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**TIME FOR A POLISH "GATHERING" • KUDOS FOR ROG • BISHOP VS. NUN ON GAY MARRIAGE • WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING
ONLINE SOURCES OF POLISH RECORDS • A REPORT FROM THE PUNISHMENT COMPANY • THE RETURN OF COACH K
SAFE! BASEBALL IN POLAND • FAVORITE FRUIT DISHES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUMMER'S BOUNTY**

NEWSMARK

WORKING WITH THE BEST. Nearly 100 airmen with the Wisconsin Air National Guard arrived at Lask Air Base, Poland, to train with the Polish Air Force.

The event is geared toward enhancing the skills of U.S. and Polish F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots as they conduct simulated air-combat scenarios with other aircraft, including MiG-29s and Su-22s.

Polish Air Force Colonel Krystian Zięć, 32nd Tactical Air Base commander, said this is a unique opportunity for the United States and Poland to strengthen interoperability as NATO allies.

"Frankly speaking, the U.S. Air Force, as far as I'm concerned, is the best air force in the world," Zięć said. "If we have the opportunity to fly and train, we want to do that with the best."

DIARY MAY PROVIDE CLUES. Federal authorities have found 400 long-missing pages from a diary kept by a key aide to Adolf Hitler at a small academic publishing house in Lewiston, N.Y. Experts say the find may shed new light on the extermination of millions during World War II.

The missing diary pages, written by Hitler confidant Alfred Rosenberg, turned up in the possession of Herbert Richardson, the head of Edwin Mellen Press, a small academic publishing house based near Buffalo.

The diary is the second major trove of Nuremberg war crimes trial evidence to be found in Richardson's possession in the past 13 years.

Rosenberg was a Nazi government minister and Hitler adviser who was convicted of crimes against humanity at the international war crimes trials at Nuremberg in 1946 and subsequently hanged.

AP SAYS FORMER NAZI LIVING IN MINNESOTA. An Associated Press report said a 94-year-old Ukrainian immigrant in Minneapolis is a former Nazi unit commander, responsible for the deaths of Poles during World War II.

Prosecutors in Poland, where Michael Karkoc reportedly served, announced they would investigate Karkoc and give "every possible assistance" to the US Department of Justice, according to AP. The report added that German authorities were also looking into the allegations with an eye toward prosecution.

Though Karkoc served in two units that were on a U.S. blacklist — the Ukrainian Self-Defense Legion, which has been accused of burning villages full of women and children, and the Galician Division of the SS — he emigrated to the United States in 1949 by lying about his military service, AP reports. He became a naturalized American citizen in 1959.

Karkoc's family said the AP report is truthless, calling it "sensationalistic and scandalous."

TRAGEDY AVERTED. A 16-year-old Detroit resident is accused of domestic terrorism for making "credible" threats of violence against the St. Mary's Polish Festival in Orchard Lake, Oakland County sheriff's officials say. The teen now faces a 20-year felony and is being detained in Oakland County's Children's Village juvenile facility.

The Orchard Lake Police Department and Oakland County Sheriff's Office received information from the parents of an Orchard Lake St. Mary's student about threats he'd seen made against the festival on social media.

The fair draws more than 100,000 visitors over the Memorial Day weekend.

WHAT COMES AROUND ... A Foucault Pendulum, over 100-feet long, has been installed in Torun, birthplace of astronomer Copernicus (nee Mikołaj Kopernik), the discoverer of the heliocentric universe.

The pendulum, which demonstrates the Earth's rotation, is the first major exhibit to be installed at the emerging Mill of Knowledge Modernity Centre. The exhibit follows French physicist Leon Foucault, whose famed pendulum was a landmark device in demonstrating how the earth revolved. Foucault performed the first public demonstration in Paris in February 1851.

Cementing the Bonds of Friendship



BIPARTISAN SENATE CAUCUS ON POLAND FORMED. On Tuesday, June 4, Senate Polish Caucus Co-Chair Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) along with Senators Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) met with Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski and Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf in the U.S. Capitol to announce the formation of the Senate Caucus on Poland to promote and strengthen the historic friendship between the United States and Poland.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) was joined by co-chairs Senators Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) to announce the formation of the Senate Caucus on Poland during a meeting at the United States Capitol with Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski and Polish Ambassador Ryszard

Schnepf. Members of the bipartisan Senate Caucus on Poland will work together to promote and strengthen the historic friendship between the United States and Poland.

"Today I'm proud to be joined by my colleagues to announce the formation of the bipartisan Senate Caucus on Poland to promote and strengthen the endearing

and enduring relationship between the United States and Poland," Senator Mikulski said. "The Polish people resisted the yoke of communist oppression for decades after World War II, and their heroic and peaceful resistance hastened the end of the Soviet Union and the emergence of one Europe, whole and free.

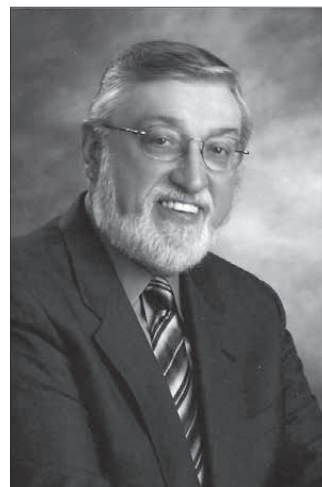
See "Caucus," page 4

Speaking as "Polish Americans"

An Interview with Dr. Thaddeus "Ted" Radziłowski

Dr. Thaddeus ("Ted") Radziłowski is currently President of the Piast Institute in Hamtramck, Michigan, a leading think tank dedicated to Polish American issues. Prior to assuming leadership of Piast, Radziłowski—a professional historian with expertise in Russia (Ph.D., University of Michigan)—was President (1995-2003) of St. Mary's College, the now defunct college-level program of the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan. He was also a professor of history at Southwestern Minnesota State University (where he played a major role in the institution's Polish American archival program) and at Madonna University. He was awarded the Polish Order of Merit in 1999. He spoke with John Grondelski:

Although American Polonia's roots go back to Panna Maria in 1854, massive Polish immigration arrived in the late 1800s/early 1900s,



RADZIŁOWSKI

with a major transfusion of political émigrés after World War II. Today, immigration has slowed. What does American Polonia look like as a community today?

About 95% of current Polonia is made up of people born in the United States. Only 5% were born abroad, mostly in Poland, and half of them (48.1%) came before 1990. There are certain

constants here: Polonia from its origins was a new American society with deep roots in Polish culture and history and a large contingent of foreign-born members. The foreign-born cohort has declined significantly. About 125,000 people who identify themselves as Polish-Americans—and I stress they self-identify—are of mixed race. They are, perhaps, forced to think more deeply about whom they are and how they are Polish than the rest of us. In this age of multiple identities an example to all of us to ponder more deeply how we are Polish. We need to be proud of and confident in the attractiveness of our culture and history. They re-affirm that.

There are lots of Polish immigrants—legal and illegal—from the 1980s and 1990s. Today, that pressure seems off, as the stream towards America is getting

See "Radziłowski," page 3

Brzezinski Questions U.S. Policy on Syria

WASHINGTON, N.Y. — Talking on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," June 14, former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski called the Obama Administration's strategy to the growing conflict in Syria as "chaotic."



BRZEZINSKI

On June 13, Administration officials say the regime of Bashar Assad had crossed a "red line" when it began the use of chemical weapons in its fight against opposition forces. President Obama has authorized direct U.S. military support to the rebels.

Brzezinski said the White House has not developed a specific strategy, noting the U.S. is using "slogans" about how many people Assad's regime has killed — when, in fact, there's killing on both sides.

"It all seems to me rather sporadic, chaotic, unstructured," he charged. "I don't see any real strategic guid-

See "Syria ..." page 4

Mitchell Wins Tony Award



MITCHELL. Tony number two.

by Staś Kmieć

NEW YORK — Jerry Mitchell brought home his 2nd Tony Award at this year's ceremony on June 9 for his choreography in *Kinky Boots* — which received 6 Awards including "Best Musical." He was also nominated in the "Best Director" category.

Born in Paw Paw, Michigan, Mitchell is proud of his half-Polish lineage.

See "Mitchell," page 4

ALMANAC



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July Lipiec

"Count Pulaski of Poland, an officer famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defence [sic] of the liberties of his country against the three great invading powers of Russia, Austria and Prussia ... may be highly useful to our service."

— Benjamin Franklin, recommending Casimir Pulaski to George Washington.

1 1926. Opening of the Ben Franklin Bridge (then known as Delaware River Bridge) built by **Ralph Modjeski**.

2 **MATKA BOSKA JAGODNA**
Blessed Virgin of the Berries. The first fruits and wild berries are ripened by this day.

3 1619. Account of strike by Polish settlers in **Jamestown, Virg.** entered into records of the Virginia Company.

4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY. (U.S.)**
1943. Death in an plane crash of **Wladyslaw Sikorski**, Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile, and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces.

5 1945. Polish American World War II ace **Col. Francis Gabreski** scores his 28th downed enemy plane.

6 1923. Birth of **Wojciech Jaruszelski**, Polish army officer, political leader who declared martial law in Poland in an attempt to crush the Solidarity union.

7 1572. Death of **King Zygmunt August**, last of Poland's Jagiellonian dynasty.

8 1824. Birth of **Wlodzimierz Krzyzhanowski** (d. 1887), Union officer.

10 1835. Birth of composer and violinist **Henry Wieniawski**.

11 1938. Death of **Mother Coletta Hilbert**, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph.

13 2000. Death of **Jan Karski**, former Polish diplomat who in 1942 tried to warn Great Britain and the United States of Nazi atrocities in occupied Poland.

14 1904. Birth of writer **Isaac Bashevis Singer** in Radzymin, Poland.

15 1410. Polish victory over the Teutonic Knights at **Grunwald**.

16 **SAINT KUNEGUNDA**

17 1629. Birth of Poland's warrior king, **Jan Sobieski**.

18 **ST. SIMON OF LIPNICA**
Bernadine Franciscan of Lipnica (1482), 15th Century Polish church reformer, canonized June 3, 2007.

19 1980. **Lt. Col. Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.

20 1936. Birth of Maryland Senator **Barbara Mikulski**.

21 1901. Dedication of **St. Josaphat Basilica**, Milwaukee.

22 1515. Emperor Maximilian and Vladislav of Bohemia forged an alliance between the Habsburg [Austria] and Jagiello [Polish-Lithuanian] dynasties in Vienna.

25 **ST. JACOB THE GREATER**
1434. Coronation of **Wladyslaw III of Varna**.

26 **ST. ANN**

31 1928. **Halina Konopaczka** wins Poland's first Olympic gold in discus.



Sto lat, Basia!

VIEWPOINTS

Time for a Polish "Gathering"

2013 is the "Year of the Gathering." What's that, you ask? If you are Irish-American, or have any contact with any Irish organizations, you'll know that the Irish Government is promoting 2013 as a year of tourism to Ireland. Under the auspices of the "Gathering," Dublin wants Irish-Americans to come back to the "old country" and renew old ties. Ireland also wants folks who have never been there to come and know the country better.

"Gathering 2013" is a "celebration of all things Irish," insists the Irish Tourist Board. It's a well-coordinated plan, bringing together folk festivals, tourist visits, sum-

mer schools, golfing vacations, high school and family reunions, fairs, and everything else under its banner. Take a look at the impressive website Irish Tourism has mounted: www.discoverireland.com

Ireland's not doing too well: the Celtic Tiger got defanged, and the Irish economy got into a tailspin. But rather than sit and cry, Ireland decided to have a party ... which also happens to be a great way to bring in tourist dollars. But Irish Tourism isn't packaging the "Gathering" as a money-maker (although it has great potential in that department) but as a "family reunion," a reunion of "the great Irish clan."

We'd welcome to see the Polish National Tourist Office do something similar. Ireland and Poland both have large diasporas scattered around the world: in the 19th century, American Polonia was even called Poland's "Fourth Partition" (alongside the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian zones) because of its size. We'd love to be beckoned back "home" to the "family reunion."

Do we need an excuse to organize a Polish "Gathering?" It's always time to come home, to reconnect with the Polish family. It's also always time for Poland to make new friends with our non-Polish acquaintances. Perhaps 2015 or 2016

would be good times to plan such an affair. At the same time, Poland has some important anniversaries in the next few years. 1914 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, the 75th anniversary of the start of World War II, and the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the end of communism. Except for the last, they aren't the happiest of days, but important dates in Polish, European, and world history. If it's too late to organize something that quickly, let's not forget that 2018 will be the centenary of Poland's recovery of independence, certainly an event worthy of sustained celebration.

Ireland's planned a year-long, island-wide celebration. Isn't it about time for a Polish party?

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Those Muscular Poles

At least there's one NATO ally not gutting its defenses.

The Wall Street Journal
May 23, 2013

Britain plans to mothball its single aircraft carrier and shrink its standing army to a size last seen by Napoleon. France is cutting its rapid deployment forces almost in half. Then there's Poland, the exception to Europe's feverish disarmament.

The Poles already have the Continent's seventh-largest army and are adding to it. This year's defense budget is 7% higher than in 2012. Even more eye-catching is Poland's decision to devote 140 billion zlotys (\$43 billion) over the next decade—a third of all military spending—to upgrade and purchase equipment.

A brutal 20th-century history may predispose the Poles to pay for stability in Europe and a strong trans-Atlantic alliance. New ships, better tanks and unmanned drones will spruce up a force saddled with lots of Soviet-era hardware. But a quarter of the modernization budget is going to an antimissile shield on NATO's eastern flank to complement America's efforts to strengthen defenses against ballistic strikes.

"Viewed from across the Atlantic, this is precisely the kind of forward-looking, strategic thinking that Washington should seek to replicate across NATO—and at scale," notes Peter Doran of the Center for European Policy Analysis, a Washington think tank.

With the U.S. cutting the Pentagon and retrenching from Europe—two of four Army brigades on the Continent are on their way home—

Europeans will need to pick up the slack. The days of free riding under the American defense umbrella are ending. For NATO to stay remotely relevant, Europe needs militaries modern enough to deploy alongside the U.S.

The Poles are doing their part, and there's a lesson for others here. The first step is a serious political commitment to security. The country's leaders recognize growing threats to the south (from Islamists in Africa and the Middle East) and from an authoritarian Russia to the east. Warsaw wants to play a leadership role in its region. Poland's economic resilience also made it possible to invest in defense. Alone in the EU, Poland avoided a recession in the last four years and despite a recent slowdown it is one of only five European NATO countries to spend at least 1.9% of GDP on defense.

Ronald Reagan once said strength in the world begins with strength at home. The Poles, who recently put up a monument to the Gipper in central Warsaw, have taken the message to heart.

The Best Advice I've Ever Received

by **Craig Matters**
Managing Editor
Money Magazine
July 2013

When thinking about this month's cover package, "Best Money Advice Now," I kept returning to something my grandmother used to say: "Life is full of hills and valleys — and you hope that you'll have a few more hills."

My grandmom knew from valleys, especially economic ones. The

daughter of Polish immigrant farmers, she was working in the textile mills by age 10. The din of the machinery would cost her much of her hearing. With little formal schooling, she was self-conscious enough about her penmanship that she dictated letters for my grandfather to write. Near the end of the Depression, when my grandfather left her and my dad and uncle in rural Pennsylvania to look for work in Philadelphia, he had to borrow 10 cents from the guy who eventually hired him so that he could call home and buy a bowl of soup.

And yet, thanks to hard work and the strong tailwind of America's postwar boom, June and Frank climbed the hill to the middle class. They owned a modest home and saw their boys go off to college. In their later years, they were really free from want — though my grandfather still worked the night shift at an oil refinery well into his sixties, and my grandmother stayed in the factory long past retirement age.

June left me with two lessons about hills and valleys. The first is that you don't stop trying to climb, even if you're down pretty far. The second is that you enjoy the view, no matter that your hilltop isn't the highest. Despite the hardships of her life, my grandmother could have more fun that just about anyone I've ever known, whether she was running my sister and me ragged window-shopping at Wanamaker's, watching Jackie Gleason on Saturday night, or while on a trip in her seventies, trekking through the Everglades on a mission to spot alligators. Unless you're a billionaire, no one is going to remember you for your money. Your spirit is the currency that lasts.

Property Investors Revisit Poland

WARSAW — Foreign property investors are returning to Poland, a country whose highflying real-estate market became a symbol of overexuberance during the boom years.

During the financial downturn, foreign investors retreated from the country, some with sizable losses. But lately they have been returning, as many expand their search for properties beyond London, Paris and Germany for the first time since the European debt crisis began.

Total investment in Polish commercial real estate hit \$3.6 billion in 2012, the highest figure since 2007, according to property agent Cushman & Wakefield. Investment in the first quarter of 2013 reached \$832 million, a sign that the Polish property market is on track for another strong year.

The market is being driven by big deals on prime properties. In Warsaw, there have been four sales of office buildings for more than \$132 million in the past 12 months.

Investors are willing to pay more for properties in Poland than other central European markets because of its stable economy, relatively high growth and a large number of expanding cities. "Poland's a good story at the moment," said Eric Adler, global chief investment officer of Prudential Real Estate Investors, Inc., known as Pramerica Real Estate Investors in Europe, which has \$52.2 billion under management. (WSJ).

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Radziłowski. "We have still not rearticulated what we have become."

continued from cover
smaller and those seeking jobs are often EU-bound. How do you see current trends and their import for Polonia?

Immigration has generally dropped off, although the key sending areas today remain Latin America (mostly Mexico) and the Far East (primarily China). Still, to put things in perspective: the number of Chinese-Americans and Chinese immigrants number just over 1/3 of the Polish American total. The decline of Polish immigration requires us to make a more conscious effort to rethink how we incorporate our culture and values in the new Polish American community. We have reinvented ourselves several times in our history and there is no reason we cannot do it again!

What are Polonia's stakes in the upcoming debate over U.S. immigration reform, and what should we be doing?

Supporting a more liberal and fairer immigration law that brings people with education and skills to America is in our interest: it's good for America and good for Polonia. Easier immigration laws will attract Polish immigrants: for all its problems, America is still a magnet for Poles. In the new global environment, enabling Poles—especially the young and well-educated—to come for briefer periods as students, skilled workers, professionals and teachers—would contribute to American society while making them splendid assets for Poland on their return. If we go out of our way to welcome them and include them in our Polish American community, they can help us rebuild a new Polonia with enhanced ties to modern Poland and its culture. It is in our

interest for Poles to have firsthand knowledge of America.

Some say Polonia is aging and its community spirit declining. What's your prognosis about Polonian institutional life and the prospects of involving young people in it?

Every important Polonia meeting includes the lament: "we need to find ways to bring in young people." Yet, ironically, when Piast did its national survey, only those in the 18-29 year old category said it was an important task. I have found an amazing activism by young Polish Americans over the last 4-5 years. They are creating their own venues and organizations, like Quo Vadis Conferences, young professional organizations, and revitalized student organizations at colleges and universities across America. Using social media, they are creating the new, 21st century Polonia. We need not patronize them with special youth branches in existing organizations. Just invite them in and step aside. Alas, our survey also shows younger people and new immigrants find little of interest in older organizations, supporting overwhelmingly the need not just for new blood in old organizations but new organizations as well.

The axis of many Polonian communities is the Polish parish: from a zenith of more than 800, there are now maybe 200-300, and many bishops seem fixated on merging or closing them. What do you think of this trend and its implications for Polonia? What can we do about it?

We are a people for whom place is important. We need to preserve our parishes and contest the closings. We never fail to surprise the hierarchy when we do. When they

meet with us; they still expect older folks with heavy accents to whom they can talk down to. We do need to think through a consistent approach. Keeping our parishes alive serves not just those who sorrow over the loss of churches their parents attended for generations—our parishes also serve the whole diocese, city and county, regardless of ethnicity or even religion. We need to bring other forces to bear and develop coalitions with other groups, something we have too long neglected. The Piast Institute has done research for Polonia groups in four dioceses who are contesting parish closings.

"We need to preserve our parishes and contest the closings. We never fail to surprise the hierarchy when we do. When they meet with us; they still expect older folks with heavy accents to whom they can talk down to."

One of our community's weaknesses is failing to see ourselves as part of a larger community of which we are part. In many places, we are often one of the largest ethnic groups and have created the most institutionally complete community. We should be leading ethnic communities, helping others learn from our long and rich experience, both in *ad hoc* coalitions (like on church closings) and more permanent forms.

Many early 20th century Catholic bishops opposed Polish parishes because of a fixation on "American-

izing" immigrants. Is there a paradox that one generation of bishops grudgingly resisted those parishes while a new generation seems enthused about ethnically cleansing the Church in the United States?

