journal, for his part in helping me achieve this. Without him and this illustrious newspaper, it would not happen.

The **Knewz** also won three awards in ceremonies held at the USPA Festival and Convention held on Memorial Day weekend in Cleveland. Andy Bojczuk, drummer and vocalist for the Knewz, received "Male Vocalist of the Year," the band got "Song of the Year" for "Years Ago" and also for "CD of the Year" for Knewz Flash. Congratulations to them and all the winners.

The USPA officers and committee do an outstanding job putting this festival and awards banquet together.

AROUND THE TOWN. On Memorial Day, May 28, **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push** appeared at the Lily of the Valley Hall in Cheektowaga, NY. It's been quite a long time since a dance was held at that hall and nice to be back there again. Lenny did a great job as usual and kindly acknowledged the USPA award winners who were present. On a hot holiday, the crowd was moderate and appreciative of the quality of entertainment.

The Lamm Grove had its opening on June 2, where the **Polka Country Musicians** took the stage and entertained the enthusiastic fans who came out for a good time. They



EDDIE and MARIE PILARZ at the Memorial Day Dance featuring Lenny Gomulka. Eddie is an original member of the Dynatones, and a member of Marion Lush, and Big Steve's bands.

did sound sensational and the crowd loved them. Wally and Rich Dombrowski and crew did some fiddle numbers, some country and western flavored polkas and many standards which pleased everyone. Many people came from Canada to enjoy this

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TRU HERITAGE, Buffalo's newest band. (l. to r.): Bruce Nowak, Frank Salvaggio, Jim Adamczyk, Allan Krupski, and Eric Bakowski.

evening. Bob and Sandy Krawczyk also offered some food and drink specials. Even though it was a little cool outside, it was a hot time inside the Grove. Summer is here—The Grove is open.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

UPCOMING

July 4. The Bedrock Boys play at the Pavilion in Cheektowaga Town Park from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

July 10. The Buffalo Touch are at the River Grill in Tonawanda, N.Y. starting at 6:30 p.m. Call (716) 873-2553 for more info.

July 12. The New Direction Band plays at the West Seneca Lions Concert, Lions Bandshell behind West Seneca Town Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Free admission—bring your lawn chair.

July 15. Can-Am Polka Picnic at the Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, NY - Music from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. by Eddie Guca and the Polish Canadians and the New Direction Band. Admission \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Call Ron at 675-6588 for tickets and reservations.

July 17. Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Music and refreshments. Call

Chris at 892-7977.

July 20-22. Cheektowaga Polish Festival at the Town Park. Polka bands include Phocus, Lenny Gomulka, New Direction, Maestro's Men, and Jimmy Sturr. The Polish Heritage Dancers, The Cracovia Dancers and the Harmony Folk Ensemble will also be performing.

July 25. The Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post at 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call Bill at 759-8194.

July 29. Polkas in Houghton Park in Kaisertown starting at 5:00 p.m. with The Buffalo Touch.

July 30. Polish Villa Annual Boat Ride on the Miss Buffalo starting at 6:00 p.m. Call 822-4908 for more information.

Aug. 5. Buffalo Polka Boosters Club Annual Summer Picnic at the Lamm Manor Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. 2:00-7:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. Music by the Bedrock Boys and the Concertina All Stars. Food served from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, Polish sausage, salad, baked beans, fruit, clam chowder, pop and beer. Members \$20. Non-Members \$25. Children 13-15 \$10. Kids 12 and under are free. Call Chris at 892-7977 or John at 674-2662 for more information.

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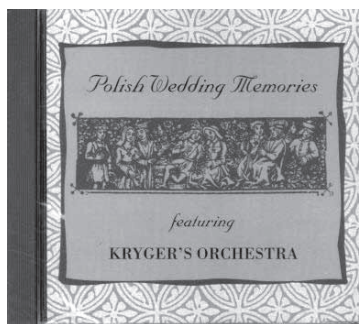
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Cleveland Polka Picnic

CLEVELAND — Mon., Labor Day, Sept. 3, 2012 is the date for the Cleveland Polka Association's B.Y.O.E. (bring your own everything) Picnic. The CPA will supply the live polka music, dance area, and picnic tables.

Gates at St. Sava's Picnic Grove, 2300 W. Ridgewood Drive, Parma, open at 2:00 p.m. Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz from Cleveland will provide the music from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Donation is \$10.00. Children 18 and younger admitted free. The public is welcome.

For more information or large table reservations contact: Sylvia or Paul at (216) 228-1134.

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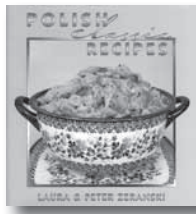
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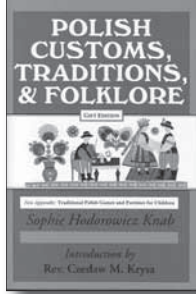
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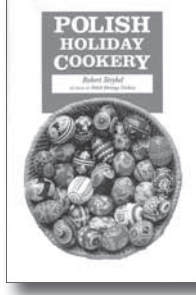
NEW! POLISH CLASSIC RECIPES
\$16.95
by *Laura and Peter Zeranski*
2011, 96 pp., h.c., index, 100 color photographs by *Matthew Aron Roth*

Designed for the modern kitchen yet retaining traditional roots, each heritage recipe in *Polish Classic Recipes* has been tested to perfection. Accompanied by notes on Polish holiday customs, history, and menu pairing suggestions, these dishes offer a flavorful sample of the Polish dining experience, as passed down from generation to generation.



BACK IN STOCK! POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, & FOLKLORE
\$24.95
by *Sophie Hodorowicz Knab*
340 pp., hc. Hippocrene Books

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



BACK IN STOCK! POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY
\$24.95
by *Robert Strybel*
248 pp., hc. Hippocrene Books

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



TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS
\$14.95
Polonie Publishing
170 pp., h.c.

The first complete, hard cover collection of Polish cookery in the English language published in the United States. Researched from old Polish cookbooks and recipes collected from the best Polish American cooks, it also contains stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve wigilia, Harvest Festival dożynki and the foods to celebrate them. Perfect for home cooks or to give as a special gift.



GIFT PACK 12 FAVORITE GLOSS-COAT POLISH RECIPE CARDS
\$5.00
by *Polonie Publishing*.

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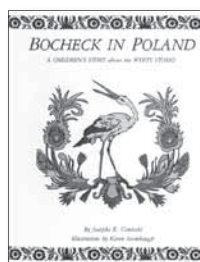


TREASURED POLISH CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS
\$29.95
208 pp., hc. *Polonie Publishing*

Overflowing with the customs and traditions of the Polish Christmas holiday season, as it was and still is observed in Poland. It also provides menus and recipes, carols and music, Jasełka, the Nativity Play and tree ornaments. The authentic decorations are patterns with detailed instructions for reproducing. Delightful reading throughout the whole year.

