

# POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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THE POWER OF POLISH AMERICAN ROCKERS  
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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BOSTON, NEW YORK AND ADDITIONAL ENTRY OFFICES

OBSERVING EUROPE'S BIGGEST ANTI-NAZI UPSURGE • POLISH SINGERS HOLD 50TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
BUFFALO'S "POLISH HAPPY HOURS" • NOWA HUTA: IF LENIN ONLY KNEW • THE ORDEAL OF BISHOP PADEWSKI  
BOOKS THAT HELP WITH POLISH GENEALOGY • ACPC ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PULASKI SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## NEWSMARK

**JOINT COMBAT EXERCISES HELD.** Airmen participated in four joint combat training exercises in Poland and the Baltic states — one week after President Obama called for Congress to approve a \$1 billion plan to boost a U.S. troops' rotational presence and further reassure Eastern European partners of "America's unshakeable commitment" to its NATO allies.

The U.S. Air Force provided fighter aircraft for Exercise Baltic Operations, or BALTOPS 2014, the largest multinational maritime exercise this year in the Baltic Sea.

The annual U.S. Navy-led exercise, held in June, involved military forces from 12 countries and NATO. The Air Force fighters provided "maritime interdiction, air-refueling support and other air combat training missions," according to a USAFE-AFACR news release.

About 90 U.S. airmen provided ground-to-air communications for Eagle Talon — U.S., French, British and NATO aircraft are participating in the exercise out of Powidz Air Base, Poland.

**DENIED ABORTION RE-IGNITES DEBATE.** Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk criticized a doctor who refused a request by a woman for an abortion after it was discovered the fetus she was carrying has severe brain damage.

"Regardless of what his conscience is telling him [the doctor] must carry out the law. Every patient must be sure of that," Donald Tusk said after a woman complained to the health ministry that obstetrician Bogdan Chazan refused her an abortion, which is allowed under Poland's strict termination laws.

Abortions can only be granted in Poland if there is a danger to a woman's life or health or if the fetus is known to have severe defects.

Charzan, a director at the Holy Family children's hospital in Warsaw, is one of 3,000 Roman Catholic doctors who have signed a so-called "Declaration of Faith," citing a "conscience clause," whereby medical staff can refuse to grant abortions if the procedure goes against their religious beliefs.

PM Tusk said that if prosecutors decide that a law has been broken then courts will have to rule on the issue.

**POLES WIN CODING COMPETITION.** The Polish team "Need for C" won the world's first computer coding championship, held in the Finnish capital, Helsinki.

Creating and driving virtual Formula-1 racing cars on a track projected onto a large screen in a converted cable factory, the winning team edged Brazil's "Itarama" for the title of best coders and a cash prize of 5,000 euros, approx. \$6,770 USD.

Finland's "Resocar" came in third in the field of eight finalists. The top three were also presented with medals that were produced by 3D-printers.

More than 4,000 computer coders from over 90 countries took part in the on-line qualifying rounds which began in March.

The event was sponsored by Finnish game developer Supercell, creator of "Clash of Clans" and "Hay Day," and technology company Reaktor.

**"STAR WARS" HOLOGRAM BECOMES REALITY.** Young inventors from Warsaw created a screen, which can display touch responsive hologram-like images.

The solution invented by the Polish designers is one step into the future. The inventors say they were inspired by the scene from "Star Wars," where a hologram of Princess Leia displayed by R2D2 called "Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope." The inventors managed to produce a very similar effect to that trick of George Lucas' crew. It is not a coincidence then that their patent solution is called Leia Display System.

In 2014, the Polish company is going to introduce the invention to a broader public from the whole world and start its expansion abroad.

## Obama: "We Stand Together and Forever" Sikorski: Polish-American Alliance Worthless



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO: LAWRENCE JACKSON

**PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA** and President Bronisław Komorowski of Poland meet with U.S. and Polish airmen who are supporting an aviation mission based at Lask Air Base, following President Obama's arrival at Warsaw Chopin Airport in Warsaw, Poland, June 3, 2014.

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — For a few days before, during and after the event, the eyes of the world were on Poland, where U.S. President Barack Obama joined in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the country's liberation from Soviet-style rule. The focus of the event was the partially-free June 1989 elections, which led to the emergence of the country's first non-communist post-war government. But Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea

and continued terrorist activity by pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine dominated Obama's talks with Polish leaders and other NATO allies.

"As friends and allies, we stand together and forever," Obama said shortly after landing in Warsaw, calling Poles "one of America's best and most loyal allies." U.S.-Polish solidarity, concern over Ukraine's future and America's commitment to the ex-Soviet bloc  
See "Obama in Poland," page 2

### Poland Rocked by Secret-tape Scandal

*Illegal recordings of top officials shake up Polish political scene*

*Secret service raid on magazine outrages media community*

by Robert Strybel

PAJ Warsaw Bureau Chief

WARSAW — Radosław Sikorski, Poland's handsome, Oxford-educated, English-speaking foreign minister, whose wife is American, had epitomized the country's strong pro-U.S. policy line. He heaped praise on Poland's trustworthy alliance with America during President Obama's recent visit to Warsaw. His private remarks, purportedly secretly recorded at a fancy Warsaw restaurant, ran completely counter to his official views.

"You know that the Polish-U.S. alliance isn't worth anything," he told former finance minister Jacek Rostowski at a wine-laced gourmet lunch earlier this year. "It is downright harmful, because it creates a false sense of security. It's complete [expletive]. It will conflict us with the Germans, French and Russians, and we'll think that everything is super, because we gave the Americans a [expletive]. Suckers (we are). Complete suckers. The problem in Poland is that we've got a shallow pride and a low sense of self-esteem. It's murzyńskość!" [That term, which might be translated as "Negroness," was a reference to some  
See "Tape Scandal," page 2

## Saving Polonia's History Israel Honors Ambassador's Mother and Grandmother

Dr. John Radziłowski on What Amateur Polonian Historians Can Do

Dr. John Radziłowski is associate professor of history at the University of Alaska Southeast, Ketchikan. An expert on Polish American history, his doctoral dissertation (defended at Arizona State) focused on Polonian colonization schemes in the Midwest. He spoke with John Grondelski about what needs to be done to save the history of American Polonia—and what individual Polonians can do.



**Q.** Polonia is changing. The *emigracja za chlebem* is ever-more assimilated; the postwar *emigracja polityczna* is dying out; immigration is drying up. What do you see are the most pressing issues in preserving Polonia's history and material culture?

**A.** The first quite simply is money. A few volunteers working out of a basement isn't effective: amateur historians can help a lot, but they can't do it all by themselves. That means professional historians (which we have) who have to pay bills.

We have to invest smartly. People have left significant sums to universities for Polish or Polish American studies but those chairs have often been perverted into something different because we didn't build in mechanisms to ensure the money was used as intended.

There's the issue of secure archival space. If we collect a  
See "Saving Polonia's History," page 4



PHOTO: RICHARD POZEMSKI

**ALICJA SZCZEPANIAK SCHNEPF**, mother of Poland's Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, is pictured in Adas Israel Congregation's Garden of the Righteous after her and her mother's name — Natalia Szczepaniak — were attached to the plaque at left which reads: "In Honor of those who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust." Twenty-two names are already listed on the Garden's companion plaque, starting in 1992, which includes Poles Professor Jan Karski, Sabina Kazimierczyk, and Irena Sendler. Story on page 3

## ALMANAC



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## July ☺ Lipiec

"His job was to prepare a picture of me which resembled me sufficiently to be claimed as mine, but in which the features were so vague that I could disown it if the need should arise. When it was finished he handed it to me with a pleased smile. I glanced at it and marveled aloud at his skill ... It makes me feel as though I had met myself before but can't quite remember where."

— **Jan Karski**, on the work of a photographer, who captured Karski's image for forged papers for his from Warsaw to warn the West of German death camps being erected in Poland.

- 1 1847. Founding of **Parisville**, Polish settlement in Michigan.
1569. The Lublin Union was signed and direct rule over Lithuania was passed to Poland. Lithuania maintained certain ministers, laws, money and an army. The territories of Volinia, Kiev and Podolija were transferred to Polish rule.
- 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.)**  
1931. Statue of **Woodrow Wilson** unveiled in Poland in appreciation for his efforts on Poland's behalf.
- 5 1877. Birth of **Wanda A. Landowska**, Warsaw Poland, harpsichordist (Musique Ancienne).
- 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 (d. 2014).
- 7 1572. Death of **King Zygmunt August**, last of Poland's Jagiellonian dynasty.
- 9 1803. Napoleon Bonaparte creates the **Grand Duchy of Warsaw**.
- 11 1942. In the longest bombing raid of World War II, 1,750 British Lancaster bombers attacked the German-occupied port of Gdansk. The Polish submarine **Orzel** escaped from internment and went on to fight the Germans against long odds.
- 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. His words fell on deaf ears.
- 15 1410. Polish victory over the Teutonic Knights at **Grunwald**.
- 17 1399. Death of Saint Jadwiga, Queen of Poland (b. 1373).
- 18 **ST. SIMON OF LIPNICA**
- 19 1980. Lt. Col. **Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.
- 20 **BLESSED CZESLAW**
- 22 1982. Official end of **martial law** in Poland that lasted for 586 days.
- 23 1942. Nazis open a 2nd Treblinka Camp opened for the extermination of Jews, as the evacuation of the Warsaw ghetto began. Also imprisoned here are several thousand Romani.
- 25 **ST. JACOB THE GREATER**  
*Patron of laborers. By Polish custom, half of all eggs laid today are given to the poor.*
- 26 **ST. ANN**
- 31 1928. **Halina Konopaczka** wins Poland's first Olympic gold in discus.

## Obama in Poland

*continued from cover*

nations of central Europe would be recurring themes in Obama's speeches and briefings during his two-day Warsaw sojourn. Thousands of Poles lined the streets for a glimpse of the presidential cavalcade speeding by to yet another event of his activity-packed schedule. The visit took place under the watchful eyes of 5,000 policemen plus an undisclosed number of Polish and U.S. roof-top snipers and secret service agents. No costs were spared on one of the biggest security operations in Polish history, designed to protect the U.S. president, the world's prime terrorist target.

A master of PR, Obama began his main address in Warsaw's Castle Square with homey touches by recalling he was from Chicago, where so many Polish Americans had been his neighbors. "That's where we attend St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, hold Polish Constitution Day Parades, and enjoy kielbasa and pierogi," he said, evoking smiles from his audience.

**REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT.** But he soon got down to business and emphatically proclaimed: "I have come to Warsaw today on behalf of the United States and the NATO Alliance, to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to Poland's security ... An attack on one is an attack on all. Poland will never stand alone. Estonia will never stand alone, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania will never stand alone," he said to loud applause from an audience that included presidents, crowned heads and other high-ranking visitors from some 50 different countries.

Obama also warned Moscow of additional sanctions and isolation if it continues its anti-Ukrainian provocations. "Russia has a responsibility to prevent the flow of militants and weapons into eastern Ukraine. Russia also needs to be using its influence with armed separatists to convince them to stop attacking Ukrainian security forces, leave buildings that they've seized, lay down their arms and enter into the political process," he said.

**MEETS POROSHENKO.** Obama's speech came after his meeting with newly elected Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, whom he assured of U.S. support. That could include non-lethal military aid such as bullet-proof gear and night-vision goggles, as well as helping Ukraine with the unpaid gas bills it owes Russia.

Following his Castle Square address, Obama flew to Brussels for a seven-country economic summit, from which Russia had been ex-

pelled for its illegal annexation of Crimea.

Poland used the Freedom Day celebrations to remind that world that collapse of the Soviet "Evil Empire" began in Poland with the election of June 4, 1989. Over the past quarter-century, that message has been drowned out by world media assertions that it all started with the collapse of the Berlin Wall. In actuality, more than half a year would elapse before the Berlin Wall was destroyed. But the more PR-minded Germans largely succeeded in equating the wall with the Iron Curtain in the public mind.

**PROOF WILL BE IN THE PUD-DING.** Some observers called Obama's remarks the most pro-Polish speech ever delivered by a U.S. President. Others were quick to point out that Obama's pledges may have been easier to make than fulfill. The \$1 billion to beef up the defenses of former Soviet-bloc countries is a drop in the bucket for which Obama first has to ask Congress. The defense budget of Poland alone amounts to \$10 billion.

But there was general agreement that the Ukrainian crisis had forced the former "soft on Russia" Obama administration to change its tune. Obama is remembered for trying to "reset" America's relations with Moscow by scrapping Bush-era plans for an anti-missile shield in Poland and announcing it on September 17, the anniversary of Soviet Russia's 1939 invasion. How the pledges of the new, tough-talking Obama turn out in practice remains to be seen.

## QUOTES

## In Warsaw, Enzo Trumps Vladimir

"I remember how it was 20 years ago," says [businessman Adam] Ringer. "Gray, dirty, with nervous people, always running." The street outside his cafe, until recently a tarmac thoroughfare, is now a narrow cobblestone lane flanked by wide sidewalks, where in the evening tourists mingle with students from the nearby university. A 20-minute walk away stands what was once the headquarters of Poland's Communist party, squatting over a small city block. From 1991 to 2000 it was home to the Warsaw Stock Exchange. Today a Ferrari dealership neighbors a Montblanc outlet."

— From a report in **Businessweek.com**, on how Poland's leaders changed the country since the fall of communism.

"All in all, the scenario feels eerily familiar: competing Western European interests have rendered its Eastern neighbors exposed and afraid by what they perceive as being an existential threat to their national integrity. A war-weary America has been called upon to supplement the caveats of European defense, forcing the incumbent administration to take a more hands-on approach than it

## Tape Scandal



**SIKORSKI.** Allegedly considers U.S. policy to Poland as empty gestures on a duped public.

This and other secretly recorded conversations were leaked to and published by the weekly news magazine *Wprost* for two weeks running with more expected to come. In another chat, Interior Minister Bartłomiej Sienkiewicz asked Central Bank chief Marek Belka to bankroll the budget deficit to help the ruling Civic Platform (party) of Prime Minister Donald Tusk win the next election. That violates the political neutrality of the Central Bank which cannot get involved in party politics.

Former transport minister Sławomir Nowak complained that treasury officials were getting after his wife's business dealings and was assured by a former finance ministry officials that he had blocked the proceedings. Other secretly recorded chats included backroom political dealing of the "hand washes hand" variety, peppered with rough language and off-color jokes. But the "hand-grenade dropped into the septic tank" (to use a popular Polish saying) after secret service agents raided the offices of *Wprost* maga-

*continued from cover*

zine and roughed up its editor, who refused to give up his laptop containing the mysterious recordings. Nearly the entire media community was outraged and accused the government of using police-state tactics in violation a journalist's sacred right to protect his sources.

**CALL FOR RESIGNATIONS.** One of the biggest government scandals of the past quarter-century has rocked the country's political scene and triggered calls for the Prime Minister Tusk to resign, fire cabinet members Sienkiewicz and Sikorski, dissolve parliament and hold new elections.

"There is no doubt that the bugging operation is destabilizing and reducing the capability of the Polish state," Tusk told a news conference. "The aim (of the bugging) is to diminish the reputation of the country at a critical moment for Europe and for the situation in Ukraine." There have been speculations that someone in the employ of Russian intelligence might have had a hand in the bugging of at least a dozen Polish government officials.

But the prime minister has so far declined to make any hasty moves, opting for a wait-and-see approach. "First of all we must identify those who are behind this. Those organizing this criminal eavesdropping will not dictate whom the government should dismiss. No consequences will be taken against politicians using foul language in private conversations." But he did admit that earlier elections might be needed if the crisis cannot be solved by other means.

would have preferred. Meanwhile, Russia is mesmerized by its imperial past and is trying to reassert itself as a global force."

— From the article "How Crimea Pushed Romania and Poland Closer Together," International Policy Digest, June 12, 2014.



"This man could not be bothered to dial 911 on a cell-phone because he was afraid of criminal charges. That is not irresponsible conduct ... That is indifference for human life."

— **Don Lonczak**, father of *Emylee Lonczak*, upon the sentencing of *Kyle Alifom*, who admitted he tried to hide the body of the 16-year-old *McLean, Virg.*, girl who had overdosed on heroin. *Alifom* did not administer the heroin. He brought *Lonczak* to his home, to discover her dead the next morning, and tried to hide her body.



"Poland is ahead of the U.S. in math and science. Poland?"

— The character **Carol Miller**, played by *Margo Martin*, on the CBS situation comedy "The Millers."

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VIEWPOINT / Robert Strybel

Angela Mazurek is Mrs. Pennsylvania



ANGELA PARSONS-MAZUREK of Philadelphia was named "Mrs. Pennsylvania 2014." She will compete at the "Mrs. United States National Pageant" in Las Vegas, Nevada on July 20-25.

The pageant celebrates the achievements of married women throughout the fifty states and U.S. territories.

Mazurek holds a Masters Degree in occupational therapy, *Magna Cum Laude*, from Temple University. She received her Bachelor's Degree in economics, *Magna Cum Laude*, from the Honors College of Missouri State University where she was a four-year scholarship starter on Missouri State's Division I soccer team and team captain as a junior and senior. She is currently a business performance advisor with Insuperity.

She is pictured above with her husband, Edward Mazurek.

Among her causes is The Center for Grieving Children, which assists children who have lost loved ones.

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Observing Europe's Biggest anti-Nazi Upsurge

This summer, Poland is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, Nazi-occupied Europe's biggest anti-German upsurge. It was an unprecedented act of defiance by a city which for five years had endured unspeakable destruction and persecution by Hitler's occupation forces. Each year on August 1st, at precisely 5:00 p.m., the exact moment the uprising erupted in 1944, sirens will wail across Warsaw as traffic comes to a standstill for one minute to honor the heroes and victims of that ill-fated insurrection.



AGAINST ALL ODDS. For 63 days, the undermanned, underarmed freedom-fighters held out against overwhelming odds. Above, Henryk Ożarek "Henio" (left) and Tadeusz Przybyszewski "Roma" (right) from "Anna" Company of "Gustaw" Battalion in the region of Warsaw's Kredytowa-Królewska Street.

Memorial ceremonies are held at Powązki Military Cemetery and at the larger-than-life-sized Warsaw Uprising Monument at Bonifraterska Street. Over the past few years, a focal point has been the Warsaw Uprising Museum, a multi-media presentation of that event. In addition to physical memorabilia and documentary films, visitors can actually go underground to move through a recreated stretch of the Warsaw sewer system the way the freedom-fighters did in 1944.

THE MUSEUM has also been involved in a unique project which has brought the memory of those exhilarating but tragic days back to life. The movie "Powstanie Warszawskie" ("Warsaw Uprising"), produced by Jan Komasa, is the first of its kind in the history of world cinema. Terms such as war movie, docudrama or dramatized documentary do not do it justice. Maybe "featurized" documentary might be the most appropriate. Six hours of documentary films shot by different cameramen in the heat of the battle have been painstakingly edited, spliced together and distilled into a vivid movie of manageable length. The silent black and white footage has been colorized and provided with sound. Not only battle noises but even the words spoken by freedom-fighters and civilians have been recreated through the aid of lip-reading experts.

Although all the scenes shown on the screen actually occurred, a semi-fictional plot has been

superimposed on the movie. Two brothers, who had been given the task of filming the uprising, describe what they see, although they are never shown. The movie has made a powerful impression on all who have seen it, including some of the still-surviving insurrectionists. "This is the

most truthful portrait of the uprising," said Irena Paśnik, one of its survivors. "The absolute authenticity of the film is shocking," commented historian Professor Andrzej Paczkowski.

THE MOVIE RECALLS "W" HOUR — 5:00 p.m. on August 1, 1944 — the time the Home Army (Armia Krajowa or AK) had set for the insurgency to begin. Militarily it was aimed against the Germans, but politically its purpose was to prevent a Soviet takeover. Germany's defeat in the war was only a question of time, but already the Soviets had set up the nucleus of a future Soviet-controlled Polish government in the eastern city of Lublin.

Radio Kościusko, Stalin's Moscow-based Polish language propaganda tube, was broadcasting appeals for Warsaw to rebel against the Germans, indicating that Soviet troops were rushing to the insurgents' aid. The AK wanted to free the

city of its German oppressors and welcome the arriving Russians as guests rather than liberators.

The outbreak of the Uprising provided welcome relief after five years of suffering and hardship at the hands of the Germans. Suddenly hitherto-banned Polish flags appeared on Warsaw buildings. Civilians joined insurrectionists in building barricades, young boys carried out liaison tasks while young girls nursed the wounded. An insurrectionist postal service began operating, anti-Nazi songs resounded in the streets and a whole new underground subculture began emerging.