I do not see it as a paradox. Like any large, multi-cultural organization, the Church tries to homogenize its membership. Despite the hype, diversity in the long run is usually very unstable. The Church inherited a very narrow, Irish-American perspective with little knowledge or tolerance of their fellow Catholics from eastern or southern Europe. They had an impulse to homogenize to shed the Church's "foreign" image and lessen prejudice against it, a practical and understandable response. Poles and other Latin Rite Catholics from southern and eastern Europe suffered quite a bit at the hands of the hierarchy, but their real crime was the rejection of Byzantine Rite Catholics. The Russian Orthodox Church in America is largely made up of Ruthenian (Rusyn) Greek Catholics from Austria-Hungary. About 250,000-300,000 became Russian Orthodox in America, as a result of rejection by the Latin Rite hierarchy, even though they never lived in the Russian Empire.

How does assimilation, Americanization, and intermarriage affect Polonia, and how can we preserve an ethnic consciousness?

We have privatized our ethnic identities and been subsumed under the bizarre default category of "white." As such, we no longer have legitimacy to speak as a distinct ethnic group; politicians, cultural leaders, and corporate/non-profit executives—as leaders of "white" society—speak in our name. One of the key elements, therefore, is getting

back in the public eye, speaking as "Polish Americans" in business, education, and government. Since the 1970s, our education and income levels have exceeded many other ethnic groups—but we have still not rearticulated what we have become.

You were President of now defunct St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, while the PNA's Alliance College in Pennsylvania went belly up in 1987. Polonia now has no post-secondary institution of learning of its own (except a Seminary). What do you think of this situation?

There are still higher education institutions founded by Polish religious orders with some consciousness of their origins, and chairs of Polish studies in non Polish schools also indicate we have not completely lost a foothold in academe (though how effectively we use these is another story). There is, unfortunately, no market for a small Polish college anymore. Both St. Mary's and Alliance were important but not crucial for Polish identity—they just didn't touch most of Polonia. The tragedy is that early in their histories they were removed to rural settings, something that might have seemed ideal in the early 20th century, but they could have had dramatically different histories if they had been located in the middle of dynamic urban Polonian communities, where they would likely have grown into larger institutions. What we now need are institutions like the Piast Institute that focus specifically and directly on the community, its needs, and future.

More information on the work of the Piast Institute (including its current national survey of Polonia) can be found at www.piastinstitute.org

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

Playing the Long Game

"We are working toward reconciliation with Russia as well, but it's harder because the Russians find it difficult to disentangle their pride in winning the Second World War from what should be their revulsion at Stalinism. So we have to play a long game. Our churches have issued a joint statement modeled on the Polish-German statement of the 1960s, and we appreciate President Putin's visit in 2010 to Katyn, the site of a massacre of thousands of Polish POWs. And we have a joint group on difficult issues which is working to establish the facts of our tragic history."

— *Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski, on reconciliation with former enemy states. He feels Poland and Germany are reconciled because of treaties and joint EU projects. From "The Polish Model: A Conversation With Radek Sikorski." Foreign Affairs, May/June 2013.*

"I would like to pay tribute to [the Polish troops'] courage and sacrifice ... I want to thank Poland for the contributions it has made in Afghanistan, and I look forward to continuing Polish support after 2014 [when NATO troops withdraw]."

— *NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, praising Poland at a meeting in Warsaw with President Bronislaw Komorowski, who invited Rasmussen to the "Steadfast Jazz 2013" NATO exercise to be held in the Baltic States and Poland this September.*

"An aggressive man insulted us,

using homophobic statements. He began to choke one of my friends and punched him in the face. When he recognized me he spat in my face, raised his fists and kicked me in the stomach."

— *The first and only openly gay member of Poland's parliament, Robert Biedron, on being harassed and assaulted during a gay pride event in Warsaw.*

"I've always wanted to play Poland. I have known quite a lot of Polish people since I was a kid."

— *Sir Paul McCartney in a radio interview with Polish Radio, before his concert in Warsaw's National Stadium, June 22. He added that even though The Beatles never performed in Poland, they suspected they were popular behind the Iron Curtain: "We knew that the records were getting through [...] we always thought the Polish people would be pretty cool."*

"Red Skelton used to play here, and Jerry Mahoney, and Charlie McCarthy and his dummy, and every hillbilly band in the country."

— *Harry Stusowski, on Deemer's Beach Park on the Delaware River, south of Philadelphia. The park and surrounding businesses fell out favor with the advent of the automobile. Owner of the property, Harold West, hopes the former resort area will be home to new industries, citing the desire for inland waterways, which are not subject to the damage suffered by recent coastal flooding.*



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Caucus: Immediate Attention on Visa Waiver

continued from cover

"Today, the United States and Poland are good friends and steadfast and true allies, from our economic and military alliance to our shared values. My Polish heritage has given me an identity and a set of beliefs that make me the Senator I am with a belief in freedom, a belief in people, and a belief that we must always speak truth to power. I will continue to fight in the U.S. Senate to strengthen the strong bond between America and Poland, bound together by shared values and working for a future of strong economic and security cooperation."

"More than 20 years ago, Polish leadership helped bring down the Iron Curtain," said Senator Risch. "Since then Poland has remained a steadfast defender of democracy and a leader in Europe. There is no better friend, partner, and ally in Europe than Poland. I am proud to be part of the Polish Caucus as this caucus is just one way to reaffirm the solidarity that exists between our countries."

"I'm thrilled to announce the launch of the U.S. Senate Poland Caucus today," said Senator Murphy. "When people think 'Murphy' they think Irish, but I actually have more Polish blood than Irish blood. That part of my heritage has really piqued my interest over the years in the relationship between Poland and the United States, as has the strong and vibrant Polish American community in Connecticut. Hard-working Polish Americans have made incredible contributions to our state and country as small business owners, active community members, and more. I'm grateful Foreign Minister Sikorski could be here today for this event, and I look forward to working with him on visa waiver reform and other issues important to Polish-Americans in the future."

The Senators, along with the Polish Foreign Minister and Polish Ambassador, discussed working together for an endearing and enduring relationship between the United States and Poland.

They also discussed Senator Mikulski's bipartisan Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act introduced earlier this year that would add Poland to the United States' Visa Waiver Program. The program, part of a bill on immigration reform being debated in the Senate this month, will be the caucus' initial concern.

Sikorski Makes Most of Visit to Washington

PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI



SIKORSKI. Addresses audience at Polish Embassy.

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Embassy of the Republic of Poland, under the auspices of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, feted Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław (Radek) Sikorski at a social reception here on June 3, 2013. Approximately 150 guests attended the affair held in the Embassy's Blue Salon. Minister Sikorski was in Washington to engage in matters of state and other official business.

Ambassador Schnepf first introduced Professor Adam Daniel Rotfeld, Co-Chair of the Polish-Russian Working Group on Difficult Matters, who spoke insightfully about the conference to be held here on June 4th organized by the Center for Polish-Russian Dialog and Understanding and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Taking to the podium next, Minister Sikorski thanked U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry for the invitation to engage in diplomatic consultations in Washington. He mentioned that he and Ambassador Schnepf had a fruitful meeting with the American Jewish Committee yesterday. Professor Rotfeld (a former Foreign Minister of Poland) was then praised for his tireless work concerning the resetting and improvement of Polish-Russian relations — citing the important ramifications it connotes for both nations, and noted that progress is being made.

The diplomatic heavy lifting was undertaken earlier in the day

at the private meeting between Minister Sikorski and Secretary Kerry at the State Department. It was followed by their public remarks - which usually closely reflect the content of the forgoing consultations — at the related news conference and Q&A session in the Treaty Room.

Various international issues were mentioned and both men pretty much mirrored each other's remarks, with some variance and added personal nuance. U.S.-Poland topics remarked upon included the two countries' historic and continuing joint relationship/partnership, being dedicated allies in NATO and Afghanistan, their vital economic ties and trade programs, the U.S. military presence now in Poland, and especially the Missile Defense System and Visa Waiver Program.

The U.S. Missile Defense Program appears to be a done-deal. Kerry said that the missiles will be deployed in Poland by 2018, with zero concessions — and no deals - with the Russians. Sikorski stated that "All doubts about the U.S. Missile Defense in Poland have been erased with a formal exchange of letters and today's consultations. We are on the same page of the missile defense issue."

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) was a hot issue. At various times Kerry stated "We also want to see Poland included in the VWP. It makes sense in every respect. It's good for trade, investment and personal relations. We are going to continue to work with Congress in order to achieve the goal of the VWP" ... "President Obama supports the VWP. I support the VWP personally for Poland. The Administration as a whole is supportive of the language in the legislation on the Hill right now. We hope it will be passed" ... "This is good for all of us, and we want it to happen."

Sikorski articulated that Kerry "couldn't have responded more eloquently or more firmly and all that is left to say is 'thank you' ... "It's become a symbolic but also a practical issue, and I'll be delighted if President Obama's promise to fix it by the end of his tenure is fulfilled."

Rog Presented with Murray Award for Heritage Preservation



CHESTER ROG and Elzbieta Suszynska at Chet's 89th birthday party, hosted by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM).

by Dolores Puente Strand

MINNEAPOLIS — Chester Rog, was honored with the prestigious Steve Murray Award for Heritage Preservation, presented by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) /Minneapolis Chapter on May 16, 2013, at a luncheon held at International Market Square.

His nomination was submitted by members of the Columbia Heights-Lomianki, Poland-Sister Cities, International, organization.

The Awards Event was attended by approx. 100 members of the AIA, as well as Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and Sister Cities' members, several of whom wore their native Polish costumes. Rog was escorted by his son, Paul Rog.

Rog, who recently celebrated his 89th birthday, has dedicated his adult life to the preservation and promotion of Polish heritage and culture in the Twin City area. He is well known throughout the State of Minnesota and nationally through his contributions to Polonia.

He is considered to be the "Patriarch/Godfather" of the Polish community. And is highly respected for his many endeavors and accomplishments. "Heritage Preservation" has been his life. His influence and dedication for many, many years is responsible for the strong organization, PACIM.

Rog is proud of his Polish heritage and has been a very willing translator of Polish correspondence and documents for decades. For many years he taught Polish classes in community education classes and other venues, mostly as a volunteer.

His place of business was the headquarters for collecting and packing numerous boxes of clothing and supplies which were sent to various Children's Homes in Poland.

The monthly newsletter "Pol-Am" was started many years ago by Rog. He was the editor, publisher, printer, and distributor of this originally one-page newsletter. He did all the typing, duplicating with a hand-operated press, distributed by volunteers and mailings. He felt that it was necessary to promote all the various Polish activities in the area and to preserve the many facets of Polish history and culture.

The "Pol Am" is now a professionally produced monthly newsletter. Jane Flanders is the editor. Issues are sent to PACIM members in Minnesota, throughout the United States and abroad.

Rog helped establish a Polish Library in Northeast Minneapolis which has been relocated to larger quarters at RiverPlace on Main Street, NE, because of the need for more space for their books, materials, and collections — and various events (open houses, lectures, celebrations, etc.). For many years, including this year, he volunteered at the Polish Café during the Festival of Nations in St. Paul, a four-day international extravaganza that involves about 40 countries sponsoring cultural displays, bazaars, entertainment and cafes. He has sponsored scholarships for students to assist with their college/university studies.

PACIM now collaborates with the successful Polish Festival which attracts thousands during the two-day festival along the Mississippi River across from RiverPlace. Vendors, polka bands, folk dancers, food booths, cultural displays, polka contests, and Polish films bring attendees from several surrounding states. This year's dates are August 10th and 11th.

Syria: "We're Essentially Engaging in Mass Propaganda"

continued from cover

ance to what we're doing. I see a lot of rhetoric, a lot of emotion, a lot of propaganda, in fact."

To that point, guest NBC's Chuck Todd said the White House doesn't see an "end game" in Syria, which is precisely the problem. Brzezinski jumped in to the conversation again, contrasting successful interventions like Bosnia to less unsuccessful

ones like Iraq.

Brzezinski said the U.S. should be negotiating with countries like China, Russia, and Japan. "Instead we're essentially engaging in mass propaganda portraying this as a democratic war," he asserted. "Who is fighting for democracy? Qatar and Saudi Arabia are fighting for democracy?"

"And why did the president is-

sue that particular red line?" he continued. "On what basis? With what strategic concepts in mind? This what's so baffling about this whole thing. It's a tragedy and it's a mess in the making and one that can enlarge — involve Turkey perhaps also in this problem, and Turkey is having internal difficulties. I do not see what the United States right now is trying to accomplish."

Gromada, Hylenski, and Pasek also Nominated

continued from cover



Also nominated were **John Gromada** (inset, left) (Sound Design for a Play), **Peter Hylenski** (inset, right) (Sound Design of a Musical), and **Benj Pasek** (Best Score of a Musical).

After 36 Broadway productions over 27 years, Gromada was nominated for his first Tony Award

for his work in the play *The Trip to Bountiful*. A prolific, award-winning composer and sound designer, he is known for his many scores for theatrical productions in New York on and off-Broadway and in regional theaters.

He's been nominated before for *The Scottsboro Boys* and *Rock of Ages*, and this year Hylenski was recognized for his work on *Motown-*



The Musical.

He's been Grammy, Tony and Olivier award nominated, and has worked extensively on Broadway and designed for Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden and The Kennedy Center.

Pasek was nominated for the musical score of *A Christmas Story, The Musical*, which played on Broadway during the holiday season and will return to Madison Square Garden in December.

AN URGENT APPEAL

The Polish Gift of Life is a lifesaving program that brings sick children from Poland to Muenster, Germany, for open-heart surgery performed by renowned pediatric cardiologist, Krakow's Dr. Edward Malec. The program in Muenster began three years ago. Most children require three operations, the first when they are just two or three days old.

The children we sponsor are born in Poland with congenital heart defects, and without aid, have little chance for survival. Donations are sent to each child's account in Poland.

Over 500 Polish children have received this precious gift of new life, thanks to the generous participation of our supporters. Many more need your help.



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TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmiec

Five Days in Poland

THE STORK RETURNS. One in five storks in the world is Polish. The clatter of storks can be heard in the skies of Poland from the end of March until the beginning of August. This black and white wading bird with red beak and legs is the unofficial symbol of the country. In Africa, where it passes its winters, the stork is reclusive and keeps away from people. In Europe, though it has established nests near human settlements and is particularly close to the people of Poland.

There is no other country which can boast the nesting of so many birds of this species. It is estimated that recently there have been around 52,000 pairs of storks on the Polish territory. The bird builds nests in trees, on electricity poles, and rooftops. This proximity has won it the compassion of the people and a positive image in Polish folk culture.

To return to Poland each year, storks must fly the distance of approximately 4,970 miles from their African habitat. The bird has weakly developed breast muscles, which they use to move their wings. Using the rising currents created by heated air, they cover most of the distance in a passive gliding flight – similar to a plane. On arriving to Poland the birds return to the nests they had in previous years.

I equate my relationship with Poland much to that of the *bocian biały*. There is a bond with the home of my ancestry which continues to draw me back. Though not every year, I have visited frequently, and I generally return to the familiar areas from previous trips to rekindle the magic, seek what remains the same and see what may have changed.

On April 9th, I received an e-mail from the *Mazowiecki Teatr Muzyczny* with an inquiry from its Director Włodzimierz Izban inquiring if it was possible for me to come to Poland as a representative of American Theater to present the award for "Best Choreographer" at the *Jan Kiepura Musical Theater Awards* on May 16th ... all expenses would be covered. I quickly thought through my commitments, made a few calls, and responded that I

would be delighted to attend and participate in the event. Who would pass on such an honor and unique experience? The next day I was sent my roundtrip ticket on LOT Polish Airlines.

THE APPEAL OF POLAND

To the English-speaking world, Poland is so unfamiliar as a tourist destination that the country as a whole readily fits the phrase "off the beaten track." Exactly why this perception exists is rather strange, as this is not either geographically or historically a country with a low profile. It lies at the heart of the European continent with a land area greater than Italy. Its history dates back over a thousand years and for more than a century following the union with neighboring Lithuania in 1569, was the largest and most powerful empire in Europe. Hitler's violation of Poland's territorial integrity was the direct cause of World War II, while throughout the 1980s it was seldom out of the international spotlight – playing a vanguard role in the overthrow of Soviet-imposed Communism throughout Eastern Europe.

In years following the fall of Communism, Poland has made a remarkably successful transition to a market economy. It remains a safe place to visit – one whose hospitality is legendary, and the historical sites are intriguing. Often caught between the geopolitical forces of east and west, Poland has mastered the subtle art of survival, and thrives.

23 KILOGRAMS OF LUGGAGE.

There was an inner excitement of returning to Poland after my last trip five years ago to attend *Mazowsze's* 60th Jubilee. That trip provided the inspiration for a PAJ Travelogue series that in monthly installments lasted for almost 3 years. This trip would be my 16th, but for the shortest period of time. It would also be one that would allow me little time for personal excursions.

I had 34 days to arrange, organize, and plan for a period of a little over five days in Poland. Having just returned from Prague and Vienna, I had tried a packing experiment of minimalism; it worked, so I would apply the same method of thinking to my preparations. I

would, however need formal attire for the ceremony and that meant an unnecessary pair of dress shoes.

After a couple of phone calls, and multiple e-mails I found out that the dress code was not a tuxedo, but suit and tie. My big question was what would be expected from me onstage? Should I prepare a speech about the role of the choreographer in a musical production, or banter about the virtues of a theatrical career? To avoid nerves while speaking in a secondary language, I wanted to have the speech written and rehearsed thoroughly in advance.

Several inquiries and days later, Joanna Osinska-Rebosz from the *Mazowiecki Teatr* informed me that the "laudacja będzie czytana z off," and that I would be invited to the stage to present the award statuette and congratulate the recipient. I assumed this new Polish word "off" meant that the laudation would be read from offstage. Well, that's simple enough.

Now I could breathe a sigh of relief and calmly prepare. I was scheduled to see the remainder of Broadway shows of this year's season as Tony Award voter – which meant attending the theater almost every day before departure. It was the perfect way to get in a theatrical frame of mind. Hopefully I would have the opportunity to see some of Poland's musical offerings at the ceremony.

Unlike the Award shows here in the United States, the identity of the winner in my category was already known. It was Artur Żymelka from the Musical Theater in Łódź. Some internet detective work provided me with the information that Mr. Żymelka recently choreographed the American musical *Wonderful Town* – the 1953 show with music by Leonard Bernstein of *West Side Story* fame.

The planned packing arrangement would be a medium-sized suitcase, a carry-on shoulder bag for cameras, netbook and iPad, and a garment bag to hold my ceremony attire. I had learned from an incident back in 2003 to keep specific clothing in close possession. I was traveling to Lublin to take part in the Jubilee of the *Ziemi Lubelskiej* Song and Dance Company, and at some point my bag had apparently had been opened by security; my pants which had just been altered and placed on the top had not been returned and I had a new suit without pants. LOT was contacted, but to no avail a search for another suit was my only option.

I needed to be mindful of the luggage weight restrictions of 23 kilograms (50.7063 lbs). My good friend Krzysiek Kurlej, Impresariat Director of *Mazowsze* had some item requests from the States, and knowing that I would arrive in Poland on his birthday, I wanted to bring him a gift of spirits, along with gifts from my sisters.

As I was traveling as a representative of the American Theater, I chose to keep my casual clothing strictly professional. Although the weather was frigid in the States, my brother-in-law told me that in Poland it was around 75 degrees, so I would need to bring a coat.



LOT Airlines Vintage Poster utilizing Tadeusz Gronowski's original 1929 logo.

From my home scale (separately and with me holding it minus my weight) the check-in suitcase weighed in at 20 kg. Wow! Must have been the gifts and the travel-size toiletries! Let's hope that weight is indeed correct, the cost for excess luggage is \$130!

Having just completed an Actors Equity Council meeting, I was in a taxi and on my way – three hours in advance of the 6:20 p.m. flight from JFK terminal. On route, there was traffic. The line at the ticket desk was unusually long and slow moving. The cheerful blonde LOT clerk exchanged pleasant conversation in English and there was no mention of any excess in the weight restriction.

I wondered if I would make it through in time for the flight as the security check lines were endless with herds of travelers migrating to the shoes-off/hand luggage and body scanning terminals. Finally making it through, I headed to the gate and stood in the crowd waiting for the boarding announcement.

All my friends and family were certain I would be traveling on the new LOT Dreamliner they had heard about, but alas the unveiling of that much-awaited service was postponed by the new aircraft's fleet-wide grounding due to concerns surrounding overheating batteries. When I inquired about including a photo and mention of the flight in this series, I was informed by LOT media personnel that the planes they were using during the current transitional situation were rented and that the company was not entirely pleased with the interior and exterior.

