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THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF EDDIE BASINSKI PAGE 13

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**LOSS "MR. GALAZKA" WILL BE FELT FOR YEARS • PAJF SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE JULY 31 • MEET LUCYNA MIGALA AMBASSADOR-NOMINEE VOWS TO SUPPORT FOR "ESSENTIAL FREEDOMS" • SOCIAL SECURITY FROM POLAND BISHOP ZUBIK REORGANIZES PITTSBURGH'S CHURCHES • THE EMOTION BEHIND "THE HOLOCAUST LAW"**

## Newsmark

**DESPITE "MISTAKE," POLAND WILL ACCEPT NOMINEE.** Donald Trump's pick for the next U.S. ambassador will be accepted in Warsaw despite her critical comments on an anti-defamation law, a Polish presidential aide said.

Krzysztof Szczerski, a senior foreign policy adviser to President Andrzej Duda, said the Polish head of state would accept Georgette Mosbacher's credentials if she were posted to Warsaw despite her "unnecessary and mistaken" comments made during her nomination hearing in the U.S. Senate.

Mosbacher criticized a Polish anti-defamation law, blaming it for triggering a wave of anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, according to reports. She also spoke in favor of Poland accepting a certain number of refugees.

The 71-year-old nominee told the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that she was ready to voice America's support for "essential freedoms" in Poland.

"I am aware of recent concerns about respect for democratic institutions in Poland — freedom of speech, the independence of the judiciary, and the rule of law — and I am ready to voice our strong support for these essential freedoms if I am confirmed as ambassador," Mosbacher said, as quoted on the foreign.senate.gov website.

Szczerski told Polish private radio broadcaster RMF FM that, regardless of the comments that Mosbacher made during her nomination hearing, she "will be a representative of our ally."

He also said that relations between Poland and the United States were determined not by individuals, but by both nations' interests, Poland's PAP news agency reported.

For more on Mosbacher, see page 3.

**MIARKA TO REPRESENT NATO AT U.N.** Polish diplomat Michał Miarka has been selected to take over as NATO's civilian liaison officer to the United Nations.

Miarka will take the post for a three-year term, public broadcaster Polish Radio's IAR news agency reported.

He previously worked at Poland's representative office to NATO in Brussels for several years, according to the news agency. Miarka's new role will see him liaising between the Western military alliance and the U.N. headquarters in New York.

**POLAND CREDITS SUCCESS WITH U.S. INVESTMENT.** The presence of American companies in Poland since the early 1990s has significantly contributed to the country's economic growth, said that country's Foreign Minister.

Speaking at a meeting with companies represented in the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland, Minister Jacek Czaputowicz said American investment was a source of know-how and business experience for Polish companies.

Further development of American projects in fields such as infrastructure, defense, IT and energy has a direct impact on strengthening Poland's position in Europe," Czaputowicz said.

He referred to the role of American liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a key element of energy security in Poland, Polskie Radio reported.

**GERMANY FIRST TO HONOR CENTENARY.** President Andrzej Duda thanked his German counterpart for being the first leader to visit Warsaw to mark the centenary of Poland regaining its independence.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier made a two-day visit to Poland for talks on relations between the two neighboring nations.

"The president is the first leader who has come to our country to celebrate this exceptionally important anniversary with us," said Duda.

While in the Polish capital, Steinmeier attended a conference on Polish-German partnership within the European Union. He also placed a wreath at a monument in the Polish capital honoring the heroes of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against the Nazi Germans.

## Encore for Paderewski



**MEMBERS OF THE POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN CITY** stand before a new bronze bust of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The new image of the Polish statesman, composer, and politician replaces a previous one made of terra cotta. Pictured are (l. to r.): Theresa Child, Dr. Janusz Duzinkiewicz, Gene Tylisz, Marilyn Burns, Carol Tylisz, Dr. Larry Yodlowski, Jerry Sosinski, Margaret Picur, Amanda Kolasa, and Mark Kolasa.

by Ann Scamerhorn

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. — A new bronze bust of Polish statesman, composer, and politician Ignacy Jan Paderewski was welcomed into the Polish Garden during a dedication ceremony held May 20 at the Friendship Botanic Gardens.

The project and event were sponsored by the Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City (PHAMC).

The original bust of Paderewski, which was made of terra cotta, was created by local artist Robert Wilcox and presented to the former International Friendship Gardens by the Paderewski Club of Michigan City on August 13, 1950. Over the years, the statue's

condition deteriorated due to the elements and vandalism. It was replaced in 1974, but ultimately destroyed in a fire while in storage in the early 2000s.

Dora Natella, Associate Professor of Sculpture at Indiana University South Bend's E.M. Raclin School of the Arts, was selected in 2016 to work on the new sculpture upon recommendation from a local student to the organization.

Mark Kolasa, president of the PHAMC, served as emcee for the program, and Dr. Janusz Duzinkiewicz of Purdue University Northwest spoke on Paderewski's legacy. Live music of Paderewski's works was played

See "Paderewski ..." page 3

## Poland, Troops from 19 Nations Hold Annual Exercises

WARSAW — NATO'S "Saber Strike 18" exercises involving some 18,000 troops from 19 nations were held in Poland and the Baltic states, as the Western alliance looks to boost readiness on its eastern flank.

The June 3-15 maneuvers came as Poland has indicated it is considering a proposal to host a permanent contingent of U.S. troops in the way that Germany and Italy have done since World War II.

The United States led a multinational NATO battle group in Poland, while allies Germany, Britain, and Canada commanded three others in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, where the Saber Strike maneuvers were held.

The long-standing U.S. Army Europe-led cooperative training exercise is designed to enhance readiness and interoperability among allies and regional partners," the U.S. Army said.

The United States and NATO have bolstered their presence in Poland and elsewhere on the alliance's eastern flank since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

See "Exercises ..." page 3

## Wilczek Praises Wilson's and America's Efforts to "repair the mistake of history"

by Mark Dillon

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland to the United States, addressed attendees at The Rebirth of Europe Conference held at the Embassy of Slovakia in Washington, D.C. on June 2 by recounting the re-emergence of Polish Independence 100 years ago, and Poland's struggle to maintain sovereignty through 1920. Wilczek highlighted the critical impact of United States' food and clothing assistance to Poland in the aftermath of World War I.

The weekend event, organized by Maryland-based The Wilsonian Club and co-sponsored by the Polish American Congress and the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, attracted more than 100 academics, authors and cultural leaders from Krakow to Minnesota.

The conference was intended to mark a century since the Versailles Peace

See "Wilson ..." page 4



"PRESIDENT WILSON WOULD BE PROUD AND HAPPY ..." Piotr Wilczek, Ambassador of Poland to the U.S. discusses World War I era diplomacy at The Rebirth of Europe conference, June 1-2 at the Embassy of Slovakia in Washington, D.C. The conference marked 100 years since the Versailles Peace Conference, the renewed independence of Poland, the formation of Czechoslovakia and emergence of modern Romania.

PHOTO: M. STEFANSKINSZ



## Almanac

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July  Lipiec

Gdy Halina łaki zrosi,  
rolnik w wodzie siano kosi.

When July's hay is ready,  
the farmers must make bales.  
(July is tributed to St. Anne, the  
Virgin's mother)

- 1 1926. Opening of the Ben Franklin Bridge (then known as Delaware River Bridge) built by **Ralph Modjeski**.
- 2 **MATKA BOSKA JAGODNA**  
*Blessed Virgin of the Berries. The first fruits and wild berries are ripened by this day.*
- 3 1619. Account of strike by Polish settlers in **Jamestown, Virg.** entered into records of the Virginia Company. The Poles, pitch, tar and glassmakers, held the win strike for equal rights. It is considered to be the first labor strike in the New World.
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY. (U.S.)**
- 5 1945. Polish American World War II ace **Col. Francis Gabreski** scores his 28th downed enemy plane.
- 6 1922. Death of **Blessed Maria Teresia Ledóchowska** (b. April 29 1863), Roman Catholic nun and African missionary.
- 7 1572. Death of **King Zygmunt August**, last of Poland's Jagiellonian dynasty.
- 8 1824. Birth of **Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski** (d. 1887), Union officer.
- 10 1835. Birth of composer and violinist **Henry Wieniawski**.
- 11 1938. Death of **Mother Coletta Hilbert**, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph.
- 13 2000. Death of **Jan Karski**, former Polish diplomat who in 1942 tried to warn Great Britain and the United States of Nazi atrocities in occupied Poland. His words fell on deaf ears.
- 15 1410. Polish victory over the Teutonic Knights at **Grunwald**.
- 16 **SAINT KUNEGUNDA**
- 17 1629. Birth of Poland's warrior king, **Jan Sobieski**.
- 19 1980. **Lt. Col. Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.
- 20 **BLESSED CZESLAW**
- 22 1942. Nazis began transport of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the death at Treblinka.
- 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.*
- 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**. 1915. Roman Catholic Diocese surrenders possession of **Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish National Catholic Church**, Buffalo, N.Y.
- 29 1908. **Bishop Paul P. Rhode** consecrated, first Polish American bishop in Chicago.
- 30 1966. **United States Postal Service** issues stamp in honor of Poland's millennium 1619. At meeting of legislative assembly at the **Jamestown, Virginia** settlement, Poles are granted a political voice after withholding services as pitch, tar and glassmakers. Their action is considered the first strike in the United States.
- 31 1928. **Halina Konopaczka** wins Poland's first Olympic gold in discus.

This paper mailed on or before **June 26, 2018**.  
The August 2018 edition will be mailed on or before **July 31, 2018**

## Editorial

## The Loss "Mr. Galazka" will be Felt for Years

by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

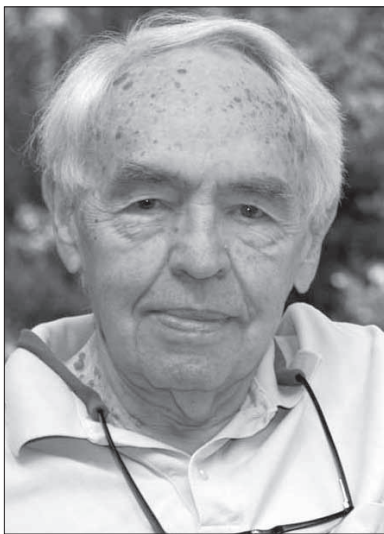
The Polish American community mourns the loss of Jacek "Jack" Galazka, who passed away at his home in Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut on May 8 at the age of 94.

Born in Vilno, Poland. Mr. Galazka (as I always addressed him) left Poland at age 15 to escape the German occupation and joined his father in Paris, a member of the Polish Army, who had been taken hostage but managed to escape to the French city. With the invasion of France by the Germans, Jacek and his father made for London and then to Scotland where he began his studies.

After graduating from high school, Jacek joined the Polish Armed Forces in the West (Polskie Siły Zbrojne na Zachodzie) a Polish military formation that fought alongside the Western Allies against Nazi Germany during World War II. He participated in the invasion of Normandy, eventually ending up in Kaatsheuvel, the Netherlands, where he met his wife, Coby. In 1948 he returned to Scotland and earned a degree in economics from the University of Edinburgh.

In 1952, Mr. Galazka immigrated to the United States and worked for the publisher Charles Scribner's Sons in New York City. By March of 1964, he was head of the newly-established reference department at Charles Scribner's Sons. In 1983 he was named president of the company, and remained so until its purchase by Macmillan Publishers.

Over the next several decades, as editor for Hippocrene Books, Inc., Mr. Galazka gave the American public English translations of Polish literary classics such as those written by Henryk Sienkiewicz, which were translated by Polish American writer W.S. Kuniczak. He also made available the distribution of Adam Zamoycki's *The Polish Way* in the United States. The early 1990s saw the publication of *Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore* and other titles by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab as well as *Polish Heritage Cookery* by Robert and Maria Strybel and



Jacek "Jack" Galazka

their additional titles.

Concurrently, Mr. Galazka founded his own press, Polish Heritage Publications, and gave the American and Polish American community such books as *The Polish Heritage Songbook* (1988), *American Phrase Book for Poles* (1990), produced an English translation to Sula Benet's *Song, Dance and Customs of Peasant Poland*, co-wrote the *Polish Heritage Travel Guide to USA & Canada* (1992), as well as creating the annual Polish Heritage Art Calendar that offered full color masterpieces of Poland's best known painters.

From 1999-2008, he also served as president of the Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America.

Polish patriot, publicist, promoter of Polish books in English translation in America, Jacek Galazka gave the Polish American community greater access to the history and culture of Poland. He helped place Poland and its rich heritage on the bookshelves of American libraries and bookstores.

His contribution to strengthening and deepening the connection of people of Polish descent living outside Poland to its ancestral homeland is beyond calculation. He will be deeply missed.

*Nasze najszczęśliwsze kondolencje.*  
Our deepest condolences go out to his wife, Coby and surviving family.

## In Gratitude

"I was saddened to hear of the passing of Jacek Galazka who, as the editor of Hippocrene Books, published my books, *The Forgotten Holocaust* and *Did the Children Cry?*" said Dr. Richard C. Lukas, one of many letters we received upon the news of Galazka's passing.

"He strongly believed that my research in the 1980s and 1990s had broken new historical ground and supported me in my work," said Lukas, who — not one for understatement — did so here, as Lukas' books are now considered requisite resources on the topic of Poland and World War II, not only in North America, but in Europe as well.

During his time at Hippocrene, Galazka turned the publishing house into the source for things Polish. Academic works like those of Lukas came off the presses alongside cookbooks, English translations of Polish classics, and works by Polish American authors now on bookshelves across the globe.

The *Polish American Journal* owes a large part of its success to Galazka, who was introduced to the newspaper by Cleveland's Thad Cooke. (Cooke, it should be known, advocated Hippocrene by handing out cases upon cases of its books, all paid for with his own money). With Hippocrene's extensive Polish catalog as a foundation, we were able to open the PAJ Bookstore, which to this day is an essential source of income for the *Journal*.

"He was a kind, knowledgeable man who was part of the postwar hegira of Poles who came to the United States and made enormous contributions to American society," said Lukas. "He will be sorely missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him."

I agree, and so would anyone who knew him.

— Mark Kohan, editor

## PAJF Scholarship Deadline July 31

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Deadline for the Polish American Journal Foundation's 2018-19 scholarship for college students of Polish or Polish American descent is July 31, 2018.

The \$1,000 scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students.

Winners announced on August 31, 2018. Funds will be dispersed to the winners upon proof of full-time studies at an accredited institution.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- be an American citizen, either by birth or naturalization.
- be of Polish or Polish American descent.

## LOOKING FOR POLISH EAGLES.

PAJ Subscriber Robert Fonfara is on the lookout for rubber stamps and stickers with the correct Polish white eagle (one that does not have stars on its wings). If you can help him out, you may contact him at 4463 H St., Omaha, Nebr., 68107.

**DID YOU KNOW?** There is a Mt. Kosciuszko National Park in Australia, which has the highest peak in the country with the same name. It was named by explorer Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki, because he thought the peak resembled the tomb of the Polish patriot.

- be 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 2018.
  - describe his/her involvement with the Polish community — past, present, or future.
- A complete application package — and \$15.00 application fee — must be received in its entirety no later than July 31, 2018.

The complete application package can be downloaded from Polish American Journal's website by

following the links to the Polish American Journal Foundation and the Scholarship Application.

For more information, or to make a donation, call, write, or email: PAJF 2018-19 Scholarship, P.O. Box 271, North Boston, NY 14110-0271; email: [editor@polamjournal.com](mailto:editor@polamjournal.com); (716) 312-8088 or (800) 422-1275.

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## Paderewski



Detail of the bust.

continued from cover

by Ruth Ausema on keyboard.

Special guests at the ceremony included Wendy Wilcox Kermen, daughter of Robert Wilcox (the original bust's sculptor); John Leinweber, president of the Friendship Botanic Gardens' Board of Directors; and Don Przybylinski, city council at-large, Michigan City, Ind.

The Paderewski bust and Polish Garden were then blessed by Rev. Stephen Kosinski of Hammond, Ind. A reception featuring Polish baked goods from the Baker's Dozen in South Bend (Ind.) was held in the Symphony Garden following the program.

## Exercises

continued from cover

An "information document" by the Polish Defense Ministry seen by news agencies suggests that Warsaw could spend \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion to help cover the cost of permanently basing a U.S. tank unit in Poland. Russia immediately attacked the proposal, saying such a deployment "in no way creates security and stability on the continent."

## The Primary Wound: The Emotion Behind the Controversial Polish Law

by Wanda Urbanska

When conferring a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom on Jan Karski in 2012, President Obama said that the Polish Underground courier went into a "Polish death camp" to bear witness to the suffering of the Jews. The president quickly recanted his misstatement and issued an apology to then Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski. "There simply were no 'Polish death camps,'" Obama wrote on May 31, 2012 "The killing centers at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Treblinka, and elsewhere in occupied Poland were built and operated by the Nazi regime. In contrast, many Poles risked their lives — and gave their lives — to save Jews from the Holocaust."

The fact that the gifted and well-educated Obama — who had lived in Chicago for years, serving one of the country's largest Polish-heritage constituencies, first in the state senate and later the United States Senate — could make such a primary gaffe goes to the heart of the current controversy over new legislation. Most people simply know almost nothing about Poland's situation during World War II. They do not realize that Poland had to fight both the Nazis and the Soviets simultaneously without outside help; few know that ethnic Poles — after the Jews and the Gypsies — were "the most relentlessly tormented national group in Hitler's Europe," according to historian Michael C. Steinlauf, son of Polish-Jewish Holocaust survivors. To understand the controversial legislation in Poland to criminalize speech connecting the Polish state with the Holocaust, one must understand this primary wound. That is, widespread ignorance about Polish history — especially during World War II.

**I WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE** when Obama uttered those memorable words as I had placed Karski's name in nomination for the Medal on be-

half of a coalition of Jewish and Polish Catholic groups and Georgetown University (where Karski had been a professor). I was sitting with the Karski delegation, just behind Poland's then-Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, as President Obama read from a teleprompter the words "Polish death camp." A noticeable sigh circulated in the room; the ambassador's head fell into his hands. All of us who had been celebrating this long-overdue recognition looked at each other blankly, the oxygen sucked out of the room.

And while one can debate till the cows come home, the strategic wisdom of the new Polish law to criminalize implicating the Polish state with the Holocaust (along with the enforceability or efficacy of such a law), what is missed in the discussion is the emotion behind it. The facts are clear: there was no Polish state complicity in the German-Nazi killing machine, no Polish quisling regime, and numerous dangerous, clandestine efforts to save Jews including through Zegota, an Polish Underground organization charged with rescuing Jews and executing Polish betrayers.

Set aside the fact that there were individual Polish collaborators and set aside the endless discussion about endemic Polish anti-Semitism, the core fact is that the country's national honor has been impugned — for decades and shockingly to the present — by false narratives that conveniently let Germany off the hook for its crimes while shifting blame to Poland, a captive nation.

This core emotional fact should be considered in any and every discussion about this legislation. The world has failed Poland. It is a fact that President Obama recognized and quickly recanted. So too should others.

❖ ❖ ❖

*Wanda Urbanska is the U.S.-based International Relationship Manager for the Polish History Museum in Warsaw. She is former president of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation.*

## Forum

## Ambassador-Nominee Vows to Support for "essential freedoms" in Poland

### Trump's Choice is critical of Poland's Anti-defamation Law

### Sides with European Union on Refugees

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Georgette Mosbacher, President Donald Trump's pick for the new U.S. ambassador to Poland, has vowed to voice America's support for "essential freedoms" in the country, according to reports.

During a hearing in the U.S. Senate, Mosbacher said she was "aware of recent concerns about respect for democratic institutions in Poland" and added that she intended to voice America's strong support for "essential freedoms" if confirmed as ambassador.

Mosbacher said, as quoted on the foreign.senate.gov website: "I am aware of recent concerns about respect for democratic institutions in Poland — freedom of speech, the independence of the judiciary, and the rule of law — and I am ready to voice our strong support for these essential freedoms if I am confirmed as ambassador."

The 71-year-old nominee told



Georgette Mosbacher, President Trump's pick for U.S. ambassador to Poland.

the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that she grew up in the Chicago area surrounded by Polish culture and around hard-working Polish immigrants, "deeply faithful, industrious people."

She referred to the words of President Trump in Warsaw last year that the United States benefited from a strong Poland.

