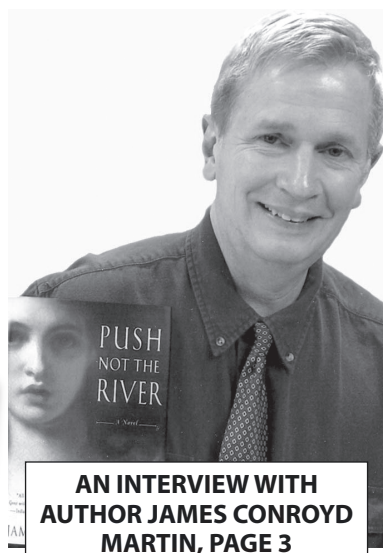


POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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AN INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR JAMES CONROYD MARTIN, PAGE 3

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

FR. DABROWSKI'S DREAM LIVES ON • MASTERPIECE UNDERGOING CONSERVATION • GOLGOTHA OF THE EAST TO BE UNVEILED
 STOJOWSKI: PIANIST AND PATRIOT • THE POLISH CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE • AUTHOR ALLEN PAUL TO ADDRESS PIASA
 WAWEL'S SPIRITS, SOULS, SAINTS, MARTYRS, AND GHOSTS • MORE THAN ONE WAY TO PREPARE KIEŁBASA

NEWSMARK

CLINTON PROMISES VISA INQUIRY. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has promised to look into the issue of Poles requiring visas to enter the United States after a meeting with Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski. The two officials met in Washington, D.C. as part of a Polish-American strategic dialogue.

Earlier, European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek criticized the U.S. visa policy, which divides EU member states into "better" and "worse" countries according to which ones are included in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Buzek pointed out that "this is an element of the inequalities that exist within the EU," and asked that the matter be resolved as soon as possible.

Sikorski has told the Polish public that he informed Secretary Clinton that Poland is the only member of the Schengen zone that is not included in the VWP. "I had a feeling that it made a big impression on the secretary of state. She promised to ask the American consular services to look into this issue again," he stated. Sikorski also stressed that for the time being, the American consular services should grant more visas for Polish citizens, but at the same time, Polish citizens should obey American laws and not overstay their visas.

GET IN LINE? A top cardinal is revealed two have recommended that the beatification of John Paul II should be postponed until previous popes have become saints.

"It's better to postpone John Paul II's beatification until other popes are beatified," Cardinal Angelo Sodano wrote two years ago, the Italian daily *Il Giornale* has revealed.

In 2008, Sodano, the former Vatican Secretary of State, refused to testify in John Paul II's beatification process and wrote a confidential letter to father Slawomir Oder, postulator of the cause of beatification.

The letter reads: "In my opinion, John Paul II led a life of a holy man (...). Some may, however, doubt whether the beatification process should take precedence over ongoing processes of Pius XII and Paul VI."

The main part of John Paul's beatification process was closed in December 2009 when Pope Benedict XVI signed a decree on John Paul II's heroic deeds. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints is currently examining John Paul's miracles.

SPECIAL CONVENTION OKs MERGER. The Polish Union of USA held a Special Convention in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. to vote on a merger with Grand Central Council of Pennsylvania Catholic Beneficial League. After discussion, delegates unanimously approved the merger.

The second item of business was the proposed Constitution and By-Law changes, which were deemed necessary prior to the regular Convention scheduled for September of this year.

General Secretary Charlotte Androckitis gave a brief report on the fiscal health of the fraternal, which boasts an assets to liabilities ratio of 117.02%.

ZLOTY TAKES A TUMBLE. Economic turmoil in Greece and on Wall Street had repercussions on the Polish zloty.

The value of the Polish zloty continually decreased in early May, with no signs of the fall abating.

Witold Kozinski, deputy chief of the National Bank of Poland, has assured that there is no need to be wary about the zloty's fall, as its value is still close to a balanced rate of exchange.

Economist Marek Zuber believes that the zloty's weakening is nothing to be alarmed about, as Poland's economy is still growing and as such a weaker zloty is better for market investment.

Problems will be seen by Poles who have mortgages taken out in foreign currency, most commonly the euro or Swiss franc, as monthly payments are to increase thanks to the zloty's fall.

Komorowski Leads in Polls

WARSAW — Over sixty well-known politicians, public figures, actors and sportsmen, have formed a committee in support of Civic Platform's candidate for president of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski.



KOMOROWSKI

"An honorary committee will be the *crème de la crème* of the Polish society," a member of Komorowski's electoral staff told the *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper.