Waiting among these unfamiliar travelers, my mind drifted to recall my first trip to Poland as a child. It was my first flight experience, the first LOT Polish Airlines direct charter from Boston to Warsaw, and the maiden voyage of a newly introduced Ilyushin Il-62 aircraft – each plane was named after famous historical figures, in this case Mikołaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus).

It was a single aisle plane, with no in-flight movie, but we were treated to a delicious dinner with stainless steel utensils and real glassware. I particularly remember the enchanting stewardesses, the endless supply

of hot Polish *buleczki* (buns), the dark bread with butter, and the new-found taste of *sok z czarnej porzeczki* (blackcurrant juice). We were given sleep masks, cabin slippers, and memorabilia to commemorate the event – a Kopernik pin and an imprinted leather medallion, among them.

In my travels, several flights on LOT followed; then I switched to SwissAir for a period of time. With the price wars and internet bargains, I later bounced around for the best deals. Now, I was back onboard for a LOT experience, even if they were not completely ready for me.

Back in the 1970s, *Carol Burnett* had done a skit on her CBS TV variety/sketch comedy series about a *Polish* airliner, complete with stereotypes and unnecessary humor. After an outcry from Polonia to the station, Burnett apologized two days later. I never saw that show and cannot find it on *YouTube*, but my parents still have not forgiven the comedienne for the *faux pas*. Burnett did several unrelated sketches regarding airline travel. Little did she know when the "No Frills Airline" sketch was made that they would be touching (in a funny way) the basic premise of the airline industry of the future – cut your costs and perks in order to survive.

LOT'S FLIGHT INTO HISTORY. LOT Polish Airlines (*Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT*) has a rich and complicated history. The national airline was established on January 1, 1929, making it one of the world's oldest airlines still in operation. The name LOT is not (as widely assumed) an acronym; it simply means "flight" in Polish.

The first international service was in 1929 to Vienna. It was also when the renowned logo designed by Tadeusz Gronowski, a visual artist from Warsaw was selected as the winning entry of the Airline's design competition – it is still in use to this day. In 1931 the stork – a symbol of safe flight under the skies, and Gronowski's logo were officially recognized by the company, as the emblem of the Airlines.

Accepted into the International Air Transport Association in 1930, LOT opened an international route. A test flight, aimed at judging the feasibility of introducing passenger service on a Poland-United States route, was carried out by LOT pilots and crew in 1938. Services were abruptly suspended during the Second World War, and all of aircraft was either destroyed or detained in Romania. Polish pilots were employed flying Spitfires in the Battle of Britain rather than guiding civilian airliners. They had hundreds of hours of pre-war flying experience and were among the most experienced in the battle. From August 1944 until December 1945, the Polish Air Force maintained basic transport in the country.

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Next month: *The Airline of the People's Republic, Karolin, Mazowsze, and a Sto lat!*

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Bishop vs. Nun on Gay Marriage

Bishop Thomas Paprocki (inset, right) of the RC Diocese of Springfield, Ill., faced heckling and insults from a hostile crowd in Phoenix, Arizona, as he engaged in a discussion with Sr. Jeannine Gramick (inset, below, left) on Catholic teaching on so-called gay marriage. Sr. Gramick, speaking in favor of gay marriage, has been engaged for many years in pastoral ministry to gays and co-authored of a book on the subject that received Vatican censure.



Bishop Paprocki is part of the team of bishops that investigated the Leadership Conference of Women's Religious, the umbrella association of many U.S. Catholic women religious, and found some of their practices and doctrinal positions to be at odds with the Church's ordinary teaching. Bishop Paprocki corrected the title of the debate "Two Catholic Views on Marriage" by noting that there is "only one authentic Catholic view. There are two views being presented here tonight by two people who are baptized Catholics, but only one of those views, the one I present, is consistent with Catholic teaching, while the other view clearly dissents from Catholic teaching."

He went on to note that the media largely ignored the brutal murder of his former secretary **Mary Stachowicz** in 2002. The mother of four was allegedly beaten, stabbed and strangled to death by her co-worker Nicholas Gutierrez, whom she encouraged to change his gay life style. He commented that Mary Stachowicz's murder has received far less media attention than the brutal murder of gay student **Mathew Shepard** which occurred in 1998. Bishop Paprocki explained, "The Church's teaching on homosexuality and marriage is Catholic because it is true, not true because it is Catholic." It's only the "dictatorship of relativism" (Pope emeritus Benedict XVI's phrase) that leads people to deny the existence of the truth.

EVENTS AT DOYLESTOWN SHRINE. On July 21 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa., the feast of St. Christopher, there will be a blessing of vehicles in connection with the pilgrimage for drivers and motorcyclists. And on the 28th of July, the feast of St. Ann, there will be a pilgrimage of recovering alcoholics.

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. Send to: Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110.

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

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Holy Rosary RC Parish in Baltimore, Md., celebrating its 125th anniversary. The parish, whose parishioners live largely in the suburbs, faces the task of evangelizing baptized but non-practicing Catholics who are moving into the neighborhood in a wave of gentrification. Holy Rosary remains a magnet for Polish-speaking people as the spiritual and cultural center of Baltimore's Polonia. It is the only parish to offer Mass on Sundays and weekdays in Polish. Since 1993 the parish is the Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy. The miraculous healing of former pastor, **Fr. Ronald Pytel**, led to the canonization of **St. Faustina Kowalska**. Today, the parish is served by **Fr. Andrzej Totzke** and **Fr. Leszek Wędziuk**, both members of the Polish Society of Christ. In addition, the Sisters of Merciful Jesus arrived from Poland in 2005 to open their first U.S. house.

PIUS XII DEFENDED. Deacon

Ken Kulinowski, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., but now serving as a deacon in St. Andrew's RC Parish, Chandler, Arizona, wrote a novel "Anthem to Hope" in which he chronicles the story of a young Jewish boy in Kraków who is rescued by a Catholic woman and sheltered during World War II. The book's message of courage and faith lauds the efforts of Pope Pius XII to save Jews from the Nazis. Deacon Kulinowski, in researching another couple's family roots, found that he himself had a Jewish great-grandmother. He donates \$5 from the sale of each book purchased through the Phoenix diocese Catholic Sun or Immaculate Heart Radio to the Phoenix Diocese Charity and Development appeal.

MINISTRY TO TRUCKERS. Deacon

Richard Seveska, who moved from Chicago to Foristall, Missouri, and ministers at his parish, to truckers at truck-stops. He visits the stops in the evening, introduces himself as a deacon and invites the truckers to talk. In the amazing conversations they have the truckers talk about their faith and what they really believe.

"They realize," he explains, "here's a minister who's taking the time to listen and is not judgmental ... and we both walk away fulfilled."

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, American recruits for General Haller's Blue Army in World War I were honored on Memorial Day at the Republic of Poland National Military Cemetery. Camp Kosciuszko was nearby training site of the American volunteers to the Polish Army of France 1917-

1918. **Stephen Flor** was the U.S. organizer of the service, and was joined in the effort by **Julek and Franek Bobiarski, Kris and Robert Liczner, and Andrew Kawka** (Canadian organizer).

In Buffalo, N.Y.'s **St. Stanislaus' Cemetery** and Lancaster, N.Y.'s **St. Adalbert's Cemetery** memorial Masses were held for the Catholic War Veterans, Polish Veterans SPK and SWAP Polish Army Veterans Association.

STO LAT TO... Newly ordained

Identite Missionary **Fr. Marek Wasilewski**, ordained a priest with 10 others by New York's Timothy Cardinal Dolan ... **Fr. Piotr Buczek** of Kraków, Poland, ordained a priest with six others by Archbishop Henry Mansell of Hartford, Conn. Fr. Buczek attended seminary in Kraków and at Orchard Lake as well ... **Fr. Timothy Kescki, S.J.**, president of the Jesuit Conference in the U.S. Fr. Kescki had previously been provincial of the Jesuits' Chicago-Detroit Province.

VIDEO CAPTURES LIFE OF BL.

JERZY POPIELUSZKO. A DVD narrating the powerful and true story of **Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko**, martyred chaplain and spiritual leader of the Solidarity trade union in Poland is now available through St. Ignatius Press (1-800-651-1531). Singled out for his outspoken defense of his people and for proclaiming the teachings of the Church on human rights and the dignity of the human person, Fr. Jerzy was kidnapped, beaten, strangled and drowned by governments agents.

CARDINAL DZIWIWIS VISITS

LATROBE SEMINARY. Archabbot **Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.** welcomed **Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz**, personal secretary to Bl. John Paul II, to St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. The cardinal has committed himself to the propagation and creative development of Bl. John Paul II's legacy through the establishment of the "Have No Fear!" Center in Kraków.

OLD PARISH - NEW PARISHI-

OLD PARISH - NEW PARISHI- ONERS. Fr. Joseph Okonski, pastor for the last four years of St. Athanasius RC Parish in the West Oak Lane neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pa., grew up in the parish but now serves a much more diverse population as original parishioners moved to the suburbs to make way for new arrivals in the 1970s. The once-closed upper church was refurbished and reopened in the 1990s and the parish is now making its way forward.

Fraternal Notebook

The **Polish Roman Catholic Union of American (PRCUA)** will hold its 61st Quadrennial Convention in Toledo, Ohio, Sun., Aug. 10 to Wed. Aug. 13, 2014. This is the first time the Chicago-headquartered fraternal will meet in that city.

The 61st Annual **PRCUA Golf Tournament** will be held July 20 in Livonia, Mich., hosted by the fraternal's St. Stan's Society. Applications are available on line at www.prcua.org.

Charlotte Androckitis, Polish Union of North America CEO/National Secretary, celebrated her 50th anniversary as an employee of the fraternal. In addition to recognition by her organization, she was cited by the Fraternal Society of Northeast Pennsylvania.

A Honey of a Hobby



Since his childhood growing up in Poland, Fr. Ryszard Biernat's hobby has been beekeeping. He has rekindled his passion for the craft during his assignment in suburban Buffalo.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — People have been buzzing about **Fr. Ryszard Biernat's** unique hobby. Since his childhood growing up in Poland, the 29-year-old priest has been a beekeeper. He has rekindled his passion for the craft during his assignment at Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Orchard Park.

A motto that guides Fr. Biernat is from John 17:21 — "May they be one." "If you look at a hive, 100,000, 200,000 bees, and they are truly one supporting one another. That is a great symbol for who we should be as a Christian community."

He traces the origins of his hobby to his love of books. As a boy growing up on a small self-sustaining farm in Limanowa, Poland, Fr. Biernat volunteered at a library where he came across a 1902 book on apiculture that had never been checked out.

"Somehow that book inspired me. It got my interest in it and I thought I would do it."

Coming from a family with nine children, Fr. Biernat wanted to be a little bit different from his siblings and have an interest that was all his own. He saved some money and bought his first hive, which he maintained until coming to the United States in 2002.

During his formation years, Fr. Biernat was on the move a lot, living at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora during the school year, and then moving on to summer assignments. It was not until he began a permanent assignment at Nativity last year, that he could set up shop again.

The bees don't take up much space; one hive rests in a 3-by-3-foot box. Even though honeybees are very docile, the sight of a swarm might scare off neighbors, so it is best to be away from other homes. Nativity has some extra land behind

its cemetery.

"What is amazing about bees is they all work for the common good, the hive," Fr. Biernat explained. "Every one has its own task. There is no lazy bee. There is no bee that complains about the queen or the smell of the hive. They all sacrifice for the colony. Through that they get support from others. It's a nice working community. I've used this a number of times in my homilies."

One hive with 200,000 bees may produce 100 pounds of honey in an average year. Even though Fr. Biernat has 30 hives, he doesn't expect much product this year as he got a late start.

With his farmer's build and a love for nature, Fr. Biernat enjoys the quiet and solitude he receives when working with his hives.

"It's good for me mentally. It's very relaxing," he said. "Everyone tells you how to be a priest, how to preach, how to interact with people. But not beekeeping. It's mine. It's kind of private, personal. (I also like that) they live together in the communal aspect. Often as I go to work there, I pray that we as a Church become like this, we become one. It is always a time of prayer. Nobody comes and interrupts because they are afraid."

Fr. Biernat offers his services to remove swarms of bees from homes. He has gone to people's homes to remove honeybees and finds himself talking about his role as a priest. People ask him questions. Fallen-away Catholics have asked for confessions and blessings. So at church, people want to talk about bees. When he picks up swarms, people talk about God.

"You create this personal connection and that's when people do not feel threatened to ask some more private or personal questions. Somehow after talking about bees they feel more comfortable to ask questions about God or the unique situation they're in. It's been an interesting experience."

— *Digested from a story by Patrick Buechi in the WNY Catholic News.*

Slain Student Honored

HARRISBURG, Pa. — **Owen Brezitski**, a student at Holy Name of Jesus School was killed by a distracted driver while in a crosswalk near the school. He is now memorialized with a plaque in the school's lobby and a painting depicting Jesus welcoming children to come to him. His mother noted with appreciation this help to keep her son's memory alive and help all in the process of healing after the sudden death two years ago. Owen is also memorialized in a variety of other ways, including a scholarship fund for Bishop McDevitt HS graduates and grants for students at Holy Name School.

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CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

Bits and Pieces

THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY UKRAINE may be of old Polish origin, basically meaning “at the border.” Ukraine was on the far borderlands of eastern Poland. In modern Polish u means “at” and kraj is “border.” Ukraine’s national anthem is “Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished,” a title similar to Poland’s anthem, “Poland Has Not Yet Perished.” Indeed, the author of the poem on which the song is based was influenced by Poland’s anthem.

JACOB FRANK (1726-91) was a Jew born in Korolówka, Poland (now in Ukraine) who rejected traditional Judaism. Frank proclaimed himself a messiah and founded a new religion called Frankism, which was a mixture of Christianity and Judaism. He specifically sought to merge the cult of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa with Jewish Kabbalism. He was considered a heretic and excommunicated by Jewish leaders. But he urged his followers to convert from Judaism to Roman Catholicism, and ultimately 50,000 of them did so. Though welcomed by the church at first, they were viewed with suspicion and Frank was tried as a her-

etic by the church and imprisoned in the Częstochowa monastery for twelve years. He died in Offenbach, Germany and Frankism disappeared shortly thereafter. It was once claimed that the mothers of the Poles Chopin, Mickiewicz and Słowacki were Frankists, but this was never proved. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis was descended from Frankists.

MASURIUM is the former name of element number 43 on the periodic table, now known as Technitium. It was originally named for Masuria by one of its discoverers, Germany’s Walter Noddack, whose family originated there. Masuria is now a region in northeast Poland, but for centuries was part of East Prussia, albeit with a distinct Polish minority population. Noddack’s discovery of Masurium in 1925 was never verified and two Italians made the first verifiable discovery of element 43 in 1937 and named it Technitium. So that name became official. Masurium-Technitium was the first synthetically produced element, and is commonly used in nuclear medicine in the diagnostic imaging of internal organs.

ANTONI BEREZOWSKI (1847-1916) was a Pole who was born in Żytomierz in the Russian partition area of Poland, now located in northern Ukraine. He was the son of a Polish nobleman and was a veteran of the 1863 Polish Insurrection. He immigrated to Paris where he worked in a metal shop. In 1867 when Russian Czar Alexander II visited Paris for the world’s fair, Berezowski shot at the czar in an assassination attempt. His purpose was to free his native Poland from Russian rule. A French court sentenced him to hard labor in New Caledonia in the Pacific. He was pardoned in 1906 but compelled to remain in New Caledonia, where he died ten years later.

IGNACY HRYNIEWIECKI (1856-81) was an ethnic Pole born in Kalinówka in the Russian partition area of Poland, now in northern Belarus. He was raised in a noble family that had fallen on hard times. As a young man he went to St. Petersburg, Russia to attend university and joined an underground revolutionary group called People’s Will and was involved in printing illegal newspapers. On March 13, 1881, he was

part of a group that attacked Czar Alexander II as he rode through the city. Hryniewiecki detonated a bomb that mortally wounded the czar and himself. Both died a few hours later.

POLAND IS A MAJOR manufacturing hub for home furnishing retailer Ikea. The company began making furniture in the country in 1961 and now has fourteen plants there employing 10,000 people. Poland is Ikea’s top producer of furniture. Those fourteen plants are supplied by seventy other Polish companies. Ikea’s largest factory in Poland is in Zbąszynek west of Poznań, and it produces two million pieces of furniture per year. In Nowe Skalmierzyce near Kalisz, Polish company Com40 Ltd. builds thousands of furniture pieces daily for Ikea. Com40 also owns a plant in Danville, Virginia that makes upholstery for Ikea.

CHARLES HENRY ALEKSANDROWICZ (1902-75) was a prominent international lawyer who was born in the Austrian partition of Poland and went on to professorships in England, Australia and In-

dia. He formed the Grotian Society in 1960 to specialize in the study of the history of the law of nations. He argued against the “European egocentricity” in international law, putting forth the idea that Asian and African nations be fully sovereign and respected regarding treaties and international agreements, and that they be full participants in the law of nations.

“JUST RIGHT:” NASA’s planet-hunting telescope has discovered two planets that seem like ideal places for some sort of life to flourish. And they are just the right size and in just the right place. One is toasty, the other nippy.

The distant duo are the best candidates for habitable planets that astronomers have found so far, said **William Borucki**, the chief scientist for NASA’s Kepler telescope. And it’s got astronomers thinking that similar planets that are just about right for life — “Goldilocks planets” — might be common in the universe.

The discoveries were published in the journal *Science*.

THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

Ticker Tickler

One of my favorite things to do is flip around the *Yahoo* ticker. Often there will be “best of” places or cities to live, to raise a family, to retire, etc. Many are obvious and some are surprises. For a number of the picks, the story and logic makes sense, but again, sometimes it’s a stretch.

So if there was a *Yahoo* ticker “what is the best city to live or visit if you are Polish,” how would you answer? Omaha, Buffalo, Los Angeles, and San Antonio have a Polish scene, including for one of these, a “Dyngus Day” celebration. I had a conversation with one of our local folk artists about doing the Polish wedding dance *Mach!* at the reception of his friend’s daughter. As it turned out he didn’t do it because it wouldn’t have been the right fit with the scheduling and perhaps also not with the guests. He did mention however, that they “do this all the time in Toronto.” Is Toronto an American city?

Most of us that live in St. Louis, no matter the race or ethnicity, relish the fact that we still have an Italian neighborhood and have a feeling of pride about the place, the food, and the people. Not sure how many Italians really live on “The Hill,” but there are a ton of restaurants and identifiers crammed into that part of town. The fire plugs are painted in Italian colors for instance. With or without the neighborhood, an Italian living or visiting St. Louis would have to feel welcome on The Hill—or anywhere for that matter. By the way, try the toasted ravioli, thin crust pizza, or the chicken spiedini, all St. Louis Italian specialties.

Italians aren’t the largest ethnic group in the metro area and by contrast, Chicago is the biggest Polish city in the world. The best American cities for Polish people probably look and act very similar to the worst but it is not how much Polonia there is that wins. The Polish population in many towns is small and close knit yet every single weekend there is something going on emanating from the community. As the number

of dedicated Poles regularly leading and participating in the events gets smaller, it is still amazing how much there is to do. Quantity and other aspects do not necessarily determine the “best” though.

I think there are two defining factors that make for a good city for Polish people, whether you are from there or visiting. The first is how exciting, creative, and open the established Polonia is for living and promoting their existence. Are they just hanging on or are they alive, moving forward, planning ahead, and welcoming new faces? I think another word for that is spirit! The second, greatly dependent on the first, is how open, accepting, and fond the general population is for the Poles in the community at large. To break it down further, if you were Mr. Poniewaz visiting a city and you told a native you were Polish, would the response be “you piqued my interest with a noticeable head or eye lift” along with a “we have a great Polish ... this and that,” or would it be “you know, we have the largest Oktoberfest celebration in Southern Pennsylvania.”

I hope it is the former but look, as intelligent and good-looking as I am, I simply cannot make everyone love me or accept me. I struggle with that and the same holds true for the group. There are some great places and cities where the Polish community is more visible in a real sense and at the same time accepted and even liked. Whatever the status, that is a goal worth pursuing. Question worth asking for July: what is the best city in the United States to be Polish? In your travels throughout the United States during the summer months, keep this question in mind and let me know what you think or discovered. If you find one of the best, I want to go there.

FLOWERS IN BLOOM. One of my favorite nurseries in St. Louis is Garden Heights because the selection and quality and variety of the plants and flowers are grand,

exotic, and ethnic. While meandering through I spotted a Serbian Bellflower, a Russian Sage, Japanese Blood Grass, a Stella D’oro Day Lilly and an Indian Feather flower. No Polish named anything, though, so I did an online search for “flowers in Poland” on *The Flower Expert* website, www.theflowerexpert.com. (You can search for “Poland” once on the site). The compliments on this site are sweet smelling and there is a nice summary of the Polish flora:

Poland boasts the greatest plant diversity and wealth of forest in Central Europe. This is mainly due to its lowland location and moderate, transitory climate. You can find some very rare plants there, like the Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*), Globe Flower (*Trollius europaeus*), Ostrich fern (*Matteucia struthiopteris*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). Apart from these, some other flowers blooming on this beautiful land are, Geraniums, Poppies, Pink Amaryllis, Crocuses flowers, Freesia and Alanya.