For 63 days, the undermanned, underarmed freedom-fighters held out against overwhelming odds. Despite their initial successes in taking the Germans by surprise and capturing key areas of the city, Russian assistance did not come. Stalin had different plans for Poland, and his troops stood idly by on the opposite of the River Vistula as fighting and destruction raged in the capital. He also prevented Allied planes from landing on Soviet soil to provide airdrops to the insurgents.

HITLER MEANWHILE, WAS FURIOUS at the Poles' defiance and ordered Warsaw to be leveled to the ground and its population destroyed. The methodical and cost-conscious Germans found they could save on explosives if they first gutted a structure with flame-throwers and then blew it up. And that is exactly how they proceeded, building after building, street after street. When it was all over, much of Warsaw was little more than crumbled walls and shells of buildings amid mounds of debris as far as the eye could see. The estimated Polish death toll has ranged from 150,000 to 200,000, but the exact number of victims buried beneath the rubble will never be known.

Although the courage and heroism of the freedom-fighters has never been disputed, some claim an undermanned and underarmed upsurge against such overwhelming odds was an ill-considered or even foolhardy decision reminiscent of Poland's ill-fated 19th-century insurrections. The pros and cons of whether it was worth it have been bouncing around since World War II and no conclusive, universally accepted answer appears likely any time soon.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL FOUNDATION



We invite you to become a member of the Polish American Journal Foundation. Established this year, the PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization. Our mission is to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. This will be done by organizing special events, networking, consultation, and gatherings.

As a national newspaper serving Polish American communities, the Polish American Journal has a unique perspective on the shortfalls — primarily funding — that have prevented many great projects from getting off the ground. We also have grown increasingly frustrated to see students, future leaders, who are passionate about Polonia, seek other areas of study because they could not secure something as simple as airfare to study in Poland or abroad. Likewise, we see so many talented academicians, scholars, artists, folk groups — the list goes on — whose special projects or areas of study have been dropped for lack of funds. In many cases, state or federal arts or cultural funding is available, but these groups cannot afford processing fees to meet application requirements. It is time to start helping our own.

OUR INITIATIVE

In this, our initial year of operation, we will solicit funds for our first funding project. In June 2015, we will ask our members how the PAJF's proceeds should be used. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum; veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board will review these suggestions and create a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members.

(Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent donation). All members reserve the right to abstain from being a voting member.

MEMBERSHIP

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"KEEP ALIVE THIS HERITAGE"

— Saint John Paul II, Gniezno, Poland, June 3, 1979.

Please help us help our own community. Since 1911, the Polish American Journal has been an advocate for Poles and their descendants in the United States. Help us utilize over 100 years of the Polish American experience to support those who share our core values of strong family, faith, and community.

We would be happy to discuss all the various options available to you so that you can make a donation in a way that corresponds exactly to your own personal situation.

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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

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## Saving Polonia's History

*continued from cover*

lot of material on Polonia, where do we put it? These must be physically secure under the right environmental conditions to preserve it. Here, too, is the problem of professional time. For every hour a historian spends finding new material in someone's closet or parish hall, it takes at least 10 hours to properly process that material and make it available to the public. Getting material to the archives is only the first step. The whole point of preserving these things should be to make them accessible to everyone, not move them from one dusty attic to another.

Lastly, communication. There are people with resources who want to make a difference. There are experts and professionals who can help make that difference. But they are like ships passing in the night. Let's get them together.

**Q.** What are the problems historians trying to write Polonian history face?

**A.** Mostly, they are the problems facing every historian. Good history means work, thought and research. It takes both critical distance from and sympathy for your subject. Polonia history is not popular in academe, but there is no overt hostility to it, either. For me, the very unpopularity of Polonia history is an attraction. I've devoted significant time to studying some rather small and remote Polish communities in the Great Plains region.

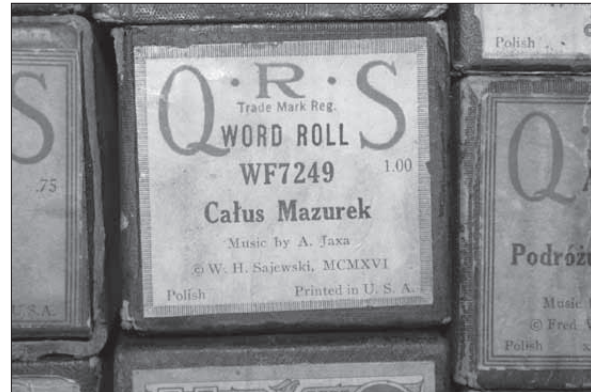
**Q.** The greatest achievement of Polonia, its parish network, is under attack. Parishes are being shuttered or consolidated out of existence, the number of priests competent to minister in the Polish/Polonian "circuit" declining. What can we do to save the parishes and/or their history and material culture?

**A.** I take exception with the notion that they are under attack if you mean a kind of conscious assault by a determined enemy. This may be true in some cases but by and large Polonia parishes are "collateral damage" from the bigger changes afoot in American life. If only a fraction of Catholics go to Mass every Sunday, how many parishes do you need? If you have a parish where 99% speak only English and 1% Polish, then having a pastor who can faithfully uphold Church teaching and proclaim the Gospel with joy and passion should take precedence over his being bi-lingual or having a name that ends in "-ski." We have to live in the real world. Old-time Polonia priests like Fr. Wincenty Barzyński were on to something when they maintained that Poles who kept their faith were more likely to retain their Polishness. So if we want to save our parishes, we have to save our faith. Otherwise we have just a bunch of museums.

As to preserving records, yes, save everything. Keep them safe, find a historian such as myself who can assess them, and if possible place them in an archive. Understand, though, that historians and archivers are limited in what they can do because we lack resources. A digital scanning effort could be the solution to many of these problems.

The churches themselves are a much more difficult issue. Polonia churches are some of most incredible achievements in American sacred architecture. To preserve or restore a 100-year old church with stained glass, murals, sculpture in stone and wood requires a wide range of expertise and lots of money. Maintaining them as living Catholic parishes is the best option, even if those parishes are no longer Polish. I know of a church which was the mother parish of most of the Polish parishes in St. Paul and Minneapolis, whose parishioners are now almost entirely Vietnamese. Yet the original windows and architecture have thus far been maintained. Parishes of exceptional architectural and historic significance can be placed on the National Register of Historical Places which provides some legal protection. However, we have to realize that it may not be possible to preserve everything, so we have to be strategic in how

we approach this, hence, a resource question. Only if we have a dedicated foundation with at least a few million dollars to pay professionals to undertake this, can we correctly assess how to best preserve things.



**ARTIFACTS TO BE SAVED** include documents, from church records and anniversary books, to promotional items and piano rolls (above), and everything in between. Before you toss something that may be of value, make an effort to find a Polish American historian or historical society to help you assess the items. (See list at end of article.) If not sure, call a local historical society, or Polish American organization, which can point you in the right direction.

**Q.** Polish organizational life is also changing. How can we preserve its records?

**A.** The remaining organizations are best equipped to save their own records. The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and the Polish Museum are doing good work in this area. Likewise, the Mormon Church has done Polonia a great service in saving insurance and sacramental records. With organizations that are closing or have disappeared, it is the same situation as with the parish records.

**Q.** What can/should a Polonian do when he runs across old documents/records/artifacts in attics, rummage sales, grandma's inheritance?

**A.** Have a professional historian assess them. Not everything is worth saving. Old newspaper clippings from *Dziennik Chicagowski* from 1925 are not, because the paper is on microfilm. Neither is another old copy of *Pan Tadeusz*. On the other hand there is a great need to save minute books or account ledgers from Polish societies, family letters, photographs of all kinds, journals, diaries, memoirs—THAT list is endless. My grandmother kept an account of every paycheck my grandfather brought home from the factory for over 50 years. Seems ordinary, but it's a valuable document showing us the inner life of a Polish family in America. Even published family histories should be better preserved. Often the seemingly more mundane records are the rarest.

Have a high quality, high resolution scan of paper documents done. It's easy and cheap. Or, contact the Polish Museum in Chicago, the Piast Institute or the Polish American Historical Association. People can also contact me directly but, being in Alaska, my ability to travel is limited. You can always email a scanned document and have someone assess it if you don't know what it is. There are now pages on Facebook for Polish genealogy where you can post documents or photos to try and get more information about them.

**Q.** You've taken lots of pictures of Minnesota Polonia and its sites. What can/should we be doing in this respect?

**A.** Thanks to smart phones and digital cameras, anyone can take pictures. There are Polish heritage and genealogy pages on Facebook which one can join and post things. Share them with family and friends. You may open a whole storehouse of memories and stories.

**Q.** Arcadia publishes books by amateur historians about local communities. A number have been devoted to Polish communities in places like Worcester, Chicago, and Wallington, New Jersey. Any advice to budding

authors?

**A.** The Arcadia books are wonderful, even if some of them get details or captions wrong. I would hope that the photos in those books are being preserved. Writing is very personal and requires practice to master, but don't be afraid to go ahead, write and publish, even if it isn't perfect — it never is. Try to be coherent. The past is rarely clear and straightforward. Writing history, like anything, is about balance. You can't lose the bigger picture in the details, but if you don't master the details you'll miss the big picture. Be sympathetic but critical: we have to be kind to the dead.

**Q.** For what should Polonian activists be looking for in terms of preserving local history in local libraries or closed churches, and what should they do with it?

**A.** Most local libraries and museums are quite open to public initiatives. Their staff and resources, however, are limited — so be patient and get to know these people. They might be open to a display about local Polonia — permanent or otherwise — provided local Polonia invests something, too. They also might be willing to preserve artifacts: it's always best if local history materials remain in the local area. Just don't throw out the old stuff! Reach out to a Polish organization or a genealogical group to find out what you have, and even some of us academics are willing to help!

**Q.** You repeatedly mention resources.

**A.** I've talked a lot about money and resources being the key here and some might be off put. Polonia seems to think "gentlemen don't discuss money," which is nice but doesn't serve us well. A lot of the older Polonia organizations are on life support and others are basically zombies—dead but showing occasional twitches of movement. This is harsh, but let's not lie to ourselves. We've been running on fumes for years. Fortunately there are some organizations like Piast Institute or Polish American Historical Association that operate in a modern fashion and can lead a revival, but we need more of them and they need more support.

Historically, Polonia gave millions of dollars for Poland. But to raise money for a new community library or cultural center in Polonia? Forget it! We fed Poland but starved ourselves. It is past time that we reverse that trend.

Preserving Polonia's historical documents and artifacts isn't rocket science but it is not something that can wait forever. The more time goes by, the more old people pass away (and their kids chuck everything in the dumpster), the more organizations and parishes close, the less remains. But it requires effort and resources, well thought out and organized. We owe this to our ancestors, ourselves, and our children.

### SOME USEFUL LINKS

- **Polish American Historical Association** [www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)
- **Piast Institute** [www.piastinstitute.org](http://www.piastinstitute.org)
- **Polish Museum of America** [www.polishmuseumofamerica.org](http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org)
- **Connecticut Polish American Archives** (not just for CT) [www.library.ccsu.edu](http://www.library.ccsu.edu)
- **Immigration History Research Archives** [www.ihrc.umn.edu](http://www.ihrc.umn.edu)
- **Balch Institute of Ethnic Studies** [www.hsp.org/about-us/the-balch-institute](http://www.hsp.org/about-us/the-balch-institute)
- **Central Archives of Polonia** [www.polisharchives.org](http://www.polisharchives.org)
- **Assorted Organizations** [www.polishamericanstudies.org/resources.html](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org/resources.html)
- **John Radziłowski** <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/dir/jtradzilowski.html>

## Polish Singers Hold 50th International Convention

*Filarets Male Chorus, Marcella Kochanski Sembrich Choir, and Filarets Mixed Chorus take First Place Honors*

DETROIT — The Polish Singers Alliance of America recently gathered for its 50th International Convention in Detroit, Michigan to celebrate its 125th anniversary. The P.S.A.A. is the oldest cultural organization in America and continues its mission of spreading Polish music and culture.

Fifteen choirs competed on Sat., May 24, 2014 with the following choirs receiving a trophy and monetary award for their performances: In the Male Chorus category, Filarets Male Chorus of Michigan took first honors; Oginski Choir of New York and Chopin Choir of New Jersey followed in second and third place. The Female Chorus category saw the Marcella Kochanski Sembrich Choir of Philadelphia take first honors, followed by Filarets Female Chorus of Detroit, and the Polonia Paderewski Choir of New Britain, Conn. In the Mixed Chorus category, Filarets Mixed Chorus of Detroit placed first, followed by Aria Chorus of New Jersey, and Chopin Singing Society of Buffalo.

The Filarets Male Chorus, under the direction of David Troiano received the highest score and was awarded the Hlond Trophy, a gift of the interwar Polish Government to the P.S.A.A., which is a chalice embedded with historic Polish coins gifted by Cardinal August Hlond. Cardinal Hlond served as Primate of Poland from 1946 until his death in 1948. He has the distinction of being the only member of the College of Cardinals to have been arrested by the Gestapo. The award was presented at the Convention Concert held at St. Florian Church in Hamtramck, where the 250-plus choir members attending the Convention joined together for a grand concert under the direction of outgoing General Director Dr. Thomas Witakowski of Buffalo. The standing ovation after the singing of "They Call It America" remained through the final song, Piotr Gorecki's arrangement "Czesc Polski" and "God Bless America." Director David Troiano received the Mazurek Award as the highest scoring choir's director.

**OFFICERS, BOARD ELECTIONS.** Proceedings at the Convention encouraged the coordinating of Youth Choir Festivals in the various Districts of the P.S.A.A.; recommendations for the good of the organization, and election of the following officers: Mary Lou Wyrobek, president; Mary Jean Syrek, vice president; Adrienne Kuzmierczyk, sec.; Frances Cirbus, treas.; Barbara Blyskal, librarian; Isabella Kobus-Salkin, general dir.; and David Troiano, asst. dir.

Also elected was a board, consisting of the presidents of the P.S.A.A. districts and their representatives: Joseph Wesolowski, Florence Cabo, Raymond Jakubowicz, Janusz Wolny, and Adrienne Kuzmierczyk.

Adeline Wujcikowski was named Honorary General Secretary. Honorary Membership was bestowed on Jadwiga Chudy, Dolores Czaplicki, Wanda Jurgasik, Michaelene Lavenave, Jan Milun, Teresa Plawska, Bogdan Rozewicz, Eugenia Slomiany, and Mary Lou Wyrobek for their work in continuing the mission of the P.S.A.A. in promoting Polish culture and music.

The P.S.A.A. announced a new choir in its membership, the Polonia Choir Society of Edmonton, located in Alberta, Canada.

Scholarships were awarded this past year to Ewa Lewandowska and Artur Kapron.

To learn more about the organization, visit [www.polishsingersalliance.org](http://www.polishsingersalliance.org).

# Buffalo's "Polish Happy Hours" — A Recipe for Success

*Protagonists See Same Difference*

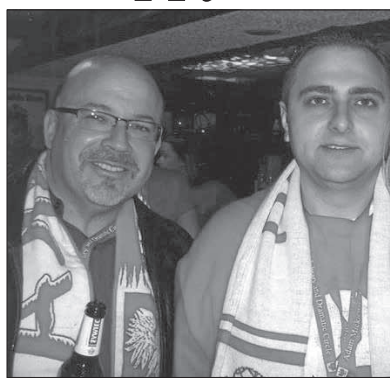
by Jennifer Pijanowski

With a population nearing 100,000 people of Polish descent in Western New York, it would seem that unification of our Polish community would be a foregone conclusion. Well, that's often not the case and, to remedy that, two Polish American visionaries are trying to change the obstructions so often found in today's WNY Polonia.

**James Lawicki** of Orchard Park and **Joseph Rej** of Depew may disagree on exactly how the Buffalo Polish Happy Hour began. However, they both hold steadfast in its success. I recently got the sit down with these passionate Polonia advocates to talk about an event which is taking Western New York by storm.

One point on which these gentlemen disagree, is exactly how the idea came to fruition but both speak with great pride about this phenomenon. To understand exactly how this came to be, it is important to know a bit about both of these proponents of the culture. Lawicki was born and raised on the east side of Buffalo. Through attending St. Stan's school and church, he was immersed in his Polish heritage from his early youth. Being raised in a Polish family, shopping the Polish vendors, eating in Polish restaurants, and having Polish friends sealed his affinity for the culture. Although Lawicki has constantly been enthusiastic about his heritage, he feels strongly that a trip he took to Poland really intensified his thought process in preserving his customs and culture.

Rej, on the other hand was raised in the 1980s in the Buffalo suburb of Depew. He was born to a Polish American father and a Polish born mother, who — although they were very proud of their heritage



Lawicki (left) and Rej.

— sought more for their American-born son. Traveling to Poland on several occasions made quite an impact on this young entrepreneur. Rej was raised with many Polish traditions but became very involved in the community after the passing of his parents. Searching for a place to share his talents and inspired ideas, he was left feeling as if no one wanted to listen to him. He asserts himself as the voice of the next generation of Polish leaders in Buffalo.

**THIS BRINGS US** to how this duo came to become friends. The first Polish Happy Hour was held as a fundraising event for the Polish American Congress (PAC). Lawicki, who has been on the PAC board for some time, took the lead in spearheading this first event, held at Flappy's Restaurant in Elma. This inaugural event is where Rej and Lawicki met, and their bond was instantly created. In his own style, Rej immediately felt as if there were things he could have done better, to make it more successful. Rej insists that he had spoken to a few people prior about possibly hosting a Happy Hour and seemed to get a lukewarm response. Of course, when he heard about this event, he was intrigued as to exactly why they were using "his idea." Lawicki, who also claims that this was his own idea, relished in

getting the idea off the ground, and challenged Rej to "do it better." Rej accepted the challenge, and several months later, held the second event, which, unlike the first, was a free event, this time at the Snooty Fox in Buffalo. Afterward, word spread through social media about this new Polish event. Since then, Rej has taken the reins and has been running them independently on a monthly basis. Utilizing his marketing skills, social media and distributing the highly-recognizable flyer at every WNY Polish event have been his campaign. It appears that with each event, the crowd grows and, in essence, becomes the marketing campaign for the next event.

Typically, a disagreement on exactly whose idea it was to start such a venture would resound with two men perhaps even causing dissonance. However, these champions have overlooked all of that for the good of the community. They revel in one another's successes, and Lawicki is thrilled to see Rej making new strides in the community.

Rej, who solely subsidizes the promotion of the Happy Hours without any personal gain, feels strongly that we need to stop building walls and start building bridges in the community.

"I am interested in knocking those walls down," he said. "I am trying to win some battles in Polonia and it is working with these Happy Hours."

Now why would these two feel so passionate about bringing the community together? This is another area that the two have different thoughts about due to their positions in life. Lawicki, who is a settled married father, is looking to make his mark on the community for the future. He wants Polonia to flourish and be successful so that it is viable for the next generation. Lawicki en-

visions changes that will impact the legacy of the "East Side Polonia," which he remembers as a child.

"This event is an avenue to make the Polish heritage a prevalent part of Buffalo as we look to the future," he said.

Lawicki sees it as a networking community for Polish people of all interests and background especially Polish organizations, which he feels strongly need to start to integrate younger people.

and there is always an opportunity to learn something new about the language or heritage. Where in the past, taverns and restaurants were blatantly uninterested, business owners are now contacting Rej to schedule an event. There are currently events scheduled through 2015. The event opens doors to socialize, learn, meet new people, and find out what is going on in the Polish community. It aids in empowering those who truly care about their heritage and leav-



The Happy Hours provide networking opportunities, and a place for Poles of all generations to congregate to celebrate their shared roots. Above: participants on the Happy Hour's float in the Dyngus Day Parade.

Rej, however, is a young single, and sees the event as a network of Polish people, especially those who want to meet a potential spouse. Although he holds high hopes for the future of the community, he is more concerned with the here and now. His pride in the Polish culture is evident within minutes of meeting him. He yearns for a place where he is able to be among Polish people who feel the same way he does. For him, this event is an opportunity for young Polish Americans to get involved and fix mistakes that have happened over the last several years causing rifts in the community.

**IT IS APPARENT** that, although these two men have different opinions and outlooks in many ways, their path is leading to the same destination. Both aspire for a community in Buffalo in which Polish pride is apparent and strong. They want to overcome the stereotypes of Polish heritage. They strive not to alienate any piece of their nationality but open a forum for cohesiveness.

Each event features free Polish food, Polish beers, and Polish liquor

ing Polonia better than they found it. These are passionate people who yearn to make a difference and just happen to have a great time doing it. It is changing the way non-Polish Buffalo pubs and restaurants think about Polish liquor, beer, food, and most importantly the people. Attend the next Polish Happy Hour to join in this movement.

