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REMEMBERING
YASTRZEMSKI AND "THE
IMPOSSIBLE DREAM"
PAGE 12

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

**PRESERVING OUR REMAINING PARISHES • A TRIATHLON IS EASY NEXT TO SOVIETS AND POLIO
MARTIN'S "WINGS" WINS IPPY BOOK AWARD • PAC EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ORCHARD LAKE SEMINARY
INTERVIEW WITH POLISH CONSUL, PART II • THE MONTH OF THE WOMAN • HALF PRICE SUMMER SALE**

Newsmark

CUBAN CONNECTION. Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Witold Waszczykowski travelled to Cuba, the first Polish official to visit that socialist country in thirty years. In meeting with his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, talks centered on prospects for initiating Polish-Cuban cooperation in the areas of tourism, economy, culture and higher education.

"The Latin American and Caribbean region is an important partner in Poland's quest to find a balance between a focus on Europe and global engagement," said Waszczykowski.

The Polish Minister met with the Archbishop of Havana and visited the Salesian Centre for Social Communication. The Polish Embassy in Havana has regularly cooperated with the Salesian Centre, an organization which focuses on social and educational activities for young people.

Waszczykowski also discussed the development of cooperation and promotion of Polish culture in Cuba as well as renewed work between both countries on matters of monument restoration, offering to employ the experience of Polish restoration experts in addition to using laser techniques in the restoration of Havana monuments.

TRAINING AT BORDER. More than 800 troops from Russia, Belarus, and Serbia are training near Polish and Ukrainian borders. "Slavic Fraternity 2017" is the name of the exercises, which include practice of joint operations against terrorism. According to Poland's IAR news agency, a battalion of special forces from Belarus, a battalion of Russian landing troops and a company of special forces from Serbia are participating in the training maneuvers.

GAS SHIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES SIGNALS CHANGE. A shipment carrying Poland's first ever liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the United States was received at the Świnoujście LNG terminal in northwestern Poland.

Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło and representatives from Polish and U.S. energy companies PGNiG and Cheniere Energy attended the "historic" gas delivery.

Chief economist at BPS TFI, Krzysztof Wołowicz, said that the one-off delivery of gas from the United States is Poland's next step in increasing energy security and lowering future gas prices.

He added that more diverse supplies of gas to Poland can be a bargaining tool when Poland renegotiates its deal with Russia in a few years.

Wojciech Jakóbiak of the biznesalert.pl website said that Poland's gas terminal, opened in late 2015, will mean Russia will have to make an effort to remain active on the Polish gas market.

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN. The rate of unemployment in Poland dropped to 7.5 percent in May, a 26-year low for that month, reported the Family, Labor and Social Policy Ministry. 1.2 million were without work at the end of May, 49,300 fewer than in April.

"Unemployment will continue to fall in the coming months," said Minister Elzbieta Rafalska. "The forecast for the end of this year is around seven percent."

The Polish government recently adopted estimates for the 2018 budget, expecting the rate of unemployment to fall to 6.4 percent in 2018.

CR CEASES PUBLICATION. The *Cosmopolitan Review* has published its last edition. The internet journal focused on issues of social, cultural and historical interest by English-speaking writers for English-speaking readers throughout the worldwide Polish diaspora. It had readers in 56 countries, the largest number in the United States, Canada, the UK, and Poland.

Established in 2008, cosmopolitanreview.com grew from an on-line newsletter for alumni of Poland in the Rockies seminars, which are ten-day conferences of Polish studies held in Banff, Canada every two to three summers. The site will still be available for reading and research.

At Top of Their Voice



THE POLONIA CHOIR SOCIETY of Edmonton, Alberta, was the top-scoring choir at Polish Singers Alliance of America's International Convention, held in Philadelphia, May 25-28, 2017. The Hlond Trophy-winning group is under the direction of Oksana Ostashevsk. *Story on page 3.*

Trump to Visit Warsaw Before G20 Summit

Meeting with Three Seas Initiative May Reset Tone with Allies

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The White House confirmed President Donald Trump will visit Poland on July 6 before the G20 summit in Hamburg.

The most important element of President Donald Trump's trip to Warsaw will be bilateral talks with President Andrzej Duda, said the chief of staff at the Polish president's office, Krzysztof Szczerski.



President Duda

"Trump's bilateral talks are the number one point" on the agenda, Szczerski said, adding that the upcoming visit by Trump was made possible through an invitation by President Duda, "so it is definitely the most important point from Poland's point of view."

The second point, according to Szczerski, is Trump's participation at the Three Seas summit in the Polish capital, and thirdly, a public speech by Donald Trump with a message directed to Poles and other U.S. allies.

The Three Seas Initiative — a loose alliance including the Czech Republic,

EC Launches Case Against Poland

WARSAW — The European Commission is launching legal cases against Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic over their refusal to accept migrants from states under pressure in the EU's migration crisis.

Poland has not accepted any refugees as part of an EU program to relocate migrants fleeing the war-torn Middle East and Africa from camps in Italy and Greece.

The European Commission's move is likely to chill relations between Warsaw and the EU, already tense following concerns voiced in Brussels about the state of the rule of law in Poland.

"I regret to say that despite our repeated calls to relocate, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland have not yet taken the necessary action," said Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for migration. "For this reason the Commission has decided to launch infringement procedures against these three member states."

The Commission will send an official letter to Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary. If it does not get a reply or judges the response as insufficient, it will send a second letter. The Commission can then file a case to the EU Court of Justice, but without requesting financial penalties. Brussels can only apply for sanctions to be imposed when a country ignores a ruling by the judges in Luxembourg. The process could take years.

"Most of [these people] are not refugees, only immigrants who have illegal

Crash Victims Remains Mishandled

Poland finds other body parts in coffin of President Kaczynski, others

WARSAW — Polish authorities found the remains of two other people in the coffin of former president Lech Kaczynski while investigating the plane crash in Russia that killed him and 95 others in 2010.

The caskets of 11 further victims also contained body parts of others, prosecutors said after examining 24 coffins from the crash, which some officials of the ruling right-wing party have blamed on an explosion aboard, without providing evidence.

The April 2010 crash near the western Russian city of Smolensk — the worst such disaster for Poland since World War II — has left Polish society deeply divided over the cause despite the previous, centrist government's conclusion from its own investigation that pilot error was at fault.

Deputy Prosecutor General Marek Pasionek told reporters that in 12 of 24 coffins reopened since last year, bodies had been swapped in two, one contained half the body of another person while nine other caskets held scattered remains of other victims.

He said the coffin of Archbishop Miron Chodakowski contained only the upper half of his body while the lower half belonged to late General Tadeusz

See "Trump Visit," page 4

See "Immigration," page 4

See "Crash Victims," page 4

Almanac

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July  Lipiec

Deszcze na lipca pierwszego, drugiego, zapowiedzią deszczu czterdziestodniowego.

Rain on the first and second of July Does forty more days of showers imply.

- 1 1926. Opening of the Ben Franklin Bridge (then known as Delaware River Bridge) built by **Ralph Modjeski**.
- 2 **MATKA BOSKA JAGODNA** *Blessed Virgin of the Berries. The first fruits and wild berries are ripened by this day.* 1800. Birth of painter **Piotr Michalowski**.
- 3 1619. Account of strike by Polish settlers in **Jamestown, Virg.** entered into records of the Virginia Company.
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY. (U.S.)** 1934. Death in France of Nobel Prize-winning chemist, who discovered radium and polonium, **Madame Marie Skłodowska Curie**, 66.
- 5 1945. **Col. Francis Gabreski** downs his 28th enemy plane.
- 6 1922. Death of **Blessed Maria Teresia Ledóchowska** (b. April 29 1863), Roman Catholic nun and African missionary.
- 7 1572. Death of **King Zygmunt August**, last of Poland's Jagiellonian dynasty.
- 8 1824. Birth of **Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski** (d. 1887), Union officer.
- 9 1823. Birth of Polish portrait painter **Henryk Rodakowski**.
- 10 1835. Birth of composer and violinist **Henry Wieniawski**.
- 13 2000. Death of **Jan Karski**, former Polish diplomat.
- 14 1904. Birth of writer **Isaac Bashevis Singer** in Radzymin, Poland.
- 15 1410. Polish victory over the Teutonic Knights at **Grunwald**. 1871. Birth of famed Polish explorer and geographer **Henry Arctowski**.
- 16 1873. **Jan Matejko** establishes a school of fine arts in Krakow.
- 17 **SAINT JADWIGA D'ANJOU** 1629. Birth of Poland's warrior king, **Jan Sobieski**.
- 18 **ST. SIMON OF LIPNICA** 1980. Lt. Col. **Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.
- 20 **BLESSED CZESLAW** 1901. Dedication of **St. Josephat Basilica**, Milwaukee, Wisc.
- 22 1982. End of **martial law** in Poland that lasted for 586 days.
- 23 1885. *Ojczyzna* (Fatherland) founded in Buffalo. Semi-weekly newspaper. Ceased publication in 1887.
- 25 **ST. JACOB THE GREATER** *Patron of laborers. By Polish custom, half of all eggs laid today are given to the poor.* 1932. Signing of the Soviet-Polish Non-Aggression Pact.
- 26 **ST. ANN** *Mother of the Virgin Mary. Her feastday is the traditional harbinger of fall.*
- 28 1812. Birth of prolific Polish novelist **Jozef Ignacy Krasinski**.
- 30 1966. **United States Postal Service** issues stamp in honor of Poland's millennium.
- 31 1928. **Halina Konopaczka** wins Poland's first Olympic gold in discus.

This paper mailed on or before **June 29, 2017**. The August 2017 edition will be mailed on or before **July 27, 2017**.

Viewpoints

Preserving Our Remaining Parishes



THE CHOICE IS OURS. (photo, left): Amsterdam-based architects Merck & Girod converted a 13th-century Dominican church in Maastricht, Netherlands into an impressive contemporary bookstore. (right): The remains of the former Transfiguration R.C. Church in Buffalo. Closed in 1991, the building is on the verge of falling in on itself.

by Mark Kohan

When I started working for the PAJ's parent company in 1982, one of my jobs was the mailing of promotional letters to potential subscribers and advertisers. At that time, journalist and political activist Stan Franczyk had mail lists in every category imaginable. The list of Polish American parishes had over 800 names and addresses on it.

Thirty-five years later, we down to roughly 125 identifiable Polish American parishes, and more closings and/or mergers are on the slate.

For Roman Catholics, the numbers get scarier when you consider the amount of Italian, Irish, German, Ukrainian, and other early 20th Century immigrant churches that have closed.

The reasons are many: Some blame liberal education, and the secularization of the younger population. Others blame technology. Favorable socioeconomic conditions lowers attendance. Unfavorable church-related publicity does not help.

This is true in Europe, too, where once-great churches, shuttered, are being turned into skateboard parks, gymnastic training arenas, museums, supermarkets, gyms, and even bars.

In American Polonia, several of our ancestral parishes or parts of their properties have been converted to other uses. The convent at St. Stanislaus Kostka in Fells Point, Maryland, now houses Mother Seton Academy. (The remainder of the property is, to date, vacant.) The social hall of St. Barbara's parish Lackawanna, N.Y. is now a Food Pantry & Outreach Center for Catholic Charities (the church was torn down by the Diocese). The Chicago Academy of Music is under contract with the Archdiocese of Chicago to purchase St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church in Pilsen.

Some think this type of repurposing is sacrilegious.



Others would rather see their parishes razed than be used give quarter to other faiths.

So what do we do?

First and foremost, if your parish is still viable, and placed on a list for closure, fight to keep it open. Write letters. Hold protests. Get in your bishop's face.

Ideally, when all resources are exhausted, and the inevitable is at hand, the parish, not the Diocese, should be in charge of the dissolution of its assets, with special consideration of its ancestral roots. Polonia's parishes were built largely by donations. Therefore, heirs (familial or parochial) should be the ones who decide what happens to the buildings and grounds.

But Canon Law says the property belongs to the Diocese, and the fate of buildings and land is in its hands.

IT IS HERE WHERE WE HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES: what is best way to remember our ancestors' contributions? Do we walk away and watch as it — most often disrespectfully — returns to dust, or do we try to preserve for others to use?

As painful as it may be, the European model — a concerted effort of parishioners, diocese, city planners, and investors — is the best way to save what remains. With so few Polish churches left, and so many destroyed since the closings began over two decades ago, we must work to ensure Polonia's contributions to America's spirituality, architecture, and community is not forgotten.

No, I am not comfortable with someone twerking on the spot where my mom was baptized, but that — I dare say — is probably the worst it would possibly get. At that point, the church has been desacralized, so it is out of our hands, regardless of the property's repurpose. If we get involved, we can push for reuse plans that do not debase or disrespect the building's history. But we have to first get involved.

Perspectives

A Triathlon Is Easy Next to Soviets and Polio

by Jake Halpern

In two weeks I'm competing in a triathlon—on a relay team with my in-laws, Polish immigrants in their mid-60s. My mother-in-law, Barbara, is a three-time cancer survivor who lost the use of one eye because of radiation treatment. She'll do the 1.2-mile swim in 60-degree water. My father-in-law, Mirek, who had polio as a child, will do the 56-mile bike ride, across very hilly terrain, on his one good leg. And me? I'm doing the 13.1-mile run. But as a healthy 41-year-old, I don't have any against-all-odds story line.

My wife, Kasia, it should be noted, is doing the entire race: swim, bike and run. This is fine with me because, honestly, she has always been three times the man I am. Kasia was born in 1975 in Warsaw. These were the cold, hard days of communism. She recalls the winter when temperatures dropped to 22 below zero and the school's coal-fed heating system failed. Put on your coats and hats, the teachers told students, before resuming class. No one complained because it would make no difference.

My wife understood this from birth. Crying infants were never to

be picked up between midnight and dawn. Babies were weatherized, left outside in their strollers while mothers shopped at the grocery store, even in the blustery depths of winter. At the dentist's office, when Kasia got her cavities drilled, there were no painkillers. She recalls, for a second-grade field trip, visiting a charred field where a commercial airliner had recently crashed. Burnt sneakers still littered the ground. The message seemed clear enough: Life is short, sometimes a bit shorter than expected, so get to it.

By comparison, my upbringing in America seems pampered: heated classrooms, cable television, ample Novocain, doting Jewish parents. Thank God for all that. Still, there are moments when I secretly envy my wife's childhood of deprivation.

She seems—as do her parents and her brother—largely unfazed by such inconveniences as hunger, cold and muscle fatigue. They also share a resilience born from a common narrative. They came from Poland, on the great sprawling plains of Central Europe that my brother-in-law once described to me as “Rent a Battlefield.” First the Mongols arrived, then the Swedes, then the Germans, then the Russians. Some-

times I get the sense that to be Polish, at least in my wife's view, is to embrace a kind of prolonged, quiet suffering.

What is a five-hour triathlon if not that? It's no coincidence that my wife's family chose a sport of deliberate misery. They have even persuaded me (at least partly) that pampering sometimes brings a steady, creeping rot—a complacency that corrodes the soul. So I'm racing with the Poles.

Last week I learned that I have an inguinal hernia. It's uncomfortable, but not crippling. When I visited the doctor's office, the nurse told me, apologetically, that she wouldn't be able to schedule my surgery until after the triathlon. But she gave me the green light to run. I envisioned myself tenderly limping across the finish. And then I smiled. It wasn't the Warsaw Uprising, or cancer or polio, but it would do.

❖ ❖ ❖

Jake Halpern is an American writer, commentator, and radio producer. Born in Buffalo, N.Y., he attended City Honors School, and later graduated from Yale University. This article first appeared in the Wall Street Journal. Reprinted with author's permission.

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Polish Singers Meet in Philadelphia for International Convention

PHILADELPHIA — The Polish Singers Alliance of America held its 51st International Convention here, May 25-28, 2017, at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, hosted by District VII of the Alliance and coordinated by the Philadelphia Choir, Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Chorus #321.

The Convention consisted of business meetings, elections, a choral competition, awards ceremony, Mass, and concert. Outgoing General Choral Director Izabella Kobus-Salkin organized the competition and concert, which featured thirteen choirs from the United States and Canada. The five judges in attendance were from Poland and United States.

COMPETITION RESULTS. In the category of mixed choirs, Polonia Choir Society of Edmonton, Alberta placed first, Aria Chorus #303 of New Jersey second, and Hejnal Chorus #323 of Brooklyn placed third. In the Female division, the host chorus, Marcella Kochanska Sembrich placed first, followed by Jutrzenka Singing Society of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Club Filarets #331 of Michigan. Two choirs were awarded in the Men's category: Chopin

Singing Society #182 of New Jersey and Club Filarets #311 of Michigan. The top scoring choir which is

Monetary Awards are provided to the choirs who place in the top three in their category. In addition, the

At the business meeting, David Zagorski of Philadelphia was elected General Choral Director, and Ma-

bus; and General Secretary Adrienne Kusmierczyk, all of Buffalo. A scholarship was awarded from District IX to Krystian Sekowski, a graduate of the University of Alberta, concert pianist, choral conductor, organist and instructor, who is taking private lessons preparing for auditions for future study.

The concert featured a 200+ voice choir, along with individual performances by the top scoring choirs. In celebration of District VII's 100th anniversary, conductor Janusz Sporek led "Niescie Chwale Mocarze" and "Ojcie Nasz." The Canadian choirs celebrated Canada's 150th Anniversary. Symfonia Chorus of Hamilton performed "Toronto in Bloom" and Polonia Choir Society of Edmonton performed "Hallelujah" by Canadian composer, Leonard Cohen. The rousing closing, featuring all choirs together, along with soloists, "Hymn Chorow Polonijnych," was led by Izabella Kobus-Salkin.

The next International Convention is schedule for May of 2020 in Buffalo, N.Y. The Polish Singers Alliance of America was founded in 1889 and is the oldest Polish American Cultural organization.



Sekowski playing at PSAA Convention after receiving scholarship.

PSAA Awards Scholarship to Concert Pianist

At its 51st International Convention, the Polish Singers Alliance of America voted to approve a scholarship award to Krystian Sekowski of Edmonton, Alberta.

Sekowski is a concert pianist and the Choral Conductor and Music Director for the Edmonton Latin Mass Society. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta, and has studied in Poland, Austria and Italy. A member of the Polonia Choir Society of Edmonton — the highest scoring choir in the Competition held at the Convention — Sekowski filled in as accompanist during the rehearsal for the Convention Concert.

The talented young musician was put forward as a candidate by the President of the Polonia Choir Society, Ela Ostapowicz.

The PSAA offers an annual scholarship to each of its four districts annually. Other winners include Jakub Jozef Orliński, a Metropolitan Opera Competition winner, and Michael Hawk and Emily Helenbrook of Western New York, who have performed nationally.

awarded the coveted Hlond Trophy, a gift of the interwar Polish Government, was the Polonia Choir Society of Edmonton, Alberta, under the direction of Oksana Ostashevska.

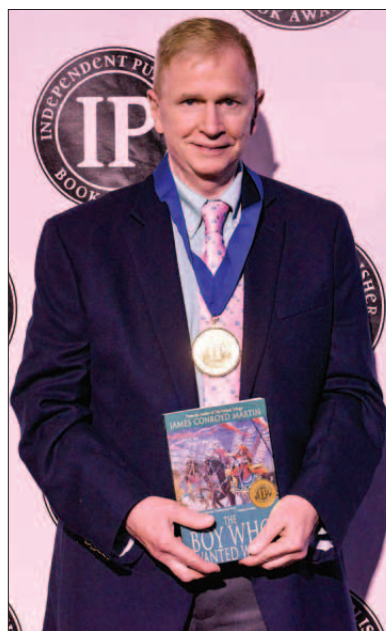
Mazurek Family has provided funding in memory of long-time General Choral Director, Antoni Kazmierczak, for the director of the choir receiving the Hlond Trophy.

ria Lesniak of Ontario as Assistant Choral Director Maria Lesniak. Officers elected were: President Mary Lou Wyrobek; Vice President Gary Bienkowski; Treasurer Frances Cir-

"The Boy Who Wanted Wings" Wins IPPY Book Award

NEW YORK — On May 30, 2017, author James Conroyd Martin collected a Gold Medal IPPY at the Copacabana in New York City. The IPPY awards are conducted each year by the Independent Publisher Book Awards, an organization that honors independently published books from around the world, including those from university presses. *The Boy Who Wanted Wings* captured the gold in the Military/Wartime category.

Several years in the writing, this follow-up to the very successful Poland Trilogy features the Polish winged hussars at the Battle of Vienna in 1683 when the Ottoman Empire's siege of the capital of the Holy Roman Empire is on the very brink of success. A victory there would open all of Christian Europe to jihad.



Martin and his award-winning book.