"This means a Poland that is sovereign and independent with strong constitutional freedoms; a Poland that is militarily secure; and a Po-

land that is economically robust and resilient," Mosbacher said.

She said America recognized "the sacrifices the Poles have made 'for our freedom and yours' as they have fought in solidarity with us and have died in support of our shared values and our shared history."

She also said Poland "is an important military leader in NATO" and "one of the few NATO countries that meets, and plans to exceed, its obligation of spending 2.0 percent of GDP on defense."

She said that a "more secure Poland means a more energy-independent Poland" and that "Poland and its neighbors should not be held hostage to a single supplier of energy."

Mosbacher declared that her top priority if confirmed "will be to encourage American businesses to expand trade between our nations."

During the hearing, Mosbacher criticized a Polish anti-defamation law and also spoke in favor of Poland accepting a certain number of refugees, according to a report by Polish Radio's Washington correspondent, Marek Wałkuski.

Mosbacher's claim that the Polish anti-defamation law has triggered a wave of anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe was met with criticism from a delegation of Polish

government officials on a visit to Washington, Polish Radio's IAR news agency reported.

The news agency said Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Bartosz Cichocki would raise the issue during a meeting with the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, Wess Mitchell.

❖ ❖ ❖

A Republican fundraiser who was once married to the secretary of commerce under President George H.W. Bush, Mosbacher became rich during a string of marriages to wealthy, older men. She has no known connection to or expertise about Poland, but she has donated more than \$525,000 to Republican candidates and organizations over the years, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Mosbacher has also been a major Republican fundraiser and activist. She served as a co-chair of the Republican National Committee's Finance Committee, and has worked with the National Republican Senatorial Committee and the New Republican Majority Fund. She was New York State's Republican National Committeewoman for more than ten years, and was the first woman to serve as general chairman of the Republican Governors Association. She also served as national

## Are You Entitled to Social Security from Poland?



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

**BENEFITS SEMINAR AT POLISH EMBASSY.** Tomasz Szablinski, section head at the Department of Social Security Disability Benefits Abroad, is pictured at right conducting a Polish social security eligibility seminar at the Polish Embassy. Seated at left is Consul General Zygmunt Matynia.

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Due to the Social Security Treaty, Poles now living in the United States who lived/worked in Poland could become eligible for Polish retirement or disability benefits payable to them in the United States.

A social security benefits seminar was conducted by Tomasz Szablinski — section head at the Department of Social Security Disability Benefits Abroad (ZUS - Zakład Ubezpieczeń Społecznych) at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, May 14, 2018, under the auspices of Consul General Zygmunt Matynia. Szablinski was assisted by a senior inspector and two specialists from ZUS.

The informational seminar was conducted in Polish, and was

attended by approximately fifty people. Szablinski lectured the audience for about one hour and twenty minutes, accompanied by a program of forty very detailed and informative slides concerning the eligibility rules, regulations, application forms and payments. Afterwards, all the ZUS representatives were available for private consultations with the attendees, to which many took full and appreciative advantage of.

This seminar was one of six that were conducted between May 11-19, 2018 in Houston, Texas Pompano Beach and Clearwater, Fla.; Washington, D.C.; New York, N.Y.; and Boston, Mass.

For more detailed general and specific ZUS information, visit [www.zus.pl](http://www.zus.pl); via email at [cot@zus.pl](mailto:cot@zus.pl); or call (from the United States) 011-48-22-560-16-00.

co-chairman of Sen. John McCain's 2000 presidential campaign, and has been a major fundraising for numerous Republican candidates.

Mosbacher has served on the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy since 2016.

Weeks after the *Hollywood Access* tape surfaced — in which then-candidate Trump's made salacious comments about women to television host Billy Bush — Mosbacher came to Trump's defense in an interview, calling him a "decent man." In an opinion piece in *The Washington Times* on July 2, 2017, she defended him by stating, "If Donald Trump's standard of behavior gets the job done, perhaps that standard should become the new normal. It is time to reset protocol to something that will better serve the nation. We should redefine what is presidential to take account of results, as in the business world. A businessman defines a problem, finds a solution, and acts. Yes, the president's decisive style of action doesn't always follow protocol, but it moves the ball."

If confirmed by the Senate, Mosbacher would succeed Paul W. Jones, a career foreign service officer who has served in Warsaw since June 2015.

— From IAR, [foreign.senate.gov](http://foreign.senate.gov), and [allgov.com](http://allgov.com) reports.



## Wilson: President would be proud

continued from cover

Conference, reflect on regional political changes and cultural aspirations of the period, and highlight the eventual long term success of the peoples of Central Europe in building new futures.

### AMBASSADOR WILCZEK'S REMARKS

"It is fitting that today's conference is entitled the 'Rebirth of Europe,' for although we are marking the centennial of independence, our countries and nations date back much further. Poles, as most Europeans, love to boast about the great history of our country. We possess centuries of culture, traditions and history. In this regard we certainly outrank the relative youth of the United States. Nevertheless modern Polish history actually beings around the time of President Wilson's tenure in the White House.

To today's casual observer, the Poland at the time of President Wilson would have been an unrecognizable entity. Then Poles were a nation without a state. They were divided by imposed rulers. When President Wilson drafted his speech to Congress about the post-war world order, Poles were literally fighting against one another in someone else's name, wearing uniforms of the empires who partitioned Poland over a century ago. An estimated two million Polish soldiers fought during the course of the war, often as conscripts dispersed throughout the grand armies. For comparison, two million soldiers is approximately the amount of men the United States deployed to France by the time of the Armistice. Of these two million Polish soldiers, close to half a million died.

Yet Wilson's deep understanding of history and his geopolitical wisdom compelled him to make Poland an indispensable part of his vision for Europe. Simply put, Woodrow Wilson helped repair the mistake of history.

The years following the rebirth of Poland were the start of a lasting friendship between the United States and Poland. A relationship based on shared values and mutual trust. Values that were first developed in combat. Although naturally much attention is paid to World War I, it is actually the years following the war which I believe helped shape lasting Polish-American bonds.

On January 1, 1920 — the day Babe Ruth was sold from Boston (Red Sox) to New York (Yankees) and life was going back to normal here in America, the Bolsheviks were increasing their troops along the Polish border. The Polish-Bolshevik War would serve as the ultimate test of Poland's resolve to defend her newly won independence. As Poland's reborn independence was threatened by Bolshevik Russia, Americans stood ready to assist. It was American volunteer airmen who fought in the Kosciuszko Squadron in defense of Poland. The pilots had no connection to Poland except for their gratitude for Poland's support of American independence and a desire to help Poland in its struggle for freedom.

**AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR POLAND** was not limited to the actions of volunteer airmen. Through the concerted efforts of government aid programs and private charity organizations, the American people offered much needed assistance. Thanks to the efforts of Herbert Hoover and the American Relief Administration, over one and a half million Polish children and nursing mothers were being fed daily in the months after the war. Every single day. Additionally, vital supplies including over two million pairs of shoes and coats for the harsh Polish winter, as well as medical supplies to combat disease were delivered from America. The United States was not indifferent to Poland's plight.

That same spirit of gratitude and friendship was expressed by the Poles. In one of the most touching ways, a Polish Declaration of Admiration and Friendship for the United States was signed by five million Poles. This act displays the affinity that Poles held for their American friends. It is no coincidence that today, in prominent places in Warsaw, one can find a Wilson Square, a Hoover Square even a Washington Boulevard — this is a reaffirmation of Polish gratitude for American goodwill.

Today Poland seeks to exemplify those very characteristics that President Wilson first

extended towards our nation so many years ago, namely mutual trust and commitment.

Today, Poles and Americans once again serve shoulder to shoulder. However, now they not only serve in far-flung regions such as the Middle East, but in Poland, Romania, and throughout Europe. When our values and our alliance is threatened, we know that we cannot be apathetic, and we know we can count on the support of the United States.

Poland, like many countries represented here today, knows all too well the price of freedom. Which is why we are modernizing our armed forces and investing in the security and defense of our country, our region, and our alliance. Poland is proud to be a security contributor, with troops deployed to Latvia and Romania, because solidarity is our strength.



**LOOKING AT THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.** Minnesota Slovak author John Palka and Wilsonian Club President Frank Safertal look on as authors Dr. Zuzana Palovic and Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova discuss the transformation of social and political ideas and the growth of national identity in Slovakia.

From serving alongside each other in military deployments, to cooperating in promoting our shared values in the international arena, the strategic partnership that Poland and the United States share is a testament to the strength of our alliance. From an economically dependent and existentially threatened state in 1918, to a thriving economy and strong NATO ally, Poland has come to fulfill the role that President Wilson set out for it, namely to be the cornerstone of European stability. I am sure President Wilson would be proud and happy to see his vision so successfully fulfilled.

I am glad that later this evening we will be able to toast President Wilson and all those who contributed to Poland's independence in 1918 during a special concert at the National Philharmonic at Strathmore (theater in Bethesda, Maryland) dedicated to Poland's centennial of rebirth. I hope many of you will also be joining us for this incredible musical event.

Given the fact that today's conference is being co-organized by several European diaspora organizations, I consider it most fitting to say a few words about the contributions of diaspora communities in the United States to the stability and independence of our region. It was thanks to the dedication, bravery, goodwill and charity of you, and your forefathers, that our region is safe and secure today. I firmly believe that the assistance and engagement of the diaspora cannot be overstated, this was certainly the case for Poland, but I am sure the same can be said about many other countries in our region as well. On this centennial I once again express Poland's profound gratitude to those sons and daughters of Poland, or decedents thereof, who cared and continue to care for our common homeland. Dziękuję.

I would like to close by quoting from the preamble of this 1926 Polish Declaration of Admiration and Friendship for the United States.

"With eternal gratitude in our hearts, not only for your sacrifice in blood, but also for the various kind of aid given by you in the name of humanity during the war, and above all, for saving our children from famine and disease — we on the day of your national festival, desire to take part in your joy and to wish your country and your nation all possible prosperity."

Thank you once again to the organizers and for all who dedicated their time to being here. Through your presence you are helping us remember the past, and ensure that its lessons continue to guide us into the future."

## Minnesota Voice

# Rebirth of Europe Conference Reflects on a Century of Change

by Mark Dillon

In a week when former World War I allies bickered over trade policy, more than 100 Central European historians, authors and diplomats came together in Washington, D.C. at the Rebirth of Europe conference in June to mark positive change from a global conflict 100 years ago.

Much gratitude was expressed for the U.S. and European leaders who helped Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania emerge from under the yoke of the dysfunctional monarchies of Austria-Hungary, Russia and Germany, as well as the later brutal hypocrisy of Communism.

However, academics from Krakow to Minnesota gathered at the Embassy of Slovakia provided a sober realization that President Woodrow Wilson's 1918 goal of national self-determination, expressed in his 14 Points for Peace, and at the Versailles Peace Conference, and other 1920 treaties, did not fully come about until 1989.

"Wilson's vision endures in the 21st Century" said Elilot Sorel, professor of global health at George Washington University. At the time same, Sorel said the world faces a "global governance deficit" that may undermine past achievements, international cooperation, cultural stability and economic growth.

In 18 presentations and four diplomatic addresses, speakers representing seven nationalities made it clear that many people redefined and reinterpreted Wilson's idealism in ways that both benefited Europe and created setbacks that future generations would have to fix.

Czech Republic Ambassador Hynek Kmonicek added a bit of humor to the proceedings, saying that while historians seek to sort facts to learn truths, a diplomat's role is create a mythology based on selected facts "some of which we know as fake news."

In his presentation, Mieczyslaw Biskupski, professor of history at Central Connecticut State University, questioned whether Wilson gets too much credit for advocating a reborn Poland, arguing that Wilson's use of the word "should" rather than stronger language in Point 13 of his 14 Points indicated lukewarm support.

Rather, Biskupski said Wilson was more sympathetic to the then-new Communist Russia:

"In the sixth of the 14 points Wilson emotionally celebrates the reconstruction of what would be a new Russian empire; a disaster for tens of millions. He insisted that "all Russian territory" must be evacuated-but never defined what this territory is; and should it not be ethnographically determined? All powers are to "give Russia assistance of every kind" — why? "Russian interests" are to be given special attention. Again, why? Why does he not direct such affection to, perhaps, Poland?" Biskupski credits Josef Pilsudski, the "father of modern Poland," with turning Wilson's utopian ideal into "a better geo-strategy, a clearer vision based on profound knowledge of the history, demography and geo-politics of the region."

"For Pilsudski, a huge Russian Empire in the east (would be) a geo-political disaster for Europe. Its ethnic minorities must be liberated and, having done that, an alliance system must be created among them. A fantastic notion? Not at all, it existed for centuries-known as the (Polish-Lithuanian) Commonwealth. When it existed, Russia played no role in European affairs. Soon after it was destroyed — the partitions - Russian troops were in Paris!"

Biskupski explained.

Another Polish perspective was offered by Tomasz Pudlocki, professor of history at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, who focused on the complex diplomatic challenges of winning board support for the restoration of Polish independence after more than a century of partitioned rule. He highlighted the fact that initially the Germans sought to create the Kingdom of Poland puppet state on Nov. 5, 1916, an idea that did not win much support, as both Germans and Austrians treated Polish land as conquered territory.

Pudlocki noted that European and Wilson's public support for Poland only began to crystalize after Russian Tsar Nicholas II floated the idea of a quasi-autonomous Polish state in a Christmas 1916 message. At that point the Russians had already lost Warsaw, were retreating across the Eastern Front and had implemented a scorched earth policy.

"The impossible became possible," Pudlocki said, with the help of advocates for Poland such as pianist Ignacy Paderewski and the 22,000 Polish Americans who volunteered for military service in the Polish Army in France.

Not everything at the conference was geopolitical, or a look at just the past. Two public policy researchers at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom — Zuzana Palovic and Gabriela Bereghazyova — focused on the ongoing transformation of cultural, social and economic ideas within Slovakia, a nation that has undergone six regime changes in the 20th century and the 1993 breakup with the Czech Republic.

This year marks Slovakia's 25th anniversary as an independent nation. Palovic and Bereghazyova have authored a book entitled *The Great Return* about how educated young diaspora are returning to infuse Slovakia with talent and ideas.

Personal insights offered at the conference included anecdotes from speakers and audience members about their ancestors' involvement in the epic events of the 20th Century.

Juraj Ludevit Jan Slavik, 89, recalled how his father, Juraj, was sent to Warsaw to head the Czechoslovak diplomatic mission to Poland in 1936, when bilateral relations were strained over Upper Silesia. Hitler had already begun a string of territorial demands that would lead to the breakup of Czechoslovakia two years later, and in 1939, the invasion of Poland. The Slavik family would flee to Switzerland when the younger Juraj was nine.

Anna Cookova, president of Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. told the story of how her relative, Charles J. Vopicka, the U.S. envoy to Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria from 1913 to 1920, earned awards from all three nations and personally helped get a grain ship sent to Romania to combat regional hunger, which reached famine conditions in Poland by 1919.

Professor Pudlocki, originally from Przemysl, Poland shared a photo of his ancestor in a full dress officer's uniform of the Austrian-Hungarian Army, saber at his side. His family survived the invading Russians' siege of the city in the winter of 1915.

John Palka of Minnesota, author of *My Slovakia, My Family*, described his grandfather Milan Hodza's role building Slovak-Czech relations after Czechoslovakia was created within the wider context of changing perceptions about national and European identity. Milan Hodza was prime minister of Czechoslovakia at the time of the 1938 Munich Agreement that saw United Kingdom and France appease Hitler by letting the dictator take Czech border lands with Germany. In his book, Palka notes that he was a toddler when the family later fled Europe via Vichy France and Lisbon using fake ids.

Neither Austria nor Hungary, the largest territorial losers of World War I, participated in the conference. Perhaps it was a lost opportunity to provide a thoughtful context that could have helped a modern audience understand both nations' current thinking about the European Union. In Washington, the Austrian Embassy is the Slovak Embassy's next door neighbor on the opposite side of a *cul de sac*.



## Religion

## Bishop Zubik Radically Reorganizes Pittsburgh Diocese Churches

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

After three years of prayer, study and consultation, **Bishop David Zubik** has announced his decisions related to the *On Mission for The Church Alive!* strategic planning initiative.

The changes are designed to promote vibrant faith and healthy growth in every parish and ministry of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The diocese's 188 parishes are placed in 57 groupings that will become new parishes between 2020 and 2023 with priests and deacons assigned to serve in the parishes, as well as major hospitals, nursing homes, colleges, high schools and correctional institutions. Each parish grouping is assigned a timeline for merging and a maximum number of Masses to be celebrated on weekends. New, interim Mass schedules will be announced in August and take effect October 15.

**PRO-LIFE DEMOCRAT WINS PRIMARY.** Despite heavy outside support from abortion supporters across the country for his radically pro-abortion opponent, Illinois Rep. **Dan Lipinski**, the only Democrat consistently Pro-Life and against abortion, emerged victorious in the closely contested democratic primary. Although polls indicate that some 51% of Democratic Party voters support limitations on abortion after five months of pregnancy, the Democratic party stands firmly against any limitation of abortion access. Lipinski is a lead co-sponsor of the no Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act and is co-chair of the Bi-Partisan Congressional Pro-Life caucus.

**ILLINOIS BISHOPS OPPOSE DEATH PENALTY.** Illinois governor **Bruce Rauner's** plans to re-establish to death penalty, after 20 years of non-use, in the face of killings of law-enforcement officers and mass-murders such as in the recent attacks on schools. The Catholic bishops, with Springfield, Illinois' **Bishop Paprocki** among them, ob-



**THE FIRST ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE POLISH TRUCK DRIVERS** and Mass was held on June 10 at the Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine (Salvatorian Fathers Monastery) in Merrillville, Ind. Fr. Lukasz Kleczka, SDS, officiated.

jected that "you cannot teach killing is wrong by killing." They also declared, "We are all God's children, and our first — and primary — right to life must always be protected and unconditional."

**BISHOPS' PROPOSALS ON GUN CONTROL.** Bishop **Thomas Paprocki** of the RC Diocese of Springfield, Ill., reiterated and expanded on the bishops' proposals on gun control issued after the murderous assault in the elementary school in Sandy Hook, Conn. The bishops' joint statement called for national policies to strengthen the regulation of firearms. Stating that "guns are too easily accessible," the bishops supported concrete controls to limit the purchase of guns. These include: measures that control the sale and use of firearms; measures that make guns safer (especially efforts that prevent their unsupervised use by children and anyone other than the gun owner); and support of sensible regulation of handguns and of legislative efforts to protect society from the violence associated with easy access to deadly weapons, including high-capacity weapons. They called for a serious commitment to confront the pervasive role of addiction and mental illness in crime. Fi-

nally, ending gun violence requires more than a legislative agenda for gun control. We need to outlaw certain firearms. We need to do better background checks. We need to challenge our TV, movie and video gaming industries not to use violence as entertainment. We need to provide better, more accessible care for those with mental illness, especially when it manifests as anger.

**FAIRBANKS DIOCESE NEEDS HELP.** Bishop **Chad Zielinski** of the RC Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, the northernmost and largest U.S. diocese, is in need of funds to bring more priests to work in his diocese, such as recent additions of one from Poland, two from Nigeria and two from India. The four seminarians for the diocese also need support. Other needs include fuel for a parish boat, snow machine, or ATV as well as for the diocesan plane to reach remote areas. Visit [www.dioceseoffairbanks.org](http://www.dioceseoffairbanks.org).

**WALKING PILGRIMAGE MARKS FIVE YEARS.** Over 25 pilgrims walked the 15 miles from St. Brendan on the Lake, Wilson, N.Y., to Lewiston, N.Y.'s Our Lady of Fatima Shrine. Fr. **Józef Dudzik** began

the tradition inspired by walking pilgrimages in his native Poland. On this the first and only such pilgrimage in the Diocese of Buffalo, pilgrims prayed the rosary, sang and meditated on Jesus' Way of the Cross in English and Polish. At the shrine, participants participated in a special mass celebrated by Fr. **Dominik Jezierski** from Buffalo's St. John Gualbert Church.

For information about next year's pilgrimage, e-mail to [dffpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:dffpalmer@gmail.com) or call (716) 785-9973.