Even on *The Flower Expert*, no “Polish” flowers. Do you know of one?

SUMMER MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS. Call *Northside 777* stars James Stewart as a newspaper reporter investigating a past arrest and pushing for a new trial of a Polish American accused in a robbery-murder. This film is famous as the first Hollywood production set in Chicago. It is also notable for Stewart’s repeated and accented (you know, sounds like a clucking chicken) pronunciations of “WANDA, CIS-co-BICH,” as only he could do it.

The Way Back is about a group of prisoners who escape from one of Stalin’s Siberian concentration camps during World War II. Many of these were Polish political prisoners which simply meant they were Polish nationals who fought the Russians at the start of the war. One of the main characters is Janusz

James Stewart plays a persistent journalist whose work frees the imprisoned Frank Wiecek. Wiecek is based on Joseph Majczek, who was wrongly convicted of the murder of a Chicago policeman in 1932, one of the worst years of organized crime during Prohibition.



who leads the half-dozen men and one woman across Eastern Russia, through Mongolia, and eventually to India and freedom. Quite a story and none of the half-dozen has any Eastern European ancestry that I know of but you cannot tell. Great cast and story.

My prayers were answered (well, sort of) with the retirement of presi-

dent and bigot of Ohio State University, E. Gordon Gee. I wish him the worst in his retirement but hey, Gordon, just joking. Good to hear from Jack from Michigan and thank you for the interesting leads.

❖ ❖ ❖

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 Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

Don’t forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, ponderingpole.blogspot.com.

N.B. If you send eMail, reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole in the subject line. I will not open an eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Polish Women's Alliance of America Celebrates 115 Years



PWAA ANNIVERSARY. (l. to.r.): Wojciechowski, Trela, Huneycutt, Zago, and Rusiecki.

CHICAGO — On Sunday, May 19, the Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWAA) celebrated its 115th anniversary by holding a gala luncheon at Café la Cave in Des Plaines, Ill.

Representatives from many Polish American organizations, along with officers, members, and guests gathered together to honor the PWAA.

All those attending, many from out-of-state, met over cocktails to reminisce with old friends. The Carl Linden Strings provided pleasant cocktail hour music. The luncheon began with Antoinette L. Trela, secretary-treasurer and the Anniversary Luncheon chair offered welcoming remarks, then a special blessing was given by Andrew Wypych, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Barbara Miller, past national PWAA treasurer, introduced the national officers, directors, and district presidents of PWAA. Evelyn Lisek, Indiana state president of District III, led the attendees in singing of the Polish and American

National Anthems. Helen V. Wojcik, honorary PWAA president, offered a special celebratory toast. Charlie Wojciechowski, NBCTV Channel 5 reporter and the afternoon's master of ceremonies, began the festivities.

During the luncheon, Delphine Huneycutt, the PWAA's national president, delivered remarks followed by Wojciechowski introducing the fraternalists of distinction from the 14 PWAA districts. Robert Rusiecki, deputy consul general, delivered greetings and best wishes from the consulate general of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, and Sharon Zago, PWAA vice president, offered greetings from organization representatives who were unable to attend. Last on the afternoon program was the presentation of the 2013 Remkus-Sochacki academic scholarships by Thomas Sochacki. The two students who each received a \$5,000 scholarship were Joanna Hrabia of California and Jeffrey Zakrzewski of Connecticut. These Remkus-Sochacki scholarships are renewable for up to \$20,000. PWAA

scholarship judges, Camille Kapielski and Vivian Walkosz, were also on hand during the presentation. They were the judges of this scholarship competition. Hrabia and Zakrzewski each read their scholarship-winning essays.

Proceeds from this event and its raffles will benefit The Polish Museum of America, the *Anawin* Shelter, and the PWAA's youth activities. *Anawin* is managed by Teresa Mirabella. It is a shelter for homeless Polish immigrant men who have alcohol or chemical dependency. It seeks to rehabilitate these men from alcohol and drug use and helps them find stable employment. It is basically self-sustaining and survives through contributions from private donors. "Anawin," a Hebrew word, means "God's poor."

PMA OBTAINS GRANTS FROM POLISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. In October 2012, The Polish Museum of America (PMA) and its library, with cooperation from the consulate general of the Republic of Poland in Chicago applied for funding for the year 2013. Thanks to the recommendation of the Consulate, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded the PMA four grants totaling \$30,000 for various museum projects. Among those projects are the digitizations of the PMA's photography collection, the conservation of rare books, the purchasing of sorely-needed archival equipment and preparational equipment for the highly-anticipated exhibit of the 70th Anniversary Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

During a meeting this past May 17, held at the consulate, Consul General Paulina Kapuścińska and the museum's managing director



PMA AT CONSULATE. Recommendation earns funds to digitize museum's photo collection and more.

Jan M. Lorys signed agreements on these grants. Also attending this meeting were PMA president Maria Bronny Ciesla, its head archivist Halina Misterka, head librarian Małgorzata Kot, and photography collection curator Julita Siegel. Deputy consul general Robert Rusiecki and vice consul Konrad Zieliński were also present.

Support for the museum as it preserves and promotes the cultural heritage both of Polish culture and the Polish American community is badly needed. The PMA thanks Poland and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and acknowledges their assistance both past and present.

PAC-IL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS. On May 20, almost two-hundred members of the Polish American Congress-Illinois Division (PAC-IL) attended its annual meeting and election of officers. This meeting was held at the Polish National Alliance Illinois headquarters. After the outgoing officers gave their annual reports, PAC-IL members proceed-

ed to elect, by secret ballot, their choices for each of the eight offices, seven additional vice presidents, and four national directors.

Voted into office as the PAC-IL president was Irene Moskal Del Giudice, a member of the board of trustees of Triton College and sister of the late Edward Moskal who was past president of the Polish National Alliance. The first vice president is Zenon Olejniczak, second vice president is Sophia Boris, the financial secretary is Bartolomiej Malewski, and the treasurer will be Ewa Cholewińska. Adding to this list of new officers is Jan S. Plachta as recording secretary, Kenneth P. Gill as corresponding secretary with Anna Wojtowicz as sergeant at arms. There are also seven additional vice presidents. They are Walter Bochenek, Stefan Chelinski, Anna Klocek, Mirosław Niedziński, Anna Zalińska, and Walter Zarnecki. Four national directors were also elected. They are Bogusław Niemczewski, Bogdan Struminski, Anna M. Wierzbicki, and Marian Skawski.

Floods Batter Poland Again

WARSAW — Again this year, torrential rains have caused rivers and streams to burst their banks, flooding towns and villages and destroying cropland around the country. The first to be hit was low-lying Dolny Śląsk (Lower Silesia) in SW Poland, whose people have had to rebuild their homesteads, businesses and lives every few years due to repeated inundation. Also affected were the Lublin, Łódź, Małopolska, Wielkopolska and Mazowsze regions. Rescuers in amphibians have been evacuating victims to temporary shelters until the flood waters recede, but some have refused to be moved for fear of looters. (RS)

Celebrating 25 Years of Free Poland

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — Polish President Bronisław Komorowski has announced Freedom Year to mark a quarter-century of Poland's regained independence. The event was kicked off with a nationally televised presidential pep talk extolling Free Poland's achievements since 1989 and plenty of documentary footage on TV recalling the country's road to freedom. And in what was called a Solidarity Olympiad, some 3,000 students from 432 schools around the country demonstrated their knowledge of Poland's recent history.

Rather than starting on January 1st, Poland's Freedom Year is to run until June 4, 2014, marking 25 years to the day when Poles voted to put an end to the Soviet-style communist rule. As part of a round-table deal thrashed out between Poland's communist rulers and the Solidarity-led opposition, partially democratic elections were held in which Lech Wałęsa's Citizens Committees won all they were permitted (35%) in the Sejm (lower house) and 99% of the freely contested Senate.

General euphoria swept the land as thousands of Poles triumphantly marched through the streets in victory parades waving Polish flags and Solidarity banners. In September 1989, Catholic journalist Tadeusz Mazowiecki became post-war Poland's first non-communist prime minister. A year later, Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa was elected president.

But the general enthusiasm soon began petering out when it became apparent that the anticipated "freedom and prosperity" did not necessarily go hand in hand. Consumer abundance soon emerged, as new supermarkets and discount stores tempted shoppers with modern, glittery goods — a far cry from the empty store shelves and long lines of the communist era. But after a shock-therapy economic reform slashed the Poles' purchasing power in the early 1990s, most had only enough cash for the bare necessities.

POLAMS VISITING POLAND after a long break have generally been quite impressed by what they

see. Polish big cities display an aura of modernity and pizzazz comparable to that of other world cities. There are modern shopping malls with large chain stores and trendy boutiques, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Starbucks and other well-known establishments. There are gourmet restaurants and fashionable cafés, American-style bowling alleys and even clean public restrooms, the lack of which was once a common tourist complaint. But when PolAm visitors sit down and chat with their Old Country cousins, they soon learn things are not quite as rosy as they may seem.


A major problem Poles had never experienced earlier is unemployment. The sell-out of unprofitable state-owned factories to private, mainly foreign business, deprived many of secure, lifelong jobs. The unemployment rate reached 20% in 2002-2003, but even now stands at an alarming 14%. In small towns and rural areas as well as in certain groups such as recent college graduates it is even higher. And it would be worse still if the some two million Poles now working in the British Isles and elsewhere were to suddenly return.

An important gain of Free Poland has been the freedom to travel. Under communism, Poles had to apply for permission to travel abroad and the authorities decided whether to give them their passport which was kept at a government office. Now every Pole has the right to keep his passport at home and doesn't even need it to freely travel to other European Union countries.

Most Poles support Poland's EU membership for the financial aid that has provided, but many complain the bloc's Brussels headquarters are interfering too much in Poland's internal affairs. But a milestone that nearly all Poles are in favor of has been their country's membership in NATO which it joined in 1999. There is general agreement that the country has never been so secure in its more than 1,000-year history. Historic foes Germany and Russia and no longer pose a threat under the protective Euro-Atlantic umbrella.

THE COUNTRY HAS HAD its ups and downs since 1989. Like most everywhere else there have been violent street protests, scandals and scams. Poland's political scene has traditionally been a rough and tumble affair, and the 2010 Smolensk air disaster that killed Poland's First Couple and 94 other mostly prominent political and military leaders has polarized public opinion like no other single issue.

But when all is said and done, a recent opinion poll has shown that 75% of those surveyed were satisfied that Poland was no longer a communist country, down from 83% three years ago. Many observers believe that some of the 25% who now claim things were better under communist rule would not really want to go back if that were possible. Mainly they are venting their frustration with the economic crisis, unemployment, high prices, a deteriorating healthcare system and other shortcomings of daily life.



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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.

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POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Sister Cities in the News

The **Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister City Committee** held its Annual Meeting at St. Stanislaus Parish's Msgr Pitass Center on June 4. The group elected Therese Clarke, Elizabeth Opoka and Tom Zawadki to its board. President Jim Serafin, vice president Ed Reska, secretary Mary Tisby and treasurer Mary Jane Wajmer were all reelected to another term. The group also honored the winners of its recently completed high school essay contest: Morgan Paladino (Nardin Academy), Daniel Henry III (Bishop Timon /St. Jude High School) and Michael Bobak (Canisius High School). The students researched and wrote their essays about Rzeszow ... The 40th anniversary of the **Krakow-Rochester Sister City** relationship was marked by an exhibit of the works of Rochester graffiti artist Shawn Dunwoody in Krakow during early June.

POLONIA TIDBITS. Buffalo-based **Wardynski & Sons' Meats** has begun production of its new Duetts Pork and Potato Sausages, a line of healthier sausages ... On June 2, the **Feast of Corpus Christi** was marked in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District with a solemn procession for St. Stanislaus Church to Corpus Christi Church ... Former Buffalo resident **Ken Kulinowski** recently released his novel, "Anthem to Hope", which tells the story of a Polish Catholic shopkeeper who hides a Jewish boy during World War II ... Erie County Legislator **Tom Mazur** announced that he will not seek reelection this November.

The **Pulaski Police Association of Buffalo and WNY** held its Annual Outing at the Bowen Road Grove in Lancaster on June 5 ... NYS Senator Tim Kennedy recently posthumously honored the late **Jackie Schmid** as a NYS Woman of Distinction for her outstanding civic leadership in organizing the General Pulaski Association Parade and Cheektowaga Polish American Festival ... Claire Huangci, the Rochester native who won the **National Chopin Piano Competition** in 2010 and performed at Buffalo State College in September of that year as the guest of the Polish Cultural Foundation, competed in this year's 14th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas ... The 11th Annual **Polish Heritage Festival** took place on June 7 and 8 at the Hamburg Fairgrounds. This year's festival included performances by the

Polka Family, Chardon Polka Band, John Steven's Doubleshot, Buffalo Touch, and the Ludowa Nuta Polish Canadian Folk Choir ... The **Consulate General of the Republic of Poland** hosted a "Magical Evening" featuring violinist Joanna Makowicz, soprano Marta Grede-Kicek, pianists Michael Andrushko and Janusz Bosak, and narrator Agnieszka Kiesz at the consulate in Toronto, Ontario on June 8 ... Also on the 8th, as part of its continuing 125th anniversary celebration, Buffalo's historic **Broadway Market** presented a lecture by Anthony Antek, the author of "Bipolar Buffalo - a Mosaic of Minds Journey," which is the story of a second-generation working-class youth growing up Polish, Catholic and bipolar in WNY during the mid-20th century.

Kabaret Pod Banka presented "Papierz Kontra Papierz" at the After Hours Club in Mississauga, Ontario on the 8th and 9th ... On June 8 and 13, the **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College joined with the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival to present screenings of Anna Justice's romantic war drama "Remembrance" at the Jewish Community Center in Getzville ... The International Joint Committee on **Camp Kosciuszko**, which includes representatives of the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress and various divisions of the Canadian Polish Congress (KPK), marked the 96th annual pilgrimage honoring the Polish and Polish American soldiers of Haller's Blue Army in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, and St. John Kanty Parish on Buffalo's East Side held its Summerfest, on June 9 ... Also on June 9, the **Polish Literary Club** of the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester presented "Cabaret" at the St. Stanislaus Kostka parish hall, and **George and Mike Pasierb's** "Rockin' Polkas" radio show marked 20 years on WXRL 1300 AM.

The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** held an Open House networking event on June 12 at Buffalo's Larkin Center of Commerce ... On June 13, the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo honored Ralph and **Cindy Baumgartner** for their many years of service at the group's Annual "Biesiada" held at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew ... June 13 was **Polish Home Night** at the Landmark Theatre in Syracuse ... On June 15, the **Polish Consulate General** in Toronto sponsored a performance of "Letnia Serenada"

by the Salon Muzyki, Poezji i Teatru w. Toronto at the consulate .

UPCOMING. The **Professional & Businessmen's Association** will hold its Annual Summer Stag at the Bowen Road Grove in Lancaster on July 18 ... The **Cheektowaga Polish American Festival** will be held in the Cheektowaga Town Park on Harlem road the weekend of July 18 through 21. This year's festival will feature performances by the Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, Polish American String Band (Mummers), Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, and numerous polka bands. The annual **General Pulaski Association Parade** will travel down Harlem Road on Sunday the 21st. Updates on the festival schedule are available on the town's website, <<http://www.tocny.org>> ... The **Buffalo Polka Boosters** will host its 43rd Annual Summer Picnic at Fontana's Grove in Cheektowaga on July 28. The Touch will provide the music to dance by ... The Buffalo Bison's Baseball team reminds WNY's Polonia that **Rev. Thaddeus Bocianowski**, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish, the Mother Church of Buffalo's Polonia, has been named its 2013 Polish American of the Year. Father Ted will be honored at the team's **Polish Festival Night** to take place at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 6. The Bisons will play the Pawtucket Red Sox after the tent party that evening.

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If you have any item for this column, please send it to me by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. July 6 for the August edition) at pietruska@verizon.net.

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New York Set to Build a New Kosciuszko Bridge

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — As the Downstate New York Division of the Polish American Congress announced it is forming a committee to observe the 75th anniversary of New York's Kosciuszko Bridge in 2014, U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) is already talking about holding a special ceremony in 2018 to mark the opening of the "new" Kosciuszko Bridge.

Rep. Maloney's 12th Congressional District of N.Y. includes the large Polish community of Greenpoint.

At a press conference she held in the Greenpoint section of her District, Maloney announced that construction of an entirely "new" Kosciuszko Bridge should begin before the end of this year, now that federal funding to cover 85% of the \$800 million needed for the project has become available.

N.Y. State Assemblyman Joseph Lentol thanked Maloney for her "hard work and diligence" in obtaining the funding.

The City of New York named the bridge after General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Polish military engineer who volunteered in General George Washington's Continental Army to fight for the cause of American independence.

Maloney is a genuine and longtime friend of New York's Polish community, according to Frank



PHOTO: POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS DOWNSTATE NY

DOWNSTATE NY PAC PRESIDENT FRANK MILEWSKI thanks Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney for her efforts on behalf of a "new" Kosciuszko Bridge to replace the existing one.

He also expressed the gratitude of his organization for her co-sponsorship of the pending House of Representatives bill H.R. 490, the Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act.

Part of the present Kosciuszko Bridge is visible in the background.

Milewski, president of the Downstate N.Y. Division of the Polish American Congress who attended the press conference and presented his recollections of the bridge's early days.

He also told Maloney the Polish American Congress appreciated her decision to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 490, the proposed law which would let Polish citizens visit the United States without the need to first obtain an American visa.

With the Kosciuszko Bridge about to be dismantled and replaced by the new one, its past existence has been recorded in the movie, "The Godfather."

In the movie's segment showing the funeral of Marlon Brando in the role of the Godfather, the scene was filmed at Calvary Cemetery and shows a section of the bridge in the background.

Polish Harvest Workshop, August 11

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Polish Falcons of America is sponsoring a Polish Harvest Workshop, Sun., Aug. 11 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Polish Falcons Nest 6 in Cheektowaga. The workshop is open to the public.

Presented by Lawrence G. Kozlowski, PFA Polish Cultural Commissioner, the workshop is one part of the new Polish Falcons Legacy Project. "This Project is devoted to supporting the living cultural heritage of Polish Americans," explained Timothy L. Kuzma, PFA National President. "We are fortunate to be working with Larry to create a way through which Polish Americans can share their traditions and keep them alive for future generations," he continued.

Among the many activities at the

workshop, participants will learn about Polish harvest traditions, create a harvest wreath and even try their hand at some Polish cooking.

"The primary purpose of the workshop is to safeguard and perpetuate the cultural heritage and folk arts practiced in the Polish American community, with an emphasis for the future generations to share and remember," said Kozlowski.

The cost to participate is \$10 for Polish Falcon members and \$15 for non-members. Families of two or more pay \$20 and \$25 respectively. Children under 18 are free.

Polish Falcons Nest 6 is located at 3171 Broadway. For more information please contact the Polish Falcons at (800) 535-2071 or by email at amiller@polishfalcons.org.

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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

Marie Curie's Trips to America

continued

After World War I, Marie was back at work at the Radium Institute, with Irene, who was officially appointed as her assistant. Marie was offered a small state pension and this time she accepted it. The pension helped Marie to support the family, but it was not enough for the Radium Institute. Since France did not provide much support for scientists, Marie had to spend quite a chunk of her time fund-raising. But help was coming, this time from America.

Marie had already gained a worldwide respect, also in America where the women's movement was growing stronger. One of the most persistent enthusiasts of Marie was Mrs. Missy Meloney, a well-known American journalist. Meloney was small, fragile and became lame after a horse accident when she was 15. She tried unsuccessfully to contact Marie Curie many times and finally was able to get an appointment thanks to the help of a different physicist in 1920, the same year when American women won the right to vote. Missy came to Marie's laboratory and surprised Marie. Here is an excerpt from her first visit:

"The door opened and I saw a pale, timid little woman [Curie] in a black cotton dress, with the saddest face I had ever looked upon. Her kind, patient, beautiful face had the detached expression of a scholar. Suddenly I felt like an intruder. My timidity exceeded her own. I had been a trained interrogator for twenty years, but I could not ask a single question of this gentle woman in a black cotton dress. I tried to explain that American women were interested in her great work, and found myself apologizing for intruding upon her precious time."