THE STORY. Aleksy, a dark-complexioned Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a Polish hussar, a lancer who carries into battle a device attached to his back that holds dozens of eagle feathers. Because he is a Tatar and a peasant, this is an improbable quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of the noble who owns the land that his parents work, he falls hopelessly in love. But even though she returns his love, race and class differences make this quest as impossible as that of becoming a hussar. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

THE CONFLICT. On the eve of September 11, 1683, a massive Muslim Ottoman horde was besieging the gates of the imperial city of Vienna and had been doing so since the previous July. Now, however, they were just hours from capturing this capital of the Holy Roman Empire. The Turks' intent was to bring Islam to all of Europe, and this city was seen by East and West alike as the gateway. With the window of time closing for Vienna, the walls were about to be breached on September 12 when the vastly outnumbered Christian coalition, led by Polish King Jan III Sobieski and his legendary winged hussars, descended Kahlenberg Mountain to engage the

Turks in an attempt to lift the siege. As crucial and consequential as the 1066 Battle of Hastings, the ensuing battle changed the course of European history.

"I've been thrilled by the reaction to the story," Martin states. "I meant it to be a story about cultural subjects, such as differences in class, education, race, and religion. With the character of Aleksy, I wanted to explore the theme of 'the other'."

AUTHOR APPEARANCE IN AUGUST. Martin is scheduled to host a booth at the Twin Cities Polish

Festival of Minneapolis-St. Paul on August 11, 12, and 13. He looks forward to interacting with his Minnesota readers.

The Boy Who Wanted Wings is available in hardcover, softcover, and e-book where books are sold. Request it at your local library. More information and an e-mail sign-up are available at the author's website: www.JamesCMartin.com

His e-mail is JConMartin@GMail.com

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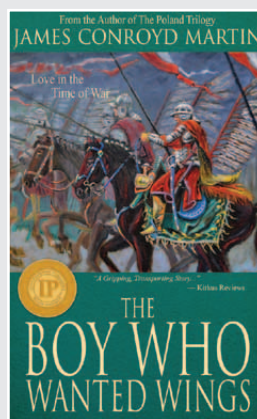
"Amidst class and religious warfare, this story is also a reminder that the struggle between Christianity and Islam is a great deal older than 2001. . . . The main characters struggle with loyalties to family, race, and country as they come to understand that no fear or evil is unchangeable."

— Leonard Kniffel, Director, Polish American Librarians Association

"A poor archer in medieval Poland takes aim at the love of his life in this epic novel from Mar-

tin. A gripping, transporting story of self-determination set against fate."

— Kirkus Reviews



"This classic different-worlds love affair provides the human grounding for a larger story replete with well-researched period details about the struggle of 17th-century Europe against the forces of Islam, and Martin is a skilled enough storyteller to keep the whole narrative moving forward briskly to a very satisfying conclusion. The author has written a pitch-perfect follow-up to his Poland Trilogy."

— Historical Novels Society

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Polish Knights Pick New Leaders in Maryland

SILVER SPRING, Md. — The Polish ethnic St. Maximilian Kolbe Knights of Columbus Council elected new leaders on June 10. This election marks an important step in the development of the St. Maximilian Council, formed in February, as the first time that the council has elected officers for a full year.

Elected were: Jacek Marczyński, an up-and-coming local Polonian activist, as Grand Knight. He had previously served as Deputy Grand Knight; Tomasz Kołodziej, Deputy Grand Knight; Dr. Wojciech Czaja, Chancellor, replacing Roman Korzan, a well-known Polonian leader.

Outgoing Grand Knight John Armstrong stressed that despite the short time the Council has existed, it has played an active role at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, the only Polish ethnic parish in the Washington, D.C. Armstrong said the Polish Knights' crucial support maintained Holy Saturday and Easter services, the parish picnic, and a Mass for Polish resistance fighters, who struggled against the Communists after 1944.

The St. Maximilian Council is the only Polish ethnic council of the Knights of Columbus active in Maryland.

Washington PAC Expresses Concern over Orchard Lake Seminary; Calls on Trump to Waive Visas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At its annual meeting, June 4, 2017, the Polish American Congress' (PAC) Washington Metropolitan Area Division passed a resolution expressing concern over credible reports that Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich. will be de-Polonized or closed. The Division expressed strong support for the seminary continuing its mission to Polonia, and urged all to join in this support.

The Washington PAC also passed a resolution calling on U.S. President Donald J. Trump to visit Poland as recognition of the special relationship that exists between Poland and the United States.

The Division passed a second resolution urging Trump to issue an executive order waiving visas for Poland. While Polonia has long lobbied for visa waiver status for Poland, however, these efforts have focused on Congress. Advocates of the resolution pointed out that efforts to lobby Congress have been proved futile and that the President has the power to lift visas for Poles along the lines that President Obama used in issuing sweeping executive orders.

In a hotly-contested election, the Division elected six members to its Board of Directors. Veteran board member Jacek Marczyński toppled all contenders by receiving 61 votes, while newcomer Tomasz Smok took second place with 56 votes. Wera Szerszeń, Jolanta Melton, former Federation of Polish Americans activist Roman Korzan, and Alliance College-educated attorney Edward Krauze were also elected. Two long-term board members did not cross the bar, receiving only 36 votes.

Rules and procedural votes punctuated the four-hour-long meeting, which was attended by seventy local Polonians.

Maciej Golubiewski was appointed head of the Polish Consulate General in New York. On January 16 of this year.

Born in Łódź, Poland, in 1976, Golubiewski graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Washington and Lee University (1999) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and has a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the Johns Hopkins University (2005). He also holds an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the United World College of the Atlantic in the UK. Golubiewski received academic scholarships from all three institutions.

After graduation, he moved to Washington D.C., where he spent three years in business consulting at Charles River Associates International (CRAI) before going on to graduate school. During his studies, Golubiewski interned with the office of Senator Richard Lugar, served as a summer fellow at the Heritage Foundation and was an associate scholar at the Center for European Policy Analysis. For close to five years, he was a teaching assistant and lecturer in political science and international relations at the Johns Hopkins University and spent two semesters as a visiting professor at Mannheim University in Germany.

In 2008, he joined, as an established official, the Directorate General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries at the European Commission in Brussels as a desk officer responsible for regional political and economic cooperation with the Horn, East and Southern Africa region. During that time he participated in the Economic Partnership Agreement free trade negotiations with the African regional blocks. In 2011, he was transferred to the newly created European External Action Service, where, since 2012, he had been responsible for preparing the EU's Foreign Affairs Council positions on the developing conflict in Syria. Most recently, between 2014 and 2016, Golubiewski served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and the Head of the Political Section at the EU Delegation to Lebanon in Beirut.

Golubiewski sits on an advisory board of the Integral Economic Development master programs at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and for almost ten years has been associated with the Sobieski Institute in Warsaw

Man on a Mission



AN INTERVIEW WITH Maciej Golubiewski

THE NEW POLISH CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK

as an expert on the EU and foreign policy. He speaks Polish, English and French.

The Polish American Journal interviewed Consul General about his education in the United States, the role of the Consulate, ties with the Jewish community, and political changes in Poland and Europe. We thank him for his time.

continued from last month

New York is also a major center of the American Jewish community. Poles and Jews have had a complex relationship through the centuries and — especially in the post-Holocaust period — that relationship has been strained. How do you plan on building better ties with the American Jewish community? Since both Poles and Jews suffered at Nazi hands, what possibilities do you see for common cause on issues?

I believe both communities, Poles and Jews, have realized by now that they share more interests than problems. My ambition is — and I have voiced it in my meetings with representatives of American Jewish organizations — to ensure partner-like relations with little room for internecine accusations and claims that are of no use to any of the sides.

Poland is probably the strongest supporter of Israel in Europe, and in particular this government. I always quote from Jaroslaw Kaczynski's speech in Bialystok, where he calls to oppose new forms of anti-

semitism such as anti-Zionism that deny or limit the right of Israel to exist. I hope that in return, Jewish communities will go on record publicly supporting the current government and the strategic relationship that Poland and Israel have with each other. A lot of work remains to be done to oppose vestiges of anti-Polish bias. I hope that that American Jewish community will unequivocally stand behind Poland in its efforts to widely promote the Polish Righteous and the truth about the threat of death that faced Poles if they helped Jews during the war as well as the Home Army's unequivocal condemnation of those who betrayed Jews by carrying out death sentences against those people.

The same goes for relations among American Jews and Polish-Americans. I encounter many Jewish leaders in the United States, who wish that there would be more cooperation among the communities where historically there has been no conflict among them (in contrast to many other communities in the States). These communities of, what sometimes is called "white ethnics," have many common causes and have suffered from discrimination in America. Jews are well aware of anti-Polonism and we could jointly promote each other's communities while, of course, promoting harmonious cooperation across all ethnic groups.

I believe Polish Americans can learn a lot from the American Jews in the area of self-organization, representation and building positive

public relations and narratives. I am currently working on some projects in that regard.

Back to Poland, what I am really keen to portray to Jews is that Poland is probably now one of the safest places in the world to be Jewish.

The Polish Consulate General is in New York, but Poles, Polesians, and Americans who should learn about Poland can be found in other big cities of your district (like Buffalo, Philadelphia, and Boston) as well as smaller towns (New Britain, Worcester, Binghamton).

As I mentioned in my previous answers, in my just four months in office, I visited Ohio (Toledo, Cleveland, Akron), Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh), Connecticut (New Britain), upstate New York (Rochester), New Jersey, and Boston. In some places like Toledo, there have barely been any official visit from Poland in years. As I said, the ministry of foreign affairs and the ministry of development have viewed very positively our efforts to enhance economic relations with the Great Lakes regions of the so-called "rust belt." I believed I mentioned educational initiatives in the larger consular district, too. I would really like to cooperate with Polonia organizations and get involved together in the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence next year.

American troops arrived this year in Poland and have been warmly received across the country. Can you tell us something about Polish-U.S. security ties?

The historical presence of thousands of US troops as a part of the NATO effort to enhance its eastern flank, not to mention the unfreezing of the missile defense shield initiative, testify to constantly improving security ties between Poland and the United States. As I said earlier, the public diplomacy potential of that cooperation is huge and I have already mentioned my initial efforts to underscore this relationship. There will be more.

Poland's current government has been criticized in many quarters as rolling back democracy and trying to control the court system (especially your Constitutional Tribunal). What would you say to people who are concerned that Poland is slipping into a "less democratic" model?

Whatever may be said of Poland,

it formally sees an increase in democratic rule. What critics are pointing to is the supposed "illiberalism" of the currently implemented model or, if one reads Tocqueville, a danger of a "tyranny of the majority." That accusation remains a slogan. The situation of the Constitutional Tribunal, which the previous government tried to "pack", is a case in point. What I always underlined in conversations with my local partners is that the Constitutional Court is a very different body from the US Supreme Court. While both practice "judicial review", the Supreme Court always involves "case and controversy" and constitutional issues are resolved in the context of a particular case, which is adjudicated and granted a ruling in favor of one or the other party. The Constitutional Court, on the other hand, simply says whether a given parliamentary bill agrees with the Constitution. That is it. There is, of course, a duty on the part of the legislative to change the law to ensure that a new bill contains legal provisions in line with the court's ruling. Under no circumstances, though, the court acts as a judge involved in a "case and controversy" and does not have the power to change policy decisions. The legislative is simply admonished to produce a better law next time to avoid controversy. Unfortunately, we have seen attempts to change the role of the Constitutional Court. I will not say much more, but it is telling that in the US tradition that manner of judicial review, called "advisory opinion", was never supported for fears of judicial interference with the legislative branch of the government. In fact, the Constitutional Court is formally not a part of the judiciary in Poland, which remains an autonomous branch of the government and contains the Polish Supreme Court. I seldom hear this explanation but it does clarify matters to a lot of Americans who are not familiar with the European judicial system. Unfortunately, to a large degree political conflict over the Constitutional Tribunal issue emanates from the lack of understanding of what its proper role is. On top of it, the Polish constitutional tradition does not have a "political question" doctrine, which limits the involvement of the Supreme Court to purely legal questions not political ones.

Thank you for your time, and all the best to you and the consular offices.

Thank you.

Trump Visit

continued from cover

Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria and the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — was established in summer 2016. It includes all the important countries bordering the Adriatic, the Baltic, and the Black Sea. On the surface, its purpose is to bring together leaders of 12 nations for talks on developing energy and infrastructure ties.

However, the initiative is linked to the so-called Intermarium alliance of the 1920s. At that time, nationalist and fascist forces had taken part in the alliance with the United States against the Soviet Union. At the same time, the alliance was always directed against German hegemony in Europe.

Trump's meeting with the leaders of this alliance is a may signal that the White House is reintroducing the Intermarium strategy, which would exacerbate conflicts with Germany. At the same time, Trump is reacting to growing domestic pressure, especially on the part of the Democrats, who want to force his government to take a tougher course against Russia. Trump had previously left his attitude to NATO — and

thus to the alliance with the Eastern European states — in the dark for months.



Chancellor Angela Merkel said Europe can no longer rely on the United States.

of the United States and, if necessary, against it as well. Polish Defense Minister Wytold Waszczykowski has condemned Merkel's statement as "exaggerated and unnecessary."

The Law and Justice Party (PiS) government continues to work closely with the United States, even though the foreign policy orientation of the Trump government was long unclear. It is hoped the Trump-Duda meeting will change that.

Immigration

continued from cover

ly come into Europe," said Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski. He also said that people from Africa and the Middle East do not want to be transferred to Poland.

Konrad Szymański, Poland's deputy foreign minister in charge of European affairs, said that the European Commission's decision "may move us further away from a necessary political compromise on migrant policies and may deepen divisions within the European Union."

He added that Poland was ready to defend its arguments at the Court of Justice, and said that problems stemming from the implementation of what he described as "erroneous" decisions taken in September 2015 have affected all EU states.

In September 2015, EU leaders agreed that each country would accept a number of migrants over two years to alleviate the pressure on Greece and Italy, which have seen the arrival of tens of thousands of people from the Middle East.

EU leaders agreed to relocate a total of about 160,000 migrants of more than two million people who arrived in Europe since 2015.

— From Reuters, PAP, and Radio Poland reports

Crash Victims

continued from cover

Ploski.

In the coffin of General Bronislaw Kwiatkowski there were 14 body parts belonging to seven other people, Pasionek said, adding that post-mortems would be finished by April next year.

Polish officials have criticized Russian officials for disrespecting their dead.

"Today we know that there was no diligence in (the post mortems conducted in Russia). There was nonchalance in the best case, and ill-will in the worst case," Magdalena Merta, the widow of Tomasz Merta, a senior culture ministry official who died in the crash, told the Polish state agency PAP.

She accused Russia of "displaying a filthy attitude towards our dead."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova Russia rejected the accusations, saying they were "absolutely unfounded," and that Moscow was under pressure from Warsaw to "hand over the remains as soon as possible."

Zakharova said "the identification of the bodies was done directly by Polish representatives and relatives of the dead."

— From Reuters, PAP, and Radio Poland reports

Religion

Pro-Life Democrats Protest

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Reacting to Democratic national chairman Tom Perez's "line in the sand" for Democrats which put the party squarely on the side of total support for abortion rights, pro-Life activists pushed back by noting that he was "alienating the 23% of Democratic voters who identify as pro-Life and 44% of Democrats who oppose taxpayer funding of abortion." Pro-Life Democrats such as **Dan Lipinski (D-IL)** have been welcomed to speak to the annual march for Life.

POLISH PRIEST TO SERVE ST. JOHN GUALBERT.

A native of Rzeszów, in southeastern, Poland, **Fr. Marcin Porada** learned English at the University of Buffalo, as well as with the Felician Sisters in their nearby convent. He offers Mass in Polish at Our Lady of Częstochowa Church and finds the people very welcoming ... **Fr. Michael Burzynski**, pastor of St. Gualbert's is spearheading the celebration of the parish's 100th anniversary. He has also taken on the role of administrator of St. John Kanty & St. Adalbert's Churches in Buffalo. **Fr. Porada**, who did much of his seminary training in the Rzeszów diocesan seminary finds camaraderie with other Polish priests recently established in the Buffalo area: **Fr. Józef Dudzik** (pastor of St. Brendan on the Lake Parish in Newfane) and **Fr. Dawid Krzeszowski** (parochial vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish in Kenmore).

HOLLYWOOD PENALIZES CAVIEZEL FOR ROLE AS JESUS.

Speaking with Polish film critic **Lukasz Adamski**, **Jim Caviezel**, who portrayed Jesus in Mel Gibson's film "The Passion of the Christ," noted that after the film he no longer was "one of the five most popular actors in the studio." He mentioned that he would be interested in working with Mel Gibson on a sequel reportedly titled "The Resurrection." Deeply moved by his role as Jesus, he said that he found it his "duty to live in accordance with the gospel every day and to give witness to the truth."

EWTN CHAIRMAN IN NEW VATICAN ROLE.

Michael Warsaw, chairman and executive director of EWTN, has been named by Pope Francis as a consultant to the Vatican Secretariat for Communications, one of 12 new consultants. The Secretariat for Communications, established by the pope in 2015, is tasked with restructuring and consolidating the Holy See's various communications outlets.

Warsaw has worked with Mother Angelica's network since 1991. It is now the largest religious media network in the world, reaching more than 268 million TV households in more than 145 countries and territories.

KNIGHTS DONATE DISHWASHING SYSTEM. Grand Knight **Richard Dziekiewicz** and **Jerome Donovan** of William E. Burke-Utica, N.Y. Council 189, donated a new

dishwashing system to the Mother Marianne (Cope) Westside Kitchen. The new system enables the Kitchen to serve the people and also protect the environment by eliminating the use of Styrofoam serving items.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

Buffalo Diocese priests on the anniversary of their ordinations: **Fr. Mark Wolski**, **Fr. Charles Zadora** (50 years), **Fr. Leon Biernat** (25 years) ... The Polish parish of **Ss. Peter & Paul** in Tacoma, Wash., celebrating its 125th anniversary. The first priest at church was **Fr. Michal Farfara** in 1908. A banquet was held following the June 11 Anniversary Mass.

The **Reverend Leon Czeslaw Kachel, OSPPE**, retired priest of the Diocese of Providence, celebrated his 60th anniversary of his Ordination, June 25, 2017. A Mass of Thanksgiving was offered at St. Adalbert Church in Providence, R.I., which was followed by a reception in Cranston. **Fr. Leon** was born in Kalety, Poland. He studied philosophy in Krakow, and theology in Warsaw. He was ordained by His Eminence Cardinal **Stefan Wyszyński**. **Fr. Leon** taught religion in Poland until coming to the United States in 1976, and later became chaplain at Newport Hospital. He was then assigned to Our Lady of Czestochowa in Coventry, and later chaplain for St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima hospitals. He served for 30 years until his retirement at St. John Vianney Residence in Providence, where he currently resides.

STO LAT TO... Newly ordained priests for the Buffalo Diocese, **Cole Webster** and **Luke Uebler** ... Deacon **Daniel U. Golinski** of the Buffalo Diocese recently assigned as vocations training chairman for the Boy Scouts and Deacon **William J. Walkowiak** on being assigned to ministry at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Fr. Charles Slisz on coming out of retirement to take on the role of rector of the cathedral parish in Buffalo ... **Fr. William Blazek, S.J.** on his appointment as national director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) and Eucharistic Youth Movement. He succeeds **Fr. Jim Kubicki, S.J.**, who held the office since 2003.

Fr. Jeffrey Nowak on his recent appointment as this year's honorary chairperson of Buffalo Diocese's Catholic Communications Campaign. The parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Niagara Falls, N.Y., posts his spiritual thoughts to Facebook, connecting to his over 800 friends. Comments on the scriptures of the daily Mass and special treatment of holy days as well as brief biographies of the saints of the day fill out his mini homilies that people can read at their leisure any time during the day. On Catholic Communications he said, "The challenge of spreading the Gospel message continues to challenge us as a Church. We need to continue to find new ways to bring the Gospel of Christ alive and to the world."

Named New Director of Development at Kosciuszko Foundation



NEW YORK—The Kosciuszko Foundation announced that **Tomasz Kierul, CFRE** (Certified Fund Raising Executive) has joined the Foundation as its new director of development.

Kierul has excelled in nonprofit development and leadership positions for over 15 years, bringing energy, focus, and experience to building a new philanthropic program at the Kosciuszko Foundation. Recently, he led Regis College's annual leadership giving program, where he took an active role in the overall direction, strategy, and integration of development, alumni relations, and advancement services. Prior to his work at Regis, Kierul was a senior development officer at the Archdiocese of Boston.

"We are very fortunate to have someone with Tomasz's depth of philanthropic experience and knowledge of our community as our new director of development," said **Marek Skulimowski**, president, and executive director of the Kosciuszko Foundation. "He will be a great asset as we work to grow our philanthropy program."