**STO LAT TO ...** Recently ordained Jesuit priests **Fr. Artur Suski, S.J.** on his ordination in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and **Fr. Keith A. Maczkiewicz, S.J.** ordained in the Bronx, N.Y. Also ordained in Toronto to the diaconate was **Christopher Grodecki, S.J.** Springfield, Ill., RC Diocese newly ordained **Brother Adam Zawadzki, OP Miss.** Buffalo RC Diocese recently ordained priests **Fr. Paul Stanislaw Cygan** and **Fr. Gerard Skrzynski.** Detroit RC Archdiocese recently ordained **Fr. John Maksym**, who said, "We thank God for calling us to tend the vineyard and endeavor to protect the eternal souls of His wonderful people, and to work with many of them to bring His saving word and sacraments to those who, overtaken by a cynical and materialistic world, cannot seem to hear the clarion call of His voice."

"**Mr. Damion**" on receiving the "God and Country Award" St. Mary's PNCC Parish, Parma, Ohio. The devoted Boy Scout is also faithful to his service of the Lord in his

parish.

**Aaron Fajerski** who met the challenges of cerebral palsy and earned a BA in literary philosophy from Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, W.V. He also was awarded the 2018 Manning Award for Academic Success, given to a graduate who overcame a learning disability to earn a college degree.

**Charles Kulick**, a senior at Scranton Prep in Scranton, Pa., profiled in the *Scranton Times-Tribune* as a Scholastic Superstar for leading the Advanced Technology Club to first place.

Sister of St. Joseph **Kathy Brazda**, on being elected to her national congregation's leadership team. Sister Brazda, who will officially serve as the congregation's president, has most recently worked with the Renew My Church initiative as the pastoral accompaniment director. Before that, she founded and was executive director of Taller de José, a ministry that helps connect people to services they need and accompanies them on the journey.

The new officers of the Polish American Priests Association (PAPA) at their annual meeting in Cleveland: **Fr. Christopher Henyk** (president, Youngstown Diocese), **Msgr. Thomas Machalski** (vice-president, Brooklyn Diocese), **Fr. Walter Ptak** (treasurer, Detroit Archdiocese), **Fr. Maciej Mańkowski** (secretary, Youngstown Diocese) **Fr. Eric Orzech** of the Cleveland Archdiocese hosted the convention.

## Thousands of Young Celebrate Faith, Patriotism

POZNAN (Polish Radio) — Some 85,000 young Catholics from across Poland celebrated their faith at an annual gathering that culminated with a symbolic rite of passage in the early hours of June 3.

The 22nd Lednica Youth Meeting in the western part of the country ended with a walk at midnight under a massive structure known as the "Fish Gate" and symbolizing Christianity.

The motto of this year's gathering was "I am," in reference to Jesus Christ's message to people: "I am for you, I am with you, I am focused on you," Archbishop Grzegorz Ryś told those gathered in a homily.

The prayer vigil in the Lednica Fields, near where Poland's first ruler Mieszko I is thought to have been baptized in 966 AD, was combined with a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining independence.

At a general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis offered greetings to pilgrims from Germany, Belarus, Brazil, Croatia, Kenya, Italy, Lebanon, and Canada, who were about to depart for Lednica.

"I address a special greeting to all those of you who ... will participate in the Youth Meeting in Lednica, to reflect on the Lord Jesus' words: 'I am with you every day.' I am de-

lighted with the initiative," said Pope Francis. "Dear young people, rest assured that He sees you as a precious treasure for the world."

Addressing the Polish pilgrims in his audience, the Pontiff said: "As you celebrate in Lednica the centenary of the recovery of the independence of your country, also kiss Polish soil on my behalf."

Poland's President Andrzej Duda visited those praying at the Lednica Fields. He told them that Christian faith was a defining element of Polish statehood.

Duda thanked the young Catho-

lics for "keeping the Christian faith" chosen for Poland by its first ruler, a faith that he said over the centuries "built the great and wonderful tradition thanks to which we exist as a state."

The president handed out national flags to those gathered, asking them to take the red-and-white flags with them, to respect them and display them at important moments for the nation.

Lights flashed and cameras rolled as Duda joined the young Catholics in a ceremonial dance and singing.

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**THANKSGIVING PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Father, as a Church Family, we are grateful to You for sealing us with the promise of Your Holy Spirit. We are thankful that the same power (Holy Spirit) that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is now working in us to do Your good will and pleasure. Holy Spirit, we thank You for being our Helper and living in us forever. We thank You for teaching us all things and bringing to our remembrance all things God, our Father, has said. Thank You, for leading us and guiding us into all truth. Thank You for freeing us from the bondages of our fleshly desires; for to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Holy Spirit, thank You, for producing in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as we walk in You. Holy Spirit, because of You, we have the power to love unconditionally; power to perform miracles and healing; and the power to cast out demons. We can do all things through Jesus Christ because of You. S.D.



## Books in Brief

## War's Hardships, Firsthand

by Mary E. Lanham

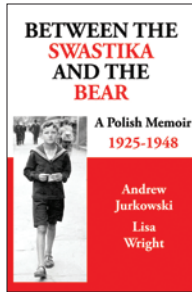
**BETWEEN THE SWASTIKA AND THE BEAR: A POLISH MEMOIR 1925-1948**

by Andrew Jurkowski and Lisa Wright

Cave Art Press, 2017, 210 pgs.

On September 1, 1939, Poland was invaded, marking the beginning of World War II. Andrew Jurkowski was only a teenager then, living on his family's farm in western Poland. He had no idea of what was to become of him or his family. *Between the Swastika and the Bear* is a first-hand account of what his life was like before, during, and after the Second World War. While the war ended for the rest of the world, it didn't ease the hardship that Jurkowski was forced to endure, until he was able to escape from the communist regime, immigrating to the United States.

Jurkowski's father died before Andrew was even old enough to start school and at age four, he and his mother and siblings moved to his grandfather's farm. Andrew's mother, not content to live on solely her father's charity, resumed her work as a seamstress having trained as one before she was married. Sometimes she would have to leave



her family at the farm to work for wealthy employers at far away estates. Andrew's grandfather impressed upon his grandchildren the importance of education and learning German as they were only 100 miles from the border and because it was spoken in the region.

Jurkowski describes what life was like growing up in an agricultural area on the outskirts of the town of Krobia. The excerpt below shows what it was like during a typical harvest season for the workers on his father's farm.

"Temperatures reached 95 degrees during a typical summer. The heat was hard on the workers, although it was good for the crops... A workman drove a mechanical reaper pulled by a team of draft horses. Three or four women walked behind the reaper with scythes. They gathered the stalks, tied them into bundles, and then set them up into shocks. At the end of the day, men hitched up wagons, loaded all the shocks, and brought everything into the grain barn."

Next to Jurkowski's grandfather's land was the Pudliszki estate, which was so large it had a farm, a canning factory, and sawmill. After the Nazis took over, Werner Stöver a member of the SS, became the overseer of the factory. Spurred by the fear that he would be sent to a labor camp if he was unemployed, Jurkowski sought a job at the Pudliszki's factory. Stöver was so impressed by Jurkowski's command of the German language, he made him an office assistant. In this role, Andrew was entrusted to distribute the ration stamps to the Polish laborers. He contrived a way to give extra ration stamps out to the workers who were forced to put in 12-hour days. He continued working there until the Nazis were driven away by the Russian forces.

When the war ended, Poland was put under communist rule, and Andrew was compelled to make his perilous escape towards the freedom of the West.

*Between the Swastika and the Bear: A Polish Memoir 1925-1948* by Andrew Jurkowski and Lisa Wright is available on Amazon.

You can subscribe or renew your subscription on-line at [www.polamjournal.com](http://www.polamjournal.com).

## Come Hungry



**PARTICIPANTS** at last year's pierogi eating contest at Polish Day at St. Anne's Church prepare for fierce competition under the watchful eye of Polish Youngstown's mascot, Stan the Pierog.

This year's Polish day will be Sun., Aug. 26, at St. Anne's, 3055 S. Racoon Rd., Youngstown, Ohio, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00.

Polish food will be available from the kitchen, deli, and bakery. The event will start with a Polka Mass, followed by live polka bands — Jimmy K & the Mostly Honky Combo, and & Ray Jay & The Carousels. There will be contests, workshops, vendor displays, and a folk fashion show given by the Krakowianki Polish Folk Circle. Art demonstrations, a cultural garden, activities for children, and and performances also are on the entertainment lineup.

Polish Day is sponsored by Polish Youngstown, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

To learn more, [www.polishyoungstown.org/polishday](http://www.polishyoungstown.org/polishday).

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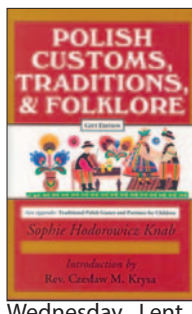
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.

**SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality**  
by Claire M. Anderson  
Item 1-675  
\$14.95ACTA Publications  
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

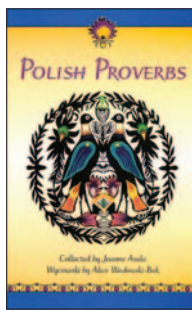
What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire Anderson, of Polish descent and currently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Wisconsin, explores this tradition and expands it by connecting these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.

**POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE**\$24.95  
Item 2-643  
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab  
340 pp., hc.

Polish Customs, Traditions, & Folklore is organized by month, beginning

**POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, & FOLKLORE**  
by Joanne Asala  
\$24.95  
Item 2-643  
340 pp., hc.

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

**POLISH PROVERBS**  
by Joanne Asala  
\$14.95  
Item 2-681  
6x9 in., 64 pp., pb.

Poles are gregarious, cheerful, hard-working, and earnest—qualities reflected in their proverbs, collected here by author Joanne Asala. Some examples: "Love enters a man through his eyes and a woman through her ears." "Without work, there is no bread." "Do not push the river; it will flow on its own accord." The back and front covers feature stunning illustrations of paper cuts by the late Polish folk artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak, with more of her work throughout the book.

**POLISH FOLKLORE AND MYTH**by Joanne Asala  
\$12.95  
Item 2-679  
6x9 in  
118 pp., pb.

This book of engaging folk stories includes such tales as "The Violin," "The Headache Cure," "Midsummer's Eve," "The Flower Queen's Daughter," "The Legend of the North Wind," "The Flaming Castle," "The Village Dance," and "The Unfinished Tune." The stories

were collected by Joanne Asala, with wycinanki (paper-cutting) illustrations by Polish-American artist Alice Wadowsky-Bak.

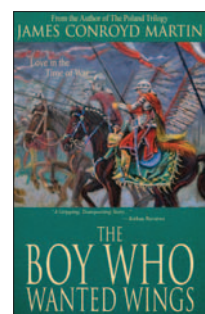
**CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998**  
by S. A. Blejwas  
Item 1-660  
\$22.50  
Boydell & Brewer,  
2005. 396 pp., ill.  
6.20 x 9.30 x 1.20

This book examines the history of the Polish Singers Alliance of America as an ideological organization, documenting the extent to which the politics of the homeland engaged an immigrant and ethnic community over a century.

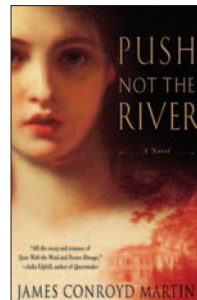
"A superb treatment of the formation and expansion of the oldest Polish-American cultural organization in North America." — Frances Gates

**POLAND: A HISTORY**  
by Adam Zamojski  
\$19.95  
Item 1-659  
pb. 426 pp., 5.5 in. x 8.5 in.

A substantially revised and updated edition of the author's classic 1987 book, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture*, which has been out of print since 2001. No nation's history has been so distorted as that of Poland. "...excellent and authoritative"... "fresh, different, and brilliantly readable."

**THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS**  
by James Conroyd Martin  
Author of "Don't Push the River"  
\$14.95  
paperback / Item 2-612 pb  
\$25.95 hardcover / Item 2-612 hc  
398 pp.

Aleksy, a Tatar raised by a Polish peasant family, holds in his heart the wish to become a hussar so that he could battle the Turks at Vienna (the first 9/11, in 1683). As a Tatar and a peasant, this is an unlikely quest. When he meets Krystyna, the daughter of a noble, winning her love seems just as unlikely a quest. Under the most harrowing and unlikely circumstances, one day Aleksy must choose between his dreams.

**PUSH NOT THE RIVER**  
Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy  
by James Conroyd Martin  
\$15.95  
Item 2-609  
Hussar Quill Press. 496 pp., pb.  
6"x1"x9"

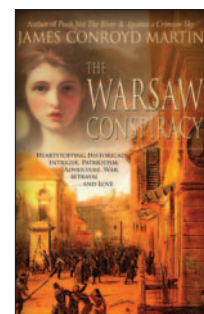
Maps &amp; wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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

**AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY**  
Book 2 of Martin's Poland Trilogy  
by James Conroyd Martin  
\$15.95  
Item 2-610  
St. Martin's Press  
369 pp., pb. Map &

wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide

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

**THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY**  
Book 3 of Martin's Poland Trilogy  
by James Conroyd Martin  
\$17.99 Hussar Quill Press  
508 pp., pb.  
Item 2-611

Portraying two brothers in love and war, *The Warsaw Conspiracy* completes the trilogy. You need not have read the others to enjoy this family saga set against the November Rising (1830-1831). With

Siberia or emigration heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia attempt to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters.

**FROM PADEREWSKI TO PENDERECKI**  
*The Polish Musician in Philadelphia*  
by Paul Krzywicki  
\$24.95  
Item 2-151  
Lulu Publishing 2016; pb. 396 pp., 6"x1"x9"

Extraordinary stories and accomplishments of 170 Polish musicians whose presence in Philadelphia influenced music in America. Paul Krzywicki, a native of Philadelphia, was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for thirty-three years, performing in over four thousand concerts, more than 60 recordings and presenting master classes throughout the world. He is currently on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. A full biography is in Part I.

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## Polonia Places

## Polish Falcons Nest 66

by Gregory L. Witul

**POLISH FALCONS NEST 66**  
 415 Shingiss Street  
 McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania  
 Status: Closed

With Pittsburgh being the headquarters of the Polish Falcons of America, it should be no surprise that thousands of members live in the boroughs and townships surrounding the city. In the suburb of McKees Rocks, on the Ohio River's south side, Falcons Nest 66 would serve as an athletic and social lynchpin for the Rock's Polish community for over a century.

Nest 66 was born June 10, 1906 when Stanley Sandrowski convinced John Nowakowski, Leon Klanicki, Adam Marchelewicz, J.S. Radke, and four others to form a local Falcons branch. Wanting a patron for their new organization, they decided to name their group Michal Wolodyjowski from Henryk Sienkiewicz's *Trilogy* and elected Mr. W. Gmachowski as president with Mr. F. Hrobaczyk as secretary. The men sent their application to the Falcons headquarters, at the time in Chicago, and in return received the nest number 66.

The group soon began renting a building for four dollars a week and elected a full board that included Mr. F. Wisniewski as president,

Mr. A. Szymanski as vice president, and Mr. F. Szymczak as drill instructor. That September the nest held its first fundraiser dance with the aim of building its own home. The next October the nest received a great influx of members when the Polish National Alliance group No. 817 joined the Falcons.

In September of 1910 the nest received its charter and began looking for a building lot. One was found on Munson Ave. and after spending \$14,000 the W. Hobert constructed building was completed within a month. The Munson Avenue location would host the 1913 Division IV convention, send 38 boys off to the Great War, and see Nest 66 president John Jaworowski serve on the national Polish Falcons board from 1918 to 1922.

The construction of McKees Rocks Bridge in 1929 would force the Nest to sell its building to the county. When the sale was completed the Polish National Alliance and Falcons each took its portions of the proceeds and

new roost in 1937.

At Shingiss Street, the Nest added a bar to its newly acquired gymnastic space. During World War II, Nest 66 contributed to the war effort while also saving up to buy its building. In 1946 a mortgage burning celebration was held and the next year the nest spent \$4,000 to remodel the building.

Besides sponsoring athletic endeavors like a drill team and a bowling league, Nest 66 also hosted its own choir which could be found singing at shows around town and Falcons' events including the Nest's 50th anniversary in 1956. At the time of its golden jubilee Peter Szczepanski served as president, Henry Slonchka as flag bearer, and Stanly Zarzeczny as steward.

Shingiss Street would serve as the home of the Polish Falcons Literary and Gymnastic Association Nest No. 66 for the next quarter century, but in spring of 1981 they sold the building. Despite no longer owning a home, the Nest thrived. In 1987 the Nest counted 155 members and was still active in district and national conventions. The 1990s and new millennium saw a decline in membership of the nest and by 2006 the organization existed almost exclusively on paper. By the end of 2010 there weren't enough members to support a nest and Nest 66 folded.



went separate ways. The Falcons set up temporarily at the Polish Cadets Hall as they began looking for a new home. After a number of setbacks, the Falcons made 415 Shingiss its

## Chicago Polonians You Should Know

## Lucyna Migala

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

Lucyna Migala is well-known as one of Chicago Polonia's premier broadcast journalists, impresarios, arts administrators, and Polish American cultural activists.

Born in Krakow, Poland, she came to America as a young child with her family. Her parents, Joseph and Slawa Migala, became prominent in Chicago's Polish language broadcasting and Polish American community affairs. Lucyna would later follow in their footsteps.

After earning a degree in journalism from Northwestern University and a fellowship at the Washington Journalism Center in the nation's capital, she spent 13 years as a writer, reporter, and producer for *NBC News*, based in Chicago, Cleveland, and Washington, D.C. While there, she covered news events throughout the United States and Poland.

Later, she resigned from NBC to create, along with other members of her family, WCEV- 1450AM, one of Chicagoland's major multi-ethnic radio stations. Migala now serves as vice president and program director in a part-time capacity, but can still be heard on the air providing WCEV ethnic reports and public affairs programming.

Significantly, Migala also is the driving force of the prestigious Lira Ensemble as its artistic director, general manager, and narrator. The Lira is the nation's only professional performing arts company specializing in Polish music, song, and dance. She originally sang as a soprano with the Lira Singers for more than 25 years and is now Lira's very popular concert narrator, in addition to producing Lira concerts. Also, along with the late Alice Stephen, a Lithuanian American,



Lucyna Migala

she co-founded the Lira Ensemble. From its humble beginnings, the Ensemble has grown to be the musical icon that it is today. The company, which includes the Lira Symphony as well as dancers and singers, performs regularly around the Midwest and during tours in Poland. It has been honored as the current Artist-in-Residence at Loyola University Chicago.

Active in the Polish American community since her college days, Migala served on the National Board of the Polish Women's Alliance of America, an officer of the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, a board member of the Polish American Leadership Initiative, and co-founder and officer of the Chicago Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation. She founded the Kosciuszko Foundation Chicago Chapter's Chopin Competition. In addition, Migala served on the board of the Illinois Humanities Council and the Illinois Arts Alliance, was a found-

ing member of the Ethnic and Folk Panel of the Illinois Arts Council, and served on many arts panels for the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, now known as the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. She has participated in many inter-ethnic groups, such as the Illinois Ethnic Coalition, Chicago's Polish-Jewish Dialogue, and Chicago's Catholic-Jewish Dialogue.

Migala has produced and narrated hundreds of concerts in theaters, concert halls, churches, and synagogues. In 1989, in cooperation with Carlos Tortolero of the then Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum (now the National Museum of Mexican Art), she initiated a series of innovative Mexican-Polish concerts which continues today and which inspired an equally successful series of African-American/Polish-American concerts. In 2007, the National Museum of Mexican Art presented her with its Sor Juana Award in recognition of her inter-ethnic initiatives.

Migala is the recipient of numerous other awards and distinctions, including an Emmy for her work in television, an award from the Chicago Commission on Human Relations for her work in radio, and the Cavalier's Cross of Merit from the president of Poland for her work promoting Polish culture. She has received awards and other recognition from countless Polish American organizations.

Migala continues to say, "Our work will not be done until every American is aware of the rich thousand-year heritage that immigrants from Poland brought with them to these shores – a culture that they treasure and enjoy and pass on to their children and grandchildren."

## Navy Seal Britt Slabinski Awarded Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Trump awarded the Medal of Honor to Britt Slabinski, the retired Navy SEAL who rallied his outnumbered troops during a chaotic rescue mission on a snow-covered mountain top in Afghanistan in 2002.

Slabinski was initially awarded the Navy Cross for his heroics in

the fight against al-Qaeda terrorists to rescue a colleague, but a review of citations for valor since the Sept. 11 terror attacks ordered in 2014 by then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel resulted in the upgrade to the Medal of Honor.