So far Komorowski — well ahead of rivals in opinion polls — has received support from Solidarity leaders who initiated democratic transformation in Poland, including former PM Tadeusz Mazowiecki and President Lech Walesa and former foreign minister Władysław Bartoszewski. Apart from political back-up, Komorowski has also received support from celebrities such as actor Daniel Olbrychski and four-time Olympic champion in race walking Robert Korzeniowski.

Other candidates in the June 20 election include former prime minister Jarosław Kaczyński, leader of SLD Grzegorz Napieralski and PSL's Waldemar Pawlak. (*thenews.pl*)

Donation Speaks Volumes



FALL RIVER, Mass. — Under President Washington's gaze, the Polish American Citizen's Club of Tadeusz Kosciuszko in Fall River, Mass., donated three books to the Fall River Public Library. The books were bestowed in honor of Polish Constitution Day.

Above, Paula Costa Cullen, administrator of the Library, accepts a copy of Aleksandra Gorska, Monika Karolczuk, and Roman Marcinek's "Poland, A Complete Guide" by from Peter Ramut, Jr., Chairman of the Book Selection Committee of the Kosciuszko Club. Also donated were "Poland" by Renata Grunwald-Kopec, and "Poland, Home of a Thousand Year Old Nation," by Janusz Dobesz.

Healing the Katyń Wound?

by Robert Strybel
 PAJ Warsaw Correspondent

WARSAW — Never was there more hope that an issue poisoning Polish-Russian relations since the early 1940s might finally be resolved within the in the foreseeable future. The Kremlin has never been so open about Joseph Stalin's 1940 Katyń Massacre of 22,000 Polish officers or so willing to share hitherto secret documents with Poland. This change of heart did not come about as a spontaneous awakening, however.



It was forced on Moscow by the politically awkward and embarrassing tragic demise of Poland's top political and military elites in a Soviet-built plane on Russian soil while en route to a Katyń commemoration. The Katyń controversy which Russia had held under wraps suddenly got publicized by the world media like never before.

Russia's top leadership suddenly decided to launch what observers have described as a "charm offensive". The Smolensk tragedy unleashed in Russia both a grass-roots and official outpouring of sympathy and solidarity with the Polish people. Whereas Iceland's volcanic-ash

See "Katyn," page 3

Poland's Biggest Re-enactment Ever

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW—Up to 200,000 spectators, including numerous Polish American tourists will be headed for northern Poland's Mazovia (Konrad Mazowiecki) committed probably the greatest blunder in Polish history. He invited the Teutonic Knights, an order of German warrior monks, to protect his realm against the invading pagan Prussians. They came, started to take over and soon had created a fortified Teutonic state that would prove a serious threat to the Slavic and Baltic nations until 1945, when German East Prussia was finally liquidated.



By 1410, Poland and Lithuania had their fill of Teutonic expansionism and a major confrontation became inevitable. Under the command of Poland's Lithuanian-born King Władysław Jagiełło, a huge army of Poles, Lithuanians and Ruthenians confronted the Teutonic troops of

This year's event, however, will be extra special, because it marks the 600th anniversary of the July 15, 1410 battle that in many ways changed the course of European history. To understand its significance, we need to go back nearly two centuries to 1226, when Duke Conrad of Mazovia (Konrad Mazowiecki) committed probably the greatest blunder in Polish history. He invited the Teutonic Knights, an order of German warrior monks, to protect his realm against the invading pagan Prussians. They came, started to take over and soon had created a fortified Teutonic state that would prove a serious threat to the Slavic and Baltic nations until 1945, when German East Prussia was finally liquidated.

See "Grunwald," page 4

Fr. Orzech New PAPA President

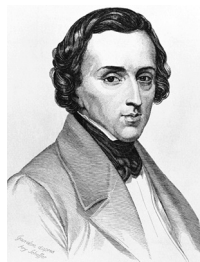
CLEVELAND — Members of the Polish American Priests' Association (PAPA) met for their 21st annual convention, April 12-16, 2010, on the campus of the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan to celebrate that institution's 125th anniversary.

Elections for the Executive Board and Board of Directors were held. Elected were: Fr. Eric S. Orzech, Diocese of Cleveland — president; Msgr. Peter Zenzian, Diocese of Brooklyn — vice-pres.; Fr. James L. P. Miara, Archdiocese of New York — sec.; and Fr. Walter J. Ptak, Archdiocese of Detroit — treas.

PAPA's Board of Directors will be: Very Rev. Canon Thomas Michalski, (Brooklyn); Fr. Marek Kaminski, (Syracuse); Fr. Miroslaw Krol, (Newark); Fr. Nicholas Cofaro, (Saginaw); Fr. Walter Rakoczy, (Gary); Fr. Maciej Melaniuk, (Metuchen); Rev. Msgr. Daniel Plocharczyk, (Hartford); Very Rev. Canon Joseph Sredzinski, (Greensburg); and Fr. Robert Witkowski, (Detroit).

