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CLASS ACT PISCOTTY HONORED — PAGE 12

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

THREE DECADES OF FREEDOM • NEW-ORDAINED PRIEST PASSES • “FOR THE EMILYS YET TO COME ...”
UNDERSTANDING WARSAW’S ROLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY • CENTURY-OLD CEILING MURAL RESTORED
SERGEANT DECORATED FOR SACRIFICE • OUR ANCESTOR’S IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION LAWS

NEWSMARK

TRUMP PRAISES ST. JOHN PAUL II. As Poland marked the 40th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s triumphant 1979 homecoming and the 30th anniversary of partially free elections that ended communist rule, U.S. President Donald Trump joined the celebration with a special Presidential Message. In it, he hailed the late Polish-born Pontiff for “his extraordinary life as a follower of Jesus Christ and as a champion for human dignity and religious liberty who helped tear down the Iron Curtain of communism in Europe.”

“As we remember the long struggle of the Polish people against communism, we also acknowledge that millions of people now live in freedom because of St. Pope John Paul II,” Trump said. He recalled “the powerful message of hope he delivered to the crowds gathered in Warsaw, to all of Poland, and to the world.”

OFFICER DETAINED OVER 1981 SHOOTING. A communist-era police officer suspected of opening fire during the brutal suppression of a Polish miners’ strike in 1981 has been detained in Croatia. The man, whose name has been withheld under Polish privacy laws, was a member of a special platoon in the communist riot police which fired at miners on December 16, 1981, killing nine people and wounding 21 others, state news agency PAP reported.

Croatian authorities decided to hand him over to Poland after he was detained on May 17, according to PAP.

“Justice should be served, even years after the event,” Poland’s Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro said.

Miners from the Wujek coal mine in the southern Polish city of Katowice went on strike on 13 December, 1981, the day that martial law was declared by the communist authorities to stifle rising opposition headed by the Solidarity movement. The strikers called for an end to martial law, during which the authorities brought tanks to the streets, cut telephone lines and introduced a strict curfew.

TO HOST GLOBAL FORUM ON INTERNET. (PAP) In 2020, Poland will host the 15th global Internet Governance Forum, a UN initiative to discuss the future of the Internet, the country’s digital affairs ministry said.

“This is a great honor for Poland because we will host several thousand of the most important people in the world who deal with the way the Internet functions, freedom of speech on the Internet, all the benefits, but also the problems that the Internet brings,” said Poland’s Minister of Digital Affairs, Marek Zagórski.

The Polish digital affairs ministry added that the forum brings together government officials, entrepreneurs, scientists and NGOs from around the world.

This year’s Internet Governance Forum takes place in November in Berlin.

BEE DISEASE FOUND IN KRAKOW. (KRAKOW POST) — A deadly and disruptive bee infection has been discovered in Krakow bees, worrying local beekeepers and ecologists.

“American foulbrood” is a bacterial disease which infects and kills young bee larvae, which can be devastating for the hive. Spores can survive in nectar and honey for as long as 40 years, making it difficult to contain the spread of the illness. Beekeepers usually burn the entire affected hive as a precaution. It is important that they not buy food from untrusted sources

or move infected bees/materials from the area.

Infected hives have been found in two locations in Krakow. The government has posted warning signs in a perimeter around the affected areas warning beekeepers of the danger in an effort to stop the spread.



The disease is not dangerous to humans.

Poland’s President Duda Visits States



PHOTO: JAKUB SZCZEPANIK / CONSULATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

BISHOP EMERITUS JOHN W. YANTA welcomes Poland’s President Andrzej Duda to Texas during the Polish leader’s visit to the state. The retired bishop, who served the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, and the Diocese of Amarillo, looked forward to his meeting with President Duda to tell him about the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria. In addition to exhibits, archives, and events, the \$14 million, 16,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art Center will help Texas Poles trace their roots in Poland.

President and First Lady Duda also met with elected officials, community leaders, and the CEOs of several American power companies. They also signed a memorandum establishing cooperation between Poland’s Health Ministry and the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

See “President Duda Meets Texas ...” on back cover

Rotational U.S. troop boost falls short of Warsaw’s expectations

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW / WASHINGTON — Poland’s major TV networks provided extensive coverage of President Andrzej Duda’s recent visit to the White House, his second in ten months. U.S. President Donald Trump remarked that U.S.-Polish ties are now better than they have ever been and said Poland’s economy was booming.

“We usher in a very exciting new alliance with a very special people,” said Trump.

The two presidents said in a signed declaration that an additional 1,000 U.S. troops would join the 4,500 already on Polish soil. Warsaw has been vigorously lobbying for a permanent U.S. military base in Poland and was disappointed to hear the extra troops would still be rotated. Washington has insisted on that formula so as not to overly antagonize Russia. Moreover, Trump had initially

“Presidents Meet,” on back cover

Auschwitz Stories and the Story of Auschwitz

Two Museums offer unique perspective into this tragic loss of lives

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

— George Santayana, Spanish-American philosopher

A trip to once-upon-a-time Poland can be a fairy tale. It can also tell the story of Europe’s 20th-century fascist nightmare.

For centuries the town of Oświęcim was a peaceful, non-descript community, largely bypassed by world events. Located on the border between Śląsk and Małopolska, where the River Soła flows into the Wisła River, Oświęcim was the site of a 12th century castle. In 1312 it became the capital of an independent principality - incorporated into Poland in 1457. In 1772, under the First Polish Partition, the town was ceded to the Habsburg Empire, as part of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, where it remained until late 1918.

There were approximately 8,000 Jews in the city on the eve of World War II - more than half the population. That changed with World War II, when Oświęcim, known as “Auschwitz” under German occupation, became the chosen site of the largest German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp in the Third

Reich.

Between 1.1 million and 1.5 million people were exterminated here, etching the name of Auschwitz forever into the history books, while countless films, documentaries, books and survivor accounts have since burned it into the collective consciousness.

My first visit to Auschwitz was at age 11. The experience definitely colored my perspective for life. With the oversized photographs, the tour guide narration and the exhibit’s searing images, a child’s imagination weaves a distressful and disturbing account of these events. There now is a notice stating the entrance age to be 14 years.

Later, attendance was obligatory during my first and last years of university studies in Lublin. My great-uncle survived internment, and my grandfather was being transported there, but escaped at a monastery. It is such a part of me and though it is not a pleasant visit, I valued the experience for a fourth time at this stage of my life.

Within two weeks’ time, upon my return to the States, I

See “Auschwitz Stories,” page 4




The entrance — also known as the “death gate” — to the Auschwitz II-Birkenau extermination camp.

ALMANAC

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July Lipiec

Gdy lipiec z deszczem,
zima będzie z wiatrem.
*A rainy July means
a windy winter.*

- 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 1879. Birth of **Alfred Korzybski**, who developed the theory of General Semantics, which states that human beings are limited in what they know by (1) the structure of their nervous system and (2) the structure of their languages. Korzybski published many books in the United States and lived in Lakeville, Conn. until his death in 1950.
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY. (U.S.)**
1934. Death in France of **Madame Skłodowska Curie**, 66.
- 5 1945. Polish American World War II ace **Col. Francis Gabreski** scores his 28th downed enemy plane.
- 6 1922. Death of **Blessed Maria Teresa Ledóchowska, S.S.P.C.**, who founded the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver, dedicated to service in Africa
- 7 1572. Death of **King Zygmunt August**, last of Poland's Jagiellonian dynasty.
- 8 1824. Birth of **Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski** (d. 1887), Union officer in U.S. Civil War.
- 9 1823. Birth of Polish portrait painter **Henryk Rodakowski**.
- 10 1835. Birth of composer and violinist **Henry Wieniawski**.
- 11 1938. Death of **Mother Coletta Hilbert**, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph.
- 12  **Agnes Victoria Hilbert** (1865-1938)
- 13 2000. Death of **Jan Kar-ski**.
- 15 1894. Birth of **Tadeusz Sendzimir**, engineer and inventor in mining and metalwork.
- 16 1873. **Jan Matejko** establishes a school of fine arts in Krakow.
- 17 **SAINT JADWIGA D'ANJOU**
- 19 1980. **Lt. Col. Matt Urban**, America's most decorated soldier, receives Medal of Honor.
- 20 1996. **Renata Mauer** of Poland won first gold medal of the Olympic Games, for shooting.
- 21 1901. Dedication of **St. Joseph Basilica**, Milwaukee.
- 22 1982. End of martial law in Poland that lasted for 586 days.
- 23 1942. Nazis open a 2nd Treblinka Camp, as the evacuation of the Warsaw ghetto began.
- 26 **ST. ANN**
*Od Świętej Hanki,
zimne wieczory i ranki.
From St. Ann's,
cool evenings and mornings.*
- 28 1915. Roman Catholic Diocese surrenders possession of **Holy Mother of the Rosary Church**, Buffalo, N.Y.
- 29 **ST. MARTHA**
*Okolo dnia świętej Marty,
ze żniwami już nie żarty.
Around Saint Marta's day,
the harvests leave no time for play.*
- 30 1619. At meeting of legislative assembly at the Jamestown, Virginia settlement, Poles are granted a political voice after withholding services.

This paper mailed on or before **June 28, 2019**.
The **August 2019** edition will be mailed on or before **July 31, 2019**

VIEWPOINTS

Three Decades of Freedom

On June 4, Poland's top officials marked the 30th anniversary of Poland's first partially-free elections after World War II, a landmark vote that heralded the collapse of communism after decades of totalitarian rule. Polish President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki delivered speeches in parliament, as did Marek Kuchciński, Speaker of the lower chamber. The celebrations culminated in the evening with a concert by the Sinfonia Varsovia orchestra in Warsaw, with the head of state and all former presidents and prime ministers invited.

The success of Solidarity's peaceful revolution was so contagious, it led to the domino-like demise of Communist regimes across Europe, including the Soviet Union itself.

Poland soon experienced an explosion of democracy, with 29 democratically-elected parties competing for seats in Parliament. Now free from government censorship, Poland's media expanded exponentially. The average Pole saw the disappearance of food lines and ration cards. Empty store shelves were now filled with colorfully packaged abundance. Many Poles were thrilled that they no longer had to ask the regime for permission to travel abroad and began exploring the world.

For the better part of a quarter-century, Poland was praised by the West as a model of democratic transformation. Liberal economist Leszek Balcerowicz was hailed for his "shock therapy," which brought the country's runaway inflation down to a manageable level. Less was said, however, about the misery caused by unemployment, which soared to 20 and 30 percent in areas where factories — often the main local employer — were closed, sold, or abandoned.

Little was done by successive governments to promote the development of an indigenously Polish entrepreneurial class. Instead, foreign-interest groups received preferential treatment through tax breaks, or free or low-cost land for industries that used cheap Polish manpower. The market was soon dominated by foreign banks and retail chains, which transferred most of their profits abroad rather than letting them work for Poland.

THE PENDULUM SWINGS. The conservative Law and Justice party (PiS), created on popularity gained by late president of Poland Lech Kaczyński while heading the Polish Ministry of Justice, ousted Poland's liberal leadership in the October 2015 election. Law and Justice attracted voters who didn't benefit from economic liberalization and European integration, as well as those whose economic situation didn't improve significantly since 1989.

The party supports a state-guaranteed minimum social safety net and state intervention in the economy within market economy bounds. During the 2015 election campaign it proposed tax decrease to two personal tax rates (18% and 32%) and tax rebates related to the number of children in a family, as well as a reduction of the Value-added tax (VAT) rate (while keeping a variation between individual types of VAT rates). The 18% and 32% tax



Poland owes its freedom, in part, to shipyard worker Lech Wałęsa, who boldly stood up to the communist regime. His charisma, coupled with the election of Pope John Paul II, and support from the West, broke Moscow's hold on Warsaw. Wałęsa is still widely respected, but the combative and divisive tone of his later presidency, shadowed by allegations of collaboration with communist authorities, has generated mixed feelings about the Solidarity union icon.

rates were eventually implemented. Also: a continuation of privatization with the exclusion of several dozen state companies deemed to be of strategic importance for the country. PiS opposes cutting social welfare spending, and also proposed the introduction of a system of state-guaranteed housing loans. PiS supports state-provided universal health care.

The new government lost no time in launching across-the-board reforms. An ambitious child-benefit program soon eradicated child poverty and gave large families a new lease on life. Unlike their predecessors who had favored their big-city electorates, Law and Justice promoted more equitable nationwide development. A campaign to re-Polonize banks and media got under way, and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki spearheaded a program of innovative development prioritizing the latest IT, high-speed trains and electric-cars.

Since the government appeals to average Poles and emphasizes traditional family values and patriotism, it has been accused of populism and nationalism, to the point Poland's celebration of its independence centennial last November 11th was called a "fascist march." In spite of its distractors, Law and Justice — 3.5 years into its current term — enjoys 42 percent public support, an increase over the 37.6 percent with which it won the 2015 election.

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE. It cannot be denied that over the past three decades Poland has made tremendous economic progress beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

This is not to say it was without growing pains. Most prominent is the ever-deepening "Polish-Polish War," which started in 1992 when Lech Wałęsa, Solidarity activists, and dissident intellectuals were exposed as former paid informers of the Soviet-backed communist Polish Security Services. Wałęsa

vehemently denied the allegations, and in 2000 a special court cleared him of the alleged collaboration. The controversy resurfaced in 2008 with the publication of a book that purported to show that Wałęsa had been an operative for the security services from 1970 to 1976. The question resurfaced again in February 2016, when the Institute of National Remembrance seized materials from the widow of Czesław Kiszczak, a former minister of the interior, that were said to document Wałęsa's role as a spy.

It is understandable why liberals reject and deny the charges, and why conservatives regret the collaborators lacked the courage to admit their blunder and apologize.

In the long run, time will prove the Third Polish Republic was born of many factors, most notably Wałęsa's charisma as a union leader, Cardinal Wojtyła's election to the papacy, and support received from the West. Elections later this year will decide which path the country pursues in the short term.

BUT IN THE MEANTIME, all are celebrating, albeit in their own ways. In Gdansk, the port city where the spark of revolution first caught fire in the sprawling shipyards, groups broadly opposed to the government organized days of concerts, forums, and celebrations. Jaroslaw Kaczyński's government, instead, chose to focus on the 40th anniversary of the first visit of the first Polish pope, Pope John Paul II, to Poland, another critical and unifying moment.

Whether you side with the left or the right, the truth rests in the middle: both sides are able to openly accuse each other, air their differences in the media, and celebrate however they choose, because Poland is once again free.

— *Composed by Mark Kohan from news reports and articles by Radio Poland, New York Times, Wikipedia, and Robert Strybel.*

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FORUM

Understanding Warsaw's Role in the 21st Century

Bartosia's treatise on Poland's geostrategic importance in history and today

by Dr. Bogdan Kotnis

An image of Poland in the United States is created with negligible participation of Polish experts. This often leads to a simplistic and erroneous image of Poland. As Polonia, we are not understood, appreciated or treated adequately for our historic contributions, demographic potency or current geopolitical importance. The study of Poland and Polonia in colleges and universities is underrepresented when compared to Russian, German, French, Jewish, Spanish or English studies.

Poland developed successfully as a country and then the melting pot of nations, races and religions for 800 years. It all ended with the partitions of Poland by absolute monarchs of Russia, Prussia, and Austria, who united to fight Poland's elected monarchy, religious, ethnic, and racial tolerance and our May 3, 1791 Constitution. After the partitions of Poland in 1795, an unprecedented series of world wars ensued, with most of human loses and destruction occurring on the former Polish territory: Napoleonic Wars, World Wars I and II.

TODAY, RUSSIA IS STILL a predator state threatening the world with fear of atomic aggression and destroying peaceful coexistence by waging wars and grabbing territories of other countries. Germans are growing into a sole leading force in Western Europe and more openly oppose American leadership role. There are those in Washington who believe that a strong Poland is the only viable support to the continued peace and stability in Europe, and as the consequence, in the world.

A mistake in calculating how much we should support and build Polish political, economic, and military strength could lead to the disaster of World War III. Those who benefit from current American support are concerned that if American support for Poland grows, the support for them will diminish. We must do everything possible to ensure that our decision makers hear and consider the voice of Polish experts and Polonia when deciding on the level and quality of Polish American cooperation.

Jacek Bartosia's book *Rzeczpospolita między lądem a morzem. O wojnie i pokoju* (The Commonwealth of Poland between Land and Sea. On War and Peace) (2018) is

an 800-page treatise that systematically presents Poland's geostrategic importance throughout history and today. It clearly presents the role Poland has been playing in the global balance of peace and war both throughout the centuries and currently.

BARTOSIAK IS THE CEO and founder of Strategy & Future, a Warsaw think tank; Senior Fellow of the Washington, D.C.-based Potomac Foundation; director of Wargaming & Simulations Program at the Casimir Pulaski Foundation; and co-founder of "Play of Battle," a wargaming and simulation games studio. He is also a contributor to Nowa Konfederacja and New Generation Warfare Center in Washington, D.C. Bartosia is a former (2018-2019) CEO of Solidarity Transport Hub, a national initiative to build a new city in the center of Poland that will serve as a global airport, road and rail transportation hub consolidating the territory of Poland and connecting it into the global network of commerce. A graduate of the Warsaw University Law School and a member of its Public Administration Faculty, since 2004 Bartosia has been the managing partner of his Warsaw-based law office specializing in corporate, business, and financial law. As a renowned expert on geopolitics, he has been a leading voice in the debate on the strategic balance of power in Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, and the Western Pacific. He has participated in countless conferences and speaking engagements worldwide on that subject.

Plans are now being made to bring Bartosia to the United States. At present, he is scheduled to speak at the Montante Center of Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., on November 10. To date, the local chapters of the Polish American Congress and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America have lent their support to his visit. I am urging all Americans of Polish descent to assist in bringing Bartosia to the United States with donations to cover speaking, travel, and lodging expenses. Please contact me directly at the (716) 361-7062, bgdnktns@gmail.com.