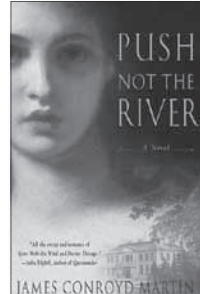
TREASURED POLISH SONGS WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
\$24.95. 350 pp., hc. *Polonie Publishing*

A magnificent collection of Polish songs with musical scores for voice and piano accompaniment. Included are folk songs, lullabies, religious, art songs and ballads, solo and quartet arrangements and more. Enhanced with colorful Werten illustrations, the book features authentic Polish lyrics with beautiful English translations. Ideal for both musician and appreciative listener alike.



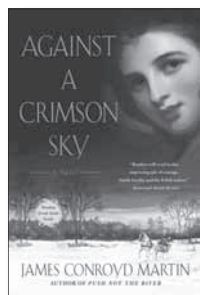
BOCEK IN POLAND
\$11.95
54 pp., *Polonie Publishing*

A First Prize winner in a literary contest sponsored by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, this is a delightful, captivating children's story about the life of storks and many of the Polish customs they encounter. Beautifully illustrated and educational, it will be thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children.



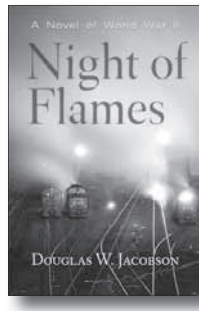
PUSH NOT THE RIVER
by *James C. Martin*
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press. 496 pp.pb. *Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide*

GRAPHED! This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."



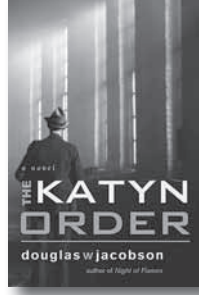
AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
by *James C. Martin*
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St. Martin's 369 pp.pb. *Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide*

GRAPHED! "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.



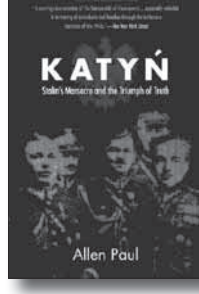
NIGHT OF FLAMES: A Novel of World War Two
by *Douglas W. Jacobson*
\$16.95
384 pp., pb., *McBooks Press*

In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna, an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; and Jan an officer in the Polish cavalry, the loss is unimaginable. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.



NEW! THE KATYN ORDER
by *Douglas W. Jacobson*
\$24.95
384 pp., hc., *McBooks Press*

American Adam Nowak has been dropped into Poland by British intelligence as an assassin and Resistance fighter. During the Warsaw Uprising he meets Natalia, a covert operative who has lost everything. Amid the Allied power struggle left by Germany's defeat, Adam and Natalia join in a desperate hunt for the 1940 Soviet order authorizing the murders of 20,000 Polish army officers and civilians.



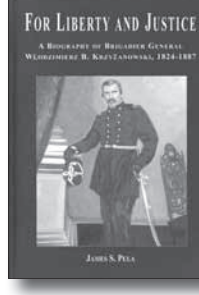
KATYN: STALIN'S MASSACRE AND THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH
by *Allen Paul*
\$24.95
N. Illinois University Press. 2010. 430 pp. pb. 9"x6.5"

Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. The first post-communist account of Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportations to Siberia.



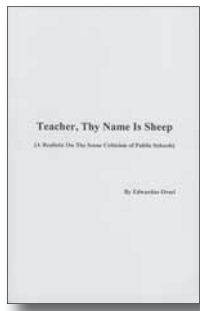
THE FORGOTTEN FEW
\$14.95
by *Adam Zamoyski*
hc. 239 pp.

The life and times of the pilots of the Polish Air Force who, when expatriated to Britain, played an important role in the Battle of Britain and the air war in the European theater. They shot down 745 enemy aircraft, with another 175 unconfirmed, and 190 flying bombs targeted at London.



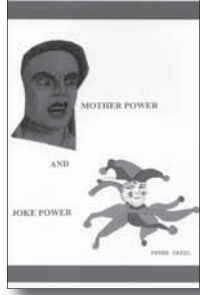
FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE: A Biography of Brigadier General Włodzimierz B. Krzyżanowski, 1824-1887
\$29.95
by *James Pula*. 335 pp. plus illustrations, hc.

1978, 2010
Ethnic Heritage Studies Center at Utica College
This lavishly illustrated biography of a major Polish American figure of the 19th century, tells the story of a Polish revolutionary exiled to America where he rises from private to general during the Civil War.



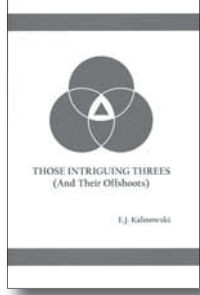
TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP
by *E.J. Kalinowski*
\$9.95
Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.

Why are American high school students so undisciplined? The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004.



MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER
by *E.J. Kalinowski*
\$9.95 *Kalski Books*, 1998. 142 pp., pb.

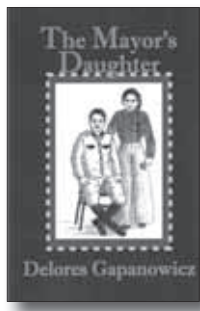
Mother Power is a compendium of psychological sketches on personalities in various fields. Joke Power stresses the deleterious effects jokes have on individuals and groups targeted for derision.



THOSE INTRIGUING THREES (and Their Offshoots)
by *E.J. Kalinowski*
\$9.95
Self published / Kalski Books, 2009. 166 pp., pb.

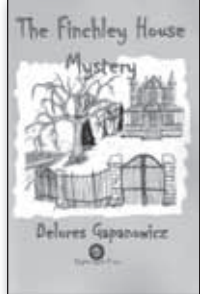
Why are there so many threes in the Bible? Have you noticed the amount of triadic construction in nature? Exploring the prevalence of threes in our world and how to observe them.

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— Elizabeth Hardwick —



THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER
by *Delores Gapanowicz*
\$12.95
Nightingale Press 2007. 176 pp., pb., ill.

In stories told to the author by her parents, readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I.



THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY
by *Delores Gapanowicz*
\$13.95
Nightingale Press, 2005
For Ages 9-12. 132 pp. pb.

This whodunit for youngsters asks: Is the Finchley House haunted? 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?



SCATTERED BLOSSOMS
by *Cynthia Zavatska*
\$12.95
500 pages, softcover.

The story of a girl's journey to womanhood. A young Polish woman's efforts to weave together her life as a child of nobility, born to a great country manor in a nation whose rich culture and traditions have enveloped her throughout her early years, with her life in a new, vital, and often cruel new world — America.