## POLONIA PLACES / Greg Witul

### Adam Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic Circle



612 Fillmore Avenue  
Buffalo, New York  
Status: Open

Of all the cultural organizations that once lined Fillmore Avenue in Buffalo's Polish East-Side, only one still stands, the Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle. For the last 119 years, this sentinel of Polonia has preserved Polish literature, history, theater, music, and culture here in the New World.

The Circle was born October 13, 1895 in the upstairs apartment of Joseph Slisz, an employee of the newspaper *Polaka w Ameryce*. Slisz invited 15 of Buffalo's most influential Poles with the hopes of starting "an organization that would appeal to the Polish youth". After the group agreed to sponsor such a mission, one of the members spontaneously suggested that it should be named after the great Polish bard, Adam Mickiewicz, which received a resounding approval. It was then proposed that the Club should offer theatrical performances, educational lectures, and have a library. With

its mission in place, the group voted in its first officers: Joseph Slisz was elected president; Wolciech Labinski was elected director; and Vincent Buczkowski was selected to be the first librarian.

The new society first rented a room in the St. Stanislaus Parish complex, and the Circle was legally incorporated in February of 1897. Membership grew until it became necessary for the Club to have its own house. In 1902 they secured a building at 612 Fillmore and moved the Club in. In 1914 the building was expanded to its current two story structure with a bar, theater, and clubrooms. With prohibition, Mickiewicz became a speakeasy, playing jazz, and serving drinks to Polonia, and police alike.

By the time of the Great Depression and Second World War, many of Mickiewicz's founding members were passing on. Replacing them were new Polish immigrants fleeing communism. By the 1960s, the Circle became the main gathering place for the post-war immigrants, who in 1965 elected Marian Strzelczyk to serve as president, a position he held for the next twenty years. In the 1980s second and third generation Polish-Americans began joining the club, giving it its current mix of older immigrants and younger Americans wanting to know more about where they came from.

Today, "Mickie's," as it is affectionately known, still has a 12,000-volume library, serves Polish beer and spirits, and holds Polish events, including a St. John's Eve party, a reading of the May 3rd Constitution, and one of Buffalo's largest Dyngus Day parties.



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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

## Pope Meets with Premier, Names New Primate

Pope Francis met May 19 with Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk**, for a conversation that ranged from the canonization of St. John Paul II and the plans for World Youth Day 2016 to current political tensions in eastern Europe.

In a related development, on May 19 the Vatican announced that the pope has appointed **Bishop Wojciech Polak**, who is currently serving as an auxiliary in the Gniezno archdiocese, to become Archbishop of Gniezno and Primate of Poland. He will replace Archbishop Jozef Kowalczyk, who is retiring at the age of 75.

The Archbishop of Gniezno has traditionally held the title of Primate of Poland. That tradition was interrupted for a short time, from 1992 until 2007, when Cardinal Jozef Glemp was Archbishop of Warsaw and Primate of Poland. Cardinal Glemp had inherited the latter title when he was appointed installed as Archbishop of both Gniezno and Warsaw. In 1992, when he approved a restructuring of the Polish hierarchy that separated the two archdioceses, Pope John Paul II stipulated that Cardinal Glemp would remain the Primate until his retirement from active ministry, which occurred in 2007.

**ARCHBISHOP WENSKI ON DOMESTIC POLICY.** Miami's Archbishop **Thomas G. Wenski**, as head of the US bishops' Domestic Policy Committee addressed the current immigration system and declared it to be "broken." In a homily at a Mass in Washington, D.C. for immigrants and their families, Archbishop Wenski said that current laws "can and should be changed," since they fail to advance the common good.

On another occasion, speaking for the policy committee, the archbishop urged the Environmental Protection Agency to address the carbon emissions of power plants. This stance was in agreement with President Obama's recent executive order outlining requirements to cut carbon emissions at coal-fired power plants.

**CELEBRATING ST. JOHN PAUL II.** The **St. John Paul II National Shrine** in Washington, D.C. was opened on the site of the former



**BISHOP POLAK**

John Paul II Cultural Center near the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The cultural center was opened in 2001 as an art, cultural and event facility under the direction of Adam Cardinal Maida. The Knights of Columbus took over ownership of the facility in 2011 when the transformation to its current use was begun.

Donald Cardinal Wuerl, archbishop of the RC archdiocese of Washington, noted that, in its three years as a local shrine, the center "has become a place of pilgrimage and prayer, attracting people from far beyond the city." He gave the shrine a painting of the new saint. A centerpiece of the shrine is a relic consisting of a vial of St. John Paul II's blood given to the Knights by Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, the saint's former secretary.

Patrick Kelly, executive director of the shrine said, "We are grateful that the U.S. bishops have elevated our status to a national shrine and we look forward to welcoming pilgrims to this place of prayer." The shrine's main floor will be converted to a church, while its chapel will serve as a reliquary chapel. Both places will be adorned with floor to ceiling mosaics.

The shrine currently is hosting an exhibit entitled "Be Not Afraid: the Life and Legacy of John Paul II." Later this year, the shrine's lower level will host a 16,000 sq. ft. permanent exhibition on the pope's life and teaching.

In Buffalo, N.Y., relics of St. John Paul II are also venerated at **St. John Gualbert Church** in Cheektowaga and **St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Church**, Buffalo. The room where he stayed as a guest while visiting as cardinal is open for visitation and prayer at **St. Casimir's church**, Kaisertown, Buffalo.

**MORE YAD VASHEM HONORS.** Three Polish priests and two nuns have been honored by Israel's Yad Vashem institute, posthumously, for saving Jews during the Holocaust.

Israeli Ambassador to Poland, Zvi Rav-Ner, who presented the medals at a ceremony at the seat of the Polish Bishops' Conference, told Polish Radio "it is important to show that so many people in the Church have been saving Jews when they risked their own lives, sometimes without special orders or instructions from anybody, but just because their own conscience and religious conviction made them do it."

"It's a moral duty for us, Israelis, Jews, to continue with this process [of awarding the Righteous among the Nations medals] and finding out all those people who saved Jews, even they are not alive; it's also an educational duty."

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...** **St. Laudislaus RC Parish** in Chicago's Cragin neighborhood, on its 100-year anniversary. Francis Cardinal George, archbishop of Chicago, celebrated the parish's centennial before leaving for the meeting of U.S. bishops in Washington, D.C.

**Assumption of the BVM Parish** in Buffalo, N.Y. celebrating the 100th year of their current church edifice. The parish itself recently concluded its 125th anniversary celebration.

**Fr. Thomas Kobuszewski** of the R.C. Diocese of Syracuse on his 50th anniversary of ordination.

**STO LAT TO...** Six newly ordained priests for the RC Archdiocese of Detroit, among whom were two Pol-Ams, **Fr. Joseph Turkiewicz** and **Fr. Gregory Piatt**. Fr. Piatt, 55, is a former journalist who covered post-Communist Poland the wars in Bosnia and Iraq, working for Reuters news service and the *US Stars and Stripes*. He returned to Detroit in 2008 to care for his ailing father. After attending a weekend seminar for men curious about the priesthood, he entered a Boston seminary that specialized in older candidates. His first assignment as a priest will be to minister at St. James parish in Novi, Mich. "My greatest strength is that I've had this life and this career before I entered ... The example of myself may spur other men, who think (they're) too old to be a priest."

Two newly-ordained priests for the RC Diocese of Buffalo: **Fr. John Adams**, who had worked as a psychological counselor, and **Fr. Bryan Zielenieski**, who had been a dairy farmer, among his other pursuits.

**Deacon Joseph A. Koczera, S.J.**, of Chicago, Ill., ordained in Toronto, Ont. as a transitional deacon and looking forward to ordination to the priesthood a year from now.

Eight newly ordained permanent deacons in the RC Diocese of Buffalo, including **Deacon Paul C. Kulczyk**, CEO of Buffalo's Catholic Charities on receiving the Community Commitment Award from VOICE-Buffalo at its annual celebration banquet. VOICE-Buffalo is an interracial, urban-suburban coalition of 28 faith-based congregations and community, business and labor leaders of Buffalo and Erie County that works to advance issues of justice and equity locally and more broadly.

**Sr. M. Marcine Borowiak, CSSJ**, on receiving the Founder's Medal from Villa Maria College, Cheektowaga, NY, at the college's commencement, where she was also the principal speaker. For her summer break, she will take a three-week trip to Canada's Northwest Territory where she will teach at a bible camp for 3-18 year old children.

**Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec**, Bishop Emeritus of the RC Diocese of Buffalo on receiving the President's Medal from Villa Maria College, Cheektowaga, N.Y., at the Board of Trustees Dinner.

### 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.

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

## Freedom Night in Washington



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

**POLAND'S AMBASSADOR RICHARD SCHNEPF** (left) and **U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CHUCK HAGEL** are pictured during the singing of the Polish and American national anthems. The occasion was the celebrations of Poland's 223rd Constitution Day and its 25th Anniversary of Freedom and Democracy via the 1989 free elections that doomed communist rule, imposed on it by the Soviet Union after World War II.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Under the auspices of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, two significant events in Poland's history were observed at the Residence of the Ambassador, May 21, 2014 — the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's May Third Constitution of 1791 ("Konstytucji Trzeciego Maja"), and the 25th Anniversary of Freedom and Democracy of June 4, 1989, the first partially free elections that effectively and eventually ended the 44 years of Soviet-imposed communist domination.

The guest of honor was U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel — a Nebraskan of proud Polish ancestry. Other notables in attendance included: Poland's Undersecretary of State for European Policy Dr. Henryka Moscicka-Dendys; Papal Nuncio Archbishop Carlos Maria Viganò; Congressmen Dan Lipinski (D-IL); Paul Tonko (D-NY); William Enyart (D-IL); and Dan Benishek (R-MI). The few hundred guests also included various ambassadors, diplomats, military attachés, U.S. government officials, Armed Forces hierarchy, a host of luminaries, and the extended Polonia.

Ambassador Schnepf paid homage to Poland's May 3rd Constitution on its 223rd Anniversary. It was Poland's first national constitution, a document unseen in Europe, and based on the U.S. Constitution of 1787. The ambassador spoke about the historic and "deeply rooted" bonds that tie Poland and the U.S. together since the American Revolution, giving examples of both countries fights — sometimes jointly — for "freedom, independence and democracy."

Schnepf also spoke of the abso-

lute necessity of Poland's inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. He highlighted the active and enduring U.S./Poland military partnership, particularly the current presence of the U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter squadrons now based in Lask and Krzesiny, along with the recent arrival in-country of 150 U.S. Army paratroopers.

With regard to the 25th Anniversary of the June 4, 1989 elections, Schnepf spoke of President Obama's then-upcoming trip to Poland, saying "There is no better way to remember American support for Poland during our fight for democracy and subsequent transformation than the presence of Barack Obama on this day in Warsaw, Poland. Poland is waiting for him, and Europe is waiting for America."

Schnepf's remarks were underscored by the Secretary of Defense.

"Poland and Poles were always unique, through their possessing of an unbreakable spirit and strength, which you should be proud of not only when celebrating such significant anniversaries such as the Polish Constitution and 25 years since the elections of 1989 or the 15 years of NATO membership," said Hagel.

He also spoke of his Polish roots in Nebraska, and of his official visit to Poland earlier this year, when he obtained ancestral birth certificates from his family's village church.

"Freedom Night" drew the attention of various U.S., Polish, Spanish, German, Romanian, and Japanese news correspondents and film crews, which reported on the still amazing and world-changing democratic accomplishment of June 4, 1989.

## Festival Unites Science and Culture

KRAKOW, Poland — The Kopernicus Festival is a showcase for the meeting of science and culture. The founder of the event, Professor **Fr. Michal Heller**, a scientist, philosopher, and Polish Catholic priest stated that "Without science, there is no culture, Without science we would still be swinging from trees."

The festival includes concerts, films and exhibitions incorporating mathematics and lectures by international thinkers. John D. Barrow, an English theoretical physicist and mathematician will discuss the origin and evolution of the universe and John Gray, retired London School of Economics and Political Science professor of European Thought with a special interest in analytic philosophy and the history of ideas, will speak at the festival about the relationship between sci-

ence and the humanities.

In 2008 Fr. Heller received the Templeton Prize for his endeavors bridging science and religion and for demonstrating that "the interaction between physics, philosophy and theology can be fruitful without violating the autonomy of science." Valued at \$1.6 million (USD), The Templeton Prize is the world's largest annual monetary award given to an individual. Heller donated the prize money for an academic center in Krakow dedicated to teaching and research in science and theology.

This past May, Fr. Heller was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, the highest distinction awarded to both civilians and the military for their achievements.

News updates and more on our website and Facebook pages

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

## Polish Mission, D-Day, Forbidden Art, Abilene



PHOTO: MARCIN CHUMIECKI

Polish Mission delegation.

ABILENE, Kansas — The **Polish Mission at Orchard Lake, Mich.**, participated in the commemorative ceremony of the 70th anniversary of D-Day at the **Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum** in Abilene, Kansas. The Polish Mission delegation consisted of its chairman, **Dr. Stanislaus Majewski**; vice consul of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, **Konrad Zielinski**; **Teresa Wontor-Cichy** from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland; and **Marcin Chumiecki**, the Polish Mission's director.

Over 300 invited guests filled the Presidential Library auditorium for the presentation and opening of "Be Ye Men of Valor" and the "Forbidden Art" exhibits. The Kansas State University Summer Chorale sang our National Anthem, followed by, much to the pleasant surprise of the Polish Mission delegation, that of Poland. During the opening ceremonies, Chumiecki received the prestigious Army Engineer's pin for "constructing partnerships that shape a better future."

Wontor-Cichy, editor and researcher of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, contributed the final component of the Polish Mission presentation. After summarizing her 16 years of experience at the museum, she gave a powerful interpretation of Auschwitz, more specifically, about the artists featured in the "Forbidden Art" exhibit. Her closing remarks related to June 6, 1944. She concluded with "... for the prisoners, it was a day like many others, but one thing was different: even though news had not reached the prisoners, the camp administration knew that a second front had been opened in France, which foretold the coming liberation of Auschwitz." Wontor-Cichy and Karl Weissenbach, Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, unveiled the first glass castings of some of the original artwork featured in Forbidden Art.

The day was filled with lectures from visiting historians, including a Polish Mission friend, Dr. Guy Stern, who traveled along with Steve Goldman, director of the Holocaust Memorial Center, located in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Dr. Stern is a veteran of World War II and an original member of the "Ritchie Boys." His remarks added a valuable contribution to the story of the greatest generation.

The Ritchie Boys was a special U.S. Army intelligence unit in World War II, comprised mainly of German-speaking immigrants to the United States, who were mostly Jewish. Some fled Nazi persecution. They were primarily engaged in interrogating prisoners on the front lines and were involved in counter-intelligence in Europe, because of their knowledge of the German lan-

guage and culture.

The "Forbidden Art" exhibit itself, on loan from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and the Polish Mission of Orchard Lake School, features photographs of art created by prisoners of the Auschwitz concentration camp. It was illegal for prisoners to make or create art, yet many did so at great risks. Once the exhibit concludes at the Eisenhower Library and Museum, it will travel to The Polish Museum of America (PMA) in Chicago. The scheduled date for the exhibit's opening at the PMA is October 19, 2014.

**WHO IS FATHER CISZEK?** On view in the chapel of Loyola Academy, a Jesuit College preparatory high school in Wilmette, Ill., one will find paintings by Turkish iconographer and artist, **Meltem Aktas**. Among her paintings on display in the chapel is a painting of **Walter Ciszek, S.J.**

Born in 1904 in Shenandoah, Pa., of Polish immigrant parents, Walter grew up as a "street fighting" kid, an almost bully-type boy. His father had begged the police to send his son to reform school. But Walter fooled them all. One day, he told his family he wanted to be a priest. Naturally, his father and almost everyone else did not believe Walter was serious. But he was. He enrolled and attended SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, until September 1928, when he entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

In 1929 Pope Pius XI called upon the Jesuits to help aid the Russian Orthodox Church, as it appeared to be on "the brink of annihilation by the Communist regime as witnessed by the decimation" of thousands of its priests, monks, nuns, and deacons. Rome established a Russian Center to train Jesuits, and Ciszek was one of its early volunteers. He sailed to Rome, completed his studies at the Vatican/Rome's Russian College, and, on June 24, 1937, was ordained and said his first Mass in the Russian Rite. His assignment was ready, but he could not go directly to the Soviet Union. So, for two years, he was sent to Albertyn, Poland, working with Jesuit seminarians on what one might call the "horse-and-buggy" circuit. When Hitler invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, Ciszek was already among the Soviets.

He soon became Vladimir Lypinski, via false identification papers, and was somewhere in the Ural Mountains working as an unskilled laborer. One night in June 1940, the



Father Walter Ciszek, S. J., painting, secret police surrounded the barracks where Vladimir and other laborers slept. The police confiscated Fr. Ciszek's belongings: two bottles of white wine, tooth powder, and a few sheets of paper used to teach writing skills. The police identified these items as "bottles of nitroglycerine, gunpowder, and a secret code. "Vladimir" was arrested as a German spy.

Between 1939-1963, he spent five years in Moscow's infamous Lubyanka prison, followed by fifteen years in confinement and/or hard labor in the Gulag, some 1800-2500 miles from Moscow, depending on which way you travel. His family, the Jesuits, and the Church presumed him dead. He was released to the United States government in exchange for two Soviet spies. His years in the gulag, his subsequent release, and his return to the United States are other stories in themselves. Upon his return, he wrote his memoirs in "With God in Russia" and "He Leadeth Me" and served as a spiritual director. While writing his books, he resided at Canisius House, a Jesuit residence in Evanston, Ill. Fr. Ciszek passed away Dec. 8, 1984, in Bronx, N.Y.



Father Ciszek

**PMA HOSTS ITS 34TH SUMMER BALL.** The 34th annual Summer Ball, hosted by The **Polish Museum of America (PMA)**, was held on June 6 at the beautiful indoor/outdoor Galleria Marchetti in downtown Chicago. The gardens were an ideal setting for the summer event. The 185 guests had an absolutely perfect evening, weather-wise, to enjoy the outdoors after a long, cold, and snowy Chicago winter. With a cocktail reception, a gourmet dinner, and dancing to the tunes of the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra, this black tie dinner dance is the PMA's major fundraiser. The Ball chair, Virginia Cudecki began by welcoming all of the Museum's guests. The evening officially began with Aleksandra Kurzydowski, a sophomore from Barnard College, singing the Polish and U.S. national anthems.

This year, the PMA's chair and president, Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., and Maria Ciesla, presented the Polish Spirit Award to **Joanne Ozof** of Warren, Mich., for her many outstanding years of service to the Museum. The Polonia Ensemble performed in her honor. A special \$5,000 scholarship presentation on behalf of Thorek Hospital Medical Foundation was made to **Julia Simkowski** of Deerfield, Ill., who will be entering her first year at Case Western Reserve University Medical School.



PHOTO: JULIA SIEGEL

**34TH ANNUAL SUMMER BALL.** (l. to r.) Maria Ciesla, Geraldine Balut Coleman, Julia Simkowski, Joseph A. Drobot, Jr.

**POLISH ARTS CLUB HOSTS A DELIGHTFUL AFTERNOON.** For those who had the pleasure of attending the installation of officers luncheon on June 7 of the **Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PAC)** at the Park Ridge Country Club, a real treat was in store. Prior to the luncheon, baritone, **Michael Orlinsky**, accompanied by **Marek Rachelski** on piano, entertained the 65 guests. Orlinsky sang Chopin's "Hulanka," Carl Nielsen's "Maskarade," and, from Mozart's *Magic Flute*, he sang a wonderful rendition of Paganini's aria. He also entranced the guests with "Votre toast je peux vous le rendre" from Bizet's *Carmen*, a Neapolitan song, "Ideale" by Francesco Paolo Tosti, and a very melodic Yiddish song, "A Nigun" by Lazar Weiner.

Orlinsky is a California native, who now makes Chicago his home. He is a graduate of the University of Nevada Las Vegas with a Master's Degree from North Park University (NPU). He is a teaching artist at NPU, is involved with Main Street Opera, and was the recipient of a \$2,000 PAC scholarship.