LAPSUS CALAMI. In last month's PAJ, Brian Ganz was incorrectly identified in the "\$100k for the 100th Campaign a Success" photo caption. Ganz can be found standing between Ambassador Piotr Wilczek and Chairperson Wanda O'Brien-Trefil, Ph.D.

Century-old Ceiling Mural Restored

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The fate of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, located in the Polish Triangle area of Chicago's Northwest Side, has had its twists and turns. In the 1950s when the Northwest Expressway, later the Kennedy Expressway, was under construction, St. Stanislaus was slated to be demolished. But national and local political clout pressured city planners to reroute the highway around this landmark church. Today, when one drives southbound on the Kennedy it seems as if the corner of the church is so close it can be touched by an outreached hand through the automobile window. In 1964, a lightning strike and fire claimed one of the church's towers. In 1999, with the church in dire disrepair, the Archdiocese of Chicago was considering closing it. As if by a miracle, a few days later the Archdiocese reconsidered and awarded St. Stanislaus a million-dollar grant to begin the needed repairs.

When eyes roam around the interior of the church and gaze upward they are enthralled by the beautiful large painting above the Sanctuary. The ceiling mural on the dome, entitled "The Triumph of the Risen Christ," depicts the resurrected Jesus accompanied by the saints in Heaven. The Latin inscription that reads: *Ego sum resurrexero et*



vita, Alleluja. Et inertia die resurrexit, sicut dixit, Alleluja. ("I am the Resurrection and the Life, Alleluia. And on the third day He arose as He said, Alleluia.") In the late 19th century, Tadeusz Żukotyński, Polish painter and muralist, created the St. Stanislaus Kostka dome mural — perhaps the best known of Chicago-area ornate frescoes.

Recently, the mural was sorely in need of renovation; its beauty was hidden by layers of grime, candle soot, and exhaust from millions of vehicles. It took almost three months for restoration artists to restore the mural to its original brightness illuminating the interior of the church. An anonymous donor made this renovation possible.

St. Stanislaus was built in 1871 to serve Polish immigrants. At

one time, it had grown into one of the largest parishes in the world, with 40,000 members, 12 Sunday masses, and 70 school teaching nuns. Today, it is much smaller and diverse, with six Sunday masses — one in Polish, two in Spanish, and the remainder in English. Its school is Pre-K (three years old) through eighth grade with approximately 200 students.

Rev. Anthony Buś, C.R., who has been at St. Stan's for 28 years and presently serves as its pastor, is thrilled that the ceiling mural of the church has been restored. He hopes the restored mural will be a source of inspiration to parishioners and others who visit. In fact, St. Stanislaus Kostka Church is now open to worshippers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Thank you!

Last November the Polish American Journal's main computer crashed. At that time, we asked readers for donations to cover its cost. We received several, for which we are forever grateful.

Shortly after, we learned we needed software, networking, and program upgrades. The cost of upgrades almost doubled the initial price of the computer itself. We had no choice but to place the system on credit.

In May of 2019, we asked our readers to help us. That plea was repeated in the June 2019 edition.

We were flooded with donations, large and small. With these gifts, we received kind words about the work we do for Polonia and Poland. Cliché as it sounds, the response was overwhelming.

We are happy to announce we paid off the computer, and the balance of the software upgrades.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Receipts for donations are being mailed as donations arrive. If you have not received one, please contact our office.

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Auschwitz Stories. German firms paid 0.50 marks per kilogram of hair.

continued from cover

encountered Auschwitz once again at The Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan, where a new exhibition – *Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away* is in residence.

It is estimated that 1.3 million people were sent to Auschwitz. Around 90 percent of those who died here were Jewish. Approximately one in six Jews killed in the Holocaust died at the camp. Others deported to Auschwitz included 150,000 non-Jewish Poles, 23,000 Roma (Gypsies), 15,000 Soviet prisoners of war, 400 Jehovah's Witnesses, tens of thousands of others of diverse nationalities and people with disabilities, and an unknown number of homosexual men. Those murdered or who died there were 1 million Jews, 70,000 - 75,000 non-Jewish Poles, 21,000 Roma, 15,000 Soviet POWs and 10,000 - 15,000 others.

Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum Oświęcim, Poland

The enormity and gravity of mass torture and extermination can be felt deepest by actually visiting the place where it occurred. Built in 1940, Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, with two camps covering an area of 15 sq miles (40 sq km). Auschwitz was a slave labor camp – largely reserved for political prisoners, Polish intellectuals and priests, members of the resistance and other “opponents” to the Nazi

used for the possessions of murdered inmates, thousands of objects belonging to the people who had been doomed to die were found at the site of the camp or nearby after liberation. These include: suitcases frequently bearing the names and addresses of their owners, clothes, Jewish prayer garments, artificial limbs, pots and pans, umbrellas, combs, shaving brushes, toothbrushes, glasses, a vast collection of shoes, and a display case containing a mound of the hair of victims – approximately 154,322 lbs. of it.

The hair was found in warehouses after the liberation of the camp – packed in paper sacks, ready to be shipped for processing in German factories. Haircloth was woven from human hair and German firms paid 0.50 marks per kilogram of hair.

“Kanada” was the colloquial name within the camp for the complexes of barracks used to store the confiscated property. At the peak period, up to 2,000 prisoners were directly “employed” – unloading, collecting and sorting items. Borrowing its name from a land of prosperity and abundance, “Kanada” was universally acknowledged to be one of the best places to work, along with the kitchen and the food pantries.

The museum collections also includes 2,000 works of art done (often illegally) in the camp by prisoners, as well as other recollection works dating from after the war.

Block 11 is where the first experiments with Zyklon B gas were car-



Fourteen-year-old Czesława Kwoka #26947 was a Polish Catholic girl. Along with her mother, she was deported from Zamość to Auschwitz in December 1942, as part of the German policy to ethnically cleanse the region.

ing was the main goal of Birkenau, most of it carried out in the huge gas chambers at the back of the camp, damaged but not destroyed by the fleeing Nazis in 1945.

Brought by train from all over Europe, prisoners of 28 nationalities lost their lives here. At the end of the unloading ramp, new arrivals were divided into those capable of work, and those to be taken straight to the gas chambers. The victims were forced to endure inhuman conditions. Many died as the result of slave labor, hunger, illness and torture, while the genocide reached a peak in 1942 with up to 24,000 people being murdered every day in the gas chambers. The corpses were burned in crematoriums and then buried in mass graves.

To keep the victims calm, they were told they were to undergo disinfection and de-lousing; they were ordered to undress outside, and then were locked in the building. Fake shower heads were installed in the Auschwitz gas chambers. Instead of water, deadly Zyklon B gas rained down from four openings in the ceiling.

Several months after the end of the war and the liberation of the Nazi camps, a group of Polish prisoners who had managed to survive, began propagating the idea of commemorating the victims of the largest death camp. In 1947 Auschwitz-Birkenau was established as a national *Museum of Martyrology* (open daily; entrance is free).

As a place of education, this museum is committed to making the point that intolerance and fascism are still alive and strong. The 3.5 hour guided tour arranged for me by Łukasz Lipiński at the Museum was excellent. The guide, Maciej Cybula presented a profound, professional and extremely knowledgeable account of the camps.

The tour presents one of the most horrific acts in human history with a level of tact, passion, and poignancy that is so profound, it almost makes as lasting an impression as the site itself. Without being heavy-handed, the history of the site is presented in all of its contexts. No matter how much you think you know on the subject, the perspective gained by visiting is incomparable.

Until the early 1990s, funding for the preservation and maintenance of the memorial came exclusively from the Polish government. There was no aid from outside of Poland, despite the fact that the site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1979.

If you decide to visit you basically have three options: visit as part of a group organized by a tourist or agency, visit independently and join a guided tour at the museum, or visit independently for free without a

guide.

All visits must be booked in advance through www.visitauschwitz.org.

Visitors to Poland are faced with asking themselves whether or not they will make the effort to experience Auschwitz. It is a difficult question and it's easy to give reasons for not going. All the explanations for avoiding Auschwitz are perfectly reasonable, until you've actually visited the site. You will be hard-pressed to find anyone who has made the trip and still argues against going.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage New York, N.Y.

Entitled *Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away*, this exhibition is the largest of its kind - featuring more than 700 original objects never before seen in North

Audio headsets that synchronize with corresponding locations are the guides of the tour. As one enters, it is immediately noticeable that the exhibit cards are in both English and Spanish. The exhibition originated in Spain and completed a successful run at Madrid's Arte Canal Exhibition Centre, where it was extended two times.

Though markedly different from being at the actual site, it is a very fine and intellectual exhibit with an overload of many words to process. An accompanying, extensively illustrated book by Robert Jan van Pelt with Luis Ferreiro and Miriam Greenbaum – available for purchase is recommended.

With artifacts from over 20 sources, most notably the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, it is a comprehensive Holocaust exhibition. However, the chronology of the layout lacks a clear, steady narrative and the flow of events is out-of-sequence, disjointed and fragmented.

The strongest aspect is in the living testimonies provided in filmed footage by survivors of the camps. This provides truth, gravity and perspective. Losing their identity and being known only by their number,

the exhibit manages to bring forth many personal stories – giving a face to the emptiness of the Holocaust. From that period there are so many stories – some told and many untold.

Everyone will come out of this

continued on next page



Suitcases, ransacked for valuables, bear witness to their former owner's names and addresses.

regime, while the second camp, Birkenau, was designed for extermination.

Auschwitz I – Inscribed above the entrance gate are the words “Arbeit macht frei” – a German slogan meaning “work sets you free.” What follows is an organized collection of camp buildings, prisoner blocks and barracks, administration buildings, SS guard houses, watch towers, barbed-wire fences, and the camp gates. The remains cannot be reduced to just the space of the original camp. Huge piles of personal items and garments taken from Jewish transports fill in the emptiness and represent the lives once lived. Each piece carries a story. Photos from the camps are displayed throughout.

The movie theater is a somber starting point. The film was taken by the Soviet troops who liberated the camp in May 1945. Harrowing images of the survivors and the dead confirm what really happened.

Despite last minute efforts to destroy the many storehouses (there were 35 of them in all) that were

ried out on Soviet POWs and other inmates in 1941. Between two of the blocks stands the flower-strewn death wall, where thousands of prisoners were summarily executed with a bullet in the back of the head.

Many of the camp barracks are given over to national memorials to the sufferings of inmates of the different countries. Another barrack is labeled simply “Jews.” Normally ignored by the official guided tours, its atmosphere is of quiet reverence, in which the evils of Auschwitz are felt and remembered rather than detailed or observed. The prison blocks terminate with the gas chambers and the ovens where the bodies were incinerated.

The Birkenau section – *Auschwitz II*, in the nearby village of *Brzezinka* is on a much larger scale and mostly outdoors. It is much less visited than Auschwitz, though it was here that the majority of captives lived and died. Endless rows of symmetrical barracks stretch into the distance, where hundreds of thousands of people were kept in appalling conditions. Kill-



Woman's dress shoe, belonging to an unknown deportee in Auschwitz, 1940s.

America. It is produced in partnership with the international exhibition firm *Musealia* and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland.

Musealia is the Spanish-based global producer of large-scale exhibitions, such as *Human Bodies* and *Titanic*.

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Auschwitz Stories. Artifacts, testimonies are haunting.

continued from page 4

exhibit with different stories that resonate with them and linger in the memory. I was haunted by a single stylish red woman's dress shoe. There were several red shoes in the daunting heap at Auschwitz, but who did this particular one belong to? A boy's shoe with the sock carefully tucked inside made me wonder what was going through his mind? Did he believe he would return to retrieve it?

A camera captured the face of a very young girl dressed in a Polish costume. It was displayed on a wall depicting the medical experiments practiced on children. Oddly, there was very little information attached. I wanted to know more than just her name — Lidia Maksymowicz, and a date 1945. What became of her?

There are many artifacts, including candlesticks and a candelabra excavated by the Polish archeologist Małgorzata Grupa at the sight of the great synagogue of Oświęcim (Oshpitzin in Yiddish), destroyed in 1940 by the Germans.

JAKÓB HABERFELD STEAM VODKA AND LIQUOR FACTORY.

An assortment of liquor bottles tell another story. Oświęcim was well known as the westernmost outpost of Hasidism, but also included Jewish families who assimilated and embraced the modern age. Established in 1804, the *Jakób Haberfeld Steam Vodka and Liquor Factory* was by the end of the 19th century the largest business in town, producing a wide range of the liquors famous throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire and beyond.

By the 1930s, Jakób's grandson Alfons and wife Felicia were leading citizens of the town and had great ambitions for the business. In July 1939, they traveled to the United States to represent the distillery at the New York World's Fair. Six weeks later Germany occupied Poland. They became refugees in the United States and never returned to Oświęcim. They would never see their daughter Franciszka again.

HAND-EMBROIDERED BLOUSE OF RACHEL.

Some objects tied people together, like an embroidered blouse made by Chaya Porus for her sister Rachel in the Święciany Ghetto. Obeying a last-minute command from a friend, Chaya jumped off a train filled with the Ghetto residents.

In Wilno, she learned that every-



Lidia Maksymowicz, 1945.

one left on that train — including her entire family, was murdered by the Nazis. A friend forced to sort victims' belongings at the Ponary pits saw the blouse and sent it to Chaya, who wore it every day, as she fought with the Partisans.

"IDENTITY PICTURES" As I passed this wall, the audio gave brief accounts of several of those depicted and preserved in mug shots. One story stood out and I needed to seek out the photos.



Prisoner uniform, 1940-44. The striped uniform was used throughout the concentration camp system.

Fourteen-year-old Czesława Kwoka, inmate #26947, was a Polish Catholic girl. Along with her mother, she was deported from Zamość to Auschwitz in December 1942, as part of the German policy to ethnically cleanse the region.

"She was so young and so terrified," Wilhelm Brasse remembered decades later. "The girl didn't understand why she was there and she couldn't understand what was being said to her. A female *Kapo* (a prisoner overseer) took a stick and beat her about the face. Before the photograph was taken the girl dried her tears and the blood from the cut on her lip. In February 1943, Czesława's mother died and a month later Czesława died, as well.

Trained as a portrait photographer, Brasse, a Polish inmate #3444

in his twenties, was ordered to take photographs between 1940 and 1945. He discussed several of the photographs in *The Portraitist*, a documentary about him.

The practice of photographing registered prisoners ended in 1943, which means that the majority of the collection shows the faces of Polish prisoners who arrived in Auschwitz before it became the destination of deportation trains carrying Europe's Jews. But as the women's compound was opened in the Spring of 1942, the collection also includes the faces of female inmates. The children are mostly Polish youngsters who were deported to the camp in the fall of 1942.

Though ordered to destroy all photographs and their negatives, Brasse became famous after the war for having helped to rescue 40,000 of them from oblivion.

Kwoka was one of the approximately 230,000 children and young people aged less than eighteen who were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

THE CARVED WOODEN BOX.

Born in Zakopane, Bronisław Czech was one of the most versatile and outstanding Polish sportsmen, competing in mountain climbing, gliding, sailing common and field, and skiing (both downhill and cross country). He won more than 20 national championships and competed in the Olympics on three occasions. He was also a talented painter and sculptor.

Czech joined the Resistance. Arrested in 1940, he was given the opportunity to buy his freedom by training German mountain troops. He refused the offer and was sent to Auschwitz.

He arrived in Auschwitz with the first group of Poles deported there. Thanks to his skill he was employed in the camp carpentry shop and next in the wood working shop, where he made wooden spoons, clogs, book covers, chests, dishes and so on. He carved similar objects for the so-called "lager museum," where he also created paintings.

He caught typhus and died in the camp hospital in June 1944.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, DISBELIEF AND INDIFFERENCE.

In 1942-43 Jan Karski (Kozielewski) reported to the Polish Government-in-Exile in Great Britain and to Poland's Western Allies about the situation in German-occupied Poland, especially about Germany's destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto and about Germany's extermination camps on Polish soil that were murdering Jews, ethnic Poles, and other nationalities. He had smuggled himself into the Warsaw Ghetto and concentration camps and out and then revealed firsthand accounts.

He traveled to the United States, and on July 28, 1943 met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the Oval Office, telling him about the situation in Poland and becoming the first eyewitness to tell him about the Jewish Holocaust. During their meeting, Roosevelt asked about the condition of horses in Poland. Roosevelt did not ask one question about the Jews.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RISK. Alberto Errera, a Greek Army officer with a Sephardic Jewish background, at great personal risk shot four photographs inside the camp in 1944 the first photograph missed its mark the second shows naked women being

driven to the gas chamber, the last two photographs, shot from inside one of the gas chambers, show the action around the top of a corpse burning pit. The roll of film was smuggled to Kraków, by that time Errera had been dead for a month.

RESISTANCE. Witold Pilecki volunteered for a Polish resistance operation that involved being imprisoned under the alias "Tomasz Serafiński" in the Auschwitz concentration camp — in order to gather intelligence and later escape. While in the camp, he organized a resistance movement and informed the Western Allies of Nazi Germany's Auschwitz atrocities as early as 1941. He escaped from the camp in 1943 after nearly 2½ years of imprisonment, told the story, and was met with indifference and resistance by Western Allies.

RUDOLF VRBA AND ALFRED WETZLER.

April 10, 1944 two Slovakian Jews, Rudolf Vrba age 19 and Alfred Wetzler 26 escaped from Auschwitz. The pair would later provide the allies with their eyewitness accounts of the final solution, as well as the war as a warning about the Nazi's intention to exterminate Hungarian Jewry.

A SAINT.

Father Maksymilian Kolbe, a Polish Catholic priest and an inmate at Auschwitz sacrificed his life by volunteering to take the place of a fellow prisoner condemned to death. Locked in a dark, foul smelling, underground cell without food or water, he clung to life for two weeks. Impatient, the SS gave him a lethal injection of phenol to the heart. In 1982, Pope John Paul II canonized Kolbe and declared him a "Martyr of Charity."