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BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

Kirk Offers a Well-Written Account of “Solidarity”

Be Not Afraid! The Polish (R)evolution, “Solidarity”
by Heather Kirk

Ottawa: Borealis Press, 2011
Softbound, pp. 275, \$19.95CDN
To order: www.borealispress.com/benotafraid.html
(U.S. credit cards accepted) or call toll-free (877) 696-2585

Polish history is full of events of which Polish Americans can be rightly proud. Medieval Poland was a sanctuary for Jews in a Europe where they often faced persecution. Polish medieval and Renaissance philosophers and theologians like Pawel Wlodkowic laid key foundations for international law theory. Sixteenth century Poland was “a state without stakes” amidst the religious warfare of Reformation Europe. The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 was among the most progressive of its time, exterminated at the hands of repressive empires like Russia, Prussia, and Austria. In our own times, a son of Poland who sat on the Chair of Peter is increasingly recognized as one of the few Popes worthy of the title “the Great.” And one common element of all these historical events is that they did not just benefit Poland alone, but represented milestones in Western civilization (even if, sometimes, Western civilization chooses to forget them).

Also in our own day, another of those great milestones through which many readers lived through

was the emergence and achievements of the trade union *Solidarność* (Solidarity). Inspired by the inaugural call of John Paul II’s pontificate—“Be Not Afraid!”—and concretized by the Pope’s first visit to Poland, Solidarity did just what John Paul prayed for in Warsaw in 1979. Solidarity helped “renew the face of the earth” by its struggle and its example. It can be argued that tearing down the Berlin Wall began not at the Brandenburg Wall but in Gdańsk’s Lenin Shipyard.

Canadian author Heather Kirk has written a popularly accessible portrait of Solidarity’s “golden age,” 1980-90. The book is especially suited to (but not limited to) high school and college students. *Be Not Afraid* is her take on a movement that “was the greatest non-violent resistance movement in history. It lasted ten years. It involved ten million people. It helped change the world. It killed precisely no one.”

The book is divided into eleven chapters. Each chapter, in turn, includes sections like “creative nonfiction,” “history,” “biography,” “analysis,” and even “a Polish joke.” The “jokes” are, indeed, political jokes taken from the time, intended to show how the Poles could shrewdly size up their own situation, even with humor. When little Jasiiek is asked by his Communist teacher in school “why do we call Czechoslovakia and East Germany our friends but the Soviet Union our brother?”

the boy is quick to reply “Because you can pick your friends but you’re stuck with your brother.”

Kirk begins by introducing readers to Polish history, especially its twentieth century lot of being consigned behind the Iron Curtain. (A five page outline of Polish history, focusing mostly on the twentieth century, is provided). Special attention is given to World War II (including both Katyń and the Underground Polish resistance). The book then moves through the worker-inspired uprisings of 1956, 1970, and 1976, as well as the student uprising of 1968 and KOR. The election of Karol Wojtyła as Pope and his first visit to Poland is detailed, along with the path to the beginnings of Solidarity in Gdańsk in the summer of 1980. The history of that first phase of free Solidarity (1980-81) is discussed, as well as its brutal persecution under the martial law imposed in 1981. But Solidarity continued its work underground throughout the 1980s (which led, for example, to the murder of Father Jerzy Popiełuszko). Kirk’s story ends with the Roundtable Agreements of 1989, the end of the Polish Peoples’ Republic and, finally, the end of the USSR. Among the biographies included in the book are: Karol Wojtyła, Anna Walentynowicz, Lech Wałęsa, Adam Michnik, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Wojciech Jastrzębski, and Bronisław Geremek.

The book is designed for people

who know little to nothing about Poland: it often provides contexts that a pure history of Solidarity would not. For example, the “geography” component in various chapters introduces readers to Kraków, Warsaw, and Gdańsk. The book is amply illustrated. It includes examples from songs and texts of the time, e.g., “The Ballad of Jacek Wiśniewski,” a poem about the 18-year old killed in the December 1970 food riots in Gdańsk, whose body was borne by workers atop a door in newsreel footage. Each chapter also offers suggestions to view various films, e.g., “Kanał,” or listen to music, e.g., Gorecki’s “Symphony No. 3” to expose readers further to Polish culture.

The book is designed for people who know little to nothing about Poland: it often provides contexts that a pure history of Solidarity would not.

If somebody was teaching a course in Solidarity, this work would be a good textbook. But anybody who wants a good, well-rounded and comprehensive mainstream presentation of Solidarity can read it. Polish American youth will especially learn much about their ancestral homeland in this thoroughly modern presentation.

“Modern?” — Well, the “suggested activities” also include “look up X on the Internet.”

The book ends in 1990 and, of course, subsequent events do raise questions about how we should interpret the history of Solidarity. Solidarity, after all, held together a Catholic wing as well as a wing that was happy to avail itself of Catholic protection even as it would subsequently pursue its own culture war against the “confessional state” once Poland was free. The meaning of the Roundtable Agreements, especially in terms of holding or not holding communists to account for what they did to Poland for forty-some years, also raises questions of how to interpret Solidarity. Lech Wałęsa’s own background remains a subject of controversy. But these issues are beyond the scope of Kirk’s book, which focuses on Solidarity’s “Golden Age” in the 1980s. Awareness of these subsequent issues, however, does not detract from what this book offers.

Know some young people — Polish American or not — who should learn something about Poland and Solidarity at the same time? Want to learn something yourself about those issues in an easy-to-read, well-written book? Consider giving or getting *Be Not Afraid*. Placing a copy in your local library would also be a good idea.

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

Brzezinski’s Future Vision and Our Place in the World

STRATEGIC VISION:

America and the Crisis of Global Power
by Zbigniew Brzezinski
Basic Books, maps, charts, index, notes, 208 pp., \$29.00

Once again, Brzezinski gives the reader thoughtful insight on the state of global affairs and America’s place in the world. He provides a wake-up call to international affairs and their effect on this country. America, recognized as a global super power, is now threatened internally by an unsustainable national debt, a flawed financial system, increased income inequality, decaying national infrastructure, badly needed political reform, and an American public that is highly ignorant about the rest of the world. This internal decline will only provide room for other countries to escalate in power — China, Japan, and India leading the way.

In the last decade of the 20th century this progressive decline in America’s credibility has resulted in anti-American hostility in twenty-five percent of the world’s population. That, coupled with unnecessary wars in the Middle East, could lead to a global crisis.

Brzezinski also points to universal concerns affecting everyone, regardless of nationality. The state of sea, air, space, nuclear, and cyberspace is vital, as is the environment of water, arctic and global climate change. These issues require the cooperation of all nations. A stable global order depends on America’s ability to renew itself and act as a prompter and guarantee of a revitalized West, and a balancer and conciliator in a rising new East.

Brzezinski was former President Jimmy Carter’s National Security Advisor, trustee at John Hopkins University in American Foreign Policy, the nation’s wisest statesman

and far-sighted strategist.