Rachelski is the director of music at St. John Brebeuf Church, in Niles, Ill. Born in Poland, he studied abroad at Prague's Academy of Performing Arts, holds a Bachelor

of Music degree from Wayne State University in Detroit and a Master of Music in conducting from Northwestern University. Additionally, he is on the conducting faculty at DePaul University. He composed music while in the United States, Canada, Poland, and Germany. Besides his musical directorship at St. John Brebeuf, he works closely with Lira Ensemble, artist-in-residence at Loyola University Chicago. He came to Niles along with his wife Stacie, by way of Nevada, where he led the Opera Las Vegas, Musica Lumina Chamber Orchestra, and the Las Vegas Peoples Valley Chorus.

After lunch, officers and directors of the PAC were officially installed. They are: president, T. Ronald Jasinski-Herbert; first vice president, Alicia L. Dutka; treasurer, Dr. Robert Dutka; and secretary, Anna Oerke, along with directors Czeslawa Kolak, Renee Okonek, and Teresa Rozanacki.

Afterwards, the PAC, in cooperation with the American Council for Polish Culture, presented a \$5,000 scholarship to **Mateusz Wietecha**, who currently is enrolled at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Dentistry in a combined DMD/PHD program. He will graduate in May 2015. Mateusz's field of interest in research is oral cancer.

### IN THE NEWS

**VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTINUES.** Syracuse, N.Y.'s 60th Annual Polish Scholarship Festival was held June 20-22 in Clinton Square. Organizers credited the success of the Fund to sponsors, donors, political representatives, the media, and visitors. A volunteer-run event, this year's festival paid tribute to all who have donated their time and talent its continuation.

To learn more, visit [www.polish-scholarship.org](http://www.polish-scholarship.org).

**MORE AIR TIME.** WCPT-FM (92.7) and WCPQ (99.9), will switch to Polski.FM, a time-bro-

kered format of Polish-language news, talk and music," says Chicago media maven Robert Feder. The two stations were part of a four-station conglomerate that shared a progressive talk simulcast.

**DIPLOMAS GIVEN.** After successful participation in the Polish language course of study, twenty students were awarded diplomas, May 27, 2014 at St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, Mass. The classes were taught by Rev. Adam Czarnecki, pastor. Classes for the next academic year begin September 9 in the parish hall.

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# Israel Honors Ambassador's Mother and Grandmother

by Richard Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — World War II was a very dangerous time to be a citizen of Poland, subjugated under the heavy Nazi German jackboot since its 1939 invasion and defeat. And it became a very deadly time and place if you were a Jew. The German genocide of the Jews began in June, 1941 when they invaded the Soviet Union (Russia) — their former ally that had also invaded Poland, but from the east. The German's "Final Solution" was codified in 1942 and it evolved into the murder of all Jews on a systematic industrial scale using huge poison gas chambers at various concentration camps. Six million Jews perished in this unfathomable tragedy now called "The Holocaust."

Only in war-ravaged Poland during this horrific time of the Nazi domination of conquered Europe was it unmercifully decreed that anyone found harboring Jews would suffer immediate summary execution. This included everyone present in the dwelling — Jews and gentiles alike — encompassing all men, women and children.

But many gentile Poles were possessed of selfless courage and extraordinary humanitarian principles in harboring and aiding their Jewish brethren. Pani Natalia Szczepaniak (1902-1999), a war widow, and her daughter Alicja (then 14, now 84) were two such heroic Poles who defied the barbaric German edict. In 1944, under great duress, and in constant personal danger, they sheltered in their Warsaw apartment Anna Albert, her two daughters, and her young niece, all who had just barely escaped the Nazi dragnet in Poland's eastern city of Lwow. The two Albert daughters eventually found refuge elsewhere, and just before the Warsaw Rising of 1944 a Jewish family of three also sought refuge in the apartment. In the end, they all survived the Holocaust with the western/eastern allied armies' defeat of Adolf Hitler's Germany in 1945.

Here at the Adas Israel Congregation Synagogue, in Washington's

Cleveland Park neighborhood, on April 27, 2014, Natalia Szczepaniak and her daughter Alicja Szczepaniak Schnepf were remembered and honored with their names being entered onto a bronze plaque in its Garden of the Righteous. This was preceded by a program of relevant commentary, presentation of a silver menorah to Mrs. Schnepf, with emotive interspersed prayerful, musical and vocal presentations in the well-attended large synagogue. The event was connected to the annual Holocaust Day of Remembrance being observed on April 28th.

The main part of the program was the riveting and emotional eyewitness testimony of Alicja S. Schnepf concerning her — and their — trials, tribulations and eventual triumph over the abject evil of Nazi Germany in a vanquished Poland. Mrs. Schnepf, reading from copious notes, spoke to the spellbound congregation in Polish. Her son, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, handily interpreted her remarks into English. She recounted in detail the experiences of her family and the sheltered Jews during that terrible time they all endured. Her personal testimony was intense, astounding and uplifting all at the same time. It's one thing to read or hear about someone's overwhelming life experience, it's quite another experience to hear it spoken from that person's own lips.

And in this, Mrs. Schnepf is owed a large debt of gratitude by us all. She made everyone within earshot co-witnesses to a regrettable history that must never be forgotten — and a victory over totalitarianism to be celebrated forevermore.

Note: At Israel's Yad Vashem — a living memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust — gentiles who risked their own safety, without any ulterior motives, to save Jews during the Holocaust are recognized. And so Natalia Szczepaniak in 1981, and her daughter Alicja S. Schnepf in 1991, were named and memorialized there as persons "Righteous Among the Nations."

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

## Bisons to Salute PAJ Editor, Pijanowskis

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The New Direction Band provided the musical accompaniment for the grand reopening polka party of the **Echo Club** in Niagara Falls on May 18 ... **Ed Kornowski** displayed photos of his trips to Poland at the Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society meeting at the Niagara Falls Public Library on May 20 ... The Professional and Business Women of Polonia awarded its 2014 scholarship to **Ashley Szalkowski**, a three year graduate of SUNY Fredonia who plans to pursue a doctorate in optometry from the New England College of Optometry in Boston ... Polish National Alliance Lodges 271 and 2517, Council 44 from Syracuse, have merged into a new lodge known as **Maria Curie Society Lodge 271**. The officers of the new lodge are: Janet Cormier (president), Celine Pelc (vice-president), Pamela Newton (financial secretary), MaryJo Tartaglia (treasurer), Cheryl Visconti (recording secretary) and Lottie Starowicz (sergeant-at-arms) ... The Friends of **Corpus Christi Church** on Buffalo's East Side launched a campaign to restore the church's north bell tower on Indiegogo.com ... The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo honored the memory of **Gen. John Libront** at a special Mass at St. Stanislaus Church on May 25.

Polish classical guitarist **Marcin Kuzniar**, a protege of Marcin Dylla, participated in the 2014 Joann Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition held in Buffalo in early June ... Dr. Lisa Anselmi, of the Anthropology Department at Buffalo State College, and her students used ground penetrating radar to assist in documenting unmarked graves in the **Holy Mother of the Rosary** Polish National Catholic Church cemetery in Cheektowaga from June 5 through 11 ... The 12th Annual



**SCHMID SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS.** (l. to r.) Zackery Rusillo, Catherine Veiders, Brooke Kacala, Linda Fritsch, Derek Kaczorowski — flanked by Ed Kutas and Christine Tanski, are this year's winners of the Jackie Schmid Scholarship. The award is available to students of the Depew, Cheektowaga Central, Cheektowaga-Sloan, Maryvale, and Cleveland Hill school districts. Kutas and Tanski are past fund presidents.

The scholarship, instituted in 2013, celebrates the life and spirit of the late community leader. Awards are based on academic achievement, participation in Polish heritage and culture, and financial need. For more information, visit [www.JackieSchmidScholarship.org](http://www.JackieSchmidScholarship.org), or write to: Jackie Schmid Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 143 Depew, NY 14043.

**Polish Heritage Festival** was held on June 6 and 7 at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg. This year's festival offered performances by Special Delivery, John Gora and Gorale, Bob Uleck & Polka Relations, Buffalo Touch and the Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir. For more information, please visit [www.polfunfest.com](http://www.polfunfest.com) ... Arcade native **Rev. Brian Zielenieski** was ordained to the priesthood by Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone on June 7 ... **St. John Kanty** Parish in Buffalo held its Summerfest, and the Polish Veterans' Pilgrimage and Parade paying homage to the volunteers of Haller's Blue Army took place at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, on June 8 ... The NYS Economic Development Council named **Tom Kucharski**, president and CEO of Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, its 2014

Economic Developer of the Year ... On June 9, the **Permanent Chair of Polish Culture** at Canisius College sponsored the screening of the film *Orchestra of Exiles* at the 29th Annual Buffalo Jewish Film Festival at the Jewish Community Center in Getzville, and the Syracuse Chiefs baseball team held its Polish Night.

The **Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister City Committee** announced the winners of this year's student essay contest: Grzegorz Ciebiera (First Place - Rzeszow Gimnazjum #13 - Buffalo-Cultural Destination), Mateusz Piecuch (Second Place - Rzeszow Gimnazjum #11 - Buffalo Bridges) and Dominik Ruman (Third Place - Rzeszow Gimnazjum #11 - Buffalo Excursion). This year's contest asked students in Rzeszow to write about Buffalo. ... The **Polish Arts Club** of Buffalo honored Adrienne Tworek-Gryta at its Biesiada dinner at Samuel's Grande Manor in Williamsville, and the Polish Genealogical Society of NYS presented a program on Newspaper Research at Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga, on June 12 ... On June 17, the **Professional & Businessmen's Association** held its Festivus! A Social Networking Event at the Templeton Landing Restaurant in Downtown Buffalo... **Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister Cities, Inc.** held its Annual Meeting and Elections at the Adam Mickiewicz Library in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District on June 20 ... On June 22 22nd, the parishioners of St. Stanislaus and Corpus Christi Churches joined together for a **Corpus Christi procession** through the streets of Buffalo's Historic Polonia District.

The Buffalo Bisons baseball team will hold its annual **Polish Heritage Festival Night** at Coca-Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on Tuesday, August 12. This year's honorees are PAJ Editor-in-Chief Mark Kohan (Polish American of the Year), and Jennifer and Ricky Pijanowski (Community Leadership Award). The Krakowiacy Dancers and the Knewz polka band will perform during the pre-game tent party and the game versus the Norfolk Tides.

The Corpus Christi Parish **Dozynki Polish Harvest Festival** will be held on the parish grounds in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District the weekend of August 15 through 17 ... The **Roncesvalles Polish Festival** in Toronto will take place on September 13 and 14. More information is available at [polishfestival.ca](http://polishfestival.ca).

## SUPPORT THE PAJ PRESS FUND

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.

Donations to the PAJ Press Fund are also used to support our **reader services** (postage, telephone, research, etc.), provide newsclippers with stamps and envelopes, and cover extraordinary expenses in producing the paper. **The Polish American Journal is not a profit-making venture.** Thanks to its dedicated staff, the PAJ is published as a "public service" for American Polonia.

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: **Janina Anderson**, Centerville, Mass.; **Val Bilchak**, Cleveland, Ohio; **Wieslaw Chlus**, Wethersfield, Conn.; **John Halley**, Rowland Heights, Calif.; **Dr. Danuta Hriebein**, Valley Forge, Pa.; **Henry A. Konat**, Madison, Virg.; **Dr. John Noziol**, Clifton, N.J.; **Dennis Piotrowski**, Torrance, Calif.; **Regina Wnukowski**, Philadelphia; **Irene Wrobel**, Buffalo, N.Y.; **Anthony Ziemiak, Jr.**, San Leandro, Calif.; and two **Friends of the PAJ**. Dziękujemy wam wszystkim! The PAJ thanks all who donated to the Press Fund.

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36TH ANNUAL CHEEKTOWAGA  
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July 17-20, 2014

**Thursday, July 17**

7:00 p.m. .... Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra  
(Food available from Cheektowaga Y.E.S. group)

**Friday, July 18**

4:30 p.m. .... Concertina All Stars - Buffalo, NY  
6:00 p.m. .... Polka Family - Bloomsburg, PA  
7:30 p.m. .... Concertina All Stars - Buffalo, NY  
8:45 p.m. .... Polka Family - Bloomsburg, PA

**Saturday, July 19**

2:00 p.m. .... Special Delivery - Cheektowaga, NY  
4:30 p.m. .... Mass Celebrant & Homilist:  
Reverend Louis S. Klein, Pastor  
Queen of Martyrs RC Church, Cheektowaga, NY  
Deacon Robert Badaszewski  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo  
Guest Choir - Quo Vadis  
Honor Guard - St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly Color Corp #1944  
5:30 p.m. .... Polish-American String Band - Philadelphia, PA  
7:00 p.m. .... Rare Vintage - Cheektowaga, NY  
8:30 p.m. .... Polish-American String Band - Philadelphia, PA  
9:45 p.m. .... Rare Vintage - Cheektowaga, NY

**Sunday, July 20**

3:00 p.m. .... Polish-American String Band - Philadelphia, PA  
4:00 p.m. .... Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble - Cheektowaga, NY  
5:00 p.m. .... Phocus - Cheektowaga, NY  
6:00 p.m. .... Bob Uleck Band - North East, PA  
7:00 p.m. .... Phocus - Cheektowaga, NY  
8:00 p.m. .... Bob Uleck Band - North East, PA

**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 Catering and Polish Villa II from Friday thru Sunday. The General Pulaski Parade Will Take Place on Sunday, July 20th at 1:30 p.m. starting at the Thruway Mall and continuing North On Harlem Road, ending At Town Park.

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## Dancers Impress Dinner Guests



NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — On Sunday, May 25th, 2014, **St. Valentine's Parish** held its 7th annual Polish Dinner in the parish hall. Prior to the dinner, Holy Mass was held at 11:00 a.m. celebrated by pastor, Rev. Adam Czarnecki.

The buffet-style dinner was served to over 100 people.

Clergy from the Central Seniorate were present: Rev. Randy Calvo, pastor, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield; and Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, pastor, St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield; and Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, pastor, Holy Cross Parish, Ware.

The St. Joseph's Dance Group

of Westfield, under the direction of Carol Ruszala, again entertained with traditional Polish dances. These talented children, ranging in age from four to eighteen, provided a great performance.

The Polish dinner event showcases Polish Heritage through sumptuous Polish food prepared by parishioners, the dance group, and music. It was especially important that the parish hall was filled with parishioners, parishioners from sister parishes, the community, and members of the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton, who enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of conversation, laughter, and friendship.

TOLEDO POLONIA / Margaret Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk

## Poznan's "The Dixie Company" Wows Toledo

Taking a turn into the world of Dixieland jazz, I attended the first of two performances of "The Dixie Company" at the University of Toledo on Wednesday, May 14th. I first heard about this band from a Polish American friend back in the winter. Amazingly, I had a free weeknight, with no sports, lessons, etc., to chauffeur. Being that UT is about three miles from my door step, I made my way to the Performing Arts Center to check this out.

### WHAT IS THE DIXIE COMPANY?

Simply put, this band is a group of seven men from Poland playing traditional American jazz music. (A little music history: The term "Dixieland" came into popular use in the 1910s when New Orleans jazz musicians in a band known as the Original Dixieland Jass Band began to have million-selling recordings. Even non-jazz listeners recognize some of the first standards from this era, such as "Basin Street Blues" and "When the Saints Go Marching In.") The Dixie Company formed in 1993 in Poznan, and has given hundreds of shows and concerts across Europe. The strong front line and tight rhythm section give this group a swinging sound that makes listeners want to get up and move around.

As a result of the efforts of the Toledo Poznan Alliance, The Dixie Company was able to perform for two nights in the cozy Recital Hall on campus. Kathy Grabel and Tom Sorosiak of the Alliance explained in comments before the show that the band was on its way to a week-long jazz festival in Sacramento, Calif. Since Poznan, Poland is one of Toledo's sister cities, the Alliance worked to arrange the stop

in Toledo. (Grabel is a retired UT staff member). The band took to the stage at approximately 7:10 p.m. and after brief opening remarks by Sorosiak, began to play for an intimate crowd of 40 or 50 guests. Dressed alike in black polo shirts, black pants, and classic black and white spectator shoes, it was clear from their opening notes that these guys are a tight, polished musical group who really enjoy what they do. Trumpet player Jacob Marszalek announced the show, in thickly accented English. He introduced the standard "Memphis Blues" and the group then moved into "Mack the Knife," the Kurt Weill song from the Threepenny Opera best known as a hit for crooner Bobby Darin in the late 1950s. The banjo and guitar player Wojciech Warszawski stood up and gave an impressive imitation of Darin in English and in Polish. After "Royal Garden Blues," the band found itself improvising on their program a bit, as the upright bass player left the stage due to difficulties with his instrument. These numbers included "Stranger on the Shore" and "When the Saints Go Marching In," with Warszawski again standing up and doing a fine Louis Armstrong imitation that got the crowd smiling.

After about 20 minutes, bass player Mariusz Gajdzial returned to the stage, and, as if to make up for his absence, traded scats with Marszalek during the song "Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey?" The band continued on with songs such as "Yes Sir, That's My Baby," "Muskrat Ramble," "C'Est Si Bon," and "Jazz Me Blues." The show was one 90 minute set, and as the time drew near for the band to finish, they

began to play "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Normally not a favorite nostalgic tune of mine, I found it was my favorite this evening, as clarinet player Rafal Kubale unscrewed his clarinet piece by piece, playing some of the song each time, until it was kazoo-like, and tossing the pieces to Marszalek, who put it together and brought the gimmick and the song to a fantastic end. Not forgetting their Polish roots, the Dixie Company played "Lagodnie plyne w twoich ramionach" ("Gently flowing in your arms") and "Polski Drog" ("Polish Roads").

The evening ended as it began, with the crowd applauding the band and asking for more. And though they were off to a more exotic locale for a week-long jazz festival, the Dixie Company made it clear from their smiles and bows that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves in Toledo. It would be on my to do list to see them again should they ever make their way back here.

**ON A LESS CHEERY NOTE,** I was driving down Ohio Route 25 to Bowling Green for a work appointment this morning, and was saddened to see that DC Ranch and Gramma Rose's Dinnertainment center has been torn down. DC Ranch was an unusual building for the area, in that it was a quite large Quonset hut. This was a landmark stop for many decades on the outskirts of Perrysburg for dozens of national and local polka bands. Indeed, it was only twenty years ago when Claudette and Marty Davis, the last owners of the place, still held polka festivals on Sunday afternoons, and hosted Eddie Blazarczyk's band every autumn for a packed dance. As time wore on and the polka crowd dwindled, Claudette and Marty offered country and line dancing events, catering services, special events, and for a period of time, dinner theatre in the side complex.

The area is now a prime real estate location, so it was clearly a matter of time before the building saw the wrecking ball.

Oh well, the memories live on!

## PACC Marks Centennial

CAMDEN, N.J. — The Polish American Citizens' Club in Whitman Park celebrated its 100th anniversary, June 8, at Paris Caterers in Blackwood.

The boxy brick building at Lowell and Warsaw Streets, a landmark in the frayed neighborhood that once was the vibrant heart of Polish Camden, closed in the late 1980s. It's now the Bonsall School annex.

The PACC moved, first to Oaklyn, then to Runnemede, where it

continues to meet.

The club was founded as a place for immigrants to enjoy the music, food, and fellowship of the old country, while attending the English classes that helped them embrace their new one.

"We're basically a social club now," says Berlin Borough resident Piatek, 85, a retired RCA-Camden wireman. "We'll never be what we were again."

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

## The Ordeal of Bishop Padewski

The Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC) was formed in Scranton, Pa. in 1897. Following its initial success, its organizer and first Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur wanted to establish the denomination in Poland. In 1919 he sent Father Bronislaw Krupski to the newly independent Poland as the first emissary of the PNCC to that country. Other missionaries followed and within a few years the PNCC claimed tens of thousands of converts and established the Diocese of Poland.

The establishment of this new denomination in Poland was not easy, as it was met with harsh opposition from various sectors of Polish society, including the police and local authorities. Yet it managed to gain a firm foothold.

One of the priests sent to help administer the PNCC's Diocese of Poland was Polish-born American citizen **Joseph F. Padewski**, in 1931. Five years later Father Padewski was consecrated and appointed bishop of the Polish diocese.

Bishop Padewski was at his post in September 1939 when Poland was invaded by Germany to start World War II. Under harsh attack by the Nazis, he managed to convince them to allow the PNCC to continue to exist, albeit under severe restrictions. Bishop Padewski did the best he could to administer the church under the circumstances. While oppressed by the Germans, all contact was lost with the parishes in the territory invaded by the USSR

in eastern Poland shortly after the Germans had taken the western and central portions of the country. Prime Bishop Hodur tried to facilitate the return of Padewski to the United States, but was unsuccessful.