ALMANAC

June • Czerwiec



"I'm a revolutionary, money means nothing to me."
— Fryderyk Chopin

- 1 1798. Polish playwright and author **Julian Niemcewicz** visits George Washington at Mt. Vernon.
- 3 **FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI** (Boże Ciało).
- 4 1872. Death of famed Polish composer **Stanislaw Moniuszko**, (b. 1819), Polish composer best known for his opera "Halka."
- 5 1674. **Jan III Sobieski** elected King of Poland.
- 6 1818. Death of **Jan Henryk Dabrowski** (b. 1755), Polish general and military hero who organized the Polish Legion in Italy in 1797.
- 8 1997. Canonization of **Queen Jadwiga** (Hedwig) in Krakow by Pope John Paul II.
- 12 1915. Death of **Jozef Brandt**, painter of portraits and Bible scenes.

Glód najlepszy kucharz. Hunger is the best cook.

- 13 1982. Polish labor union **Solidarity** strikes in Wroclaw, Noua Huta, and Gdansk, Poland, in protest of martial law.
- 14 **FLAG DAY** (U.S.)
1940. First transport of Polish prisoners arrives at Auschwitz Nazi death camp.
- 15 1940. **Nazi Germany** establishes the Auschwitz death camp at Oswiecim, Poland.
- 17 1696. Death of **Jan III Sobieski**, who defeated the Turks at the Battle of Chocom near Vienna, and is credited with saving Europe from being overrun. 1861. The first telegraph message is sent from an airborne balloon by **Thaddeus Sobieski-Lowe**.
- 19 1873. Death of **Valerian Sulawski**, Polish American military engineer for the Confederacy.
- 20 **FATHER'S DAY** (U.S.)
1793. Birth of **Aleksander Fredro** (d. 1876), Polish dramatist noted for his comedies.
- 22 1940. **Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski** establishes Polish government-in-exile in London.
- 23 **Sobotka. St. John's Eve**. This Polish midsummer festival of pagan origin is celebrated with bonfires and with candlelit wreaths set afloat on rivers. It is believed that the forest comes to life this night.
- 24 **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**
1838. Birth of **Jan Matejko** (d. 1893), considered Poland's greatest painter of historical scenes, his works are in Warsaw and the Vatican.
1886. Birth of **Fr. Justin Figas, OFM**, founder of the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour.
- 25 1807. Napoleon sets up Polish "state" of the Duchy of Warsaw.
- 26 1295. **White Eagle** made symbol of Poland.
1940. Death of **Ralph Modjeski** (b. 1861 Rudolf Modrzejewski), famed American Polish-born architect and bridge builder.
- 27 1927. Birth in Warsaw, Poland of **Gen. John Shalikashvili**, U.S. Chief of Staff in the Clinton Administration.
- 28 1919. **Treaty of Versailles**, making Poland a free nation, signed by I.J. Paderewski today.
- 29 1941. Death of pianist, composer, and statesman **Ignacy Jan Paderewski**, 80, in New York City.

This paper mailed on or before
May 29, 2010
The July 2010 edition will be mailed on or before **July 1**.

VIEWPOINTS

A Positive Outcome From the Tragedy

by Jagoda Urban-Klaehn

I was shocked by the news of the tragic airplane accident that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski and many important people in Polish political life.

Poles could not believe the news they heard. They spontaneously gathered in the centers of towns to comfort each other. How could a tragedy of this proportion happen? Why were so many important people flying together in one plane?

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk was not in this plane. Here in Idaho, people asked me how the Polish government can function after the tragedy. I assured them it will be fine. The Polish president does not have the same powers as the U.S. president, although he is not just the figurehead like in Germany or the British queen.

The Polish government is mainly in the hands of prime ministers and department ministers. Still, this was a tragedy of immense proportions.

It was hard for me personally since I live so far away from my friends and family in Poland. The U.S. news

channels informed us scantily about the Polish tragedy. Can you imagine if this had been a terrorist attack? The news channels would talk about it all the time.

Some bloggers already believe the conspiracy theories that Russia wanted to harm Poland again, like in the past. On the contrary, I and many others believe that this terrible tragedy may strengthen the Polish-Russian relationship.

Maybe the wounds that were opened by many years of distrust will heal. The response of Russian President Medvedev was immediate and full of frank compassion. Russians promised full cooperation, and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Tusk hugged each other at the place of the catastrophe, something hard to imagine a couple of years ago.

Did the world need a tragedy of this proportion to learn about the Katyn tragedy? Just as the Katyn tragedy was a source of tension between Poland and Russia, perhaps the Smolensk tragedy can help to heal these wounds.