FAR FROM HOME, NEVER TO RETURN
by Nadia Seluga
Martin Sisters Publishing, 2012
210 pp., photos, \$18.95

This memoir, A Polish child’s World War II memoir, is a fine depiction of the horrendous ordeal many Polish families experienced when deported from their small village of Lunin in Eastern Poland to Russia’s Siberian wilderness. Seluga has managed to recollect her two years of starvation, illness in the frozen tundra of Siberia before being told they were free and allowed to leave the area. They, along with hundreds of others had lived in cramped quarters, with lice and bedbugs, and little food or clothing.

With her father and brother in the army, Nadia, her mother and sisters were left to fend for themselves. Families with strong, resourceful mothers survived. The little family joined a group of wandering Polonians heading south, leaving

the freezing cold behind after two months of travel.

From Archangelsk, down across the Soviet Union and Caspian Sea, their journey ended at Lake Victoria in Africa. For the next six years they lived in a Polish settlement, Kojka, with local natives building houses and helping them get settled and adapt to the land and climate.

It is always amazing to me that people can recall these terrible experiences instead of burying them in their subconscious. This book is another case of a little silent chapter in history of World War II.

HARD CURRENCY
A Post-Communist Mystery
by Steven Owad
Five Star Publishing, 2012, 261 pp., \$25.95

In 1992, three years after Communism has ended, remnants of its mentality still remain. Julian, a reporter for the *Warsaw Gazetta*, discovers his sister, Krystyna, committed suicide in a seedy Warsaw apartment. Although Julian has not

heard from his sister in five years, he is convinced she did not commit suicide and seeks out to trace her life and acquaintances in those years. As he locates and interviews her three roommates, he learns about Krystyna’s dark side. His life is threatened when he gets too close to the truth about illegal importers/exporters.

This fast-paced mystery is set in Warsaw and Krakow streets, as well

as the inner caverns of the Wieliczka salt mine. The difficulty the country has in shaking off rampant corruption, illegal businesses and Communist-style operations makes the book that more interesting.

Owad was editor of an English language newspaper in Warsaw after the fall of Communism. He now lives in Canada.

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Our Lady of the Berries painting, Visitation Parish, Krasnobrod, Poland.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on July 2 in Poland, is a feast, accompanied by curious beliefs, celebrations and folk legends of extraordinary beauty. In this Polish folk tradition it is celebrated as the feast of Our Lady of the Berries — *Święto Matki Boskiej Jagodnej*. Folk legend made her the patroness of forest berries and garden. Berries could be gathered and eaten, without harm to health after Saint John's feast day (traditionally - June 24), and it was even better advised after the July feast day of Our Lady.

An aspect to the day applies to women, especially those pregnant or with children, and those who in recent years experienced child deaths, including miscarriage and stillborn. Mothers affected by these calamities, believed deeply that the Blessed Virgin sees their pain and is prepared to take them into her care, in return for a small sacrifice made to appease the dead, or not full-term children.

They believed that if on July 2 they did not collect or eat forest berries, raspberries, strawberries, currants and gooseberries, and devote themselves to prayer to Our Lady of the Berries, she would find cause to move them away from bad omens and they would be able to give birth to healthy and strong offspring — resistant to diseases and witchcraft, and they would be able to enjoy a

KULTURA / Staś Kmieć

Święto Matki Boskiej Jagodnej

joyful motherhood.

It is assumed that the origins of this holiday were derived from earlier, older than Christianity cult ceremonies and offerings of fruits of the earth made in the early years of plenty and fertility deities.

Poetic material and inspiration for the beautiful poem by Leopold Staff came from this folk legend:

(an excerpt)

"Our Lady of the Berries,
Our Lady, Virgin Mary
whose fruitful trees promote
thriving orchards
as you walk through the gardens,
they bloom and sing
kissing to awaken the spring trees.
At night the villagers hear her
singing in dreams —
the call not to eat berries
prematurely,
every berry eaten will subtract a
mother's child..."

PASEK PREMIERES TWO WORKS.

A musical adaptation of *A Christmas Story*, based on the Jean Shepherd stories of the 1960s and the popular 1983 film, is aiming to open on Broadway later this year for a limited run through Thanksgiving and Christmas. The show, which has a score by **Benj Pasek** and Justin Paul and a book by Joseph Robinette,



had a multi-city tour in late 2011, as producers attempted to build a new holiday franchise from a story about a young boy and his Red Ryder

BB gun that is well known from the film's re-runs on television at Christmastime. Pasek and Paul saw their name on a New York marquee when their musical *Dogfight* is began previews in June at Off Broadway's Second Stage Theater. The new musical is an adaptation of the 1991 indie movie. Tony Award winner Joe Mantello (*Wicked*) directed the show, which was choreographed by Christopher Gattelli (*Newsies*). Opening night is scheduled for July 16.

SADOSKI ON STAGE AND SCREEN. American stage, film and television actor, **Thomas Sadoski** originated the role of 'Trip Wyeth' in Jon Robin Baitz's *Other Desert Cities* for which he won an Obie Award and Lucille Lortel Award. After a sold out Off-broadway run, the play transferred to Broadway in November of 2011 and is playing at the Booth Theatre.

Sadoski was cast as a lead in Aaron Sorkin's HBO series *The Newsroom*, which premiered on the cable television station in late June. His previous television work includes multiple guest starring roles in three of the *Law & Order* franchise shows as well as an arc on *As The World Turns* as drug dealer "Jesse Calhoun."



SZYMANOWSKI'S KING ROGER PREMIERES IN SANTA FE. *King Roger (Król Roger)*, the landmark opera by the Polish composer **Karol Szymanowski** that has electrified audiences throughout Europe - will have its first of five performances by The Santa Fe Opera on July 21, continuing through August 14.

The title role of the 12th-century Sicilian king will be sung by the leading Polish baritone and Metropolitan Opera star, **Mariusz Kwiecien**, one of its premier interpreters of the role.

The opera takes place in medieval Sicily, in the realm of King Roger and his wife Roxana, the arrival of a mysterious Shepherd prompts rumors and disturbs every-

day life.

The Santa Fe Opera is one of the most highly acclaimed and innovative summer opera festivals in the nation. This production is made possible with support from the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw and the Polish Cultural Institute New York.

With a libretto by Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz and Karol Szymanowski, the opera in three acts will be sung in Polish with English and Spanish opera titles. The Santa Fe Opera - 301 Opera Drive, Santa Fe, NM.

VANESSA PEREZ PREMIERES CHOPIN CD.