THE GIRL IN THE POLISH COSTUME.

So, what became of the young girl in the photo? I needed to do outside research to find out more about her story.

Every concentration camp had a medical department. In addition to the tasks prescribed in official regulations, a number of SS doctors took advantage of their position — using inmates as "guinea pigs" in their own research. Dr. Josef Mengele was the most infamous with control experimentation on twins.

He performed deadly human experiments on prisoners and was a member of the team of doctors who selected victims to be killed in the gas chamber. Mengele was particularly interested in identical twins, people with eyes of two different colors, dwarfs, and people with physical abnormalities.

Not all children that became the subjects of experiments were twins. Born Ludmila Boczarow to a half Polish, half Belarussian mother and Russian father, this three-year old girl was transported to Auschwitz with her mother and grandparents, in reprisal after her father had joined the Partisans. She was tattooed with the number 70072 and taken to the children's barrack.

Dr. Mengele would come in, she saw only elegant, shiny boots from

the lowest part of the bunk. She would receive injections; they were test vaccines — designed to aid German soldiers. She would lay feverish and extremely pale; her body covered in ulcers. Her mother would sneak into the barracks and feed her child with bread, onions and potatoes; she had work outside of the "wires" and the civilian population of Harmęże left them food. One day her mother stopped coming,



The Germans evacuated the camps and the Soviet soldiers came in after liberation. She was given bread with butter, and milky coffee. Local residents came. A childless couple from Oświęcim — Ryszard and Bronisława approached. She was a tall, slim blonde wearing a black fur coat. The then five-year-old ran up to the woman and buried herself in the soft fur. It was only a short distance, but with frostbitten legs, she needed to be carried. A bed with bedding and a warm bath awaited her in her new home. She stopped being a number and became Lidia Rydzikowska. A photograph was taken of her in costume several months later.

When 19, Lidia began to search for her origins; at age 22 she found her biological mother. She was alive and in the USSR. By that point Lidia was married and started a family. She returned to Poland. She felt Polish and decided that she owed her adopted parents gratitude for saving her from hell on earth.

Today, Lidia is the longest Auschwitz child survivor. She still carries the injection and vaccination scars on her body that are the marks of Dr. Mengele's inhumane experiments. "I was one of the lucky few to survive. Apparently, it was God's will for me to bear witness to the place that the Germans converted into the world's largest necropolis," she said. "The world knows too little, understands too little, and remembers too little of those terrible times."

Whether or not you choose to go to Auschwitz or view the current Manhattan exhibit is up to you to decide. However it should be understood that Auschwitz is not a site of Jewish concern, Polish concern, or historical concern; it is a site of human concern.

Auschwitz: Not Long Ago. Not Far Away opened on May 8 and is on view at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place, through January 3, 2020. www.mjhnc.org; a U.S. tour will follow.

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Saint John Paul II Bust Dedicated

CLEVELAND — The Polish Cultural Garden has a new addition, a bust of Saint John Paul II, dedicated on May 18, 2019, the saint's birthday. The image was designed by world-renowned sculptor Andrzej Pitynski, who attended the event and spoke about its creation.

"A monument is an expressive symbol, a good one looked at — for even a few minutes — will remain in memory for years or even for one's entire lifetime," said the artist. "Monuments are the milestones in a nation's history."

Following Pitynski's commentary, dedication MC Gene Bak, executive director of the Polish American Cultural Center, recognized Lisa Olitsky of the Studio Foundry, which cast the bust, and Kathleen Jankowski, the who was the architect for the statue's pedestal.

The bust was blessed by retired Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland Roger Gries, OSB.

Also in attendance were Gary Kotlarsic, VP of the Polish American Cultural Center, who gave a brief history of the Polish Garden of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens



Federation, and Councilmen Kevin Kelley and Tony Brancatelli.

Dr. Dorota Sobieska from the Cleveland Opera, her daughter Wanda, and son Julian sang "Bogurodzica," the ancient Polish hymn to the Holy Mother.

Members of the Polish Artistic Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, under the direction of Agnieszka Kotlarsic, began their presentation with the "Hejnal Mariacki" ("St. Mary's Trumpet Call"), performed by Olivia Gutowski.

RELIGION

New-Ordained Priest Passes

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

(CNS) — A young Polish priest who was ordained in May month following a terminal cancer diagnosis has died.

Fr. Michal Los, FDP, died June 17 in the morning, the Congregation of the Orionine Fathers said in a Facebook post.

"We believe that he met with the Risen Christ whom he so desperately wanted to serve as a priest. Thank you for all your prayers and support," the congregation said.

On May 24, Los was ordained a priest in his Warsaw hospital bed.

He had been diagnosed with cancer about a month prior. At the time of his ordination, he was in critical condition.

Pope Francis granted a dispensation allowing Los to be ordained both a deacon and a priest in the same Mass. The pope sent a letter to the director general of the congregation, Fr. Tarcisio Vieira, granting permission.

Los was ordained by **Bishop Marek Solarczyk** of the Diocese of Warsaw-Praga.

The day before his ordination, Los made perpetual vows in his religious community, the Congregation of the Orionine Fathers.

On May 25, he celebrated his first Mass, also from his hospital bed. In a video posted on social media that day, he thanked Catholics who were praying for him, and asked for their continued prayers.

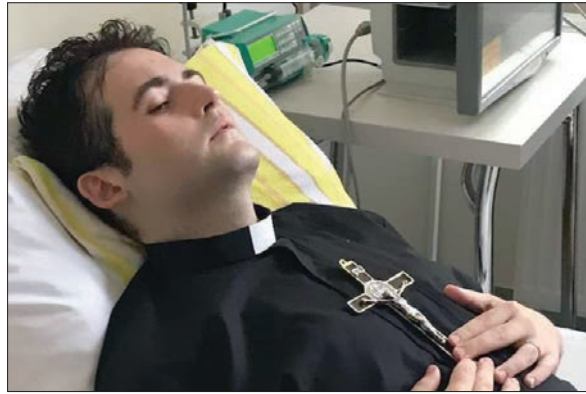
CANADIAN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT DENOUNCED.

Campaign for Life vice president **Matt Wojciechowski** condemned Canadian parliament members from the Liberal and NDP parties for giving a rousing standing ovation to a motion affirming a woman's "right" to unrestricted abortion. In this they echoed the New York State legislature's cheers after passing legislation for unrestricted access to abortion. The premier of Canada, Justin Trudeau, has made it a requirement of his Liberal party that all members are to support abortion legislation without question. He went so far as to chide U.S. Vice-president Pence during an official visit to Canada for trade negotiations for "backsliding on women's rights." Only the members of the Conservative party remained silent during the celebrating and cheering for the so-called "right" to kill a child in the womb.

Almost 300 children a day are killed by abortion in Canada.

BISHOP PAPROCKI CONDEMNS PRO-ABORTION POLITICIANS.

Springfield, Illinois's **Bishop Thomas Paprocki** called the recently passed legislation — deceptively named "The Reproductive Health Act" — a "gravely immoral action." It claims abortion to be a "fundamental right," prohibits any governmental restrictions on abortion and abortion access at any stage of the pregnancy, and removes conscience protections for health care personnel who object to abortion.



Fr. Michel Los, shortly after his ordination in a Warsaw hospital bed.

Bishop Paprocki told the Catholic Democrats, who voted for the bill, that they are not to present themselves for communion unless they confess their grave sin of promoting abortion. In this Bishop



Cuomo. New York governor should be excommunicated says Knoxville Bishop Stika.

Parocki showed himself more decisive than New York's Cardinal Dolan, who shied away from issuing similar penalties to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and other Catholic Democrats when they passed abortion legislation removing all strictures on abortion right up to the time of natural delivery.

On the other hand, Knoxville's **Bishop Richard Stika** doubled down on his statement that he would likely have excommunicated Gov. Andrew Cuomo for his abortion advocacy.

RELIC OF ST. PHILIP VENERATED.

A relic of St. Philip, a chip of his bone, was brought from the Church of the Holy Apostles in Rome and installed in the Cheektowaga, N.Y., parish that bears his name. Both the pastor **David J. Borowiak** and Buffalo's **Bishop Richard Malone** had to write letters requesting the relic of the apostle for his church where it is housed in a special shrine.

STO LAT TO ... Boguslaw Rebacz,

a graduate of the Orchard Lake Seminary, on his ordination to the transitional diaconate in Rome's chapel of the Divine Mercy shrine by Denver's **Archbishop Samuel Aquila** ... **Fr. Adam Nowak**, on his ordination to the priesthood along with two companions by Detroit's **Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron**. Prior to entering the seminary, Fr. Nowak worked in the Admissions Office at University of Detroit Mercy, his *alma mater*, and

also as youth minister at his home parish. He said, "The greatest challenge facing the Church today is the clergy sexual abuse scandal and the loss of the faith and trust of the people. As a new priest, I hope to be an instrument of hope, healing and reconciliation."

Fr. Dennis Skowera, who was ordained to the priesthood with two companions by **Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski** of Springfield, Mass. ... **Rev. Messrs. Piotr Kosk** and **Pawel Luczak** on their ordination to the transitional diaconate in the Diocese of Springfield, Ill. ... **Fr. Dan**

Serbicki, pastor of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Corfu, N.Y., on being named *vicar forane* for the Genesee-Wyoming vicariate ... **Deacon Michael T. Dulak** on being named temporary administrator of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Blasdell, N.Y., and **Deacon John J. Wlos**, on being named temporary administrator of Ss. Peter & Paul, Hamburg, N.Y. ... **Dr. Arkadiusz**

Górecki, a native of Olsztyn, Poland, on his appointment as Director of the Polish Mission at the Orchard Lake Schools in Orchard Lake, Mich. The purpose of the Polish Mission is to preserve and promote Polish and Polish American culture, tradition, and history for present and future generations. It does this through events highlighting Polish and Polish American culture and accomplishments. It also serves as a repository for artifacts, archival materials, works of art and publications. Dr. Górecki, a U.S. citizen, lives in Chicago and received a Professional Diploma in Music Performance from Chicago's Roosevelt University, with a concentration in music performance and management of cultural institutions. He also has a doctorate in music performance from the Conservatoire national Supérieur de Musique de Paris concentrating on solo trombone. He has a MA from the Frydryk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, Poland ... **Dennis Walczyk**, president and chief executive officer of Buffalo diocese's Catholic Charities, on being awarded Bishop Francis J. Mogavero award for outstanding contributions to the work of charity and social justice from the State of New York Council of Catholic Charities Directors.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO... The National Catholic Church's **Spójnia Farm** celebrating 90 years serving the Polish National Catholic Church community ... **Sacred Heart of Jesus PNCC Church** in Canonsburg, Pa., on its 100th anniversary.

MODLITWY

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A Successful PMA Gala

by Geraldine Balut Coleman

CHICAGO — The Polish Museum of America (PMA) held its 39th Annual Summer Gala on June 7 at Café La Cave in Rosemont, Illinois. Approximately 275 guests attended the black-tie event. After the cocktail hour, the evening's program began with welcoming remarks by the event's Chair, **Sharon Orlowski**. The singing of the national anthems of Poland and U.S. were led by PMA Board Chair, **James Robaczewski**. **Rev. Andrzej Totzke**, SChr, Pastor of Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church, gave the invocation. PMA President, **Richard Owsiany**, and PMA Managing Director, **Malgorzata Kot**, then greeted everyone with a toast.

Before and after dinner the PMA held its popular silent auction, while throughout the evening guests were treated to the music of the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra. After dinner the PMA thanked numerous guests for their generous contributions to the PMA with special thanks to the Legion of Young Polish Women and the Copernicus Foundation for their \$10,000 donations and to the Polish Slavic Credit

Union for its \$7,500 donation.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the PMA's Polish Spirit Award to this year's recipients, **Deborah "Debbie" Greenlee** and the **Paderewski Symphony Orchestra** (PaSO).

Deborah has spent many years supporting the PMA in every possible way. Additionally, her contributions in recording and indexing Polish genealogical information have been invaluable to researchers, many of whom cannot afford the time or money to go to Poland, as is her collection of records and photographs from Poland that are available on the Internet. Her relentless commitment and sincere passion for preserving all aspects of Polish culture have made this dynamic lady a most worthy recipient of the Polish Spirit Award.

The PaSO's mission to promote and support musical education in the Chicago area, to enrich Chicago's cultural life by adding to the beauty and value of one of the most distinct European cultures, the Polish culture, and to provide Chicago's Polish-oriented community a cultural experience that is uniquely its own, has made the PaSO a wor-

thy recipient of the Polish Spirit Award.

The evening continued with a special ballroom dance presentation performed by the Interclub Academy of Dance with dancers **Iwona and Erwin Rybczynski** and **Bożena Kochaska** followed by dancing, the completion of the silent auction, and socializing.



(l. to r.) Makarewicz, Kopielski, Coleman, Kmiec, Kunzman, Kolak, and Malinowski.

PACC ANNUAL MEETING AND INAUGURAL LUNCHEON.

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago (PACC) held its Annual General Meeting on May 19 at the Gale Street Inn on Chicago's Northwest Side. Forty members selected the 2019-2020 PACC officers and directors. The voting was unanimous. This year's officers are President **Geraldine Balut Coleman**, First Vice President **Thaddeus J. Makarewicz**, Recording Secretary **Mitchelle Kmiec**, and Directors **Czesława Kolak**, **Camille Kopielski**, **Edward Kunzman**, and **Constance Malinowski**. Second Vice President **Piotr Wolodkowicz**, Financial Secretary **Alicia Dutka**, and Treasurer **Robert Dutka** will remain in their offices for another year.

Anna Rogalska, a Chicagoan and a third-year medical student at the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas, accepted a \$5,000 scholarship from the PACC on behalf of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) of which the PACC is an affiliate member.

Then, on June 9, the PACC held its Annual Inaugural Luncheon at the Park Ridge Country Club in Park Ridge. Sixty guests attended the event. The luncheon began with **Ed Kunzman** giving the invocation. **Dr. Vivian Walkosz** installed the PACC officers. Versatile Chicago pianist, **Richard Sladek**, played a variety of Chopin and Moniuszko pieces. The luncheon ended with the PACC's very popular raffle auction.

For the past 25 years, Sladek has performed professionally in the Chicago area. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University.

ROSTENKOWSKI HOME ON THE MARKET.

It appears as though the home of late U.S. Congressman **Daniel Rostenkowski**, a three-building compound with an adjacent small lot at the northeast corner of North Noble Street and West

Evergreen Avenue in Chicago's Polish Triangle area, historically known as *Stanislawowo*, will be placed on the real estate market in early June. LaVerne Rostenkowski, Daniel's widow, who now lives in Wisconsin, and the Daniel D. Rostenkowski Trust will be asking approximately \$4.5 million for the entire property. It is to be sold in

as Chicago's 28th Ward alderman from 1933 to 1955.

The Rostenkowski family attended St. Stanislaus Kostka Church which is across Evergreen Street, and Dan attended the parish's grammar school. Later he and LaVerne raised their three daughters in the buildings and received additional income by renting the extra apartments. During his 35-year career in Congress, his base was in this *Stanislawowo* neighborhood. Rostenkowski was known to come home to his childhood neighborhood from Washington, D. C. nearly every weekend.

BIRTH OF POLISH AMERICAN QUADRUPLETS.

Marzena Nawracaj of Glendale Heights, Illinois, welcomed quadruplets on May 1 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. She welcomed into this world two boys, Hubert and Marcel, and two girls, Lena and Sara. The babies, in birth



Parents Nawracaj holding their quadruplets.

as-is condition and the buildings will be sold together as a unit, not individually. As the buildings are configured now, all first floors are connected to one another. One can walk about 125 feet without going outside.

Presently, the buildings contain about 12 apartments, but renovations could accommodate 18 to 20 units. The site is not a candidate for a teardown, because the brick construction is of high quality. It totals about 18,000 square feet with an empty basement.

The property has been under the Rostenkowski family ownership for more than 100 years. Family members have indicated that Dan Rostenkowski's grandfather, Piotr Rostenkowski, came to Chicago from Poland around 1886. His son, Dan's father, Joseph Rostenkowski, was born in Chicago in 1892, and Dan was born in 1928. It could not be determined who in the family lineage actually bought the buildings, but documents mention that Dan grew up in the left side building as shown in the photo, in a second-floor apartment above a tavern and insurance agency that his parents had on the first floor. Joe, Dan's father, served



Rostenkowski home.

"For the Emilys yet to come ..."



(l. to r.): Malgorzata Kot, Richard Owsiany, Debbie Greenlee, James Robaczewski, and Sharon Orlowski

Debbie Greenlee's "Polish Spirit" acceptance speech

I'd like to thank the Museum and its leadership and members for this wonderful honor.

It is correctly said that America is a melting pot. That is both good and, in some ways, bad.

The good side is unity, tolerance, and respect. We as Poles certainly know the benefit of that kind of melting. It means no longer being the outsider, the *other*, the butt of Polish jokes and "dumb polack" insults. That comes with the good kind of melting, the kind where Emily Kiryk is just an ordinary American schoolgirl in Los Angeles with a somewhat different last name.

The bad side of melting comes when young Emily — who is actually only one thirty-second Polish — has no knowledge of what it is to be Polish and only knows that her surname is well, maybe ... *Polish?*

Like most people, Emily has little knowledge of her family history before her grandparents. Emily has no idea that her prapra-dziadek, Andrzej Kiryk, came over from Mostki, Poland, to work in the coal mines of Pennsylvania in 1898, but saved up and

moved to a small house off Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago, and brought over his wife and children in 1905.

Hopefully, Emily will eventually become curious about her "odd" last name and start looking into things.

And this is where the Polish Museum of America has its greatest role and plays the greatest part. When Emily decides to come to Chicago seeking her heritage, she'll get a slight taste of it along Milwaukee Avenue and Archer Avenue, and perhaps another taste at the doors of St. Hyacinth's and St. Stan's.