In late 1942 the Germans arrested Bishop Padewski and he was interned in Bavaria until February 1944 when the Swiss Red Cross managed to secure his release. He returned to America where he was assigned to a parish in Albany, New York. But after the war ended he returned to resume his position as Bishop of the Diocese of Poland in 1946, where he rallied survivors to reinvigorate the church.

Poland's new communist government recognized the legality of the PNCC in Poland, but Bishop Padewski and his church came under intense pressure to disassociate from the church in America, and for the bishop to renounce his American citizenship. But he held fast in his loyalty to Bishop Hodur and the church in America.

**ALREADY IN POOR HEALTH** due to his imprisonment in Germany, Bishop Padewski underwent surgery and by 1950 asked to be relieved as bishop of the diocese. Still under harassment by Poland's Stalinist government, he was arrested in Kraków on January 19, 1951 on charges of illegally exchanging foreign currency and sent to Warsaw's infamous Rakowiecka prison. Stories circulated that he was betrayed by other PNCC clergymen who wanted

to curry favor with the communists.

On February 15, a provisional council took over the PNCC's Diocese of Poland and it was decided to acquiesce to the government's demand to sever all ties with the church in America. It was legally retitled the Polish Catholic Church.

In the meantime, Bishop Padewski languished in Rakowiecka prison, refusing to compromise his principles or his faith. The communists were known to inflict tortures and various inhumane treatments on the prisoners there and reports leaked out that such was the case with the bishop. Despite appeals from the American embassy, the government released no details on his status, nor did they allow visitors. Bishop Padewski died in captivity on May 10, 1951 at age 57. Two days later he was hastily buried in Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw by a few clergymen, surrounded by secret police.

Eyewitnesses who saw the body after death, including Father Tadeusz Majewski of the PNCC, reported visible signs of torture, such as blue and mangled hands and severe emaciation.

Poland's post-communist government set up the Institute of National Remembrance to investigate the crimes of the Nazi and communist regimes in Poland. It looked into the Padewski case but in 2002 concluded that there was no evidence to support the charge that Bishop Padewski had been murdered. However, there can be little doubt that with his poor health

and the reputation of the brutality of the communists at Rakowiecka, he most likely died as the result of his imprisonment. If this is the case then Bishop Joseph F. Padewski is the only American citizen known to have been killed by Poland's communist regime.

## "Fountain of the Future" Statue Mocks Communist Leader Lenin

WARSAW — A statue of Vladimir Lenin has returned to a Polish town which was constructed by the communists in the hope of it becoming a proletarian bastion.

But instead of striking a dramatic pose designed to inspire revolution, the new Lenin statue in Nowa Huta comes bright green in color, and depicts the revolutionary leader relieving himself, with a water feature providing the necessary effects.

Poland's post-war communist government built the industrial town of Nowa Huta as a socialist tonic to subdue the intellectual influence of the nearby city of Krakow, and it once boasted a huge statue of the Russian leader striding down a main boulevard.

To the then-government's dismay, however, rather than becoming a shining example of one-party progress, Nova Huta's workers resisted attempts to make them die-hard socialists, with some even trying to blow up the original Lenin statue in 1979.

The attackers failed to use enough explosives and only suc-

ceeded in damaging the Russian's feet.

Called the "Fountain of the Future," the bright green Lenin has appeared in Nowa Huta as part of an art festival, and is also designed to stimulate debate over what should be the subject of a permanent statue on the same spot.

— Matthew Day, *The Telegraph*

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## TRAVELOGUE: Five Days in Poland / Staś Kmieć

## History Reborn

**Part VIII**  
**THE KIEPURA AWARDS CONTINUED.** Settled back in my seat after presenting the award for “Best Choreographer,” I could finally breathe and enjoy the remainder of the program. The “Best Female Dancer” Award went to the stunning and statuesque Angelika Gembiak of Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz – whose relatives reside in Connecticut. Other awards followed, including one for Mariusz Kwiecień, who has made a name for himself as a current star of *The Metropolitan Opera*. He won in the “Best Male Vocalist” category for his work at the *Opera Krakowska*.

At intermission I met with former ballet soloist, now choreographer Zofia Rudnicka, whose daughter Izabella Szylińska is currently dancing in New York. The chatter among my *Mazowsze* friends was that only a hint of an accent betrayed me as being an American and that my poise and preparedness showed my comfort level on stage. My acting experience must have really paid off.

The second half featured performances by many of the evening’s award recipients. The performance that stood out was “Best Female Vocalist” Anna Sroka-Hryń — who mesmerized the audience with a selection of Piaf songs from her acclaimed performance in the original musical *Édith i Marlene*.

Upon the conclusion of the festivities, the winners and presenters retreated upstairs to a reception. The hall was elegantly decorated with standing cocktail tables, flowing beverage and catered appetizers. I met with Artur Żymelka, the choreographer I had presented, and gave him some memorabilia from the American performers’ union *Actors’ Equity*, along with a framed art piece of a busy marquee-filled Broadway.

I had to congratulate the life achievement recipient — 74-year old choreographer and dancer Krystyna Mazurówna. Her eclectic personality was matched by her attire, hair, adornments, and colorful makeup. A kindred spirit in dance, we exchanged ideas, biographies and our perception of the Arts climate. The legendary Barbara Ptak

(“Best Set/Costume Design”) had a striking flash of purple in her hair color and a sense of costumer style in her apparel.

“Best Conductor” Jacek Boniecki wasted no time to change out of his full formal tuxedo into more comfortable garb. The *Mazowsze* directorship was situated in one area and in between conversations with new acquaintances; I would retreat to my home turf.

My head was spinning with a sense of excitement and accomplishment. From my earliest times in Poland when I would translate in my head English phrases into Polish, here I basked in the full immer-



Choreographer and dancer Krystyna Mazurówna, yours truly, and the legendary Barbara Ptak.

sion of the language.

At the next morning’s breakfast at the *Karczma* Restaurant, I chatted with out-of-town presenters and award recipients. Barbara Ptak who has worked on stage and in film with such directors as Andrzej Wajda sat across from me and we shared a robust conversation about theater and design. Four films, for which she designed the costumes, had been nominated for an Oscar, so I held onto every word of her wisdom. Our exchange led to folk costumes, at which time I showed her photos of my *Lubliniacy Ensemble* on my iPad. She was amazed that folklore was carried and maintained in such an authentic way abroad. We exchanged business cards — hers had a delicate costume design and was placed in a miniature yellow envelope. She said that she would write to me in a traditional manner, as she does not correspond through the internet — a true gem of refinement and class.

My familiar trip into Warsaw on the commuter train was traveled by students and business men at the heart of rush hour. I stood and “people watched,” as I prepared for my single day in the heart of Warsaw to accomplish the trip’s “tourist fix.”



While most of Warsaw was destroyed in World War II, the Hotel Polonia (center), remained intact.



As one of the city’s most stylish hotels, the Polonia is home to the Ludwikowska Ballroom.

From the Central Railway station, I walked the path through the store-filled underground passage, up to the Marriott Hotel and then along Aleje Jerolimskie. Gone were the hat shop and colored crystal shop that I once frequented on my visits during the Communist era. Cafés, clothing stores, mini-marts, bookshops, and a dance studio were the new sites.

**HOTEL POLONIA LIVES AGAIN!**

At Aleje Jerolimskie 45 on the corner of Poznańska Street and directly opposite the Palace of Culture and Science is *Hotel Polonia* (as I knew it) — with its now-restored title of *Polonia Palace*. A grand edifice, this looming mansion has projecting windows, balustrades and fancy brackets that decorate its elegant cream façade.

I had stayed there once months before the fall of Communism in 1989 for an awards event, when it was arranged for me by the cultural alliance with Polonia abroad — *Towarzystwo Polonia*. I always thought it had some connection to Polonia, like the *Dom Polonia* in Kraków. Little did I know that it held a rich and significant legacy. About 10 years later when my parents stayed nearby and two rooms were not available in the same hotel, I stayed there again. Both times were enjoyable, but a bit daunting. One could see the architectural elegance of the building, yet years of neglect and lack of funds made it a less than perfect hotel choice. The hotel was always in a constant state of repair, but still maintained a sense of warmth and style.

The entry way had a new updated look, so for old times’ sake, I thought I would poke my head in and check out the old hotel. What a complete surprise! The polished marble lobby and glass-ceilinged atrium set a splendid tone — it was in a new stage of life with a total renovation. Taking cue from the impressive existing structure *Hotel Polonia* has been reborn and truly is back as *The Polonia Palace*.

It is the capital’s second oldest hotel after *Bristol*, and was neither burnt down by Nazis, nor plundered by the Red Army. Founded by Konstanty Przedziecki, a member of a well-respected aristocratic family and designed by Juliusz Nagórski and Józef Holewiński, it was opened on July 14, 1913. His decision was influenced by economic, as well as patriotic motives. The name “Polo-

nia Palace” itself was supposed to have a national meaning — this was a Period of Partition and such a strong nationalistic accent in the heart of the capital was set to raise the spirits of its inhabitants.

After the Art Nouveau Bristol Hotel, *Polonia Palace* became the first building in Warsaw that was entirely inspired by Parisian style — starting with a characteristic mansard roof and finishing with Louis XVI style furniture in its French restaurant, where meals were served by French waiters. The hotel introduced some welcome amenities in the 160 rooms to its guests, such as cold and hot running water in every room, central heating and dial telephones — comforts that were quite rare at the time.

Other innovations included: closed-boxed garages for cars, desks with typewriters, a fire-proof safe and auto-omnibus service transporting guests to all the capital’s stations. There were also attractions: a café with a room for ladies, hairdresser’s salon for ladies and gentlemen, perfumery, wine cellar, and a non-chloride launderette with the newest imported appliances.

After World War I, a new era began. Right within the “Golden Twenties” in 1924 the exquisite restaurant, called “Palais-Dancing,” was opened. It was one of the major events among Warsaw society, and it soon became one of the most popular and fashionable places in the city. Frequented by actors, singers, artists, writers, politicians, and diplomats, the restaurant was definitely *the* place to “see and be seen.”

The famous Polish actor and singer Jan Kiepura used to give concerts from the picturesque hotel restaurant’s balcony during special dinner banquets. Among the other well-known frequent guests were: Leon Schiller, Stefan Żeromski, and Julian Tuwim.

The dance parlor still functioned as the Ludwikowska ballroom with its marble fireplaces and remained the most elegant room of the hotel, where parties and receptions for the most eminent guests were held. *Polonia Palace* seemed to be an obvious place for notables because of its favorable location — opposite the Warsaw-Vienna Railway Station. The hotel became a favorite spot for both meetings and accommodation of diplomats and aristocrats, who used to sumptuously celebrate winter and “green” carnivals there.

Przedziecki managed the hotel

until 1939. During the Second World War, *Polonia* became headquarters for German Officers. At the time of the Warsaw Uprising, it functioned as a hospital and a supply base for fighting soldiers and civilians, who used its food provisions to survive.

It is the only hotel in Warsaw to have emerged from World War II completely unscathed and reopened its doors on April 13, 1945. As such, it became the hotel-of-choice for ambassadors, diplomats, and until 1951 housed 19 diplomatic missions, embassies, and consulates — including the United States of America (1946-1948). One of the hotel’s most well-known guests was General Dwight Eisenhower, who stayed there in 1945; he was enthusiastically greeted in front of the hotel by crowds of Warsawians, eager to catch a glimpse of the great man.

The post-World War II period was challenging as the hotel was determined to maintain high standards during the Communist era. In 1953 the hotel started to provide food for the Eastern Bloc, compulsorily serving meals during banquets for diplomats from Communist states on site and in various locations throughout the capital. Tables were often covered with culinary masterpieces — pâté and cold meats formed a carriage pulled by six horses and burning ice-cream formed a shape of a boat with lampions inside.

The *Metropol Hotel* was built in 1965; as it adjoined *Polonia*, the two hotels started to function as one unit. In 1974, *Syrena Warsaw Tourism Enterprise* was established as the headquarters for the two hotels. Facing difficulties during Communist times, the staff and management did everything to maintain the hotel’s standards, according to its four star category.

Knocking down original stuccowork, replacing marble with terrazzo and other changes along with the complete modernization of ballroom were just some of the unrealized ideas for the general, post-war restoration. This saved the pre-war character of the hotel.

After the 1989 fall of Communism in Poland, the *Polonia Palace* went from strength to strength, looking to the future and embracing modernity, but never surrendering its heart or forsaking its tradition. In 2005, after two years of complete renovation and modernization, the hotel hosted a grand reopening celebration: 500 guests danced, ate and toasted the night away in the fully restored restaurants, lobby, and rooms and the hotel turned to a vibrant new page in its history. Today, the hotel has 206 rooms and includes a fitness club, massage room, eight conference rooms, jazz bar, and the restored ballroom.

The *Polonia Palace* boasts a long history. It survived war and political crises with dignity, and today stands as a symbol of the best of both old and new Warsaw. It is a delightful mix of tradition and modernity. As one of the city’s most stylish hotels, it flawlessly sets an old-world European tradition into the future.

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**POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel**

# More Recipes for Your PolAm Summer Food Fest

*continued from last month*

**POLISH GROUND CUTLETS (kotlety mielone).** Soak stale white bread rolls (app. 1/4 lb) in milk to cover until soggy. Fry 2 sliced onions in a little fat until golden. Grind or briefly process soaked bread and onions and combine with 2 lbs ground pork (or pork & veal or pork-veal-beef mixture). Add 1-2 eggs, mix well by hand to blend ingredients. Season with few dashes of garlic powder, 1 t marjoram of marjoram and salt & pepper to taste. Form meatballs of whatever size desired, depending on size desired. Fry in hot fat as is or (if you prefer crustier cutlets) first dredge in flour. Fry to a nice golden-brown on both sides, flattening them somewhat with spatula (Kotlety mielone are more of a slightly flattened meatball than a patty). Reduce heat, cover and simmer on low another 10 min or so until fully cooked.

**POLISH BURGERS (kotlet w bulce).** The above cutlets can be served as a main course with potatoes and sides, but they can also be slipped into a bun to form a "Polish burger." With a splotch of brown Polish-style mustard and a crunchy dill pickle on the side,

these are always popular at Polish picnics and festivals. And they can be served hot off the skillet or at room temp. Call them a "Polish cutlet sandwich" for the benefit of those who feel soe who say "burgers must be hot!"

**BREADED PORK CUTLETS (kotlet schabowy).** Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and garlic powder. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain (unseasoned) bread crumbs. Gently press bread into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil until fully cooked, drain on absorbent paper.

These can be kept warm until needed in an electric roaster. Serve as a main course with dilled potatoes and mizeria or in a crusty bun or between slices of rye bread with mustard, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato or sliced dill pickle as a pork cutlet sandwich.

**HUNTER'S STEW (bigos).** Drain 2 qts sauerkraut well, reserving liquid.



**Bigos**, served with rye bread or potatoes, will be a hit at your picnic or lawn fete.

Chop coarsely. Place in pot with 1 bay leaf, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Shred 2 heads of fresh cabbage, place in pot, scald with plenty of boiling water to more than cover and cook 30 min from the time boiling resumes. Drain the sauerkraut and cabbage, combine well and transfer to baking pan or electric roaster. Add about 2-3 qts various cooked cubed boneless meat (pork, veal, beef, ham, turkey, duck, venison or other game), 1 qt smoked Polish sausage cubed or in thin rounds, 1 mushroom bouillon cube, 1 c chopped stewed tomatoes, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 2 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples, peeled and diced. Mix ingredients and bake uncovered in 350° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs at 325°.

After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate over night. Before reheating add 1 c dry red wine, reheat at 350° for 90 min before serving. If too moist, pour off some of the liquid and stir in a T or more flour, mix well and bake another 15 min. Serve with rye bread or potatoes. *Note:* An economical way is to have club members donate frozen cooked meat from their home freezers for the bigos.

**POTATO PANCAKES (placki kartoflane).** Here is another Pol-am festival favorite! Grate 2-1/4 lbs peeled potatoes (by hand or in food processor), transfer to sieve and let drip into bowl. Allow drippings to settle, pour off liquid from top and add the white sediment (starch) to the grated potatoes. Add 1-2 grated onion, about 2 T flour, 2 eggs and salt & pepper. Mix well and spoon batter into hot fat. With spatula flatten pancakes slightly, since thin ones cook better. Fry to a nice crispy, golden brown on both sides and drain on absorbent paper. Serve immediately. Provide salt, sugar and sour cream on the side. These do not store well, because they lose their crunch and become heavy and soggy, so fry as needed.

## Rye Recipe Redux

The recipe for Rye Bread, printed in the May 2014 edition, contained errors on the amount of flour to use. Here is the corrected version:

- 1 T instant yeast or 2 cakes
  - 1 C lukewarm water
  - 1 1/2 C buttermilk
  - 1/2 C shortening or 1 stick butter
  - 1 T molasses
  - 1 T brown sugar
  - 3.5 C all purpose flour
  - 3.5 C rye flour
  - 1/2 T salt
  - 1 T cocoa powder optional
  - 1 T caraway seed optional
- Optional: wash with egg or egg white before baking.*

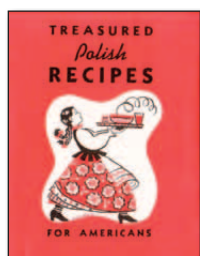
Dissolve yeast in the 1c lukewarm water. Scald and cool milk and mix with the yeast water. Dissolve shortening, molasses and sugar in this mixture. Sift flour and salt together. Beat all together, place on floured board and work until smooth and elastic. You may need more flour to stiffen dough. Put back into greased bowl cover with damp cloth and let rise two hours or until double in bulk. Work down and let rise again. Form into greased pans and let rise until double in bulk. Or put on a cookie sheet with parchment and form a large ball. Bake in moderate oven (350°) from 50 to 60 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

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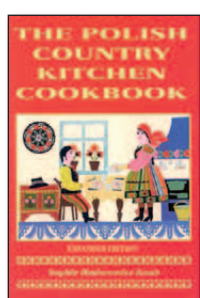


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by Joseph W. Zurawski  
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G. Bradley Publishing



Since the 1830s millions of Poles have come to Chicago. This work recounts by vivid prose, rare photographs and poignant anecdote the amazing story of these indomitable people. The volume turns a spotlight on 36 Polish American restaurants and families who opened up their kitchens to share time-tested, delectable Polish recipes.



**THE POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK** \$16.95. by Sophie Knab. 337 pp., pb., ill.  
This popular cookbook by beloved Polish American author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab is now updated with a new section on Polish Feasts and Festivals! Knab combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them. Arranged according to the cycle of seasons, this cookbook explores life in the Polish

countryside through the year, giving readers priceless historical information to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants. Lovely illustrations by Elliott Hutten and pearls of practical wisdom from the old Polish kitchen marvelously complement this book. This title includes over 100 easy-to-follow recipes, and a detailed bibliography and resource guide.

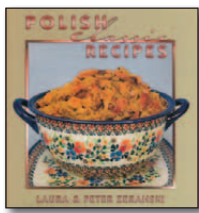


**POLISH CLASSIC DESSERTS** \$16.95  
By Laura and Peter Zeranski  
2013. 96 pp. 8 1/2 x 8 1/2. Index. 100

color photos by Bob Rock

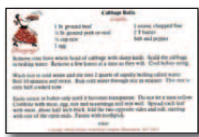
Organized by type and with titles in both Polish and English. From mazurkas and babas to pastries and beverages, these recipes are designed for the modern kitchen but retain their traditional roots. Each of the forty-five desserts are tested to perfection and paired with mouthwatering photographs and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

**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.

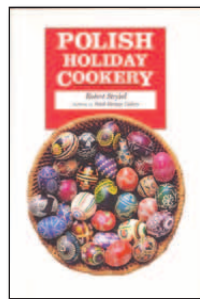
**GIFT PACK 12 FAVORITE GLOSS-COAT POLISH RECIPE CARDS** \$5.00. by Polanie Publishing.



Appealing red-ribbon cello packet of the most popular and treasured recipes, including Cabbage Rolls, Turkey Cutlets with Mushroom Sauce, Baked Apples in Red Wine and more. Handy

for your recipe box— perfect as party favors or hostess gifts!

**POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY** \$24.95  
by Robert Strybel  
248 pp., hc. Hippocrene Bks.



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

Polish Holiday Cookery covers holidays such as Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrations year-round. Ideas for banquets, picnics, dinners, and family favorites abound throughout, ensuring that cooks have a selection of dishes for any occasion.

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

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

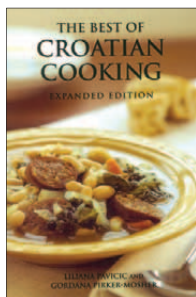
**POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK** \$10.00 by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc.