Marie and Missy connected immediately, since both were visionaries who tried to do something important for humanity. When Marie realized that Missy was an American, she mentioned that there was 50 g of radium in America and less than one gram in France. Missy conceived a plan, she promised that she will raise a hundred thousand

dollars from "the women of America" to buy a gram of radium for Marie's laboratory. She asked Marie to come to America "to receive the gift" in exchange.

Missy was a skillful and energetic business-woman. When she went back to America, she

wrote about Marie as an impoverished woman who sacrificed her life for science. She organized several fund-raisers, convincing people that radium was a sure cure for cancer. When Missy was able to raise \$100,000 dollars, Marie had to fulfill her part of the deal and go to America, but before the trip her health deteriorated. Before her travel abroad a special Paris Opera gala was organized for her with Sarah Bernard reading "An Ode to Madame Curie" in April 1921. Though her ears were buzzing and her cataracts was preventing her from seeing well, this was something she could not miss. Marie was once again a national treasure in France.

Marie Curie and Missy Meloney connected immediately.

The same year Marie boarded the White Star liner *Olympic* with her both daughters, Irene and Eve. When they arrived in New York, the crowd with representatives of the U.S. government, Polonia organizations and Girl Scouts were waiting for them with American, French and Polish flags and banners. Missy Meloney planned the stay very carefully, since Marie was crowd-shy and not well physically. The journalists were granted interviews only if they agreed to not mention the Languevin affair. At a dinner hosted by U.S. President Harding, there took place the symbolic presentation of one gram of radium in a lead-lined



Marie Curie (center) in the United States, with daughters Eve (left) and Irene, 1921.

mahogany box on Friday, May 20, 1921. Besides money for the radium purchase, Marie was also given equipment from New York's Sloan Laboratory, money for speaking fees and for publication of the book about Pierre Curie. Marie was also offered the tour of the most important tourist attraction in the United States: the Grand Canyon. Irene and Eve visited it but Marie had to stay behind due to bad health.

In October 1929, Curie returned to the United States for another tour accompanied by Missy Meloney. This time she went to the White House to meet with President Herbert Hoover. She stayed with Mrs. Meloney when she was in New York and was ill part of this time. Marie Curie spent her sixty-second birthday with Missy Meloney, visiting Central Park and the J.P. Morgan Library. As a result of this trip, Marie donated one gram of radium to the Radium Institute in Poland which was established on her request.

Overall, Marie's trips to America were a great success. They also helped her to cement her image as a woman and an icon of science.

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

REFERENCES:

1. Eve Curie: "Madame Curie."
2. Barbara Goldschmidt: "Obsessive Genius."
3. Sarah Dry: "Curie."

ACPC Board Meets in Tampa Bay

by Jo Louise Winters

The spring board meeting of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) was held in Tampa Bay, Fla., generously hosted by its affiliate, the American Institute of Polish Culture of Tampa Bay, Florida, April 12-13, 2013.

The ACPC Board began its business session with members expressing deep appreciation and thanks to Alice Lech-Laning, chair of the audit committee and to Mary Ellen Tyszka, 2nd V.P. for volunteering to keep the minutes during the board's meeting in the absence of Recording Secretary Marcia Lewandowski due to illness.

During the Board's business sessions Friday and Saturday, committee chairs reported on activities and progress within their respective programs since the Council's Fall 2012 Board meeting. Marion Winters announced that the Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies had received a record number of applications for the \$5,000 awards. The five students selected by the committee this year are: Aleksandra Babiarz of Baltimore, Md.; Marta Krajniak, Staten Island, N.Y.; Krzysztof Lukasik, Carteret, N.J.; Natalie Mistravich, Dearborn, Mich., and Ann Hardt Williams, Lexington, Mass.

The Awards Committee report

POLONIA ON FILM / Joseph W. Zurawski

Be Kind, Rewind (2008)

Comedy, Drama

Distributor: New Line Cinema

Director: Michel Gondry

Screenplay Writer: Michel Gondry

Featuring: Jack Black, Mia Farrow (as Miss Falewicz)

Editor's note: Films discussed in this column may use terms that can be considered offensive. They are reviewed solely for academic purposes, and, if quoted, are done solely to aid in defining the characters and the tone of film.

Be Kind, Rewind is the name of a VHS rental store in Passaic, New Jersey scheduled for demolition. The store's owner, who claims Fats Waller was born in the building, leaves on a trip to Kansas City where Waller will be memorialized. Mike is left to tend the store with the warning not to allow klutzy Jerry to enter the store. Jerry attempts to sabotage the electrical plant where he is working and he is magnetized. When he enters the store he erases all the tapes.

Miss Falewicz, a close friend of the store's owner, comes to the store to rent *Ghostbusters*. Mike tells her the film will be available the following day. He does not tell her that he and Jerry will make the film using themselves as actors with cheap special effects. This creative effort leads to 200 other self-made films which prove to be very popular with customers. When the store owner returns there are numerous customers waiting to be featured in films they ordered.

The store owner goes along with his staff making a documentary film about Fats Waller. It's a big hit. Nevertheless, Be Kind, Rewind finds out it has violated copyright laws and the owner is subject to \$3.15 billion in fines and 63,000 years in jail. Demolition is inevitable.

There is a most interesting Polish American sub-plot in *Be Kind, Rewind*. Perhaps it should be titled, "Polish Americans can (will) resurrect run-down inner-city neighborhoods." Several references make clear that the neighborhood where

the VHS rental store is located was Polish American. Some Polish Americans remain but they don't exactly fit in. Early in the film a girl is purchasing a car with extremely large exhaust pipes which wrap around the car. She is protesting she does not want that type of sports car. The comment is made, "Polish or not, she's still a girl."

The evolution of the Miss Falewicz character is most revealing. Lonely, depressed, she is always treated gently and with respect. The concerned store owner calls her every evening. She explains she has "A method for fighting depression. I clean my house whenever I'm depressed." When commenting on why she wants to rent *Driving Miss Daisy*, Falewicz says, "This is a lovely movie, full of generosity and giving." She becomes more positive, smiles more often, interacts with others. When the store owner is hesitant to produce movies, she convinces him, "Our past belongs to us, we can change it if we want." With the success of the Fats Waller documentary, the once-shy, introverted Falewicz is beaming with pride, celebrating with the entire neighborhood.

Is this the blueprint that will revitalize once vibrant, active neighborhoods?

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Joseph W. Zurawski is author of *Poland: The Captive Satellite: A Study in National Psychology*; *Polish American History and Culture: A Classified Bibliography*; *Polish Chicago: Our History, Our Recipes; six regional histories (Niles, Illinois, Door County, Sister Bay, Keweenaw County, Liberty Grove, Saukville) and Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding. He has also developed educational materials for several publishers on the Polish American experience and taught Polish American history and culture at Wright College and Triton College. His article "Out of Focus: The Polish American Image in Film" was published in the Spring 2013 Polish American Studies.*

the first time in full color and special quality magazine pages.

Approval for a historical marker in Philadelphia, dedicated to Walter Golaski, inventor of the knitted vascular replacement, was obtained by Peter Obst. Date of the dedication to be announced.

A very impressive report by Cecilia and Raymond Glembocki, co-chairs National Conference for the Social Studies, on the conference held last fall in Seattle, Wash.

Music Committee chair Alicia Dutka revealed that the committee had received applications from soloists for appearance at the ACPC's Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Concert during the annual convention in Baltimore.

A project proposal to the National Board of Directors was submitted in the course of the business meeting by Debbie Majka and Dave Motak. In summary, it is proposed that the ACPC should investigate the possibility of sponsoring a traveling exhibition in the United States to celebrate and promote the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland. The Board moved that ACPC should become involved in the proposed project.

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

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

A sincere "THANK YOU" for their donations to the PAJ PRESS FUND: Irene Kennerdell, Hanson, Mass.; Virginia Millar, Port Orange, Fla.; Richard and Pearl Wilgosz, Hollywood, Fla.; Regina Wnukowski, Philadelphia; and one Friend of the PAJ. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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Polka MAGAZINE

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IPA Celebrates 45 Years

CHICAGO — The 45th Annual I.P.A. Festival and Convention will take place at the Embassy Suites, Cleveland-Rockside, 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence, Ohio, Thursday, August 1 to Sunday, August 4, 2013.

Opening night, August 1, it will be The Del Sinchak Band from 7:00-10:30 p.m. On Friday, from 5:00 p.m.—1 a.m., music will be by “The Divas,” featuring Ania Piwowarczyk, Gennie Okrzesik, and Mary Lou Czerniak; The Knewz; Polka Family; and Freeze Dried. On Saturday, the 44th Annual I.P.A. Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet begins at 10:00 a.m. Reservations are required

and the price of a ticket is \$35.00. Please contact Linda Niewierowski (773) 489-3987 or email her at plkaqueen25@aol.com.

On Saturday, from 4:00 p.m. — 1:00 a.m., music will be by The Boys; Polka Country Musicians; and the IPA Tribute Band with Special Guest I.P.A. Hall of Famers.

On Sunday, the Polka Mass begins at 9:00 a.m. and the Annual Election of Officers and Convention Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. for current members only.

Admission prices are \$10.00 on Thursday, and \$15.00 on Friday and Saturday, payable at the door. No advance tickets will be sold. Children under 16 will be admitted free

when accompanied by an adult. For hotel reservations, call (216) 986-9900, price is \$99 plus tax per night and you must mention you are coming for the I.P.A. Polka Festival.

Reservations must be made no later than July 15, 2013. This is an all-suites hotel. All suites have a private bedroom and separate living rooms, a wet-bar, microwave, refrigerator, coffeemaker and two flat screen TVs, Complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast each morning, Complimentary manager’s reception with light snacks and beverages each evening, indoor pool, whirlpool, fitness center and seasonal outside sundeck.

D Street Releases Second CD

CHICAGO — The Chicago-based D Street Band has released “The 99 Bottle D-Tour,” their new CD on the DSB label. Featuring 17 tracks with a variety of original tunes and select older songs that haven’t been heard in years, the band offers a full range of music for the listener.

Aside from the title track, “99 Bottles,” the listener will find other originals like “He’s Her Dad,” “Cheddy Vodka” oberek, and “Polka Summer Season,” along with classics like “Sad and Lonely” polka, “Happy and Single” and “Charm of Your Beautiful Dark Eyes.”

D Street Band has its roots in the Chicago-style polka music of Division Street in Chicago. At one



Front (l. to r.): Andrew Okrzesik, Tim Okrzesik; standing: Lenny Kapka, Lenny Zielinski, Brian Kapka, A.J. Okrzesik.

gan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Band videos can also be found on YouTube.

D Street consists of Lenny Zielinski on concertina, Brian Kapka on drums and vocals, Lenny Kapka on bass and vocals, Tim Okrzesik on saxes, clarinet and vocals, A.J. Okrzesik on trumpet and vocals and Andrew Okrzesik on accordion, concertina, piano and vocals.

“The 99 Bottle D-Tour,” was recorded at Man Cave Studios and Engineered by Johnny Okrzesik.

The CD was mixed and mastered by Gary Rhamy at Peppermint Studio with cover design by Michelle M. Eron.

For further information visit www.dstreetband.com.

time, some 14 lounges and halls on that famous street had music seven days a week. This was the stomping ground of many of the famous polka musicians that Chicago produced.

The band’s “Blue Skies Ahead,” released in 2011, brought them some notoriety and put them on stages in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michi-

Roger Lichwala Dead

New England Drumming Legend



Lichwala with the New Brass. 1979.

INDIAN ORCHARD, Mass. — Roger T. Lichwala, 67, leader of the Golden Brass, who also drummed for Happy Louie, Jimmy Sturr and others, passed away June 19, 2013.

Born in Springfield to the late Teofil and Mary (Czupta) Lichwala, he was a lifelong area resident.

Lichwala was a proud Eagle Scout and a member of the Polish American Citizens Club of Ludlow. He had worked at Taylor Rental, Willow Laboratories, Bank of New England, and was most recently the Administrative As-

sistant at Immaculate Conception Church in Indian Orchard.

Lichwala was a legendary drummer in the polka industry, known for his dynamic and powerful style. He served as a role model for generations of drummers who aspired to emulate his driving sound and steady beat.

In his early years, Lichwala performed with Bob Sawicki’s New Englanders, Happy Louie & Julcia, and Jimmy Sturr. In 1969, he formed the Golden Brass Orchestra, which took the polka world by storm with their 60-minute sets and then-unusual instrumentation: two trumpets, two accordions, drums and bass. The band was renamed the New Brass Orchestra, one of the top travelling polka groups in the industry. In 1971, the band won three International Polka Association awards: Best Instrumental Group, Best LP “Let the Sunshine In,” and Best Single Song, “Let the Sunshine In.”

The New Brass was known for its original songs, personality, fun-loving style and ability to relate to all ages. It played all the major polka festivals and traveled to many different countries to entertain fans.

Lichwala leaves his wife of 40 years, Sandra (Kokoszka) Lichwala; his godchildren, Michael Chlastawa and Jeffrey Czupta, and many friends.

Andy Bozzarelli Passes

Accordion and Bass Player with The Sounds

PITTSBURGH — Andrew C. Bozzarelli III, 56, of Hempfield Township, passed away Wednesday, May 29, 2013. He was born Sept. 7, 1956, in East Vandergrift, son of Delores J. Facenmyer Bozzarelli and the late Andrew Bozzarelli Jr. Andrew was self-employed as an independent securities and insurance agent.

Andy played both the accordion and the bass guitar with Jimmy Weber & the Sounds, and several other bands. His brother, Vinny, was also a member of the Sounds.

Andy played bass when Vinny played violin, said former band-member Robin Pegg. Andy, Vinny and Mike Stapinski (currently a member of Full Circle and Lenny Gomulka’s Chicago Push) got their start with the Jolly Hops in the 1970s.

In addition to his mother, Andy is survived by his

wife of 29 years, Anne Glab Bozzarelli; two children, Amanda and A.J. Bozzarelli, and two brothers, Vincent Bozzarelli and fiancé Gina Sutchell, of West Palm Beach, Fla., and Albert Bozzarelli and his wife, Lisa, of Vandergrift; and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church in Avonmore. Interment was in Twin Valley Memorial Park, Delmont.



Brothers Vinny (bass guitar) and Andy Bozzarelli (accordion). 1980.

POLKAJUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Getting “Boysterous”

When The Boys play a polka, you just can’t sit still, and when The Boys get boisterous you don’t want to sit still. Their new 17-track compact disc, aptly titled “Boysterous,” brings together not only a great collection of original and traditional songs, but also a full range of tunes that will keep the dance floor filled and the stage-front crowded.

The highlights of this studio effort can be found throughout this collection but the musical pen of Frank Liszka is a great place to start. “I Love Only You” polka and “Dreamin” polka deserve special mention while “My Destiny,” a great Polish waltz, and “She’s Got To Learn,” oberek, give the polka world two solid Polish originals.

“My Baby’s Gone” and “I’ve Got My Baby on My Mind” let the two Mikes and Allen highlight their talents on the vocals while “Loose Talk,” from the musical pen of Freddie Hart, is given some classic styl-

ing by Liszka and Stacey Morris.

The boys behind The Boys are: Mike Matousek (bass and vocals); Al Puwalski (accordion and vocals); Frank Liszka (trumpet and vocals); Jeff Yash (drums); Mike Evan (trumpet and vocals); and Dave Morris (concertina).

Oh, and for a photo collage of “The Boys” doing what they do off-stage, the cover graphic foldout belongs on everyone’s home polka billboard. Not only are the pictures worth a thousand words, but their kind recognition of others in the polka business, show just how real and humble these “Boys” are.

“Boysterous” was recorded by Hank Guzevich and Wizzears Studios and mixed by Steve Kaminski. The great, multi-page graphics are the work of Michelle Eron. It is on the New Day Records label.

You can find The Boys on the internet at: www.theboysband.com.

New CD “Enjoy The Little Things”

COLCHESTER, Conn. — The Maestro’s Men have released their new CD, “Enjoy The Little Things.”

The eighth recording by the group, it features 16 selections and vocals by Polka Hall-of Famers, Jackie Libera and Eddie Skinger.

The title cut “Enjoy The Little Things” echoes a sentiment of enjoying all the little things in life that we sometimes take for granted. Sometimes the best things in life are free.

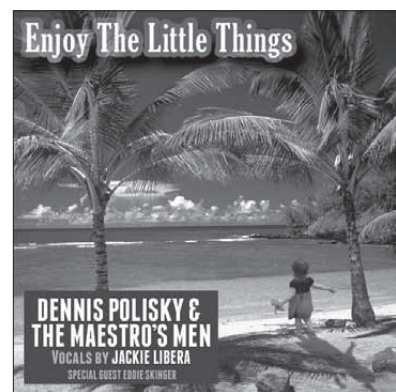
This CD is dedicated to Dennis

Polisky’s mother, Helen Polisky, and features the musical talents of Jackie Libera, Ken Yash, Rich Ber-

nier, Andy Galarneau, Jim Motyka and guest Eddie Skinger. Highlighting the cover is Dennis Polisky’s granddaughter Gabby.

It is available for \$18 check or money order made payable to Dennis Polisky (includes shipping and

handling) Mail: Dennis Polisky 28 Westerly Terrace Colchester CT 06415.



Connecticut State Polka a Signature Away

HARTFORD, Conn. — After seven years of trying, Peter Danielczuk recently convinced the state legislature to establish the first state polka song.

Danielczuk, of Ansonia, said the “Ballroom Polka,” by Connecticut Polka Hall of Famer Ray Henry, was passed as the official state pol-

ka song. It is currently awaiting the governor’s signature, he said.

“Connecticut has a long history of polka music in the state,” he said. “I thought it would be appropriate to give tribute to all the people of many nationalities who enjoy dancing the polka in the state, as well as the musicians.”

NOTES / Barbara Pinkowski

USPA Meets in Strongville

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Happy Fourth of July everyone. Hope you proudly display our flag. Enjoy your day off, picnics, outings, parades and fireworks shows.

The 45th Annual Convention of the **United States Polka Association (USPA)** was held in Strongsville, Ohio over Memorial Day weekend. Many enjoyed the great music offered over the three days. One of the highlights of this weekend was the USPA Awards banquet. Our area had three nominees: Andy Bojczuk for Male Vocalist, The Knewz for USPA Band of the Year, and yours truly for Polka News Reporter.

I felt very honored to win the award for Polka Reporter of the Year. It was exciting, amazing and wonderful to get this and I am grateful to everyone who voted for me.

John Gora was the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award—he is very deserving of this honor.

Congratulations to all the nominees and award winners.

IN SYMPATHY. Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Stanley Helak** who passed away on May 27, 2013. This is a big family and many of them come to the polka dances. Also, condolences to our Pennsylvania friends, Mike and Tammy Soich. Mike's dad recently passed away. Please remember the deceased in your prayers.

IT'S PICNIC TIME. Everyone is invited to attend the **Buffalo Polka Boosters Club Annual Picnic**, Sunday, July 28. It will be held at Fontana's Grove, 2299 Clinton St., Buffalo, from 2:00-7:00 pm. A variety of food will be served from 3:00-6:00 pm. You can bring your own pitchers but no BYOB. Music will be by the fabulous Buffalo Touch. Non-members admission price is \$25; for children 11-13 the

cost is \$10; and children ten and under are free. For more information, call Chris at (716) 771-1076 or John at (716) 674-2662. Come on out and enjoy the day—you're sure to have a good time.

OCEAN-BOUND. Ron Urbanczyk asked me to remind anyone interested that there is a trip to **Polka Motion by the Ocean** in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The bus leaves Friday, Sept. 13 and returns Sunday, Sept. 15. Two nights at the Atlantis Hotel and admission to the dances are included in the price. For more information, please call Ron at (716) 675-6588 or Jim at 896-9063 as soon as you can as the deadline is nearing for reservations.



THE DOMBROWSKI BROTHERS, Rich (left) and Wally, doing what they do best!

GROOVE IN THE GROVE. On June 1, the **Lamm Post Grove** opened for the season with the lively **Polka Country Musicians** from Connecticut. Many new songs from their latest release, *Get Your Groove On*, were played. PCM were the winners of several awards at the USPA, including Recording of the Year for *United We Jam*, released in 2012; Song of the Year for "Song for the People," and Band of the Year.

They put on quite a show with the fiddles which the fans loved. In



MATT AND SANDRA LEWANDOWSKI. Matt is one of the country's best drummers, having played with numerous bands over the years. Sandy hosts her own show, "Center Stage," on the Polka Jammer Network.

between the PCM sets, Buffalo's newest band took the stage. **Special Delivery** — with Mark Kohan, Ted Szymanski, Dave Miesowicz, Jay Skiba and Tom Goldyn — blended their talents well to deliver an excellent sound. Both bands did a fantastic job keeping the many fans happy. **Sandy and Bob Krawczyk** did a great job with their first polka doing of the season at their comfortable place. There was a nice turnout to enjoy the super entertainment.