But where she'll get it in full, vibrant detail is inside the doors of the Polish Museum of America.

The PMA is, above all else, the repository of what it means to be *Polish* in America.

That's the reason that I've had the distinct honor and privilege of supporting the Museum and its programs. And it's the reason that I am both honored and humbled to accept this wonderful award, not so much for myself, but for the Emilys yet to come, to give them the chance to look up and smile, and say with the pride of discovery and ancestry, "Jestem Polski!" Thank you.

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

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Please enroll me as an individual member in the American Council for Polish Culture! Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly publication *Polish Heritage*.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE (a non-profit corporation, State of New Jersey) begins its 34th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to seven hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok, Grajewo, and Ostroleka. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. "If we don't help our Polish children, who will?" —Doreen Patras Cramer, President

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

MINNESOTA VOICE

Meet the Curator of NY Public Library's Slavic and Baltic Collections

by Mark Dillon

Research cooperation between Central European scholars in Minnesota and New York is not new, but **Dr. Bohdan Horbal** is hoping to elevate learning about Lemko and Carpatho-Rusyn culture, music and religious traditions to a whole new level.

As the curator of the New York Public Library's Slavic and Baltic Collections, Horbal oversees a large body of archival material that has grown extensively since 1899. It includes rare recordings of folk and wedding songs, Eastern Rite and Orthodox Catholic religious works and two copies of the oldest published Bible in a Slavic language, printed in Prague in 1488.

On May 12, Horbal visited Minneapolis to deliver the 10th annual St. Alexis Toth lecture at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral's parish gathering hall. Horbal played a medley of Lemko music published by major U.S. record labels in the 1920s, while providing an overview of the resources available at a library that remains a private institution.

"This is my dream job," Horbal said. Before being named curator last October, Horbal was head of technical processing at the NYPL's Science, Industry and Business Library.

A LEMKO FROM THE GORLICE AREA. Born in the 200-person village of Bartne in Gorlice County near the Slovakia border, Horbal earned a Ph.D. in history from University of Wrocław. Bartne was a Lemko community uprooted in 1947 by the then Communist government's Operation Wisla, which included the forced relocation of Lemkos and other minorities to western Poland and Ukraine. Only a few families returned to the Carpathian foothills beginning in 1956.

Horbal now resides in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, N.Y., a neighborhood that first generation Polish Americans, Lemkos,

and Rusyns have called home since its many railroad car-style brownstones were built beginning in the 1880s and '90s. He's published a 1,200-page book on his family ancestral village, compiled a CD of rare Lemko music and in 2010, authored *Lemko Studies: A Handbook*, distributed by Columbia University Press.

In the early 1990s, Horbal had a rough start in New York, as he found himself waiting tables to make ends meet. He finally secured a job at the New York Public Library in 1997, and then earned a master's degree in library science at Queens College. A slow but steady climb to curator took 20 years amid multiple changes in his library roles and organizational change.

Now Horbal is in a position where he can tell the Lemko and Rusyn story more fully and nationally. He's been reaching out to major East Coast universities – including Princeton, Harvard and Columbia — to share resources, bring material online, and provide greater public and scholar access.

A NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE. In 2020, the library plans a "Slavic and East European Treasures" exhibit that is being funded by a \$12 million donation. Some elements could be from the library's early period of acquisition in the 1920s from Russia, when the atheist Communist government sought to divest itself of rare religious works and objects in exchange for hard currency.

For Minnesota, Horbal's work may mean building on a project that was originally a joint venture with the Eastern Rite Catholic community and the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

"The main strength of the Carpatho-Ruthenica at the NYPL is in periodicals. The library was one of only five institutions that received the full set of some 60 *émigré* Rusyn periodical titles on microfilm. The beginning of the Car-

patho-Ruthenian Microfilm Project goes back to 1975 when the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Province and the IHRC joined forces to locate and microfilm all existing newspapers and serials which bore directly on the Carpatho-Ruthenian community. A gift of \$12,500 from the Byzantine Rite Province was matched by the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund the project." Horbal explained.

Currently, the library's combined collection includes the oldest Rusyn newspaper in America: *Amerikansky Rusky viestnik* (1894-1952) and its successor *Greek Catholic Union Messenger* (1952-1976), as well as: *Pravda* (1904-1975); *Svit* (1908-1982); *Lemko* (1928-1940); and *Karpatska Rus'*, published today as a quarterly *Lemkivs'ki visti* (1971-1979); *Svobodnoe slovo Karpatskoj Rusi* (1959-1979); and *Besida*, published in Poland since 1989.

Also in the collection are *Carpatho-Rusyn American* (1978-1997), *Karpatska Rus'* (United States, 1993-2002), *The New Rusyn Times* (United States, 1994-1997), *Narodný novynký* (Slovakia, 1991-2011), *Nova dumka* (Croatia, 1973-1991), *Ruske slovo* (Serbia, 1994-1996), *Rusyn* (Slovakia, 1990-2001), and *Rusyns'ka bysida* (Ukraine, 1997-2001).

In the mid-1990s, a collection of 224 parish commemorative and jubilee books was microfilmed with financial assistance from the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic (N.J.). Most are parishes of the Byzantine Catholic Churches in the U.S.

"The Library holds general histories, works dealing with pivotal historical events, biographies of Rusyn personalities, memoirs, works on religious developments, immigration and Rusyns in America, as well as studies on Rusyn culture, literature, publishing activity and examples of Rusyn literary works," Horbal said.

Still another rare cultural item at the Library that dance groups, decorative artists and designers may find of interest, is a 1922 book *Podkarpatská Rus: práce a život lidu po stránce kulturní, hospodářské a národopisné / Subcarpathian Rus: The Work and Life of the People in Terms of Culture, Economy and Ethnography*.

Amis dans l'art et la culture



DR. KATARZYNA LITAK, president of the Polish American Medical Society of Minnesota, poses with Sara Glesne, Cultural Events Coordinator for Alliance Francaise of Minneapolis/St. Paul, at the June 4 opening of the month-long "Monet, Minnesota, and Homeland" exhibit featuring 22 impressionist works of Polish artist Anthony Beltowski. The 2016 painting depicts the Minneapolis skyline set against a lakeside vista and the Lake Calhoun Pavilion.

at: www.carpatho-rusyn.org/ruthenic.htm

• Renkiewicz, Frank, comp., *The Carpatho-Ruthenian Microfilm Project: A Guide to Newspapers and Periodicals* ([St. Paul, Minn.]: Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, 1979).

Remembrance Month Resolution Introduced

ST. PAUL — A resolution recognizing August 2019 as Uprising Remembrance Month was introduced in the Minnesota Senate on May 18 to commemorate the 75th anniversaries of both the Warsaw Uprising and the Slovak National Uprising during World War II.

The resolution, S.R. 115, introduced by State Sen. Paul T. Anderson and supported by Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, came near the end of the Minnesota Legislature's regular 2019 session and a brief special session amid intense state budget negotiations between the state's Democratic governor and House of Representatives and Republican-led Senate.

The summary text of the resolution reads as follows:

"Now, therefore be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it proclaims August 2019, to be Uprising Remembrance Month and salutes the efforts of the Slovak and Polish communities to commemorate our shared sacrifices for freedom and the strong, positive relationships between our respective people."

Neither a companion State House resolution or Governor's Proclamation emerged regarding either Uprising during the regular or special session. Last autumn, Mark Dayton, Minnesota's prior governor issued a proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of Polish Independence. Currently, Minnesota has the nation's only split Legislature following the 2018 mid-term elections.

LONG ISLAND

Some Happenings on the Island



Jerzy Kedziora's sculptures defy gravity.

by Barbara Szydłowski

The Old Westbury Gardens, in association with the Arts and Balance Foundation of Poland and with

the support of the Polish Cultural Institute New York presents, "Balance in Nature: sculpture by Jerzy Kedziora." This exhibit is on the grounds of the historic landmark

Old Westbury Gardens now until October 13. Kedziora's sculptures are unique for their ability to stay balanced and defy gravity despite being attached at only one or two points. These whimsical figures perched high above the ground and between trees, mask the technique's serious origins. For additional information call (516) 333-0048 ext. 301.

The Polish American Cultural Association of Port Washington is seeking young ladies of Polish descent to participate in their annual Miss Polonia Pageant and Dance to be held in August. Miss Polonia will represent the Port Washington contingent in the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City in October. For additional information call (516) 883-5553.

The International Summer

Concert series held in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, will feature the music, song and dance of many. On Monday, July 22, it will be Polish American Night under the direction of the American Polish Council of Long Island, commencing at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and for your comfort bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Being a baseball fan of the New York Mets, I recently had the pleasure to be at the Cradle of Aviation, Garden City, to see former player Art Shamsky who is also the author of "After the Miracle." Shamsky spoke of the miracle: how the last place team in baseball became the 1969 world champs, how their lives changed and where they are today. Yes, an autographed copy of "After the Miracle" sits on my coffee table.

Happy Fourth of July!

POLONIA PLACES

St. Constance Church, Chicago

ST. CONSTANCE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 5843 W. Strong Street
 Chicago, Illinois
 Status: Open

by Gregory L. Witul

When taking the grand tour of Chicago's Polonia, people always stay focused on the "big" locations. They see the Polish National Alliance building, Chodzinski's Tadeusz Kosciuszko Monument, stop in to the Polish Museum of America, visit the Chopin Theatre and the Polonia Triangle, take in a meal at Staropolska or Podhalanka, and attend a Mass at St. Hyacinth Basilica or All Saints Polish National Catholic Cathedral. But beyond the well-known Polish locales of Chicago are the everyday places that make the city special with the parish of St. Constance being one of them.

As Chicago's Polonia grew along Milwaukee Avenue out of downtown, new Catholic parishes needed to be established along the way to serve the ever-expanding community. When the neighborhood of Jefferson Park, about 10 miles out from the head of the Avenue, was still country roads, Poles began settling into the open and sparsely populated area. By 1906, there were enough Catholics in Jefferson Park for Bishop Quigley to consecrate the non-ethnic Our Lady of Victory church, but in 10 short years the Poles of the parish were plentiful enough to warrant their own parish. With the help of Auxiliary Bishop Paul Rode, the Polonia Club of Our Lady of Victory received permission start a new Polish parish under the patronage of St. Constance while Father Alexander S. Knitter was given the responsibility of organizing it.

With 90 families, Rev. Knitter acquired an old Protestant church at

the corner of Lawrence and Central Avenue and soon began remodeling it. While the construction was underway, the parish found temporary sanctuary in the home of Valentine Wachowski at the corner of Lawrence and Long Ave. where the first masses were held. On August 20, 1916 with the renovations completed, St. Constance was formally blessed by Father Ludwig Grudzinski.

Almost as soon as the new church was opened, the congregation had outgrown it. Looking for a wide-open space to relocate his booming parish, Father Knitter purchased a city block surrounded by Ainslie, Strong, Marmora, and Menard Avenue. On this plot Knitter commissioned a two-story red brick combination church school building. In just over a year from the founding of the parish, the large new church complex was dedicated by the Archbishop on October 8, 1917.

Being such a large parish, a number of clubs and organizations sprung out of St. Constance. Besides the Polonia Club, the Holy Name Society, Polish Woman Catholic Union, Rosary Solidarity, Polish Legion of American Veterans, St. Cecilia Choir, and Knights of the Altar all called St. Constance home. Likewise, the numbers of students grew, also. In the first five years of the parish school enrollment sprang from 75 students to over 400. Under the watchful eye of the School Sisters of Notre Dame the attendance would reach over 650 students and the campus would eventually add Cardinal Stritch High School to its holdings in 1932.

By the 1960s, the parish census reached over 2,100 and once again a new church building was needed. The architectural firm of Del Bianco and Associates was hired to design a modern church for a modern age. By end of the decade the new church was completed and is still in use today.



108-Year-Old Woman Still Plays the Piano Daily

WANDA ZARZYCKA learned to play the piano as a child back in the then-Polish city of Lwów. Now, at 108, she continues to play daily on her family's heirloom piano.

Zarzycka graduated from Lwów's music conservatory in 1931. After the German-Soviet invasion in 1939, Lwów became Lviv, part of the Soviet Union. In 1991, it became part of the independent nation of Ukraine.

She had to stop playing the piano during World War II as she and her family were forced to flee their home. They hid the piano, which had been a wedding gift to Zarzycka's mother, in a shed. Five years later, at war's end the family retrieved the piano and brought it to Krakow, where Zarzycka lives in a small apartment.

She broke her hands at age eighty and was told by doctors she would not be able to play her piano



again.

Wanda Zarzycka defied all odds and continues to set the keys to music each day.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Multi-Ethnic Logan Square

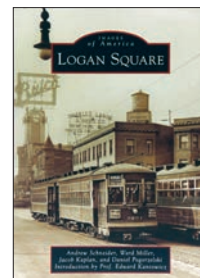
LOGAN SQUARE
 by Andrew Schneider, Ward Miller, Jacob Kaplan, Daniel Pogorzelski, and Professor Edward Kantowicz
 Arcadia Publishing
 2018, 128 pgs.

Review by Mary E. Lanham

The Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing has given us a look at many of the Polish American neighborhoods across the country. From Detroit to Worcester, Pittsburgh and Chicopee, Toledo, Gary, Salem, New Britain, Cleveland, and Hamtramck, many of the largest Polonias in American are represented. Being the historically largest Polish city in the country, Chicago has two Polish titles under its belt in the series, *Avondale and Chicago's Polish Village* and *Chicago's Polish Downtown*. But with the release of Images of America's newest title, *Logan Square*, authors Andrew Schneider, Ward Miller, Jacob Kaplan, and Daniel Pogorzelski, give us something unique: a look at a multicultural neighborhood where a tight-knit group of Poles played an important part, but not as the ethnic majority.

In the introduction, Professor Edward Kantowicz delves into the makeup and history of Logan Square. Annexed into the city in 1889, the area soon developed as a neighborhood. Named for Civil War general, John A. Logan, the green space that became the square was designed by architect William Le Baron Jenney and landscape architect Jens Jensen and lies at the intersections of Kedzie and Logan Boulevards and Milwaukee Avenue. By the late 1800s English and Scandinavian settlers made up the population but at the turn of the century, many other groups started moving in.

Explaining how the Poles made their way to the square, Professor Kantowicz explained, "Chicago's largest Polish American community... lay just to the south of Logan Square ... In the first half of the 20th century many Polish Americans moved into Logan Square, but they moved as individuals and families, and never dominated the neighborhood demographically or cul-



turally. Those Poles who desired a more all-encompassing ethnic lifestyle leaped over Logan Square to the parish of St. Hyacinth to the north in Avon-

dale." Amongst the numerous photos that make up the chapters are ones of Fullerton Ave. near Pulaski Road from the 1930s, in the area affectionately called the Land of Koz due to its proximity to Kosciuszko Park. Also included are interior and exterior shots of the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance Clubhouse on Kedzie Boulevard, several pictures of the Congress Theater, which hosted many events put on by the Polish American Congress, a few stills of the neighborhood schools which had a Polish connection, and many views from the business district.

One of the most interesting commerce photos is that of the Liberty Bank at Fullerton and Milwaukee, not just because of its modern design, but because the bank has an interesting and unique history as an outgrowth of All Saints Polish National Cathedral in Bucktown.

Beyond the photos and discussions of Polonia, Logan Square offers up the stories and pictures of the Belgians, Jews, Romanians, Germans, Swedes, Serbians, Danes, Hungarians, Egyptians, Russians, and Macedonians that called this part of Chicago home. Logan Square was not only the epicenter for many of these communities regionally, but nationally and internationally as well.

The neighborhood is so important to the Norwegian-Americans that King Olav V visited the Minnekirken (Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church) in Logan Square during his 1975 American tour.

With 10 chapters, over 200 photos, and a healthy dose of Polishness in the introduction section and throughout the book, Logan Square is the perfect addition to the library of those who are interested in Polish neighborhoods and how Polonia interacted with other diasporas.



Become a member today

Polish American Historical Association

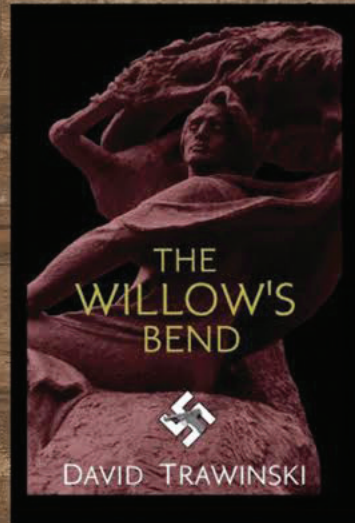

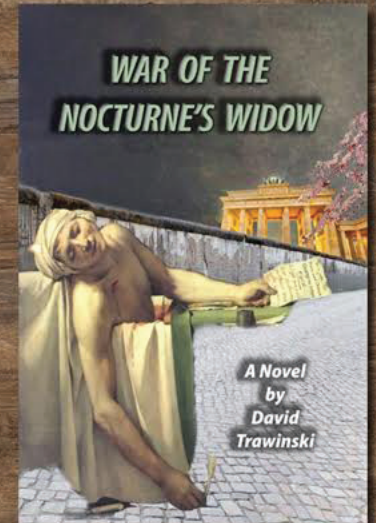
The Polish American Historical Association was established in December 1942 as a special commission of the The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America to collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans. In October 1944, it was reorganized as a national American society to promote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

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

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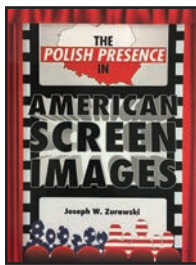
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pp., 6" x 9"; 2018

The most complete, objective and accurate analysis of the presentation of Polish Americans and their heritage as viewed on movie theaters and on television screens in America since 1894.