Another member of Slabinski's team, Air Force Tech. Sgt. John

Chapman, is also being considered for the Medal of Honor posthumously.

In addition, several other troops, including at least three sailors, received Silver Stars in secret ceremonies for their heroism in combat that day, according to *USA Today*.

## Spotlight on Long Island

## Mieczyslaw Madejski Feted

by Barbara Szykowski

A week-long celebration of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the City of Glen Cove ended with a Memorial Day Parade. This year's 2018 Parade honoree was retired Captain Mieczyslaw Madejski, a hero of World War II with dual citizenship, and Grand Marshal retired Army Master Sergeant Paul McDermott.

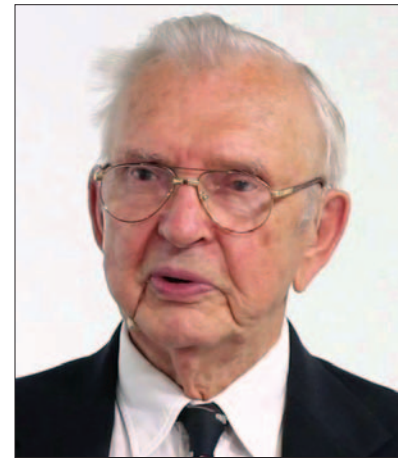
The City of Glen Cove Memorial Day Opening Ceremony commenced at the Veterans Monument Park, with the singing of the Polish National Anthem sung by the Male Oginski Choir, followed by the Children's Church Choir singing the American anthem. Many local political figures were present to acknowledge the heroic deeds of these two Army retirees with citations and proclamations. Mayor Timothy Tenke and Deputy Consul of the Republic of Poland Mateusz Gmura presented special awards.

Madejski born in Poland is a Home Army Veteran, who served his country from 1937 to 1946. During the siege of Warsaw by the Germans, he volunteered to serve in the City's fire department, whereby at age 16 joined the Polish Defense Forces, which in 1942 became the Polish Home Army. He was part of a resistance group, Union for Armed Struggle, and in 1942 helped liberate 350 Jews from Gesiowka concentration camp.

The war dead monument in Glen Cove's Veterans Park lists over two-hundred servicemen who lost their lives in conflicts. Each year, the Parade Committee honors one, and this year they selected Eddie Lupinsky, who served in World War II. On behalf of the citizens of Glen Cove, a Certificate of Remembrance and Appreciation was presented to the Lupinsky family by Madejski.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the "Knot Board-Bridge of the Greatest Generation," which was presented to Madejski by a 13-year-old Boy Scout Genalie Prezeau. This young man and Madejski developed a friendship, proving age and generation knows no difference.

Madejski has been honored by



Captain Mieczyslaw Madejski (ret.) is a Home Army veteran who helped liberate the Gesiowka Nazi German concentration camp.

the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem. He is also the recipient of the Cross of Polonia Restituta, which was presented to him by former president of Poland, Lech Kaczynski. He was also twice awarded with the Cross of Valor, and is an honorary member of the Warsaw Uprising Museum.

He immigrated to the United States in 1969, became a citizen and active member in various Polish organizations, including the Society of Polish Combatants, the Polish Home of Glen Cove, Polish American Museum, and the Long Island Division of the Polish American Congress. Madejski continues to visit the Polish Supplementary Schools and speaks to Polish youths of his experience.

In recognition of its unique ethnic diversity, the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums announced "International Nights at Eisenhower Park," during June and July. The August event will be held at Harry Chapin Lakeside Theater. On Sun., July 8, a dual program honoring the area's Polish and Greek communities will commence at 7:00 p.m. For your comfort, bring your lawn chairs and blankets. A schedule of all ethnic nights can be found at <https://events.longisland.com/international-nights-2018-at-eisenhower-park.html>.



## Happenings: Chicago Style

## PMA Pays Tribute to Maria Ciesla and PSFCU

PHOTO: JULITA SIEGEL



SUMMER GALA. Owsiany, Ciesla, Orlowski, Kot, and Drobot.

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — Over 225 guests attended the 38th Annual Summer Gala of The Polish Museum of America (PMA) held at Café La Cave in Des Plaines, Illinois, on June 8. This elegant black-tie affair provided a special opportunity to pay tribute, with its 2018 Polish Spirit Award, to the PMA's President Emeritus, **Maria Bronny Ciesla**, for her years of outstanding devotion, her volunteer work, and genuine love for the PMA, a commitment she began in the mid-1970s. Maria made the PMA the cultural treasure it is today. The PMA also presented a second Spirit Award to the **Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union (PSFCU)** for providing generous financial support to Polish and Polish American events and organizations. The PSFCU is now the largest ethnic credit union in the United States. Both Maria and the PSFCU were recognized for their commitment to America's Polonia and to the Polish and Polish American heritage, and for their support of the PMA and its mission. Notably, the Gala commemorated the centennial of Poland's regained independence. It was also announced that Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) and chair of the PMA, will officially retire from his 10-year stewardship of the PRCUA this September.

The Summer Gala is the largest annual fundraiser for the PMA; all proceeds support its general opera-

tions. This wonderful June evening event began with welcoming remarks by Sharon Orlowski, chair of the PMA Summer Gala, then followed by the singing of the Polish and American national anthems by Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., an invocation by Rev. Andrzej Totzke, SChr, pastor of Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church, and toasts by Richard Owsiany, president of PMA, and Małgorzata Kot, PMA managing director. The evening was filled with wonderful cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a gourmet dinner, a fantastic silent auction, a cash prize raffle, and the inimitable sounds of the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra. The staff of Café LaCave provided its usual excellent, attentive service, and the festive evening concluded with dancing to many familiar tunes.



Alicia Dutka, Joanna Bejana, Dr. Robert Dutka, and Tom Payne.

**PACC HOLDS ANNUAL LUNCHEON.** On June 10, the Polish Arts Cub of Chicago (PACC) held its annual Inaugural Luncheon in

the Garden Terrace Room at the Hilton Chicago in Northbrook, Illinois. The event began with an outstanding classical guitar performance by **Joanna Bajena**. Following this, **Tom Payne**, president of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), spoke of his introduction to Polish culture through his mother, who had Tom drive her to the group's meetings. After a year of attending ACPC meetings and a visit to Korczak Ziolkowski's Crazy Horse sculpture in the Black Hills of South Dakota, he became dedicated to enhancing Polish culture in America.

The ACPC represents the interests of some 21 affiliated organizations located in 15 states and the District of Columbia. Its oldest affiliated organization is the PACC that was established in 1928.

Payne then swore in the PACC officers: President **Anne Oerke**, Second Vice President **Piotr Wolodkiewicz**, and Directors, **Robert Maycan, Jolanta Pawlikowski, Kasia Szczesniowski**. Following the luncheon, guests enjoyed the PACC's ever-popular annual raffle.

Guitarist Joanna Bejana, a Polish American fluent in the Polish language, is a 2018 graduate of Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University with an emphasis in performance classic guitar. She also has a successful modeling career and has been photographed for *Elegant, Vogue, Alhambra Amour, and*



of the conservation process, each poster's paper was de-acidified, paints were retouched, and each poster was glued to a new paper base. These restoration procedures enhanced the true beauty of the colors and the stories the posters told.

Guests were welcomed by the PMA's Managing Director, Małgorzata Kot, who thanked all who supported this major undertaking. Both PMA President Richard Owsiany, and PMA Chairman Joseph A. Drobot, Jr., thanked Dariusz Subocz and Adam Subocz, the conservators who carried out the full restoration at the Grębocin Museum. The evening continued with a performance by singer and pianist, Wlodek Zuterek.

These posters had been previously shown in Poland at the Poster Museum in Wilanów and at the National Museum in Szczecin. Several of these unique works represent how the foundation concepts of the "Polish poster school" were built. They also reflect the spirit of the time and the important role that Polish posters played in creating this international art form.

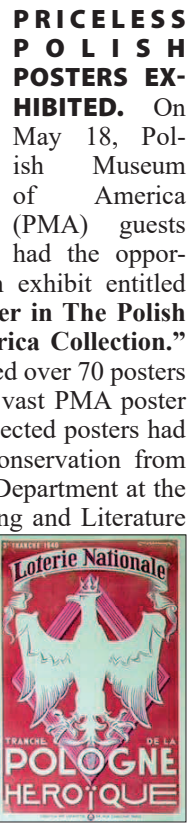
This PMA poster exhibition is important in its subject matter as it shows how Poland, regaining independence after 123 years of subservience, transitioned to 100 years of independence. The exhibit will be available for viewing until September 4. (Photos courtesy of Dariusz Lachowski).

*Chicago Magazines*. She has also been seen in the *Chicago Tribune's Sunday Magazine* section.

The PACC had already held its general meeting on May 19 at the elegant Lutnia Restaurant on Chicago's Northwest side at which the new PACC officers were first announced. Future plans include a Members Picnic on August 26 at the Organic Vegetarian Family Farm, located in Woodstock Illinois.



On May 18, Polish Museum of America (PMA) guests had the opportunity to view an exhibit entitled "The Polish Poster in The Polish Museum in America Collection." The exhibit featured over 70 posters selected from the vast PMA poster collection. The selected posters had received expert conservation from the Conservation Department at the Museum of Printing and Literature in Grębocin, a village near Toruń, Poland. They represented perhaps the best graphic art produced during the independent Poland period. As part



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After receiving their diplomas, the graduates, with smiling faces, left the Basilica in a formal procession. Once outside, the happy graduates couldn't wait to take photos and throw their caps in the air with joyous energy. Music during the ceremony was provided by young musicians from the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra Academy.

This graduation ceremony was the culmination of 12 years of study in which students sacrificed many after-school hours, including sports practices. They will not forget what they have learned, the experiences they have gained, and the friendships they have made by attending a Polish school during those years. But their hard-earned knowledge will make them true ambassadors of Polish culture in America.

**DZIESZKO CELEBRATED 30TH ANNIVERSARY.** On Sunday, May 6, parishioners, friends, and various dignitaries gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ordination of **Rev. Tadeusz Dzieszko**, pastor of Saint Constance Parish on Chicago's Northwest Side.



The gathering began with Ks. Dzieszko Mass. Afterwards, a crowd of approximately 600 gathered in the parish's Borowczyk Hall to enjoy the celebration with food and music.

Tadeusz Dzieszko was born in Suchowola, Poland, on November 6, 1960. In 1984, he began his studies at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. On December 12, 1987, he was ordained deacon and began his deacon practicum at St. Robert Bellarmine,



Graduates throwing caps.

**POLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS HOLD GRADUATION.** On May 6, Chicago's St. Hyacinth Basilica was filled to capacity with family, friends, and teachers to celebrate 536 students from 36 Polish Saturday Schools receiving their diplomas. The ceremony also included a Mass celebrated by **Father Marek Janowski**, chaplain of the Polish Teachers' Association, assisted by six additional Polish-speaking priests. In his sermon, Father Janowski paid tribute to the efforts of students and their parents in acquiring additional education in the Polish language, history, and geography.

Polish Consul General in Chicago, **Piotr Janicki**, together with **Ewa Koch** and **Helena Soltys**, president and vice president, respectively, of the Polish Teacher's Association, and the Association's media spokesperson, **Anna Rosa**, awarded each graduate with a diploma.

also on Chicago's Northwest Side.

On May 21, 1988, he was ordained at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, and the following day he celebrated his first Mass at St. Constance, where from 1988 to 1995, he served as associate pastor. In 1996, he became associate pastor at another Northwest Side parish, St. Ferdinand, followed by a 1997 appointment as associate pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Cicero, Illinois, where he acted as chaplain for the Cicero police and fire departments, and, at the same time, volunteered his time to raise money for League of Catholic Aid to the Church in Poland.

Father Dzieszko began his stewardship as Pastor of St. Constance Parish in 2003.

On July 1, 2018, he will leave St. Constance. Many friends and parishioner wish him well in his future endeavors.

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# Poland's First Lady Visits in Chicago Polonia



First Lady Agata Duda at Dar Serca. by Gerladine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — During Polish President Andrzej Duda's Chicago meetings with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Mrs. Duda travelled to the Maximillian Kolbe Polish School at St. Constance in Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood to present Polish language school diplomas to 25 students. She was assisted by Poland's Secretary of State, Adam Kwiatkowski, and the Polish Consul General in Chicago, Piotr Janicki.

Prior to the distribution of diplomas, Rev. Zbigniew Kras, chaplain of the Polish president, officiated at a Mass assisted by Father Tadeusz Dzieszko, pastor of St. Constance. Once the graduates received their diplomas, they prepared an artistic program and had the opportunity to take commemorative photographs with the Polish First Lady and other guests. Mrs. Duda was pleased to learn of the large number of Polish American students who commit to 12 years of learning the Polish language. She also mentioned that encouragement from their parents

should not be underestimated. Currently, over 400 students are enrolled in the Kolbe Polish Language Program.

That evening, Mrs. Duda travelled to Chicago's Southside to the Polish Highlanders of America venue (*Domu Podhalans-ZPPA - Związek Podhalan w Północnej Ameryce*) to meet with teachers of various Chicago-area Polish language schools. The vice-presidents of the organization, Zdzisław Dorula and Zofia Ustupska-Bobak, greeted her with the traditional Polish offering of bread and salt. She was also greeted with flowers from Victoria and Claudia Król and Jakub

Polonian schools that are shaping the young generations.

As part of Polish language promotion in the United States, Marzanna Owinski from the Polish Mission at Orchard Lake, Michigan, spoke of promoting the Seal of Bilingualism Exam for the Polish language. It's the first national exam in Polish as a foreign language in the United States.

On May 20, Mrs. Duda continued her trip in the Chicago area, by paying a special visit to the Gift From the Heart (*Dar Serca*) Foundation facility in Schiller Park. For over 30 years, *Dar Serca* has helped nearly 900 children from Poland

of the Little Wici Dance Band and a photo session with ill children being served and their caregivers. The *Dar Serca* hosts presented the president's wife with the "Golden Heart," a symbol of the foundation.

That evening, President and Mrs. Duda ended their visit to Chicago by unveiling a special plaque at St. Ferdinand Church on Chicago's Northwest Side. The plaque is dedicated to former President Lech Kaczyński and the last president in exile, Ryszard Kaczorowski. Both died in the Smolensk plane crash.

Agata Kornhauser was born in Kraków and is the daughter of Julian Kornhauser, a well-known writ-



First Lady with Kolbe graduates.

Wyrostek, children from the ZPPA Song and Dance School. The greeting would not have been complete without the band performing the well-known Highlander greeting "*Witomy Was*."

**IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE STRESSED.** The main point of this gathering, especially for the Polish teachers, was Pani Duda's speech, in which she not only expressed her enjoyment in meeting the teachers, but also stressed the importance of

receive specialized treatment in American hospitals. Dorota Malachowski, president of the foundation, explained that its main sources of funds are the donations provided by various types of organizations, such as charity golf tournaments, art sales, and events sponsored by Polish contractors. *Dar Serca* has hosted radiothons on 1030AM, a charity ball, and its ever-popular annual cruise on Lake Michigan.

Mrs. Duda's personal *Dar Serca* visit continued with a performance

er, translator, and literary critic, and Alicja Wojna, a Polonist. Her brother Jakub is a poet and translator. She has been a German language teacher since 1998 but had to relinquish her teaching duties once she became Poland's First Lady. She received her doctorate from Jagiellonian University, where she met her husband. She married Andrzej Duda on December 21, 1994, and they have one daughter, Kinga, who presently is a law school student.

## New Baltic Studies Program Announced

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation announced the launch of its Baltic Studies Program. The Program will engage leading experts—from economists to historians, from diplomats to journalists, from administration officials to lawmakers—in a discussion of the history of communism and anti-communism in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania; strategies for post-communist transition and democratic consolidation; and the character and importance of Baltic-American relations.

The history, culture, politics, and people of the Baltic States played a crucial role in the rise and fall of Soviet communism.

Studying the Baltic States provides insight into the history and nature of Soviet and Russian imperialism, the politics and sociology of post-communist democratization, and the contemporary struggle to maintain and extend freedom across the globe.

The Foundation is currently accepting applications for the position of non-residential fellow in Baltic Studies. Information about this opportunity can be found at <https://www.victimsofcommunism.org/careers/>

**A CHARITY CONCERT** in Warsaw raised almost \$300,000 USD in funds for the war-torn Syrian city of Aleppo. The Polish culture ministry, which organized the "Family to Family: Aid to Aleppo" event said all proceeds go to support Syrian families in need. Some 10,000 families of various Christian denominations in Aleppo have benefitted from Polish assistance since 2016.

**KING ZYGMUNT III WAZA** moved Poland's capital from Kraków to Warsaw in 1596 to make it more central between major cities, as Wilno and Kraków.

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## Polish American Journal Foundation

**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.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Donations are accepted in any amount. All donations will be acknowledged and may be used as charitable contributions on your tax return. As a member, you can suggest any worthwhile cause: a donation to a local Polish American museum;



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veteran's group; scholarship fund; dance group, etc. Our board reviews these suggestions and creates a ballot of the most-requested causes/recipients, which will then be voted on by current members. (Membership is yearly, starting with the date of your most recent

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## The Pondering Pole

# Strictly Polish? Not the Polka

by Ed Poniewaz

What do chow mein, pizza, and polka, have in common?

All are American versions which are better than the original.

It is one of those things that never seems to go away: I am listening to a talk show, and the host makes some crack about polka as the antithesis to everything cool and hip.

To compare polka to rock music is idiotic, but they still do it. They do it because “polka” is a code word, like “Polish,” which equates all that is backward and stupid. And nothing could be further from the truth. American polka is every bit the equivalent of Louisiana Creole zydeco, Jewish klezmer, or even bluegrass, which are examples and variations of folk music.

Perhaps it is time for a quick explanation and refresher on the history and impact of this dance and music so the next time someone is railing how Nickleback is the only thing worse than polka, you can respond by saying “No. Nickleback is pathetic, and polka is folk music, and has no relation to Nickleback. Nickleback and polka are apples and oranges, Bob!”

Polka is a dance and it is music and it is an amazing story. It evolved to be very much a part of Polonia, though polka origins are attributed

to the Czech people. The name is either a derivative of a Czech word describing the beat or the steps of the dance, and it literally means “Polish woman.” If you use the literal “Polish woman,” then most likely a Polish female was observed doing the actual one-two hop movement or some variation of a similar dance. Logic would tell me that the polka has at least some subtle link to Poland, and to wider usage in Central Eastern Europe but no one knows for sure.

In the book *Polka Happiness*, written by Charles Keil, Angeliki V. Keil, and Dick Blau (Temple University Press, Philadelphia, 1992), the authors found there are practically no references to polka from Polish culture. The book mentions the doctoral thesis of a researcher named Jan Kleeman, who they noted from her work, “in the sixty-six volume Kolberg collection of 25,000 melodies, she found only thirty-two that were labeled ‘polka.’” The Kolberg referred to is Oskar Kolberg, the premier ethnographer and folklorist of Polish traditions.

It is so strange to hear this as my experience is very different. I asked my father what kind of music he listened and danced to when he was a young man. Big band? “No,” he said, “when we were teenagers and got together we danced to polkas.”

In a 35mm movie of my uncle’s wedding in the early sixties, the scene of the dance floor was amazing. It was crowded with guests and family, couples dressed in suits and dresses, hair styles era-appropriate, and dancing the polka in a counterclockwise direction of course. It was so ordered and fluid and almost mesmerizing. I begged my cousin for a copy of it.

The *Polka Happiness* authors ask, as do I, “How, then, did the polka become identity music, for Polish Americans?” At the time *Happiness* was written, “No one has yet pinpointed the moment when Polish music became truly Polish-American or when Eastern and Chicago styles are certainly themselves and not just foreshadowings of a music to come.” This is not how I thought it all transpired and I am thinking most of us did not as well. In my mind, musicians and instruments got off the boat and the people all knew exactly how to dance to the music they made.

What the authors of *Polka Happiness* do is outline the reasoning and progression for the phenomenon. What our immigrant ancestors did bring with them when they got off the boat were melodies and musical themes that evolved over a number of years in the early 1900s

influenced by new instruments, exotic styles, and a variety of other cultures and traditions including one called American.