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.

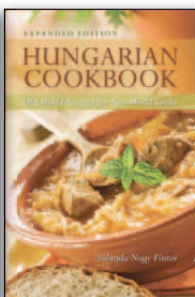
## INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOKS



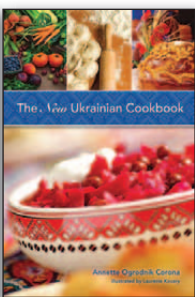
**THE BEST OF CROATIAN COOKING**  
by Lilianna Pavicic and Gordana Pirker-Mosher  
Pb., 311 pp. \$16.95



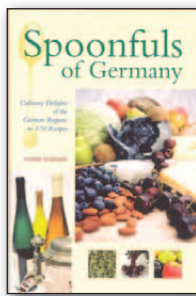
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Hc., 220 pp. \$24.95



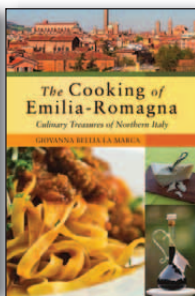
**HUNGARIAN COOKBOOK: Old World Recipes for New World Cooks** by Yolanda Nagy Fintor  
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**THE NEW UKRAINIAN COOKBOOK** by Annette Ogrodnik Corona  
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**SPOONFULS OF GERMANY: German Regional Cuisine** by Nadia Hassani  
Pb., 288 pp. \$24.95



**CULINARY TREASURES OF NORTHERN ITALY: The Cooking of Emilia-Romagna** Hardcover, 208 pp. \$24.95



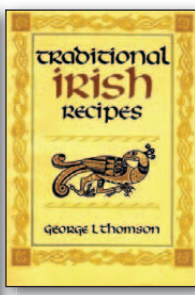
**TASTES FROM A TUSCAN KITCHEN** by Madeline Armillotta & Diane Nocentini  
Hardcover, 188 pp. \$24.95



**SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS: Cooking Secrets of Italian Villages** by Rosalie Fuscaldo Gaziano  
Paperback, 144 pp. \$19.95



**A SIMPLY DELICIOUS IRISH CHRISTMAS** by Darina Allen  
Paperback, 100 pp. \$15.95



**TRADITIONAL IRISH RECIPES** by George L. Thompson  
Paperback, 88 pp. \$13.95

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

## The Face of the Draft

53-year-old **Mel Kiper, Jr.** has become the face of the NFL draft, now a huge American prime time TV event. Kiper, who has been a central to ESPN's coverage since 1984, is considered the nation's foremost draft analyst.

His interest in the draft goes back to his very early years. Kiper, being a native of Baltimore, closely followed the Colts and Orioles. Being Polish and Catholic, he was naturally a big fan of Notre Dame football. He convinced his father to install a satellite dish in his family's yard to watch all of the games. Mel, Sr., who worked in real estate and owned a vending machine company, also played baseball and was an assistant coach at the University of Baltimore.

Mel, Jr. loved sports. "I would eat, drink and sleep sports. I thought baseball would be something I could do, but I peaked at fourteen," said Kiper. Though he never played organized football, he enjoyed analyzing games and players.

While in college he began writing and selling reports that provided in-depth information on the potential draft picks, working out of his parents' home. At first he wanted to get a scouting job, but eventually realized he was filling a need that no one knew existed. In 1981, Mel founded Draft Publications, Inc. (now called Mel Kiper Enterprises, Inc.).

Mel Sr., who died in 1988, helped his son launch the business. Kiper's mother and sister also helped out, and his wife Kim has managed the operation since 1989. "Kim runs the business," Kiper says. "All I have to do is write the book."

Kiper's encyclopedic knowledge is perfect for the ESPN coverage. Also, his enthusiasm, intensity, and fast-talking style engages fans and draws viewers.

**PIEROGI'S NOT A SAUSAGE, FOOL.** During a recent NBA play-off Washington's Polish-born center, **Marcin Gortat**, had a 31-point, 16-rebound performance. It led to a discussion of Polish food by TNT's Inside the NBA crew.

"Barbecued pierogi alert, barbecued pierogi alert!" shouted Shaquille O'Neal. "Barbecue! Hashtag! Pierogi! Alert! That's sausage, for all you dummies like Chuck."

Chuck — Charles Barkley — responded: "Pierogi's not a sausage, fool."

"Well that's what you told me earlier," Shaq protested.

"No, you asked about a kielbasa," Barkley insisted.

"Strike that from the tape!" said Shaq. "Chuck just set me up."

After the game, Shaq asked Marcin: "Uh, Gortat, is a pierogi a sausage or a dumpling?"

"Pierogi? A dumpling," Gortat confirmed.

"Have you ever barbecued it?" asked O'Neal.

"You can't do that," Gortat laughed

You can check out the discussion on YouTube.

**MOTHERS DAY, FATHERS DAY.** We've celebrated both Mothers Day and Fathers Day in recent months, so I'd like to focus on a famous

mother and father from the world of sports.

The late **Emily Krzyzewski** was the mother of Duke basketball coach **Mike Krzyzewski**. Her father, **Josef Pituch**, arrived in America through Ellis Island in 1906, settling in Waltersburg, Pa. He eventually moved his family to Chicago, where Emily Pituch met her future husband, **William Krzyzewski**. He worked mostly as an elevator operator, while Emily took care of their two sons, **Bill** and **Mike**, and scrubbed floors at night in the Chicago Athletic Club. They lived on the first floor of a rented house in a predominantly Polish neighborhood on the North Side. They were a strong influence on Mike, particularly his life-changing decision to go to West Point. Mike's father died in 1969 when Mike was a freshman there, but Mike's mom continued to support and guide him until her death in 1996. Although Mike's father died before his son could tell him how much he meant, "thank God my mom lived long enough for me to tell her those things."

Krzyzewski has kept his mother's memory alive through the Emily Krzyzewski Family Life Center. Located near the Duke University campus in Durham NC, provides services to thousands of students and community members every month. It recently held a very successful 4th Annual Mother's Day Ball to raise funds for its operation. More information is available at [www.emilyk.org](http://www.emilyk.org).

**Walter Gretzky** is the father of the man widely considered the greatest hockey player ever, **Wayne Gretzky**. Walter was born in Canada to parents who were ethnic Poles. As his website, [www.waltergretzky.com](http://www.waltergretzky.com) explains: "Walter Gretzky was the son of Polish immigrants. His father came from Grodno Governorate, then Poland now Belarus, his mother, from Pidhaisi (now Ukraine); they immigrated to Canada via Krakow in Poland."

As a young man Walter was a very good hockey player, but never got past juniors. He met **Phyllis Hockin** (of British ancestry) at a wiener roast at the Gretzky farm and they married three years later, in 1960. The couple moved to Brantford, Ontario and Walter got a job with Bell Telephone Canada, where he would work for 34 years. Wayne was their first of five children.

Walter was the driving force behind Wayne's hockey career, supporting, coaching and motivating him. But Walter had some tough times, as recounted in his books: *On Family, Hockey and Healing* (2003), and *Gretzky: From Backyard Rink to the Stanley Cup* (1985). In 1961 Walter was struck in the head by a wooden cable frame while working as a lineman. It fractured his skull and put him in a coma. Walter got back to work after a year and a half, but was left with deafness in his right ear. In 1991, just days after his 53rd birthday, a brain aneurysm nearly killed him. It took about three years of painful struggle for Walter to be able to function independently, though he still suffers some effects, including long-term memory loss. In 2005, his wife died from lung cancer at the age of 64.

Of course, Wayne went on to become the leading point-scorer in NHL history, with more assists than any other player had points. When "The Great One" retired in 1999 the Hockey Hall of Fame made him the tenth player for whom the normal waiting period was waived prior to induction. Wayne was inducted along with hockey executive Ian "Scotty" Morrison. Famously, when Morrison announced during a press conference that he would wear a kilt for the induction, Wayne grabbed the microphone and said, "Thank God I'm Polish."

Today hockey's most famous father is very active despite his health issues, and still lives in the house where Wayne grew up (though a swimming pool has replaced the backyard rink). He spends much of his time helping charities and fundraisers, raising millions of dollars for worthy causes across North America.

### NO OLYMPICS IN KRAKOW.

**Krakow** has pulled out of the race to host the 2022 Winter Olympics after a majority — about two-thirds — of the city's residents voted against the bid. It's believed that the \$50 billion spent by Russia to stage the Sochi Games played a big factor. Poland's second-largest city was to submit the bid with neighboring Slovakia.

"I think it is bad news, but this was the citizens' will," said Krakow mayor **Jacek Majchrowski**. Polish officials had promised the Games would bring in huge infrastructure improvements, but many residents believe that those would happen either way. Many felt that some of the proposed facilities — like a curling arena — would be rarely used when the Games ended.

### NO POLAND IN BRAZIL. Robert Lewandowski

is arguably the best soccer player in the world not playing in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, since Poland failed to qualify. But the future is bright for the 25-year-old Warsaw native. He made headlines recently with his switch from Borussia Dortmund to Bayern Munich. FC Bayern plays in the top tier of the German league, and is the most successful club in German history. Lewandowski tallied 66 goals and 19 assists in the 98 league games for Dortmund over his final three years, and developed a reputation as hard worker and team player. "We signed a good striker," said Dortmund Coach **Jurgen Klopp**.



**THE CLASS OF 2014** was inducted by the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. Shown at the pre-banquet dinner are (l. to r.): 2014 Inductee **Walt Patulski**; 2014 Excellence in Sports Award winner **Liz Johnson**; Board Chairman **Jim Conrad**; and 2014 Inductee **Ryan Klesko**. Details to come in next month's PAJ.

"He leaves now as a world-class striker, which is also down to his exceptional motivation and ambition." Fans and teammates gave him an emotional farewell.

Poland and **Lewandowski** will hopefully qualify for the next World Cup, which will be in Russia in 2018.

However, two of the top players on Germany's World Cup team, and two of the top strikers in the world, are natives of Poland. **Lukasz Podolski** was born in Gliwice in the Silesian region of Poland. His mother, **Krystyna**, was a member of the Polish national handball team and father **Waldemar** played soccer professionally. In 1987, when **Lukasz Podolski** was two, his family emigrated from Poland to West Germany. **Miroslaw Klose** was born in Opole in Silesia. His mother, **Barbara Jez**, was a member of the Poland women's national handball team. His father, **Josef Klose**, played soccer in Poland for **Odra Opole** before leaving then-communist Poland in 1978.

### WONDO TO BRAZIL. Chris Wondolowski

continued his meteoric rise in the world of soccer by being named to the US World Cup squad. **Wondolowski**, 31, seemingly came from nowhere over the last few years to become one of the top US players. Like **Wayne Gretzky**, **Wondolowski** isn't the biggest or fastest, but he always seems to know just where to go and what to do.

The California native was recruited out of high school in 2001 by Cal and UCLA — as a middle-distance runner. Only Division II **Chico State** was interested in him for soccer. After a successful collegiate career, he was chosen in the last round of the 2005 Major League Soccer Supplemental Draft. **Wondo** struggled for a time, making ends meet by working as a coach for a

youth team. By 2010 the San Jose Earthquakes forward emerged as a star, leading the league in goals for three straight years and being named MLS Most Valuable Player in 2012.

### THEY SAID IT

"I think of my mom every day of my life. She was as happy a person as I've ever been around. She made fun of herself and was telling jokes until the day she died — literally. She never had much money. No cars. She didn't have a house. But she was happy. She led a great life. She was proud. And people loved her. Tell me that's not success."

*Mike Krzyzewski in his book, Leading With The Heart.*

"I can't get my head around it. I don't want to get my head around it."

— **John Wondolowski**, on the selection of his son **Chris** to the US 2014 World Cup team. *John is a former Cal soccer player and longtime youth coach.*

"Some say I have a 'sixth sense.' Baloney. I've just learned to guess what's going to happen next. It's anticipation. It's not God-given, it's Wally-given."

— **Wayne Gretzky**, on the belief by many that he had an innate ability to know what was going to happen on the ice, which was actually a skill acquired from his dad, **Walter**.

"I'm a Notre Dame fan, so it's hard for me to speak objectively about that. I don't hide that. I'm a Polish Catholic here in Baltimore. I'm a huge Notre Dame fan. I've loved them my entire life. I've tried to always be objective in my evaluations about Notre Dame."

— **Mel Kiper, Jr.**, on his ability to be objective in his evaluations of college players.

## POLISH PROFESSIONALS!



We invite you to join other Polish-American doctors, dentists, and lawyers who make up the **National Medical and Dental Association** and the **National Advocates Society**. These organizations

present an annual conference in which you will find a warm and friendly atmosphere, stimulating presentations, and discussions on contemporary medical, legal, and cultural topics, with the opportunity to both relax and see the local sights on your own. This is a family-friendly event, and activities for children are available. Do yourself and your

family a favor while honoring your parents — join our organization and attend our summer meeting.

The 2014 conference will take place from July 30th-August 3rd at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center at National Harbor, D.C., next to Washington, D.C., just off exit 2A of I-95 of Maryland, and a short drive from Reagan Airport.

We encourage you to contact us about attending the upcoming conference — you'll be glad you did. Please communicate with **Dr. Leon M. Mielcarek, Jr.**, at 104 Juniper Court, Glen Milles, PA 19342, or call (484) 431-0111.

**THE OLD COUNTRY** / Richard Poremski



**BUY IT BY THE KILOGRAM.** Krynica, Poland. May 21, 1976.

**SYMBOLS, GESTURES & SUPERSTITIONS** / Robert Strybel

Every nation has its own system of notions, beliefs, signs, symbols and ways of doing things, whose origin is usually buried in the distant past. The Polish people are no different in that regard. Some notions have been borrowed, other are indigenous. Pagan superstitions have intermingled with Christian customs, and often the justification for a certain practice is no longer widely known – it's just the way things are done. Many old habits have fallen by the wayside, whilst others are limited to a certain region or even a single town or village. Here are some that are encountered with varying frequency.

**BENT-ELBOW GESTURE.** This is rude and vulgar gesture, the European equivalent of America's "one-finger salute". One arm is bent at the elbow to make an L-shape and the hand forms a fist while the other hand grips the biceps of the bent arm which is vigorously upraised.

**KOZAKIEWCZ'S GESTURE.** In Poland, the best-known example of the bent elbow was demonstrated by pole-vaulter Władysław Kozakiewicz at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. When he won the event, the anti-Polish stadium boo-whistled to show their disdain for the then growing Solidarity movement. Kozakiewicz then shocked the Russians with the bent-elbow gesture.

**DON'T SIT ON THE CEMENT!** Is a favorite injunction of Polish babcias who claim sitting directly upon concrete stoops or steps is just asking for rheumatism. But the American notion about not going into the water until an hour after eating does not exist in Poland.

**SURNAME CORNER** / Robert Strybel

**Food for Thought**

Have you ever wondered what your parents' or grandparents' Polish surnames mean and how they came into being? A custom-researched surname analysis will make an interesting and unusual Father's Day gift for your dad, grandpa, godfather or other loved one.

A large group of Polish last names were derived from the names of various foods and crops. These have included: KIELBASA (sausage); KAPUSTA (cabbage/sauerkraut); GOŁĄBEK (stuffed cabbage or "little pigeon"); MLEKO (milk); ŚMIETANA (cream); TWARÓG (curd cheese); ŚLIWKA (plum); GRUSZKA (pear); BARSZCZ (borscht – white or red sour soup); ŻYTO (rye); GRYKA (buckwheat); PI-

WKO (small beer); WÓDKA (vodka), and many more.

Whatever the case, you can learn all about a Polish last name, what it means, how it came about, how many people use it, where they came from and whether a coat of arms goes with it.

If interested, kindly airmail a \$19 personal or bank check or money order (adding \$10 for each additional surname you wish to have researched) to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland. You will also get a useful genealogical contact chart which can help you track down your family records in Poland and possibly even turn up long-lost relations. For more information, please contact research60@gmail.com

**Family and records research** in Poland by Kasia Rutkowska. ▶ Located in Warsaw but will travel. ▶ Also translations, photographing of ancestral villages; tour guide and interpreter. ▶ Bilingual. ▶ References available. email: k.rut@wp.pl ▶ [www.polishgenius.net/genealogy-research/](http://www.polishgenius.net/genealogy-research/)



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**GENEALOGY** / Stephen M. Szabados

**Books that Help with Polish Genealogy**

Researching Polish ancestors is considered a challenging task by many people. I hope my previous columns have started to unlock some Polish family histories for some of you. To further increase your skills and add to your family history, I highly recommend the six books on Polish genealogy and history that I have listed below. They are great learning and reference tools.

- **Polish Genealogy** (2013) by Stephen Szabados is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The author uses his own genealogical research experience to outline a simple process that has been successful for the author.
- **Going Home – A Guide to Polish American Family Research** (2008) by Jonathan D. Shea is an indispensable reference book for anyone doing Polish genealogy research. Shea provides an easily understandable, step-by-step approach for analyzing the records. It provides a wealth of information based on the author's years of experience.

- **A Translation Guide to 19th-century Polish-language Civil-Registration Documents:** including birth, marriage and death records (2009) by Judith R. Frazin is a user-friendly and practical guide that aides in the translation of 19th-century Polish-language birth, marriage, and death records.
- **Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings** (2013) by William F. Hoffman is the best resource to uncover the true spelling of the surname of our immigrant ancestors that can help find records such as naturalization and passenger records and more importantly, their Polish records.
- **First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins & Meanings** (1998) by William F. Hoffman and George Wieslaw Helon is a companion book to Polish Surnames. It includes three chapters of historical and linguistic background followed by a 300-page list of names used in the old Polish Commonwealth. It lists not only the Polish name but gives its counterpart in Czech, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Latin, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian and Yiddish.

• **God's Playground: A History of Poland** (2005) by Norman Davies is the most comprehensive survey of Polish history available in English. Davies gives the most accurate account of Polish history that differs from the versions found in Russian and western history books.

Do not limit your bookshelf to the books I listed above. These books are the most important, but read as many books as you can that cover Polish genealogy and history. Your list of reference books should also include books that deal with basic genealogy, U.S. census records, passenger records and naturalization.



*Stephen M. Szabados, a regular contributor to the Polish American Journal, is a prominent genealogist. In addition to numerous columns and papers, he is the author of three books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," and "Polish Genealogy."*

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**FIRST NAMES OF THE POLISH COMMONWEALTH: ORIGINS & MEANINGS** by William F. Hoffman & George W. Helon

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Historical and linguistical background with 300+ pages of first names encountered during research in any part of the old Polish Commonwealth, including names of Czech, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Latin, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, and Yiddish origin. Each entry gives data on the name's frequency in modern times, its origin and meaning, and, when relevant, its equivalent in other languages. [6" x 9" 426 pages, softcover]



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## THE PONDERING POLE / Ed Poniewaz

## A Summer's Day

There are a half-dozen ball fields tucked away down a side road off the two-lane highway, bordered by a creek on one side, and nestled up against a long tree-lined bluff. The fields are basic with backstop and dugouts and rickety stands, one each for the opposing sides. It cooled off around here for a few days and I was very contently watching some really little, little leaguers play baseball in this hidden Eden tucked away in far South St. Louis County.

As the innings played on, I wandered over to one of the other fields to watch a group of eight boys, sixth to eighth grade by my estimate, play four on four. They were using a hard ball and there was a serious, yet casual, demeanor about them. No cussing, competition enough, and boys who knew how to throw and bat and field while still having fun. Oh, how that reminded me of growing up and playing sandlot at the same age. It was refreshing to see these kids outdoors, moving around, laughing, and speaking to one another rather than bent over a tiny screen, alone and poking it with their thumbs.

Being at that place and watching these guys reminded me of playing ball during picnics and get-togethers with my Polish family in the country around that same age. One of the meetings was a reunion of my grandparents' large families and their families and how all of the brothers and sisters sat side by side and across from one another on the benches like a flock of birds. A number of them were quite old and neatly capped the highest tier of a slew of divergent generations. The grandparents and parents mingled and caught up and the kids ran wild around the pavilion and the park. The tomatoes, corn, pickles, meat, and fruit were farm fresh and the dishes and desserts were homemade. It was sunny and hot but everyone just conversed. They seemed happy and content. I was happy and content playing baseball and exploring and didn't want it to end.

If you haven't brought the Polish troops together in a while, there is plenty of summer and fall left to enjoy. If you do, thank the good Lord for having experienced a day like that.

**POLISH ROCKERS.** Wrong again Pondering Pole – that kick'n tune is not Aerosmith, it is **Bon Jovi**. For some time I believed that **Richie Sambora**, the former lead guitarist for Bon Jovi was half Polish (mom).