"Król Polski!" Washington Polish Saturday School Ends Year with a Bang

WASHINGTON, D.C. — To shouts of 'Król Polski!' ('King of Poland!'), a near record number of 68 students completed the 2016-17 school year at the Our Lady Queen of Poland Polish Saturday School in suburban Washington, June 3.

School Director **Ewa Chlebowska** stated that the younger classes were particularly strong, with a record 18 students in the kindergarten class. **Fr. Jerzy Frydrych SCh**, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland, noted the importance of parental engagement in nurturing and building Polish language and culture in the next generation of American Poles. In particular, he cited the example of one of the teachers whose grandparents came to America from Silesia in the 1880s.

This year the school celebrated its fortieth school year of continuous operation, with the first classes having begun in 1986 under the leadership of local Polish activist **Izabella Macander**. The school was inspired by the work of **Filip Pawlisz**, a veteran of the Defense of Grodno in 1939 and **Gen. Anders' Second Corps**, who organized an earlier Polish school in the 1970s that had not proved viable.

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Msgr. Machalski Leaves Legacy at Orchard Lake Schools

by Daniel Meloy

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — So much of **Msgr. Thomas Machalski's** life has been spent at the Orchard Lake Schools, he has a hard time putting the schools' impact on his life into words.

Msgr. Machalski returned to his native Brooklyn, N.Y., ending his six-year tenure as the 11th chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools and rector of **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary**, which prepares lay people and foreign-born seminarians — primarily from Poland — to serve the Church.

"Orchard Lake has been so much part of my life," said **Msgr. Machalski**, who will be going on sabbatical before taking up parish ministry for the Diocese of Brooklyn. "I never thought I would come back here in a leadership position. But it was really like a homecoming in many ways. To experience things come full circle."

A graduate of St. Mary's Prep in 1976, St. Mary's College in 1980 and named rector and chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools in 2011, the Brooklyn, N.Y., native considers Orchard Lake his second home.



"I'm proud of all our graduates, they all leave here well-prepared," **Msgr. Machalski** (photo, left) said. "There is always this sense of gratification during graduation, when you are sending people out to the world. That we have helped them realize the gifts God has given them, putting them in the service of others."

During his time as rector and chancellor, **Msgr. Machalski** said he was most proud of **Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron** naming the Orchard Lake Schools' chapel the official archdiocesan shrine to St.

John Paul II, a shrine the archbishop visited in the buildup to Synod 16, and the celebration of the 1,050th anniversary of Poland's conversion to Christianity.

"The mission of what Orchard Lake Schools is about never changes, preparing students, either at the prep or seminary, to go out and spread the Gospel message," **Msgr. Machalski** said. "To live out the mission of Orchard Lake Schools, service to God, Church or country, and their fellow human being. That is constant."

Fr. Walter Ptak, dean of human formation at Orchard Lake Seminary, attended St. Mary's College with **Msgr. Machalski** and said the monsignor's experience as a parish priest helped the seminarians gain a greater understanding of what lies ahead in their ministry.

"He was very down-to-earth and approachable to the guys," **Fr. Ptak** said. "To the seminarians, he served a fatherly role as rector. I think the

seminary was blessed with a man who was able to bring his lived experience and sense of leadership style that wasn't so evident in the past."

Msgr. Machalski told *The Michigan Catholic* his time at Orchard Lake was made easier with the support of **Archbishop Vigneron** and now-retired Auxiliary Bishop **Francis Reiss**, who served as the archdiocesan liaison to the seminary, as well as other priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"Looking back on my time here [I am most proud that] I had the opportunity to continue the tradition of Orchard Lake Schools," **Msgr. Machalski** said.

Msgr. Machalski said the Orchard Lake Schools' Board of Regents has yet to decide on new rector or chancellor, or whether the position will be combined. Before **Msgr. Machalski**, the two prior chancellors weren't rectors.

— Michigan Catholic

Modlitwy

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THANKSGIVING PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN. O Blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily give you the just dues of praise and thanksgiving, you who by the wondrous assent of your will rescued a fallen world? What songs of praise can our weak human nature recite in your honor, since it is by your intervention alone that it has found the way to restoration? Accept, then, such poor thanks as

we have to offer here, though they be unequal to your merit; and, receiving our vows, obtain by your prayers the remission of our offenses. Carry our prayers within the sanctuary of the heavenly audience and bring forth the gift of our reconciliation. Take our offering, grant us our requests, obtain pardon for what we fear, for you are the sole hope of sinners. Holy Mary, help the miserable, strengthen the fainthearted, comfort the sorrowful, pray for your people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God. Be ever ready to assist us when we pray and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it your continual care to pray for the people of God, you who, blessed by God, merited to bear the Redeemer of the world who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen. J.K.

THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE. Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name

known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. J.K.

THANK YOU ST. PEREGRINE FOR FAVORS RECEIVED. O great St. Peregrine, you have been called "The Mighty," "The Wonder-Worker," because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you. For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction. We thank God and Our Lady for the cure of the sick whom we entrusted to you. (Pause here and silently recall the names of the sick for whom you were praying). Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen. J.K.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FR. JUSTIN FIGAS, OFM Conv.



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Books in Brief

My Sister's Mother

MY SISTER'S MOTHER: A MEMOIR OF WAR, EXILE, AND STALIN'S SIBERIA

By Donna Solecka Urbikas
The University of Wisconsin Press, 2016, 302 pps.

by Mary Lanham

It was the middle of the night when Janina Slarzynska, was startled out of her sleep by shouts and loud bangs on her door. It was 1940 in eastern Poland and the cause of the disturbance was the Soviet secret police. With her young daughter, Mira by her side, the NKVD declared that she was under arrested for crimes against the state. Her punishment was hard labor. Janina protested profusely but in vain. She and her daughter were packed on a train destined for Siberia far away from her small farm, from her home. Janina and Mira were hardly the only ones; hundreds of thousands of Poles were forcibly removed from the only lives they ever knew to a life of starvation, disease, mental anguish, and commonly death. Donna Solecka Urbikas examines her family's past, focusing on Janina, her mother, and the horrendous effect of war in her poignant and empowering memoir.

Urbikas skillfully intertwines her own life story growing up in America in the 1950s and her experiences as a mother with her own mother's story. She analyzes the complicated relationship that she had with her mother and her sister as a result of their experiences in the labor camps. In the excerpt below she describes how her traumatic past influenced the way she interacted with the world.

"My mother's lifelong preoccupation with obtaining the basic ne-

cessities in life led her to focus on that rather than on relationships, or so it seemed to me as I was growing up...She did not know how to accept a present or how to give one. 'No one ever gave me presents,' she said of her childhood. 'I could never give Mira anything,' she would lament."

In 1943 with the help of a Polish Army officer, whom Janina later marries, she and Mira managed to escape the camps eventually making their way to the United States by way of India and England where Donna was born before settling in the Midwest. In America they were able to achieve their dream of owning and running their own farm.

In the past year, *My Sister's Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin's Siberia* by Donna Solecka Urbikas has been recognized as a Foreword Indies Finalist and a Midwest Book Award Finalist. After reading *My Sister's Mother*, it is obvious why it has garnered such attention. Urbikas is crafted a refreshingly honest text about the effects that war has on its survivors, and inevitably their children. Her writing and the tale she relays is compelling and will impart itself on your psyche.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Donna Solecka Urbikas was born in England and raised in the Midwest. She has an MS in environmental engineering and has been a high school science teacher and an environmental engineer and is now a realtor and writer. She and her husband reside in Chicago.

the Polish 2nd corps, also known as the Anders Army in 1942 in Iran and remained with the unit on its combat trail to Italy, where it fought among others at Monte Cassino, Bologna, and Ancona. The bear was officially given corporal's rank and was with the soldiers during the Monte Cassino campaign (PAP).

Wojtek Memorial to be Erected

MONTE CASSINO, Italy — A memorial to Wojtek — a Syrian brown bear adopted by soldiers of the Polish 2nd Corps which fought alongside the Allies in the World War II Italian campaign, including the 1944 Battle of Monte Cassino — will be erected in the town Cassino near the battle site. Wojtek joined

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Polonian Places

Our Mother of Consolation, Mt. Carmel

by Gregory L. Witul

Our Mother of Consolation
316 W Mt. Carmel Ave.
Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania
Status: Merged

If northeastern Pennsylvania is known for one thing, it's coal. The combustible rock that fueled the Industrial Revolution can be found under vast stretches of the Keystone State. To haul the stones to the surface, Eastern Europeans were brought in by the boatload. As the Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Slovaks, and Poles began to settle into the town of Mount Carmel, each group started their own churches and in 1896 the Poles of Mount Carmel established Our Mother of Consolation Roman Catholic Church.

In late 1895 Reverend Thomas Messick was transferred to St Joseph's Church, Mount Carmel's first Polish parish. Since its establishment in 1876, St Joseph's saw stellar growth and by the mid-1890s overcrowding had become an issue. To resolve the problem, a number of parishioners purchased three lots on Mt. Carmel Avenue. With about 150 families a dual school-church frame two-story building was erected on the corner of Poplar St. and Mt. Carmel Ave. at the cost of \$3,100.

Father Benedict Tomiak was sent to oversee the new congregation and on February 12, 1897 celebrated the first Mass at Our Mother of Consolation. In the first five years the congregation had doubled in size to 980 parishioners and Father Alachniewicz C.S.Sp. of the Holy Ghost Fathers, who took over the parish in 1903, began planning for a larger church. On July 27, 1904 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for an \$80,000 stone church. Within two years the church was completed and a plot of land on Locust Mountain was purchased to be used as a cemetery. Initially left plain, the parish hired the famed Polish muralist and painter Henry Niemczynski to decorate the interior of the church in 1915.

By the 1920s the parish congregation stood at 4,400 souls and the school, under the tutelage of the Felician Sisters had over 700 students. With such a high enrollment it was decided to build a new school with construction starting in

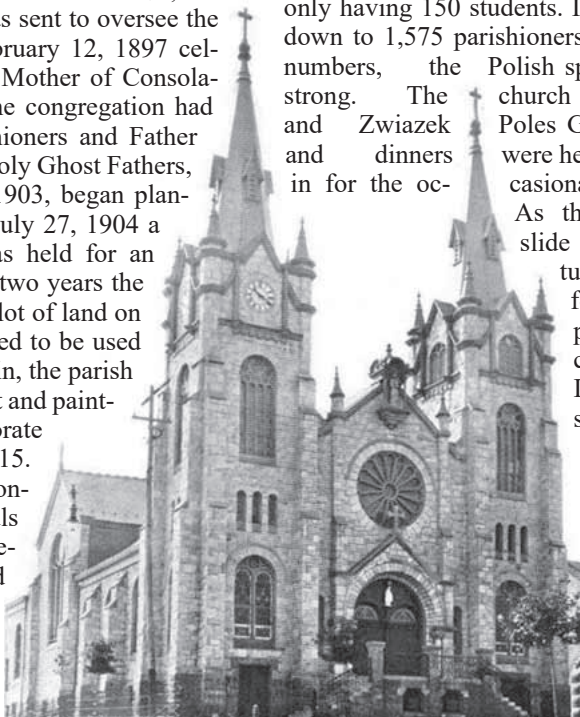


the summer of 1924.

All these projects brought the parish debt to \$307,980 and when the Great Depression hit, the situation looked dire. The parish survived with the help of the Harrisburg Diocese and dedicated parishioners — the debt was down to \$203,000 by 1941. The post-war economy further helped with it being all paid off by 1953.

While the economy was stronger in the early 1950s it had collapsed in the coal region by the middle of the decade. Mines were shut and parish and school enrollment plummeted, as half the population moved out of the region. To save money, all the Catholic schools of Mount Carmel merged in the 1960s, with Consolation only having 150 students. In the 1970s the parish was down to 1,575 parishioners, but despite the declining numbers, the Polish spirit of the parish was still strong. The church supported a Polonia Club Poles Group #483, Polish Masses were held, and dinners were brought in for the occasional polka bash.

As the economy continued to slide for the next quarter century, it became impossible for the dwindling Catholic population to support all the churches in Mount Carmel. In 1995 Our Mother of Consolation and four other parishes were merged to form Divine Redeemer Parish. Today the Our Mother of Consolation campus serves as the home of Divine Redeemer, where some vestiges of its Polish past can still be found in the stained glass windows and pierogi sales.



PMA's Successful Summer Gala

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — June 2 presented a perfect evening for the 37th annual Summer Gala hosted by the Polish Museum of America (PMA). This is also the year that the PMA celebrates its 80th anniversary, as it continues to host programs of interest to the Polonian cultural and artistic communities and beyond.

About 225 guests filled the ballroom of Café LaCave in Des Plaines, Ill., to enjoy cocktails, to peruse the silent auction items, to converse with old friends, and to listen and dance to the charming music of the **Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra**.

The formal evening began with welcoming remarks by **Sharon Orłowski**, the Summer Gala chair, and **Jenny Milkowski**, the evening's mistress of ceremonies and "Good Day Chicago," WFLD Fox 32 personality. The national anthems of Poland and the United States were sung by **Joseph A. Drobot, Jr.**, PMA chair, followed by remarks by **Piotr Janicki**, Polish consul general, and an invocation by **Rev. Jason Torba**, pastor, St. Ferdinand Parish on Chicago's Northwest side. A toast to everyone attending and a promise of a pleasant evening for all was made by **Richard Owsiany**, PMA president, and **Malgorzata Kot**, PMA managing director.

Following dinner, **Maria Pappas**, the PMA's honorary gala chair, gave remarks about her attachment to the Polish Museum, the value of recruiting non-Poles to become members, and a salute to all things Polish.



Legion of Young Polish Women members.

Pappas serves as treasurer of Cook County, Illinois, a post that she has held since 1998. A lawyer, by profession, with an additional degree in counseling psychology, she has perfected these "people skills" throughout her career. Cook County

donations, along with the Copernicus Foundation's \$5,000 gift. Additionally, \$2,500 donations were made by Hubert and Lori Cioromski, the Polish National Alliance, and the TAWANI Foundation. With additional donations given to PMA through its Summer Gala Program Book, the silent auction, the raffle, and anonymous donations, approximately \$125,000 was raised.

Happenings: Chicago Style

May, The Month of the Woman

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Within Chicago's Polish community, May was a month focused on the accomplishments of women. It included a film tribute to Maria Skłodowska-Curie, reports of the passing of internationally-known sculptress, Magdalena Abakanowicz, The Polish Museum of America's "Polish Past in Chicago, 1850-1941" exhibit curated by Julita Siegel, the PWAA's "Celebrating Women's Ethnic Voices," the Polish American Women's Conference, and the visit of concert pianist Idil Biret.

PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN



Julita Siegel

PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN



Lenard's Restaurant window display

EXHIBITION: POLISH PAST IN CHICAGO, 1850 - 1941. On May 15, many gathered at the State of Illinois Thompson Center, including Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, to participate in the opening of the photographic exhibit, "Polish Past in Chicago, 1850-1941." The exhibition was expertly curated by Julita Siegel, photography collections curator of The Polish Museum of America (PMA). It consisted of a collection of 15 panels exhibiting historic photographs from the photographic archives of the PMA with corresponding bi-lingual narratives for each photograph. The exhibit included various aspects of Chicago's Polonia life: photos and narratives of the earliest of Polish settlers; early Polish businesses, churches, and organizations; the Polish Army in America; public services; the Chicago Polish press; women's religious organizations; arts and culture; and Polish children and youth of that period.

Poles began settling in Chicago in the 1850s. They began to establish a community with the construction of St. Stanislaus Kostka in 1867, the first Polish church in Chicago. In 1872, this was followed by the building of Holy Trinity Church a few blocks away. The first Polish language newspaper, *Gazeta Polska Chicago*, was established. Two fraternal organizations, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and the Polish National Alliance, were established in 1873 and 1880 respectively. Chicago's Polish population increased rapidly draw-



Celebrating Women's Ethnic Voices. (l.to r.): Migala, Otaj, Marczevska, Balut Coleman, Kowalewicz, Rozmus, and Piergies.

ing workers for its steel mills and slaughterhouses. Poles also started businesses, such as taverns, grocery stores, and restaurants. Chicago soon became America's most popular city for Polish immigrants. The photographs in the exhibit, drawn from the extensive PMA Collection, illuminate the rich history of Poland's émigrés to the "City of Big Shoulders."

This traveling exhibit remains available for rental, by contacting Julita Siegel, exhibit curator, at julita-siegel@polishmuseumofamerica.org. Funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, the exhibit was available for public viewing from May 15-19, 2017.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S ETHNIC VOICES. In observance of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day, the Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWAA), Council 27, hosted "Celebrating Women's Ethnic Voices" on May 21, at the Lone Tree Manor in Niles, Ill. Introductory remarks were made by **Bogumila "Bo" Padowski**, president of the PWAA Council 27, and **Antoinette Trela**, secretary-treasurer of the PWAA. A panel discussion followed, moderated by **Mary Mirecki Piergies**, English Language editor of *Glos Polek*, the PWAA's publication. Panelists were editors of local, national, and fraternal ethnic media. The panelists were **Geraldine Balut Coleman**, Chicago Bureau chief, associate editor, and reporter of the *Polish American Journal*; **Lidia Kowalewicz**, editor of *Narod Polski*, the official publication from the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; **Magda Marczevska**, news director at Radio WPNA, 1490 AM; **Lucyna Migala**, program director of Radio WCEV, 1450 AM, an ethnic radio station in Chicago and general manager of the Lira Ensemble; **Alicja Otaj**, deputy editor-in-chief of the *Dziennik Zwiqzkowy* newspaper; and **Lidia Rozmus**, Polish Language editor of *Glos Polek* of the PWAA.

The panel discussion focused on the media's role in advancing truth in journalism, the challenges that Polish-oriented and other ethnic media face in the 21st century, such as the mission of the Polish ethnic me-

dia and press, the growth or decline of press or media audience, and concerns about journalistic freedom.

A luncheon followed and a special raffle was held to benefit the PWAA Archives Preservation Project at the Women & Leadership Archives at Loyola University Chicago.

POLISH AMERICAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. "The Polish American Women's Conference—The Power of Influence" was a one-day event held on May 20 at the Polish Museum of America and was open to the public. It featured women of Polish heritage who discussed their perspective on leadership, business, and education, as well as political and community life. The featured speakers were **Jenny Milkowski**, on-camera traffic reporter for "Good Day Chicago" on WFLD Fox News 32; **Dorothy Anasinski, D.D.S.**, periodontist and dental implantologist; **Susan Sadlowski Garza**, alderwoman of Chicago's 10th Ward; and **Eliza Solowiej**, attorney and executive director of First Defense Legal Aid. The program's moderator was **Margaret Ptaszynska**, Polish radio and TV personality and founder of Omnis Communications.

This year's conference was divided into two segments. The power of influence with an involvement in political and community life was discussed by Garza and Solowiej. Turning passion into a profession was discussed by Anasinski and Milkowski.

The conference was attended by motivated women who, not only shared their experiences in how they balanced their daily lives, careers, and personal fulfillment, but who also learned from each other.

The Polonian community has made a significant impact on the spiritual, cultural, political, and economic life of Chicago for over a century. Polish and Polish American women have played an important role as teachers, medical personnel, entrepreneurs, and activists. They have worked to build an outstanding community while, at the same time, raising families.

The conference was organized by **Omnis Communications**, a full service, multi-cultural advertising, marketing, and public relations firm specializing in reaching diverse ethnic groups. It was made possible by the **Polish Consulate General in Chicago** and **Polish Women in Business**.

PIANIST IDIL BIRET VISITS PMA. On May 17, the Polish Museum of America was honored by a visit from **Idil Biret**, internationally renowned Turkish concert pianist. The prior evening, Ms. Biret had just performed a recital at Roosevelt University's Ganz Hall. She was accompanied to the Museum by **Umut Acar**, consul general of Turkey, and **Piotr Janicki**, consul general of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. Biret enjoyed a tour of the Ignacy

PHOTO: GERALDINE BALUT COLEMAN

Museum of America, (PMA) hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon paying tribute to the PMA volunteers who, throughout the year, help at Museum events and exhibits. As the heart and soul of the PMA, not much could be done without their help. **Małgorzata Kot**, PMA's managing director, and **Richard Owsiany**, PMA's president, opened with welcoming remarks. **Michał Korzistka**, international concert pianist, provided an outstanding appreciation performance:

Waltz in A-Flat Major and *Polonaise in A Major* by Fryderyk Chopin; two pieces from *20 Piano Pieces* by Jacek Glenc; *Maski, Opus 34*, by Karol Szymanowski; and *Preludes* by George Gershwin.

After the concert, Kot and Owsiany presented this

PHOTO: JULITA SIEGEL



Biret playing on Paderewski's piano.



PMA volunteers.