“The emergence of distinctive made-in-America polkas around 1928 coincided with a dual or dialectical recognition that Polish-Americans were both Polish and American, able to make music and to dance in the styles of mainstream America and yet insisting at the same time maintaining a Polish-American way of singing, dancing, and making music.” This is the beauty of the story and the rest is the history giving rise to all of the great names of Eastern and Chicago style polkas. Polka is not rock, its origin is not from Poland, but the version that we are familiar with is distinctively Polish. In that sense, yes, polka is Polish.

**STRICTLY INVENTORS.** Maybe you knew this. I did not. According to *Polka Happiness*, Arthur Godfrey, the American radio and television broadcaster, took the **Baruska Polka** “and put English words to it: ‘She’s Too Fat for Me.’” (Someone needs to revise it again, so as not to offend for today’s sensitivities).

**Kazimierz Proszynski**, born April 4, 1875 in Warsaw, Poland. From *Wikipedia*: in 1894 Proszynski built one of the first movie cam-

eras which he called “Pleograph.” He was also credited with improving the film projector shutter and he devised a method of synchronizing sound and film tracks. Kazimierz Proszynski was apprehended by the Gestapo in World War II and died in the German concentration camp of Mauthausen in 1945.

Also from *Wikipedia*, **Boleslaw Matuszewski**, born August 19, 1856 in Pinczow, Poland, was a pioneer of cinematography and documentary film. Among his many accomplishments, he “wrote two of the earliest texts on cinema. They are recognized today as the first film manifestos and the first written work to consider the historical and documentary value of film.”

Dziękuję bardzo, Boleslaw, for that. My apologies to Nickleback fans.

**IF YOU HAVE A THOUGHT** about this month’s topic, have a question, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke 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.

## Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes

# Summertime Music and Dancing Abounds

by Michael Pietruszka

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — The exterior wall of the former **Fillmore Savings & Loan** and later **Polish Army Veterans Association Post No. 1** in Buffalo’s Historic Polonia District is now decorated by a mural created by Polish artist **Wojciech Kolacz** (aka “Otecki”) ... The recipient of this year’s Professional and Business Women of Polonia’s scholarship is **Kaitlyn Tytko**, a junior at Daemen College ... St. John Kanty Parish on Buffalo’s East Side set up a GoFundMe page to replace the statue of the **Blessed Mother** that was destroyed by a vandal last month ... On June 1st, the Orbit Restaurant in Mississauga, Ontario featured **Anna Adamczewska Niewulis**, **Ewa Cybulska**, and **Ilona Anna Kowalik** in “Summer Jazz” ... Andrzej Wajda’s film, “Pan Tadeusz: The Last Foray in Lithuania,” was shown at the Dryden Theatre in Downtown Rochester, June 2nd as part of the **Skalny Lecture and Artist Spring Series**.

The **Buffalo Pints and Pierogi Fest** and the **Polka Fest at Buffalo Riverworks** both took place at Buffalo Riverworks, June 3. Special Delivery, Phocus and the Buffalo Touch performed at the events. ... Also on the 3rd, **St. John Kanty Parish** hosted its annual “Summer Fest” with a Polka Mass featuring Rare Vintage, **Blessed Mary Angela Parish** in Dunkirk hosted its Polka Fest with the music of Lenny Goumulka & the Chicago Push; Buffalo Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz led a **Corpus Christi Procession** from St. Stanislaus Church to Corpus Christi Church; and the **Association of Priests for Polish Affairs** held a dinner after the procession ... The Mississauga **Polish Day** was held in Celebration Square, June 9th. The Kompot Band, Anna Cyzon, Marek Majewski, Faza, Ilona Kowalik, Radosc-Joy Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, Blues Pattern Box,

Lechowia Polish Canadian Dance Company, Nikt Nic Nie Wie, Bialy Orzel Dance Group, Polskie Klimaty, Kinga Lizon, Millennium Dance Group, Polanie Song and Dance Group and the “Brawo” Children’s Choir performed at the festival. The Canadian Chopin Society presented a program of music by Chopin and Moniuszko as part of the festivities.

The 101st Annual **Pilgrimage to the Niagara-on-the-Lake**, Ontario historic military cemetery of General Haller’s Blue Army recruits took place, June 10th ... Also on the 10th, the Cracovia Polish Dance Group hosted “**XXIV Festiwal Polonijnych Zespolow Folklorystycznych**” at the Polish Recreation Centre in Nilestown, Ontario ... The **Polish Genealogical Society of New York State** held a Research Night at Villa Maria College, June 14th. Edward Reilly III spoke on “The Impact of Polish Immigration on the Civic and Religious Identity of the United States” at the event ... Also on the 14th, **Konekt**, a new organization for young Polish Canadian professionals, sponsored a lecture on “Contemporary Polish Culture” by Dr. Lukasz Wodzinski of the University of Toronto at the Polish Consulate in Toronto.

On June 16th, the **Polish Cadets** of Buffalo hosted “Cruise, Blues and BBQ” at its Grant Street clubrooms, the Royal Canadian Legion in St. Catharines, Ontario presented **Polanie** in “Summer Gig: The Hottest Dance,” **Rev. Czeslaw Krysa** presented a workshop entitled “Dream Bonding With Destiny: Polish Eternity Wreaths” at the St. Casimir Parish Hall in Buffalo’s Kaisertown neighborhood, and **Morluski’s Restaurant** in Attica held the Grand Opening of their new patio ... **Villa Polonia** in Brampton, Ontario presented “U Progu Lata” featuring pianist Magdalena Prejsnar, Maria Jarzebinska and Boguslaw Tecza performing the works of Chopin and Kilar, June 17th ... The **Buffalo Pol-**

**ka Boosters** danced to the music of Rare Vintage at its June 20th meeting at the Polish Falcons Hall in Depew ... On the 23rd, Jolanta Mrotek, Ewelina Ferenc, Kaja Cyganik and Marek Majewski performed at the “**Noc Swietojanska Wianki**” at the Polish Consulate in Toronto.

The “**64th Annual Syracuse Polish Festival**” was held in Clinton Square, June 22-24. Entertainment was provided by the Salt City Brass, Lechowia Polish Canadian Dance Company, John Steven’s Double Shot, Billionaires, Buffalo Touch, Stephanie, Buffalo Concertina All Stars, Epic Soul Band, and Joe Stanky & the Cadets ... Stan Skrzyszewski spoke on the “**Everyday Life at Camp Kosciuszko**” at the Niagara Historical Society in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, June 21st ... June 23rd, the **Polish Union of America** held its “14th Annual Polish Heritage Festival” at Potts Banquet Hall in Buffalo. This year’s theme was “Honoring Polka Lovers - Young and Young at Heart” and included a performance by the Polka Brothers.... The **Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** honored Eddy Dobosiewicz at its “Biesaida 2018” held at the AcQua Restaurant in Buffalo, June 24th ... Also on the 24th, **Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish** in Depew sponsored its Lawn Fete with Special Delivery ... The **Polky Village Band** released their new EP at the Small World Music Centre in Toronto, June 28.

**UPCOMING.** The Brantford, Ontario **45th Annual International Villages Festival** will take place from July 4th through 7th. The festival will include events at the “Polish Warszawa” and “Polish Polonaise” Villages ... **Immaculate Conception Parish** in Eden will host a Polish Folk Mass with the Dave Gawronski Band and Pork Chop Dinner, July 7th ... Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston will celebrate its “**Our Lady of Cze-**

**stochowa/Polish Day**,” July 8th ... Buffalo-based **Pomost International** will be teaching the English language and American culture in Buffalo’s Sister City, Rzeszow, for the twenty-eighth year from July 9-21 ... The **Podhale Parents and Youth Association** will host its “Podhale Picnic” at its Franklinville Camp, July 14th and 15th ... The **Buffalo Polka Boosters** are planning their Annual Picnic for July 15th at Fontana’s Grove in Cheektowaga. Special Delivery will provide the entertainment ... Phocus will perform at the Gateway Sweeney Stage in N. Tonawanda as part of “**Canal Fest of the Tonawandas**,” July 18th ... The Cheektowaga **Polish Ameri-**

**can Festival** will be held at the Town Park the weekend of July 20-22 ... The “**60 Million Conference: A Global Polonia Summit**” will take place at the Cheektowaga Senior Center, July 21st ... The **General Pulaski Association** will host its “100th Anniversary of Poland’s Independence Gala” at Samuel’s Grand Manor in Williamsville, July 21, and the **Pulaski Association Parade** in Cheektowaga on the 22nd.

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

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## A History-Making Scholarship Duo

by Richard Poremski

BALTIMORE —Everyone was in for a very pleasant surprise at the 2018 Polish Heritage Association of Maryland (PHAM) scholarship awards banquet, May 20, 2018: For the first time in 43 years of awards a mother and daughter duo received simultaneous scholarships, resulting in one for the history books of the PHAM (and most probably a real familial rarity in any other scholarship program too).

Dominika Bondyra, 18, graduated from Perry Hall High School in 2017. She is presently a sophomore at University of Maryland Baltimore County and pursuing a BS degree in computer science. She loves photography, art, music and dance, and is an advanced flutist and a ballet dancer. Dominika is a member of Polish National Alliance (PNA) Lodge 238 and a delegate to PNA Council 21.

Malgorzata "Gosia" Romanowska Bondyra, 43, graduated from Zespol Szkol Ekonomicznych High School in Torun, Poland. She also studied economics there at the Uniwersytet Mikolaja Kopernika, before she arrived here in 1995. Gosia has also studied visual and performing arts – Violin Performance at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and is an accomplished violinist and vocalist.

She now returns to UMBC to pursue a BA degree in management of aging services. Malgorzata is a member of Lodge 238 serving as its financial secretary. She is also the elected Council 21 recording secretary and delegate. Gosia is Lodge 238's insurance sales representative, also for the Council 21 lodges,



PHOTO: RICHARD POREMSKI

**MOTHER AND DAUGHTER DUAL AWARDEES.** Dominika Bondyra (left) and her mother, Malgorzata Romanowska Bondyra, after they both received 2018 scholarships from the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland — marking a historic first in the scholarship program that began in 1975.

and for all PNA councils and lodges in the State of Maryland.

The PHAM began its scholarship program in 1975 and to date has made grants now approaching \$400,000 over the past 43 years. The \$1,500 grants awarded to each Malgorzata and Dominika will be put to very good academic use in their respective fields of studies.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Aleksander Ładosz, Poland's ambassador to Switzerland during World War II, set up a special print shop to provide fake Polish passports to thousands of Jewish refugees, enabling them to flee to Palestine, Latin America and other countries.

## More Warm-Weather Treats

by Robert Strybel

### COLD CUCUMBER SOUP

**(chłodnik ogórkowy):** Peel 2 cucumbers, cut in half lengthwise, then slice thin into bowl or tureen. (Optional: Seed portion may be scooped out and discarded if desired.) Add 2 peeled, coarsely grated brined dill pickles and 1 c of the pickle brine plus 3 T finely chopped fresh dill. Drench with 6 - 8 c cold buttermilk or smooth-whisked sour milk or kefir (see preceding entry above). Salt & pepper to taste. Cover and let stand in fridge for flavors to blend several hrs. Serve over sliced hard-cooked eggs in bowls.

### ROAST CHICKEN POLONAISE

**(kurczę pieczone po polsku):** Soak 2 broken-up stale white bread rolls in milk to cover until soggy. Process or grind together with 4 raw chicken livers. Combine mixture with 1/2 lb raw ground veal (or pork & veal but not beef!), 1-2 eggs, 1-2 T soft butter or margarine. Work well by hand until fully blended. Season with salt, pepper, a dash of nutmeg, 2 heaping T or more finely chopped fresh dill and (optional) 1 t finely chopped parsley. Mix well. Rinse well 2-1/2 to 3 lb broiler and pat dry. Rub inside and out with salt and stuff just before roasting. The general rule of thumb is to allow about 3/4 c stuffing per lb of chicken. Sew up, tying legs together. Rub chicken all over with a little oil, sprinkle with pepper and paprika and rub in. Bake in preheated 375° oven about 75 - 90 min. Baste occasionally with pan drippings. Serve with sliced cucumbers with sour cream and dilled new potatoes.

### DILLED NEW POTATOES (młode kartofelki z koperkiem):

If you



### CUCUMBERS & SOUR CREAM (mizeria):

Peel 2 cucumbers and slice into thin rounds. Sprinkle with salt and let stand 30 min. Pour off liquid. Sprinkle with freshly ground pepper, 2-3 pinches sugar and 1 T lemon juice or vinegar. Lace with 1/2 - 2/3 c fork-blended sour cream (or plain yogurt for weight-watchers). Optional: Garnish with chopped dill. Another option is to layer in a small onion, sliced wafer thin.

can get real, young, walnut-sized new potatoes, instead of peeling them use nylon scrubber to scrub away the thin skins under cold, running water. Place 2 1/2 lbs scrubbed new potatoes in pot, cover with boiling water, add 1 t salt and cook on med heat about 30 min or until fork-tender. Drain. Dot with butter (about 1 T) and garnish with finely chopped fresh dill. Toss gently to evenly coat potatoes with melting butter and dill.

### CAULIFLOWER POLONAISE

**(kalafior po polsku):** Remove any green leaves from base of cauliflower and trim off core. Place cauliflower cored-side-down in a pot tall enough so the cauliflower is at least 3" from the top rim. Add cold water coming up 1/3 of the way up the cauliflower and 1 t salt, bring to boil, reduce heat and cook covered at a gentle rolling boiling about

20-30 min or until fork-tender. Meanwhile, in saucepan heat 3-4 T butter until it bubbles, stir in 2-3 T bread crumbs and simmer, stirring frequently, until it is nicely browned. Remove cooked cauliflower from pot, drain well, place on serving platter and spoon the browned bread-crumbs topping over it.

### BREADED PORK CUTLETS (kotlety schabowe):

This is probably Poland's single most popular main course! Cut bones away 6 center-cut pork chops or slice boneless center-cut pork loin 1" thick and pound with meat mallet pound on both sides until 1/4" thick. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and a pinch of marjoram and/or garlic powder if desired. Dredge in flour, dip in egg wash and roll in fine, plain bread crumbs. Gently press breading into cutlets so it stays put during frying. Fry to a nice golden brown on both sides in hot lard, vegetable shortening or oil, drain on paper towel and serve immediately.

### 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 a little chopped onion at center of each tomato slice.

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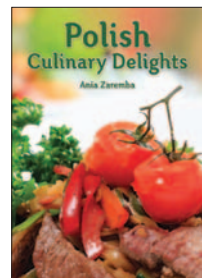
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First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language. Chapters on Appetizers, Soups, Meats, Poultry and Game, Fish, Vegetables, Mushrooms, Dairy Dishes, Pastries and Desserts. Recipes are included for famous Polish barszcz, for bigos, czarna, pierogi, naleśniki, paszteciki... and hundreds of other interesting Polish foods.

It contains brief stories of Polish festivities and customs such as Christmas Eve (Wigilia), Harvest Festival (Dożynki) and others.

### POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS



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by Ania Zaremba  
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224 pp., color photographs, index; English language version with U.S. measurements.

Polish Culinary Delights was written to bring authentic Polish recipes of the past few generations to the North American kitchen. Besides finding the

usual "traditional Polish" fare, this book includes unique recipes created by Ania and others in her family (grandma, grandpa, uncle, etc.).

More than 175 recipes, from soups, appetizers, entrees and side dishes to desserts. Easy-to-follow instructions with helpful tips make it simple to prepare such traditional Polish favorites as pierogi, blintzes, sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, bigos, horseradish sauce, paczki, angel wings, mazurka cakes and many more.

### PLEASING POLISH RECIPES



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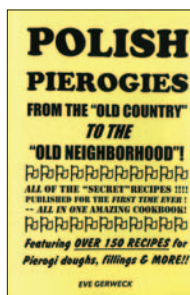
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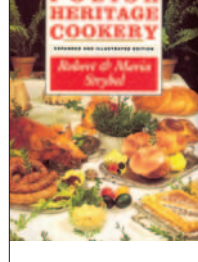
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## Culture

# Fiddler on the Roof with a Polish Accent

NEW YORK — The beloved musical, *Fiddler on the Roof* will return to the New York stage. Directed by Oscar and Tony Award winner Joel Grey and presented by the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, it will be performed completely in Yiddish — the language of Tevye and his family. At the helm of this new production — *Fidler Afm Dakh* will be a prominent artistic team that includes many of Polish background.

The original 1964 production was directed and choreographed by the legendary Jerome Robbins. He was the perfect choice as the guiding creative force for a Broadway staging of the shtetl and gave the story a heart and soul. Like Tevye, Robbins' father Harry Rabinowitz left his Polish shtetl to come to America. When Jerome, was not quite six years old, he was taken back to his father's hometown (Różanka/Rozhanka, near Warsaw) to visit his grandfather for the summer. The seeds were planted in his memory and inspired him in creating *Fiddler on the Roof*.

The show presented a reverence and authenticity to the material ... it was not just another Broadway song-and-dance show. When *Fiddler on the Roof* (*Skrzypek na Dach*) premiered in Poland in 1985, the show's authors donated their royalties to preserving the country's Jewish monuments.

The rich translation by Shraga Friedman, adds new depth and dimension to the most well-known Jewish musical in the world. Born in Pre-World War II Warsaw, he and his family were forced to flee their Nazi-invaded hometown in 1939, making their way through Wilno, Moscow, Odessa, Istanbul, and Beirut, before finally landing in Haifa in 1941.

Friedman was a versatile artist of many talents, who left an indelible mark on the Israeli cultural scene and whose creative force was manifested on the stage, screen and radio. He co-directed and translated

musicals into Hebrew; *Fiddler* was the only musical he presented in Yiddish — only one year after it premiered on Broadway.

Staś Kmieć will create the musical staging and choreography of the production. Kmieć appeared on Broadway with Lee Theodore's *American Dancemachine*, and in *Don Quixote* with Rudolf Nureyev; toured nationally in *Fiddler on the Roof* totaling 1,682 performances and has directed and staged the musical multiple times. He danced with *Boston Ballet*, *Metropolitan Opera Ballet*, and *Stars of American Ballet*, toured worldwide with Nureyev, and has appeared on film and TV.

His choreography has been seen on the New York stage, Off-Broadway, regionally, and abroad in musicals, plays, ballet and opera, including the national tour of *Me and My Girl*, Irish premiere of *Best Little Whorehouse*, *My Antonia* — LA premiere (music — Stephen Schwartz), and on film in Robert DeNiro's *The Comedian*.

He received the "Excellence in Choreography" Award at the *New York Musical Theater Festival* for his work *The Mapmaker's Opera*. Kmieć was the Artistic Director of *Ballet Western Reserve*.

American-born of Polish descent, he is considered a foremost U.S. authority on Polish folk dance, culture, and ethnography — having been published in numerous articles and as co-author in *Polish Folk Dances and Songs — A Step-by-Step Guide* (Hippocrene Books) — considered the encyclopedia of Polish dance in the English language. Kmieć is the PBS resident Polish Culture expert and has offered commentary on several programs nationwide. He was the founding Artistic Director/Choreographer of the *The Lublin Polish Song and Dance Ensemble* and recipient of Poland's highest cultural honor — the Oskar Kolberg Award. He is a graduate of Tufts University (BA) and University of Marie Curie-Sklodowska in Lublin, Poland



Staś Kmieć rehearses "The Bottle Dance" from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

(BA, MA);

"The genius of the original production of *Fiddler on the Roof* came from the collaboration of its creative personnel headed by director-choreographer Jerome Robbins," said Kmieć.

"His use of show-specific dance was clear and no better illustrated than the integrated ethnic dance in *Fiddler*. What happens within the story is grounded in the word 'tradition.' The choreography will reflect realism — inspired by and always with a respect to the Jerome Robbins original."

Lighting Designer Peter Kaczorowski has designed for 58 Broadway productions. Off-Broadway, he has extensive credits with resident companies such as Manhattan Theater Club, Lincoln Center Theater, The Roundabout, The Public, among others. In opera, he has designed productions for many companies, including The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Royal Opera Covent Garden,

For the film *Birdman*, Peter designed the lighting for the scenes shot on stage at the St. James Theatre in New York. He has been nominated five times for Tony awards, winning the award for *The Producers*. He is also the recipient of Drama Desk, Outer Critics, DramaLogue, Ovation and Hewes Design

awards.

Kaczorowski hopes to travel or work in Poland in the future. His great-grandfather Peter, after whom he is named, was born in Skepe, Poland in 1850, then emigrated to the U.S. in 1887. He and his wife Katarzyna Baliki had nine children including grandfather Theodore, who was born in 1888 in Buffalo.