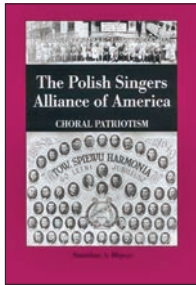
Prominent author, educator and Polish American activist Joseph W. Zurawski identifies and analyzes more than 1300 films shown in the United States that feature or identify a Polish American character or reference. Soft cover. Published by the Polish Museum of America.

BUSIA: SEASONS ON THE FARM WITH MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER



by Leonard Kniffel
\$15.00
hc. 59 pp.; 2017,
6.25" x 9.25"
Item 2-702

The book chronicles one year in the life of a young boy and his grandmother on a farm in Michigan in the 1950s, a time without telephones and televisions. Instead, they cook and garden and work together to keep the stoves supplied and the cupboards filled. They prepare for holidays while Busia tells stories about life in the old country, Poland. Kniffel is the author of "A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American's Journey Home." He is currently president of the Polish American Librarians Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

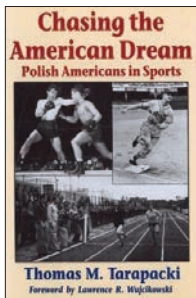


CHORAL PATRIOTISM: THE POLISH SINGERS ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, 1888-1998
by S. A. Blejwas
Item 1-660
Was \$22.50. Now \$14.95

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



CHASING THE AMERICAN DREAM
by Tom Tarapacki
\$11.95 while supplies last
Item 1-701. h.c.; 151 pp.; 1995;
B&W ill.; 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.5 inches
New old stock.

"Chasing the American Dream" provides an in-depth examination of the Polish American experience with sports: its impact upon their lives, the unprecedented economic and social opportunities it created, the enormous changes it brought to the Polish American community, and the athletes, coaches, and organizations involved.

350 Polish American athletes are noted from the worlds of baseball, football, hockey, basketball, track & field, boxing, wrestling, golf, swim-

ming, bowling, auto racing, soccer and more. Included are some of the greatest figures in American sports such as Stan Ketchel; Stella Walsh; and Stan "The Man" Musial.

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

FROM PADEREWSKI TO



PENDERECKI The Polish Musician in Philadelphia
by Paul Krzywicki
\$24.95
Item 2-151
Lulu Pub. 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.

GENEALOGY

MY POLISH GRANDMOTHER:

From Tragedy in Poland to Her Rose Garden in America

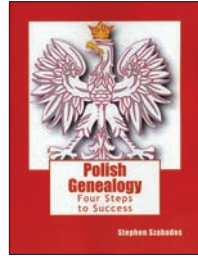


by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95 / Item 2-218
61 pp., b&w photos
2015

Anna was the youngest daughter of a Polish farmer and very small physically. However, she was always in command when she was in the room. This book describes the tragedies in her early life and the challenges she overcame to make a new life in America. It is different from many stories of immigrants because it is told from the perspective of a woman.

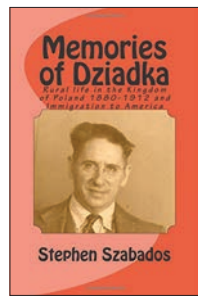
This book asks questions about her fears when growing up, immigrating to America, and making her new life. How did she face these fears? How did she overcome them? Szabados said by searching for answers, he found new insights about his grandmother.

As you read Anna's story, ask the same questions about your ancestors. If you do, your view of your family history will definitely change.



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

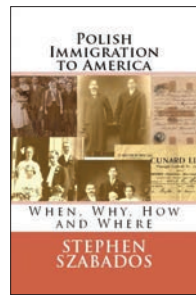
This book is designed to give the researcher the tools needed to research their Polish ancestors and find possible answers to the origins of their Polish heritage. The book outlines a simple process that will identify where your ancestors were born and where to find their Polish records. Traditional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



MEMORIES OF DZIADKA Rural life in the Kingdom of Poland 1880-1912 and Immigration to America
by Stephen Szabados
\$14.95

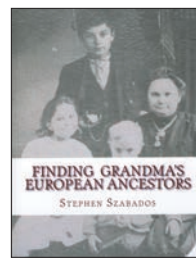
Item 2-670
pb. 134 pp.

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



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

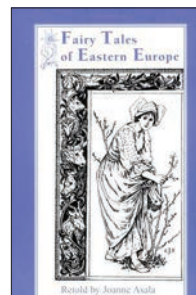
When did your Polish ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? This book discusses the history of Poland and gives some insights to possible answers to these about your ancestors' immigration. All three Polish partitions are covered and the material will hopefully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



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

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

FOLKLORE



FAIRY TALES OF EASTERN EUROPE
Retold by Joanne Asala
\$12.95
Item 2-636
6 x 9 inches
157 pp., pb.

Many of the plots, motifs, and structural elements in these Slavic tales are found in other stories told around the world.

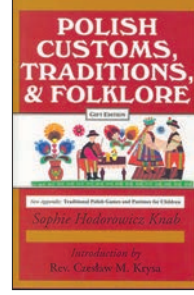
An apple tree in the Slavic tale, "The Fruit of Everlasting Youth," evokes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The ages of man described by the Fate Sisters are quite similar to the ancient "Riddle of the Sphinx." A snake impedes the function of the Tree of Everlasting Youth, again reminiscent of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



SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL: A QUEST FOR AN AUTHENTIC POLISH SPIRITUALITY
by Claire M. Anderson
Item 1-675

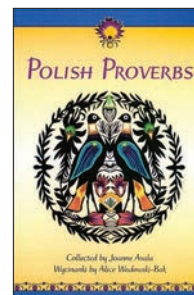
\$14.95
ACTA Publications
2017, p.b., 106 pp., 5x7 in.

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.



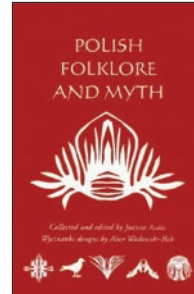
POLISH CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS & FOLKLORE
\$24.95
Item 2-643
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab
340 pp., hc.

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

HISTORY



POLAND: A HISTORY
by Adam Zamoyski
\$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."

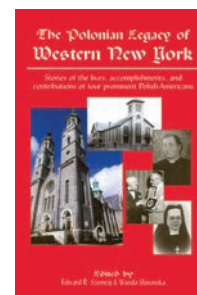
THE MAGNIFICENT 100



by Jaroslaw K. Radomski
\$24.50
2018, Buffalo Standard Printing
pb., 195pp., color illustrations.
Item 2-655

The Magnificent 100 presents — in an alphabetically organized lexicon — 97 illustrated vignettes popularizing the biographies and works of over 100 Polish artists and writers through the ages. It also contains numerous online links to galleries of the artworks of artists and books of writers described in it, so readers can significantly expand their knowledge through those sources. The idea of presenting artists and writers together shows the more complex picture of the connections and interactions among them that are often treated separately. The aspects of our Magnificent 100 are presented in this book to help understand the psychological "genesis" of their works.

THE POLONIAN LEGACY OF WESTERN NEW YORK



Item 1-605
\$12.95
156 pp., sc., ill.,
b&w photos.
5.5 x 8.5

Edited by Edward Szemraj and Wanda Slawinska, the book focuses on the lives of spiritual and community leader Rev. John Pitass; architect Joseph E. Fronczak; and Mother Mary Simplicita, whose dedication to vocation and superb leadership of the area's Felician Sisters spans generations. The book also examines the lasting friendship between Buffalo's renowned Dr. Francis E. Fronczak and the composer/diplomat Ignacy Jan Paderewski.



THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FR. JUSTIN FIGAS, OFM CONV.
Famed originator of the "Fr. Justin Rosary Hour"
\$9.00, 82pp., pb.,
B&W photos

Fr. Justin's weekly message of spiritual guidance, encouragement, and hope was an influence on generations of Polish immigrants, their children, and grandchildren. His broadcasts, begun in 1931, continue today as the longest continually running religious radio program in the world.

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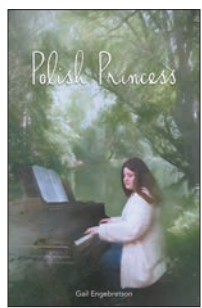
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LITERATURE

POLISH PRINCESS



by Gail Engebretson pb., 334 pp., English 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches \$18.95 Item 2-620 Tragedy and mystery surround the life of 14-year-old Anna Wisniewski.

Anna Wisniewski. Ann is a gifted pianist growing up in middle America, yet her mother claims they are descended from Polish aristocracy.

Gail Engebretson is a native of Wisconsin and the granddaughter of Polish immigrants. She has been working in Early Childhood Development, teaching music for over 40 years.

AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY (Book 2)

\$15.95 Item 2-610 369 pp.pb. Map & wycinanki illust. "You don't have to read Push Not the River to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea.

THE WARSAW CONSPIRACY (Book 3)

\$17.99 508 pp., pb. Item 2-611 Portraying two brothers in love and war, The Warsaw Conspiracy completes the trilogy.

the clandestine Underground Army by his Scoutmaster and begins training in military tactics and weapons handling.

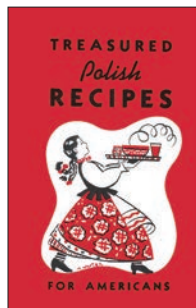
TWO TRAINS FROM POLAND



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.

RECIPE BOOKS



TREASURED POLISH RECIPES FOR AMERICANS \$19.95 Item BK2364 hc 5.5" x 8.7" x 0.50"; 172 pp.; English language version with U.S. measurements 475 Recipes

Edited by Marie Sokolowski and Irene Jasinski; Illustrated by Stanley Legun

First published in United States in 1948, this book was the first complete book of Polish cookery in the English language.

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

PLEASING POLISH RECIPES by Jacek and Malgorzata Nowakowski \$8.95 Item 2-678

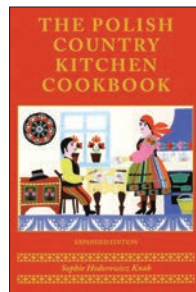
5.5 x 3.5 inches / 160 pp., spiral bound This little cookbook features a great variety of regional foods, such as hot beer, vegetable soup, leek salad, graham bread, bigos, potato pancakes, dill pickles, nut roll, gingerbread, and royal mazurkas.

POLISH CULINARY DELIGHTS \$24.95 Item BK 2572

by Ania Zaremba sc., 6.5" x 9.25" x 0.5"; 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.

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.



POLISH COUNTRY KITCHEN COOKBOOK by Sophie Knab \$19.95 Item 2-632. 337 pp., sc;

From top-selling author Sophie Hodorowicz Knab comes an expanded edition to a best-selling book that combines recipes for favorite Polish foods with the history and cultural traditions that created them.

The over 100 easy-to-follow recipes are all adapted for the modern North American kitchen.

POLISH RESTAURANT COOKBOOK

\$10.00 Item 2-302 by Jonathan Becklar, 44 pp., sc.

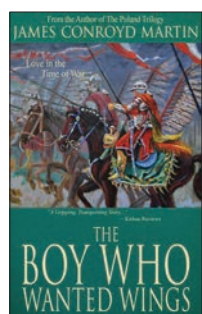
This unique cookbook actually replicates recipes taken from menus of Motor City and surrounding area restaurants. It shows you how to make an entire menu right that tastes and smells just like the restaurant.

POLISH PIEROGI

\$10.00 Item 2-303 by Eva Gerweck, 48 pp., sc. A collection of "secret" recipes, tips, and more by Eva Gerwecki.

POLISH GIRL COOKBOOK

\$10.00 Item 2-301 by Eva Gerweck, 44 pp., sc. Another cookbook full of recipes from Detroit's Old Polish neighborhoods.

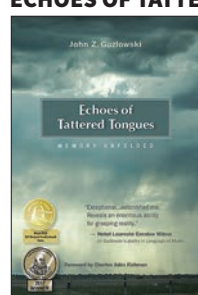


THE BOY WHO WANTED WINGS by James Conroyd Martin Author of "Don't Push the River" \$14.95 paperback / Item 2-612 pb \$25.95 hardcover / Item 2-612 hc 398 pp.

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).

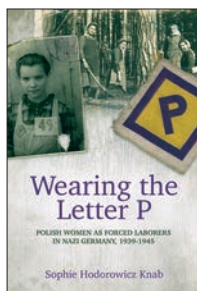
WORLD WAR II

ECHOES OF TATTERED TONGUES



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

Guzowski 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.



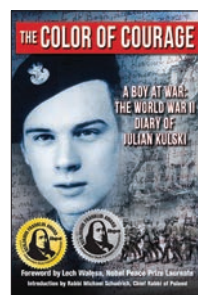
WEARING THE LETTER "P" Polish Women as Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany, 1939-1945. by Sophie Hodorowicz-Knab \$19.95 Item 2-642

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.

POLISH 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.



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.



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY Book 1 of Martin's Poland Trilogy \$15.95 Item 2-609 496 pp.pb. Maps & wycinanki illust.

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.

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SPORTS

ESPN's Wojnarowski Named Recipient of Tony Kubek Media Award

by Tom Tarapacki



Adrian Wojnarowski of ESPN was named the first-ever recipient of the Tony Kubek Media Award presented by the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame (NPASHF).

The 50-year-old native of Connecticut, better known as "Woj," has been the top NBA insider and news breaker at ESPN since 2017, and is considered the dominant force in pro basketball reporting. He's accomplished in all aspects of sports media, including print, TV and social media. He has over two million Twitter followers who faithfully keep up with his news of important transactions referred to as "Woj Bombs."

After graduating with a journalism degree from St. Bonaventure, he went on to work at the *Hartford Courant*, *Fresno Bee*, *The Record*, and *Yahoo Sports*. In 2006, Wojnarowski authored the *New York Times* best-seller, "The Miracle of St. Anthony: A Season with Coach Bob Hurley and Basketball's Most Improbable Dynasty."

The new award is named in honor of **Tony Kubek**, a former star New York Yankees shortstop who was enshrined into the NPASHF in 1982. Following his playing days Kubek became one of the sport's most famous network television baseball analysts, including working on the NBC "Game of the Week." Kubek was awarded the Ford C. Frick award in 2009 for broadcast excellence by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

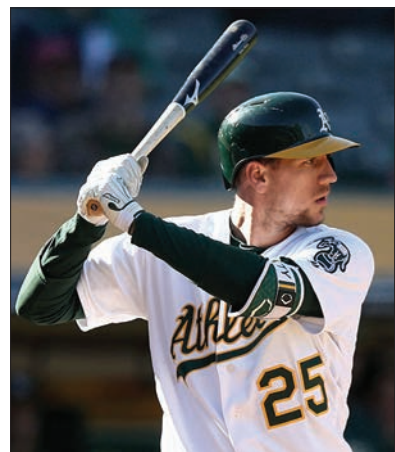
The "Kubey" was presented to Wojnarowski at the NPASHF's Annual Induction Banquet held in June in Troy, Mich. Look for details about the banquet in next month's PAJ.

OAKLAND'S PISCOTTY HONORED IN DETROIT. A member of the visiting Oakland A's was honored when the Detroit Tigers hosted a Polish American night at Comerica Park recently. A's outfielder

Stephen Piscotty was presented with the 2019 Humanitarian Award from the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame for his commitment to his mother, who passed away last year after a long battle with ALS, and overall sportsmanship.

Piscotty was previously a member of the St. Louis Cardinals, but when his mother was diagnosed, the team worked out a trade with the A's to bring Piscotty closer to his hometown of Pleasanton, Calif. He spent the majority of his time away from the ballpark caring for her in the family's home. She died in May 2018 at the age of 55.

Piscotty, who is Polish on his father's side, has a number of relatives who live in the Detroit area in



Piscotty was honored in an opposition ballpark.

nearby Grosse Ile, Mich., and many attended the game. "It's cool, especially being here with all the family in town," Piscotty said. "I am Polish and it's cool that everyone here is local and can come partake in that event. I'm very honored and thankful that they thought of me."

St. Louis selected Piscotty in the first round, with the 36th overall selection, of the 2012 MLB draft. The right-handed outfielder made his major league debut with the Cards in 2015. Last year he hit .267 with 27 HRs for the A's.

LEWANDOWSKI CAPTURES ANOTHER GOLDEN BOOT. Poland's star soccer player **Robert Lewandowski** has been crowned the top scorer of Germany's Bundesliga premier league in the 2018-19 season, his fourth such "Golden Boot" since he began playing in Germany in 2010. In addition to another strong Bundesliga season, Lewandowski scored eight goals in this season's Champions League, where his Bayern squad was eliminated by Liverpool in the competition's round of 16.

Meanwhile, Lewa continues to lead Poland through Euro 2020 qualifiers. Recently Poland defeated North Macedonia 1-0 on a goal

by Krzysztof Piątek, and then gave Israel its first defeat, 3-0. Poland's goals came from Piątek, Lewandowski, Kamil Grosicki and Damian Kądzior.

Euro 2020 qualifying will continue through November. The tournament will be held from June 12 to July 12, 2020 in 12 cities around Europe, with the final played at London's Wembley Stadium.

HONORING KLOTZ. **Jozef Klotz**, a Jewish Pole who scored the national team's first ever goal in international match but was later murdered by the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto, was honored by Poland's soccer association before the match against Israel.

In May 1922, Klotz, who was born in Krakow, scored on a penalty kick in the 27th minute of the team's third international match, against Sweden in Stockholm. Poland went on to win the game 2-1.

"I think that soccer should bring people, religions, groups and of course Jews and Poles, closer together, since Jewish culture was very widespread in Poland before the Holocaust... we hope Jozef's story and the game tonight will make this happen," said Klotz's nephew, Yoav Dekel, who attended the event.

MIKE YAZ MAKES BIG LEAGUE DEBUT. **Mike Yastrzemski**, traded to San Francisco from Baltimore earlier this year, made his big league debut for the Giants. After going hitless in his first game, Mike picked up the first base hit of his career the next day against the D-Backs. Unfortunately, he rounded first a bit too far and got picked off. However, he also singled in his next at-bat, and later doubled and scored.