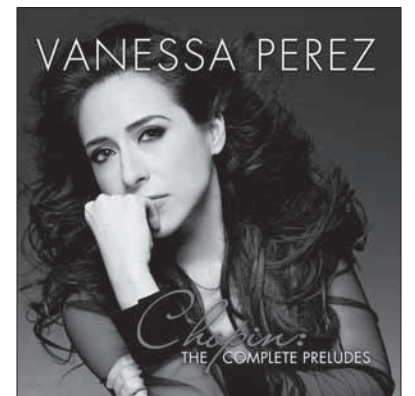
Venezuelan-American pianist Vanessa Perez made her Telarc International debut when the label released her all-Chopin collection, including the 24 Preludes Op. 28, in April in Europe and May in the U.S. Praised for a bold, passionate performing style allied to musicianship of keen sensitivity, Perez has been championed by the most iconic of performers. Conductor Zubin Mehta said of the pianist: "Her level of musical perception and artistic awareness impressed me as much as her total command of the keyboard."

Perez's influences in Chopin's 24 Preludes range from "the poetry and grandeur" of Arrau's Philips recordings - "the way he would sing the melodies on the piano," she says - to "the energy and intensity" of another hero, Martha Argerich, "always a huge inspiration" to her. Perez has made the music of the 24



Preludes - as well as the *Fantasia in F minor Op. 49*, *Barcarolle Op. 60* and two Preludes from Op. 25 - very much her own on the album. "The way I play this music may not be stereotypically 'beautiful' - it may be more raw than some," she says. "But I wanted the music to sound organic and real, above all. I didn't want pretty. I wanted honest."

Chopin is some of the music "closest to my heart," Perez says. "I listened to my mother play Chopin on the piano when I was a child. My grandmother, who lived in Argentina for years, would always tell me about how she used to listen to a neighbor play Chopin's 24 Preludes all day next door. Her favorite was



the last one, in D minor, which is one of my favorites, too. Each of the 24 Preludes may be brief, but they are powerful - each one a whole world of feeling, highly condensed. The way Chopin speaks through the piano is very intimate, very passionate."

Celebrating the release, Perez performed a recital on May 31 at the Americas Society in New York City, with the program including Chopin's 24 Preludes.

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Favorites for the Our Lady of the Berries Feastday

BLUEBERRY PIEROGI (pierogi z jagodami): Remove any leaves or stems from about 1 lb fresh blueberries, rinse and drain well in colander or sieve. Dust berries 1 t potato starch (or cornstarch) to make the cooked filling less runny. For the dough, combine 2 c flour, 1 c dairy sour cream, 1 small egg and 1/2 t salt. Work ingredients together to form a smooth dough and knead briefly. Roll out thin 1/3 of the dough, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn't dry out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a spoonful of blueberries at center of each dough round, bring ends together and pinch edges together to seal. Cook in large pot of boiling slated water, gently stirring occasionally. When they float up, cook another 2 min. Remove with slotted spoon and serve with sugar and sour cream.

STRAWBERRY OMELET (omlet z truskawkami): For each serving allow 2 eggs, 1 t cold water and a pinch of salt. Whisk well and pour mixture into heavy skillet contain-

ing hot unsalted butter (scant T per serving) over entire surface. Cook on low heat, picking up sides with spatula and letting runny egg mixture to flow onto hot surface. It is done when bottom is golden brown and top is set and glistening. Fold in half and serve topped with sliced, sugared strawberry, strawberry preserves or any jam of choice. A dollop of sour cream may be added

STRAWBERRY KISIEL (kisiel truskawkowy): In pot combine 1 c water and app. 1/2 c sugar and bring to boil. Remove from heat. Dissolve 3 T potato starch in 1/2 c cold water, stir into sugar water and slowly bring to boil stirring constantly. Add just under 1 lb hulled, washed, dried, crushed (processed) strawberries. Portion out into dessert bowls pre-rinsed with cold water. Chill. Serve kisiel (pronounced: KEY-shell) with cold coffee cream, half & half or vanilla sauce (The latter can be easily whipped up by combining 1 c cold milk with just enough instant vanilla pudding mix to produce a nice, pourable sauce!)

STRAWBERRIES & SOUR CREAM (truskawki ze śmietaną): Hull, wash and drain fresh strawberries and cut small ones in half and slice larger ones. Fill individual dessert dishes and provide sweetened sour cream (1 c sour cream fork-blended with a heaping T confectioner's sugar) for your guests, allowing app. 1/4-1/3 c sweetened sour cream per serving.

STRAWBERRY ICE-CUP (puchar lodowy z truskawkami): Hull, wash and drain 1 qt fresh, ripe strawberries. Halve or slice strawberries of roughly equal size and sprinkle with sugar (app. 1 T sugar per 1 c berries). Let stand 30 min at room temp. Into parfait glasses place 1 scoop vanilla ice cream or frozen vanilla-flavored yogurt, a heaping T sugared strawberries, add another scoop ice cream, top with another spoonful of strawberries and, if the parfait glass permits, add another scoop ice cream and top with a little more strawberry mixture. Top with a dollop of real whipped cream and crown with 1 nice, whole, unblemished strawberry.

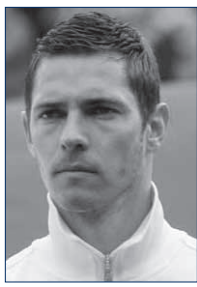


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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

His Heart is Polish

Some of the discussion in Poland during Euro 2012 centered on whether some of the Polish players were really Polish. French-born Polish soccer stars



Ludovic Obraniak (above, right) and **Damien Perquis** (below, left) had to respond to claims that they didn't fit into the Polish squad.



"I've been in the squad for more than two years, and today I feel like I'm Polish. I love Poland, I love the Poles, and I love my team mates too."

Bordeaux midfielder Obraniak said in heavily-accented Polish, drawing applause from reporters. Obraniak said he was angry at having been misquoted in a French magazine interview which made headlines in Poland because he purportedly complained of feeling like a fish out of water in the side. Obraniak, whose grandfather was born in Poland, received Polish citizenship in 2009 and quickly became a key player for the national team, scoring five goals in 23 matches.

FIFA allows youth internationals to switch country relatively easily, but senior side members cannot.

The 28-year-old Perquis, whose

grandmother is Polish and will be in the stands for the tournament opener, received his Polish citizenship in September 2011. "I was born in France, but during my life my grandmother gave me some Polish blood, it's true, and my heart is Polish too," he said. "I don't know. Some people make problems generally about this. Sure, I don't speak (the language), but I'm a Polish guy too."

Perquis has been a particular target of **Jan Tomaszewski**, Poland's 1970s goalkeeping icon who is now a right-wing MP and known for controversial outbursts. "I don't want this kind of player in the national team," Tomaszewski told AFP. "They didn't make it in their country's senior team, so they chose to play for Poland. How can you motivate young Polish lads if they don't have a chance of making it into the national team?"

Some have responded to Tomaszewski by pointing out there are only a handful of players with foreign links in the squad. They also note that the Polish football association began scouting abroad after criticism for losing players like German stars Lukas Podolski and Miroslav Klose, both born in Poland but raised in Germany.