The Artistic Director of NYTF Zalmen Mlotek serves as the production's musical director. His father Joseph was born in a small town Prosewicz, near Warsaw, in 1918, moved soon to Warsaw, and fled Poland on September 3, 1939.

He has been to Poland numerous times — as a guest of the Polish government and the Kamińska State Yiddish Theater in Warsaw, as well as Kraków music festivals. "Much of the Yiddish music and material has its origins in Poland," said Mlotek. "I have performed many concerts and theatrical presentations with material that was either created in Poland or performed in Poland."

A conductor, pianist, musical arranger, accompanist, and composer, Mlotek brought Yiddish-Klezmer music to Broadway and Off-Broadway stages with the Tony-nominated *Those Were the Days* and Drama Desk nominated *Amerike — The Golden Land*. He received his mu-

sical training at the Juilliard School of Music and studied under Leonard Bernstein.

Entering its 104th season, Tony Award-nominated and Drama Desk Award-winning National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene is the longest consecutively producing theatre in the U.S. and the world's oldest continuously operating Yiddish theatre company.

Founded in 1915, "Folksbiene" (the "People's Stage") is the sole survivor of fifteen Yiddish companies that played to enthusiastic audiences on the Lower East Side in the Golden Age of Yiddish Theatre in the early 20th century.

The era is considered to be the height of Yiddish theater. Due to the destruction of European Jewry by the German Nazis, the Folksbiene is one of only five professional Yiddish theatre companies still in operation: the New Yiddish Rep, also in New York City, as well as others in Warsaw, Bucharest and Tel Aviv.

Based on *Tevye the Milkman and other Tales* by Sholem Aleichem, which was written in Yiddish and published in 1894, *Fiddler on the Roof* is a timeless classic. Told with wit and charm, *Fiddler* is a powerful statement about the evils of prejudice and the importance of maintaining a warm and caring communal and family life in the midst of severe oppression. At heart it is built around themes so universal that audiences of every age, ethnic and cultural background can identify with it.

The indelible work has survived for over 50 years and has enjoyed great theatrical success, as well as a 1971 film version. A new generation will now experience this classic tale of a village, a family, a culture and tradition! The U.S. premiere of *Fiddler* in Yiddish runs from July 4 to August 26 at Safra Hall in the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

For tickets, visit www.NYTF.org or call (866) 811-4111. The show will be presented with English subtitles.

## Sports

# Is Lewandowski Leaving?

By Tom Tarapacki

As rumors swirled that Robert Lewandowski was planning to leave his Bayern Munich club, Poland's Footballer of the Year for the seventh straight years was preparing for Poland's return to World Cup play in Russia this summer after a 12-year tournament absence.

Coach Adam Nawalka, who is leading Poland's World Cup 2018 effort, took over the team in 2013. He has achieved great success by changing the team's approach from counter-attacking to controlling possession. In addition to Lewa, he'll have veteran Jakub Błaszczykowski as well as some top young talent like Arkadiusz Milik and Karol Linetty.

Lewandowski finished the season as the Bundesliga's top goalscorer with 29 goals. This was the third time Lewandowski won the top German league's leading goalscorer award. However, many believe that he plans to leave Bayern for another



Robert Lewandowski and Jakub Błaszczykowski celebrate a goal.

team, possibly Real Madrid, in order to get a shot at the Champions League title. The 29-year-old striker has been tight-lipped about his future.

**AGE IS NO BARRIER.** Poland's oldest soccer player in official competitions scored an impressive

goal. **Bogdan Głębicki**, born Feb. 26, 1947 plays on Polish football team Hutnik Huta Czechy, the district league in Eastern Poland Siedlce. The 71-year-old more than holds his own with much younger players playing in official competition.

His latest goal came during a match against Sep Żelechów, when he came on the field in the seventy-sixth minute and three minutes later expertly, enthusiastically and seemingly effortlessly put the ball in the back of the net. His energy, obviously impressive fitness and speed easily matched that of his 20-year-old teammates.

With only four games until the end of the season, team Hutnik Huta Czechy played for promotion into the 4th league, making this last win even more valued. It is certain that the team will be counting on more outstanding plays from the 71-year-old Głębicki.

**FOLTYNEWICZ SHINES.** I guess people will have to learn how to say, "Fol-ten-EH-vich." Mike Foltyniewicz of the Atlanta Braves turned in a couple of outstanding performances in early June against two of baseball's top teams. He outduelled Chris Sale of Boston and Steven Strasburg of Washington in impressive fashion. Against the Nats he threw a two-hit shutout with 11 strikeouts, and turned in the first complete game of his career. In those two games the 26-year-old allowed a total of five hits, one run and four walks with 18 strikeouts in 16 innings. "It may have been a career-making performance for the man they call Foly

(perhaps for expediency as much as affection), who is one of the emergent starting pitchers of the young season," wrote Bradford Dolittle of *ESPN.com*. A 2010 first-round pick of the Houston Astros, the 6-4 righthander from Illinois with a blazing fastball has had some elbow issues but now seems ready to become a top pitcher.

**NOWAK MOVES ON.** One of Pensacola Florida's most successful four-year high school tennis careers came to an end. Senior Elizabeth Nowak helped Catholic return to the state tournament while she finished 17-2 this season. She also earned four consecutive *Pensacola News Journal* Girls Tennis Player of the Year awards. Nowak will be following the footsteps of her older brother, John, who played tennis at Florida Atlantic. She'll be heading north to continue her college career at Division I Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.



# Eddie Basinski's Remarkable Career

by Tom Tarapacki

Eddie Basinski is one of the oldest living major leaguers — in fact, the 95-year-old is the 13th oldest on that list. But Eddie is also known for a number of significant accomplishments during his playing career.

He was — and still is — the only player in history to go directly from sandlot ball to the major leagues without any high school, college or minor-league experience. Eddie was also the first major-league infielder ever to wear glasses. Besides that, he was a concert violinist! Basinski had a relatively short career in the majors (203 games), but he did become a legend in the minor leagues.

Edwin Frank Basinski was born in Buffalo on Nov. 4, 1922 into a large working-class Polish family, and grew up in the Polish American neighborhood known as Kaisertown. His father, Walter, was a tough former Navy man who emphasized education over sports. Eddie's mother was a pianist, and started him playing the violin at age five.

"Music was and still is my first love. I only turned to sports as a way to 'make it' in a tough town," he said. "We lived in a rough Polish neighborhood in Buffalo and I took



Playing for the Yankees would have meant more money, but Basinski loved the Pacific Northwest. He played for 10 seasons with the Portland Beavers.

*The Home Front: Major League Replacement Players of World War II* by Craig Allen Cleve. Basinski wore glasses from a young age due to a case of scarlet fever.

**NOT A "POLISH PUNK."** But Eddie was convinced that he could play baseball. "For me, it was trying to find some way to gain some sort of recognition, so I wasn't just one of those Polish punks over there from Kaisertown in Buffalo. None of us were going anywhere. Sports was the only avenue I had at that time."

Eddie went to the University of Buffalo but he didn't play baseball because UB had no team at the time. He lettered in tennis and cross-country and continued to play sandlot baseball. As a violinist he occupied a chair in the Buffalo Symphony Orchestra. "In my senior year I was concertmaster of the orchestra, having started on the last desk and worked my way up," he said. He had challenged 40 other violinists to earn the position. Eddie was also a near virtuoso on the piano.

In 1943, Eddie earned a degree in mechanical engineering and went to work for at the Curtiss-Wright Company in Buffalo that built military planes during World War II, and continued to play ball in the local amateur leagues. In an All-Star game against a team from Oil City, Pa. Eddie had a two-run triple and pair of three-run homers in a 9-1 win, and the Brooklyn Dodgers quickly signed him to a deal. Eddie's

agent was the former big league outfielder from Buffalo, Johnny Moka (Mokwinski). Thanks to Eddie's timely performance and his military deferment (his vision was 20 x 800 at the time) they were able to negotiate a contract that included a hefty \$5,000 bonus that Eddie used to pay off his parents' mortgage on a farm.

**FROM THE SANDLOT TO THE MAJORS.** Eddie joined the Dodgers in 1944 at age 21, and was surprised when he was sent directly to the majors after working out for two weeks. In his first game, on May 20, 1944 at Cincinnati, manager Leo Durocher put him into the starting lineup. Playing second and batting eighth, the 6-1, 172-lb. right hander faced Reds left hander Clyde Shoun, who threw a no-hitter a week earlier. On the second pitch he saw, Basinski bashed a triple off the left field wall. He also turned five double plays in seven chances that day. Eddie was overjoyed. "Anyway, I was ready to go back to Buffalo. I had done it — the impossible! I wanted to go back and bask in the glory of that one game for the rest of my life!" *Ripley's Believe It or Not* called his move from the sandlot to the majors a ten million-to-one shot.

Eddie got the nickname, "The Professor," because he wore glasses, the first major-league infielder ever to do so. Famously described by Dodgers General Manager Branch Rickey as looking like "the escaped divinity student," Eddie said that he was as competitive as anyone. "I just didn't look the part, and people didn't like it."

He was also called "Spider" because of his great reflexes and dexterity, and Eddie thought that his violin playing helped. "I had great quickness because of the bowing and the fingering, which just has to be lightning quick. There is a great correlation. And how about timing and making the double play, your footwork and all that? A lot of people think musicians are party-waists," he said. "That's a bunch of

nonsense."

## SHUTTING UP "LEO THE LIP"

Another of Eddie's nicknames was "The Fiddler," and teammates constantly kidded him about his violin playing. He never brought the instrument to the ballpark, but when Durocher doubted his ability to play the two men made a bet. It was this: Eddie would play the violin in the clubhouse and, if Durocher liked it, he'd have to buy Basinski a new suit. Eddie brought in his violin and played selections that included Cole Porter and Irving Berlin. "Well, I'll be a son of a bitch," said "Leo the Lip" afterwards. "The kid can play."

He could play baseball, too, and was an exceptional fielder with a strong arm ("Bazooka" was yet another nickname). By the first of June, Eddie was also hitting better than .300. Unfortunately, his hitting tailed off and his batting average in 39 games was .257. He was sent down for a time to Montreal, where he got a chance to play against his hometown Buffalo Bisons.

Eddie played in 108 games for Brooklyn in 1945, hitting .262.

fantastic job for his ballclub. Don't let anyone tell you different. Keep up the good work." Basinski was thrilled. "I thought that was superb."

When players returned following the war Basinski was sent down to the minors. He was traded to Pittsburgh in 1946 and then the Yankees in 1947. The Yankees sent him to the Portland Beavers in the AAA Pacific Coast League, but later tried to bring him back. Eddie declined, preferring to stay in Portland. "I was floored by the beauty," Basinski told *The Oregonian*. "And the people were just great. Buffalo neighborhoods were divided among ethnic groups, and gangs guarded their turf. Somebody who didn't belong there was beaten up. Back there you'd introduce yourself and ... they'd immediately categorize you. That didn't happen in Portland. It finally dawned on me, and I said, 'Hey, this is America!'"

Playing for the Yankees would have meant more money, but Basinski loved the Pacific Northwest. He played for 10 seasons with the Beavers and two more for the Seattle Rainiers. During his PCL career,



Right from college, Basinski occupied a chair in the Buffalo Symphony Orchestra. He was also a near-virtuoso on the piano.

up baseball as self-defense."

Eddie had to sneak over to local sandlots to play with a small core of dedicated ballplayers that included future Hall of Famer Warren Spahn and future All-Star Buddy Rosar. If no one else showed up at the park Eddie did his own training routine.

At East High School, Eddie got his father's permission to try out for the baseball team, but was cut "partly because I wore glasses, but mostly because he knew I was a violinist in the school's 100-piece symphony orchestra and the music department would be furious with him."

Eddie recalled in *Hardball On*



Portland Beavers in their Vaughn Stadium locker room. July 28, 1949. The photo caption published in the *Oregonian* July 31, 1949, pg. 34, read: "Discordant notes are foreign to the Portland Baseball club, with the Beavers all pulling together in their spirited drive for the first division. The above picture gives an idea of the existing harmony. Eddie Basinski, the Yehudi Menuhin of the diamond, provides the music on his violin while, from left, Art Pennington, Frankie Austin and Luis Marquez, Beaver Negro stars, give out with with vocal tune befitting present league standing. DeLay photo."

There was no All-Star game because of the war, but he was named to the unofficial AP All-Star team. His teammates with the Dodgers included a couple of Polish Americans, Eddie "The Brat" Stanky (Stankiewicz) and Mike Sandlock (At the time of his death in 2016 at age 100, Sandlock was the oldest living former major leaguer.).

## ENCOURAGEMENT FROM

**"STAN THE MAN."** Eddie's baseball hero was Stan Musial, and Basinski recalled a time when Durocher was "on my butt." During batting practice Musial walked up to him and said: "You're doing a

Basinski compiled 1,426 hits, 99 homers and 579 RBIs, batting .259. In 1955, a fan poll to name Portland's all-time team gave Basinski the most votes. Helping make him a fan favorite was the fact that Eddie often performed home-plate recitals on his violin between games of doubleheaders.

Eddie settled in Oregon with his wife and two sons and worked as a salesman for Consolidated Freightways, retiring in 1991 after 31 years. He took up bowling and golf in retirement, and earned a reputation as a great storyteller. He's currently living in a care facility in Oregon.

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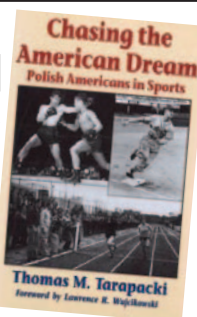
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Tom Tarapacki is Sports Editor of the *Polish American Journal*.

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## Sybiracy

## Ready to go back to Poland

"Sibracy" (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 XXXVI.** Since Jedrek was still very sick, the following Monday I went to NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, the interior ministry of the Soviet Union) to inform that we cannot take the train to Poland. The NKVD officer politely informed me that I can choose to stay here in Kazakhstan as long as I want, but if I choose to do so, I am on my own. There might be not any other chance to go back to Poland since there would be no any financial help for us to travel.

Since staying in Kazakhstan was not a real alternative, we decided to prepare to travel to Kostanay, where the train to Poland was going to be prepared. We terminated our household in no more than 2-3 hours. The horse cart showed up on time, and it was already partly loaded with products belonging to other Polish families. On the very top, we placed Jedrek on the top of the quilts. Jedrek was still sick and unconscious, so this was the only safe spot.

Village residents were accompanying us for the next three kilometers and many of them were crying. In spite of the joy to go back home, we also cried realizing that we are leaving. I had a farewell speech thanking for the hospitality and help that we experienced for six years in Krutoyarka.

There seem to be no end to hugs and tears. Just before we left the village, one of our babysitters came with an advice. She said that if Jedrek would die on the way, I should give his body and something precious to a good lady to bury him and make sure that his grave is kept in a good shape. This advice did not give me any comfort. We prayed "Our Father" and "Hail Mary" and "Under Your Protection" and kept going, constantly looking behind until the village people could not be seen anymore.

During the trip, we were checking constantly a pulse on Jedrek's arm. In the morning on the third Jedrek woke up and asked: "Mom, give me something to eat quick." We had only dry croutons, raw potatoes, and some bread. Jedrek re-

ceived bread and water as the first meal after he woke up. The next day we reached Borovskoy. This marked the end of the first half of our journey to Kostanay. We spent this night in the fire depot, where we were located next to the door. People who were passing through the door were shocked seeing Jedrek since his face was blue and emaciated and he looked like a small skeleton.

In the next four days we finally reached Kostanay. The train was there waiting to take us and other two thousand people to Poland. It took only an hour to load all of us up. We received one kilogram of sausage and two kilos of bread per



A statue of Lenin in Borovskoy greeted Poles returning from Kazakhstan.

person. The representative of Polish Patriots Union said farewell to us in a friendly way. He reminded us not to forgive the hospitality of Soviet Union Government and its people. The carriages had double beds and they were not that overcrowded like on the way here. Unfortunately, the sausage was spoiled and had a bad smell. Even our dog, Psotka, refused to eat it, but we had dry bread. During the longer stops, we were also given boiled water. Of course we were taking buckets of this water with us, as an extra supply. There was a joyful and chatty atmosphere in the carriages, we were talking constantly. We had a three-hour long stop in Tula, a big city in Western Russia.

continued next month

— Reprinted courtesy of Jaga's Polish Culture Website at: [www.polish-site.us](http://www.polish-site.us)

## Obituaries

## Union activist Edward Sadlowski

CHICAGO — Edward Sadlowski, a union activist who represented thousands of steelworkers in Chicago and Gary, died in Florida after a long battle with dementia, family members said. He was 79.

Sadlowski was a district union chief with United Steelworkers. He gained national attention as an insurgent during an unsuccessful bid for the union presidency in 1977.

More recently, Sadlowski served on the local panel of the Illinois Labor Relations Board from 1993 to 2012, according to his family. He was inducted into the Illinois Labor History Society's Union Hall of Honor in 2012.

"He was the voice of the working class," said his daughter, Chicago 10th Ward Ald. Susan Sadlowski Garza. "He gave power to the working class men and women that were in the trenches."

Born to a steelworker on Sept. 10, 1938, Sadlowski grew up in Chicago's Southeast Side neighborhood, watching his father organize at the Inland Steel Company.

When Sadlowski began working as a machinist at United States Steel South Works in 1956, he quickly earned the nickname "Oilcan Eddie" because he was

always seen with an oilcan at work. He took to unionizing himself.

He clinched the top position at the site's union in 1964, overseeing about 23,000 workers, family said. And in 1975, Sadlowski became president of District 31, United Steelworkers' largest region — encompassing 128,000 members in Chicago and Gary — with the platform "Steelworkers Fight Back."

In that campaign and throughout his career, Sadlowski championed workers' right to strike and to ratify their own contracts, said his son, Edward Sadlowski, Jr.

Sadlowski Jr. said he was encouraged to see all the support pour in on social media, showing that his dad's ideals of "clean Democratic trade unionism" have created profound and lasting influence.

"Edward Sadlowski rose from working as a machinist's apprentice on Chicago's Southeast Side to being elected shop steward of his steel mill to leading the largest local Steelworkers union in America," Mayor Rahm Emanuel said in a statement "He served bravely in the Army and fought passionately for the rights of workers in Chicago and across America."

— From *Chicago Tribune*, *New York Times*, and internet news reports

## Dr. Teresa Gessner, cancer researcher

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Dr. Teresa Gessner (nee Kikal), born in Poland and a proud naturalized American, retired Senior Cancer Research Scientist of Roswell Park Memorial Institute, a former Board Member of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo and initiator of the club's Let the Children Know initiative, died May 13, 2018. She was 84.

She was the wife of the late Dr. Peter (Piotr) K. Gessner, former president of the Polish Arts Club and recipient of Poland's Gold Order of Merit.

Gessner was a strong supporter of Polish culture, and an active member of the Polish Arts Club for a number of years, receiving recognition in 1995 from the Polish American Congress for years of dedicated service to the community for the work she did to set up exhibits and demonstrations for Polish American Heritage Month at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Museum.

Gessner was passionate about educating local children about Buffalo's rich Polish-American heritage. Most notable of her efforts

in this area was her leadership in 1997-1999 to work with the Buffalo Historical Society to develop a major exhibit, "Buffalo Polonia 1873-1998," which subsequently became a traveling exhibit for showing at various locations around the county and abroad. During this time, through the Let the Children Know initiative, over 900 local children visited the exhibit, and additional materials were distributed to local schools.

Gessner was born in 1933 in Stanisławów, Poland — an area which later fell under Soviet occupation. Her grandfather, Colonel Franciszek Kikal, was one of the Polish officers arrested by the NKVD in 1939 in Lwów and a victim of the Katyń massacre. In remembrance of her grandfather, Gessner participated in the April 2010 ceremony for the Katyń victims at Buffalo City Hall and dedication of the Katyń Massacre plaque.

At 6 years of age, Gessner was in Lwów where her mother had recently given birth to her baby brother, when Teresa, her mother, aunt, and 5-month-old baby brother were taken by the Soviets by cattle car to the far reaches of Kazakhstan. Gessner's father, a civil engineer who was at that time working in the German occupied Jarosław, was thus separated from the family. He would be re-united with them 16 years later.