THIS JUST IN. Our famous local band, **The Knewz**, has released its seventh CD, named *Eyewitness Knewz* with an eye-catching cover design. There are fifteen selections on this one. Be sure to add this to your collection — you will not be disappointed. They have many out-of-town bookings, but have several coming up locally, too.

CONGRATULATIONS. Happy 50th birthday to **John Drabek**, who celebrated this special occasion in style. On May 11, a big party with plenty of refreshments, food, and musical entertainment was enjoyed by his family and friends. Sto lat.

UPCOMING.

- **July 4.** Special Delivery plays in the 4th of July Parade on Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. and then plays in the Pavilion in Town Park from 1:30-5:30 p.m.
- **July 9.** The Buffalo Touch are playing at the River Grill in Tonawanda, N.Y. starting at 7:00 p.m.
- **July 11.** The New Direction Band plays at the new Pavilion behind the Senior Center, Martin Rd., Lackawanna, from 6:15-8:15 p.m. Bring a lawn chair. Everyone invited-free admission.
- **July 14.** Polka in the Falls at the Echo Club, 342 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, N.Y. \$5.00 admission. Music from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Call 282-3246.



MARIAN AND ANDY PILECKI had a great time at the Lamm Post. Andy was a winner of the Am-Pole Eagle's "Citizen of the Year" award last year in the "Individual in an Organization" category.

- **July 16.** Polka Boosters Meeting at the Polish Falcons Club, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Admission price includes refreshments and music. New members are always welcome to attend as a guest or join. For more information, call Chris at (716) 771-1076.
- **July 18.** The New Direction Band is on stage in the Lions Bandshell behind West Seneca Town Hall, Union Rd., West Seneca. Music goes from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs.
- **July 19-21.** The 35th Annual Polish American Festival at the Cheektowaga Town Park, Harlem Rd. Music by the Buffalo Touch, Lenny Gomulka, Rare Vintage, Maestro's Men, Polish American String Band (Mummers), and Bud Hundenski & the Corsairs. The Polish Heritage Dancers will be performing and there will be an outdoor Mass at 4:30 p.m. On Sat. with the Rev. Louis Klein and the Quo Vadis Choir. On Sunday, the big Pulaski Day Parade starting at the Thruway Mall and ending at Town Park. The New Direction band will be playing.
- **July 21.** Polkas in the Park with the New Direction Band playing from 5:00 pm until 9:00 p.m. at Houghton Park in Buffalo, N.Y. There will be a special memorial dedication for the

soldiers from Kaisertown killed in the Vietnam war. Bring your lawn chairs.

- **July 21.** Special Delivery on stage at the Bandshell at Dartwood Park. Cheektowaga, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- **July 23.** The Knewz will be entertaining at the Orchard Park Pavilion in Orchard Park from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- **July 24.** The Polka Variety Club Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are served. Call Bill at (716) 759-8194. This month features a Patriotic Theme.
- **July 28.** Polka Boosters Annual Picnic at Fontana's Grove, 2299 Clinton St., Buffalo, NY from 2:00-7:00 p.m. Music by the Buffalo Touch, food and refreshments. Call Chris at (716) 771-1076.
- **July 28.** Special Delivery is playing at St. Martha's Lawn Fete, 20 French Rd., Depew, N.Y. For more information, call Ted at (716) 668-9101.
- **July 29.** The Buffalo Touch play on the Miss Buffalo for the Polish Villa's annual cruise at 7:00 p.m. Call (716) 822-4908 for more information.

Lots of fun things to do! I hope to see you at some of them!

35TH ANNUAL CHEEKTOWAGA

POLISH AMERICAN FESTIVAL

July 18-21, 2013

Schedule Subject to Change Without Prior Notice

Thursday, July 18
7:00 p.m. Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra

Friday, July 19
4:30 p.m. Buffalo Touch - Buffalo, N.Y.
5:45 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, Mass.
7:00 p.m. Polish Heritage Dancers - Buffalo, N.Y.
8:15 p.m. Buffalo Touch - Buffalo, N.Y.
9:15 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, Mass.

Saturday, July 20
2:30 p.m. Rare Vintage - Cheektowaga, N.Y.
4:30 p.m. Mass Celebrant & Homilist:
Reverend Louis S. Klein, Pastor
Queen of Martyrs RC Church, Cheektowaga, N.Y.
Deacon Robert Badaszewski
Guest Choir - Quo Vadis
Honor Guard - St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly Color Corp #1944
5:30 p.m. Rare Vintage - Cheektowaga, NY.
6:15 p.m. Maestro's Men - Colchester, Conn.
7:30 p.m. Polish-American String Band (Mummers) - Philadelphia, Pa.
8:45 p.m. Maestro's Men - Colchester, Conn.
10:00 p.m. Polish-American String Band (Mummers) - Philadelphia, Pa

Sunday, July 21
3:00 p.m. Polish-American String Band (Mummers) - Philadelphia, Pa.
4:15 p.m. Bud Hundenski & Corsairs - Coraopolis, Pa.
5:45 p.m. Maestro's Men - Colchester, Conn.
7:00 p.m. Bud Hundenski & Corsairs - Coraopolis, Pa.
8:15 p.m. Maestro's Men - Colchester, Conn.

PLEASE NOTE: 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 Nowak's Catering and Polish Villa II. The General Pulaski Parade Will Take Place on Sunday, July 21st at 1:30 p.m. starting at the Thruway Mall and continuing North On Harlem Road, ending At Town Park.

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TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

Well Worth the Drive

I took the highway east to USPA 2013 on Saturday and Sunday this year, and wow, was it worth it! Saturday night brought the Knewz, Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men, and the Beat Reunion with Mike Costa. All three bands packed the new venue for USPA — the Holiday Inn in Strongsville, Ohio.

The next day, after a leisurely lunch, we headed back to the hotel for the afternoon line up. It was a great afternoon, as Eddie Biegaj sang with the Piatkowski "marathon" Brothers. Gina Biegaj Klear joined her son on the stage, and Eddie of course offered up many favorites from the TPM and Crusade days, including one of his signature tunes, "Red Berries," as well as one of my favorites, "Szla Dzieweczka." It wouldn't be an Eddie Biegaj performance without some East Coast style music, which Eddie loves, and which also happens to be on my list of favorites.

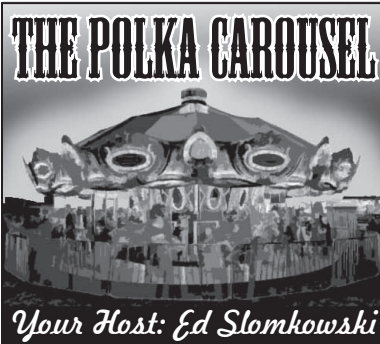
Eddie alternated with John Gora, and PCM, and later in the day, the New Brass Express performed, all to an enthusiastic, if a bit tired, audience.

Congratulations goes out to Toledo son Brian Earl, winner of the 2013 USPA New Horizon Award. Brian is the son of Bobbie Earl Jr. of A Touch of Brass, and Sandy Earl of Holland, Ohio. He is a student at St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo and enjoys just about every polka dance he can get to. Brian and his extended Earl Zalewski family were in attendance at USPA, and Brian took the stage with different bands, sitting in on drums with The Knewz and John Gora & Gorale. Brian continues to promote polka music through his enthusiasm and love for the music.

Speaking of the Earl family, "Golabki with Benji and Dano" is a new polka radio show airing on Wednesday evenings from 10:00 p.m.-noon on WXUT 88.3 FM in Toledo, Ohio. The show features first cousins Ben "Benji" Lynn and Dan "Dano" Earl, older brother of Brian Earl. These fellows do a great job playing the latest Polish polka tunes, and Toledo band favorites in their two hours on the air. Congrats to Ben and Dan on your efforts to keep polkas alive.

Here's to a great polka summer!

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE ABOUT. Illinois politicians anticipate the adoption of an official tribute to Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., which includes adoption of "Polka Celebration" as the official State Polka, but it awaits the legislature's next session. Delay was caused by heated debate about pension reform in the state.



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45th Annual

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The Knewz (NY)
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Mary Lou Czerniak

SATURDAY AUGUST 3rd
The Boys (MD)
IPA Tribute Band (IL) with Guest IPA Hall of Famers
Polka Country Musicians (CT)

Friday & Saturday \$15.00 at the door

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th
9:00 a.m. Polka Mass
10:00 a.m. Annual Election of Officers & Convention Meeting (IPA Members Only)
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Summer 2013 Appearances

Sun., July 14. **The Polish American Cultural Association**, 5 Pulaski Pl., Port Washington, NY. Annual Family Picnic, Dancing 3:00-7:00 p.m. Call Irene 516-883-5553

Sat., July 20. Private Engagement (Long Island, NY)

Sun., July 21. **Middletown Lodge of Elks #1097**, 48 Prospect St., Middletown, NY. Fund Raising Dance sponsored by General Pulaski Memorial Committee of Orange County, NY. Dance 2:00-6:00 PM, Food available. Call Kathy 845-386-5199, 845-649-6328

Fri., July 26. **Lyons Park**, Putnam Blvd., Port Chester, NY. Summer Concert Series, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Bring lawn chairs. Call Angelo 914-937-3550 or June 860-536-2452

Sat., July 27. **The Gazebo on the Green** at St. Michael Church, 25 Maple Ave., Beacon Falls, CT. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Park Concert, Food available, Bring lawn chairs. Call Bob 203-723-7470

Sun., Aug. 4. **Pulaski Park**, 40 Belchertown Rd., Three Rivers, MA. 2:30-6:30 p.m. Food available. Call Paul 413-323-8236.

Wed., Aug. 7. **Sherman Green Gazebo**, Corner of Reef and Post Rds., Fairfield, CT. 7:00-8:30 p.m. Park Concert, Bring lawn chairs. Call Ken 203-259-7765.

Tues., Aug. 13. **Coe Memorial Park**, Torrington, CT. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Park Concert, Bring lawn chairs, Rain location inside auditorium on site. Call Donna 860-489-2274, June 860-536-2452

Sat., Aug. 17 & Sun., Aug. 18. **The Riverhead Polish Hall**, 214 Marcy Ave., Riverhead, NY. Sat. Noon-5:00 p.m.; Sun. 1:00-6:00 p.m. in conjunction with The Polish Town Fair. Under the tent in the picnic area, Polish food available in The Hall. Call Mike 631-727-7696.

Sun., Aug. 25. The **Four Seasons Country Fair**, St. Michael Church, 25 Maple Ave., Beacon Falls, CT. Afternoon (time to be announced), Food, Booths, Crafts, Bring lawn chairs. Call Paul 203-747-4641.

Sat., Aug. 31. **Laurel Beach Club**, 102 Sixth Ave., Milford, CT. 6:30-11:00 p.m. Call Ted 203-874-4780 or June 860-536-2452

Sun., Sept. 1. **5th Annual Polka Fest 2013** with Polka Paul, Roosevelt Park, St. Paul St., Blackstone, Mass. NOTE LOCATION CHANGE, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Food available, Bring lawn chairs, Free admission Call Paul 508-294-1512

Fri., Sept 13- Sun., Sept. 15. **Irene and Bob Jaracz's Polka Weekend**, The Beacon Resort, Lincoln. Watch for info regarding a bus trip Call Bob 603-635-3067 or June 860-536-2452

Sat., Oct. 5. **The Polish American Citizens Club**, 8 Ives St., Danbury, CT Dinner 6:00 PM, Dancing 7:00-10:00 p.m. Call Sue 203-994-0622

June Sherry Ingram, 352 Packer Rd., Mystic CT 06355-1124, 860-536-2452
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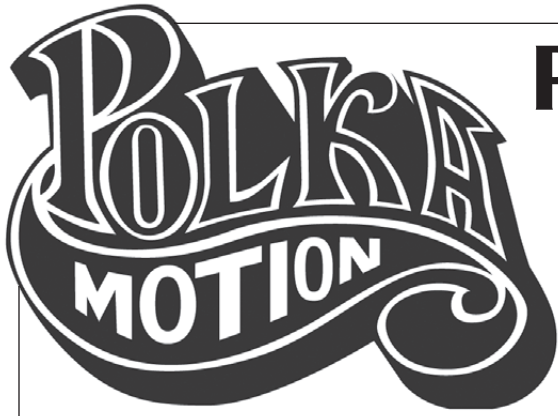
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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

STROLLING IN SOLITUDE. Old Town Warsaw. May 16, 1976.

Piast Anniversary Celebrated



MEMBERS OF PIAST, the first Polish Folk Dance group in Las Vegas, Nevada, recently celebrated the group's first anniversary with a performance at Our Lady of Las Vegas Catholic Church.

The not-for profit, organization for amateur dancers, is under the direction of choreographer Renata Nowinski. Drawing on her vast experience, Piast is able to showcase dances from all regions of Poland. Its repertoire is constantly improving and expanding with more Polish and international dances.

The group, under the auspices of the PNA Lodge 3281 and the Polish American Social Club of Las Vegas, recorded its anniversary concert, which is available on DVD. The DVD was produced by John Wisniewski.

For more information about Piast, contact Ted Nowak at (702) 806-6033 or tedn@craftcc.com. To contact Renata Nowinski, call (702) 478-0246; e-mail renatanowinski@yahoo.com. You can also visit the group's page on Facebook.

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Thursday August 8 ~ 16.00		Thursday, August 15 ~ \$12.00	
Big Daddy Marshall Lackowski 1:00, 2:30, & 5:30	America's Polka Sweetheart Stephanie 1:45, 3:15, & 6:15	Squeezebox with Mollie B from RFD 2:00, 5:00 & 8:00	
Pan Franek 4:00, 7:00, & 8:30	Polka Family 4:45, 7:45 & 9:15	Fred Ziwich 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00	Gary Brueggen 3:00, 6:00 & 9:00
Friday, August 9 ~ \$20.00		Friday, August 16 ~ \$8.00/\$16.00	
Pan Franek 1:00, 3:15, & 7:00	Polka Family 1:45, 4:00 & 7:45	Gary Brueggen 1:00, 2:30 & 4:00	Squeezebox with Mollie B from RFD 1:45, 3:15 & 4:45
New Brass Express 2:30, 4:45, & 8:30	Lenny Gomulka 5:30, 10:00 & 11:30	HUBCAPS SHOW \$16.00 7:00 Show 8:20, & 9:40 Music & Dancing	
Dynatones 6:15, 9:15 & 10:45			
Saturday, August 10 ~ \$20.00		Saturday, August 17 ~ \$8.00/\$16.00	
Downtown Sound 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00	The Knewz 1:45, 4:00 & 7:45	Squeezebox with Mollie B from RFD 1:00, 2:30 & 4:00	Frank Moravcik 1:45, 3:15 & 4:45
Lenny Gomulka 5:30, 10:00 & 11:30	Dynatones 6:15, 9:15 & 10:45	HUBCAPS SHOW \$16.00 7:00 Show 8:20, & 9:40 Music & Dancing	
Frank Borzymowski & Friends 6:15, 10:00 & 11:30			

Heritage Park Frankenmuth

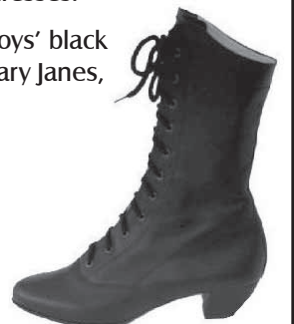
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Polish Costumes For Sale

Kansas City, Kansas — Sets of Polish costumes are for sale for boys and girls in sizes to fit 4th graders to early college age. The St. John Tamburitzans of Kansas City were a group of young musicians a few years ago and their performing costumes have been stored and covered in a climate-controlled atmosphere to ensure their preservation. They are beautiful authentic crafted costumes made by experienced seamstresses.

Also available are girls' red boots and boys' black boots, girls' red dancing shoes, black Mary Janes, opanke and long braided wigs.

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Adrienne Nastav at
913-634-7925



Dinner Circle Fetes Stanczak



ARTIST AND PRINT MAKER RECOGNIZED. (l. to r.), Stanczyk, Eugene Trela of the Polish Dinner Circle, and the artist's wife, Barbara.

CLEVELAND — Members of the Polish Dinner Circle honored artist and print maker Julian Stanczak, May 19, with a dinner and reception at Provenance Café in the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Stanczak, a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Case Western University, was born in Borownica, Poland in 1928. During World War II, at age 11, he was sent to a labor camp in Perm, Siberia, where his two-year internment cost him the use of his right arm. After escaping from the camp, he joined the Polish army-in-exile, which could not provide him with the medical attention he needed for his arm. He then wandered alone through the Middle East before re-joining family in Teheran, Persia.

Living in a hut with his family in a Polish refugee camp in Uganda, Africa, he had his first private art lessons. He went to London, where he attended the Borough Polytechnic Institute.

In 1950, Stanczyk emigrated to the United States. Four years later, he received his BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art. In 1956, he became United States citizen, and completed his MFA at Yale Univer-

sity, studying under Josef Albers and Conrad Marca Relli. In 1957, he joined the teaching staff at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, through which he later taught Master's degree courses at the University of Cincinnati.

Throughout his teaching career, he perfected his use of color and line to become one of the most sought-after Op Art artists of the 20th Century. His works are on display in collections throughout the world, including the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), Albright-Knox Art Gallery (Buffalo), Art Academy of Cincinnati, Princeton University Art Museum, Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art (Austin), and Centrum Sztuki Studio im Stanisława I. Witkiewicza, Warsaw, Poland.

Stanczyk's art is also on display at the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

He retired in 1995 after 38 years of teaching.

Stanczyk resides in Seven Hills, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, with his wife, sculptor Barbara Stanczyk.

GENEALOGY / Stephen M. Szabados

Online Sources of Polish Records

Birth, marriage and death records were initially kept by the churches. In the late 1800s, governments began requiring these events be reported to a civil office in the county. Eventually copies of these records were transferred to Polish Regional Archives and most copies survived the two world wars and are now available online, on film or in person at the archives. Today's discussion will cover the records that are available online and on film.

The most-used source for early Polish records in the past has been the films available from the catalog at Familysearch.org. Family History Centers (FHC) have filmed many the early Polish vital records from churches and the civil records. Researchers have been using this catalog of films at Familysearch.org to rent and view at Family History Centers. Remember that the films are cataloged by the village name where the parish church or civil registration office is located. Also, FHC is now digitizing their films and making the images available in name-searchable databases on Familysearch.org. Images are available for the church records for Czestochowa, Gliwice, Lublin, Radom and

Tarnow with more to come.

Another well-used website is the Poznan Marriage Indexing Project at:

<http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/project.php>. Volunteers at this website have indexed the marriage records from FHC films from 1820 to 1899 for the Poznan province. If you cannot find enough data to find your ancestor's birthplace, this website may give you a miracle since it is searchable by names of the bride and groom. If you are able to find your ancestor in this index, you will find a list of films that you can order to view copies of the records. However, this contains information for immigrants who left the German controlled area of Poznan. None of the areas of Poland are covered in this database.

Another great new website is Geneteka at <http://www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl/>. The volunteers for this site have been working with the Polish Archives for a few years to scan and index vital records. The site is in Polish but is easy to use. You will need to select a province (e.g. Wielkopolskie, Kujawsko-pomorskie, etc.) and then you can search the records by name. This is

another great source if you do not know the location of your ancestor's birthplace. Most of the records are from Catholic Church registers but there are a few Protestant records included. I have found a few records for my research but many records are still waiting to be indexed. Be patient and hopefully the records for your ancestors can be found in the near future.

Below are two more new websites with Polish vital records available. Again both are in Polish with searchable databases:

- Malopolska Genealogical Society at <http://mtg-malopolska.org.pl>
- Pomeranian Genealogical Association at <http://www.ptg.gda.pl/>

If not found in these sources you may have to contact the Polish National Archives, Polish regional archives or Diocesan archives. These sources will be covered in next month's discussion.



Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to this newspaper, is the author of Finding Grandma's European Ancestors and Find Your Family History.

BRUSH UP / Polonia Media Network

Emergencies

I know my rights.

Znam moje prawa / (Znahm MOH-yeh PRAH-vah)

I want to see a lawyer

Chcę się zobaczyć z prawnikiem / (Hhtse sheh zo-BAH-chich sprav-NEE-kyehm)

Can I please have a lawyer who speaks English?

Poproszę o prawnika który mówi po angielsku? / (Poh-PROH-sheh oh prahv-NEE-kah KTUH-rih MUH-vee poh an-GYEHL-skuh)

What is the charge?