OFF TO LONDON. Archer **Jake Kaminski** achieved one of his dreams by qualifying for the US Olympic team competing in London.

Kaminski started with the sport at a very young age growing up in

Elma, N.Y., outside of Buffalo. He says he became more interested in baseball but his parents wouldn't let him quit. Six years ago, moved to the Olympic training center in Chula Vista, California to begin pursuing his Olympic dream. He missed the cut for the Beijing games in 2008, but has now qualified for London.

"I'm very, very happy to have finally gotten there. It makes it all worth it ... and you know I'm definitely happy to be able to represent my family, my hometown ... you know Buffalo, New York. Everybody that has ever supported me." Kaminski says he plans to return home on or about July 5, and will donate close to \$18,000 in equipment he's gotten from sponsors to a local program.

His mother, Suzanne Linde, owns and operates the family business Pumpernick & Pastry in Buffalo, an award-winning bakery best known for its pączki.

PICKED BY THE METS. Purdue catcher **Kevin Plawecki** was drafted 35th overall by the New York Mets during the compensatory part of the first round of the Major League Baseball draft.

Baseball America ranked Plawecki as the top Indiana-based draft-eligible player and 67th nationally.

"Obviously, he's an offensive guy," said *Baseball America* executive editor Jim Callis. He said that Plawecki reminds him of longtime Chicago White Sox catcher A.J. Pierzynski. "He never strikes out.

Defensively, he's kind of freaky. His arm is not real strong, but he's got a quick release."

Earlier the 6-foot-1, 215-pound Plawecki was selected one of three finalists for the Johnny Bench Award, which goes to the top NCAA Division I catcher.

Plawecki batted .359 with seven home runs and 47 RBIs. He led the Big Ten with 20 doubles and struck out just eight times in 223 at-bats. Plawecki has started 166 of 168 games at Purdue and never hit lower than .341 in a season. He struck out just 29 times in 638 collegiate at-bats.

At Purdue, Plawecki has been allowed to call pitches since midway through his freshman season. That's very unusual in amateur baseball, where coaches usually call pitches from the bench.

BATTLING SHARKS. Polish adventurer **Jan Lisewski's** effort to kite surf the 124 miles from Egypt to Saudi Arabia ended up with him battling against a pack of hungry sharks. He survived by using his knife. "I was stabbing them in the eyes, the nose and gills," he later told the Polish state news agency PAP. "This battle, which by some miracle I managed to emerge victorious, lasted all night long."

Kite surfing is an extreme sport in which the rider uses a special kite to harness the wind and propel him across the water. Lisewski, a native of Gdansk, became the first person to kite surf across the Baltic Sea last year.

The forecast for Lisewski's journey across the Red Sea called for favorable winds, but the winds died a bit more than halfway through. Lisewski said he sent out an SOS signal right away, but it took the Saudi Arabian Coast Guard nearly 40 hours to find him.

"In comparison with the second night, the first was quiet," he told PAP. "I finished the water and ate my energy bars, but I still had two energy drinks." He also turned the kite into a raft he could sleep in.

At one point, Lisewski said, the wind pushed him close to shore, but then changed and sent him back out to sea. "I could see fishing boats

and I set off an emergency flare," he said. "But I guess they didn't see it."

At dawn Lisewski found himself close to a reef. "Sharks were circling. Some of them were two, five, six meters long," he said. "In total, I counted eleven of them." When night fell, the sharks moved in and attacked. He was able to repel them with the knife. By morning the sharks were gone.

Later that day more sharks circled very close to the raft, but they didn't attack. Hours later he was spotted by a helicopter, and he was rescued by the Saudi Arabian Coast Guard—40 hours after his ordeal started. Other than exhaustion and dehydration, the 42-year-old Lisewski suffered no injuries.

THEY SAID IT

"Just work harder every day. Whatever I did last year, I've got to work harder than I did last year during the offseason, and during camp and during the season. Just at all times, work harder and outdo it in the weight room, conditioning-wise, what I did the year before."

— *New England Tight End Rob Gronkowski, on how he can improve on last season's 18 total touchdowns, 1,327 receiving yards and seven multiple-touchdown games, as well as elite blocking, that established him as the best tight end in the game.*

"At first I'll say that I owe surviving it to my brother Piotr, who forced me to take a knife. Maybe he had some kind of premonition."

— *Kitesurfer Jan Lisewski, quoted on www.kitemovement.com. Jan doesn't usually carry a knife, but was able to survive shark attacks while stranded in the Red Sea with the weapon.*

"I'm the mother of an Olympian ... Buffalo's best kept secret ... Jake Kaminski. He did not make the cut for Beijing, but he's going to London ... Oh my God! I feel like I'm going to spontaneously combust."

— *Suzanne Linde, mother of Olympic archer Jake Kaminski, in an interview with WGRZ-TV.*

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POLISH GIFT OF LIFE. Dla Zycia Dziecka. We are a group of dedicated volunteers that comprise the Polish Gift of Life, Inc. With your support for the past 31 years, we have assisted in saving the lives of almost 400 Polish children (16 in 2010), who suffer from heart-related illnesses. Surgery is performed by Polish pediatric cardiologist Dr. Edward Malec. Sick children wait for our help to lead a healthy, normal life. Join in this mission. Together we can fulfill their dream. To find us: The Polish Gift of Life, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Albertson, NY 11507-0273, or call (516) 746-1532 or (516) 371-5156. Thank you! Dziękuję bardzo!



THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



COMMUTING TO AND FRO. Rzeszow, Poland, May 20, 1976.

HISTORY IN ART / Staś Kmiec

The Standard of Pułaski's Legion

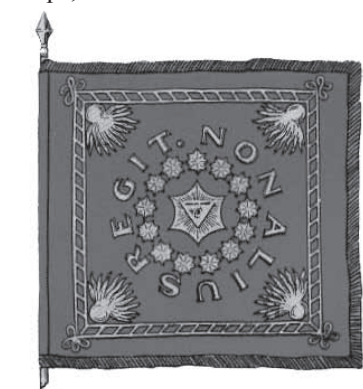
George Washington and Kazimierz Pułaski (Casimir Pulaski) are depicted in Arthur Szyk's painting standing before the standard of Pułaski's Legion. The standard is preserved at the Maryland Historic Society in Baltimore as "one of the most precious relics of the American Revolution."

Pułaski was a military commander for the Bar Confederation and fought against Russian domination of the Polish Commonwealth. When this uprising failed, he immigrated to North America. After arriving in America, Pułaski wrote to Washington, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."

During the American Revolutionary War, he saved the life of George Washington and became a general in the Continental Army. Pułaski is one of only seven people to be awarded honorary United States citizenship.