**RICHIE SAMBORA.** *Ethnic Celebrities* says former Bon Jovi band lead guitarist comes from 100% Polish stock.

*Ethnic Celebs* (<http://ethniccelebs.com>) brings him in as 100% Polish but I would challenge that the name Sambora as being Polish. You can review Richie's grandparent's names on the website and decide for yourself.

Just the same, my assumption over the years was that John Francis Bongiovi, the New Jersey band's lead singer and name sake, was a full-blooded Italiano. To my surprise, *Ethnic Celebs* brings him in as Italian, Slovak, Polish, and Swiss-German.

For me this find is super significant because the great duo, Bongiovi and Sambora, the most prominent members of this great band were at least 50 or more percent Slavic if you add up their ethnic parts. Jon Bongiovi, one of, if not the best preserved and best looking leaders of an '80s-'90s rock band is part Polish and primarily of Slavic heritage. Isn't everyone from New Jersey Italian?

**A POLISH WOMAN WHO ROCKS.** A Memorial Day program featured a talk by **Denise Jelinski-Hall**, who is the Senior Enlisted Leader for the National Guard Bureau. When she married her husband, she could have changed her name to Denise Hall, but she chose to use the hyphenated name and keep her Polish identity. That, my friends, is as impressive to me as her accomplishments and prominent position at the Pentagon.

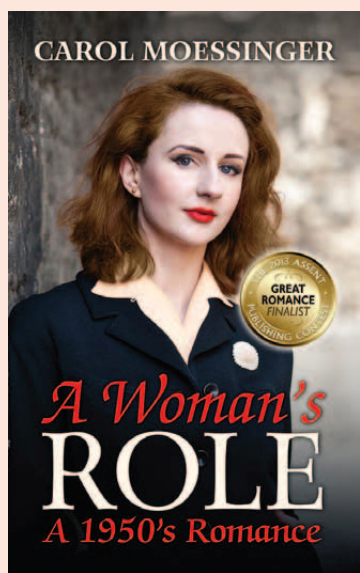
**GOOD NEWS!** The Pondering Pole is a married man again, as of May 10, 2014. I feel very happy and blessed and a big *ja cie Kocham*, Suzanka, a woman with a beautiful smile and a beautiful heart to match.



If you have a thought about this

month's topics, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email [alinabrig@yahoo.com](mailto:alinabrig@yahoo.com). Don't forget to visit The Pondering Pole blog, [ponderingpole.blogspot.com](http://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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## BOOKS IN BRIEF / Mary Lanham

## Life After War

**THE HUNDRED HEARTS**  
by William Kowalski, 2013  
288 p.p.  
Thomas Allen & Son  
Available from Amazon.com

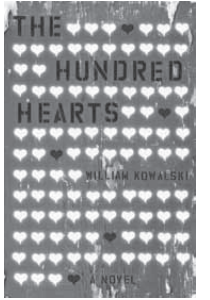
Meet Jeremy Merkin, a 25-year-old veteran of the Afghanistan War. He lives in the small town of Elysium, California located near the Mojave Desert. After returning home, Jeremy finds a teaching job at the local high school and begins living with his grandfather, mother, and developmentally-disabled adult cousin. But there is mystery that surrounds him; questions that plague Jeremy, himself. He cannot recall what happened in the days before an I.E.D exploded near him in Afghanistan.

Jeremy struggles with the psychological and physical trauma of war while trying to piece his life together and figure out what happened. After his grandmother dies, the rest of the Merkin family starts to fall apart. Chronic pain and an accusation from a student's father endanger his fledgling teaching career.

Jeremy learns from his institutionalized father that his grandfather, a Vietnam veteran is harboring grisly secret. When his cousin boards a bus to New York City to seek out his absent mother, Jeremy pursues him across the country fearing for his cousin's wellbeing. What he discovers there, about his friends, his grandfather and himself is life shattering.

*The Hundred Hearts* has been nominated for the Thomas H. Raddall Award which goes to the best book written by an Atlantic Canadian author in the past year.

**About the author:** William Kowalski is a Canadian-American author with Western New York roots. He has written several books including *Eddie's Bastard* and *Somewhere South of Here*.

ACPC Announces Annual  
Pulaski Scholarship Winners

by Marion V. Winters

PHILADELPHIA —Five winners of the 14th annual Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski Scholarships for Advanced Studies, administered by the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), were announced recently by Marion V. Winters, chair. Serving with him on the committee are Alicia L. Dutka; Deborah M. Majka; Carolyn Meleski; Peter J. Obst. The committee awarded \$5,000 to each of the following Polish-American students.

**Elizabeth Figus** is a social scientist committed to the development and implementation of responsible fisheries management plans worldwide. Her experience includes physical labor in the Alaskan commercial fishing industry and academic fisheries research on two continents. Presently, Figus is a Fisheries Ph.D. student in an interdisciplinary program called Marine Ecosystem Sustainability in the Arctic and Subarctic (MESAS) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She began her Ph.D. studies in 2012 as a National Science Foundation Fellowship recipient. Her hope is that working with fishermen in Poland and Alaska during her dissertation research will not only strengthen relationships between scientists and fishermen, but also forge connections between fishermen in both regions.

**Julian Klosowiak**, the eldest of four sons of Polish emigrants, is in the sixth year of a nine year Medical Scientist Training Program that will result in an M.D./Ph.D. degree. He has served the Polish community as a volunteer and interpreter at a free health clinic in Chicago. During 2007-2008 he was a Fulbright Fellow and a Whitaker Fellow at the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, Universite Paris Descartes in France.

**Joseph Pomianowski** received a

magna cum laude BS degree in Applied Mathematics and Cellular Biology in 2009 from the University of Connecticut and was awarded an AM degree in History of Science from Harvard University in 2010. From September 2010 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland. He is currently enrolled at Yale Law School where he is applying his graduate training and Fulbright experience to become a better legal scholar for a future career in teaching law.

**Anna Ziolkowska Weissman** is a third year doctoral student in Political Science at the University of Florida. Her three fields of study are: International Relations, Comparative Politics and Women's and Gender Studies. Anna's unique research project focuses on identity politics and feminist theory, specifically in Poland and broadly within the rest of Central and Eastern Europe. Her preliminary research from the past two years has demonstrated that the majority of women in the early stages of democratization in Poland (1989 to the mid-1990s) did not self-identify as equal citizens.

**Mateusz S. Wietcha** is enrolled in the seven-year Doctor of Dental Medicine/Ph.D. (DMD/Ph.D.) program, which is part of a multidisciplinary Oral Science Training Program at the University of Illinois-Chicago. The program is geared to training dentist-scientists to lead in the academic and scientific advancements in oral healthcare. He is scheduled to graduate in 2015 and is hoping to continue with his research to better diagnose and treat oral and systemic diseases such as oral cancers and ulcerations.

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## OBITUARIES

## Ex-Reds, Liberals, Mourn Former Dictator, Wojciech Jaruzelski, 90

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW – The death of former Soviet-trained dictator General Wojciech Jaruzelski did not come as a surprise to anyone. The 90-year-old former communist dictator had been ailing for years, in and out of hospitals in recent months and on the verge of death in recent weeks. Nor did his passing evoke sorrow in most Poles, many of whom felt it was good riddance to a man who had Polish blood on his hands. Others indifferently shrugged it off as an interesting but insignificant news item.

Jaruzelski died with his 51-year-old daughter Monika at his bedside in a Warsaw military hospital which had repeatedly been his home away from home for the past two years. On more than one occasion he had come down with pneumonia and suffered heart problems which doctors attributed to the toxic effects of the chemotherapy he underwent for a malignant tumor. "I feel extremely unwell and that's why I rarely leave home. I feel too weak to go anywhere or do anything," he told a reporter in May this year. He added that he didn't think he'd ever return to health. Last year Lech Wałęsa visited the ailing general and his wife at the Jaruzelskis' Warsaw home.

The people of Poland chiefly remember Jaruzelski as the man who had plunged his country into martial law in December 1981. He went to his grave claiming he had chosen "the lesser of two evils." By using Polish troops to crush Lech Wałęsa's 10-million-strong *Solidarność*, he said he had averted an alleged Soviet invasion. Except that even his Kremlin masters later admitted they had no plans to invade in 1981. In 1980 that had been a distinct possibility, but not after the Soviets got bogged down in an unwinnable war in Afghanistan.

But martial law was not his only claim to infamy. As defense minister in 1968, Jaruzelski sent Polish troops to help the Soviet army crush a peaceful democratic movement developing in neighboring Czechoslovakia. The same year he joined the government's anti-Semitic campaign and purged the Polish armed forces of Jewish officers. In 1970, Jaruzelski's troops opened fire on and killed dozens of protesting workers on the Baltic coast.

### Stephanie Kwolek, Invented Kevlar

The inventor of Kevlar, the lightweight fiber used in bulletproof vests and body armor, died aged 90.

Stephanie Kwolek was a chemist at the DuPont company in Wilmington, Del., when she invented the stronger-than-steel fiber in 1965.

It was initially intended to be used in automobile tires.

In a statement, DuPont chief executive Ellen Kullman described Kwolek as "a creative and determined chemist and a true pioneer for women in science."

Since its invention, the material has saved thousands of lives. It has been useful in many forms in the military, law-enforcement agencies, and a variety of products, including airplanes, mobile phones, and sailboats.

Kwolek is the only female employee of DuPont to be awarded the company's Lavoisier Medal for outstanding technical achievement.

"I knew that I had made a discovery," Kwolek said in an interview



On the plus side, in 1989, eight years after his martial-law crackdown, Jaruzelski opened talks with the Solidarity opposition that led to the Soviet bloc's first non-communist-dominated government. But by the late 1980s the Polish economy was in such a state of collapse that the communists initially wanted to include a few Solidarity members in their government to spread the responsibility and take some of the heat off the red regime. Instead, two communist ministers were included in the cabinet of non-communist Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. The fully free elections of 1990 swept the communists from power altogether.

Jaruzelski came from a patriotic gentry family and attended a Catholic school run by the Marian Fathers. After World War II broke out, the Jaruzelskis fled to neighboring Lithuania where they were arrested and deported into the depths of the USSR. His father died in Siberia of cold, hunger, overwork and disease. Snow-blindness permanently damaged the future general's eyes causing him to wear what would become his trademark dark glasses. Back-breaking slave labor in the USSR impaired his spine, causing life-long back pain.

But somehow Jaruzelski did not display any resentment against that inhuman "prison of nations" which had colluded with Hitler to annex half his country, destroyed his family and robbed him of his youth. The young Polish exile seemed to have been awed, shocked and intimidated by the bleak immensity of Siberia and the inhuman brutality of Stalinist rule. After failing to

join the army of General Władysław Anders, Jaruzelski enrolled in a Soviet military academy and joined a Kremlin-controlled "Polish" army in whose ranks he fought alongside the Red Army all the way to Berlin.

After the war, he began a half-century of faithful service to his Soviet masters. He helped the Red Army install a Soviet-controlled puppet government in Poland and collaborated in the destruction of the last Polish freedom-fighters struggling against their country's forced Sovietization. It has been said of Jaruzelski, that he betrayed his gentry class, abandoned his Catholic faith and betrayed his country by supporting one of Poland's two mortal enemies – Russia. He even betrayed his own mother by refusing to attend her Catholic funeral for fear that might harm his career in the red regime.

In the 1990s, after Poland had finally dumped communism, Jaruzelski was put on trial for his role in the 1970 shipyard shootings. He also faced impeachment hearings for declaring martial law. But he cleverly used every trick in the book to delay and derail the proceedings which were often adjourned due to his allegedly poor health. At one stage, he decided to change defense lawyers, which entailed a long delay for his new attorney to acquaint himself with thousands of case documents. After his health had really deteriorated, the charges were dropped on humanitarian grounds.

It isn't surprising that ex-communists have eulogized Jaruzelski as a statesman and even a hero. But Poland's leftist liberal camp, centered around the daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*, has also praised his contributions to the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy. Its editor Adam Michnik, who is known to be soft on communism and fancies himself one of the "architects" of free Poland, has repeatedly referred to Jaruzelski as "a man of honor." Others, who hold a generally negative view of the dictator, grudgingly admit that Poland's system change was relatively smooth and peaceful compared to the blood baths that have occurred in other countries. One thing seems certain – the debate about his virtues, vices and motives is not likely to end any time soon.

### Ruth Ziolkowski, Crazy Horse Leader

Ruth Ziolkowski, long-time inspirational leader of Crazy Horse Memorial, passed away May 21, 2014.

Born Ruth Ross on June 26, 1926, in Hartford, Conn., she grew up in West Hartford, where she first met the sculptor, Korczak Ziolkowski. She came to the Black Hills of South Dakota in June of 1947 to help Korczak create a memorial to honor the North American Indian. While Korczak worked on the mountain, Ruth managed the visitor complex. She also helped run the large dairy farm and lumber mill which was started to help sustain Crazy Horse through the difficult, early years.

Ruth and Korczak had 10 children, 23 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Ruth served as the chief executive officer of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation since her husband's passing on October 20, 1982.



several years ago. "I didn't shout 'Eureka,' but I was very excited, as was the whole laboratory excited, and management was excited because we were looking for something new, something different, and this was it."

She retired from DuPont in 1986.

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# Polka MAGAZINE

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POLKAJUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

## It Doesn't Get Much Better than Hundenski "Live"

Bud Hundenski & the Corsairs put forth a driving, dynamic performance in every stage performance that undertake. Now, they've added that "Live" component to their recordings with their latest release, *Bud Hundenski & the Corsairs Live at Musicfest, August 11, 2013*.

It was an un-planned live recording, and that ratchets up the enjoyment even more. As the liner notes state, the listener will "experience the excitement and spontaneity ... including the cheering crowd."

The entire band puts in that special live-from-the-stage effort. Always a powerhouse of the polka music world, the Corsairs bring a higher level of excitement to their music here. It's obvious the musicians were all driving in high gear for this gig.

From the clarinet work of Chuck Pendrak and Rick Gazda on Bernie Witkowski's "Nightingale," to the great Wojnarowski hit, "Scolding Mother" polka, to the rock-solid standard of "Helen" polka, the Cor-

sairs have it all under control.

Also featured on this collection are hits like "At Vitro's Silver Wedding," "Girl From New Jersey," a great "Polish Waltz Medley," and more.

The icing on the cake is the vocal work of recent IPA Hall of Fame inductee, Eddie Biegaj. As anyone who has ever heard him can attest, Biegaj behind the microphone is nothing short of captivating. His aggressive style, coupled with the Corsairs' on-the-money musicianship, creates an air of excellence that was once commonplace at festivals across the nation. It doesn't get much better than this. Hundenski and the Corsairs live and in person.

Bud Hundenski is on accordion, Larry Davis and Skip McAuliffe are on trumpets, Chuck Pendrak and Rick Gazda are on clarinet and sax, Terry Narvey is behind the drums, Dave Antonow is the bass man, and Eddie Biegaj is superb and dynamic on vocals.

Grab this one today and enjoy



the polka power of Bud Hundenski's Corsairs. To order, see the ad in this month's paper, or mail: swingetimemusic@gmail.com. You can also write to Bud at Swingtime Music, P.O. Box 716, Coraopolis, PA 15108.

## Chet Kowalkowski and Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr.:

### Highlights of a Lifelong Friendship

Part III  
The History of the  
Polish Carolers  
by Chet Kowalkowski

*This month, Chet reflects on the formation of one of Chicago's most popular ad hoc groups, the Polish Carolers.*



Christmas caroling with Stas Bulanda and Chet Kowalkowski. 2008.

In 1972, during the Christmas Holidays, Stas Bulanda and I were having a few drinks at the Omen Restaurant and Lounge on the south side of Chicago. I brought up the subject of caroling that my father did in the '40s. Somehow, as the years went by, it was forgotten by the generations that followed. So, Stas and I decided to bring back the old tradition. We went to a few lounges and with myself on trumpet and Stas on concertina, began playing and singing the traditional Polish carols, kolędy. The response was so overwhelming they did it again the following year. The third year, Stas couldn't make it so I called on another caroler, Joe Jozwiak, along with John Zadelek. This threesome caroled for another three-to-four years; occasionally my dad, Andrew went along.

At this time, the Polish Carolers, as we became known, were visiting friends and relatives and people in the Polish community. Fellow musicians heard how much fun and joy it was bringing to people, that they

DANCE TIME / Jen Pijanowski

## There is Something for Everyone at the USPA Festival

BUFFALO, N.Y. — This year's USPA (United States Polka Association) Festival and Convention was held Memorial Day weekend in Cleveland. As always, it is the best feeling to see hundreds of people coming out to support the music that we love so much.

**New Direction** played in the lounge on Friday night. Unfortunately I was not able to be there, but on Saturday it seemed that everyone I talked to were complimenting the band. I am so glad that the committee of USPA showcased another Buffalo band.

Saturday and Sunday were both chock full of polka talent. Buf-

falo's own the **Knewz** played to a packed hall Saturday night. The band dressed in trendy white pants and orange shirts tantalized the audience with the superior musicianship. The Knewz utilizes their talents to orchestrate every single song to make it sound like a true original. I am a proud supporter of this home town favorite of Buffalo music fans. **Freeze Dried** provided the same caliber of entertainment as has become expected of this electrifying polka band. Their mix of both traditional and non-traditional polkas makes it quite an experience to see what they might do next. For those See "USPA ...," next page

### Five Bands Featured at Club Festival

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. — The American-Polish Century Club in Sterling will sponsor the American Polish Festival & Craft Show, July 11-13, 2014, on the club.

Highlighting the festival will be five bands including: The Polish Muslims; Jeff Mleczo's DynaBrass; The Knewz; IPA Tribute Band; the Polka Country Musicians, and Box-On.

Along with the music and dancing there will be a Polish Kitchen, the Polish Pub-n-Grub, outdoor craft show, beer tent, and the 2014 Srodek's Pierogi Eating Challenge. A traditional Polish Mass will be offered on Sunday at Noon. Admission to the festival is free to the public, although a \$5.00 daily parking fee is required.

POLKA MEMORIES / Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish, email it with a short description to: pajpolka@verizon.net.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO** Frank M. Jaczowski of Michigan for this month's photos, all featuring Frank S. Jaczowski on accordion.



POLKA DOTS. Cleveland. 1960s.



FRANK S. JACZOWSKI with the Nick Kuchta. Cleveland. 1970s

too wanted to go caroling. Around the eighth year, the carolers decided to visit shut-ins, hospitals and nursing homes.

Today, there are over sixty Chicago polka musicians ranging from 20 years old to some who are in their 80s that have dedicated their time away from their families to

carolers, and sometimes more. As some have moved out of state, they started this tradition in their areas. For many years we also played the Polish Midnight Mass and the Easter Sunrise Mass with the choir at St. Cyril & Methodius Church in Lemont.

In recent years the Polish Carolers wanted to extend their caroling; so I decided to go out of state. For 10 years they traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, Buffalo, N.Y. in 1992, Pulaski, Steven's Point, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1993. We also went to Altoona, and Pittsburgh, Pa. in 1994, Connecticut in 1995, Florida in 1996, Arizona in 1997, the southern part of Poland in 1998, Nebraska in 1999, Michigan in 2000, Canada in 2001, and Minnesota in 2002.

After 30 years of caroling, I decided to semi-retire. Under the new leadership of Tony Blazonczyk, the caroling continues, but on a much smaller scale. We go caroling two to three nights during the Christmas season. In 2012, we celebrated 40 years of caroling.

I hope this beautiful Polish tradition is carried on in cities across the United States and Canada.

Next month:  
Musicians Monthly Breakfast Club  
and Bel-Aire Days Sing-Along



Chet and Eddie. Christmas caroling. 1992.

## USPA: Jam Session Allows Next Generation to Share Stage with Veteran Musicians

*continued from previous page*  
who love the talent of the most seasoned musicians, **Full Circle** belted out a tribute to the late Marion Lush. It is hard to match the years or hours that these exceptional musicians have committed to polka music. It shows through in their seamless performances every time they are on the stage. This great mix of bands for Saturday night really showcased the diversity that exists in polkas today.

Sunday in the lounge began with the most refreshing start. **Randy Koslosky** organized and directed the kids' jam. Veteran musicians played alongside young musicians to create a unique polka experience. It was great to see all of these young people playing and singing polkas with so much eagerness and passion. Thanks to Randy and all of the other involved musicians for remaining impactful on the future of polka music. This is the second time Randy has organized this event.