Fr. Dabrowski's Dream Lives On

By Rev. Timothy Whalen
Chancellor, The Orchard Lake Schools

With the blessing of Pope Leo XIII and the permission of Bishop Casper Borgess, the archbishop of Detroit, the cornerstone of what was to become known as "The Polish Seminary" was laid on July 22, 1885, in the building that was being constructed on the corner of Forest St. and St Aubin Avenue. On that occasion, the founder of the Orchard Lake Schools, Fr. Joseph Dabrowski, shared the vision that was in his heart with all those who had gathered for that historic moment. He said, "I have in view the education of the Polish candidates for the priesthood and the education of others, so that they may be on par with other young men in this country... We Poles have the right to enjoy complete liberty in this country, but liberty cannot be enjoyed fully by uneducated people. The better a people is educated, the better they enjoy liberty and the better citizens they become of America... I deem the erection of this seminary more necessary than the building of expensive churches. Intelligence only makes men free."

Today, 125 years later, we have the opportunity to experience and celebrate how Fr. Dabrowski's dream has unfolded and been realized. Since 1885, over 3,000 priests have been educated and formed through the combined programs of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's College and St. Mary's Preparatory. Presently on campuses both at Orchard Lake and Krakow, Po-

land, the seminary is educating 63 students, preparing to serve as priests in over a dozen dioceses throughout the United States, and St. Mary's Preparatory, with an enrollment of 480, is preparing young men from over 7 countries to be the future leaders of tomorrow in commerce and industry.

Not even Fr. Dabrowski could have imagined 125 years ago how many thousands of hearts, minds and souls would be touched and formed by the students who would be educated through his schools, and only God knows how many lives have been influenced by a graduate of the Orchard Lake Schools, but as the psalmist says, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us belongs the glory, but only to You."

Thank you for your support.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Orchard Lake's quinquicentennial will be celebrated this July 22-23 beginning on the 22nd with a Mass at 2:00 p.m., celebrated by the Archbishop of Detroit, Allen Henry Vigneron. A banquet at the campus will follow. The next day, the 58th Annual Founder's Day will be observed with a Golf Outing, Royal Jubilee Banquet, and Party. Tickets for Thursday's Banquet are \$125.00 each. Friday tickets are \$250.00 each for all three events; \$200.00 if you are just attending the Banquet and Party.

To make your reservations, please call (248) 683-0530 or e-mail OLSM125@orchardlakeschools.com.

From the Editor's Desk

THANK YOU. I would like to thank all who took the time to send the PAJ photos and stories of their community's memorial Masses for the victims of the plane crash in Smolensk, Russia. Unfortunately, we cannot fit all of them in the paper. Please note, however, that your work is appreciated.

PAPER LATE. We received many complaints about late delivery of the April (Easter) edition of the PAJ. The paper was mailed from Buffalo's main post office on Holy Thursday with hopes of reaching readers the week after Easter. This was announced in the March edition of the PAJ, which is why stories pertaining to Easter

preparations were published in that edition.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A SUBSCRIBER? We will soon begin preparing for our 100th anniversary. Part of those observances will be looking for the person who has subscribed to the PAJ the longest. If you have been a long-time subscriber, send us a note. We'd love to hear from you.

SPREAD THE WORD. Is your library receiving a copy of the Polish American Journal? You can do your part to help promote our heritage by giving a gift subscription to your local branch. There is a discounted library rate, too. Call (800) 422-1275 for more information.

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QUOTES

Katyn Still Dominates Headlines

compiled from news sources

"This is an opportunity to use the term 'genocide' in the European Parliament ... Poland and all other European countries judge the murder at Katyn 70 years ago to be just that."

— Polish Parliament member **Marek Migalski**, one of the authors of proposed legislation to the statement is Polish MEP from the Law and Justice party, who wants the 1940 Katyn Massacre to be renamed the Katyn Genocide. Russia is against the term and does not want to rename the event, as this would unleash legal powers in international courts and open up individuals to prosecution.

♦ ♦ ♦

"There is a sign that this is the tip of the iceberg."

— Slavic studies scholar and expert **Ewa M. Thompson** of Rice University in Houston, on the Soviet government making public its Katyn Massacre records. Part of the "iceberg," according to Thompson and other experts, is the details of U.S. complicity in the crime's initial cover-up and past efforts by the U.S. government to suppress what it knew about Katyn.

♦ ♦ ♦

[Because the former Soviet state was a victor over Hitler's Germany, crimes like Katyn are a] "cultivated blind spot ... No matter what (Poles) are given, it won't be enough. This was a horrific crime. None of the people were ever punished."

— Soviet Union expert and analyst **Paul A. Goble**, on Russia admitting its guilt to the extent desired by most Poles.