It's been a long journey for the 28-year-old outfielder, who was picked in the 14th round by Baltimore in 2013. Starting out as a member of the Class A New York-Penn League Aberdeen Ironbirds, he eventually did what most players drafted that late do — he made it to the big leagues.

Of course, Mike is the grandson of Hall of Famer **Carl Yastrzemski**. Interestingly, when Carl got his first hit on April 11, 1961, he singled but then was caught stealing.



Henner is going strong at 67.

HENNER STAYS HEALTHY. You may know her for her roles in TV shows like *Taxi* and *Evening Shade* and for her participation in *The Celebrity Apprentice*, but **Marilu Henner** is also a *New York Times* bestselling author whose books include *Wear Your Life Well* and *Healthy Life Kitchen*. Henner has



WONDO SETS CAREER SCORING RECORD. Chris Wondolowski passed Landon Donovan as Major League Soccer's career goals leader when he recently scored all four goals as his San Jose Earthquakes beat the Chicago Fire 4-1. The 36-year-old is now in his 15th MLS season.

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Wondo was not part of an elite youth national team program. He attended nearby Chico State, a small Division II school. When the 2005 MLA draft came around, he wasn't selected until the 41st pick. He didn't even make his debut with the U.S. national team until six days before his 28th birthday in January 2011.

After five years as a reserve, in 2010 Wondolowski emerged one of the league's most feared goalscorers. A very popular player, he scored his 148th goal in front of an appreciative rain-soaked home crowd, who chanted "Won-do! Won-do!" as teammates tossed him in the air.

long had an active lifestyle, including many years of dance training, but it was the premature deaths of her parents that made her resolve to focus on longevity.

Marilu was born on April 6, 1952 in Chicago as Mary Lucy Denise Pudlowski. Her car salesman father, Joseph Henner (whose surname was originally Pudlowski), was Polish and her mother, Loretta Callis (born Nikoleta Kalogeropoulos), was Greek. Loretta died of arthritis at age 58 and Joseph died of a heart attack at age 52.

Henner radically changed her eating habits in 1979, shortly after her mother's death. She wrote, "I vowed to make every sacrifice necessary to cleanse my body . . . of anything that could cause or contribute to heart or circulatory disease and issues surrounding weight, immunodeficiency, arthritis and energy." She also makes an effort to break a sweat every day, even if it's just a 10-minute speed walk. Marilu is still going strong at 67, looking far younger than her years and remaining very active.

The successful actress is now better known for promoting a fit lifestyle as well as her hyperthymia, or total recall memory, which allows her to remember details of every day of her life from a very early age.

COME BACK JOE! **Joe Pavelski** wants to return to San Jose, and the Sharks certainly want him back, but no one knows what will happen as he enters unrestricted free agency this summer.

Pavelski, 34, was a force during the regular season, scoring 38 goals in 75 games. When he missed seven games near the end of the season with a knee injury, the Sharks went 1-5-1. He also played a key role in the Sharks' 2019 playoff run, whether he was on the ice or off.

Joe scored the first goal of the playoffs against Vegas when a puck hit off his face and went into

the goal. He returned shortly afterwards, but in Game 7 he was knocked out by a cross-check. However, that hit resulted in a five-minute major penalty that allowed the Sharks to stage an amazing comeback win. He was out of the lineup for the first six games of the next series against Colorado, but Joe returned for Game 7.

The Sharks captain opened the scoring in the first period and later added an assist in a 3-2 win. However, with Pavelski and a couple of other key players out with injuries, San Jose lost in the conference finals to St. Louis who eventually went on to win the Stanley Cup.

PERKOSKI'S NOTEBOOK.

Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki paid tribute to **Bronisław Czech**, a Polish Olympic skier who died at Auschwitz 75 years ago. Morawiecki said Czech "was not only an outstanding athlete, but also an ardent patriot" who was part of a resistance movement organized at the German Nazi Auschwitz death camp by Polish war hero Witold Pilecki ... Poland won four medals, one gold, two silver and one bronze, at the European rowing championships in Switzerland. **Mirosław ZiętarSKI** and **Fabian Barański** claimed gold in the men's double sculls, and **Artur Mikołajczewski** won silver in the lightweight men's single sculls. **Mikołaj Burda**, **Mateusz Wilanowski**, **Marcin Brzeziński** and **Michał Szpakowski** took another silver in the Men's Four event ... amid much speculation, former Patriots TE **Rob Gronkowski** said that he plans to stay retired from the NFL ... Former NBA referee and Polish Sports Hall of Fame inductee **Steve Javie** was ordained a permanent deacon for the Philadelphia Archdiocese ... Pro kickboxer-turned-movie director **Chad Stahelski** (PAJ March 2018) directed the hugely successful action thriller *John Wick 3*.

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Visit Poland with the Piast Institute in 2020

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — The Piast Institute is hosting a two-week trip to Poland in 2020. Guests will visit the most important and interesting sites, and experience the culture and history of Wrocław, Kraków, Warsaw, Toruń, Malbork, Gdańsk, and their surrounding areas.

This trip will be from May 18 to

June 2, 2020. Details and registration information is available from Malgorzata Tulecki at tulecki@piastinstitute.org; (313) 733-4535 x. 106. Deadline for registration and deposit is October 1, 2019, no exceptions.

The Piast Institute is a nonprofit organization that focuses on re-

search, data analysis, publications and social services. It has served the Polish American community and other ethnic groups, nonprofit organizations, and governmental agencies through publications, consultation, and capacity building for the past 16 years. Find out more at: PiastInstitute.org.

Army Sergeant Ollis Decorated for Sacrificing Life to Save Polish Soldier

by Maura Grunlund

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded posthumously to Army Staff Sergeant Michael H. Ollis in a ceremony at the VFW Post that bears the Ollis name in Oakwood, N.Y., June 8.

Military brass, politicians, veterans, family members, and friends turned out in force for the standing-room-only dedication.

Vice Chief of Staff of the Army General James C. McConville bestowed the honor that symbolizes the extraordinary heroism of the infantryman to his parents, Robert and Linda Ollis.

Ollis, 24, a lifelong resident of New Dorp, sacrificed his own life on Aug. 28, 2013, while shielding Lieutenant Karol Cierpica of Poland, a member of the coalition forces, from a suicide bomber in Afghanistan.

McConville described Ollis as a “true American hero” and also asked Cierpica to stand for ac-

knowledge in the crowd.

“Their actions that day in August against a very determined enemy saved many, many lives,” the general said.

“They soundly defeated a threat that would have had strategic-level consequences for the United States, our allies and partners who were fighting against terrorism in Afghanistan.”

“You have no idea what this means to us,” said Robert Ollis. “You have no idea what it is to be the parent.”

He said that Karol and Michael were “battle buddies” who helped their fellow soldiers “drive out the insurgents.”

“They just locked arms and followed each other,” Ollis said. “They didn’t worry about what language it was. They did in about 15 minutes what the United Nations hasn’t been able to do in years.”

Ollis was a member of the of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light).

— *Staten Island Advance*

Polonian Leadership Conference to be Held in Toronto

TORONTO, Ont. — Quo Vadis Conferences Canada announces that all 150 tickets to its 10th anniversary Conference are now available for purchase. This three-day Polonia leadership conference for students and young professionals of Polish heritage will take place in Toronto, Sept. 20-22, 2019.

The itinerary for this year’s conference includes: (Fri., Sept. 20)

opening ceremonies and light dinner in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Queen’s Park), networking evening reception; (Sat. Sept. 21) full breakfast, two nutritional breaks, one buffet-style lunch, one full dinner at DoubleTree by Hilton, conference program, lectures and Community Expo at Doubletree; and (Sun., Sept. 22) full breakfast, two nutritional breaks, one buffet-

Founding of PAC Observed

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On June 1, Western New York Polonia celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Polish American Congress at a Holy Mass at St. Stanislaus Church. Organization leaders from the area’s Polonia joined in the celebration.

A bronze plaque was blessed and dedicated during the Mass and will be placed in the Church’s vestibule. It was at St. Stanislaus where the PAC was first seen at a 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass on May 28, 1944. The plaque recognizes this historic event which took place at the Mother Church of Polonia.

PAC Western New York Division Chaplain Rev. Dr. Czesław Krysa, concelebrated the Mass on June 1 Mass, along with Rev. Tomasz Wilk, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church. The Chopin Singing Society, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Witakowski, sang at the event.

Minogue to Headline Open'er Festival



AUSTRALIAN SINGER KYLIE MINOGUE will be performing in Poland this July during the Open'er Festival in its northern city of Gdynia. The pop-culture legend’s Polish gig is set to take place a week after the release of an album celebrating 30 years of her career in music, entitled *Step Back in Time: The Definitive Collection*.

The Open'er Festival, which was first held in 2002, has become one of the biggest music festivals in Central Europe.

Currently hosted at Gdynia’s Kosakowo Airport, the festival has seen star performers including Prince, Radiohead, Björk and the Beastie Boys in recent years.

Acts confirmed to perform this year include U.S. rapper Travis Scott, The Strokes, and Lana Del Rey. (onet.pl).

POLISH CHEF

Comfort Foods Always at Hit at Summer Festivals

by Robert Strybel

Part II of II

A major attraction of our PolAm summer festivals and community picnics are the well-liked Polish comfort foods of our childhood like Mama or Babcia used to make. People are known to drive in from miles around, even from neighboring states and Canada, for a chance to savor those old Polish favorites that they just can’t get anymore. Some examples:

KISZKA SANDWICH (kanapka z kaszanką). This is another fast-food-style item that goes over well at Polish festivals. Serve the fried kiszka in a crusty bun with a dollop of brown Polish mustard. Another way is to serve topped with fried onions with or without the mustard.

POLISH HUNTER’S STEW (bigos). Drain 3 qts. sauerkraut, reserving liquid, rinse in cold water, place in colander, squeeze dry and chop coarsely. Place in pot with 3 bay-leaves, cover with cold water and cook uncovered about 60 min, stirring occasionally. Transfer drained sauerkraut to baking pan and add some or all of the following: 2 its various boneless, cooked, cubed

solid meat (pork, beef, venison or other game, veal, turkey, duck), 3 c coarsely diced or chunked smoked Polish sausage, 1 mushroom bouillon cube, 1 c pitted prunes, chopped, 1/2 c dry red wine, 3 buds crushed garlic, 2 diced large cooking apples, peeled and diced. Mix ingredients and bake uncovered in 360° oven 30 min. Mix again, cover pan and bake another 2 hrs. at 325°. After switching off heat, leave bigos covered in oven until it cools to room temp. Refrigerate overnight. Reheat at 350° for 60 min before serving. If too moist, pour off some of the liquid and stir in a T or more flour, mix well and bake another 15 min. Serve with rye bread or potatoes.

PIEROGI — DOUGH (ciasto na pierogi): 1. Sift 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 c flour onto bread-board. Sprinkle with 1/2 t salt. Deposit 1 small egg at center and use knife to mix outlying flour into egg. Gradually add about 1/2 fairly hot water in a thin stream and work mixture by hand into a dough, gradually working in 2 T salad oil. Knead well until dough is smooth and elastic and no longer sticks to hand. On lightly floured board, roll out thin 1/3 of the dough, leaving the remainder under a warm inverted bowl so it doesn’t dry out. With drinking-glass or biscuit-cutter cut dough-sheet into rounds. Place a

spoonful of filling just off center of each dough round, cover filling with larger dough flap and pinch edges together to seal. When all are filled and sealed, leave them on the bread-board to dry about 20 min. To cook, bring a big pot of lightly salted water to a boil and gently add the pierogi one by one without crowding. Cook around 3-5 min until they start floating up to surface and cook another min or so. Test one for doneness. Remove with slotted spoon and serve at once or allow to cool and fry in butter when ready to serve.

CHEESE & POTATO PIEROGI (pierogi ruskie). Cook 2 lbs. peeled potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain, mash and set aside to cool. To potatoes add 1 lb. farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, processed to a powder. 2 finely chopped onions sautéed in 2 T oil or butter until tender and lightly browned. Mix ingredients well and season with salt & pepper. Toppings may include sour cream, or skwarki (fried golden-brown pork fatback nuggets).

SWEET CHEESE PIEROGI (pierogi z serem na słodko). Combine 1 lb. processor-pulverized farmer cheese or dry cottage cheese, 1/4 t salt, 3-5 T sugar, 1 t lemon juice, 1/2 t vanilla extract and 1 raw egg yolk into a smooth filling. Optional: Add 1/2 c plumped raisins. The cooked pierogi may be served with melted butter, confectioner’s sugar or sour cream.

BLUEBERRY PIEROGI (pierogi z jagodami). Remove any leaves or stems from about 1 lb. fresh blueberries, rinse and drain well in colander or sieve. Dust berries 1 t cornstarch starch to make the

cooked filling less runny. As toppings, provide granulated or confectioner’s sugar, sour cream or heavy sweet cream.

POTATO PANCAKES (placki kartoflane). Peel and grate or cut into cubes and process 2-1/2 lbs. potatoes, place in sieve and allow to drip-dry, catching drippings. When drippings settle, pour off dark liquid and add the white sediment (pure starch) left at bottom to the grated potatoes. Add 1 grated onion, 3-4 T flour, 2 t salt and mix well. With dipper place portions of potato batter in hot lard or oil, flatten gently with spatula and fry to a golden brown on both sides. Provide salt, sugar and sour cream.

SCRAMBLED EGGS & KIEŁBASA (jajecznica na kielbasie): Skin and slice thin or dice 1 lb. smoked kielbasa and brown in butter, lard or bacon drippings with 2 fine-

ly chopped onions until lightly browned. Add 2 dozen eggs and fry on low without stirring until almost set, then break up with spatula and fry briefly until set the way you like. Salt & pepper lightly. Optional: Garnishing with finely chopped chives or green onions. Serve with rye bread and unsalted butter. Great for an after-mass Sunday breakfast!

STRAWBERRIES & SOUR CREAM (truskawki ze śmietaną). This is a nice, easy summertime dessert. Hull and wash 1 lb. or more strawberries and keep whole or cut in half. Dust generously with confectioner’s sugar and let stand 30 min. When ready to serve, use slotted spoon to ladle out servings and top each with a dollop of sour cream. Note: The leftover strawberry syrup can be used over ice-cream, puddings, cakes, etc. Mixed with sold soda water it makes a refreshing drink.

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IN MEMORIAM

Auschwitz Orchestra Musician and Christian Survivor Rudolf Danel

Rudolf Danel, born in Beskidy, Silesia, in 1915, the youngest of 10 children, passed away on May 14, 2019, at 103 years of age. He was considered the most senior of all known living survivors of Auschwitz.

After surviving an impoverished childhood, at the age of 14, he joined the Polish Army. One aspect of his army life may have eventually saved his life. Besides the army's educational opportunities, food, shelter, and financial security he needed, he was also offered the opportunity to learn to play the trumpet.

Even though he left the army in the 1930s, he was drafted prior to the 1939 German invasion of Poland. In 1941, he was arrested by the Gestapo, and on June 25, 1943, was sent to Auschwitz and tattooed with the number 125792. With his musical talents, Danel auditioned for the concentration camp orchestra and was accepted. For six days a week the orchestra played music for the prisoners, then on Sundays the musicians were required to play for their Nazi enslavers.

Danel was later transferred to Germany's Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg camp, where he was again fortunate to play in its orchestra. Later, he was relocated to work at the Heinkel Flugzeugwerke (aircraft) factory near the Baltic Sea. It was here that Danel often heard

the Allied aircraft attacking. It was frightening, but also a welcoming sound to Danel.



On May 3, 1945, he along with other prisoners were liberated by American troops. At war's end he was able to enroll in Munich University and receive a degree in business and economics.

In 1950, through the help of the Polish American Congress, he emigrated to Chicago. Even though he had a variety of jobs, he passed the civil service exam and spent his career as a social worker, a position he held until his retirement in 1987.

It was also in 1950 that Danel met and married Maria Swincow. Maria passed away in 1974. Decades later he married Janina Czestowicz.

He made a decision to visit Auschwitz twice, once in 2015, then again in 2018, where he met with Auschwitz archivist Szymon Kowalski. While there, Danel participated in workshops and lectures.

Danel and Maria had three children, Isabelle, Alexander, and the late Elizabeth. He is also survived by three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The Study of "Us"

by Ed Poniewaz

A young man in our circle told me that his major in college is anthropology, a field of study I haven't heard of in a long time. With all the talk about the low pay and unemployment of the arts versus the sciences — especially when adjusted for the cost (debt) of the degree — I was surprised.

It reminded me of my time as an undergrad, and the classes needed to fulfill electives along with the required courses in business administration. My advisor picked good professors, and I was thankful for the one he recommended: cultural anthropology.

I told the young man with the major how much I enjoyed my anthropology course 45 years ago and how it aligned with my journey in discovering my ancestry.

Cultural anthropology is a branch of anthropology focused on the study of cultural variation among humans, and three of the big names tossed around in my class were Franz Boaz, Margaret Mead, and Polish-born Bronislaw Malinowski. Boaz established an empirical approach to anthropology, Mead explained how individual personalities were influenced by the larger culture and society, and Malinowski was famous for introducing the documenting of cultural details through participant observation and fieldwork. One of the assignments I had in this class was to create a family tree by interviewing key members of my family. That exercise gave me a glimpse into our family's immigrant experience. It taught me the importance of oral histories, and served as a reminder (as it should to all) to document the lives of the older members of your family. Even the smallest and most innocuous details are important.

Malinowski is an important figure in the field of anthropology and many of his countrymen have excelled in this academic discipline as well. Their personal lives are quite intriguing and it seems as if they were drawn into their vocations and pursuits based on those experiences. A web site you can consult to find out more about some of these "other" Polish anthropologists is www.culture.pl.