Paderewski Room and gave a short concert for the intimate gathering by playing *Étude E Minor, Opus 25, No. 5* by Fryderyk Chopin on Paderewski's own piano. Biret is the "State Artist" of Turkey, an honorary title given to her because of her contributions to the Turkish culture. Interestingly, in 2007 she was decorated with the Cavalry Cross by the Polish President Lech Kaczynski for her contributions to Polish culture through her recordings and performances of Chopin's music.

APPRECIATING PMA VOLUNTEERS. On May 11, the Polish

year's outstanding volunteers of the year awards to **Bogusława Yon**, **Teresa Wierzbicka**, and **Lidia Kowalewicz**. This was followed by a Polish-style luncheon catered by Chicago's famed Kasia's Deli and plenty of camaraderie among those attending.

Korzistka is a professor at the Cieszyn Branch of the University of Silesia, where he teaches piano and a number of other music courses. He is a vice president of the Bielsko Music Society and organizes international master classes for young pianists under the auspices of the University.

Polish Dictionary App Now Available on Apple, Google, and Windows Stores

NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation launched applications of its New Polish-English, English-Polish Dictionary, available for Android and Apple smartphones and tablets, as well as for Windows 10 personal computers.

Thoroughly updated with the latest vocabulary, The New Kosciuszko Foundation Dictionary is one of the largest English-Polish dictionaries ever published. It contains nearly 142,000 headwords, 109,000 idioms and phrases and 439,000 translations. The distinctive feature of the dictionary is that it is based on American English, although characteristic British usage as well as forms typical of other varieties of English have also been noted.

The richness of lexical information, including not only everyday expressions, but also technical terminology, literary language, and archaic vocabulary, makes the dictionary an indispensable tool in the hands of both English and Polish speakers, irrespective of their degree of proficiency in the other language.

Key features include: Over

690,000 headwords, idioms, phrases and translations, no Internet connection required; detailed view of all headwords; a simplified guide to grammar in both languages; and a variety of search tools including full text, search-as-you-type, and search idiomatic expressions.

The app is available at a discounted price of \$9.99 (plus applicable taxes) till August 31, 2017. After that day, it will cost \$12.99.

All proceeds from the sale of the dictionary apps will be used to further the Kosciuszko Foundation's educational and cultural programs and activities.

The present dictionary app is a new, digital version of the revised New Kosciuszko Foundation English-Polish, Polish-English Dictionary, published in two volumes by the Kosciuszko Foundation (New York) and Universitas (Krakow) in 2003. That Dictionary, in turn, was an incarnation of the Kosciuszko Foundation Dictionary published almost half a century earlier (1959 English-Polish volume; 1961 Polish-English volume).

Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

WNY PAC Establishes Anti-Defamation Committee

by Michael Pietruszka

BUFFALO, N.Y. — An **Anti-Defamation Committee** was developed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Polish American Congress, Western New York Division, Inc. This action took place subsequent to defamatory activities that recently took place on 97 Rock, a popular radio station in our area.

The purpose of the Committee will be to serve as a diverse and representative body in receiving complaints, providing reviews and assessments, and making recommendations for reasonable actions to be taken by the board of directors of the Polish American Congress in instances where defamatory activities have taken place within the community.

Polish American Congress, Western New York Division President, James L. Ławicki II remarked, "It is troubling and a highly unfortunate reality that defamatory activities against Polish Americans still exists today despite the efforts of the Polish American Congress and other like organizations. So long as these disturbing activities continue, we, as a community, must stand ready and prepared to appropriately address and defend against defamatory activities as they arise."

THE JACKIE SCHMID SCHOLARSHIP FUND announced the recipients of this year's awards. They are: **Eric Barnick**, Cheektowaga Central / SUNY Buffalo; **Julie Karpinski**, Cleveland Hill / Daemen College; **George Pollinger**, Depew Central / Mercyhurst University; **Kelly Glowny**, JFK High School / Buffalo State University; **George Joelak**, Maryvale H.S. / Gannon University; and **Carl J. Luksch**, St. Francis / Temple University.

The Fund was instituted in 2013 to honor the life and legacy of Jackie Schmid through the promotion of community involvement, scholastic achievement, and Polish heritage.

Schmid, who took a leadership role in area social, civic, and political organizations, believed that the strongest communities are those where neighbors know each other and work together toward common goals. The Fund aims to keep alive her spirit through the promotion of community involvement, scholastic achievement, and Polish heritage.

POLONIA TIDBITS. Summer Polish language courses are being offered at the Maryvale Robert Binner Educational Center in Cheektowaga ... The Western New York (WNY)

Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC) is seeking volunteers to take over the maintenance of the **Polish Veterans' Plot** in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, as it was determined that the friends and family of those individuals interred there would be more appropriate for this task than the PAC board ... Erie County Judge **Michael Pietruszka** recently spoke on the topic of Domestic Violence at a "Conference Comparing Italian and U.S. Criminal Law" in Bari, Italy.

The first **Buffalo Pierogi Fest** on the Outer Harbor awarded the

following honors to local purveyors of pierogi participating: Ru's Pierogi - "Most Creative Pierogi" and "Buffalo's Best Pierogi"; and Keeping Traditions - "Most Traditional Pierogi" ... **Raymond Wardynski**, the owner of Wardynski and Sons Meats in Buffalo, passed away recently at the age of 96 ... The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo honored **Hon. Carl Bucki**, Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York, and **Dr. Deborah Bruch Bucki**, at its "Biesiada 2017" held at Banchetti's Banquet Facility in Amherst, June 1st ... The **Laureates' Concert** of the Maria and Czeslaw Sadowski Poetry Competition was held at the W. Reymont Foundation in Hamilton, Ontario; and SWAP Post 114 from Toronto held a picnic at Paderewski Park in Vaughn, Ontario, June 4th.

Buffalo native **William Kowalski** launched his latest book, "The Best Polish Restaurant in Buffalo," at the Talking Leaves Bookstore, June 7 ... On June 9th, Ilona Kowalik, Kaja Cyganik, Anna Adamczewska-Niewulis, Jaroslaw Garbowski, Wojtek Stec, Agata Ślazyk and Tomasz Kmiecik presented the "Power of Song" at the **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** in Mississauga, Ontario ... **Polonia groups** across Southern Ontario marked "Kids' Day" the weekend of June 10th and 11th ... **Rev. Michael Burzynski**, pastor of St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga, was installed as the administrator of St. John Kanty and St. Adalbert Parishes on Buffalo's East Side by Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone, June 10th



EARNs EAGLE SCOUT STATUS. Anthony Rozek of Buffalo, N.Y. earned his Eagle Scout status from the Greater Niagara Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was decorated at a banquet in his honor, June 8, 2017. Rozek, who started as a Cub at St. Bernard's R.C. Parish, became an Eagle at Troop 864, which meets at the Elks Lodge 1478 in Lancaster, N.Y., which accepted the St. Bernard's group when its program ended.

Rozek is shown here with his mentor and Scout Leader Jerome Skierczynski.

Rozek will be starting his sophomore year at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he is majoring in business. His parents are Kim Marie and Anthony, Jr. Rozek of Buffalo.

... The 13th Annual **Polish Heritage Festival** was sponsored by the Polish Union of America at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca, June 10th. This year's theme was "Honoring our Veterans - Polish and American". Entertainment was provided by the Buffalo Touch and John Gora & Gorale.

Mississauga Polish Day 2017 took place, June 10, at Celebration Square. Entertainment included Brawo, Zrodlo, Ludowa Nuta, Kosorjum, Radosc-Joy, Polky Village Band, Lechowia, Novi Singers, OK Janus, Kompot, Polton, Mr. System, and Ania Leszonska, and Pawel Szczepanek. Details are available at <<http://mississaugapolishday.ca>>

WNYERS have a new source for Polish food, the **Side Door Deli** on Broadway in Lancaster ... The Quo Vadis Choir and Camerata Ensemble, along with sopranos Kinga Mitrowska, Karolina Podolak and Ania Wijeik and pianist Mariusz Michalak, presented "Love and Peace" to benefit **Radio Rodzina** AM 530 at St. Eugene De Mazunod Church in Brampton, Ontario, June 11th ... Also, June 11th, the **Polish Veterans Pilgrimage** honoring the deceased soldiers of Gen. Haller's Blue Army on the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Camp Kosciuszko was held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Many Polish and Canadian dignitaries participated in this year's centennial observance ... On June 15th at the the **Golden Lion Lounge** in Etobicoke, Ontario, the Polish Jazz Quartet, Novi Singers and soloists Joanna Gorska, Riccardo Iannello, Anna Kolosowski, Karolina Podolak, Michael Robert-

Broder, Myroslava Solovianenko and Anna Wojcik, presented "Opera, Cabaret and Jazz."

The **Polish Cadets of Buffalo** held its 2nd Annual "Cruise, Blues and BBQ" event at their clubrooms in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood on the 17th ... Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone led the congregations of St. Stanislaus and Corpus Christi Parishes in a procession through Buffalo's Historic Polonia District to mark the **Feast of Corpus Christi**, June 18th ... On the 18th, the Meeting House in Oakville, Ontario presented "**Pol-ska Noc Kabaretowa 2017**" featuring Kabaret Moralnego Niepokoju, Paraniormalni, Jerzy Kryszak and Kabaret Skeczów Męczących ... The 63rd Annual **Syracuse Polish Festival** was held June 23-25, in Clinton Square in Downtown Syracuse. Entertainers included the Noisy Boys Band, John Steven's Doubleshot Band, Destination Band, New Direction Band, John Spillet Quartet, Melody Lane Band, EpicSoul Band, and Mansfield Ave. Band. The **Lechowia Polish Canadian Dance Company** performed and Col. Richard Sloma was named "Pole-of-the-Year. Find out more at www.polishscholarship.org ... The **Adam Mickiewicz Library and Dramatic Circle** hosted its "St. John's Eve KupalaFest" at its clubrooms in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District on the 24th.

The Polish Consulate General in Toronto and the Polish Canadian Women's Association hosted a "**Wianki - Noc Swietojanska**" featuring performances by Adam Woronowicz, Jaroslaw Garbowski, Kaja Cyganik, Anna Adamczewska Niewulis, Ewelina Ferenc, Tristan Murphy, Matti Palonen and Robert Leszczynski, at the consulate on the 24th ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** held its quarterly general membership meeting at the St. Stanislaus Msgr. Pitass Center on the 28th ... June 28th, the Syracuse Chiefs baseball team hosted the Scranton/Wilkes Barre Rail Riders at NBT Bank Stadium for the team's "**Polish Night**" ... The **Polish Heritage Society of Rochester** sponsored a trip to Poland, the "Royal Wedding Tour," from June 29th through July 12th ...

UPCOMING. Immaculate Conception Parish in Eden will hold a **Polish Folk Mass** and Pork Chop Dinner on July 8th ... The **Podhale Parents and Youth Association** will host its annual "Podhale Picnic" at the group's camp in Franklinville on July 8th and 9th ... On July 9th, Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston will observe its "**Our Lady of Czestochowa / Polish Day**" ... This year's 39th Annual Cheektowaga **Polish American Festival** will take

place in the Town Park on Harlem Road from July 13th through the 16th. The musical groups scheduled to perform include the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, Special Delivery, Touch, Rare Vintage, Villa Maria Chorale, Lenny Gomulka & the Chicago Push, The Boys, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY and The Beat ... The **General Pulaski Association Parade** will be held on Harlem Road in Cheektowaga, July 16. Polish Secretary of State Anna Maria Anders, daughter of World War II hero General Wladyslaw Anders, will lead this year's parade ... The **Pulaski Police Association** of Buffalo and WNY will hold its Family Picnic at Como Park in Lancaster on August 2nd ... The St. Stanislaus **Polish Arts Festival** will be held on the parish grounds in Rochester on August 4-5.

The **American Council for Polish Culture** will hold its Annual Convention in Toronto from August 9 through the 13 ... The Buffalo Bisons Baseball team will honor **Rev. Daniel Palys** as its "Polish American of the Year," and **Ed Reska** with its Polish Community Leadership Award, at its "Polish Festival Night" at Coca Cola Field in Downtown Buffalo on August 15th. The Bisons will play the Indianapolis Indians and group tickets are available from Mark Gordon at (716) 846-2018 ... The 2017 **Roncesvalles Polish Festival**, North America's largest celebration of Polish culture in Toronto, will take place September 16th and 17th. More information can be found at www.polishfestival.ca ... The AAA of Western and Central New York will be offering its "**Discovering Poland**" tour with October 5th and 19th, and November 2nd departures ... The **Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY** will host their 20th Anniversary Gala at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca, October 14 ... The **Msgr. Adamski Polish Saturday School** will host its Annual Banquet at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga on October 28th ... The Niagara Historical Society Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario will present an exhibit "**Camp Kosciuszko: The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917-1919**" from November 1, 2017 through November 15, 2018 ... The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of JoAnn Falletta, will present Krakow-born pianist **Konrad Skolarski** in recital on November 1st, and performing in "Chopin's Piano" on November 4th, at Kleinhans Music Hall.

If you have an item for this column, please send the information by the 6th day of the month preceding publication month (i.e. July 6 for the August issue) to pietruszka@verizon.net.

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Travelogue – 5 Days in Poland

Poland's Jews: Under a New Roof

by Staś Kmieć

Part XXIV

Waving a final good-bye to the ballet hall and the choir room before they are reconstructed into new space, I grabbed my carry bag and was off to the Otrębusy station to take the regional train to Warsaw. I stamped my train ticket and stood amongst the morning commuters on their cell phones; some reading the free Metro paper; others sipping coffee.

The primary reason for the visit into the city was to view POLIN – the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (Muzeum Historii Żydów Polskich). I had made contact earlier, and a private tour was arranged to expedite a quick viewing.

In Manhattan back in 2012, I had been invited to the Polish Consulate for a preview of the Museum ahead of its official inauguration. There were many speeches by various chairmen and fundraising directors, but I was enthralled with the presentation of Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University), the Program Director of the Museum's Core Exhibition. With the assistance of PowerPoint imagery, she guided the audience through a tour of model renderings and offered an insider's look of the road to reality.

During the Communist era, as I was completing ethnographic and folk culture studies in Lublin, no mention was ever made of Poland's Jews. I had to find that out on my own. With fellow student and friend Larry Kozłowski – the director of Alliance College's Kujawiaki, we would venture to hard-to-find synagogues and Jewish cemeteries, to seek any insight of what had been.

I stood before Nathan Rapoport's 1948 Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, one of the first Holocaust memorials ever constructed. Behind it was the museum – a building that at first glance appeared quite ordinary in its exterior shape: an almost perfect box.

Designed by the Finnish architect Rainer Mahlamäki and Ilmari Lahdelma, the building is rendered in a curved, flowing sandstone-like material, which was then encased in a gleaming façade of glass.

The shape of the portal suggests the combined shape of the Hebrew characters spelling the word chai, or "life." The exterior is subtly constituted by the word Polin repeated infinite times on the silk-printed glass envelope, as well as on the perforated copper sun-screen panels.

Polin, the museum's name echoes a Polish-Jewish legend: the first Jews to arrive in the tenth century came through a forest and heard a whisper from the Heavens saying "Polin" (another Hebrew name for Poland). The word has the same sound as "Po-lin," meaning "rest here." So they decided to settle in this place.

Before the Second World War, Poland was the largest center of Jewish life in Europe – with over 3 million Jews, about 10 per cent of the overall population. Over 300,000 members of the Jewish faith lived in Warsaw alone, and the capital was one of the most important centers of Jewish spiritual and cultural life. Most of Warsaw's Jews lived in what was known as the "Northern Quarter," now called Muranów. The Germans erected a ghetto there in the autumn of 1942, where over 400,000 people were confined. In summer 1942, around 300,000 inhabitants of the ghetto were deported to Treblinka. The remaining inhabitants incited an uprising in April 1943. After the uprising had been suppressed, the Germans razed the entire ghetto to the ground. Following the war, a new residential area made up of buildings in the Stalinist "wedding cake" style was built over the rubble.

Made from brick salvaged from the ancient streets of the Warsaw Ghetto, the mezuzah mounted on the museum's doorpost, was chosen in an international competition and was created by father-and-son team Andrzej and Maciej Bulanda. The cavernous entrance hall forms a high, undulating wall. Similar in shape to gorge, it could be a reference to the crossing of the Red Sea known from the Exodus, or appear to be the side of an Ark.

I soon meet Magda Skrętkowicz from the Communications Department, who would guide me through the museum. The building opened and began its educational and cul-



The painted cupola and bimah of the Gwoździec Synagogue, a permanent exhibit at Polin the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

tural programs on April 19, 2013 on the 70th Anniversary of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, I was getting a sneak peek, as the Core Exhibition had not been fully completed at that time. [Editor's note: Five Days in Poland took place in May of 2013. The official opening, with the completed Core Exhibition, was on October 28, 2014. In 2016, POLIN won the title of the European Museum of the Year Award (EMYA).]

THE CORE EXHIBITION. A millennium of Jewish history cannot be reduced to the six-year period between 1939 and 1945, when Nazi Germany exterminated six million European Jews. While the Second World War occupies an important place in the exhibition, the institution is not a Holocaust museum. The main mission is to present the richness and variety of Jewish culture and tradition in Poland. This approach is to make visible what Poland and Europe had lost. Memorials like the Heroes Monument pay tribute to Polish Jews by remembering how they died; the museum is designed to honor Polish Jews by remembering how they lived.

A presentation of the color and complexity of the Polish-Jewish encounter, the narrative that begins with the earliest traces of Jews in Polish territories, moves through the centuries in a multimedia narrative of interactive installations, paintings and oral histories. It portrays the Jewish world in Poland and Eastern Europe as the vital nation it was.

The Core Exhibition consists of eight galleries that document that celebrate this thousand-year history. It covers seven historical periods beginning in the tenth century, coming forward to the present, and opening out to the future.

1. The Forest (Las) tells the tale of how, fleeing from persecution in Western Europe, the Jews came to Poland. The painted forest is the symbolic backdrop for the arrival of those first Jewish exiles who gave the country and the museum its Jewish name.

2. First Encounters – 10th century-1507 (Pierwsze spotkania) is devoted to the first Jewish settlers in Poland. Jews arriving in Poland received a warm welcome from local rulers, who saw them as a way to modernize the economy. The legal rights and status of Polish Jews were defined by the famous Statute

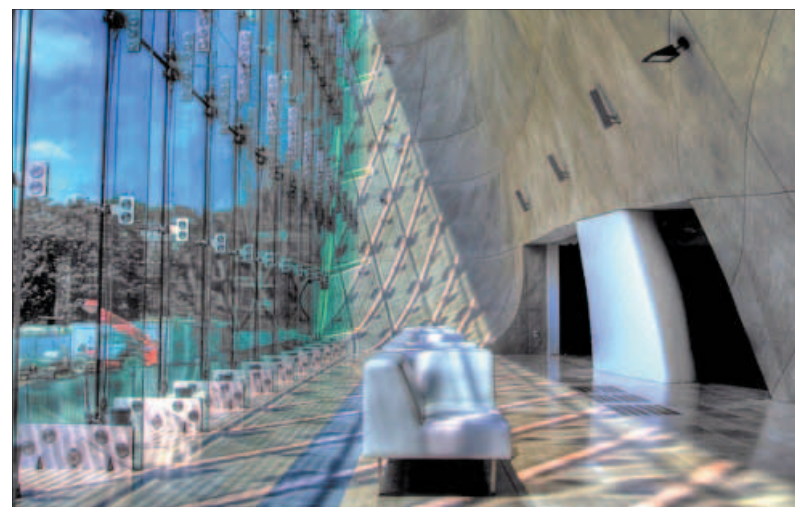
The centerpiece of the permanent display is a vibrant, colorful full-scale reproduction of the tiered timber roof of a seventeenth-century wooden synagogue from Gwoździec, Galicia (photo, left). Its vaulted ceiling was painted with meticulously researched and recreated folk motifs. Once commonplace on Poland's plains, such shuls were systematically destroyed during the war.

Led by Richard and Laura Brown, an American couple both on faculty at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, the reconstruction is the result of a ten-year project – originally independent of the museum. The interior is covered from the bimah (raised platform from which the Torah is read) to ceiling with snippets of Hebrew liturgy, zodiac signs, messianic symbols, and an array of animals, both real and mythological. Produced by artisans and students, using only period materials and tools, it was painted in pigments that would have been available to builders at the time,

No trace of the original building remains; the synagogue in Gwoździec was burnt to the ground during World War II. The synagogue is a majestic jewel box of a sanctuary, a reminder that the world of the shtetl was not simply a domain of poverty and despair but also a thing of beauty.