At his suggestion, which was adopted by Washington, Congress authorized the formation of a corps of lancers and light infantry. This corps, which became famous un-

der the name of the Pulaski Cavalry Legion, was recruited mainly in Baltimore. It was one of the few cavalry regiments in the American Continental Army. Pułaski was put at its head. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow commemorated in verse this episode of Pułaski's life.



The cohort's banner, known as the Standard of Pułaski's Legion was carried in many battles of the American Revolution by this Pol-

ish hero and American General. The banner was made by Moravian nuns of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and presented to Colonel Pułaski by the patriotic women of Baltimore in



1778, when he organized an independent corps of 68 horse and 200 foot soldiers at Baltimore. Pułaski bore this banner gallantly through many battles, until he was mortally wounded at Savannah, on October 9, 1779. His adjutant, though wounded himself, returned the banner to Baltimore where it is preserved at the museum of the Maryland Historical Society.

The banner is of yellow silk with the letters 'U.S.' in the center and in a circle around them in Latin, 'Union makes valor.' On the reverse side, with 13 stars surrounding a six pointed star and set with a triangle, base at the top, with four bombs in the corners of a square border, all in gold in a scarlet field is the motto, also in Latin, "Non Alius Regis" (No other governs).

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the "Hymn of the Moravian Nuns of Bethlehem at the Consecration of Pułaski's Banner":

... "Take thy banner! May it wave Proudly o'er the good and brave; When the battle's distant wail Breaks the sabbath of our vale. When the clarion's music thrills To the hearts of these lone hills, When the spear in conflict shakes, And the strong lance shivering breaks..."

REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

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The Sacred Heart Parish was founded in 1905 by the early Polish settlers of Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County. Services in the first church were held Dec. 9, 1906. The Rev. Hugo Krol, C.M., Lazorist, a Vencientian priest, was the first pastor.

The Polish immigrants, driven from their native land by persecution and economic conditions, began to settle in Swedesburg in 1880.

Before the founding of Sacred Heart Parish, the settlers worshipped in Irish parishes, and later in Polish parishes in Philadelphia, a distance of twelve miles.

The present Sacred Heart Church was erected in 1927.

In 2006, the parish observed its 100th anniversary with many events culminated by special services presided by Cardinal Justin Rigali of the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

Presently, there are 700 families in the parish.

— Ed Dybicz



Would you like to see your parish featured in "Reflections"? Please send a photo and a few paragraphs about the parish. While we appreciate full histories, we do not have space to print them. Please provide us with a photo or two of the interior and/or exterior. We can accept digital photos via e-mail if they are of high resolution (300 dpi or greater). Please include: Name of church, year opened (year closed if no longer open), street and city, any identifiable people in the photo, and any special memory you may have of the church. Additional information may include: pastor, school status, or, if closed, name of last pastor, name of new merged parish, etc. All denominations welcome.

SURNAME CORNER

Wake Up, Budzynie!

by Robert Strybel

Consider giving a loved one (or yourself) a unique, different and unusual gift of Polish heritage which can be passed down from one generation to the next — a Polish surname analysis.

Every Polish last name means something and came into being for a specific reason. Here are few taken from the PAJ's subscription list:

Budzynie: Probable root "budzić" (to waken); probable source one of numerous localities in Poland called Budzynie (Wakeville).

Koczera: Variant form of "kuczer" (coachman).

Mięsowicz: Patronymic tag for the son of someone nicknamed Mięso (meat).

For a custom-researched analysis of how your Polish surname came about, how many people share it, where they live and whether it is accompanied by a noble coat-of-arms, please airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish researched) to: Robert Strybel, ulica Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

Also included free of charge is a genealogical contact chart (root-tracing websites, data bases, organizations and firms) which has helped many Polish Americans get started in their ancestral exploration. The list includes professional genealogists qualified to track down family records, photograph or videotape ancestral homesteads and graves and possibly even turn up living long-lost relatives in the Old Country.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Using the Internet for Genealogy Research

After you have found all the documents saved by your ancestors, you have to begin searching for records at other locations.

The number of records available on the internet has recently increased significantly and searching these records offers a very good strategy as the next step in your efforts. Most online databases can be searched by the names of your ancestors and this will allow you to find more documents in a shorter time period. Note that the online resources are only a place to start your research. If the online database is only an index that lists basic information, you will need to use the description and source information of the database to find where to go for the actual record. It is important to obtain the actual document because the online index may show inaccurate information and the actual document may contain additional information.

Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org are the two major genealogy websites. You should be able to find

a great deal of information from the databases on these two websites but more can be found at Cyndislist.com. Many U.S. states and counties have also made many of their records available online.

The following are records that you can find online either as an index or document:

- Census
- Birth
- Marriage
- Death
- Obituaries
- Passenger manifests
- Naturalization

Remember to evaluate your data as you find the documents. What you find may be for your ancestor but it might be for someone else. If you use erroneous data you will waste time researching people that are not in your family.

Future columns will give an explanation of the genealogical importance of each of these records and discuss some of the sources where they can be found.



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IN MEMORIAM

Joseph A. Kozlowski Kane, Fraternalist, Club Organizer

ERIE, Pa. — Civic leader and “Good Kane” Joseph A. (Kozlowski) Kane, 97, a resident of St. Mary's Home of Erie East, passed away peacefully there Saturday, March 3, 2012. He was the oldest in his family of six children and helped raise his siblings after his father died when Kane was only 14 years old. He started his working career as an *Erie Times-News* carrier in the 1920s, and as a messenger for the old *Postal Telegraph*. Kane was a *Times* Old Newsie since 1949 and served as president for several years.

He worked as a Chief Machinist at Copes-Vulcan during World War II. He held the position of Pennsylvania Bureau of Traffic Safety Representative until retirement in 1980, during which time he taught driving safety courses and promoted safe driving across several Pa. counties.

He married his wife, Della Dorau on Valentine's Day in 1942.

Club life was his biggest passion. He was Manager and Secretary of the Polish National Alliance Club and the Arbeiter Club and member of many Erie clubs. He held various leadership positions in the Erie County Federation of Clubs and the Pennsylvania Federation of Clubs, including president for over 50 years (1944 on). He started the National



JOE KANE and Cardinals' great Stan Musial.

Polish Alliance Bowling League in 1944 and organized bowling tournaments to include bowlers from all over the nation beginning in Erie in 1946 and ran the tournaments in many U.S. cities for several years. He was also a member of the Optimist Club where he received the Erie Optimist of the Year award.

In May of 1959, at the request of President Eisenhower, and representing the *Polish American Journal* with then-editor Henry Dende, Kane was a member of a select

group of newspaper reporters who were the first Americans to visit Poland after World War II.

In an interview with PAJ editor Mark Kohan in 1983, Kane said he and other members of the group visiting Poland often acted as couriers between Western and anti-Communist contacts, sometimes carrying papers in the lining of his coat.