O co jest oskarżenie? / (Oh tsoh yehst ohs-kahr-ZHEH-nyeh?)

I did not realize I was doing something wrong. (m)

Nie sądziłem że robię coś złego / (Nyah sohwn-DJEE-wehm zeh ROH-byeh tsohsh ZWH-goh) m

I did not realize I was doing something wrong. (f)

Nie sądziłam że robię coś złego / (Nyah sohwn-DJEE-wahm zeh ROH-byeh tsohsh ZWH-goh) f

I want to contact my embassy.

Chcę się skontaktować z moją ambasadą / (Hhtse sheh skohn-tahk-TOH-vahch ahm-bah-SAH-dohwm)

Can I call my consulate?

Czy mogę zadzwonić do mojego konsulatu? / (Chih mohgeh zah-DZWOH-neeoh doh YEH-goh kohn-suh-LAH-tuh?)

SURNAME CORNER / Robert Strybel

Names by Occupation

Many Polish last names originated many centuries ago to describe people on the basis of their occupation. In addition to the basic form (given first), numerous derivatives emerged to indicate the person's son or helper. Here are some of the more common:

Ksiądz priest, Reverend Father
Kupiec: merchant
Leśnik: woodsman, forester
Łowca hunter
Luźny vagabond
Myśliwy hunter
Nieszlachcic a commoner
Oberżysta innkeeper
Ogrodnik farmer with a house and garden but no cropland
Opatrzny poor burgher

For a custom-researched analysis of your surname – its origin, meaning, number of users, where they live and coat of arms if any, kindly airmail a \$19 check (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish researched to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland. For more information please contact: research60@gmail.com.

PROVERBS, SAYINGS, AND NOTIONS / Robert Strybel

Folk Wisdom of the Polish People

Various sayings have long been known to reflect the common knowledge, folk wisdom, values and feelings of the Polish people. They have taken the form of proverbs, aphorisms, mottos and slogans. Many embody profound truths; others are light-hearted, even comical.

Many proverbs and concepts are shared with other nations, although their phrasing may differ. Others are more unique and difficult to translate, let alone find equivalents for. The following compilation barely scratches the surface of Poland's extensive treasure trove of maxims and adages, but even these few may help show what Polish people believe in, what they consider important and – in a word – what makes them tick:

Mądry Polak po szkodzie

Equivalent: Lock the stable after the horse has bolted.

Literally: A Pole is wise after the damage has been done.

Mądrzejsze jajko o kury.

Equivalent: Wiser the egg than the hen.

Note: Usually said about inexperienced young people who think they know it all

Kto się czubi, ten się lubi.

Equivalent: A lover's quarrel is proof of fondness.

Literally: Those who squabble like each other.

Nie ma takiego złego, żeby na dobre nie wyszło.

Equivalent: Every cloud has a silver lining.

Literally: Some good can come of every bad thing.

Lepszy wróbel w garści niż gołąb na dachu.

Equivalent: A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Literally: A sparrow in the hand is better than a pigeon on the roof.

continued next month



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Visit With Walesa



PAST POLISH PRESIDENT LECH WALESA welcomed Jan Lewan and his group to Gdansk, May 16. Lewan did not tell his entourage they were to meet with the Nobel Prize winner. He only informed them he had a surprise planned for the day.

The tour began at the Baltic Sea, then on to Warsaw, followed by Zakopane, and finally to Krakow. While in Gdansk the group was introduced to the Kaszuby Region with the tri-cities of Gdansk, Gdynia, and Sopot.

En route to Warsaw, the tour stopped at Malbork Castle, the stronghold of the Teutonic Knights in the 15th century. In Warsaw, they visited Chopin Park, the Warsaw Ghetto, and ended the day in the Old City. At Czestochowa, the group attended Mass in front of the Holy Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Queen of Poland. During the Mass, Jan was singing "Serdeczna Matko" and "Czarna Madonna" along with all the people who were visiting the Shrine.

In Zakopane, guests took a rafting trip down the Dunajec River. In Krakow they had the honor of meeting the private secretary to Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the Cardinal of Krakow.

Lewan thanks Mary Gorecki of PAT Tours, and the Great Agency in Poland for organizing and preparing the tour itineraries.

This September 17-28, Lewan will be hosting another tour, "The Great Capitals of Central Europe." For information, call PAT Tours at (800) 388-0988.

BOOK REVIEW / John Grondelski

A Report from the Punishment Company

CAPS OFF

A report from the Punishment Company (SK) of the KZ

Auschwitz

by Zenon Rozanski

Trans. Christine C. Schnusenberg

Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock

Publishers, 2012. Pp. 112,

paperback, \$13.60 (web price)

To order: wipfandstock.com

A half year after Polish prisoner Zenon Rozanski's 1941 incarceration in Auschwitz, he was further found guilty of the "crime" of taking "two dishes of garbage from the SS kitchen." This "sabotage" meant there was less food for the pigs. Less fattened pigs meant less meat for the SS, and one could not expect the latter swine to be forced to fatten on skinny pigs. For his offense, Rozanski was ordered whipped twenty-five times with a bull whip, then assigned to the "Punishment Company." Then began a special hell ...

Caps Off is an autobiographical account of Rozanski's fifteen months in the "Punishment Company." The translator reports that this short but gripping tale was first published in German in 1948. Because the work appeared in a poor quality edition in postwar Germany, at a time when many did not want to face the German past, it was largely forgotten. The German edition was reprinted in 1991; now, for the first time, it is available in English.

Offered as a contemporary first-hand account of life in Auschwitz, the book presents life in the camp during Auschwitz's early period, when it was a camp for *Polish* political prisoners. In the world's consciousness, Auschwitz has been identified with the Nazi "Final Solution" (*Endlösung der Judenfrage*), usually forgetting that the camp from its beginning existed to exterminate Poles. The killing of Poles perhaps did not proceed with the rapid pace of the selection process that led from train to gas chamber, but with a sufficiently murderous daily regime, the Germans ensured that the vast majority of Auschwitz prisoners died in arbitrary circumstances amidst brutal "labor" within six months.

Sent to a special "Punishment Company" for the "crime" of trying to survive on kitchen scraps (the typical diet in the camp was maybe about 1,000-1,300 calories per day). Rozanski details life in the camp through memories and vignettes that capture German brutality. Three things particularly struck me about the account: the capricious sadism

of the Germans; Rozanski's survival; and the ethical dilemmas faced every day in Auschwitz.

Auschwitz was a place of gratuitous violence, calculated to dehumanize its victims in every way. Rozanski observes how after each day that the Punishment Company went to "work," they carried back an average of 20 bodies, victims of their overlord's murderous sadism. A Jew who failed to fill his wheelbarrow with sand until it overflowed was clubbed to death for laziness. In the process of reducing overcrowding in the "infirmary" bunker, the "wrong" prisoner was sent to be killed, leaving the "right" one, a 20-something Dutchman for whose number a death certificate had already been issued. How to "solve" the discrepancy? Shoot the Dutchman! At least he got a bullet. The family of a Zamość escapee, brought to the camp to be executed for their fugitive family member, included an eleven week-old baby. The SS man decides "a bullet is too good for something like this," and instead smashes its head into a wall. "Immediately, the crying subsides; a spot remains on the wall while Palitzsch is throwing the little dead body to the ground" (p. 36).

Rozanski observes how after each day that the Punishment Company went to "work," they carried back an average of 20 bodies, victims of their overlord's murderous sadism.

In the face of such conditions, one marvels that Rozanski lived to see freedom. Indeed, his fifteen months in the Punishment Company — apparently a bureaucratic oversight because the Germans never really expected prisoners to emerge from punishment — elicits surprise from the Nazi who eventually declares his sentence completed. "I really should send you to an exhibition. You are a rarity in the camp" (p. 104). Rozanski really was a rarity: like Maximilian Kolbe, he was also condemned to the starvation bunker, only managing to be rescued because, after several days, the Nazis came to inventory the dead and reprieved some of the survivors. In light of what I would call his Providential survival, I am surprised that the "God question" is untouched in this book.

Not that religion does not enter the picture, especially as regards

ethical dilemmas. Rozanski tells the story of a Fr. Karczmarczyk and a Symcha Szmedras. An SS man ordered the elderly priest to beat the Jewish tailor with a whip. He refused. He then ordered the tailor to beat the priest. He refused. The SS man then punched the Jew to death and likewise clubbed the priest.

What would you do as a doctor in charge of an infirmary bloc in which, every Tuesday, crowding is relieved by killing some patients? The doctor is ordered to "select" 100 patients to receive lethal injections. How does one avoid this "death panel?"

Rozanski describes a transport of Russian POWs, who were the first prisoners gassed in Auschwitz. His Company was charged with extracting the corpses from the gas chamber, for which they were "rewarded" with a large kettle of soup. "The entire kettle was returned to the Block—almost untouched" (p. 46). He also describes a group of Jews, one of whom is assigned to the task of evacuating corpses from the gas chamber. When they reach their barracks, they are overjoyed to find food left there—only later to learn it was the meal of their predecessors, who had been gassed.

What is disappointing about, and detracts from this book, is its lack of historical background: the translator Christine Schnusenberg, provided only a most sketchy biography for Rozanski. Essentially, she reports that Rozanski was a journalist, born in Warsaw in 1904, who after the war ended up in West Germany before eventually reaching Brazil. According to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which the reviewer contacted, Rozanski was born in 1914. Nobody attempts to explain why this Catholic prisoner wound up in Auschwitz or how he reached Hannover after the War. Why did he go to Brazil? His trail peters out in the Amazon: did he die (he'd be 100-110) and, if so, when? The absence of this background leaves doubts about the diligence of the historical scholarship underlying what should be an important historical artifact. There has generally been a lot of research into camp inmates (and the Germans were meticulous record-keepers), so why the lack of information here?

An almost matter-of-fact testimony to everyman's life in Auschwitz, the book provides an interesting read.

Piast Institute Extends Survey Deadline

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, president of the Piast Institute has announced an extension of the new survey of Polish Americans in the United States in cooperation with the University of British Columbia.

The survey will now be continued through July 7, 2013.

To take the survey, visit <http://blogs.ubc.ca/piastsurvey/>

The Piast Institute is a National Center for Research, Analysis and Policy formation on Polish and Polish Affairs and an official U.S. Census Information Center (CIC) that focuses on Polish and other East Central European ethnic groups in America.

The new study will be published by E. Mellen Press, a major Social Science and Humanities publisher.

For more information contact the Executive Vice President of the Piast Institute Virginia Skrzyniarz, Skrzyniarz@piastinstitute.org or (313) 733-4535.

BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes MLIS

Beautiful Photos and Top Recipes

POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS

by Laura and Peter Zeranski

Pelican Publishing, 2013, 96 pp., \$16.95

This oversized book is full of beautiful full-color photographs of the dishes by Bob Rock. The endpapers are covered with colorful Polish paper cuts. This collection preserves old-time recipes many will remember from their childhood. An explanation of traditional holiday desserts at Christmas and Easter is also included.

Recipes include several versions of mazurki, babkas, cookies, tortes, cakes, pastries, special desserts as well as several adult beverages popular over the generations. They are accompanied with thorough instructions and photographs. The authors were careful to include recipes containing ingredients that are readily available in American kitchens. The recipes were tested over and over again to obtain the right amount of ingredients for each recipe. Their aim was to preserve the heritage of traditional dishes, retaining their original roots, yet adapted for modern kitchens.

A great gift for all who strive to retain their Polish heritage in the kitchen. Available through the Polish American Journal Bookstore.

each year. Anna returns to Poland each summer. She becomes a successful actress in New York, but her life seems empty and she doesn't know where she belongs.

When Kamilka's parents move to Michigan, she decides to stay in Kielce and finish college. Later she leaves a failed marriage to a homosexual and joins her parents, still unhappy with her life.

Justyna is expelled from school. Belligerent, she spends her time with low-life friends, marries and has a child. Her marriage ends tragically. In spite of the different paths they take, the three remain in contact with each other over the years.

Anna learns that Justyna's husband has been killed and feels she must return to Kielce to console her friend. There the three friends bond together once again and reminisce over their complicated lives and the future.

The novel is well-written, but the chapters switch back and forth in place and time, sometimes making it difficult for the reader to know what's what.

When finished reading your copy of the PAJ, please pass it on to a friend or to a local library.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

The Return of Coach K

Seven years and two gold medals after coming in to rescue the United States Olympic basketball team, **Mike Krzyzewski** surprised many by announcing that he would continue coaching the team through the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

In 2005, the team was struggling despite a wealth of talent. It was thought that the rich NBA superstars supposedly needed a college coach to instill teamwork and discipline, and there's no better college coach than Mike Krzyzewski. Under his leadership the team rebounded, including winning gold at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics and at the 2010 FIBA World Championship. However, the 66-year-old Krzyzewski said he was calling it quits after winning gold in London last August to concentrate on Duke basketball.

Krzyzewski has certainly benefited the U.S. squad, but he himself has gained a lot from the experience. Despite going into his 39th season as a college head coach — the winningest of all time — working with the NBA stars has rekindled his competitive fires. It gives Coach K, who had flirted with the idea of coaching in the NBA, a chance to see what he can do working with the pros.

Many had feared that the U.S. team would wear Krzyzewski down, and take him away from summer recruiting trips for Duke. But Duke president Richard Brod-

head said that the opposite has happened. "He's come back from that process so energized, so exhilarated that I think he's more into coaching at Duke in the Olympic years than [he] ever was before."



HE'S BAAAACK! Pitcher **Scott Kazmir** (above) has made a remarkable comeback, earning a spot in Cleveland's rotation after spending the last two years out of the majors.

The Houston native was drafted by the NY Mets in the first round (15th pick) in 2004, but was traded to Tampa Bay. He was an All-Star in 2006 and 2008, then was traded to the Angels in 2009. After one start in 2011, he was placed on the injured list, and then released two months later. He tried to come back, but his fastball, once clocked in the mid 90s, dropped to the low 80s. It was so bad for him that he had a 17.02 ERA in five starts for the Angels' Triple-A Salt Lake team in 2011. Last year he pitched for the

Sugar Land Skeeters in the Atlantic League.

Many thought that it was just one of those stories of a good pitcher who suddenly went bad, and would never make it back. Most players who have been out of the majors for that long never make it back. However, last winter he pitched in Puerto Rico for Edwin Rodriguez, the manager of Class AA Akron, and Rodriguez told the Tribe to sign Kazmir. "Then Tito [Francona] reached out," said Kazmir, who thought the new Cleveland manager was just the man to revive his career.

Right now Kaz has a 5.13 ERA and a 3-2 record, but the Indians are very impressed. The 29-year-old lefty believes in himself again, and his fastball has been clocked at 96. According to CBSports.com's Danny Knobler: "Watch the delivery that has Kazmir and the Indians convinced that he's not only headed back to the highs he once reached as a kid with the Rays (where he led the American League in strikeouts at age 23), but has a chance to be even better than he was then"

"I'm very proud that this has happened," Kazmir told the *Washington Post*. "Knowing where I was a couple years ago and being able to be here now is unbelievable. I guess hard work does pay off."

GOOD GENES. After redshirting in 2011, **Thor Jozwiak** saw action in nine games last season for South Florida. He's got a lot of attention from his coaches with his great strength and understanding of offensive line play.

Of course, his name also gives him a lot of attention. "My father was a big Thor comic book fan back in the day when they first came out," said the 6-4, 300-lb. Jozwiak. "He always wanted to name his son Thor. My grandmother, his mom, said he couldn't find a woman that would let her son be named Thor. Well, he sure did. She was all for it...Thankfully, I'm kind of a bigger guy."

Thor's father is none other than **Brian Jozwiak**, who was an All-American offensive lineman at West Virginia. Brian was selected in the first round, seventh overall of the 1986 NFL Draft by the Kansas City Chiefs. He played three seasons in the NFL before suffering a career-ending hip injury.

ANOTHER POLISH RIFLE. Despite the unusual last name (it looks to be a germanized Polish name), yes, **Troy Tulowitzki** is of Polish heritage. Although he plays in Colorado out of the media limelight, Tulowitzki is considered one of the best shortstops in the game. This season he is near the top of the league in every offensive category, and if he continues to play this well he'll be a serious MVP candidate.

Tulowitzki graduated from Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, California, where he earned four varsity letters in baseball and two in basketball. He was twice named second team All-State in baseball, and was a three-time team MVP. In basketball, Tulowitzki won league MVP. Troy was drafted by the Colorado Rockies, with the seventh overall pick in the first round of the 2005 Major League Baseball Draft



TULOWITZKI, the other "Polish Rifle."

and was signed in June of that year. Since his rookie season in 2007, the 6-3, 215-lb. righty has established himself as one of the game's best shortstops. He's won a couple of Gold Gloves, and a couple of Silver Slugger Awards. Despite an injury-plagued 2012 season, he is enjoying a great 2013 season. Troy is an outstanding hitter with power and a great, instinctive shortstop. He's also a leader. As one scout put it: "Never before have I seen a rookie step into a clubhouse in his first season and instantly become the clubhouse leader. Tulowitzki leads this team vocally as well as with his bat and glove."

Tulo told *Yahoo Sports* that he doesn't have much connection with his Polish heritage. "You know, I don't know too much about Polish dishes, Polish jokes or anything," he said. "It's just kind of my last name and that's where it ends, kinda." He did add that "my nickname in high school basketball was 'Polish Rifle'."

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. Boston Bruins defenseman **Matt Bartkowski** is a native of Pittsburgh ... Lebanon Valley College's **Ethan Grodzinski** was named the conference men's tennis player of the week ... Infielder **Chris Nowak**, 30, a Milwaukee native who was drafted by Tampa Bay in 2004, decided to retire from baseball to spend time with his family and pursue a business career ... Misericordia pitcher **Evan Robaczewski** was named conference pitcher of the year for the second straight season ... **Viktor Troicki**, who drew a lot of media attention with a four-minute tirade at the Italian Open, is a Serbian professional tennis player with Russian and Serb ethnic roots ... Pittsburgh native **Bruce Gradkowski**, who was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the sixth round of the 2006 NFL Draft after playing college football at Toledo, recently signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers ... **Gino Gradkowski**, Bruce's "little" brother (6-3, 300-lb.) is a guard for Baltimore ... former Ravens and Colts safety **Tom Zbikowski** recently signed with Chicago ... With a new GM taking over for the Toronto Raptors, the team fired VP **Ed Stefanski**. However, sports journalist **Adrian Wojnarowski** doesn't

think the former 76ers GM will be on the unemployment line: "Well-respected around the NBA, Stefanski won't be a free agent long."

POPRAWINY TOO! Comerica Park had a full house for the 43rd annual Polish-American Night hosted by the Detroit Tigers. According to **Raymond Rolak** of the Rolco Sports Network, the event started with a sumptuous pregame meal of pierogi, kielbasa, kapusta, golabki and angel wings.

Rolak also reported that Twins television analyst Roy Smalley spoke on air about the **Pitch In For Baseball Foundation** and the efforts of **Bill Piszek** and his family to supply baseball equipment to Kutno, Poland. "The facility in Kutno, the European Leadership and Training Center, has been at the forefront of youth baseball development," said Rolak. "This is the direct legacy of Stan Musial's efforts and energies".

Pregame music was provided by The Steve Drzewicki Band, Big Daddy and the La De Das, The Kielbasa Kings and The Natural Tones. Polonia dance troupes also entertained on the field before the game. Robert Szczublewski who sang the Polish and American National Anthems, and Barbara Raczynski Tobby then threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

The postgame fireworks along with contemporary Polish music kept most fans in their seats for a natural and spontaneous *poprawiny*.

And don't forget the game — Tigers fans were also happy with the team's 6-0 win over the Minnesota Twins. Tigers pitcher Anibal Sanchez had a no-hitter through the 9th inning, and ended up with a one-hitter.

Safe! Baseball in Poland



Over twenty years ago, the president of the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation (PNYBF), Stanley Kokoska of Willimantic, Conn., introduced baseball to the children of Poland. The PNYBF is a 501 c-3 not for profit organization.

Today, baseball in Poland includes teams from T-Ball to Senior Babe Ruth teams and beyond. This has been accomplished by a handful of dedicated volunteers who love our American sport. Thanks to donations of gloves, bats, balls, uniforms, etc. the children of Poland are able to have a sport alternative to their national sport of soccer.

In March of this year, the 13th International Tournament was held in Dzialdowo, Poland, with boys and girls coming from the Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Moldova, Slovakia, and Belarus to participate. The president of Poland donated the crystal trophy that went to the winning team.

These are poor boys and girls

who have embraced our national sport. We have many great coaches in Poland who have been trained by Coach Zdzislaw Ziolkowski of Dzialdowo. Each year, more and more boys and girls are playing baseball and softball, thanks to his efforts.