5. Encounters with Modernity – 1772-1914 (Wyzwania Nowoczesności) presents the time of the partitions when Jews shared the fate of Polish society divided between Austria, Prussia and Russia. The exhibition includes the role played by Jewish entrepreneurs in the industrial revolution in Polish lands. Changes in traditional Jewish rituals and other areas of life, and the emergence of new social movements, religious and political are depicted. This period is also marked by the emergence of modern anti-Semitism, especially after the death of Józef Piłsudski.

Visitors can sit at an interactive table surrounded by three thrones, representing the three partitioning empires and get to know the history of the partitions, as well as the consequences for Jews. At a nineteenth-century train station, they will see the history of mass migration,



The museum is housed in a shimmering glass building erected on the site of the Warsaw Ghetto facing the dramatic monument erected atop the rubble left when the Nazis crushed the ghetto uprising in 1943.

which led to the creation of a Cossack Hetmanate in Ukrainian lands. This event is commemorated by a symbolic fire gall leading to the next gallery.

4. The Jewish Town – 1648-1772 (Miasteczko) presents the history of Polish Jews until the period of the partitions. It is shown by an example of a typical borderland town where Jews constituted a significant part of the population.

learn about the role of Jews in the construction of the railway, or the Hasidic train that ran between Warsaw and Góra Kalwaria, where the famous Gerer rabbi lived. The great writer, Isaac Leybush Peretz, is presented in an interactive photograph, with every item on his desk standing for a given aspect of his life and work.

continued next month

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Polish Chef

Fresh Polish-style Salads

by Robert Strybel

Poles may not be big salad eaters like the French or Italians, but they do have a number of tasty, easy-to-prepare favorites:

CUCUMBERS & SOUR CREAM (mizeria). Peel 2 nice-sized cucumbers and slice into thin rounds. Sprinkle with salt and a bit 1 t sugar and 1 t lemon juice and toss. Fork-blend $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ c sour cream and pour over cucumbers. Serve immediately./Optional: intersperse 1 small, thinly sliced onion. Garnish with fresh chopped dill if desired.

CUCUMBERS & VINAIGRETTE (mizeria z vinegretem). Slice, salt and drain cucumbers as above. Toss with 1-2 small onions sliced thin and broken up into rings. Dress with vinaigrette (see below) to taste.

VINAIGRETTE (vinegret). To prepare slightly more than 1/2 c vinaigrette dressing, combine 1/3 c cider or white wine vinegar with salt & pepper to taste, 1-2 cloves crushed garlic, 1 t sugar and (optional) 1 t Provençal or Italian seasoning. Mix well and stir in 1/4 c extra virgin olive oil or canola oil.

LETTUCE SALAD, POLISH STYLE (zielona salata po polsku). For a genuine Polish-style salad, select Boston or bib lettuce (rather than iceberg, leaf, romaine or other varieties). Twist off and discard the core that holds the leaves together. Separate the leaves and wash well, dry on paper towel and place in shallow serving dish. (Polish style-lettuce salad is not ordinarily served in deep salad bowls.) If the leaves are quite long, tear each into 2 or 3 pieces. To dress 2 small to medium heads lettuce, fork-blend 2/3 - 3/4 c sour cream with juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1/4 t salt and 1 t sugar and pour over lettuce. Variations: 1) after

dressing the lettuce decorate the top with 2 sliced hard-cooked eggs; 2) scatter 8 - 10 thinly sliced radishes over the lettuce before or after dressing with sour-cream sauce; 3) scatter 4 - 5 chopped green onions over lettuce before or after dressing; 4) garnish the basic recipe or variants 1-3 with chopped chives.

SCALDED LETTUCE SALAD (salata parazona). Core, wash and dry 3-4 small heads of Boston lettuce. Break up leaves into salad bowl. In skillet fry 1/8 lb diced pork fatback into golden-brown nuggets, stir in 1 t sugar, 1 t salt (if using unsalted fatback) and about 4 T cider vinegar. Immediately drench lettuce with hot, sizzling mixture and toss to coat leaves evenly.

TOMATO SALAD (salatka z pomidorów). Wash and slice 2-3 firm tomatoes and arrange on large serving dish in a single layer. Chop 1 med onion fine. Salt & pepper tomatoes and sprinkle with a little lemon juice. Sprinkle salad with chopped chives or green onions. Dress with vinaigrette. It can also be dressed with liquefied (fork-blended) sour cream.

SPRING-ONION SALAD (surówka ze szczypioru). Wash well, drain and chop 4 bunches of green opinions. Sprinkle with salt & pepper and drench with sour-cream sauce as in lettuce Polish style (above). 2-3 diced hard-cooked eggs may be added.

RADISH SALAD (surówka z rzodkiewek). Trim if necessary, wash, dry and slice thin (with knife or on slicer blade of hand-held grater) 2 -3 bunches radishes. Place in serving dish and toss with finely chopped fresh dill. Salt, sprinkle with 1 T sugar and drench with c fork-blended sour cream.

Our Veterans

The "Captain" Remembers

William E. Dobrucki of Cohoes, N.Y., shared an article with the Polish American Journal about Sampson Air Force Base, in Geneva, N.Y., where he received his training during the Korean War.

Named after Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, the facility was established initially by the United States Navy as a Naval Training Station (USNTS Sampson) in 1942. Construction of the facility, formerly 2,600 acres of farmland and vineyards on the east side of Seneca Lake, took 270 days to complete. Along with the training station, a 1,500-bed hospital was constructed. The mission of USNTS Sampson was Naval basic training for large numbers of new recruits and it fulfilled that mission: during the war, over 411,000 recruits were trained at the station.

In conjunction with the building of Sampson, and adjacent to it, the United States Army established its Seneca Army Depot which was used to store a wide variety of ammunition.

With the end of the war, USNTS Sampson was closed and turned over to the War Assets Administration in 1946. Most of the facility was taken over by New York State, which planned to establish a two-year junior community college on the site, using most of the buildings as a campus. The USN Hospital was eventually taken over by the State of New York, renaming it the Willard State Hospital Sampson Annex in 1947.

With the outbreak of the Korean War, the

United States Air Force took interest in the former Naval Station for use as a basic military training base. Custody of the most of the property of the training center was transferred to the Air Force in 1950, and it was renamed Sampson Air Force Base on November 15, 1950.

The Air Force spent about \$6 million (roughly \$50 million today) on renovations and, beginning in February 1951, started training what would eventually be 16,000 Air Force recruits.

Dobrucki was among the trainees who arrived in lots of 300 each day for the eight-week indoctrination course. He graduated Airman First Class (E-3).

Sampson AFB was closed in 1956 and put into caretaker status. Since then,

parts of the facility have been converted to a civil picnic area called Sampson State Park. In addition, the United States Navy operates the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) sonar test facility on a part of the facility. However, most of the former base is abandoned.

Dobrucki, affectionately known in Polish American circles as "Captain Hrukus," is the legendary leader of the Hrukus Hellraisers, a group of die-hard polka fans who lend their support to the music and the bands through attendance at events throughout the United States and Canada.



Airman First Class
William E. Dobrucki

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Polish cuisine is hearty and filling, and though some may think the Polish diet is all meat and potatoes, that is far from the truth. With its rich soups, innumerable salads and side dishes, tasty fish and vegetarian meals, colorful and delectable desserts, and yes, meat and potato fare, this cuisine consists of a wide variety of dishes incorporating a broad selection of cultural and regional influences that will have you licking your lips.

Organized by course, this cookbook features more than one hundred recipes, including beet soup, cucumber salad, potato pancakes, Hunter's Stew, pork and rice stuffed cabbage leaves, traditional "babka" cake, and of course, pierogi! Numerous recipes for veal, chicken, kielbasa sausage, pork, and beef dishes make this a great and thorough cookbook that is a fantastic addition to any kitchen.

With easy-to-follow instructions for simple as well as more intricate dishes, a section on traditional holiday meals, estimated cooking times, and suggestions for healthy ingredient substitutions, this cookbook will teach anyone how to cook delicious Polish food. For those wishing to re-create their grandmother's favorite recipe, or those wanting to experience a new cuisine, Authentic Polish Cooking will bring a bit of Eastern Europe to your home.



POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK

by Sophie Knab
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Item 2-632

337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes

an expanded edition to a best-selling book that 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.

The Polish Country Kitchen Cookbook gives its readers priceless historical information such as the type of utensils used in Poland at the turn of the century, the meaning behind the Pascal butter lamb, and many other insightful answers to common questions asked by descendants of Polish immigrants.

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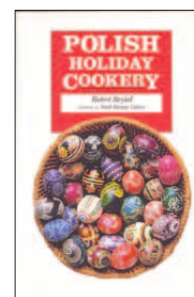
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2013, 96 pp. 8 1/2 x

8 1/2. Index. 100 color photos

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 photo-

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POLISH HOLIDAY COOKERY

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by Robert Strybel

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Polish Holi-

day Cookery ac-

quaints 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.

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES



by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski

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160 pp., spiral bound

This cookbook features a great variety of flavorful regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, Polish hunter's stew, stuffed baked turkey, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas.

Readers also will find a table grace and information on dyeing traditional brown Easter eggs.

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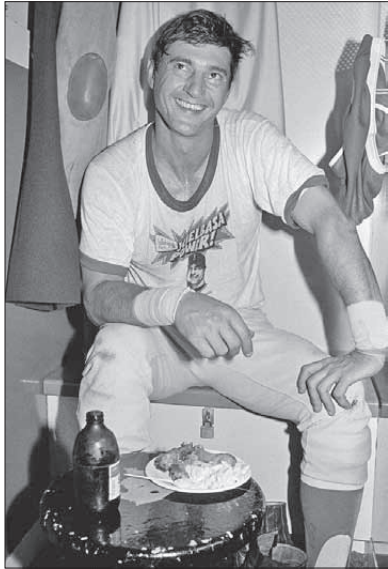


POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 32nd year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac 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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Sports

Remembering Yastrzemski and "The Impossible Dream"



Carl "Yaz" Yastrzemski

by Tom Tarapacki

It was 50 years ago that **Carl Yastrzemski** had one of the greatest seasons in baseball history, leading the Boston Red Sox to an American League pennant, while earning American League MVP honors. Yaz was captain of the 1967 "Impossible Dream" Boston Red Sox, and that season he not only was MVP but became the last hitter to date to win the Triple Crown, earned a Gold Glove for his defense in left field, was voted the Major League Player of the Year, and led the Red Sox to the franchise's first World Series appearance in 21 years.

Yaz had great numbers, especially considering that he did so during an era when pitching was dominant. Yaz led the league in home runs (44), and RBIs (121), and topped the AL in batting average (.326), on-base percentage (.418), and slugging percentage (.622). He also finished first in runs scored (112), hits (189) and total bases (360).

The Red Sox won the pennant by one game, ahead of the Tigers and Twins, and Yaz was clutch. He batted .417 in the month of September with nine home runs in 96 at-bats. In the last fifteen games of the season, Yaz batted .491 with five homers and 18 RBIs.

Yastrzemski was born in Bridgehampton, N.Y. to Carl Yastrzemski, Sr. and Hattie Skonieczny, both of Polish heritage. Now 77, he is the proud grandfather of Mike Yastrzemski, who is playing in the Baltimore organization.

BYE BYE A.J.

It's official: **A.J. Pierzynski** has retired from baseball.

The two-time All-Star catcher had a reputation for being abrasive, confrontational, and mischievous. His former manager Ozzie Guillén once famously said, "If you play against him, you hate him. If you play with him, you hate him a little less."

Pierzynski's feisty nature often got under other players' skins, but he had a very long and successful big league career. A career .280 hit-



A.J. Pierzynski

ter, Pierzynski started his big league career with Minnesota as a member of its "Pole Patrol" in 1998, and later played for the White Sox, Giants, Rangers, Red Sox, Cardinals and the Braves. He was a member of the 2005 White Sox World Series championship team. A.J. is now using his brash style to great advantage as a full-time analyst with Fox Sports.

A.J. is from the same town as Carl Yastrzemski, Bridgehampton, N.Y. In fact A.J.'s grandfather, Anthony Pierzynski, played for a semi-pro baseball team on Long Island started by fellow potato farmer Carl Yastrzemski Sr. Yaz Sr. managed the Bridgehampton White Eagles and played shortstop. Four Yastrzemski brothers played on the team, and the batboy was Carl Yastrzemski, Jr.

DYNGUS DAY IN THE NBA. Dyngus Day got some attention on national TV when video from Dyngus Day in Cleveland was shown on TNT's *Inside the NBA* show. "This is celebrated all over the country," said host Ernie Johnson. Saying he never heard of it, panelist Charles Barkley asked where in the country it's celebrated. Johnson replied: "Mainly in Buffalo — Buffalo's a big hotbed for Dyngus Day." I'm not sure why a show about the NBA got into a discussion of Dyngus Day, but the panelists had a lot of fun with it. Check it out on YouTube.

You might recall that a couple of years ago the TNT crew had a heated discussion about pierogi during a game when Washington's Polish-born center, Marcin Gortat, had a 31-point, 16-rebound performance. "Barbecued pierogi alert, barbecued pierogi alert!" shouted panelist 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." He explained that Shaq confused pierogi and kielbasa. After the game, Gortat settled the argument by telling them you cannot barbeque pierogi.

POLISH CLIMBERS. Michael Powell wrote an excellent in-depth piece in *the New York Times* about Polish climbers, "who for reasons of history and culture have earned reputations as the greatest climbers of the Himalayas in winter." The

leader of the expedition.

"A decade ago, what remains of the old guard challenged a younger generation to test limits of flesh, endurance and creativity in the Himalayas," he wrote. "Their story, embedded in the urge of free spirits to slip the unsmiling bonds of a Cold-War communist government, offers our starting point." According to Powell, after World War II and the Communists regime, Poles went to the mountains for freedom. "Poland's climbing clubs swelled with members," wrote Powell. "The most famous was found in Katowice, a steel town a few hours drive from the Tatras." The Katowice club has a coat of arms with an eagle and an ice pick.

The article is titled "Scaling the World's Most Lethal Mountain, in the Dead of Winter" and is available on the Times website.

HALL OF FAMER. Leigh Barczewski was recently inducted into the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame. Originally a speed skater from West Allis, Wisconsin, he was a Junior National Champion in skating. He started in bicycle racing at age 14 and became a cycling track sprinter placing fourth at the 1973 World Junior Championships in the Match Sprint. He also finished fourth at the U.S. Championships in 1974. In 1976 he won the U.S. Olympic Trials and competed in the 1976 Montréal Olympic Games in the 1,000 meter Match Sprint.

Leigh represented the United States in the tandem sprints in two World Championships, finishing 2nd in 1978 in Munich, Germany along with driver Jerry Ash. He won four consecutive National Championships on the track in the Match Sprints.

In May 1980, Leigh and National Pursuit Champion Dave Gryllis pedaled an aerodynamic Vector tandem tricycle to a world record of 62.9 mph at the Ontario Speedway in California. When the US decided to boycott the 1980 Summer Olympics, Barczewski retired from the sport at the age of 24.

MARINO WAS A POLISH RIFLE. There have been a lot of "Polish Rifles" — outstanding Polish American quarterbacks in the NFL — over the years. **Ed Danowski, Johnny Lujack, Ron Jaworski, and Steve Bartkowski** are among them. You may not know that **Dan Marino**, a quarterback for the Miami Dolphins and NFL Hall of Famer, is one of them. His father's ancestry was half Italian and half Polish, while his mother is of Polish descent.

Dan is the son of Veronica (Kolczynski) and Daniel Marino. Dan's paternal grandparents were Constantine Marino and Julia Batko. Julia was born in Pennsylvania to Polish parents, George Batko and Anna Kotik. Dan's maternal grandparents were Stanley Kolczynski and Helen Rudzka, both of Polish ancestry.

DANOWSKI MADE HIS MARK. Duke University men's lacrosse head coach **John Danowski** became the NCAA Division I men's lacrosse wins leader with a victory over Jacksonville during the regular season. Coaching in his 563rd



Duke University men's lacrosse head coach John Danowski

career game overall and 205th at Duke, Danowski climbed atop the Division I coaching records list with his 376th career victory.

Only Jim Berkman at Salisbury and Hank Janczyk of Gettysburg, on the Division III level, have more lacrosse coaching wins.

In his 35th season of coaching overall, Danowski started his coaching career at LIU Post in 1983, going to Hofstra and then Duke in 2006. He arrived after the previous coach was forced out because of accusations that Duke lacrosse players had assaulted a woman, charges that proved to be false. John refocused the program and took it to new heights, amassing 157 wins, seven ACC regular season titles, four ACC Tournament titles, eight straight appearances in the NCAA semifinals, four in the NCAA title game and ultimately the 2010, 2013 and 2014 national championships.

Sixth-ranked Duke lost to No. 3 Ohio State in this year's NCAA Men's Lacrosse quarterfinals, as Jack Jasinski provided two goals and two assists for the Buckeyes.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK. After winning his fifth Bundesliga title, **Robert Lewandowski** of Bayern Munich was chosen the league's player of the year ... Broadcaster **Bob Koshinski** was named the winner of the 2017 Stanbro Media Award by the Upstate N.Y. chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame ... In his first season coaching girls hockey at Frontier/Lake Shore/Orchard Park (also known as "FLOP"), coach **Bob Klimowicz** helped the team to an historic season and earned All-Western New York Girls Hockey Coach of the Year

honors ... If you heard "Souza-Baranowski" in the sports news lately, that's the name of the correctional institution in Shirley, Massachusetts where former NFL star Aaron Hernandez recently hanged himself. The name of the prison honors two corrections workers, officer James Souza and industrial instructor **Alfred Baranowski**. They were fatally shot in 1972 at the Norfolk prison during an escape attempt by a convicted murderer whose wife had smuggled in a gun.

Grzegorz Kosma, a Polish handball player who competed in the 1980 Summer Olympics, died at 60 ... Lacrosse midfielder **Conrad Ordakowski** of D III York made program history by becoming the first Spartan ever to earn first-team All-America honors ... pitcher **Bob "Sarge" Kuzava**, who helped the Yankees win three consecutive World Series from 1951-53, died at 93 ... Poland's **Piotr Hercog** and **Robert Celiński** were first and second in the international category of the Tenzing-Hillary Everest Marathon, the world's highest trail running event. Łukasz Zdanowski, another member of the Polish team, came in fourth.

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The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish

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

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Resistance

Rescue From Prison

by Regina Szamborska-McIntyre

Resistance is a story about the conditions, which led to the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, and how the courageous and tenacious people of Poland fought the Nazi occupation, only to be decimated by the political vagaries of war.

Three main characters drive the story: Zygmunt Kaminski, publisher of an underground newspaper; Marek Gudzinski, aka Dysthmus, delivery man of contraband items to underground units; and Michal Bednarek, attorney at law, who tries to remain neutral and uninvolved.

CHAPTER XVI. “Ah, Dielinski, it’s you.” The corpsman’s attention was on the box. “So, you bring us medicine?”

Dysthmus responded to the name that was inscribed on his current driver’s license and work permit.

“Yes, happy medicine.” He pulled out two bottles of vodka and a large package that contained five pounds of assorted sausages.

Franz quickly took one of the bottles and hid it under the cot that held his one and only patient.

“What’s wrong with the old codger?”

Tavish did not react. He kept his eyes focused on the ceiling above.

“Stroke.” Franz pulled a brown

paper bag from a drawer in the desk and proceeded to extricate the sausage for his share of the contraband treasure.

“What’s going to be done for him?”

“I don’t know; the doctor is at the hospital.” He replied in an off-handed manner.

Niegorski walked in on them. “What’s this smell—meat?”

“It’s a special treat for the staff from Pan Dielinski.”

Niegorski plucked up the bottle of vodka. “And this?”

Dysthmus interrupted. “Listen Officer, you have an old man over here that is in dire need of immediate medical attention. Unless you have no concern for his life, I think he is more important than the vodka.”

Niegorski looked over to the cot. Saliva was pooling around the old man’s chin.

“That’s Ignatz Tavish. What is being done for him?”

“We are waiting for the doctor.” Franz blurted.

“How long have you been waiting?”

“He came in here a half hour ago.”

“And where is the doctor?”

“At the hospital.”

Niegorski shot over to the desk and picked up the phone. “General Greiner... Officer Niegorski here, we have Tavish in the infirmary, ob-

viously with a stroke... he’s at the hospital...very well.”

He placed the phone in the cradle. “They’re sending an Ambulance to the infirmary.”

He walked over to the cot. “How are you, Tavish?”

Tavish continued to stare up at the ceiling.

Time hovered over the scene, while the three men waited for the appearance of the paramedics. Finally, the driver of an ambulance entered the infirmary lugging a collapsible gurney.

“Where’s your partner?” Niegorski demanded.

“He is suffering with dysentery, Sir.”

Niegorski was about to react, when Dysthmus intervened.