He met with President John F. Kennedy as part of the first Polish American delegation in March 1961.

In 1983, Kane sponsored the Small Games of Chance Bill to revitalize Pennsylvania clubs.

He was a freelance sports photographer for the *Erie Times-News* and he accompanied the late Gene Cuneo to baseball All-Star and World Series games. He served as the Promotion Director for Boys Baseball of Erie for many years after it began in 1952. Kane brought Big Ball to Erie and organized an Eastside-Slow Pitch softball league. For his efforts, Kane was inducted into the Erie Big Ball Hall of Fame in 2009. Kane arranged over two dozen testimonial dinners for notable Erieites and fundraisers for local charities. In 1959, over 700 people attended a testimonial dinner in his honor at the East Erie Turners. March 7, 1959 was proclaimed “Joseph A. Kane Day” for his contribution to the Erie community.

He always wanted to be on-the-go and enjoyed traveling to Napa Valley, California with his wife, Della, to visit her family. Kane was a true gentleman and always took the time to help someone. He will be fondly remembered as truly a “Good Joe,” and for his gentle happy-go-lucky manner, interesting stories, and great sense of humor.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

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“In other words, we want to bring our compatriots a small part of their motherland directly to their hands,” said Oskar Grochowolski of Soil-From-Poland.

“We strongly believe that the sight of pots with rye growing out of Polish soil will bring back memories of the most beautiful, rural Polish fields, thus reminding you of Polish roots and traditions,” he said.

Grochowolski said one aspect of his new venture came as an afterthought: He received requests from Poles living abroad who wished to maintain the ancient tradition of scattering Polish soil on the graves of their loved ones. For this, Soil-From-Poland offers blessed soil in a tasteful, black bag.

“We sincerely hope our products will be a perfect and touching gift for all Poles living in the United States, Canada, and abroad that entail a lot of emotion and reflection over Polish land,” said Grochowolski.

For more information and pricing, visit www.soil-from-poland.com.

Estelle Phyllis Wachtel-Torres, M.D., Active in Polonian Organizations

Estelle Phyllis von Wachtel-Torres, 92, was the only child of Pioneers of the Professional Polish Stage in the United States and Pioneers of Polish Radio Broadcasting in Detroit, Mich. She was born in Chicago, Ill., as was her mother, Gertrude Irene Wiéckowska. Her father, Stanley Zenon Wachtel, however, was born and educated in Lwów before arriving in this country in 1912. When their baby, Stasia, was born in 1919, the young family ventured forth to try new venues in Detroit, Cleveland, Newark and Buffalo. The Wachtel family effected a major life style change when they embarked on careers in Polish language radio work in 1933. This was the heyday of Polish radio

and Stasia found herself in the thick of it. At 15, Stasia was the moderator of a Saturday children's program called “Przyciociolka Stasia.” In her best Polish, she entertained youthful listeners with scripted stories, poetic recitations, educational quizzes and riddles. After a whole summer's run, The Lutnia Cultural and Singing Society of Detroit presented Stasia with a handsomely engraved medal for her work with Polish American Children. But the good days came to an abrupt end in 1944 when all foreign programming was suspended for national security reasons. It was also time for Stasia, Estelle now, to pay attention to her new obligations at Wayne State University College of Medicine. Estelle's studies did

not entirely preclude her involvement with Polish American organizations. She continued membership in such fraternal as the Polish National Alliance and the Polish Falcons; she had been an officer in the Filaret Society for three years and remained actively supportive of it. At Wayne, she met classmate Raul Marcelino Torres whom she married in their senior year. After completing medical training, they established their practices in Detroit. They raised four daughters who attended their Alma Mater in that city. In addition to their respective medical societies, they became active members of the Polish American Medical Dental Arts Club, The Friends of Polish Art Club of De-

troit and the Kosciuszko Foundation. Estelle became custodian of the Wachtel vast library of manuscripts, plays, professional photographs, and theatrical / radio artifacts after the demise of her mother. In retirement, she served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Polish Art for three years where she initiated the first PAAA Short Story Competition. Estelle was a lifelong participant in American-Polonian activities.

Dr. Torres' friendships were a testimony to her unique style, warm spirit and cosmopolitan perspective. A celebration of Estelle's life will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy.

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Songstress, Promoter Teresa Zapolska

Teresa Zapolska, one-time lead female vocalist of the Bernie Witkowski and Frank Wojnarowski orchestras, died May 9.

Zapolska grew up in Jamaica, N.Y. During her early years in school, she was taught the piano by the nuns and played for Polish shows held at the school. At the request of her mother, she also began singing and accordion lessons.

At an early age, her polka career began with the Bernie Witkowski Orchestra, for the grand opening of Polkas on Broadway at the Arcadia Ballroom; for the Kosciuszko Ball in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City; as well as at scores of other famous locations. Not only did she sing with the Witkowski's band, she also composed and orchestrated polkas and Polish songs.

With this new-found popularity, Zapolska was, at one point, performing with a total of twenty bands. Her extensive career in polka music took her to working not only with Frank Wojnarowski, but also as vocalist for such great artists as Bernie Witkowski, Mike Miskiewicz, John Tyburczy, Eddie Gronet, Ted Maksymowicz, Joe Yasinowski, Larry Chesky, Eddie “D” Dmukowski, Ed Zavaski, Sr., the G.T. Express

and many more. Having difficulty switching between bands, she decided to go with just one band; she chose Frank Wojnarowski.

Zapolska's recordings with these artists can be found on the RCA Victor, Musico, Rex, Silverbill, Dana, Rolo, Dyno, Rim, Eurotone and Polka Towne record labels. In 2008 her record label, Polka Towne, was in its 45th year in existence.

Initially, Wojnarowski wasn't extremely comfortable with Zapolska. Within a short time, however, he grew very fond of her. She admitted to idolizing Wojnarowski and his wonderful music, and wrote many songs for him. He was so impressed with her work, he never questioned any song she gave him. He just used it. Not only did she sing, write many of Wojnarowski's songs and orchestrate them, she also made the costumes for the band and handled his bookings.

Zapolska teamed with Wojnarowski to run two big polka festivals — one in Manhattan Center in New York City and the other in Bridgeport, Connecticut at Pleasure Beach Ballroom. Upon Wojnarowski's retirement in 1975, Zapolska began her own band, the Teresa Zapolska Orchestra, then the Teresa Zapolska All Girl Orchestra Plus

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Zapolska was also president and floral designer at Polka Towne Florist and Gifts, where she oversaw all operations and floral design certifications.

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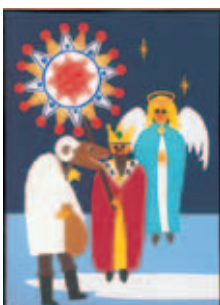
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