This year we are expanding our baseball field in Dzialdowo so that it can be used for all ages. The children will be able to play T-Ball, Little League, Babe Ruth, and Senior Baseball. It will cost approximately \$15,000.00 to expand the field to accommodate all teams.

If you would like to help, please make your check out to PNYBF and mail it to 222 Ocean Drive East, Stamford, CT 06902. All donations will be acknowledged and are tax deductible to the extent of the law. If you would like to sponsor a baseball field, call me at (203) 323-9944. Support our national sport in Poland and help the children.

— Al Koproski

HALF PRICE SALE! Be sure to take advantage of our annual "Independence Day" sale. All new gift subscriptions are only \$10.50 a year. That's half the regular subscription price! See order form on the back cover or call (toll free) (800) 422-1275.

Kushner Companies Calling On Motivated Candidates for Superintendents of Buildings

Kushner Companies is seeking several superintendents for its portfolio of walk-up apartment buildings in the East and West Village of New York City. He/she is responsible for repairs, installations, and responding to all resident requests and emergencies!

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- Repair and install Kitchen sinks, faucets, vanity's etc... and knowledge of some plumbing work
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- Repair man will oversee Porters
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The ideal Candidates will have experience in property maintenance and operations. Interested parties should send resumes via email to resumes@kushnercompanies.com with the subject line "Village Supers". EOE M/F/D/V

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 28th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

Favorite Fruit Dishes Take Advantage of Summer's Bounty

Summer is a time for barbecuing, cold drinks and lots of in-season fruit. According to Polish tradition, here are some of the favorite ways fruit is used and enjoyed.

SUGARED STRAWBERRIES (truskawki w cukrze). On a lazy summer afternoon after the picnic lunch has been eaten, why not set out a large bowl of washed whole strawberries and another bowl of granulated sugar. If you leave on the green hull (leaves), your guests can take their strawberries by it, dip them in the sugar and pop them into their mouths. If you prefer to remove the hulls, then provide forks with which to spear the strawberries and dip them in sugar.

STRAWBERRIES AND SOUR CREAM (truskawki ze śmietaną). Hull, wash, drain and halve or slice 1 qt fresh strawberries. Sprinkle with granulated or confectioner's sugar and place in serving bowl. Portion into servings in dessert dishes and provide liquefied sour cream (liquefy by fork-blending) for guests to help themselves. Also have a sugar-bowl available for those desiring additional sweetening. Variation. Serves the strawberries sugared and let guests sweeten them to taste.

STRAWBERRIES AND NOODLES (kluski z truskawkami). Hull, wash, drain and slice 1 qt fresh strawberries. Sprinkle with granulated or confectioner's sugar and let stand at room temp. Cook a pkg of egg noodles of choice a bit lon-

ger than indicated on pkg, so they are a bit more tender than al dente. Drain well, transfer to serving dish and spoon sugared strawberries and their syrup over them. Provide liquefied sour cream for guests to help themselves. A nice, light summer lunch or supper!



STRAWBERRIES AND NOODLES (kluski z truskawkami) makes a nice light supper.

EASY STRAWBERRY CAKE (łatwy torcik truskawkowy). Purchase a sponge-cake bottom (available at Polish delis and many supermarkets and labeled "spód tortowy"). Hull, wash drain and thinly slice 1 pt strawberries, sprinkle with 2-4 T sugar (granulated or confectioner's) and let stand at room temp at least 15 min. Spoon sliced sugared strawberries over the entire surface of the sponge cake just before serving and top with real whipped cream out of an aerosol. Slice into wedges and enjoy!

FRUIT SOUPS (zupy owocowe). A fruit soup is nothing more than a compote (see previous recipe) to which a 1-2 t cornstarch dissolved in ¼ c water is whisked in during

cooking. Flavor it with a tiny pinch of cinnamon or several drops of vanilla extract if desired. Using just apples or pears will not produce too nice a color, so adding a few cherries, strawberries or red currants is recommended. The soup may be served warm, at room temp or chilled. Serve in soup bowls and provide sweet or sour cream for your diners to help themselves. Cooked egg noodles or butter-fried French bread croutons (grzanki) are the usual addition.

BLUEBERRIES AND SOUR CREAM (czarne jagody ze śmietaną). Rinse 1 qt fresh blueberries in a bowl or pan of cold, gently mixing by hand for any impurities to float up, and drain well in colander. Set out in serving bowl or portion out individual servings. The berries may be sugared before serving or guests may help themselves to both the sugar and cream.

BLUEBERRY PIEROGI (pierogi z jagodami). Set a large pot of lightly salted water on to boil. Rinse 1 qt fresh blueberries in a bowl or pan of cold and drain well in colander. Combine 2 c flour, 1 c sour cream, 1 small egg and ½ t salt and work by hand into a smooth dough. On floured surface roll out half the dough very thin – about 1/16 of an inch. Leave the other half under a warm inverted bowl until ready to use. Cut rolled-out dough into circles with drinking glass or biscuit cutter. Place a spoonful of berries on one half of a dough circle, cover

berries with the other half and pinch edges together to seal. Proceed identically with the remaining dough. Transfer pierogi to boiling water in small batches without crowding. When boiling resumes, cook another 5 – 10 min, testing one for doneness. Remove with slotted spoon and drain well in colander. Provide granulated or confectioner's sugar and sour cream.

OTHER FRUIT PIEROGI (pierogi z innymi owocami). Although blueberry pierogi are the most popular, they can be made with other fruits including pitted sour cherries, apples and plums.

FRUIT COMPOTE (kompot owocowy). Many PolAms have encountered this refreshing, home-made fruit drink when they first visited Poland. It can be made with any fresh fruit except tropical varieties and melons. Rinse, hull, pit or peel (as required) about 1 lb fresh fruit of choice. Place in pot containing 6 – 8 c water, add ½ – 1 c sugar, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook briefly several min until fruit is tender. Cool to room temp and chill. These can be single or multi-fruit compotes containing most fruit. Favorites include strawberries, sour cherries, apples, pears and plums. A pitcher of chilled compote is a nice way to wash down a summer meal!

PEARS IN CHOCOLATE (gruszki w czekoladzie). Place 4 peeled and halved large, firm pears into a

saucepan, add water to cover plus 1 T sugar and 1 t cider vinegar. Bring to gentle boil and switch off heat. Remove gently with slotted spoon to colander to drain well. On dessert plates make fancy swirls with commercial chocolate sauce (sundae syrup), place a pear half cut side down on each plate, drizzle pear with some more chocolate sauce and garnish with a dollop of whipped cream. A light and simple but nonetheless elegant and tasty summer dessert.

PLUM-FILLED DUMPLINGS (knedle ze śliwkami). Set a large pot of lightly salted water on to boil. Separately, peel and cook 1-1/2 lbs potatoes until tender, drain well and run through ricer or mash very thoroughly until lump-free. Add 1-1/2 c flour, sifted, 1 egg and 1/2 t salt and work by hand into a uniform dough. Divide into 3 parts. On floured board roll each part into a 1-1/2" strand, flattening top with flat of knife. Slice strands into 1-1/2" pieces, flatten each piece in palm of hand into a small patty, place a whole pitted plum (ripe gherkin or Italian plums are best!) thereon, fold dough over it and roll snowball-fashion into a ball. Drop dumplings into boiling salted water, stir gently with wooden spoon and cover. When boiling resumes, uncover and cook 2-3 min. Remove with slotted spoon and serve at once. Provide sugar and liquefied sour cream for your diners to help themselves.

continued next month

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NEW! THE EAGLE UNBOWED: Poland and Poles in the Second World War by Halik Kochanski. \$35.00 Harvard Univ. Press hc., 784 pp.; 6.125 x 9.25 inches. 32

halftones, 8 maps

Halik Kochanski tells, for the first time, the story of Poland's war in its entirety, a story that captures both the diversity and the depth of the lives of those who endured its horrors. Most histories of the European war focus on the Allies' determination to liberate the continent from the fascist onslaught. Yet the "good war" looks quite different when viewed from Lodz or Krakow than from London or Washington, D.C. The Eagle Unbowed provides in a single volume the first truly comprehensive account of one of the most harrowing periods in modern history.

NEW! BE NOT AFRAID by Heather Kirk \$19.95

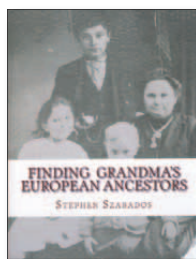
Borealis Press, 276 pp., pb. Want to learn something about Poland and the movement that started the end of the Cold War in an easy-to-read, well-written book? Be Not Afraid is an introduction to the Polish non-violent resistance movement, "Solidarity." It involved ten million people over a period of ten years, freed Poland from Soviet domination, and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. It killed precisely no one.



NEW! OFF KILTER: A Woman's Journey to Peace with Scoliosis, Her Mother, and Her Polish Heritage by Linda Wisniewski \$18.95 Pearlsong Press 164 pp., pb.

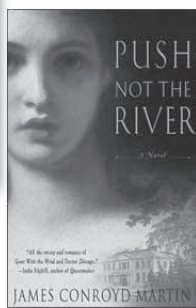
Even before she was diagnosed with scoliosis at thirteen, Linda Wis-

niewski felt off kilter. Born to a cruel father and a long-suffering mother in a Polish American community in upstate New York, she learned martyrdom as a way of life. Only by accepting her physical deformity, her emotionally unavailable mother, and her Polish American heritage does she finally find balance and a life that fits.



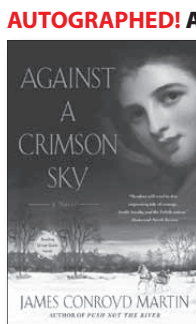
NEW! FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS by Stephen Szabados \$14.95 128 pp., pb.

This is a "must have" book to find your European ancestors. The author uses his experience to help you identify the available resources that you can use to find your own ancestors. The book includes many sample documents, current websites and books that will be useful for your genealogical search. Even if you are not a beginner, this book will give you helpful tips that may be the one you need to locate that missing relative.



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

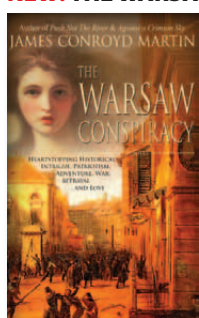
This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel has been called "Poland's Gone with the Wind."



AUTOGRAPHED! AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY by James C. Martin \$15.95 St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide "You don't have to read Push

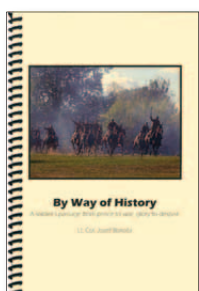
Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where Push Not the River leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoleonic era, highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers.

NEW! THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY



by James C. Martin Hussar Quill Press, 508 pp., pb. \$17.99

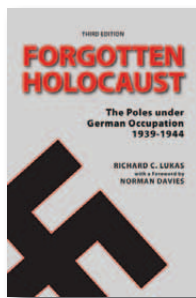
Portraying two brothers in love and war, The Warsaw Conspiracy completes the trilogy begun with Push Not the River and Against a Crimson Sky. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). Michal is a seasoned soldier; his impassioned brother and cadet, Jozef, becomes caught up in the plot to abduct the Grand Duke of Russia. With Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.



BY WAY OF HISTORY: A Soldier's Passage from Peace to War, Glory to Despair by Lt. Col. J. Bokota, tr. by Stan Bokota \$13.95, 174 pp. Spiral bound, pb.

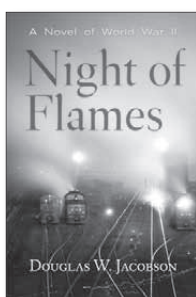
An eyewitness account of World War I and World War II events, last cavalry charges and the defeat of the Red Horse Army at Komarow in 1920, the battle of Bzura and Warszawa in 1939; the AK struggles, finally description of the moral and physical destruction of Poland by the Soviet regime in the years 1945-70. The events so well described, although interesting, are not as fascinating as the man himself, who comes through in these recollections.

FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition \$19.95 358 pp. pb. Hippocrene Books.



Forgotten Holocaust has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate

of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, The Forgotten Holocaust is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

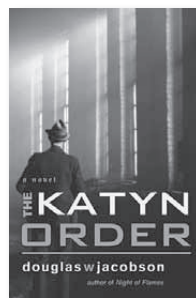


NIGHT OF FLAMES: A Novel of World War Two by Douglas W. Jacobson \$16.95 384 pp. pb., McBooks Press

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.

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



FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE: A Biography of Brig. Gen. Włodzimir B. Krzyzanowski, 1824-1887 \$29.95 by James Pula. 335 pp. plus introduction. 112 illustrations, hc. 1978, 2010

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.



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.

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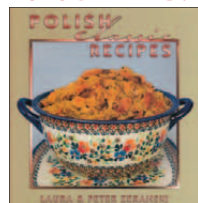


NEW! AUTOGRAPHED! POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS \$16.95 By Laura and Peter Zeranski 2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100

color photos by Bob Rock

Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and notes on Polish history and customs. Offered here is a sample of Poland's favorite sweets

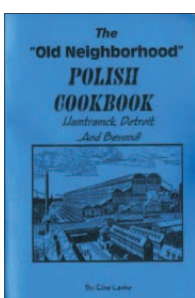
AUTOGRAPHED!



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.

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD POLISH COOKBOOK: Hamtramck, Detroit and Beyond — \$10.00 by Elna Lavine, 44 pp., sc.



Ninety-six recipes from the famed Polonia of Detroit. Breakfast, lunch, dinner pastries, pierogi, kluski, cream chipped beef, soups, desserts and more.

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK \$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc.

Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods. Appetizers, entrees, breads, desserts, and more! Upper Peninsula style pastries, potato salad, pastries, babka, breads, and more.

POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK \$10.00 by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right in your kitchen that tastes and smells just like the restaurant. Soups, salads, dressings, sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and more.

POLISH PIEROGI: From the Old Country to the Old Neighborhood — \$10.00 by Eva Gerwecki, 48 pp., sc.

A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more for not only fillings and toppings, but a variety of dough recipes as well. Over 150 recipes with regional variations, from California to New York!

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 dozynki and the foods to celebrate them. Perfect for home cooks or to give as a special gift.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — **Polish Night with Chicago White Sox** will be July 2 at 7:10 at U.S. Cellular Field. The Sox will take on the Baltimore Orioles. There will be a pregame parade on the field at 6:00 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHAMPTON — The **27th Annual Pulaski Day Parade** will be held Mon., October 14.

The event, sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee based in Northampton, features a growing parade through downtown Northampton that includes bands, floats, military and veterans units, agricultural units, church and school groups, public officials, and organizations that focus on preservation of Polish heritage.

The Pulaski Day Parade Committee invites units from throughout New England to march in the parade, and interested groups can contact Parade Coordinator Jerry Budgar at (413) 584-2964 or by email at: gbudgar@rcn.com for further information.

A memorial Mass precedes the parade and, immediately following the parade, there will be a ceremony honoring General Pulaski in Northampton's Pulaski Park, which is located in its downtown business district.

The Polish Heritage Committee was formed to promote and encourage interest in the traditions, culture, and history of Poland; enhance the knowledge of the Poles' contributions to America and world civilization; and encourage the preservation of local Polish heritage.

MICHIGAN

HAMTRAMCK — Hamtramck resident **Michelle Odrobina** has belonged to the Association for Women in Communications, Detroit Chapter, for more than 25 years. The group's previous name was Women in Communications.

At the group's Matrix Awards banquet, May 16, Odrobina was recognized and honored as a Legacy member, along with other women communicators of the professional

organization.

The banquet was held at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn. Kym Worthy, Wayne County Prosecutor, was the keynote speaker. For more information about the 75-year-old Detroit communications group as well as other chapters across the country, visit: associationforwomenincommunications.com

Besides her AWC affiliation, Odrobina works as a staff copy editor at Team Detroit in Dearborn, volunteers for the Hamtramck Polish Day Parade Committee, belongs to St. Florian R.C. Church, helps the Hamtramck Cat Assistance Team, H-CAT; and attends the Hamtramck Midtown Block Club meetings.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS — **Polish Fest** at Sacred Heart Parish. July 27, 2013. Fest will run from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Raffle prizes and gift baskets will be needed. Food includes pierogi, golabki, kapusta, Polish sausage. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

ST. PAUL — **Genealogy talk.** September 7, 2013. 10:00 a.m.-noon. PGS Second Floor Conference Room, 1185 N. Concord St. "Poland and Emigration During the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries."

Dr. Anne Klejment will talk about the social conditions in Poland, including the economic and political conditions, that led to immigration during the period that many of our ancestors came to Minnesota.

Dr. Klejment is a professor at the University of St. Thomas. She earned a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Binghamton and is a trained social historian with a specialty in twentieth century U.S. history. Her great grandfather and his brother were among the founders of the first Polish Roman Catholic parish in Rochester, N.Y.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK — The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America was honored to have **Dr. Maria Siemionow** deliver the keynote address at the Gala Banquet concluding its

71st Annual Meeting and Conference, June 15. Dr. Siemionow is the renowned Cleveland Clinic Professor of Surgery who led the team that performed the world's first near-total human face transplant. PIASA presented Dr. Siemionow with the 2013 Casimir Funk Natural Science Award. Previous recipients include Nobel Laureates Roald Hoffman and Frank Wilczek.

OHIO

CLEVELAND — **St. Barbara's Parish** in Cleveland held its 39th Annual Memorial Day Services, May 30. Chaired by Theodore Sliwa, the program included an introduction to U.S. Generals, and the reading of fallen servicemen who were members of the parish. In its ranks are several Purple Heart recipients, and many decorated veterans.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — Beginning July 1 through July 7, 2013, the City of Philadelphia, in conjunction with Wawa Welcome America Philadelphia will be hosting many free events celebrating America's birthday.

In addition to the concerts, fireworks, and Independence Day Parade, you can visit the **Polish American Cultural Center Museum**, Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, National Constitution Center, **Kosciuszko House** and much more.

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, in historic Philadelphia will be highlighting Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution, the second oldest democratic constitution in world history, in conjunction with events at the National Constitution Center at 6th & Arch Streets, highlighting America's Constitution.

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum is on its summer schedule, open Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and will be open on the 4th of July.

For more information, call the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at (215) 922-1700 or visit welcomeamerica.com or PolishAmericanCenter.com.

Graduates from U.S. Naval Academy

by Richard P. Poremski

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — It was a proud day here for the Poremski family when Nicholas Kenneth Poremski graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), May 24, 2013, flinging his white service cap pell-mell into the sky along with over 1,000 other now-commissioned officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. President Barack Obama personally awarded each new officer his or her commission.

Poremski lives in Baltimore. He is the son of Brian and the late Kymberly Poremski.

Poremski was awarded a scholarship from the USNA Foundation to attend Valley Forge Military Academy for a year of prep school prior to his entering the Naval Academy. In recognition of his leadership positions earned and held, both within the Naval Academy and on its sports teams, he was acknowledged by the USNA Foundation and the Superintendent of the Academy in a private ceremony.

During his four years at Annapolis, Poremski held many leadership positions that included Plebe Company Commander, followed by the Company positions of Training Corporal, Summer Seminar Squad Leader, Sea Trails



POREMSKI COMMISSIONED. Nicholas K. Poremski is pictured above at the Naval Academy graduation ceremonies after being commissioned an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Squad Leader, Squad Leader, and Training Officer. He was also NA-FAC Deputy Director of Security, Triathlon Team Captain, and a member of various clubs.

Ensign Poremski was ordered to the Naval Amphibious Training Center in Coronado, Calif. for further military training.

Family and friends wished him "Anchors Aweigh!" and "God-speed" as he begin his career in service to our country.

SOUTH DAKOTA

CRAZY HORSE — The **Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation**, a federally-recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has earned the GuideStar Exchange Seal. GuideStarUSA is one of the country's premier sources about nonprofit organizations. It gave its accreditation to the Memorial for its transparency, assuring the public donations are used appropriately.

Speaking of Crazy Horse, the Memorial will hold its next very popular **Night Blast**, Fri., Sept. 6, in memory of the 1877 death of Crazy Horse, and the 1908 birth of the memorial's founder, Korczak Ziolkowski. To learn more, visit crazyhorsememorial.org.

GREENSBURG — Kudos to **Fr. Joseph L. Sredzinski**, who was recognized by Most Rev. David A. Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, for Fr. Sredzinski's efforts on behalf of the Polish American Priests Association. The group held its annual convention in Pittsburgh in April, and hosted His Eminence, Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, longtime aid to the late John Paul II.

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE — Friends and family gathered to mark the 85th birthday of **Rev. Canon Anthony D. Iwuc** of Providence, R.I. A Mass was offered by Fr. Iwuc at St. Joseph Church in Central Falls, his home parish and where he was pastor for 33 years.

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