“We need to get him into the ambulance. I’ll help.” He pulled the gurney from the driver; both men tugged at Tavish and put him onto the stretcher. Franz handed the patient file to the driver and the old man was wheeled to the elevator.

Niegorski stayed behind to fill out his duty report and write up an order of reprimand for the attending corpsman.

The cobblestone courtyard was deserted. Dysthmus and the driver rushed the gurney over the rough surface of the yard to the waiting ambulance; their patient bounced about on the stretcher. The driver let go of his end and turned to open the

ambulance door. Dysthmus drew the hammer from his pocket and delivered a swift blow that landed directly on the center of the driver’s head. He dropped down to his knees and then he fell to the ground.

Dysthmus turned to observe the approaching figure of Kaminski.

“Good Shot!” He grabbed the hammer from Dysthmus and shoved it in his pocket, he whispered, “So far, so good.”

A black Mercedes pulled up behind them, Virski came out from behind the wheel. Kaminski and Dysthmus helped the old man into the back seat of the Mercedes. Kaminski took the wheel with Virski seated next to him. The Mercedes took off and Dysthmus picked up a rock to inflict a wound to his forehead; he positioned himself over the collapsed gurney. The driver began to move about on the ground. Dysthmus yelled out. “Help! Help!”

NIEGORSKI WAS SUMMONED to the office of General Greiner.

“I have your report on the incident as it occurred up until the abduction. I also have your order of reprimand for the orderly Franz Koepfel. He adjusted the documents on his desk.

“What did the delivery man have to say about the abductors?”

“He never saw them. The ambulance driver was still groggy from his blow and was unable to provide

any details.”

Greiner motioned to the guard. “Have the delivery man brought in.”

Dysthmus was led into the room by the guard; he walked over to the General’s desk, cap in hand; ready for questioning.

“Your name?”

“Dielinski, Viktor.”

“And what occurred early this afternoon in the infirmary?”

Dysthmus delivered his testimony in a direct and precise manner. Lying was one of his greater skills; he had learned early on what can happen if one relied on truth.

The General raised his eyebrows and looked directly at Dysthmus. He motioned to the guard, “Take Pan Dielinski to the warden, along with this notice.” He scribbled something on a piece of paper, and handed it to the guard.

“I hope you find the accommodations suitable for a reliable delivery man, Pan Dielinski.”

continued next month

Regina Szamborska-McIntyre is a retired Speech Pathologist who currently facilitates memoir workshops at her local library. She is the author of two books of historic fiction, “An Altar of Sod” and “Yesterday’s Pupils.”

Sibiracy

Healing the Sick, 1943, and Horrors from the Famine

“Sibiracy” (Poles exiled to Siberia during World War II) is written by Stefania Borstowa.

Borstowa, her children and Marysia, a home servant, were deported from Lvov to Krutoyarka, a small village in Kazakstan. Soon after the Soviet Union invasion, her husband was sent to the labor camp in Eastern Siberia and died of dysentery, but she did not know about it until after World War II.

PART XXVI. In the beginning of Spring people were hungry, so the kolkhoz distributed some strange food — millet’s shaft, without grains, just the shells surrounding the grain. These were the leftovers after grain is taken out. Unhulled millet is usually only eaten by the birds, since human system cannot digest it. I don’t know its Polish name, in Russian it was called “sholucha.” We did not know that this food would be so bad for us... but eating it caused extreme constipation that needed a clinical treatment.

First, the Chechen became sick with belly pain and with a complete bowel blockage. Since we, I and Marysia, were the medical crew for the village, we organized a system how we are going to treat the sick: patients were put outside the house on a cart, naked, with belly down, so we could do a primitive, rough and dry “enema” treatment. We had to dig out stools from rectums, as much as we could. It was a really ugly job; sometimes we could barely hold from vomiting. We treated a new patient every half an hour, altogether about forty people. But must have done it right since nobody died.

Finally we had time to renovate an earth house that we bought early this year. The previous owners had originally four children, but only one daughter was still alive. The other children were eaten in 1935, during a big famine. According to the stories we heard, a killed body of a child was hung on the entryway on the frost, since the worst famine



Unhulled millet is usually only eaten by the birds. The human system cannot digest it, and almost all who ate it needed medical attention.

was in winter, and then it was eaten piece after piece. When we moved in, nobody thought too much about, we did not have a time to worry about this sad past too much also.

We repaired the house as much as we could, we cleaned and bleached the house’s walls inside and outside and covered it with fresh clay. The earth house had three windows: to the East, West and the North. Windows had some glass pieces, but also cavities, which were filled up

with the moss. We planted geraniums and Turkish pepper and put it at the windows. The house was separated from the road by a fence, since we were near the main road. Still, since our new earth house was located in the very middle of the village, we

could see everybody walking outside, as well as all the cars passing through the village now.

The information about the war was very limited. Because we had no access to the radio, we knew only some reports from newspapers and gossip. We continued working in the kolkhoz plowing, sowing, hay-making and harvest again. A kolkhoz-brigadier lady was waking us up every day by 3:00 a.m. We

had to walk, almost run, about 6-8 km to the fields, since we did not want to live in the kolkhoz public house, which was called “balagan” meaning “clutter house.” The name “balagan” was really fitting, since this house was very unclean, full of insects and immorality.

At the end of May, I started planning an action of stealing some wheat from the field in order to bake a good quality birthday cake for Theresa, my daughter. So I stayed overnight in “balagan.” At twilight, I left the house with a bucket to get some wheat. Then I took my treasure to hide it at small lake surrounded on three sides by a forest. After walking for about 500 meters I heard a call.

continued next month

—Reprinted courtesy of Jaga’s Polish Culture Website at: www.polish-site.us

Growing Up Polish American

A Visit to Poland Brings a Fresh Perspective

by Barbara Betlejewska

PART VII. Because of the constant “dumb Polack” intimidation I endured in high school, I decided to make a trip to Poland. I took one before the Berlin Wall came down, and another after. I needed to see for myself if Poles were all as “dumb” as my neighbors thought—and to visit distant cousins.

To my relief, Poland was a beautiful country and the Poles are quite as intelligent as any other people. The transformation before / after the Wall was phenomenal. My neigh-

bors and the media lied to me about Poles and Poland.

There are many intelligent Poles, and there are a few brilliant ones. Mikolaj Kopernik, for example, of Torun, Poland (the city known for its pierniki, the famous honey spice cakes) was the first person to supposedly formulate a mathematical theory proposing the earth rotates around the sun. He had his treatise published in 1543 only as he lay on his deathbed because it wasn’t safe to publish such a heretical idea beforehand. At times, not only is it not safe to be who we are, but it also

isn’t safe to think what we think. Kopernik is considered the father of modern astronomy. He is best known by his Latin name, Nicolas Copernicus.

By the way, I never saw *czarnina* (duck blood soup), *kiszka* (blood sausage made of buckwheat and pork scraps), or *flaczki* (beef tripe vegetable soup) during my visits to Poland. I was told those were eaten in the past during hard times, especially during the partition years, 1795-1918, when Poland was wiped off the map of Europe. These are surprisingly tasty, nicely spiced

dishes, which reveal a lot of survival ingenuity. I happen to really like *kiszka*! They are similar in origin to African-American chitlins, and were developed for the same reason.

Some of the people who were ridiculing my name were called Smith or Jones, but many others had names like Hoerffelfinger, Shtinkel, Foersthoeffel, Pfenstermacher, or Schwartzentruber. The nerve of these people with these complicated and confusing last names to make fun of my Polish last name! That is pure ugliness. After time (and my trips to Poland), I realized my Ger-

man neighbors, who looked down their nose at me, were even more damaged than me.

continued next month

Barbara Betlejewska left her childhood farm in Ohio at age 18, and lived in many places throughout the United States and abroad for nearly 30 years. Her grandparents, who had emigrated from the partitioned areas of Poland in the 1910s, purchased the farm during the Great Depression to grow food to feed their family.

Spotlight on Long Island

Happy Fourth of July

by Barbara Szydłowski

After the arrival of the Polish workers in **Jamestown Colony** in 1608, they began producing glassware, pitch, and tar. These goods were used in the settlement, and the first goods exported to Europe.

Many historians consider the July 30, 1619 the first strike in North America was by the Polish craftsmen's in the Jamestown. Polish craftsmen had been brought to the colony by colonial leader John Smith to make glassware, pitch and tar.

When the colony held its first election in 1619, the colony's Governor forbade the Polish workers from voting. His justification in doing so was purely ethnic. The craftsmen, in response, refused to work unless they were given the right to vote. Under pressure, the General Assembly of Virginia reversed their decision and the Poles were given full voting rights. The colonial leaders feared not only the loss of income and labor, but the colony might gain a reputation for not welcoming non English settlers, especially skilled craftsmen.

WAJDA'S FINEST. Recently in our area, I attended the An-

drzej Wajda's film "Afterimage" ("Powidoki") was being shown. This was the final film of Wajda is the passionate true story how a socialist government destroyed a charismatic, rebellious man, Władysław Strzemiński. This Avant-garde artist battled Stalinist orthodoxy and his own physical impairments to advance his progressive ideas about art. The Polish actor Bogusław Linda played brilliantly Strzemiński. I have seen many of Andrzej Wajda films, and this could be considered one of his finest.

OTHER JULY 4TH EVENTS.

On July 4, 1828 the West Point Cadets in dedicated **Kosciuszko Gardens** ... On July 4, 1832, President Andrew Jackson vetoed a bill to extend and modify the **Charter of the Bank of the United States** ... On July 4th, 1866, Andrew Johnson entertained guests, including members of the survivors of the **Associated Soldiers of the War of 1812** ... On July 4th, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson gave an address on the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and utters the famous words, "**Our country, right or wrong,**" at Independence Hall, Philadelphia.

Honoring a Hero on her 90th

CLEVELAND — Cecilia Wilk-Pech (Zagorski) celebrated her 90th birthday and was honored June 11 for her bravery during World War II when she risked her life to save three American soldiers shot down over Germany in 1944.

During the war, Cecilia was deported from her native Poland at the age of 14, and forced into labor, working at a farm in Germany. One Sunday, while berry-picking, she heard a strange noise in the trees. She became frightened as she saw three men in uniform. She realized they were wearing American Air Force uniforms. The men were shot down the week before. They were tired, hungry and needed help. Cecilia risked sure imprisonment and death if she helped. She ran to the village and got clothes from the French prisoners of war. Cecilia took food from the farmer's house and fed them. She prayed that the men would be safe. Her feeling to help and live in the United States was born.

When Cecilia arrived back in the forest, the pilots buried their uniforms, and Cecilia directed them to a safe passage.

She wondered for weeks if the pilots had made as it as it was too dangerous to stay in contact with them. She was then transferred as a child laborer to Hamburg to wash and clean soldier's uniforms.

One year later the war was over. Cecilia said "the day of liberation by the American Army came like



a dream. We were human again, not slaves. People were dancing in the streets and screaming in Polish 'Long live the USA'."

By a strange coincidence, after the war she went to work as a waitress in an American officers club in Paris, where she met one of the pilots she saved. The pilot recognized her and gave her a painting that she still treasures of a girl in a forest, hiding behind the bushes.

Soon after, Cecilia and her children came to America and this officer was her sponsor.

The celebration in Cecilia's honor was held at St. Casimir Church in Cleveland, where she and her husband are parishioners. Following Mass, a gathering was held in parish's social hall.

Our Polonia

The Polish American Society of Charleston

It is somewhat of a surprise to many that from its earliest days, Charleston, South Carolina, has always been quite a melting pot of immigrants. Many would not expect a large Polish population in the Palmetto State.

The Polish American Society of Charleston was organized in 2012 by both Poland-born and American-born Poles in the greater Charleston area.

The society is a 503c1 entity, but is not supported by a particular church or other community agency. For this reason, it does not have a regular meeting place, but rather monthly board meetings are held in homes of board members. Monthly activities are based around common Polish holidays, customs, and celebrations.

As the society is supported entirely by membership, sponsorship, and donations, various fundraisers are held throughout the year. These include an Annual Polish Potluck Dinner, a Family Party in November, and an adult-only *Karniwal* celebration in February. Other activities include sharing of *oplatek* in December at a local stable, the blessing of Easter baskets, and artistic offerings, such as poetry readings and art gallery presentations. The society hosts Polish guests, who want to share their special talents, such as music or dance. All activities are made possible through the spirit of volunteerism shared by members.

For more information, visit <http://www.polishcharleston.org>. The society has a Facebook page at [polishcharleston](https://www.facebook.com/polishcharleston). Email can be sent to info@polishcharleston.org.

The Pondering Pole

Gamers w Polsce (Gamers in Poland)

by Edward Poniewaz

I have no interest in playing video games, however, it is a very popular activity for some, mainly young males, mainly those still living in the basement of their parents' home. That stat on the gamers is purely anecdotal but I am strongly guessing there also is a young lad hold up in his mamu and tatu's domu in Lublin, or Bialystok, or Wroclaw, most likely in the spare bedroom in the basement thumbing the controls on the remote with eyes staring at the screen display.

There are two main ingredients for making a video game: you need a story or situation and you need adequate development. The more enticing the story, the flashier the graphics, and the more sophisticated the animation, however, the more popular the game. In Poland, the book series and story by **Andrzej Sapkowski** called *The Witcher* was the inspiration for the "action role-playing video game by the same name developed by CD Projekt RED and published by Atari." CD Projekt RED is a division of a Polish video game developer, publisher, and distributor, CD Projekt, located in Warsaw. CD was founded by **Marcin Iwinski** and **Michał Kiciński**.

The Witcher fantasy book series by Sapkowski was written in the 1990s but English translations have been published more recently.

The main character revolves around Geralt, "a mutant hunter who has been trained since childhood to hunt down and destroy monsters." Who would have guessed this plot would eventually evolve into a video game! "The world in which these adventures take place is heavily influenced by Slavic mythology" and Sapkowski has garnered a number of awards including in 2012, the Medal for Merit to Culture, Gloria Artis in Poland. Besides English, *The Witcher* series has also been translated into 18 other languages. Andrzej Sapkowski is the Polish answer to J.K. Rowling (*Harry Potter*), J.R.R. Tolkien (*Lord of the Rings*), and Stan and Jan Berenstain (*Berenstain Bears*).

Iwinski and Kicinski began their foray into video gaming by translating major Western video-game releases into Polish and then progressed to creating their own work based on Sapkowski's book series and also called *The Witcher*. The video game has all of the fantasy elements found in the novels with a "system of moral choices as part of the storyline."

CD Projekt RED released the original version of *The Witcher* in 2007 in a role-playing format. *Witcher* has been produced as a mobile-phone action game, a flash-based multiplayer fighting browser game, and *The Witcher 3*, released in 2015 "has become one of the most awarded video games of all

time," and "as of March 2016, the game has shipped nearly 10 million copies worldwide." The Pondering Pole has mentioned how IT savvy the Poles are and this is just another example of it.

POLISH OR NOT? It seems strange, especially in the case of famous people from in or around Chicago, how little we know about their ethnic background, sometimes. I happen to know, based on very many years of experience, that if you are from Chicago and are Irish, that little piece of information usually rolls off the tongue and is shared right after the words, "Hi, I'm Bob..."

Polish though — it seems — not so much.

Sandra Smith is another in a long line of beautiful, talented, and smart Fox News women commentators and hosts, and, I cannot find whether she is of Polish descent. She was born Sandra Kaye in Wheaton, Ill., a western suburb of Chicago. Is Sandra, Polish or not?

There is an internet site called "Iconic Beauty Looks from the Year You Were Born," and the year "you were born" starts in 1941. That year, the actress Jean Tierney is featured. The other women featured in this site include some of the most well-known and beautiful women in the western hemisphere, such as Liz Taylor, Marilyn Monroe, Sophia Loren, and Brigitte Bardot. Those are the best looks of the best looks.

Also included are a few I am not familiar with and in 1972 the woman with the iconic look is **Paula Klimak** (inset, right). Paula, whose



nickname was "Pola" was a fashion model and was very much on the cusp of breaking out into the big time. Here is a brief summary of her on a post called "Curated, The Shrimpton Couture Blog":

There is little known about the fashion model Paula Klimak, who went by the name of Pola. She had worked in the early 1970s and was photographed by the likes of Richard Avedon, Irving Penn, and Francesco Scavullo. In 1972, clothing designer Halston chose her to be photographed alongside himself and his other favorite models (Pat Cleveland, Anjelicia Huston) for a *Vogue* photo spread. A year later, Fashion illustrator Antonio Lopez also picked Pola as one of his "favorite girls" for a photo posing with the likes of Patti Hansen, Jessica Lange, and Grace Jones. By 1974, Pola was about to receive her biggest exposure yet, gracing the cover of both *Cosmopolitan* and *Vogue* magazines. However, before they went to print, at the age of 19-years-old Pola committed

suicide. Both magazines agreed to follow through and published the cover girl posthumously.

She is so mysterious and her life ended so quickly I cannot find much on her pre-modeling career and especially her ethnicity. I want to know: is Paula "Pola" Klimek, Polish or not?

KEEP COOL. Like the old bar signs in North Chicago would advertise, "zimno," stay cool as we go through the long hot, sticky, earth-warming summer.

IF YOU HAVE AN ANSWER to the questions, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139; email alinabrig@yahoo.com. 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.

We invite you to join the **American Council for Polish Culture** and help preserve an environment that contributes to the development of our Polish culture.

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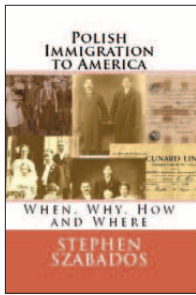
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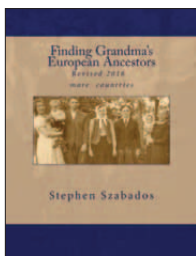
GENEALOGY

To order, use form on page 7



POLISH IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA
by Stephen Szabados
Item 2-271
\$17.99

When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully clear up your confusion why your Polish ancestors listed that they were born in other countries on early U.S. documents. Brief histories of most of the ports that were used by Polish immigrants for departure and arrival; life in steerage; and the process of examination to gain admittance.



FINDING GRANDMA'S EUROPEAN ANCESTORS
by Stephen Szabados
Item 2-653
\$19.95
210 pp., pb.

This is a "must have" book for the family historian who wants to identify their European heritage. The author draws from his research experiences to describe how to find the resources available; first to find out where your ancestors were born in Europe, and then find the records. This revised edition covers genealogical research for most European countries and includes detailed practical steps that will help you find the success and the records that you need. The author uses his experiences to give tips on what to avoid and what works; how to find and use critical records; and how to use translating guides to decipher the foreign-language records. This book gives you the tools to find your European family.

MEMORIES OF DZIADKA
Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America / by Stephen Szabados

\$14.95
Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.

This book is about the life of a Polish immigrant, from his birth in the Russian partition of Poland: the customs and traditions he grew up with; his decision to leave his family and the land of his birth; the trek across Poland to the port of Bremerhaven; his voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean; arrival in America; and his life in America. Through the story of one man, you will learn and understand the hardships of a typical Polish immigrant in the early 1900s.

POLISH GENEALOGY:
Four Easy Steps to Success
by Stephen Szabados
\$19.95 / Item 2-668
164 pp., pb.



This book 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 book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional sources are covered but it also discusses many new sources for Polish records that have been implemented by genealogy societies in Poland. The book covers the most up-to-date collection of sources for Polish genealogy.

Genealogy

How DNA can help your Genealogy

by Stephen M. Szabados

DNA testing has become a popular topic at genealogy meetings, and the sharp growth in the number of DNA tests has been fueled by numerous promotional sales and promises to unlock secrets in your genealogy research. In some cases, DNA results have been powerful in producing clues and knocking down brick walls, but in many other cases, the results have been confusing.

Please note that the advertising promotions refer to the autosomal DNA test which is one of three tests that are available. Y-DNA and mitochondrial (mtDNA) are the other tests, and each is used for a specific purpose. Autosomal seems to be the most popular and versatile because of the price and the closer matches it produces.

The purpose of my first test was a Y-DNA sample in an attempt to find Hungarian relatives who had survived the Holocaust. I then decided to submit an autosomal sample to gain experience with this test and to be able to answer questions better

during my presentations. The results from both tests did not give me the results I expected and were a source of confusion.

Genealogists, who I talked to, gave me the following list of reasons why they submitted DNA samples:

- They were curious about what the results would show.
- They were curious about their origins and ancient ancestry.
- They were hoping to find matches and possible distant relatives to exchange information.
- They doubted their paper trail and wanted to prove or disprove their oral history.
- They wanted to test relationship theories.