♦ ♦ ♦

"The media conveyed an ugly caricaturization of Kaczynski as hopelessly dim, old-fashioned, awkward, out-of-touch, and even ill or troubled by alcoholism. Kaczynski always walked the upper road with regard to his unfair treatment by the media. Much to the chagrin of his advisers, Kaczynski never dignified the libelous attacks with any official response. The result, many now realize, was a grossly inaccurate public image of a man who was, in fact, wise, decent, honest, and very kind to people."

— **Kathryn Gronostalski-Jeffrey**, in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune.

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An Interview with Author James Conroyd Martin

by Arleta Sziler
Host of Polish Magazine
Radio Program

A. I have to admit "Push Not the River" is one of the best books I have ever read! The subtitle states that this is a novel inspired by a true story. It is a gripping tale of love and loss, not just on a personal scale, but on a national scale. So I decided to invite the author, Mr. James Conroyd Martin, to tell a bit about this book.

Sir, Welcome to Polish Magazine...

J. Hello, Arleta, I'm happy and honored to be here.

A. The main character, a beautiful, teenage girl suddenly loses her parents. This is Anna Berezowska in 18th century Poland. Who is Anna Berezowska?

J. Anna Berezowska was a real person, a countess who was coming of age at the time of the Third of May Constitution in 1791. She lived with her parents in Sochaczew, a town a little east of Warsaw. When both of her parents die unexpectedly, Anna is taken to Halicz in Southern Poland, now the Ukraine, and there she starts a new life with an aunt, uncle, and two cousins, Walter and Zofia. It is then that she begins keeping a diary in which she describes the troubling personal events that confront her, as well as the tumultuous events that confront her beloved Poland. It is Anna's diary that provides the basis for my novel "Push Not the River."

A. Luckily for her, she meets a young count, John Stelnicki, and falls in love with him—happy end?—oh no, because this young man disappears, Anna is brutally raped, left to die ... She survives this ordeal, and later finds herself pregnant.

J. Yes, life becomes far from perfect, and her cousins Walter and Zofia in Halicz are not what they seem to be. Zofia, especially, creates

schemes and crises that are harmful to Anna while Walter is a brutish mercenary soldier for Catherine of Russia, a longtime enemy and occupier of Poland.

A. Her relatives help her to get married fast, then her new husband wants to kill her. . . she is taken hostage. . . sounds like a horror story. Hey, wait a minute; this is a true story, right?

J. It is true. Although Anna is in love with Count Jan Stelnicki, he disappears, and she is found to be pregnant as a result of the attack. Her well-intentioned Aunt Stella and selfish cousin Zofia counsel her to marry quickly. The husband they have in mind is interested not in Anna, but in her inheritance of land and money. It is not a happy union.

A. Please tell, why did you give this title "Push Not the River"?

J. In her diary Anna used quite a bit of folk wisdom and several proverbs. I found this proverb myself and liked it. The full statement is "Push not the river; it will flow of its own accord." In her life Anna must learn just when to push against events and when not to push.

A. Yes, especially for her is to live, or to die. You can classify it as a historical fiction, but what is historical, and what is fiction?

J. Anna wrote only casually of the momentous historical events of the period, so I knew I had to insert the political and social milieu in which she lived. The personal events in the novel are mostly true to the diary. Occasionally, I had to add depth to characters and provide them with their final scenes. But the big moments—like the rape, her cousins' deceit, her husband's attempt on her

life and the end of her marriage, a reunion with her true love, and the Russians' massive assault on Warsaw in 1794 which killed some 12,000 innocent citizens, including women and children—are based on true events.

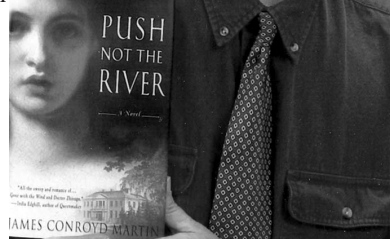
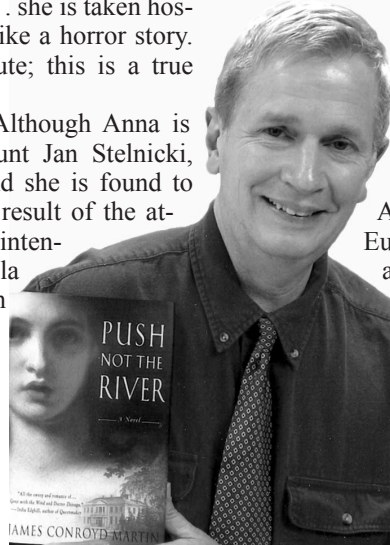
A. Empress Catherine the Great of Russia, along with other neighbors, partitioned Poland in the late 18th century. At the time of Anna Berezowska, Europe was in turmoil, and soon wars were conducted by Napoleon of France. Polish people see this time as chance, and it heavily supports Napoleon, when he fights Poland's neighbors.