For instance:

Maria Czaplicka (1884-1921) was a contemporary of Malinowski and she gained attention for re-

search of the subject matter from existing published sources. Her most famous project, though, was leading an expedition to Siberia (named Yenisei) to study and document the Tungusic people. She was the first woman to lecture at Oxford University and became "politically involved in the suffrage movement, as well as in matters concerning the fight for Poland's independence."

In a similar way, the seed of resistance in Czaplicka was also found in the heart of **Bronislaw Pilsudski** (1866-1918 and the brother of Marshall Jozef Pilsudski) as he leapfrogged from insurrectionist to anthropologist. His story starts as a prisoner of the Russian Czar Alexander II on Sakhalin Island in the Pacific. By chance it was suggested by another ethnographer imprisoned with him "to study the culture of the Ainu people, who inhabited Sakhalin and the islands of Northern Japan." Pilsudski is acknowledged for his use of photographs and sound recordings in his research. In modern times the Ainu have been assimilated into the general Japanese population and they have relied on Pilsudski's research photos and recordings to recapture their ancestral uniqueness.

Like Czaplicka and Pilsudski, **Jan Kubary** began his adult life in the cause of independence for his country and gravitated to the study of cultures and anthropology. After the Polish rebellion of 1863, the "January Uprising," he left for Germany where he worked in a natural history museum. It was this job that gave him the incentive and opportunity to travel to Oceania and this became his new "home." While Kubary did not have the academic background to support his writings and research, what he did have most probably was the devotion to and compassion for the people with which he lived. His body of work is important and a testament to this approach as stated in *Culture*:

His research in Oceania was unprecedented, although he was self-taught, having left Europe equipped with no background in ethnography whatsoever. In his 28 years among the Papuan people, he integrated with local communities and gained competence in their languages. Apart from ethnographic works, Kubary left behind many geographical and natural reports, as well as an impressive col-

lection of items, which are now housed in European museums.

Modern ethnography, anthropology, and cultural anthropology as academic pursuits largely took off during the 19th century. Perhaps so many of the well-known Polish anthropologists started their careers during this period because their own culture was being appropriated by invaders and partitioning nations. Freedom allows us time for introspection and enjoyment of who we are. Slavery and oppression, whether of the mind, spirit, or body, takes that sense away from us. Perhaps that is the best reason we have for at least one young person in the world pursuing this course of study.

POLISH OR NOT? Do you remember the bubblegum sounds of the '60s and in particular The 1910 Fruitgum Company? I do and had a lot of fun bopping to their tunes because that's the kind of rock that appealed to teenagers of that era. Fruitgum had hits like "Simon Says," "1, 2, 3, Red Light," "Goody, Goody, Gumdrops," and "Indian Giver."

The original band members were from Linden, N.J. and the voice you heard on all of the hits was **Mark Gutkowski**, who, along with being the lead singer, played the Hammond B3 organ and, in some of the early videos of the band, is also seen playing the guitar. He, his brother Ted, and band member Frank Jeckell wrote all of the songs for the "Indian Giver" album.

I am putting Mark and Ted down for Polish but if a reader knows what happened to them, or if there is other Polish connections among the original members, please share. Polish or not for Gutkowski and what happened to him after 1910 Fruitgum?

Penske or Penski? If you watched one of the most exciting Indy 500 races in recent years you couldn't help hearing the name Penske mentioned numerous times. Roger Penske is head of one of the winningest NASCAR and IndyCar Series teams in history. He is the most successful owner in the Indianapolis 500 with 18 victories.

Born February 20, 1937 in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Penske grew up in Cleveland and began fixing up older cars as a teenager and at age 82 is now a billionaire. So is Penske Polish or not?

Of "all time" is the kind of adjective we look for and like to advertise in The Pondering Pole and in this case it is assigned to **John Brzenk**, professional arm-wrestler. He was born July 15, 1964 in McHenry, Illinois, is retired now due to injuries, and according to arm-wrestling.com, "it is estimated that John has won over 500 titles in his career" and he is "widely recognized as the greatest arm-wrestler of all time." Is Brzenk Polish or not?

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.

Barbara Blyskal, PSAA Officer



Barbara B. Blyskal, nee Kostecki (1938-2019), Honorary General Secretary of the Polish Singers Alliance of America (PSAA), passed away on June 3, 2019 in Staten Island, N.Y.

Blyskal was a 64-year member of the PSAA and served as General Secretary and later as its Librarian. She also was president of the Jutrzenka Singing Society since 1989. A graduate of Hunter College,

Blyskal taught in the Lawrence and Inwood, N.Y. public schools until 1989. She served as organist at Our Lady of Czestochowa and St. Casimir's Church in Brooklyn for twenty years.

Blyskal was the *Polish-American World* "Citizen of the Year" in 1989, and is listed in the 1st edition of *Who's Who in Polish America*. She was instrumental in the publishing of the PSAA's history book, and was an integral part of the organization until her death.

She is survived by her husband, Edward and sister, Helen Pater as well as nieces and nephews.

Stanislaw Golab, Original Member of Cleveland's St. Casimir's Prayer Vigil

Stanislaw Golab, age 59, passed away on Friday, May 31, 2019 unexpectedly at his home.

A member of two Polish parishes (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lorain, Ohio and Cleveland's Historic St. Casimir Parish), he would travel the long drive every Sunday to St. Casimir. Golab was one of the original participants of the St. Casimir Street Prayer Vigils held for 139 Sundays while the church was closed while its appeal to reopen was pending in Rome. He was there regardless of the weather.

The Diocese of Cleveland shuttered St. Casimir in November 2009, part of Bishop Richard Lennon's plans to snuff out more than four dozen parishes across the area. Parishioners held vigils outside the fence marked "Private Property" at their former parish. In March 2012, the Diocese was ordered by the

Vatican to reopen 11 of the twelve parishes closed by Lennon, including St. Casimir's.

Golab was born on May 2, 1960 in Leka, Poland to Jozefa and Jan Golab. He came to Lorain, Ohio at the age of 33. He made his career as an HVAC technician for 20 years with Ray Gidich in Lorain and as a local real estate investor.

Golab was known for his willingness to help others. He worked and played passionately, making traditional Polish foods, gardening, and dancing. Devoted to his Catholic faith, he prayed every day. Golab loved to spend time with his wife, children, family, and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Agata Golab (Sobon), daughter Anastzja (23), son Michael (20), sister Antonina Sobon (Golab), along with his six brothers and two other sisters in Poland.

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The Mother of Solidarity — In Memory of Her Life and Her Love for the Truth

by Catherine A. Hamilton

Part II of II

POST-STRIKE PHASE. Although some say that Walentynowicz was sidelined in the later phase of Solidarity and was disappointed because of what she considered to be compromises in the agreement with management, she maintained an important role in the eclipse of communism. When film-maker Andrzej Wajda was casting his 1981 movie “Man of Iron,” he asked Walentynowicz to play herself in the motion picture. She agreed without hesitation — even at the risk of being imprisoned by the Soviets. The final collapse of communism came in 1989. Anna retired from the shipyard in 1991. She wrote her autobiography, “Shadow of the Past,” with a Polish journalist, Anna Baszanowska. In 2006, her life story inspired Volker Schlöndorff’s movie, “Strike.”

POLITICAL ALLIANCES. Walentynowicz was a long-time friend and ally of the late President Lech Kaczyński. Their friendship dated to the 1980s, when the young Kaczyński was a law professor and counsel for Solidarity.

Walentynowicz and the conservative pro-American President Lech Kaczyński were not invited by Vladimir Putin to a choreographed wreath ceremony on April 7, 2010, in memory of the POWs killed at Katyn by Stalin’s men during WW II — a fact denied by the Soviets for more than 50 years. The Russian government’s “official” memorial was held three days before the Tupolev TU-154 crashed near Katyn while attempting to land.

It’s unlikely, even if she had been invited, that Walentynowicz would have attended Putin’s visit to the Katyn memorial. Putin was an ex-KGB agent, and his predecessors had sentenced her to 20 years in prison for speaking the truth.

It was no surprise that Putin

didn’t invite Kaczyński to his private Katyn event. Kaczyński was against the very core of Putin’s ideology. What was surprising, though, was Putin’s comment that, in his opinion, Stalin had felt personally to blame for the deaths of thousands of Red Army POWs who died of hunger while in prisons during WW I and that he had ordered the massacre of the Polish prisoners out of his personal sense of revenge. The “revenge” explanation seems all the more cruel given the ghastly event that befell Walentynowicz and 95 Polish leaders three days later at the site of Katyn.

Strangely, Lech Kaczyński isn’t the only Polish commander-in-chief to die in a suspicious plane crash. Polish Prime Minister Sikorski’s plane plunged into the Sea of Gibraltar shortly after liftoff in July 1943; Sikorski had just launched a full investigation of possible Soviets involvement in the slaughter of 20,000 soldiers after mass graves containing the Polish officers’ remains were found in the Katyn Forest.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

Many unanswered questions circle the tragic plane crash that took the life of Anna Walentynowicz. Certainly if she were alive today, she would begin to ask pertinent questions and expect answers. Did this catastrophe deserve an international investigation?

Given the way that the Russians handled the investigation — taking nearly two months to turn over copies of transcripts of the black box — anyone would wonder. One concern in the minds of many Poles is that of censorship. Some say the truth will never be found. And as of June 1, 2010, the actual black boxes and original recordings had remained in Russian hands.

Within hours of the April 10 incident, pilot error and weather were blamed for the crash. But the Polish crew of the Yak-40, which transported the Polish press and had

landed successfully about an hour earlier, told sources close to the Polish newspaper Rzeczpospolita that the radio tower had been problematic during their landing. The Yak-



Walentynowicz did what she believed was right, rather than what was popular. It meant she died bearing the heart and soul of the everyday person in Poland.

40 was the last plane to land safely and, watching from the ground, the crew saw a Russian jet Il-76 having trouble stabilizing on its approach to the runway, which, according to the Yak’s crew, could happen only if the radio tower signal were interrupted — or not present at all. The Russian jet veered off to the left and later landed in Moscow just before the TU-154 was expected to land in Smolensk.

How, if visibility was a primary factor, could a crew on the ground see incoming planes? A Polish reporter said he saw the doomed TU-154 from his hotel window as it was coming in for a landing. According to a few journalists in Russia, the air-traffic control crew working April 10 were fill-ins and not the regular crew that staff the tower — reportedly because President Kaczyński was not “officially” invited. The commander of the Polish air force was in the cockpit, but there is no evidence that the pilot was being pressured to land. It has yet to be explained why the experienced pilot didn’t take full advantage of the U.S.- installed TAWS warning system until it was too late.

Sadly, several Russian security officers — who were supposedly guarding the crash site — robbed bank cards from one of the crash victims and began withdrawing cash from the account less than two hours after the tragedy. The Russian soldiers responsible are now in jail, but only after repeated denials by Russian authorities. It’s enough to make one ponder what else might have been stolen posthumously — cash, computers of military generals, documents, cell phones, memory sticks?

At the same time, the political void created by the untimely deaths of President Kaczyński and his entire Cabinet forced the grieving nation into a rapid-fire presidential runoff between political rivals: Bronisław Komorowski, of the left-leaning Civic Platform, and Jarosław Kaczyński, the conservative candidate and twin brother of the late president. After a down-to-the-wire race, the election ended with Komorowski the new president. The sudden change in the presidency and respective political parties is the latest chapter in the surreal events occurring in Poland — a change certain to reel the nation in an opposite direction on policies regarding finance, the military and family life issues.

Previously, as parliament speaker, Komorowski supported Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk in opposing President Kaczyński. It was Donald Tusk, not the late President Kaczyński, who was invited to attend Putin’s Katyn Massacre ceremony. Tusk was in Smolensk, Russia, on April 7, 2010, with Putin three days before the Kaczyński delegation died there.

Whether or not the incident of April 10 had anything to do with the regime shift to the left, it seems safe to say that, had Anna Walentynowicz been alive on Election Day 2010, she would undoubtedly have voted for the twin brother of her good friend President Lech Kaczyński.

Lech Kaczyński’s brother, Jarosław, ran for president in June 2010, shortly after his brother’s death, and lost after the second round in July 2010 to Komorowski. It would surely have pleased her that Jarosław served as prime minister of Poland in 2006 – 2007.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION.

Less than six months ago an international report was released. It was Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz who had taken the lead in denouncing early accounts of the disaster as “whitewash, secretly coordinated with Moscow.” Macierewicz promised a new look at Tu-154 crash that was based on new evidence. This new report was long overdue and came after Macierewicz was no longer defense minister. However, this most recent report charged that the disaster was caused by multiple explosions aboard the TU-154 prior to its collision with the ground, as most Poles had suspected and feared.

WALENTYNOWICZ’S AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In 2005, Walentynowicz received the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom from the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, presented by President George W. Bush. That same year she received a letter from Pope John Paul II — the last, or nearly last, letter he wrote before his death. The pope sent her best wishes for a quick recovery from back surgery. In 2006, she was decorated by President Kaczyński of Poland as a Knight of the Order of the White Eagle.

They say that people die as they live. For Walentynowicz that meant doing what she believed was right, rather than what was popular. It meant she died bearing the heart and soul of the everyday person in Poland. May her sacrifices for freedom and her motherly love never be forgotten!

GENEALOGY

Immigration and Naturalization Laws that affected our Polish Ancestors

by Stephen M. Szabados

Our Polish ancestors overcame challenges to be here and become citizens. Early immigrants were greeted with simple rules, but as immigration levels grew, officials added regulations that were designed to exclude groups of immigrants.

In 1875, a significant change was enacted that excluded “undesirables” such as Chinese, criminals, and prostitutes. In 1882, immigration officials adopted more restrictions that affected steerage passengers.

The Immigration Act of 1882 set guidelines to refuse admission to immigrants who might become public charges such as people with physical disabilities. Also, excluded were those with certain illnesses that were considered contagious such as cholera, insanity, tuberculosis, or epilepsy. These regulations directed inspectors to examine passengers and reject any convict, lunatic, idiot, or any person who would become a public charge. The guidelines assigned pregnant or single women, the disabled, the sick, or the poor into the undesir-

able category due to fear that these immigrants were “likely to become a public charge” and thus should be refused admittance. The rules also required single women to be met by a male member of their family and pregnant women to be met by their husbands. These two immigration laws were the first immigration regulations to contain restrictive rules limiting immigration, and they set the stage for later restrictive immigration legislation and debates

The 1924 Act lowered the quota levels to two percent of the country of origin and based the level on the 1890 census ... the numbers severely underrepresented the Polish population and significantly decreased the quota levels for Poland and other Eastern European countries.

about who the United States should admit onto its shores.

The Naturalization Act of 1906 added the critical requirement that the immigrants learn English and have a basic understanding of our Constitution before becoming naturalized citizens. The legislation also placed the responsibility for naturalization policy and rules with the federal government. Before 1906, federal, state, and county-level naturalization courts had different standards across the country. The legislation created the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

In 1917, a further restriction was placed on immigration when officials added a literacy test to the admission process. All immigrants sixteen years or older were required to read a forty-word passage in their native language. Most immigrants had to read a passage from the Bible.

In the 1920s, the United States enacted three pieces of legislation that significantly affected future Polish Immigration. The first two were the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the Immigration Act of 1924. Both laws established quotas by country of origin. The 1921

act restricted the annual immigration from a given country to three percent of the number of people from that country who were living in the United States as counted in the 1910 census figures. The 1924 Act lowered the quota levels to two percent of the country of origin and based the level on the 1890 census. By using the 1890 census for the 1924 act, the numbers severely underrepresented the Polish population and significantly decreased the quota levels for Poland and other Eastern European countries. The quota levels changed again in 1927


with the use of the 1920 census to calculate the allocations by country. This last change reset the quota to appropriate levels because the 1920 census totals best represented Polish immigration.

The acts of 1921, 1924, and 1927 were meant to freeze the ethnic distribution and were in response to rising immigration from southern and eastern Europe. Another goal of the quota system was to reduce the overall number of unskilled immigrants who were described as undesirable. If these laws had been in place in the last half of the 1800s,

immigration officials would have refused admittance to most of our ancestors, and the Industrial Revolution would not have had the labor to grow.

Our ancestors are not in the history books, but their work in America was needed for the Industrial Revolution and the growth of America. We need to honor their memories by saving their stories in a family history. Please start as soon as possible.

Stephen M. Szabados is a prominent genealogist, lecturer, and the author of five books.



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DANCE TIME

Polka Fans Show Support for Synakowski Family

by Jennifer Pijanowski

Over 400 people packed the Polish Community Center in Utica, N.Y. to support the Synakowski family of Trenton, N.Y. after a devastating fire. Tom and Jennifer Synakowski lost Tom's father Henry, as well as their home, and cattle farm due to the tragic fire in April. A benefit organized by Gary Sroka, and Gena and Dave Sychtysz helped raise funds to assist Tom, Jennifer and their three children: Katie, Christopher, and Hanna. Damage at their family farm was massive, totaling over \$750,000. Organiz-



Jerry and Gerard Soliwoda at the Synakowski Benefit, Polish Community Center, Utica, N.Y.



Frank Sergott, and Patty and Gary Lekki at the Polish Community Center, Utica.

will be held on July 19-21, 2019 at Cheektowaga Town Park. Cheektowaga has long been considered a Polish suburb of Buffalo and its centerpiece Town Park is located at 2600 Harlem Rd. Polish food, vendors, dance groups, and polka music are just a few of the offerings as this community event.

This year's lineup includes **Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push**, **New Direction**, **Buffalo Touch**, and **Concertina All Stars**.

On Sunday July 21st, the **81st General Pulaski Parade** will begin at 1:30 pm and the route will head down Harlem Road ending at



Paul Chmil, Jeff Teufel, and Joe Krzysik of John Stevens Band at Utica's Polish Community Center.

ers did an extraordinary job raising money for this worthwhile cause and supporting one of our fellow polka lovers.