I have heard many stories of successes in finding matches to lost branches of families that led to the addition of many stories and pictures to family histories. However, I have also heard many people asking for help in understanding their results. The testing companies are now adding tools that help family historians better analyze and utilize their test results. One step that helps

significantly is the ability to attach your family tree to your DNA test results. Some of the tools I find useful include:

- Identifying Genetic Communities
- Surname searches
- Identifying shared matches
- Adding surnames and other comments in the attached notes for matches

When I finally decided to analyze the unexpected parts of my results, the new tools led me to a secret portion of my ancestry that one of my ancestors took to her grave. I am now meeting previously unknown cousins and learning fascinating new facts about my family history. However, I opened this new side of my ancestry by identifying a dark secret. So be prepared, you may also find exciting new family stories, but there may also be a dark side that you may regret discovering.

In summary, I would recommend taking the Autosomal test offered by Ancestry.com or FamilyTreeDNA.com. Take Y-DNA and mtDNA tests only if you need to explore specific

relationship theories. If your results are generic and match your paper trail, do not be concerned you are probably not missing anything in your analysis of the results. If your DNA results do not match your paper trail, you may have some secrets to uncover. The other important aspect of your DNA results are the matches of your DNA to other people. If your results have matches that project as first or second cousins, contact them because you may have an exciting new source for family stories and pictures of common ancestors. However, be prepared to find aspects of your family history that you may want to forget.

Just have fun exploring your family history and heritage. Remember to save and pass along what you find to your children, grandchildren, and future generations.



Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, and the author of four books, "Finding Grandma's European Ancestors," "Find Your Family History," "Polish Genealogy," and "Memories of Dziadka."

Immigrant Ancestors

Coal, Trains, and My Polish Grandfather in Bloomington

Why our immigrant ancestors should be in history books

continued from last month

by Steve Szabados

PART II. MILITARY SERVICE.

The United States had entered World War I with a declaration of war against the Germany on April 6, 1917. Steve enlisted in the US Army on May 11, 1917, in Chicago. The Army sent him to Jefferson Barracks in Missouri for classification and assignment. The Army assigned him to the 6th Infantry Division, Company K, 54th regiment which was headquartered at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. He graduated from boot camp with the rifleman's classification and with a rank of private 2nd class.

In early 1918, the next step for his unit before deployment to Europe was Camp Wadsworth in Spartanburg, South Carolina. While at Camp Wadsworth, Steve was naturalized on June 22, 1918. Steve and his regiment left for Europe in July 1918. On August 12, 1918, he was promoted to private 1st class.

His military record listed that he participated in fighting in Varges area in France in September and October. His company was troop support in Meuse-Argonne offensive until the cease fire on November 11 ended the fighting.

He and his unit returned to the United States in June 1919, and they were discharged from the U.S. Army on June 21, 1919, at Camp Grant in Rockford, Illinois. He had spent 772 days in the military. He received the World War I Victory Medal with brass clasp for service in the Meuse-Argonne Defensive sector.

CHICAGO & ALTON RAILROAD SHOPS. After returning to Bloomington, Steve lived with fellow Polish immigrant and Army veteran Alex Uszcieski. He and Alex were able to find work at the Chicago & Alton Railroad Shops on Bloomington's west side. The fact that Steve

had become a U.S. citizen and was a military veteran might have helped him in obtaining what he considered a better job with the railroad. Steve worked as a boilermaker's helper, and Alex was a machinist.

The C&A Railroad and the Illinois Central Railroad had reached Bloomington in the 1850s, and they were vital in transporting the products from the rich farmlands of the Midwest to urban markets efficiently. The Chicago & Alton Railroad shops were one of the key employers in Bloomington, and the town was considered an important hub in Central Illinois.

In early 1853, the C&A Railroad had opened a shop in Bloomington to repair

and manufacture cars and engines as needed to keep their trains running. By 1856 over 150 people were employed there. The shops continued to grow, fueled by the development of new technology for making steel and other materials needed in the manufacture of the locomotives. These developments eliminated the need to have parts and materials supplied from Europe. The demand for labor brought an influx of Europeans and Americans who could learn the skills required for the fast developing railroad industry.

THE EFFECTS THE C&A SHOPS had on life in Bloomington were enormous. The shops covered forty acres and were west of the city. As work at the shops expanded, the city grew around them. In an era before the automobile, workers built homes next to the shops and walked to work. The neighborhoods expanded until they were included in the Bloomington city limits. By 1922, the shops were the largest employer in McLean County.



Steve Zuchowski at Boot Camp 1917.

The railroad was a good place to work, and it usually took a recommendation from a friend who worked there to gain employment. Each ethnic group worked to take care of their fellow "countrymen" and each dominated employment in specific workgroups.

The neighborhoods where most of the workers lived eventually were referred to as the "Forty Acres" thus linking them to the C&A Shops. Most households had at least one worker in the shops. There was a diverse mix of immigrants living on the west side of Bloomington. Most were drawn to these neighbors to work in the C&A Railroad shops and the coal mines. Irish, German, and Hungarian immigrants


dominated the employment at the railroad shops, and slowly the Poles who first worked in the coal mines gained employment in the shops. Other immigrants such as Italians, Greeks, and others also worked in the shops, but many immigrants also owned or worked in restaurants, groceries, tailor shops and construction trades surrounding the railroad shops.

After arrival, immigrants were absorbed into the "Forty Acres" to work in the shops or the coal mines. The Irish families influenced the building and naming of St. Patrick's

Church, and the German Hungarians petitioned the Diocese to build St. Mary's Church and assign a German-speaking priest there. The Hungarians also opened their social club, the American Hungarian Club. Both churches and the Hungarian club are still active today. Many small grocery stores, clothing stores, hotels, restaurants and other businesses opened within walking distance of the shops. Most of these establishments are now closed, but many of the buildings are still in use. When the number of shops was at its peak, the morning call to work had the streets flooded with people streaming to work on foot similar to cars in rush hour traffic in today's cities.

My grandfather joined a very small Polish community in Bloomington. There were 52 Polish immigrants listed on the 1920 census living in Bloomington, and the 1930 census records listed 58 Polish immigrants. They had the following surnames: Balcier, Barton, Bartosik, Bunkowski, Cwik, Gawron, Goldman, Gross, Grossman, Janik, Kolak, Kominowski, Kopka, Lomanski, Molek, Obrokta, Pasiaka, Poleski, Radka, Rybak, Staszecki, Szymanski, Uczynski, Wrzesinski, Zaluga, and Zuchowski. The Polish immigrants, who at first worked in the coal mines, had by 1930 obtained employment at the C&A Railroad shops or had retired or died. Among the others not working for the C&A were a shoemaker, a restaurant manager, a tailor, and a clothing store owner. One son who had been born in Poland was an attorney in 1930.

Next month: conclusion




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August Malczewski Remembered



(l. to r.): John F. Skibiski, David Kraft, Stephanie Kraft, Helen Curtin, Fred S. Zimnoch, Fr. Adam Czarnecki, St. Valentine PNCC, Robert Gibowicz, Teresa Gibowicz, Linda Golash, Steven Connor, director of veterans services, and David Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton.

The Polish Exile from the November Uprising 1830-1831

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — On April 24, 2017, members of the Polish Heritage Committee and people interested in Polish and Polish American history gathered at Bridge Street Cemetery to remember the life of August A. Malczewski vel Jakubowski, a young Polish nobleman who died on this date 180 years ago at the age of 21.

He was the natural son of the romantic poet Antoni Malczewski, famous for the narrative poem "Maria" (1825). He left his studies at the gymnasium at Kremenets, in the Ukraine, to join a group of revolutionaries in Warsaw in 1831. After the failed revolution in this Russian gubernia, the leaders along with August were exiled to New York.

The exiles were met in New York City by an enthusiastic crowd, who welcomed them as heroes or what we would call freedom fighters. The young August was taken into the home of Reverend William Buell Sprague. While there, he learned English and wrote a book entitled *The Remembrances of a Polish Exile*. Then he learned that his uncle General Konstanty Malczewski was fighting for Mexican independence. He journeyed there hoping to stay with his uncle. But he was

rebuffed. Returning to the United States, he began teaching French at Miss Dwight's Seminary for Young Ladies in our city. Probably suffering from tuberculosis of the spine, he died a short time later. Being penniless he was buried in a pauper's grave with a fine gravestone purchased by his students.

His book *The Remembrances of a Polish Exile* is in the Hampshire Room at the Northampton library (EJ21.A 1990). A brief description of his life and literary work titled *August Antoni Jakubowski - poeta rozpaczy. Życie i twórczość* by Ewa Modzelewska is also there (EJ21.M721.2015).

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Zbigniew Brzezinski, Former National Security Advisor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Zbigniew Brzezinski, 89, a towering figure in American foreign policy, passed away on May 26, 2017.

As national security advisor under President Jimmy Carter, Brzezinski played key roles in bringing about a number of international agreements in the late 1970s, including the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel, normalizing this country's relations with China, and the SALT II (The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) nuclear arms treaty with the Soviet Union.

Brzezinski helped topple economic barriers between the Soviet Union, China and the West, and helped Carter bridge wide gaps between the rigid Egyptian and Israeli leaders, Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin.

Carter had offered Brzezinski the position of national security advisor. He had not wanted to be secretary

of state because he felt he could be more effective working at Carter's side in the White House.

Brzezinski was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1981 by Carter for his work on normalizing relations between the United States and China, and for his work advancing human rights.

Born in Warsaw and educated in Canada and the United States, Brzezinski was an acknowledged expert in Communism when he attracted the attention of U.S. policymakers. In the 1960s he was an advisor to John F. Kennedy and served in the Johnson administration.

The influence of Brzezinski continued for decades as a scholar author, television commentator, and as a professor at John Hopkins University of Advanced International Studies.

In recent years, Brzezinski took part in proceedings designed to



bring the former Soviet republics into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

— Staś Kmieć

Witold "Alex" Herbst, Fighter Pilot of the Legendary Squadron 303

SEATTLE — Witold "Alex" Herbst, a World War II hero and longtime member of the Polish community in Seattle, died in Everett on May 25, 2017. He was 97.

Herbst was born in Warsaw in 1919 in a polonized family of a German origin. He entered the Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin in 1938. After the World War II started in September 1939, he managed to evade capture, and with several fellow cadets joined the Polish forces in France. After training in France and England he flew 141 missions over Great Britain and Europe with the Polish RAF fighter squadrons 303 & 308 from 1942 to 1944, including on D-Day. Shot down over France in 1943 he again escaped through Spain to rejoin his squad-

ron. He ended the war as a captain and was decorated with the Polish Cross of Valor three times and a number of British medals.

After the war, Herbst stayed in England where he met his wife Doreen and graduated from the London School of Economics in 1947. From 1949 to 1961 he worked as an assistant to the Air Attaché in the Pakistani High Commissioner Office in London, helping with the creation of a professional Pakistani Air Force. From 1961 to 1968, he worked for international aviation trade companies in London. After over twenty years in England he moved to the United States continuing his career in New York in the aviation industry and later as a trade manager for business machines. He

retired in 1991 and settled in Seattle to be close to his son Michael and his family.

Herbst published two war memoirs in Polish, *Pod angielskim niebem* in 1997 and *Podniebna kawaleria* in 2013, and is featured in the book *The Question of Honor* by Lynn Olson and Stanley Cloud. He was also the subject of the documentary movie *The Spitfire Liberator: the Alex Herbst Story* directed by Sławomir Ciok and produced by Krzysztof Poraj-Kuczewski. The movie had its premiere at the Museum of Flight in Seattle in October 2015.

Herbst is survived by his wife; a son and his wife; and married granddaughters.

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The PAJF is a non-profit 501c3 organization established to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. It does this by organizing and supporting special events, networking, and providing consultation to individuals and groups, which seek to learn more about the Polish community in the United States.

As a national newspaper serving Polish immigrants and their descendants since 1911, 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.

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Convention Focuses on the Next Generation of Polka Musicians

by Margaret
Zotkiewicz-Dramczyk
and Randy Koslosky

A record-breaking USPA (United States Polka Association) convention has come and gone, and with it, the highly successful 5th Annual Pro-Am Jam is now on the record books. As he has done the past four years, Randy Koslosky put together a top-notch event as part of an amazing polka weekend.

One of the reasons Randy started the Pro-Am Jam five years ago was to help young musicians learn the ropes of playing polkas. Becoming a part of the polka music industry was much simpler in past decades. Today it is more difficult, as fewer Pol-Am communities have the audience to support events, and Polish organizations shrink their budgets, and thus their ability to pay for live music. Randy's idea to start an event that would help the next generation of musicians get a feel, has proven to be spot-on for creating new-found enthusiasm for the music we love.

The youth movement in polka music was clearly on display at the 2017 USPA Pro-Am Jam, as 35-40 youth jammed along with some of the best polka musicians working today. This event has continued to grow through the five years it has been held. One marker of the success of this event is the progress made by the young musicians over the past several years. Several of the young musicians are now playing in bands such as Polka Method, The KOSMIX, and the Polski Chix.

Before the start of the actual jam session, the youth participants gathered to run through some parts and to receive some mentoring from the pros. As the young musicians have

progressed over the past several years, it is amazing to see that some of those young musicians are now helping out the younger kids.

Pro-Am Jam organizer Randy Koslosky (from Pittsburgh) obvi-

The Pro-Am Jam is full of highlights because it is designed to feature many of the young vocalists as well as songs that feature the various instrument sections. This year's Pro-Am Jam started with Victoria

lead on a song by Cleveland's own Joe Oberaitis: "I'm Lovin' You." They are part of The KOSMIX which includes Sandra Koslosky, Phillip Olszewski, Matthew Olszewski, and Randy Koslosky who

edge their commitment for learning and passion for playing the accordion. The 2017 award was presented to Nik Yash who has been playing for about eight months but who demonstrates what commitment and hard work can do in a short time. The crowd loudly cheered as Nik took the solo on "Everyone Loves Someone." The 2016 award was presented to Travis Rosinski.

Two young concertina players, Chase, 9, and Logan, 10, Stanczewski, were featured on the next song: Zip Zip Polka. Logan then led the jam in the playing and singing of "If You Like Our Polka Music."

One of the goals of the Pro-Am Jam is to expose the kids to some of the classic polkas of all time and to get the young musicians playing them. There were several songs that fit this category, including "Hey Cavalier" which was sung by Zach Piatkowski.

Highlighting the young songwriters in polka music, the next tune was a song written by Nathan Neuman called "When I'm Dancing with You." The song is a duet which he sang along with Alli Lang.

Up next was "As Long As I'm Livin' ." The video of this song (produced by John Zelasko) was the recipient of the USPA Video of the Year Award at the USPA banquet on Saturday of the convention. It featured all of the lead vocalists from the recording and video (Zach Piatkowski, Victoria Koslosky, Becca Olszewski, Emily Olszewski, Matt Martin and Alli Lang) and many of the other instrumentalists that were on the recording and in the video.

The song featured the various instrumental sections with solos and

See "Youth," page 18



Participants in the Pro-Am Jam, with organizer Randy Koslosky (center).

ously had the Stanley Cup on his mind since the Pittsburgh Penguins were in the Stanley Cup Finals. With duct tape and other materials, he and his family made a "2017 Pro-Am Jam Cup" which bore a striking resemblance to the Stanley Cup. This was signed by all of the participants in the jam session and placed to the side of all of the musicians during the jam session, awaiting the determination of whether the jam session was a success.

Koslosky (one of the main emcees, along with Matt Martin) calling attention to the fact that this is the fifth USPA Pro-Am Jam. She introduced Joey Blackburn who sang lead on "Let's Get this Party Started." Joey plays fiddle with Polka Method, whose other members (Matt Martin - leader, Zach Piatkowski - sax, Nik Yash - accordion, and Alex Yash - drums) also participated in the jam.

Victoria Koslosky, Becca Olszewski, and Emily Olszewski sang

all were part of the Jam (and Stush Stetar who was not able to be at the Jam). The USPA New Horizon Award winner Zach Piatkowski along with Becca Olszewski were featured on the vocals of "Take a Chance".

USPA President Barb Haselow's announcement of a newly created award — the USPA Rich Tokarz Award — was a stand-out surprise. This award was presented to two young accordionists to acknowl-

Kliszak to be Inducted into World Concertina Hall of Fame

by Mike Pasierb

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Casimir "Casey" Kliszak, one of Buffalo's premier concertina players, was recently notified of his upcoming induction into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame. "Country Casey" Kliszak joins five musicians from Buffalo who have been inducted since the Hall of Fame's inception: Frank "Stann" Stanczewski (1977), Al "Tucker" Tucholski (1990), Jerry Darlak (2000), Steve Litwin (2004), and Ron Urbanczyk (2015).

Casey began his musical training on accordion as a child, taking lessons from Bill Sikora in Depew. Though he filled in with some country and other bands at the time, his musical destiny seemed to be in another direction. He was away at school in his twenties in Milwaukee and after a long day in the warm weather, the guys would go for some beverages in the evening. There, he saw and heard many concertina players, lots of them. When he came home from school, he went to U-Crest Music Store owner Wally Pigeon and asked if Wally could get him a concertina to buy and learn to play. Wally said he didn't have any but told him his mailman, Don Sutkowski played concertina. Sutkowski introduced Kliszak to the renowned concertina player and teacher, Joe Noworyta, and, at age 30, Casey began concertina lessons!

In 1972, Casey and his wife, Carol, went to a dance at St. Stan's in Buffalo. There, Casey met Rich Federowicz who was playing bass

with Happy Richie's Royalaires, Despite it being the first time they'd met, Federowicz invited him to a Royalaires practice, and that was the beginning. Now "Happy Richie" Bojczuk on accordion had his boxmate, Casey on concertina.

Casey played many years with Happy Richie, from local performances like Polish Falcon Days in Depew (by the way, Casey was an originator of the festival along with Dennis Danielski and Don Zak, 1974-76), to out-of-town travel at Windsor Locks, Conn.; Pulaski Park in Three Rivers, Mass.; Bayway Polish Home in New Jersey; Polka Fireworks at the Seven Springs Resort in Champion, Pa.; various times in Chicago; in Erie, Pa. for Tony Jankowski's Erie Polka Days; and many more stops.

When asked what his favorite recordings were that he produced, Casey replied that his was Happy Richie's *Born To Polka* (Sunshine Records), which included many hits like "Clock on the Wall," "If I Didn't Love You," "Baltic Girl" polka, "Three Girls in My Life" waltz, "Rosalinda's" polka, "Talking Dirty in Hawaiian," and "Old Musicians" polka. Another favorite CD which he called "real honky" in terms of the style and sound, was the CD, "Spare Change" with Nickel City Notes. Casey was the box section for that band in the mid-2000s — just him and his concertina.

Casey recalls a lot of great polka memories, including playing with New York Sound with Tom Karas on accordion at Dick Pillar's festivals in the Catskills. New York Sound

was also the "backup band" playing for and with polka legend Marion Lush as he sang at Idora Park and Yankee Lake in Ohio for Larry Walk. With the Honky Hoppers, Casey backed up Li'l Wally at many of Judy Stringhill's festivals.

He played and recorded with the Ampol Tones and Sunshine, too. A great eight-minute video of Casey is on YouTube if you word search, "Scrubby & Sunshine - Polka Saturday Night - 1984." "Big Steve" Krzeminski does a nice interview with him, too. This past Dyngus Day, he played a five-hour gig at the Polish Eagles in Depew. Talk about longevity!

Clearly, many bands and musicians have been fortunate to share the stage with Casey. This is my assertion: you would never hear Casey say it, as friendly and humble as he is. I, and many others, admire his character.

Upon hearing the news, Casey's daughter, Jill, said "I'm very proud to announce that my dad will be inducted into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame this fall. We are all so very proud of my dad and all that he has accomplished in the polka music field over the many years he has been playing. Love you, dad!"

This September, Casey and his wife, Carol will travel to Merrill, Wisc., for the World

Concertina Congress Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

❖ ❖ ❖

Mike Pasierb is the "Polka Beat" columnist in Buffalo's weekly Am-Pol Eagle newspaper. With his father, George, he co-hosts "Rockin' Polkas," which is broadcast on WXRL 1300 AM, Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m., and Sunday 5:00-6:00 p.m.



Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

To list your event, please send date, band, location, times, and contact number to:
ziobrowskijohn@gmail.com

JULY 1

- NuTones / Concertina All Stars / Eddie Forman / Versatones / Lenny Gomulka. Seven Springs Resort. Champion, Pa. 3:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. (708) 594-5182

JULY 2

- Versa J's / Ampol-Aires / Lenny Gomulka / The Boys. Seven Springs Resort. Champion, Pa. 3 -1 (708) 594-5182

JULY 3

- Dyna Brass / Ampol-Aires / Ray Jay / Polka Family. Seven Springs Resort. Champion, Pa. 2-12. (708) 594-5182

JULY 4

- Eddie Forman. Summerfest. Monson, Mass. 12:30-2:30

JULY 5

- Eddie Forman. Town Green. Southington, Conn. 7-9

JULY 6

- The Touch. Depew Gazebo. Depew, N.Y. 7 p.m.