J. Yes, this is where my second book, "Against a Crimson Sky" comes in. Poles hoped that if they supported Napoleon in his effort to impose an egalitarian Europe, he would help Poland regain its nationhood and independence.

A. Napoleon fails ... not only Poles, but also a Polish woman very close to his heart, Lady Maria Walewska and you placed her in "Crimson Sky."

J. Some say Maria Walewska was Napoleon's great love. She gave him his first son and he probably would have married her, if not for his ambition to create a dynasty by marrying Marie Louise, the daughter of the Emperor of Austria.

A. Our heroine Anna is proud and resilient, so she survives ... as does Poland, at that time, not literally on the map, but in the hearts of her true sons and daughters ... again Lady Berezowska fits in perfectly with her patriotic life and brave heart.



Katyn: "We, Russians, have done that."

continued from cover

cloud scared most world leaders away from the state funeral of President Lech Kaczyński and his wife, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev felt it his duty to attend. He also kept reiterating that it was Stalin and his comrades who bore responsibility for the Katyn crime.

More importantly, he put his money where his mouth is by ordering Katyn documents onto the Internet for the first time. "Let people see it. Let them know who made the decision to kill the Polish officers. It's all there in the documents. All signatures are there, all the faces are known," Medvedev explained. Historians from both countries have had access to these documents for many years, but their online publication marked a major departure from previous practice.

Within a short space of time millions of Russian net surfers visited the website of the Russian State Archives and could see the Katyn death warrant. This was an official note from NKVD (secret police) chief Lavrenty Beria suggesting the liquidation of the "incorrigibly reactionary and anti-Soviet" Polish officers captured by the Red Army. Stalin and his top henchmen affixed their signatures to it, giving the NKVD the official go-ahead to do the deed. Russians can now view that document at: www.rusarchives.ru/publication/katyn/01.shtml.

Although the above and six other key Katyn-linked documents had been known in Poland since 1992, when then President Boris Yeltsin handed them over to his Polish counterpart Lech Wałęsa, Medvedev also turned additional Katyn-related files over to Poland and pledged that Russia would continue the declassification process with regards to the remainder. The families of Stalin's victims are hoping they include the names of several thousand slain Polish officers still missing and unaccounted for. They are believed by many to lie buried somewhere in Belarus.

The Katyn wound has festered since 1943, when invading Nazi troops found more than 4,400 corpses of murdered Polish officers in Katyn Forest near Smolensk. Stalin blamed the Germans for the atrocity and, when the London-based Polish Government-in-Exile demanded an international investigation, broke off diplomatic relations with it. For four and a half decades after Stalin imposed a Soviet-style puppet regime on

Poland, Poles were beaten, jailed, fired or otherwise persecuted for questioning the "Katyn Lie" ascribing the crime to the Nazis.

In an address due to be delivered minutes after the fatal Smolensk plane crash cut short a national 70th-anniversary pilgrimage to Katyn, President Kaczyński was to have said: "Concealing the truth about Katyn became a cornerstone of the PRL (Stalin's puppet state officially known as "the Polish People's Republic"—RS). People paid a high price for remembering the truth about Katyn (...) And Katyn has become a painful wound in Polish history, poisoning relations between Poles and Russians. Let us make sure it can finally heal. We are already on that path. We, Poles, appreciate Russia's actions in recent years. We should go further along that path bringing our two nations closer."

Little could President Kaczyński know it would take a national tragedy of unprecedented scope for Moscow to significantly revise its stand on the atrocity. Medvedev actually echoed Kaczyński's views, when he called Katyn "an example of the falsification of history." And added: "We, Russians, have done that. (...) If we turn a blind eye to the crimes, they may happen again in the future. These crimes have no expiry date and those who committed them should be punished, no matter how old they are."

Although the change in tactics had been forced upon the Kremlin by circumstances, it may nonetheless help improve two-way relations. However, it would seem a bit naive to believe that Russia has changed its long-term strategy of restoring the prestige, pride and confidence of the big-power status it first achieved under Stalin during and after World War Two.

Above all, Moscow will probably continue to reject all attempts to equate Katyn with a war or political crime, let alone genocide. The Kremlin fears that not only the descendants of Katyn victims might start demanding damages before international tribunals, but they could well be joined by the families of millions of Ukrainians starved to death in Stalin's artificially induced 1930s famines. And ethnic Russians themselves might stand up and demand justice, since the majority of those killed or sent to labor camps in Stalin's purges had been their relatives.

J. Yes, Anna's pride, resiliency, and strength are the perfect metaphor for a peaceful Poland forever being invaded by other countries.