Over 50 basket raffles, several 50/50s, delicious food, and beverages set the scene for over eight hours of fantastic polka music. Music was provided by **John Stevens and Tony's Polka Band**. During breaks, strolling accordionist **Jasiu Klocek** supplied additional entertainment and showcased his happy go lucky talent.

John Stevens took the stage when we arrived and immediately set the tone of the day with their upbeat polkas and promptly had the dance floor packed. Tony's Polka Band wasted no time showcasing its own flair, and the crowd immediately took once again to the dance floor. We really enjoyed listening to these talented groups which we don't get

to see very often in the Western New York area. Local Buffalo musician Andy Kuczarski was keeping the beat on drums with Tony's Polka Band on this given Saturday afternoon.

The center is a hub of activity for the Polish community in the Utica area and its brotherhood was apparent — love and joy abounded even while gathering to support such a somber cause. The Synakowskis were whirling around the floor and it gave great pleasure for all of us to see them able to forget about their sadness for a while and really enjoy themselves. Hundreds of friends and family showed their support and we enjoyed running into many of our friends from the Utica and Syracuse area. **Polka Joe** was busy videoing the event and did not miss a single beat of the entertaining lineup. Both bands played hit after hit keeping the dance floor busy

and many singing along. Volunteers worked tirelessly to tend to the bar, raffles, and selling food to ensure that as many funds as possible could be raised for this tremendous family.

Spending this beautiful day in Utica among so many generous and loving friends once again reminded me of how lucky we all are to have our polka family. If you would like to make a donation to help the Synakowskis as they rebuild their lives, a Go FundMe page has been set up. You can make the donation by visiting: <https://www.gofundme.com/synakowski-fire>

The complex has a crowd capacity of 5,000 and boasts the first fully functioning brewery to be retrofit into one of Buffalo's historic existing grain silos.

Three bands provided non-stop cheer as patrons kicked off the summer at Buffalo's premiere waterfront destination. **Phocus** took the stage first, initiating a remarkable day of polka music. **Buffalo Touch** and **Special Delivery** followed, keeping the energy strong with their respective polka grooves. The **Buffalo Pints & Pierogi Festival** was also taking place at the adjacent outdoor covered ice rinks,



Becky and Mark Mazurek flank Tom, Brandon, and Carolyn Starzynski at the Riverworks Polka Fest.

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER. The third annual PolkaFest was held at Riverworks in Buffalo on Sunday June 2nd. Riverworks is a multi-use venue located on the picturesque Buffalo River that houses four bars, a restaurant, and snack bar area.

and it paired perfectly with peppy polka music. Over fifteen different pierogi vendors offered a variety of both traditional and non-traditional options that you could pair with a selection of many beers. Local and out of town pierogi vendors proudly served the highly coveted dumplings which, many consider the national dish of Poland. Dozens of artisan vendors were also on hand to give everyone a quick break between samplings.

While the Pint & Pierogi had an admission fee, PolkaFest was free and hundreds showed up to indulge in great polka music. Thanks to all three bands who showcased their talents to many new polka dancers and listeners who took this opportunity to enjoy a new genre of music.

THE 41ST ANNUAL CHEEKTOWAGA Polish American Arts Festival



Lori Urbanczyk and Eric Kelchlin — Riverworks PolkaFest.

the entrance to Cheektowaga Town Park. Come wear your red and white and line up along the parade route as you watch many special guests in town, including Secretary of State of the Republic of Poland **Anna Maria Anders** and the first Polish-born member of British Parliament, **Daniel Kawczynski**. Once again this year, the largest Polish Flag in the United States will be majestically suspended from a fire truck. Due to a change in my personal schedule after fifteen years, I will finally be able to attend this town festival and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

WHITING PIEROGI FEST. The 25th Anniversary of **Pierogi Fest** is being held just 40 minutes from Chicago in the town of Whiting, Indiana. This celebration of Eastern European food and culture with a creative and wacky twist is being held July 26-28, 2019. Each year Pierogi Fest features all of the long-running favorites, including the wacky polka parade on Friday night, Mr. Pierogi and friends, food, arts and crafts vendors, a beer and wine garden, games, daily entertainment, and fun for all ages.

Pierogi Fest is completely free and happens on Friday and Saturday from 11:00a.m.-11:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. A complete schedule will be avail-

See "Dance Time ...," page 17



The Boys Release *Boys' Stories*

BALTIMORE — The Boys announce the release of their latest album, *Boys' Stories*.

The new CD features 14 songs that cover a variety of arrangements executed in the band's signature polka style. Included are five original polkas and one oberek with original Polish lyrics sung on three of them. The rest of the material is inspired by the works of such artists as Bob Dylan, the Bee Gees, Gordon Lightfoot, Percy Faith, and several Country artists. Four vocalists — Frank Lis-

ka, Nicky DiSebastiano, Mike Matousek, and Stacey Morris — are featured on this recording, along with a dynamic new instrumental to round out the diverse collection of tracks.

"This may be the most innovative project produced by The Boys thus far," said leader Matousek.

Boys' Stories can be purchased at all the band's live performances, or by sending an \$18 check to Mike Matousek, 8372 Williamstowne Drive, Millersville, MD, 21108. It can also be purchased from any of the major polka CD vendors very soon.

For more information, contact Mike at mike@the-boysband.com or (410) 729-9697. Follow The Boys on social media at www.facebook.com/FollowTheBoys/ or www.TheBoysBand.com.

Concertina All-Stars to Record Live at Pulaski Club

Join Band on Trip to Phoenix

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Concertina All-Stars invite you to join them for a trip as they travel once again to Phoenix, Ariz., for a live recording session at the Pulaski Club, March 13-16, 2020.

Hosts at the Club will be Dave and Princess Bonczkiewicz, whose hospitality is known throughout the polka world.

Friday offers an informal meet-and-greet where band members, locals and out-of-towners mingle, have cocktails and relax. Guests stay at the Holiday Inn, which is conveniently located just a block away, making trips back and forth quick and easy. A free breakfast at the hotel is included.

On Saturday, in addition to the live recording, guests will go to Old Town Scottsdale, where they will get a guided tour of the Western Spirit, Scottsdale's Museum of the West. After the museum, guests will be able to shop in the Old Town area before going to Rustler's Roost, called "one of the best places around for a fun Western lunch."

Once back at the hotel, you'll still have plenty of time to take a swim and change for the dance.

On Sunday, guests can enjoy some time at the pool, head to church, or go to Talking Stick Casino before heading back to the Pulaski Club for more live music and dancing.

Perks of this trip include: three nights at the Holiday Inn & Suites, Phoenix; bus tour to Scottsdale; Western Spirit Museum tour; admission to dances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; and dinners at Pulaski Club on Saturday and Sunday. The first drink at Pulaski Club is free for BCAS group members on Saturday and Sunday.

Additional items (lunch and drinks at Rustler's Roost, taxi, Uber or Lyft to local casinos, gratuities, airfare, additional excursions, insurance and other items not mentioned) are separate and can be arranged by "A Dream Trip 4 U."

A Dream Trip 4 U is a full-service travel agency and specializes in cruises of all types, European Heritage Tours, and groups of all sizes. Additional trips include a Christmas Market Riverboat Cruise (Dec. 14-22, 2019); a trip to the Passion Play and Oktoberfest (Sep. 18-Oct 1, 2020); and a trip to Poland, Ukraine and Czech Republic (Apr. 21-May 5, 2020).

To learn more, visit www.adreamtrip4u.com, or call Helga Leonard at (724) 234-2033 or (724) 816-7888 (cell).

Dance Time: Polka Booster Club to Hold 49th Annual Picnic

continued from previous page

able soon for you to plan a trip joining guests from around the globe in Whiting for the festival. Additional info and upcoming event schedule is available via the website <https://www.pierogifest.net>.

PIEROGI IN DETROIT, TOO. The largest Polish festival in metro Detroit is getting ready for its 38th year of celebration on August 9-11, 2019.

Mother of Divine Mercy Parish will host "Our Sweetest Heart of Mary Pierogi Fest," which takes place at 4440 Russel St., Detroit, Mich. There will be polka music provided by **Misty Blues, Kielbasa Kings, Steve Drzewicki Band**, and the **New Brass Express**.

Along with delicious pierogi, Polish platters, and homemade naleśniki, there will be performances by traditional Polish folk groups **Wawel and Halka Dancers**.

You can indulge in an upbeat polka Mass on Saturday or attend a traditional Sunday Mass with Archbishop Allen Vigneron. Church tours will also be available during this Parish festival. Visit <https://www.motherofdivinemercy.org/annual-pierogi-festival> for more information.

formation.

BUFFALO POLKA BOOSTERS will celebrate its 49th annual summer picnic on Sunday, July 28, 2019 from 2:00-7:00 p.m. This year's event will take place at Fontana's Picnic Grove, 2299 Clinton St., Buffalo, and polka music will be provided by **Phocus**. Hot dogs, hamburgers, Polish sausage, corn on the cob, and salads will be served from 3:00-

6:00 p.m. Beer, pop, and water will be available all day, but don't forget to bring your own pitcher. The cost is \$20.00 for club members in advance by July 12, and \$25 to non-members or at the door. Admission for children ages 11-13 is \$10.00 and those 10-and-under are admitted for free.

You can contact club President Chris Tanski at (716) 771-1076 for additional information.

DID YOU KNOW? Donations to the PAJF are tax-deductible. We ask our readers to consider a donation to the Polish American Journal Foundation. The PAJF is a 503c non-profit organization, the funds of which are used for the promotion of Polish American culture. Learn more by visiting polamjournal.com and click on the PAJF button.

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Chicago WPNA 1490 AM or radiowpna.com - Sunday's from 11 am to Noon (CT)



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- Harold @ 920-822-3869 or 920-660-9126
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- Aaron Socha Livewire
- Polka Dynamics
- Nathan Neuman

Friday

- Norm Dombrowski & the Happy Notes
- New Generation
- Tekla Klebetnica (Direct from Poland)
- Michael Costa & The Beat
- Polish Connection
- Aaron Socha & Livewire
- Polka Country Musicians
- The Natural Talent (TNT)
- Stephanie
- Keith Stras & the Polka Confetti

- The Derrick Ziegenbein Band

Saturday

- Chad Przybylski / Polka Rhythms
- Box On
- Polka Family
- Michael Costa & The Beat
- DynaVersaStickToneAires
- Steve Meisner
- Polka Country Musicians
- Tekla Klebetnica (Direct from Poland)
- Jerry Voelker & Jolly Gents
- Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen
- Music Connection

Sunday

- Box On
- Polka Family
- The Natural Talent (TNT)
- Maroszek Brothers

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Presidents Duda and Trump Meet in Washington

continued from cover

spoken of 2,000 additional GIs.

Plans call for setting up an American divisional command in Poland responsible for U.S. forces on NATO's Eastern flank, as well as modern training centers for NATO troops. But Trump the businessman also sent a clear message to American taxpayers: "The Polish government will build these projects at no cost to the United States."

Grzegorz Schetyna, Leader of Civic Platform and Leader of the Opposition since January 2016, said Duda's administration is more client of the United States than an ally. Poland's purchases have included American-designed combat helicopters and missile systems, as well as auxiliary military hardware. Its latest plan is to buy a fleet of the world's most advanced F-35 fighter jets which will cost over \$48 billion alone. Warsaw's non-military areas include contracts for American liquid natural gas (LNG) and possible cooperation in the atomic-energy field to lessen Poland's dependence on Russian energy sources.

Russia was mentioned several times during Duda's six-day trip.

"Russia is again showing its very unpleasant, imperial face," Duda told a press conference in the Rose Garden, citing Moscow's aggression against Georgia and Ukraine.

Trump, who plans to meet Russia's Vladimir Putin shortly, seemed to downplay Duda's concern. "I hope that Poland is going to have a great relationship with Russia. I think it's possible. I really do," he said.

Trump also indicated that Poland would most likely soon qualify for America's visa-waiver plan, but gave no exact date. Invited to Warsaw for the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II on September 1, Trump said such a visit was likely without making a firm commitment. Such a visit would give the ruling conservative Law and Justice party a strong edge over the opposition in October's parliamentary elections.

A lighter moment occurred at a state banquet in honor of Poland's First Couple, when Duda stood up and said: "Happy Birthday, Mr. President. I hope your dreams come true." Poles and PolAms at the event spontaneously broke into a rousing chorus of "Sto lat."



PHOTO: THE WHITE HOUSE

WHITE HOUSE WELCOME. U.S. President Donald Trump welcomed Polish President Andrzej Duda to the White House on June 12 with an elaborate show of support, staging a rare and showy F-35 jet flyover to mark their friendship. At the end of his Washington visit the following day, the world leaders met in the Oval Office to sign a strategic partnership pact to boost defense, energy, trade, and security ties.

In a protocol gaffe, Trump sat while the Polish leader was forced to stand next to him and reach over the table to sign.

"Duda still somehow managed to smile at the camera," said *The Washington Post*. The scene was captured on camera by the White House and was tweeted out shortly after — much to the bewilderment of Polish journalists, politicians, and researchers.

President Duda Meets Texas Leaders, Polish community

PANNA MARIA, Texas — Poland's President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda paid a visit to Texas as part of their visit to the United States, which also included meetings in Washington, and on the West Coast.

The couple met with the Texas Polish community leaders and Sylvester Turner, the mayor of Houston as part of trade visit. President Duda also took time to honored people who have been actively working for the Polish minority in the United States.

On June 14, President Duda met the CEOs of several American power companies, and together with US Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry, visited the Sabine Pass LNG Terminal.

The 1,000-acre Sabine Pass LNG terminal, owned by the Cheniere Energy company, is located on the border between Texas and Louisiana, along the Sabine Pass River.

The Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG) has announced it will now buy more liquid natural gas (LNG) from the United States. The company has signed a contract with Venture Global to import 1.5 tons annually for the next 20 years from the planned terminal Plaquemines LNG on the Mississippi river. These actions are part of Poland's policy to diversify energy sources and become energy-independent from Russian gas.

Accompanied by Poland's Health Minister, Łukasz Szumowski, President Duda and the First Lady visited the MD Anderson Cancer Center, where they signed a memorandum establishing close cooperation between Poland's Health Ministry and the cancer center.

Most anticipated was President Duda's visit with retired Bishop John Yanta, the force behind the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. The bishop, who is descendant of the first Polish immigrants who settled in Texas, established the Center to recognize and celebrate Polish immigration to the state.

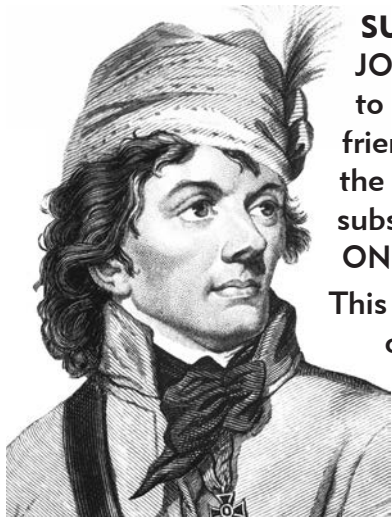
The first families arrived from Silesia in south-central Poland to escape Prussian oppression and establish a new life at the invitation of a young Polish missionary priest, Fr. Leopold Moczygemba, who was ministering to the German-speaking Catholics in Texas.

The immigrants arrived at the yet-unnamed settlement on Christmas Eve, 1854 where Fr. Moczygemba celebrated their first Mass at midnight, under a large oak tree. They named the settlement Panna Maria (Virgin Mary in Polish) and established the Immaculate Conception Church, the first Polish parish in the United States. Immigrants from Silesia soon settled in other areas of Texas, where they established parishes in Cestohowa, Kosciusko, Bandera, St. Hedwig, Falls City, Yorktown, San Antonio, Meyersville, Las Gallinas, White Deer, and McCook.

Bishop Yanta established the Heritage Center Foundation in 2011. His dream is to build a Polish heritage center that would record the history of the trials and triumphs experienced by his ancestors beginning in the 1850s and extending to the present. The Center was blessed in October 2014.

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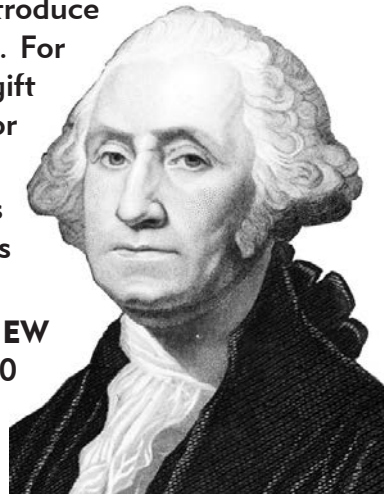


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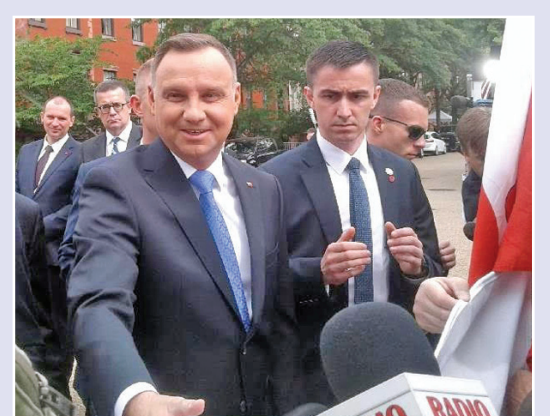
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SURPRISE GUEST AT WHITE HOUSE RALLY.

A rally in support of the security of Poland and Eastern Europe was held in front of the White House, Wed., June 12. Organized by the Federation of Polish Americans, the gathering coincided with Polish President Andrzej Duda's visit to Washington.

Much to everyone's shock, President Duda made a surprise appearance to greet rally attendees (above).

Support for the event also came from the Smolensk Disaster Commemoration Committee, Inc., Polish American Congress; Coalition of Polish Americans; Polish Army Veterans' Association in America; Gazeta Polska Clubs; Polonia for Poland; and the Pulaski Cadets.