JULY 7

- Walt Groller. Evergreen CC. Fleetwood, Pa. 7-11. (610) 944-7501

JULY 9

- Lenny Gomulka / John Stevens. St. Stan's. Amsterdam, N.Y. 2-7. (518) 842-2771
- The Boys. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30 (413) 592-0367
- Hero's. Evergreen CC. Fleetwood, Pa. 2-6. (610) 944-7501

JULY 11

- The Touch. River Grill. Tonawanda, N.Y. 6:30 p.m. (716) 873-2553

JULY 13

- John Stevens. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Ch. Swoyersville, Pa. 7-11. (570) 287-6624

JULY 14

- Special Delivery / The Touch. Polish Arts Festival. Town Park. Cheektowaga, N.Y.
- Eddie Forman. Riverside Park. Thompson, Conn. 7-8:30

JULY 15

- Special Delivery. St. John RC Church. Alden, N.Y. 4 p.m. Polka Mass and lawn fete. (716) 937-9483
- Rare Vintage / Lenny Gomulka / The Boys. Polish Arts Festival. Town Park. Cheektowaga, N.Y.
- Dennis Polisky. Immaculate Conception Ch. Indian Orchard, Mass. 2-6. (413) 543-3627
- Joe Stanky. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Lake Silkworth, Pa. 2-6. (570) 477-5040

JULY 16

- Special Delivery. Pulaski Parade. Cheektowaga, N.Y.
- Lenny Gomulka / The Beat. Polish Arts Festival. Town Park Cheektowaga, N.Y.
- Eddie Forman. Immaculate Conception Ch. Indian Orchard, Mass. 1-5 (413) 543-3627
- Ray Jay. St. Johns Ch. Perryopolis, Pa. (724) 736-4442

JULY 19

- Special Delivery. The Gazebo. Alden, N.Y. 7-9
- Dennis Polisky. Baldwin Park. Terryville, Conn.

JULY 21

- John Stevens. Lewis County Fair. Lowville, N.Y. 9:30 p.m. (315) 376-8333

JULY 22

- Joe Stanky. Wurst Fest. Shawnee On the Delaware, Pa. 12-5. (570) 421-7231
- Eddie Forman. Harbor Park. Wells Maine. 6-8

JULY 23

- Stephanie. Polish Club. Connellsville, Pa. 5-9. (724) 550-3966
- Dennis Polisky. Evergreen CC. Fleetwood, Pa. 2-6. (610) 944-7501
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-6. (570) 654-5504
- Joe Stanky. Wurst Fest. Shawnee On The Delaware, Pa. 12-5. (570) 421-7231
- Eddie Forman. Devine Mercy Ch. Three Rivers, Mass. 1-7. (413) 283-6030

JULY 24

- Joe Stanky. Central Park. Honesdale, Pa. 7:30-9. (570) 253-3855

JULY 25

- Dennis Polisky. Coe Park. Torrington, Conn. 7-9.

JULY 26

- The Touch. Gazebo. Elma, N.Y. 6:30 p.m.
- Eddie Forman. Market Square. New Britain, Conn. 11:30-1:30

JULY 27

- Joe Stanky. Knoebel Amusement Park. Elysburg, Pa. 3 shows. (570) 672-2531

JULY 28

- Dennis Polisky. Lyon Park. Port Chester, N.Y. 7:30-9
- Eddie Forman. Ferry St. Park. Easthampton, Mass. 6:30-8

JULY 29

- Jimmy Sturr. Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club. Mt. Arlington NJ. 7-10. (973) 398-4323
- John Stevens. Holy Trinity Ch. Wilkes Barre, Pa. 6-10 (570) 825-6540

JULY 30

- Polka Country Musicians. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2:30-6:30. (413) 592-0367
- Dennis Polisky. PACC. South Deerfield, Mass. 1-5:30. (413) 665-875
- Jimmy Sturr. Schoharie County Fair. Cobleskill, N.Y. 2 @ 6 p.m. (518) 234-2123
- John Stevens. St. Nicks Ch. Primrose, Pa. 4-8
- Ray Jay. Roosevelt Hall. Mt. Pleasant, Pa. (724) 423-2631
- Eddie Forman. Young Mens Club. Hadley, Mass. 2-6. (413) 584-9526
- Polka Family. Barton Fire Co. Barton Md. (301) 463-6163

Badinov's "Manifesto" Released

TOLEDO, Ohio — Randy Krajewski announces the release of *Manifesto*, the second studio effort by his band, Badinov.

Seven of the 14 songs are original compositions. In addition to Badinov regulars like Andrew Pawlak, Jimmy Mackiewicz Jr., Matt Gury, and Jimmy Rutkowski, the recording also features guest performances by Rich Benkowski (concertina), and Mark Ulinski (acoustic guitar/vocals) and Kayleigh Moates (vocals), who are new to the polka arena. Ken Hass, of Toledo's Polka Floyd, delivers some great electric guitar, and hall-of-famer Eddie Biegaj contributes a vocal as well.

Manifesto is a blend of polka styles ranging from straight-ahead Chicago to Eastern style, to modern/progressive compositions.

Highlights include "Hear & Now," a progressive original by Krajewski; "Kuszwanc Stomp," a powerful, straight-ahead Pawlak instrumental featuring one of Krajewski's all-time polka heroes,

Youth

continued from page 17

sectional parts. The message "As long as I'm livin', there'll be polkas playin'" was printed on the t-shirt that was provided to the youth participants in the Pro-Am Jam.

Victoria Koslosky conveyed to those in attendance that another goal of the Pro-Am Jam is to do some songs that may have an appeal to the general population. An example of that was the pop artist Adele's song "Rolling in the Deep" played as a polka. The newly crowned Miss Teen USPA and last year's queen Emily Olszewski sang the lead on this song supported by jamming horn sections and rhythm.

Jamming obereks came next. The saxes and trumpets were featured on the song "Shake It Baby," sung by Matt Martin with backup vocals by Sandra Koslosky, Victoria Koslosky, Emily Olszewski and Becca Olszewski.

Then came the time to feature the fiddles. Five young fiddlers were featured on Fiddle Faddle: Joey Blackburn, Clare Hite, Sandra Koslosky, Emily Olszewski, and Veronika Prytko. The last song was "Lovesick Polka" which also featured the fiddles and was sung by Victoria Koslosky.

RAISING THE CUP. After the last song was played, the crowd was asked to confirm that the Jam was a success. Obviously, with such a cast, it was. So, the 2017 Pro-Am Jam Cup (signed by all the participants) was presented to Barb Haselow who, in the tradition of the Stanley Cup in hockey, raised it over her head. The Cup was then passed among the participants:

Trumpets: Andrew Bogdon, Will Brinkoff, Luke Hedrich, Stacia Hedrich, Anya Hedrich, Alli Lang, Matt Martin, Cameron Naessons, Nathan Neuman, Phillip Olszewski, Matthew Olszewski, Wanda Prytko, Ania Toboy, Jenna Zelasko, along with Kevin Adams, Chris Hedrich, Bernie Koslosky, Bob Naessons, Whitey Ryniec, Rick Rzeszutko, Keith Werwas, John Zelasko

Saxophones: Gabriel Groves, Becca Olszewski, Zach Piatkowski, Johnny Tucholski along with Ed Siwicz

Clarinets: Holly Kolodziej, Emma Bogdon, Maryja Prytko along with Dick Powell and Jackie Libera

Violins: Joey Blackburn, Clare Hite, Sandra Koslosky, Emily Olszewski, Veronika Prytko

Drums: Alex Yash, Alex Woods,



Rich Benkowski, on the concertina; "Stanley's Market," written, arranged and sung by Andrew Pawlak, and inspired by a long time North Toledo mainstay; the Connecticut Twins' "John & Katies"; "Wow," a Don Cialkoszewski-penned accordion extravaganza that showcases Krajewski's talent; and "The Gift of Life," which Randy wrote in honor of his friend Lisa Marie Biskup. He and the band debuted it at her memorial dance in 2014.

To order, contact Krajewski at randallkrajewski@gmail.com.

Daniel Hakos, Alex Quinnell

Accordion: Travis Rosinski, Nik Yash, Marcin Wobrak along with Randy Koslosky

Concertina: Chase Stanczewski, Logan Stanczewski, Lucas Yash along with Tony Winiarz, Mike Papuga, and Ron Urbanczyk

Lead Vocals: Emily Bizon, Joey Blackburn, Sandra Koslosky, Victoria Koslosky, Matt Martin, Becca Olszewski, Emily Olszewski, Zach Piatkowski, Logan Stanczewski

Sound: Rich Zebrowski

Bass: Sebastian Pucowski

Washtub Bass: Paul Kuhar

Bells: Elizabeth

The jam concluded with the passing of the 2017 Pro-Am Jam Cup to the one and only Paul Kuhar, who played washtub bass.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENT.

There is an opportunity for young musicians to jam at Seven Springs. On Monday July 3rd, there will be a pool party at Seven Springs (Champion, Pa.) as part of the Polka Fireworks Weekend. The pool party will have music by two bands: The KOSMIX and Polka Method. Both of these bands feature young musicians in the polka field. Then the bands will invite other musicians to join in playing several songs. If interested in participating, please contact Randy Koslosky at 412-798-1342 for more information and music, etc.

TO CONCLUDE THE SUMMER

POLKA FESTIVAL SEASON, the International Polka Association will hold a Pro-Am Jam at its annual festival and convention which will be in Buffalo at the Millennium Hotel on Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 1-3, 2017). This will again provide an opportunity for young musicians at all skill levels to participate and to receive some mentoring from some of the seasoned pros in the polka music field. Registration for this event can be done by completing the IPA Pro-Am Jam 2017 participant form at the IPA website: www.ipapolkas.com

Every year at the United States Polka Association Convention and the International Polka Association Festival and Convention, the Pro-Am Jam is one of the highlights at both events. Anyone who is 21 years old or younger and plays an instrument and/or sings is welcome to participate in the Pro-Am Jam.

Congratulations to Randy Koslosky and all of the musicians of every age who made the 5th Pro-Am Jam a success.

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Dance Time

More on a Successful USPA Convention and Festival

by Jen Pijanowski

Reflecting on my recent trip to Cleveland to attend the 49th Annual USPA convention, a quote from Helen Keller continues to ring so true in my mind: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

This phrase gives me hope that working as a community will assist in keeping polka music alive. When attending local dances, it is easy to become complacent and frustrated with our dwindling and aging audience. However, stepping into that ballroom on Friday night renewed all faith that polkas are far from a remnant of the past.

Record-breaking crowds were in attendance to kick off the weekend convention, presenting an eclectic mix of polka bands. The sound of **Freeze Dried** shakes up the traditional characterization of polkas.



The Wilgocki family: Stan, Alex, and Barb.



Freddie Guzevich, Nick Yash, Hank Guzevich.

Not only was there music in the ballroom but fans could also stop by in the cocktail lounge and enjoy the honky sounds of **Buffalo Concertina All Stars**. The dance floor attracted much traffic as loyal dancers loved the opportunity to dance to

For over 20 years, **Maestro's Men** has been captivating their crowd and packing the dance floor with their steady beat. True polka aficionados rejoice listening to these seasoned musicians' flawless sound. High energy continued as **Box On**

bering the Versatones from inception on, captured the nostalgia that everyone felt while watching them on stage. Hearing those Versatone classics again brought back many fond memories for all of us and left everyone yearning for more.

One of the highlights of this convention has become the Pro Am Jam on Sunday morning led by Randy Koslosky. [See page 17 for details about the Jam].

It was hard to imagine that it was the last day of the weekend but the day was going to end on a high note all the way through. **John Gora & Gorale**, alternating with **The Boys** during the afternoon kept things lively and kept the dance floor packed. John can always arouse the party spirit with his passion and positive demeanor. The Boys' sound meshes the traditions of polka music

with an edgy style all their own.

For the evening sets, **Polka Family** took the stage with Fiddlin' Freddie's return. Watching Freddie and Hank perform together brought a new element to watching this spirited group. Hank took requests for Polka Family favorites as their ardent fans never left the front of the stage basking in every moment of their memorable performance.

As Polka Family came upon the end of their first set, it was almost impossible to find any space left on the dance floor as fans prepared to be a part of the **Polka Country Musicians'** recording *Live...and Jam II*. It was unfortunate for anyone who hoped to dance but the preference was for fans to watch this popular group and be a part of its newest release.

PCM has kept their spot as a fan favorite, picking up awards for 2016 USPA Band of the Year, Polka Recording of the Year, Song of the Year, and leader Wally Dombrowski also sharing the title Male Vocalist of the Year with Andy Bojczuk.

Their fans stayed into the morning, cherishing every note played whether it was a Polish vocal, original, or adaptation of a country classic. Polka Country has long been one of my favorites and it looks like they won't be slowing down any time soon.

Congratulations to Barb Haselow and each and every person involved with USPA and 2017's record-breaking crowd.



Polka personalities at the festival (left): Blender Bob Wolinski; (center) Jill and Mary Lou Czerniak; (right): Ray Jay and Mary Ann Jarusinski.



This was balanced-out by crowd pleaser **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**. From their polished stage appearance to Lenny's voice, it is impossible not to fall in love with their music. Years of performing together proves that indeed practice makes perfect.

Last but not least, **The Knewz** drew the young fans to the front of the stage. This is a true testament to carrying on the music to the next generation as you watch these teens and twenty-somethings sing along with the band. Congratulations to **Andy Bojczuk**, as he celebrates his fourth win as USPA Male Vocalist of the Year. His voice has become synonymous with many of vocal greats, so it is wonderful to see Andy and the Knewz getting the recognition they deserve.

the heartfelt beat of the All Stars.

Saturday started with the banquet, which recognized and showcased many deserving award winners. Others of us congregated in the lounge grabbing a close seat for **Bryan Kurdzielski's All Star Band**. Bryan, who won the Horizon Award in 2008 gathered a group of musicians to showcase his skills while being joined by other handpicked talents. This year Bryan was joined on stage by gifted father **Kevin** as well as **Al Piatkowski, Kevin Adams, Dan Mateja, and Ryan Lucotch**. It is obvious that Bryan's energy, talent and love of the music are a direct reflection of his dad's dedication to polka music. This afternoon jam session induced much hype for the highly anticipated events of Saturday's lineup.

took the stage with its youthful stamina and intensity. This family has quickly gained quite a following at festivals and dances over the past few years as they become even more engaging to watch.

My enthusiasm to see **The Project** brought us to the front of the stage. Within a few moments of their first song, I was blown away by the solid sound of this distinct group. Every song brought a glimpse of the affection for polka music by this merger of musicians. I am eager for their appearance in Buffalo at the IPA convention over Labor Day weekend. To kick things up yet another notch, **Eddie Blazonczyk Jr.** took the stage with his melodic voice and charisma to showcase six decades of music from the **Versatones**. Flashes of photos remem-

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Kisluk, Mitchell Named First PAJ Foundation Scholarship Winners

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jessica M. Kisluk, a broadcasting and mass communication major, and Suzanne A. Mitchell, a photography major, will each be awarded \$1500 scholarships from the Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF).

This is the first year the PAJF awarded college scholarships. The prizes were made available to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in journalism (print news, broadcast news, or advertising/public relations in either print or electronic media); and the arts (literature, including poetry, drama, story, etc.); visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, etc.); graphic arts (painting, drawing, design, sculpture, modeling, etc.); and performing arts (theatre, dance, music, etc.).

To be eligible, applicant must be an American citizen, either by birth or naturalization; of Polish or Polish American descent; a full-time college student, currently enrolled

at an accredited college/university in the United States, with confirmed future attendance at an institution in the Fall of 2017; and actively involved in the Polish community.

JESSICA A. KISLUK. Jessica M. Kisluk of Alden, N.Y. is the winner of the PAJF's scholarship in Journalism. A broadcasting and mass communication major, minoring in arts management, at the State University of New York at Oswego, she plans to graduate in May 2019.

A member of the Polish Heritage Dancers of Western New York and the Polish National Alliance, Kisluk was active in her church's Youth Group and its fundraisers to attend World Youth Day in Poland.

She is the recipient of a Presidential Scholarship at SUNY Oswego, and has been on the dean's list every semester. She is also the recipient of

the Student Leadership and Clarkson Leadership awards.

After graduation, Kisluk hopes to find work in broadcast news, radio, or video production. She said she would like to use her skills to serve Polish American organizations, particularly those which promote folk dance and culture.

"Jessica loves her heritage," said Juan Francisco La Manna of SUNY Oswego's music department. "During one of my lectures, when study-



Suzanne A. Mitchell of Torrance, California is studying professional and commercial photography at California State University at Long Beach.



Jessica M. Kisluk of Alden, N.Y. is a broadcasting and mass communication major, minoring in arts management, at the State University of New York at Oswego.

ing Frederic Chopin, I mentioned the Mazurka and the Polonaise. She immediately shared her experience dancing them. I can only assume, because of her personality, that she will go to great lengths to try to preserve her heritage.

Her parents are Stanley and Michelle Kisluk of Alden, N.Y..

SUZANNE A. MITCHELL. Suzanne A. Mitchell of Torrance, California, is the winner of the PAJF's scholarship in the Arts. She is studying professional and commercial photography at California State University at Long Beach, and expects to graduate with a BFA in photography in May 2019.

Partially inspired to visit the land of her paternal grandfather's birth (Wladyslaw Marcinkowski, a native of Bydgoszcz), in 2013 Mitchell studied at the Jagiellonian

University in Krakow, where she "completely fell in love with Poland and her character." She returned to Poland in 2016 as a volunteer in the Kosciuszko Foundation's Teaching English in Poland program.

Mitchell is the recipient of several awards and scholarships, which included her first trip to Poland, awarded by Bridges to Poland and the Kosciuszko Foundation.

Before transferring to CSU, Mitchell earned an associate's degree in arts and humanities from El Camino College in Torrance.

"Suzanne is a student who approaches her work with enthusiasm and diligence," said Joyce Dallal, professor of Fine Arts at El Camino. Her "persistence is what distinguished Suzanne as a student who has the drive and life skills, as well as the talent, to pursue a career in the arts."

Her parents are Dylan and Irena Mitchell.

ABOUT THE PAJF. The Polish American Journal Foundation (PAJF), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in 2014 to promote Polish and Polish American culture and traditions among members of the public and other Polish and Polish American groups. Membership in the PAJF is open to all. Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return.

For more information, or to make a donation, call, write, or email: PAJF, P.O. Box 271, N. Boston, NY 14110-0271; email: editor@palamjournal.com; (716) 312-8088 or (800) 422-1275. A link the PAJF can be found on the PAJ website.

"This is is Now Your Home"



CONGRATULATIONS. (l. to r.): Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin; Master of Ceremonies Asha Lassen; Honorary Consul Darek Barcikowski; and PNH President Robert Kwasnicki welcome newly-sworn American citizens.

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Chopin Ballroom of the Polish National Home hosted 55 immigrants from 28 countries, who were sworn in as new American citizens, June 2, 2017.

The ceremony was the culmination of months of careful preparation and is the start of an ongoing partnership with the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services Hartford Field Office, which administers the Oath of Allegiance to more than 10,000 new citizens every year.

Speaking to the *Hartford Courant*, USCIS representative Erika Taylor said of the federal agency's interest in holding large naturalization ceremonies at the Polish National Home of Hartford, "We picked the Polish Home because it really is the core of Hartford."

President of the PNH Robert Kwasnicki formally welcomed the assembly in several languages, and congratulatory remarks were made by Poland's new Honorary Consul to the State of Connecticut, Darek Barcikowski. Honorary Consul Barcikowski encouraged the candidates for citizenship to become active participants in American democracy: voting, volunteering, and even running for political office.

As he administered the Oath of Allegiance to the new citizens, Federal Judge Anthony Covello praised the American education system, and

urged those gathered to continue their studies with a lifelong dedication to learning. Judge Covello said that he hoped that even as the new citizens endeavored to gain deeper mastery over the English language, they would teach their home country's language to their children and grandchildren as a proud cultural tradition.

The honored keynote speaker of the ceremony, longtime PNH supporter Mayor Luke Bronin, continued on that theme, saying that the love of one's native culture and the ideals of America are intertwined.

Bronin harkened back to the country's history of difficult journeys, from impoverished Irish and Chinese laborers to enslaved Africans to Jews fleeing religious persecution, and noted that in a contemporary United States home to multitudes from every continent, "America has never been more American." He said that it was the devotion to liberty that made one an American.

As Master of Ceremonies Asha Lassen brought the ceremony to a close, she urged them and their families to always feel welcome at the Polish National Home. In this historic gathering place built by and for newcomers to this great country, Lassen spoke with pride to her new fellow citizens: "This is now your home."

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