**AFTER THE KIDS' JAMS**, the USPA Horizon Award winners' band took the stage in the lounge organized by **Bryan Kurdziel**. Bryan who just graduated from University of Buffalo with a degree in engineering showed his affinity for the music and showcased his fellow award-winning musicians. The band which obviously has not ever actually played together pulled their performance off effortlessly. They bantered with one another and the attentive audience in between, providing a well thought-out mix of polkas, waltzes, and obereks. The band, which included Bryan Kurdziel, Matt Rosinski, Nick Koryluk, Steven Futa, Jake Mikrut, and Stan-

ley Koslosky reminded me that the future of polka music is most definitely in good hands.

The attention then turned to the main dance hall and the events for the remainder of the convention. **John Gora**, who is the epitome of entertainment, always provides show-stopping talent for any crowd. Even in a sea of hundreds of people, John and his band somehow make you feel as if you are at your own personal concert. He has the ability to bring a smile to the face of anybody that is within ear shot of his band. He has become at mainstay at almost every single polka event in North America and it is easy to see why. **D Street Band** alternated with Gora and held up to the challenge. This band which made their premier appearance at USPA in the lounge last year, has developed quite a following. Lenny Zielinski who leads the band is happy to showcase the vocals of Andrew and A.J. Okrzesik which make you reminisce about the late great vocalists of polka music. I am looking forward to them in the fall as they will be making a stop at Potts Banquet Hall.

**THE BOYS** then hit the stage to start the Sunday evening frivolity. The Boys, who always offer a solid performance, did exactly that. They had a large crowd in front of them as they delivered favorite after favorite song for the capacity audience. With their trio of vocalists in Frank Liszka, Mike Matousek, and Al Pwalski, it is hard not to find yourself completely hypnotized by this group of talented musicians. As the Boys were in the midst of their first set, I noticed a group of people starting to gather in front of what would

be PCM's part of the stage. As the set continued, the crowd grew until I realized that all of these people were moving into the front of the stage to get a good spot for **Polka Country Musicians**. Hundreds of people stood in front of the stage in anticipation of the start of their first set. Polka Country has always been one of my favorites and it is obvious to see that many fans feel exactly the same way. Sunday evening's performance by PCM renewed my faith that polkas are alive and well in our young community. I stood in amazement as I watched these young fans, ages mid-teen to early 30s sing every single word to every song PCM performed. These were both Polish and English lyrics and the crowd begged for more and more from this fixture USPA favorite. There was such an unbelievable amount of energy exuded from the audience that it was impossible to take my eyes off of watching the spectators. Wally, who won the USPA vocalist of the year, along with his brother Richie, worked tirelessly to ensure non-stop entertainment for this eclectic group of polka lovers. It is evident that this band is fueled by the intensity of their fan base. Polka Country played much longer than originally scheduled and even when they stopped, the crowd was not yet ready to let them



**LIKE MOST OF THE LARGER** Polish American polka festivals, the USPA attracts many young fans. (l. to r.): Stephanie Bieniek, Alicia Iwanczuk, Lindsey Mateja, Kayla Rosinski, and Liz Dzuiba.

go. Many of the younger generation fans got onto the side of the stage during the last set so that they could be closer to the band. The standing-room-only audience behaved as though it was opening night at USPA.

**BARB HASELOW** and her staff definitely have a plan of action in keeping the attendees there by putting PCM as the closing band. Typically, I am heading to bed early on Sunday evening but I could not miss the opportunity to watch this band perform and witness the connection their music makes with their fans.

Congratulations to all of the bands who performed at USPA, it was definitely a star-studded event. I have so many non-polka friends who often wonder why I spend so much time at these events. I wish I could bottle up just an ounce of the energy from this USPA weekend so show them exactly why polka music has become an addiction for me.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 3.** Special Delivery, Klimek Veteran's Park, North Tonawanda, N.Y. 7:00-9:00. Free

**July 4.** Special Delivery, Cheektowaga Town Park, 1:00-5:30. Free

**July 4.** Buffalo Touch, Cheektowaga 4th of July Parade, 12:00 noon. Free

**July 6.** New Direction, Polka party in the Falls, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Free.

**July 8.** Buffalo Touch in conjunction with Buffalo Polish Happy Hour, River Grill, 5:00 p.m. (music starts at 7:00 p.m.). Free

**July 13.** New Direction summer picnic with Jersey Polka Richie. Potts Banquet Hall. 41 S. Rossler St. 4:00-9:00 p.m. \$10.00

**July 14.** New Direction, West Seneca Lion's Bandshell, 7:00-8:30. Free

**July 15.** Phocus, Buffalo Polka Booster Meeting, Polish Falcons Depew, 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$7.00 members/\$10.00 non-members

**July 16.** Phocus, Canal Fest, North Tonawanda, N.Y. 4:00-7:00 p.m. Free

**July 19-July 20.** Polish American Arts Festival, Cheektowaga Town Park. Concertina All Stars, Polka Family, Polish. American String Band, Rare Vintage, Special Delivery, Phocus, and Bob Uleck Band. Free

**July 23.** Buffalo Touch, Eden Gazebo, 6:30-8:30. Free

**July 23.** Rare Vintage, Polka Variety Meeting, Leonard Post, Cheektowaga, N.Y. 7:00-10:00. \$7.00 members/\$9.00 non-members

**July 24.** Special Delivery, Outdoor Concert, Lackawanna Senior Center, 230 Martin Rd. 6:00-8:00. Free

**July 27.** Special Delivery, Polka Mass at St. Andrew's, Sloan, N.Y. 11:00 a.m.

**July 27.** The Knewz, Polka Boosters' Picnic, Fontana's Grove, 2299 Clinton St. \$20.00/members and \$25.00 for non-members. Call Jen (716) 912-9393 for information

**July 27.** Special Delivery, St. Martha's Lawn Fete, Cheektowaga, N.Y. Free.

# PULASKI POLKA DAYS

## July 17-20, 2014

[www.pulaskipolkadays.com](http://www.pulaskipolkadays.com)

### PULASKI, WISCONSIN

#### BAND SCHEDULE

##### Thursday

- Chad Przybylski & Polka Rhythms
- Alex Meixner Band
- Maroszek Brothers
- New Generation

##### Friday

- Polka Dynamics
- New Generation
- Chad Przybylski
- The Boys
- Lenny Gomulka
- +-N-+ Polka Band
- Roger Majeski
- D-Street Band
- Aaron Socha Livewire
- Polka Country Musicians
- Hauser's Hot Shots
- Fred Ziwich
- Music Connection

##### Saturday

- Box On
- Polish Connection
- Polka Family
- Lenny Gomulka
- Dyversaco
- Pan Franek, Zosia
- The Boys
- Polka Country Musicians
- Concertina Rich
- Fred Ziwich
- Malek's Fishermen Band
- Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen
- Aaron Socha Livewire

##### Sunday

- Box On
- Polka Family
- Pan Franek, Zosia
- Maroszek Brothers

### FUN FOR ALL AGES!

### EVENTS

#### Community Events

- Community Night
- Fireworks
- Polish Food & Souvenirs

#### Saturday Events

- Polka Trot 5K
- Arts & Crafts Fair
- Dance Contest

#### Sunday Events

- Worship Services
- Pancake & Porkie Breakfast
- Arts & Crafts Fair
- Polka Days Parade
- Raffle Drawing

### CONTACT

#### General Information

- Harold @ 920-822-3869 or 920-660-9126
- Jim @ 920-680-3223

#### Camping

- Randy @ 920-822-5702
- Email: [wick6102@yahoo.com](mailto:wick6102@yahoo.com)

#### Parade Information

- Wayne @ 920-822-5456

**CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE FREE**  
(MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT)

Pulaski Polka Days is organized by the Community Organization Sponsors - and all proceeds from Pulaski Polka Days is contributed back into the community through the following organizations:

- AMERICAN LEGION POST #337
- TRI-COUNTRY FIREFIGHTERS, INC.
- TRI-COUNTY OPTIMIST CLUB
- PULASKI AMVETS
- PULASKI LIONS CLUB
- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
- PULASKI FFA ALUMNI & FFA
- VFW

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(920) 499-0631  
**Settle Inn**  
(800) 677-3069

**Super 8 Motel**  
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**Super 8 Motel**  
Shawano, WI  
(715) 526-6688  
**Super 8 Motel**  
Airport  
(920) 494-2042

### CAMPING AT POLKA DAYS

If you enjoy camping and polka music, then Pulaski Polka Days is for you. Our campers are treated like royalty at Pulaski Polka Days. Hundreds of campers reserve their site at the Pulaski Polka Days grounds every year.

SHOWERS AVAILABLE • DUMP STATION & DAILY SANITATION AVAILABLE • WATER & ELECTRIC ARE INCLUDED IN ALL SITES  
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August 7-9, and 14-16, 2014

# Summer Music fest

Frankenmuth, MI

**Polka Music & More!**  
In Heritage Park's Harvey Kern Pavilion

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Thur. Aug. 7, - \$18.00  
Fri. & Sat. Aug. 8 & 9 - \$20.00  
Thur. Aug. 14 - \$12.00  
Fri. & Sat. Aug. 15 & 16 - Polka Only \$10.00  
Fri. & Sat. Aug. 15 & 16 - Polka & Hubcaps \$16.00  
Teens \$10.00 Daily Children 12 and Under FREE

Purchase advance tickets online at [frankenmuthfestivals.com](http://frankenmuthfestivals.com)

Buffet Dinners, Lunch Food, Snacks & Beverages  
Summer Music Fest  
PO Box 204  
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

[frankenmuthfestivals.com](http://frankenmuthfestivals.com)

Thursday August 7, \$18.00  
Music 1:00pm-10:00pm  
Stephanie America's Polka Sweetheart,  
Pan Franek, Polka Family, Box On

Friday August 8, \$20.00  
Music 1:00pm-Midnight  
Pan Franek, Polka Family, The Knewz,  
Polka Country Musicians

Saturday August 9, \$20.00  
Music 1:00pm-Midnight  
Tony Blazonczyk's New Phase,  
The Knewz,  
Mi'c Concertina Allstar's,  
The New Brass Express,  
Polka Country Musicians

Thursday August 14, \$12.00  
Music 1:00pm-10:00pm  
Ray Watkoski Family Band, Fred Ziwich,  
Squeezebox with Mollie B

Friday August 15, \$10.00/16.00  
Music 1:00pm-10:30pm  
Squeezebox with Mollie B, Steve Meisner  
7:00pm The Fabulous Hubcaps

Saturday August 16, \$10.00/16.00  
Music 1:00pm-10:30  
Squeezebox with Mollie B, Steve Meisner  
7:00pm The Fabulous Hubcaps  
BAND LINEUP SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**Gates Open Daily at 12:30pm**

**800-FUN-FEST**

# POLKAMOTION

September 11-14, 2014

Rehoboth Beach  
Covention Center

229 Rehoboth Avenue  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

"Famous and Delicious"  
homemade Polish food from the kitchen of Gil Ziemiński!

	Adult	Senior (60+) Youth (17-21)
Thursday	\$16	\$15
Friday	\$18	\$17
Saturday	\$18	\$17
Sunday	\$15	\$15

Children under the age of 16 are admitted FREE!  
Admission fee does not include food and beverages!  
No food or drink is allowed to be brought into the Convention Center!  
Reserved seating for bus groups only due to limited seating — Thank You for your cooperation!

For tickets and more information, call:  
**Mike and Ann Matousek: 410-729-9697**  
**Mike Ziemiński: 410-654-4724**  
or go to [www.rbpolka.com](http://www.rbpolka.com)  
[www.polkamotion.com](http://www.polkamotion.com)

**Old School Polka Family**  
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The Beat  
The Boys  
Polka Country Musicians (PCM)  
The Knewz  
Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men  
The Nu Tones  
Meet 'n Greet Party with The Crabtown Sound  
Polka Mass Sunday with The Variety Tones

Listen to "The Mikes Are On!" on [www.247PolkaHeaven.com](http://www.247PolkaHeaven.com)

# International Polka Association Festival & Convention

46<sup>th</sup> Annual

Same location! **NEW weekend!**  
**August 29, 30, 31 2014**

Embassy Suites – Independence, Ohio  
216-986-9900  
[www.clevelandindependence.embassysuites.com](http://www.clevelandindependence.embassysuites.com)

Labor Day Weekend – Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, August 29	Saturday, August 30	Sunday, August 31
John Góra & Górale The Knewz	Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push The Boys IPA Tribute Band	Polka Country Musicians The Project Full Circle

For more festival information, visit [www.internationalpolka.com](http://www.internationalpolka.com)

Rooms are available at the Embassy Suites for \$101 plus tax, per night when mentioning the IPA Polka Festival.

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352 Packer Rd., Mystic CT 06355-1124, 860-536-2452

For The Fan Club, contact Cheryl Witek  
150 Purchase St., Suite 5, Rye NY 10580-2141  
[www.richbobinski.com](http://www.richbobinski.com)

Dr. Janusz R. Richards, Website Project Manager/  
Content Management & Layout

Congratulations to Eddie Biegaj and Kevin Adams  
2014 Inductees, IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame.  
Eddie Biegaj is featured vocalist and  
Kevin Adams is an arranger on RBO MUSIC's new CD

Fri., July 11 **Lyon Park**  
Putnam Ave. & King St., Port Chester, NY  
Summer Concert Series, 7:30-9:00 PM,  
Bring lawn chairs, Free admission  
Call Angelo 914-937-3550 or June 860-536-2452

Sun., July 13 **Family Picnic**, Polish American Cultural Association,  
5 Pulaski Place, Port Washington, NY  
Music 3:00-7:00 PM, Call Irene 516-883-5553

Sat., July 19 **Private**  
Sat., July 26 **Park Concert**, Gazebo on the Green  
St. Michael Church, 25 Maple Ave., Beacon Falls, CT  
6:00-8:00 PM, Bring lawn chairs, Free admission  
Food available, Call Bob 203-723-7470

Tues., July 29 **Park Concert**, Coe Memorial Park, Torrington, CT,  
7:00-9:00 PM, Bring lawn chairs. Rain location inside  
auditorium on site, Free admission  
Call Donna 860-489-2274, June 860-536-2452

Wed., July 30 **Park Concert**, Sherman Green Gazebo, Fairfield, CT  
7:00-8:30 PM, Bring lawn chairs  
Call Ken 203-259-7765

Sat., Aug. 16 & Sun., Aug. 17 **The Riverhead Polish Hall**  
214 Marcy Ave., Riverhead, NY  
Sat. Noon-5:00 PM, Sun. 1:00-6:00 PM  
in conjunction with The Polish Town Fair  
Under the tent in the picnic area, Polish food  
available in The Hall, Free admission  
Call Mike 631-727-7696

Sun., Aug. 31 **6th Annual Polka Fest 2014** with Polka Paul  
Roosevelt Park, St. Paul St., Blackstone, MA  
2:00-6:00 PM, Bring lawn chairs, Food available  
Free admission, Call Paul 508-294-1512

Sun., Sept. 7 **St. Joseph Church Annual Picnic**, Warsaw Park,  
Ansonia, CT. 3:00-7:00 PM, Bring lawn chairs.  
Free admission, Call Helen Ptak 203-734-0095

**PASS IT ON!** When you finish reading your copy of the Polish American Journal, please pass it on, and ask that person to subscribe. This can be your contribution to keeping alive our Polish heritage.

## AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

## Sister City Shares Pride



(l. to r.) Former Chicago Heights Mayor Angelo Ciambro; chairman of the Chicago Heights-Wadowice Sister Cities Committee Eugene Sadus; Audrey Gyger; and current Chicago Heights mayor, David Gonzalez.

CHICAGO HEIGHTS, Ill. — A capacity crowd of all faiths gathered at a special city council meeting May 5, 2014 to recognize the canonization of John Paul II, born in Wadowice, a sister city to Chicago Heights since 2001.

Attending the council meeting were leaders of various Polish clubs and organizations. Representatives included: The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America District 9, The Polish American Club of Chicago Heights and auxiliary, the Polish Falcons of America Nest 42, The Polish National Alliance Lodge 590 and The Polish American Community Fair. The Chicago Heights-Wadowice Sister Cities Committee organized the event.

On behalf of the city council, Mayor David Gonzalez read and presented a proclamation to the Chicago Heights-Wadowice Sister Cities Committee congratulating the City of Wadowice and honoring Saint John Paul II.

Eugene Sadus, committee chairman, addressed the council and

audience with regard to Chicago Heights' relationship with Wadowice and how proud knowing it is the birthplace of John Paul II. He also said that the purpose of a sister city relationship is to promote goodwill and understanding among cultures and to create world citizenship among nations.

Wadowice became a sister city to Chicago Heights on April 22, 2001 and is one of five Polish sister cities in Illinois. In 2003, a part of Chicago Road in front of City Hall was named Honorary Wadowice Way.

Sadus introduced former mayor Angelo "Sam" Ciambro, mayor at the time the sister cities program was established. Ciambro spoke of his visit to the City of Wadowice in April 2001 to sign a reciprocal agreement officially establishing the relationship between Chicago Heights and Wadowice.

During the week following John Paul II's canonization, the Polish flag waved alongside the American flag in front of city hall in recognition of Wadowice.

## Cemetery Project Nearing Completion

DETROIT — Fred Kuplicki is nearing the completion of a 23-year-old project, in conjunction with the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, to uncover, identify and compile a digital, photographic database of burials at an east-side Detroit cemetery.

Kuplicki and about 40 volunteers are bringing their digital camera/phones to the cemetery to photograph about 9,000 headstones dating to the cemetery's founding circa 1889. His meticulous research during that time, aided by a few other volunteers, has helped to recover lost records for burials spanning to the late 1880s.

You can read the details in an article by Patricia Montemurri, a reporter for the *Detroit Free Press* in the LSJ (Lansing State Journal) web site at <http://goo.gl/2iZcks>.

## Maryland Festival Comes to Timonium Fairgrounds

BALTIMORE — From homemade pierogi to traditional dancing, and from polka music to learning the Polish National Anthem, there is something for everyone at the Annual Maryland Polish Festival, July 19-20 at the Exhibition Hall at Timonium Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, Md.

Presented by The Polish Community Association of Maryland, the festival will be \$8.00 for adults, \$7.00 for Seniors (60+) and military (active with ID) and children under 12 are free. It will feature entertainment throughout the day, authentic Polish food and drinks, storytelling, a children's area, a trivia contest, Polish arts & crafts, a Polish Heritage Arena and much more.

For more information, log onto [www.pcamaryland.org](http://www.pcamaryland.org) or call (410) 780-9054 or 276-4019.

Polka music will be a highlight of the festival, and popular groups will include: John Stevens & Dou-

## KAP's: A Pleasant Surprise



**STOP BY FOR A BITE.** Well, if you are a Detroit Eastern Market patron, here is another chance to patronize a Polish American establishment. KAP's, a purveyor of fresh and frozen meats — pork, beef, veal, lamb, poultry, and, yes, even duck — is a place to see.

Patrick Tabaczynski, KAP's owner, loves his customers. So stop by at 2630 Riopelle and say "hello." He also offers wholesale as well. Just to see his building is worth the trip.

bleshot, Polski Swing Masters, Joy of Maryland, Two of a Kind and Bavarski. Dance troupes, dressed in traditional clothing, will perform throughout the weekend and include the Krakowiaki Dancers and the Ojczyzna Folk Dance Group.

In addition to Polish food, there will also be "American" fare, including pit beef, ham and turkey in addition to hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken.

Vendors and artists include author Peter Zeranski, artists Carla Tomaszewski, Michael Nagrabski Brenda Miller, and Wanda Perry.

About 2,000 people are expected to attend the festival that supports the Polish Community Association, its cultural activities (such as the neighborhood East Baltimore Christmas Caroling) and other Polish organizations in the area.

## Quo Vadis Conference to be Held in Madison

MADISON, Wisc. — The 3rd Polish American Youth Conference in the United States, designed to focus the skills of future Polonian

leaders, will be held here, Aug. 1-4, 2014.

The annual three-day Conference draws college students and young professionals of Polish descent with the goal of building a new generation of Polish Americans. The week-end-long session provides intensive leadership building and networking, with a renewed focus on problem-solving skills applied to contemporary Polonia issues.

Quo Vadis Madison continues the United States chapter of the Quo Vadis International vision for unity amongst the Polish diaspora.

"Quo Vadis is part of an ongoing effort to mobilize and better organize Polonia youth around the world," said Marta Studnicka, Chairwoman for the 2014 Madison Quo Vadis Conference.

"We believe that an organized Polonia youth will result in increased excellence and success for the individual as well as the greater Polonia community."

For more information, contact Studnicka, at [mstudnicka@uwalumni.com](mailto:mstudnicka@uwalumni.com), or Patrick Peczerski at [peczerski@gmail.com](mailto:peczerski@gmail.com)

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