A. Now I want to know, if you plan to write a third book? We would have a trilogy.

J. Yes, indeed, it will be a trilogy. The third book will take the story to 1829 when Poles staged yet another uprising against their oppressors. It is tentatively titled "The Warsaw Conspiracy."

A. The books have been translated into Polish. How have they been received in Poland?

J. Extremely well. Both books have become bestsellers in Poland.

I would be very pleased if "Push Not the River" was made into a movie—is this just my dream; do you have any information about that?

J. It will make a wonderful movie! It was optioned for a while, but the producer was unable to obtain the funds. I'm convinced it will happen one day.

A. How people can get hold of

your two books?

J. The books in English are published by St. Martin's Press and are available at bookstores and at online stores like Amazon or Barnes and Noble or www.polamjournal.com. If a bookstore doesn't have them in stock, they can easily order them. The Polish translations should be readily available in Poland and at Polish bookstores in the United States and Canada. I should also mention that I have more information and a little video available on my website at www.JamesCMartin.com. I encourage your readers and listeners to visit the site.

A. Excellent. Thanks for being my guest and we'll be waiting for "The Warsaw Conspiracy," and maybe, who knows, the movie!

J. Thank you very much, Arleta! Arleta Sziler is host and producer of Polish Magazine/Magazyn Polski, a bi-lingual talk show in the Windsor/Detroit area (Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. (ET) @ 99.1 FM CJAM) www.cjam.co; e-mail: polish.magazine@cjama.ca.

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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. thanks our generous supporters, who, for over 30 years have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. We are able to bring many children who needed life-saving surgery or procedures to the United States. This past year, 14 children have been operated on by Dr. Edward Malec, who has relocated to Munich, Germany, from Poland. We purchased needed equipment requested by Pediatric Hospitals in Poland. Once again, thank you, we were able to fill some of these heart-rendering requests received from orphanages throughout Poland. This list for aid is long, but with your continued support, we will be able to provide Polish children with the precious "Gift of Life." For more information, please call (516) 746-1532.

Matejko Masterpiece Undergoing Conservation



VISITORS TO WARSAW'S NATIONAL MUSEUM this summer are likely to be disappointed. Several weeks before the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald, which saw Polish and Lithuanian forces defeat the German Teutonic Order on 15 July, 1410, Jan Matejko's canvass *The Battle of Grunwald* will be taken off its frame for conservation.

The conservation project will take 18 months to complete, and will be conducted in the exhibition hall where the picture is currently on display. Art lovers will be able to watch the conservators at work.

A 3D reconstruction of the canvas by the prominent animation artist Tomasz Bagiński will also be on view.

Completed in 1878, *The Battle of Grunwald* is the largest of Matejko's paintings, measuring 32x14 feet. It is regarded as a masterpiece of battle scene painting.

The director of the National Museum, Piotr Piotrowski, told a press conference that the painting is to be shown at a major exhibition documenting the 1000 years of Polish-German history, to be held in Berlin in the autumn of 2011.

Grunwald: Biggest Re-enactment Ever

continued from cover

Germans and mercenaries from Western Europe. As a result of repeated clashes between mounted knights in armor, foot soldiers and rag-tag peasant warriors, there were heavy casualties on both sides, but ultimately the might of the Teutonic Knights was crushed, and their commander, Ulrich von Jungingen, fell in combat. The Teutonic Order never recovered its former power, although it did manage to retain most of its castles and territory.

THE BATTLE OF GRUNWALD has long played an important role in the Polish nation's collective memory, especially in times of persecution at German hands such as during the partitions or the Nazi occupation. The monumental painting "Bitwa pod Grunwaldem," by Poland's great historical painter Jan Matejko (1838-1893) and the historical novel "Krzyżacy" ("Knights of the Cross") by Nobel Prize-winning novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916) served to uplift Polish spirits during foreign subjugation. The 1960 film "Krzyżacy," based on the Sienkiewicz work, was one of Poland's first historical blockbusters.

Back in the Middle Ages, the joint struggle against a common foe brought the Polish and Lithuanian nations closer together and set the stage for the eventual creation of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, a sprawling land empire which was to become Europe's biggest state. For two centuries it would experience a golden age of military prowess, prosperity and flourishing culture.

This year's 600th anniversary has provided both countries with a unique opportunity to create a unique tourist attraction. Tourist officials in both countries are busy creating a Battle of Grunwald trail. There will be historic stops along the way in the Polish cities of Gdańsk, Malbork, Sztum, Kwidzyn, Olsztyn, Toruń, Płock, Kraków and Grunwald itself. On the Lithuanian side of the border, historic sites will include such places as Vilnius, Trakai, Kaunas, Birštono, Alytus, and Perloja.