In Kazakhstan, even though she was only a small child, Gessner was forced to work in the wheat and potato fields, and herd sheep. Despite

living in near starvation circumstances, Christmas was still celebrated by carrying out the *opłatek* ceremony using their meager bread rations.

After two years under these severe conditions, Gessner and her family were among the lucky few who finally escaped to Tehran with the Polish Army, then later to Beirut and finally to England in 1949 as refugees of war.

In England, Gessner found her passion for the sciences, graduating from the University of London with a bachelor of science in chemistry, and a doctorate in organic chemistry. It was here that she also met her husband, Dr. Peter Gessner.

Together they moved to Cleveland, where she worked as a researcher at BF Goodrich, then in 1962 to Buffalo, which became their permanent home. Working first at SUNY Buffalo as a full time faculty member and researcher in the Pharmacology Department, and subsequently for over 20 years at Roswell Park Memorial Cancer Institute, Gessner authored or co-authored over 100 teaching publications.

Gessner was also a strong advocate for equal opportunities for girls and boys in education and equal recognition in workforce.

In addition to her efforts with the Polish Arts Club, Gessner was involved throughout different stages of her life and career in the National Organization for Women, the American Association of University Women, and the League of Women Voters.

## Art and Photo Competition Set

PUGET SOUND, Wash. — The Polish Home Association has announced two competitions related to the 100th anniversary of PHA and Poland's regained independence in 1918: an art competition and a photo competition. The deadline for both competitions is October 15, 2018. Prize winners will receive awards ranging from \$300.00 to \$75.00.

An exhibition of competition entries will be presented at the PHA anniversary gala in November 2018.

If you are interested, visit for the detailed information about the competitions at [www.polishnewsatlanta.org/](http://www.polishnewsatlanta.org/).

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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.

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

**Polish American Historical Association**  
Central Connecticut State University  
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06500  
[www.polishamericanstudies.org](http://www.polishamericanstudies.org)



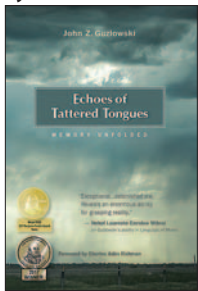




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**ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES**  
 by John Guzłowski



\$21.95  
 Item 2-667  
 hc., 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches  
 200 pp.  
 Aquila Polonica / Language: English

Guzłowski born in a German refugee camp after WWII, recounts the horrible atrocities enacted upon his parents during the war in these straightforward, gut-wrenching narrative lyric poems. These snapshots of Nazi German rule illustrate that hardship didn't end with German surrender; the aftershocks radiated through successive generations. "Guzłowski's simple language highlights the violence without offering any comment or consolation." — Publishers Weekly.



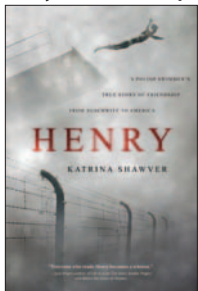
**303 SQUADRON**  
*The Legendary Battle of Britain Fighter Squadron*  
 by Arkady Fiedler  
 \$21.95  
 Item 2-603  
 pb. 6 x 9 inches  
 368 pp.  
 Aquila Polonica English. Includes nearly 200

black and white photos, maps and illustrations.

The summer of 1940 and the Battle of Britain—the darkest days of World War II. France, Poland, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Norway had all been crushed by the powerful Nazi German war machine. Great Britain stood alone, fighting for its life.

Thrilling action story of the celebrated squadron of Polish fighter pilots whose superb daring and aerial combat skills helped save England during its most desperate hours. The 303 "Kościuszko" Squadron flew with the RAF, downing three times the average RAF score, while incurring only one-third the average casualties during the Battle of Britain. Underdog heroes who rose to defend against the deadliest German Luftwaffe attacks, the pilots of 303 Squadron were lionized by the British press, congratulated by the King and adored by the British public.

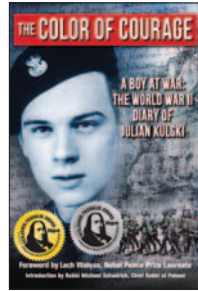
**HENRY. A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to**



*America*  
 by Katrina Shawver  
 \$19.95  
 Item 2-678  
 Koehler Books, 2017  
 pb., 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches  
 324 pp.  
 \$19.95

When Katrina Shawver met the eighty-five-year-old Henry Zguda, he possessed an exceptional memory, a surprising cache of original documents and photos, and a knack for meeting the right people at the right time. He relates in his own voice a life as a champion swimmer, interrupted by three years imprisoned in Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Henry's path of resiliency and power of connection are as relevant today as they were in World War II.

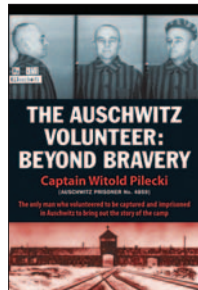
**THE COLOR OF COURAGE**  
 by Julian E. Kulski



\$19.95  
 Item 2-674  
 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2012. pb. 496 pp., 6" x 9"

"If there is going to be a war, I do not want to miss it." So wrote Julian Kulski a few days before the outbreak of World War II, in this remarkable diary of a boy at war from ages 10 to 16. Kulski wages his own private war against the Germans with small acts of sabotage. At age 12, Kulski is recruited into the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling. At age 13, he meets with leaders of the Jewish Resistance. Arrested by the Gestapo at 14, he is rescued and at 15 fights in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

**THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER**



by Witold Pilecki  
 \$34.95  
 Item 2-673  
 Aquila Polonica Publ., 2014  
 460 pp., pb. / 6x9 in.

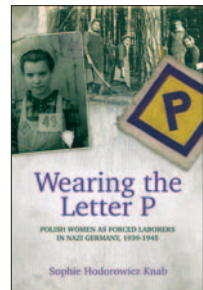
In 1940, the Polish Underground wanted to know what was happening inside the recently opened Auschwitz concentration camp. Polish army officer Witold Pilecki volunteered to be arrested by the Germans and report from inside the camp. His intelligence reports, smuggled out in 1941, were among the first eyewitness accounts of Auschwitz atrocities. Pilecki's story was suppressed for half a century after his 1948 arrest by the Polish Communist regime as a "Western spy."



**TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND**  
 by Dr. Krystyna M. Sklenarz  
 \$19.95  
 Item 2-604  
 183 pp., pb.

A midnight knock at her door changed everything for 6-year-

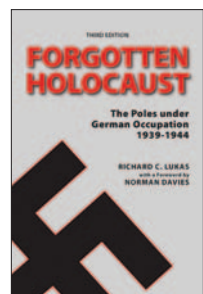
old Krystyna Sklenarz. In the middle of the night, the KGB deported her family from Poland to Siberia. She experienced two years there, and faced starvation, typhus, an opium den, being torpedoed, and living through the Nazi Blitz in the London subway. Through it all, Krystyna refused to give up. This is her journey from Siberia to her entrance into medical school at only 17.



**WEARING THE LETTER "P"**  
*Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945*  
 by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab  
 \$19.95  
 Item 2-642

pb. 304 pages  
 6 x 9 inches

An unflinching, detailed portrait of a forgotten group of Nazi survivors. Written by the daughter of Polish forced laborers, *Wearing the Letter P* gives a voice to women who were taken from their homes as young as 12 years old and subjected to slave labor conditions, starvation, sexual exploitation, and forced abortions and child separation — all while Nazi propaganda depicted them as well-cared-for volunteers. Knab provides an important contribution to World War II history, based on archival and family records, war crime trials, and victim accounts.



**FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST: The Poles Under German Occupation, 1939-45. Third edition**  
 \$19.95  
 Item 2-647  
 358 pp. pb.

*Forgotten Holocaust* has become a classic of World War II literature. As Norman Davies noted, "Dr. Richard Lukas has rendered a valuable service, by showing that no one can properly analyze the fate of one ethnic community in occupied Poland without referring to the fates of others. In this sense, *The Forgotten Holocaust* is a powerful corrective." The third edition includes a new preface by the author, a new foreword by Norman Davies, a short history of ZEGOTA, the underground government organization working to save the Jews, and an annotated listing of many Poles executed by the Germans for trying to shelter and save Jews.

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**Polonia Paderewski Choruses Host PSAA District 7 Convention**

CROMWELL, Conn. — Over one hundred singers gathered Sat., May 19, 2018, at the Red Lion Hotel in Cromwell for the 66th District 7 Convention of the Polish Singers Alliance of America.



Dr. M. B. Biskupski, Ph.D. was given Honorary Membership in the PSAA for assisting to finalize the completion of "Polish Singers Alliance of America Choral Patriotism."

The event was hosted by the Polonia Paderewski Choruses 287 and 311 of New Britain, Conn., under the chairmanship of Bozena Madej, co-president of District Seven and member of Polonia Paderewski choruses.

Officers of the Convention were: Chairperson Bogdan Modrzyński; 1st Vice-chairperson Doubrava Krautschneider; 2nd Vice-chairperson David Anderson; Secretary Anna Madou; Assistant Secretary Doubrava Krautschneider; Sergeant-at-Arms Zbigniew Niejadlik.

The Nominating Committee reported the slate of Officers of District 7 for the next year: President Brent Iskra of Chopin #182; 1st Vice-President Bozena Madej, Polonia Paderewski #287; 2nd Vice-President Adolf Burghardt, Chopin #182; Treasurer Jeff Pogorzelski, Hejnal #323; Librarian Mariusz Bryszkiewicz, Hejnal #323; Oginski #283; Secretary Anna Madou, Jutrzenka #226; Publicity (English) Barbara R. Blyskal, Jutrzenka #226; Publicity (Polish) Doubrava Krautschneider, Jutrzenka #226; District Choral Director Izabella Kobus-Salkin, Jutrzenka #226; Assistant District Choral Director Anthony Tabish, Chopin #182; Sergeant-at-Arms Michal Kurdyla, Aria #303; Flag Beareres Mirek Kostro, Andrzej Kolczynski, Hejnal #323.

The participating choruses chose their order of singing in competition. The *Female Choruses* sang first, in order:

- Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus #321 of Philadelphia. Choral Directors: David Zagorski and Jan Sporek;
  - Polonia-Paderewski #311 of New Britain, CT, directed by Andriy Lehki;
  - Jutrzenka #226 of South Brooklyn, NY, directed by Izabella Kobus-Salkin.
- Mixed Chorus Division:*
- Aria #303 of Wallington, NJ, directed by David Zagorski, General Director of the PSAA substituting for Joanna Mielezko;
  - Hejnal #323 of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY, Jan Sporek, director.

*Male Chorus Division:*

- Chopin Singing Society #182 of Passaic, NJ, Anthony Tabish, director.

After the competitions were over, choruses gathered for a general rehearsal for the next day's Mass and Concert.

The evening's event, the Convention Banquet, took place at the Polish Falcon's Nest # 88 located in New Britain.

Being the 100th Anniversary of Poland's Independence, Frances X. Gates, who was unable to attend the convention, expressed her message in the souvenir journal:

"All of us in the Polish Singers Alliance of America should be proud of the role our organization played since 1889 to keep Polish culture and music alive until the day Poland was again free and independent.

"It was a musician, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, who was instrumental in attaining Poland's rebirth as a nation, and U.S. President Woodrow Wilson who made it happen. We are grateful to them, and to all who prayed and fought for that day in

1918 when Poland was recognized as a nation and again graced the map of Europe.

"Although that independence was curtailed from 1939 by the German Nazis and Russian Communists for fifty years, Poland and all Polonia, including the PSAA and our District Seven choruses, never lost faith and Poland is again a vibrant, independent European nation.

Please continue to promote Polish song."

Gates reminded all to keep in mind the words of Adam Mickiewicz:

"Flame may devour  
 painted history;  
 Robbers plunder treasures  
 by the sword;  
 The song will survive intact"

Guest at the Banquet was Mary Lou Wyrobek, president of the Central Administration of the PSAA, who presented Dr. M. B. Biskupski, Ph.D. Honorary Membership in the PSAA for assisting to finalize the completion of "Polish Singers Alliance of America Choral Patriotism." The book, history compiled by the late Dr. Stanislaus a. Blejwas of Central Connecticut University, is a 100-year history of the PSAA.

Wyrobek also presented trophies to the choruses who participated in competition. Scores of all were read. Highest was Aria Mixed Chorus #303; followed by Chopin Male Chorus #182; and highest in the female division was Jutrzenka #226.

The next day, May 20, all members proceeded to Holy Cross Church in New Britain, for Mass, followed by the Gala Concert. A reception was held in the church hall following the concert.

Next year's 67th District 7 Convention will be hosted by Chopin Singing Society #182 of Passaic, N.J., on May 25, 2019.

**St. Stan's Parish Festival**

OMAHA, Neb. — St. Stanislaus Polish Parish will host its annual festival, Sun., Aug. 19, from noon until 8:00 p.m. The church is located at 41st and J St. Thousands of pierogi and golabki will be served, along with Polish sausage, hamburgers, hot dogs, and other picnic fare. Polish and local beer will be available. Several polka bands will be present for listening and dancing. Other activities include games of chance, raffles, and more. "Ollie the Trolley" will provide shuttle service from the parking lot of the No Frills Grocery Store at 50th and G St.

For information, call (402) 731-4152.

— Robert Fonfara

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## Dance Time

# USPS Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Anniversaries are a time for celebration, reflection and renewal, so suffice it to say those sentiments rang true as the **United States Polka Association** celebrated its 50th anniversary on Memorial Day weekend in Independence, Ohio.



Mark Trzeczak and Anya Bakowski at the USPA festival.

Hundreds of polka lovers assembled over the weekend to take in some wonderful polka music while celebrating its past and planning for a healthy future. Due to work obligations, I could not make the trip on Friday, but thanks to the live broadcast on the PolkaJammer, I felt like I was a part of the action. Fabulous music from **DynaBrass**, **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**, and **Freeze Dried** kicked off the opening night of the anniversary weekend. An evening schedule in perfect harmony enabled everyone to enjoy their favorite type of polka music. Traditional polkas and striking lyrics by beloved **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**, cutting edge and creative arrangements from **Freeze Dried** and a combination of traditional and progressive music from **DynaBrass** provided a flawless blend.

Those who attended Friday night also got a chance to listen to their honky favorites in the lounge with **Andy Fenus & the Trel-Tones**. Andy was inducted into the IPA Music Hall of Fame in 2017 and is celebrating 64 years of music with his band the Trel-Tones.

I arrived in time to get my first glimpse at **DynaVersaStickToneAires** during the afternoon lounge party. DVSTA is a young talented group of musicians assembled from Frankenmuth, Mich., Wisconsin, Long Island, N.Y., South Bend, Ind., and Chicago. Bringing much experience for such young musicians, they have individually played with bands like **Freeze Dried**, **DynaBrass**, **New Generation**, **Livewire**, **Polka Connection**, **Polka Family**, **Lenny Gomulka**, and **EZ Tones**, among others. **DynaVersaStickToneAires** includes members Aaron Slivinski, A. J. Okrzesik, Adam Socha, Daylan Enkers, Nick Koryluk, and

Steve Futa. Their talent was obvious as they put a young perspective on traditional polkas, paying tribute to the polka greats. They also took the opportunity to invite many other polka musicians on stage to join in this enjoyable afternoon.

Saturday's schedule was brimming with non-stop enjoyment, starting with everyone's favorite polka family, **Box On**. Their love of polka music and performing in full display, it is a true gift to watch this family perform together. Fans immediately noticed the absence of Alicia who was under the weather and had to miss the weekend. Alex commands the stage as his siblings showcase each of their unique musical talents. Of course, the crowd loves when the youngest siblings Tony and Bella get on stage to grab their time in the spotlight. It is evident how proud their dad, accomplished musician **Rick Vinecki**, is



Ed Mularz and Denise Sosa – USPA

as his skilled children take center stage. Keeping the tempo up on Saturday afternoon, **The Boys** took the stage with their uniquely traditional polka music. Polka Hall-of-Famers **Mike Matousek** and **Frankie Liszka** display their talented vocals this terrific group of musicians who play hit after hit. Their creative arrangements and melodic lyrics make this band a staple at every polka festival. As the evening was upon us, two more powerhouse bands took the stage. **The Knewz** and **Maestros Men** alternated throughout the evening supplying energy and brilliant music for listening and dancing throughout the night. Terrific vocals of Jackie Libera of **Maestro's Men** and **Andy Bojczuk** of the **Knewz**, who are both fan favorites, kept fans enthralled late into Sunday morning. Meanwhile, there was also great music in the lounge for those who wanted to take a break from the ballroom. **Music Company** from Chicago played polkas, obereks, and waltz-



Basia and Kevin Adams. Basia was Miss USPA 1986.

es to a capacity crowd. Talented and quick witted, **Music Company** knows how to keep the attention of their audience.

Sunday morning started with a celebration of a polka Mass with **The Eddie Forman Orchestra** providing the lively music. After a few days of fun and partying, it was wonderful to witness so many gathered together to celebrate their faith and the sense of community. I typically do not attend polka Mass at these events, preferring instead to visit a new church. This year my dear friend **Basia Adams** asked me to be a Eucharistic Minister and I was grateful for the opportunity. I was inspired by the packed hall there to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. I can assure you that I will never again miss the opportunity to attend a polka Mass again at one of these festivals. Thank you to **Basia** for including me and opening my eyes to what turned out to be my most memorable event of the weekend.

The board of USPA knows how to keep the fans there for the entire weekend by packing in even more talent on Sunday for the finale. The day started off with the **ProAm Jam**, an opportunity for the youth in the polka world to give us all a positive outlook on where polka music is headed. **Randy Koslosky** has been organizing the Pro Am Jams for several years at polka festi-



Don Swider, Kevin Altenburg, and Jim "Wigs" Weglicki, chair of the USPA Safety Council.

vals and it seems that the talent and number of youth partaking in this program grows with each Jam. The pride, joy, and elation on the faces of the youth are inspirational and **The Jam** is an event that everyone wants to see. As the day started in the ballroom **The Project** and **Eddie Forman** took turns entertaining the crowd. **The Project** has quickly

festival was founded to celebrate Polish heritage and introduce metro Detroit residents to talented chefs, artists, and musicians in the area. Held on the grounds of **The American Polish Century Club** 33204 Maple Lane in Sterling Heights, the weekend features polka music, Michigan dance ensembles, craft show, and the 6th Annual "Srodek's



Victoria Kish, Chris Kish, Ed Gawron, and Denise Skorik at the USPA.

become one of the industry's most popular polka bands and watching them, it is easy to see why. Their push for perfection coupled with their quirkiness offers fans a pleasurable experience. Though each

and every note is impeccably plotted, they still appear like a group of friends jamming together. **Eddie Forman** attracts its own entourage as fans cheer in front of the band singing each song lyric for lyric. As the evening progressed, **Polka Country Musicians** and **Polka Family** took the energy to an even higher peak. Fans gathered before each set to make sure they were front and center for their favorite bands. **Polka Family** has been entertaining polka lovers since 1979 and they show no signs of slowing down anytime soon. Their trademark hits are still as popular with the audience as they were decades ago, and their charismatic energy is hard to resist. **Polka Country** has garnered much-deserved attention and success, reveling crowds at events around the country. Whether it is a traditional polka or a country inspired polka, fans do not tire of their boundless energy and pizzazz. As someone who loves to listen to the music and people-watch, these are two bands that make it difficult to head to bed before their sets are over for the evening, even when I am completely exhausted.

**SUMMER POLKA FESTIVAL SEASON** is in full swing and you won't want to miss **The American Polka Fest** being held on July 13-15, 2018 in Sterling Heights, Mich. The weekend long festival showcases polka bands including **The New Brass Express**, **Polish Muslims**, **The Steve Drzewicki Band**, **DynaBrass**, **Polka Country Musicians**, **Box On**, and the **APCC All Star Polka Band**. Admission to the festival is only \$3.00/ per person and anyone 17 and under is admitted for free. This

**Pierogi Eating Challenge.** For 38 years, **The American Polish Festival** has been celebrating the Polish heritage in what is the second largest ethnic community in Michigan and a significant part of the history



John, Christina, and Matthew Gdula – USPA

of Detroit. Located just a few miles north of Hamtramck, Mich., you will have a host of activities to take part in over the three days. You can visit [www.americanpolishfestival.com](http://www.americanpolishfestival.com) for additional information.

**BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS** is holding its annual picnic on July 15, 2018 at Fontana's Grove, 2440 Clinton Street Buffalo, N.Y. Music will be provided by Special Delivery and will begin at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person, which includes hamburgers, hot dogs, Polish sausage, salads, corn, desserts, beer, and pop. There will also be a cash bar. Contact **Chris Tanski** for more info (716) 982-2132.

**BOX ON** returns to Buffalo, Sunday, July 29 for a summertime party at Fontana's Grove. Doors open at 1:00, and music runs from 2:00-7:00 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 advance, \$15.00 at the door. Food and drinks will be available (no BYOB). **Box on** will be sharing the stage with Buffalo's award-winning **Special Delivery**. For more information, call **Ted** at (716) 668-9101.



Polka Calendar

Compiled by John Ziobrowski

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

- JULY 1**
  - Lenny Gomulka. Gateway Clipper. Pittsburgh, Pa. 1-4 (412) 355-7980
- JULY 2**
  - Steve Drzewicki / Dyna Brass / Box On. St. Stans. Bay City, Mich. (989) 233-5107
- JULY 4**
  - Dyna Brass. Seven Springs. Champion, Pa. 7-11:30.
- JULY 5**
  - Eddie Forman / Box On / Tony Blazonczyk / The Boys. Seven Springs. Champion, Pa. 11 a.m. -12 a.m.
  - Joe Stanky. Knoebeis Park. Elysburg, Pa. 1:30 / 3 / 8 (800) 4874386
  - Buffalo Touch. Veterans Park. Depew, N.Y. 7-9
- JULY 6**
  - Ray Jay / Lenny Gomulka / Polka Family / John Gora / Eddie Forman.

- Seven Springs. Champion, Pa. 287-6624
- JULY 7**
  - Polka Method / Ampol Aires / The Beat / The Boys. Seven Springs. Champion, Pa.
  - John Stevens. Swim&Sports Club. Flanders, N.J. 12-4 (973) 584-9790
- JULY 8**
  - Versa J's / Ampol Aires / Nu-Tones. Seven Springs. Champion, Pa.
  - Dennis Polisky. St. Anthony. Fairfield, Conn. 1-5. (203-259-0358
  - Polka Country Musicians. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2-6. (413) 592-0376
  - John Sevens. Nativity of Our Lord. Duryea, Pa. 6-10 (570) 457-3502
  - Mike Surratt. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater, Md. 4-8. (410) 798-6807
- JULY 10**
  - Buffalo Touch. River Grill. Tonawanda, N.Y. 6:30
- JULY 11**
  - Lenny Gomulka. Public Library. Concord, Mass. 7-8:30
- JULY 12**
  - John Stevens. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Swayersville, Pa. 7-11 (570)

- JULY 14**
  - Lenny Gomulka. OLOPH. New Bedford, Mass. 11:30-7:30.
  - Joe Stanky Shawnee Oktoberfest, Delaware, Pa. 12-5 (570) 421-7231
  - DynaBrass. American Polish Century Club. Sterling Heights, Mich. 11-5. (686) 264-7990
  - Mike Surratt. Fair Grounds. Timonium, Md. (410) 446-8189
- JULY 15**
  - Special Delivery. Fontana's Grove. Buffalo, N.Y. 2 p.m. (716) 771-1076
  - Lenny Gomulka. St. Stanislaus. Amsterdam, N.Y. 4-8 (518) 842-6710
  - Joe Stanky. Shawnee Oktoberfest, Delaware, Pa. 12-5 (570) 421-7231
  - Tony Blazonczyk. Holy Cross. Joliet, Ill. 5-9 (815) 722-0785
  - Jimmy K. St. Charles. Parma, Ohio. (440) 884-3030
  - The Boys. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. (413) 592-0376
  - Mike Surratt. Fair Grounds. Timonium, Md. (410) 446-8189
- JULY 18**
  - Dennis Polisky. Baldwin Park. Terryville, Conn. 6-8
- JULY 19**
  - Chad Przybyliski / New Generation / Maroszek Brothers / Aaron Socha / Polka Dynamics / Concertina Rich. Polka Days. Pulaski, Wisc. 5-11:30
- JULY 20**
  - Special Delivery / Krew Brothers Reunion. Town Park. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 4:30-9
  - John Stevens. Lewis Fair. Lowville, N.Y. 9:30 (315) 376-8333
  - New Generation / DynaBrass / Michael Costa / Doctor Kielbasa / Polish Connection / Polka Country Musicians / Stephanie / Keynotes. Polka Days. Pulaski, Wisc. 4-1:15
- JULY 21**
  - Dennis Polisky. Immaculate Conception. Indian Orchard, Mass. (413) 543-3116
  - Lenny Gomulka / New Direction / The Boys. Town Park. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 3-8
  - Music Connection / Jerry Voelker / Polka Country Musicians / DynaBrass / Stever Meisner / DynaBrass / Polka Family / Box On / Chad Przybyliski / Gary Brueggen. Polka Days. Pulaski, Wisc. 12:30 p.m. -1 a.m.
  - Mike Surratt. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater, Md. 8-11 (410) 798-6807
- JULY 22**

- Dennis Polisky. PACC. South Deerfield, Mass. 1-5:30. (413) 665-8735
- John Stevens. VFW. Dupont, Pa. 2-5 (570) 472-1152
- Lenny Gomulka / Buffalo Touch Town Park. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 3-8.
- Special Delivery. Pulaski Day Parade, Cheektowaga, N.Y. 1:00.
- Joe Stanky. Nay Aug Park. Scranton, Pa. 2-3:30
- Stephanie. Polish Club. Connellsville, Pa. 3-7 (724) 628-671
- Joe Stanky. Fellows Park. Scranton, Pa. 5-7
- Box On / Polka Family / Polkatown Sounds / Maroszek Brothers. Polka Days. Pulaski, Wisc. 12:30-6:30.
- JULY 26**
  - Joe Stanky. Central Park. Honesdale, Pa. 7:30-9
- JULY 27**
  - John Stevens. Triangle Park Lock Haven, Pa. 6-8
  - Jimmy Sturr. Ward Park. Passaic, N.J. 7:30-9:30
  - Box On. Polish Community Ctr. Albany, N.Y. 6-10. (518) 899-3061
- JULY 28**
  - John Stevens. Holy Trinity. Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 6-10 (570) 825-6540
  - Jimmy Sturr. Historic Track. Goshen, N.Y. (845) 294-5333
  - Tony Blazonczyk. Folk Festival. Lowell, Mass. (978) 275-1764
  - Box On. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2-6 (413) 592-0376
  - DynaBrass. St. Josephs. Jackson, Mich. (517) 784-9716
  - Mike Surratt. American Legion. College Park, Md. 8-11 (301-441-2783
- JULY 29**
  - Box On / Special Delivery. Fontana's Picnic Grounds. West Seneca, N.Y.

- (716) 668-9101
- Dennis Polisky. Turner Hall. Clinton, Mass. 1:30-5. (978) 365-9746
- Jimmy Sturr. Green Acres Park. Brielle, N.J. 2-4
- John Stevens. St. Nick Grove. Primrose, Pa. 4-8
- Tony Blazonczyk. Folk Festival. Lowell, Mass. (978) 275-1764
- DynaBrass. St. Josephs. Jackson, Mich. (517) 784-9716
- Northern Lites. Pulaski Club. Daytona Beach, Fla. 2-5 (386) 258-7059
- AUGUST 2**
  - John Stevens. Sacred Heart Dupont, Pa. 7-11 (570) 654-3713
- AUGUST 3**
  - John Stevens. Sacred Heart. Dupont, Pa. 7-11 (570) 654-3713
  - DynaBrass / Virgil Baker / Roger Majeski. Polish Fest. Boyne Falls, Mich. 12 p.m.-1 a.m. (231) 549-8800
- AUGUST 4**
  - Joe Stanky. Sacred Heart. Dupont, Pa. 7-11 (570) 654-3713
  - DynaBrass / Roger Majeski / New Generation. Polish Fest. Boyne Falls, Mich. 12 p.m. 1 a.m. (231) 549-8800
- AUGUST 5**
  - John Stevens. Music Fest. Bethlehem, Pa. 12-3:30. (610) 332-1300
  - John Gora. Facer Festival. St. Catharines, Ont., Canada
  - Jimmy K / Northern Nites. Polish Fest. Boyne Falls, Mich. 12-9. (231) 549-8800
  - Heros. Pulaski Park. Three Rivers, Mass. 2-6 (413) 592-0376
  - Buffalo Touch. Holy Helpers. West Seneca, N.Y. 1-6 (716) 674-1670.
  - Mike Surratt. Old Stein Inn. Edgewater, Md. 4-8 (410) 798-6807

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2018

Frankenmuth, MI

## 2018

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 RV Parks - Frankenmuth  
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Summer Music Fest Located in Heritage Park 601 Weiss Street • Frankenmuth, MI 48734 800-FUN-FEST

frankenmuthfestivals.com

2018 - FRANKENMUTH **Summer Music Fest Daily Schedule**

**\$18. THUR, AUG. 9th**  
 Polka Family ~ Ampol Aires  
 Box On (Vinecki Family) ~ Stephanie

**\$20. FRI, AUG. 10th**  
 Polka Country Musicians ~ Polka Family  
 Lenny Gomulka and His Chicago Push  
 The Boys

**\$20. SAT, AUG. 11th**  
 Polka Country Musicians ~ The Boys  
 Lenny Gomulka and His Chicago Push  
 Polish Connection

**\$18. THUR, AUG. 16th**  
 Frank Stanger ~ Steve Meisner  
 Squeezebox with Mollie B

**\$14. FRI, AUG 17th \$16. SAT, AUG 18th \$16**  
 Steve Meisner Squeezebox with Mollie B  
 Steve Meisner Squeezebox with Mollie B  
 THE HUBCAPS & MAGIC BUS

Gates Open at 12:30 Everyday Music Starts at 1:00 PM  
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May 7-22, 2019

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Contact - Helga Leonard at "A Dream Trip 4 U"  
 (724) 234-2033 [helga@adreamtrip4u.com](mailto:helga@adreamtrip4u.com)

Bookings **MUST** be made with "A Dream Trip 4 U" to be part of our group and attend polka activities

## JOIN US FOR SOME SUMMERTIME FUN!

# BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS' ANNUAL PICNIC

**SUN., JULY 15, 2018 2:00-7:00 p.m.**

Music by **SPECIAL DELIVERY**

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Members: \$20.00 in advance up by July 5th / \$25.00 at door  
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 Children: 10 & under — FREE  
 11 TO 13 — \$10.00

**FOOD SERVED 3:00-6:00 P.M.**

Contact for more info **Chris Tanski (716) 771-1076**  
 or **Barb Mroz (716) 668-2694**



**July Polka Birthdays**

Birthdays courtesy of John Nalevanko, host of Li'l John's Polka Show, WAVL Radio 910 AM and 98.7 FM, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Live streaming at www.PA\_Talk.com. For information, write to: 121 Seminole Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601; (724) 834-7871; johnnalevanon@aol.com.

2	Stan Malewicz		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Dubois, Pa.
3	Ken Yash		Musician / Vocalist (Maestro's Men)	Mass.
4	Hank Haller	1935	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Ohio
4	Jim Ernest	1937	Musician (Trumpet) (Lou Prohut Orch.)	Pa.
4	Joe Rudzinski	1951	Musician	Virg..
4	Leon Kozicki	1930	7-19-17 Bandleader / Musician / IPA	Chicago
4	Dave "Scrubby" Seweryniak	1948	7-22-16 Musician / Vocalist (Dynatones)	N.Y.
5	Mary Ann Kroll		Musician / Vocalist (Accordion)	Cleveland
5	Mike Costa	1961	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger	N.J.
6	Larry Placek		Former D.J.	Pa./Ga.
6	Steve Litwin		Concertina / Journalist	N.Y.
6	Tom Frydryk		Musician / Vocalist (EFO)-	Mass., Fla.
6	Dennis Polisky	1959	Bandleader / Musician / Arranger	Conn.
7	Gil Yurus		Former Polka D.J.-	Pa.
9	Jack Tady	1938	Bandleader / Musician / D.J.	Pa.
10	Steve Okon		Musician	Conn.
11	Cousin Ozzie (Dick Ozimek)	1937	Musician / DJ. / I.J.	Fla.
12	Eddie Blazonczyk Sr	1941	5-21-12 Bandleader / Vocalist / D.J. / Promoter	Chicago
12	Paul Konkus	1944	Musician / Vocalist / D. J.	Pa.
13	Stas Golonka	1944	Bandleader / Vocalist	Chicago
13	Eddie Liszewski	1931	1-26-12 Bandleader / Musician / D.J.	Creekside, Pa.
13	Terry Narvey	1948	Musician (Drummer)-(Corsairs)	Dubois, Pa.
14	Freddy Guszevich	1960	Musician / Vocalist (Polka Family)	Pa.
15	Polka Man Jack Baciewski		Musician / D.J. / I.J.	Conn.
15	Wally Dombrowski		Musician / Vocalist / Arranger (PCM)	Conn.
17	Wayne Sienkowski	1959	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Ampol-Aires)	Chicago
17	Eddie Blazonczyk Jr.	1967	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Chicago
18	Don Lucki	1933	12-21-06 Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / DJ-(Naturals)	Chicago
19	Wesoly Bolek (Bill Borek)	1941	6-12-06 Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / D.J.	Fla., R.I.
20	Emil Simodejka	1930	7-12-12 Vocalist (Joe Misti Band)	Minersville, Pa.
21	Joe Macielag	1935	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo
22	Roman (Travers) Truskolaski	1928	Musician / Vocalist / Arranger (Ampol-Aires)	Chicago
22	Joey K. Kozenko	1935	Former Polka D.J. (WQTW Radio)	Latrobe, Pa.
26	Bud Hundenski	1944	1-23-16 Bandleader / Musician (Corsairs)	Pittsburgh
26	Tom Lipchinski	1957	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist (Dynasonics)	Pa.
26	Paul Hapawski	1960	Musician	Pa.
26	Dr. Joe Binkiewicz		Musician	Ohio
26	Karen Olszewski		Musician / Vocalist	Conn.
27	Eddie Noga	1922	5-18-16 Musician (Li'l Wally & Li'l Richard)	Chicago
27	John Gora	1959	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist / Promoter	Fort Erie
27	Polka Chet Kuklewich	1940	Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	N.J.
28	Frank Yankovic	1915	10-14-98 Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Cleveland
29	Happy Adolph Kurdyla		9-9-98 Polka Promoter	N.J.
30	Bob Sendra	1943	Drummer (Original Versatones)	Chicago
30	Dave Gawronski		Bandleader / Musician / Vocalist	Buffalo

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**POLKAMOTION**

**September 12-15, 2018**

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• A limited number of advance tickets are now available! Admission for Thursday night is only \$16, and \$18 for Friday and Saturday nights. Kids under 16 are free! Save a couple bucks with the three-day ticket combo for just \$50. Place your order by mailing your check payable to "Mike Matousek" to 8372 Williamstowne Drive, Millersville, MD 21108.

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or go to [www.polkamotion.com](http://www.polkamotion.com)

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 The Polka Family Band

**SUNDAY**  
**JULY 29, 2018**

**BOX ON**  
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**SPECIAL DELIVERY**

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 Music 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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At the beautiful and spacious  
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## Reflections

## Anniversary at PNA 122 Brings Back Memories

by Walter Wasacz

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — My attachment to Polish National Alliance Council 122 is both personal and sentimental.

Growing up, I spent many days



The timeless art deco lodge sign.

and nights on the dance floor or on the stage, in between sets by whatever band was playing or after presentations by speakers.

In the 1970s, with some Hamtramck rock and roll friends, I helped stage a new wave dance party in the big hall, which was also used for big showcase events when the *Metro Times* was programming its Blowout festival in the city.

My mother, Helen Wasacz, was active in the organization for decades, remaining vice president of Lodge 1758 until her death in 2012.

These thoughts accompanied me as I walked to the PNA Hall a few weeks ago for the local council's 100th anniversary banquet and awards program.

The sentimental and the real came together when I saw Paul Odrobina, a past president of Council 122 and Lodge 1758, and former director of the national PNA organization in Chicago, where he now lives. Odrobina was also a member of the Hamtramck city council for 18 years.

At the banquet he received the Gold Cross of the Legion of Honor

Award, the same award given his father Mitchell Odrobina in 1985. Paul's mother, Casmira, also received many awards from the PNA.

His parents and mine were part of a leadership generation that helped sustain Polish American community life in Hamtramck in the latter half of the 20th century.

Paul's sister Michelle Odrobina, a longtime journalist who still lives in Hamtramck, was there, as was Barbara Gronet, a former colleague at the *Citizen* newspaper. I shared a

table with Mayor Karen Majewski.

Thaddeus Radzilowski of the Piast Institute gave a brief history of the PNA in Hamtramck. Current Lodge 1758 president Stella Szczesny and Paul Odrobina shared the podium before Paul said a few words after receiving the award.

The crowd was impressive. Nearly every table was completely filled with guests and the bar was busy before dinner was served. Dessert included cake decorated with the words "Sto lat!"



One of several anniversary desserts.

It refers to a traditional Polish song that is commonly sung at birthday parties and was perfect for a celebration like this one. Translated it goes like this:

"100 years, 100 years,  
May you live for 100 years.  
Once again, once again,  
May you live for 100 years!"

It is meant to stay in your head and your heart long after the party is over.

Hamtramck native Walter Wasacz is a freelance writer, columnist, editor, musical collaborator, and consultant based in Detroit. He writes a bimonthly column in a chronicle of his adventures lived close to home.



Guests enjoying each other's company.

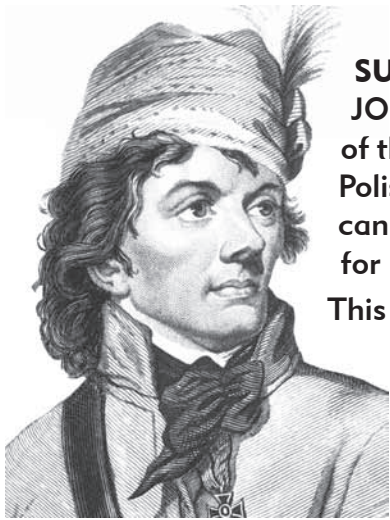
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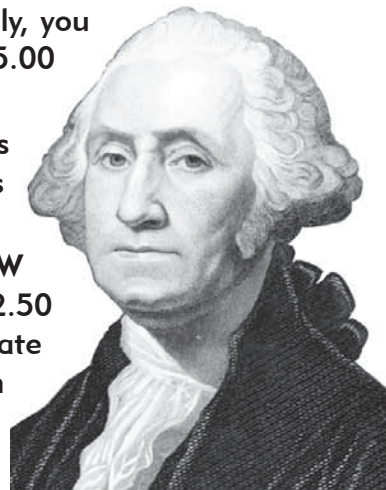
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A subscription to the Polish American Journal makes a great gift any time of the year—graduations, birthdays, anniversaries—and is a wonderful way to reintroduce family and friends to their Polish roots.



**WASHINGTON.** "Half-price? Now that's a deal!"

## Students from Poland Participate at Intel ISEF



(l. to r., front): Michal Paszkowski, Emil Markiewicz, Anna Len. (rear): competitor Medical Science judge Dr. Robert Kaminski of Pittsburgh, Pa.

**PITTSBURGH** — The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest international pre-college science competition, was held May 13-18. This global science competition for students in grades 9-12

provides an annual forum for more than 1,700 high school students from more than 75 countries to display their independent research and compete for \$4 million in prizes.

This year, six students from Poland participated: Maciej Solnicki from Warsaw; Szymon Kanikowski and Emil Markiewicz, both from Poznań; Jakub Jedrzejewski from Ostrów Wielkopolski; Anna Len from Łódź; and Michal Paszkowski from Bełchatów.

In addition to three Grand Award winners, approximately 600 finalists received awards and prizes for their innovative research, including Maciej, age 18 who was awarded a \$500

fourth award for his project dealing with catalytic systems Kanikowski for fuel cells, and Michal, 16, who received a \$1,500 second award for his project researching a modern computer programming language.

Millions of students worldwide competed in local and school-sponsored science fairs; the winners of these events went on to participate in regional and state fairs, from which the best won the opportunity to attend Intel ISEF. Intel ISEF is hosted each year in a different city. Next year's fair will be held in Phoenix, Ariz. May 12-17.



Jedrzejewski

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