But Polish authorities are still divided over how to develop the Grunwald site itself. Plans include the creation of a campground and 1,000-seat amphitheater. Some want to create something in the spirit of a Disneyesque theme park. Others feel that would cheapen a major historical event and prefer a more traditional museum instead. Whatever is ultimately decided, let's hope the facilities are ready in time for the tourist influx in mid-July.

Discover Poland, Visit Re-enactment

This year commemorates the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald in Poland and the Polish National Youth Baseball Foundation has organized a nine-day tour from July 9 to July 18, 2010. The program will include round trip airfare from New York to Warsaw, First class hotels, transfers, two meals daily, transportation, sightseeing excursions, English speaking escort and guides. The cities on the tour are Warsaw, Zelazowa Wola (home of Composer Frederick Chopin), Czestochowa, Auschwitz (former German concentration Camp), Wadowicz (birthplace of Pope John Paul II), Krakow (Medieval City of Wawel Castle), Zakopane (Tatra Mountains), Wieliczka (ancient salt mine), Dziedlów and Grunwald for the reenactment of the defeat of the Teutonic Knights.

For information call Al Koproski at (203) 323-9944. Tour cost is \$2740.00 per person with a single room supplement of \$480.00.

New Pulaski Police Prez

NEW YORK — The Pulaski Police Association of the New York City Police installed Deputy Inspector **Peter J. Bartoszek** as its president. The occasion also honored late founders of the organization's scholarship fund, Chief **Joseph Veyvoda** and Officer **Anthony Pierzgalski**. Chief of Detectives **Phil Pulaski** was named "Pulaskian of the Year."

Battle of Kluszyn Event 1610

The 400th anniversary of the Battle of Kluszyn 1610 re-enactment will be celebrated this July 3 and 4th outside of Warsaw, Poland.

For two years a young Warsaw businessman Bartosz Siedlar has been organizing this major battle re-enactment which will include re-actors from around the world.

Siedlar, the founder of The Hussaria Foundation (www.hussar.com.pl), promotes the legendary winged hussars knights of the 17th century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Kluszyn, near Moscow, was a decisive Polish victory where 3500 hussars defeated 35,000 Muscovites, this led to the Polish capture of Moscow.

The event has some exciting and unique entertainment planned. Merchants crafts, clothing, arms, armor and food. Visitors can meet soldiers, camp followers, musicians and nobles from many diverse Central and Eastern European cultures. European, American, Australian re-actors and colorfully dressed Polish nobles will be found throughout the encampments, battlefield and merchant village. Warsaw officials estimate over 100,000 visitors.

Military and equestrian demonstrations, entertainment, a banquet and evening concert are planned, as is a mounted procession to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Royal Palace and Polish Army Museum.

For the battle there will be 80 mounted Polish winged hussars, 50 Muscovite cavalry and 500 infantrymen. Cossack trick riders, mounted archers and hussars will show their skills with sabers and lances while infantry demo with pikes, muskets and cannons.

Eryk Jadaszewski of Polish Hussar Supply Plus escorts the Hussaria Tour of Poland each year which includes visiting the Kluszyn event. The tour will visit major Polish cities, castles, palaces and museums with emphasis on the hussars as well as the Tatra Mountains and raft ride through the Dunajec Gorge.

For more info contact jrjada@myfairpoint.net or (603) 563-8054.

Lewandowski Retires

BLASDELL, N.Y.— **Brian M. Lewandowski**, editor of *The Empire*, the official publication of the AMVETS Department of New York, announced his retirement. He

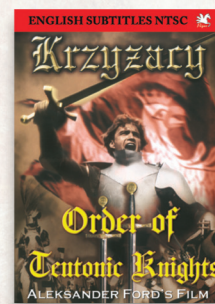
held the position for six years.

Lewandowski will still remain active with the veterans' group, as he oversees its JROTC/ROTC program.

The Polish American Journal Presents Battle of Grunwald 600th Anniversary

Battle of Grunwald Combo Pack Get a copy of *Knights of the Teutonic Order* on DVD, and the *Battle of Grunwald Black Tee* shirt in any size for only \$29.95!

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The Battle of Grunwald happened on July 15, 1410, and is considered one of the most important battles of Medieval Europe. King Jogaila (Wladyslaw II Jagiello) lead an alliance between the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, against the knights of the Teutonic Order. The Teutonic Order was decisively defeated in this battle and never regained their previous power.

Jan Matejko's "Battle of Grunwald"



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WORLD WAR II / Zamość under German Occupation 1939-1945 / Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

The Future of Zamość Takes Shape

Part V

In July 1941, SS chief Heinrich Himmler made a visit to Lublin and ordered SS Major General Odilo Globocnik, the SS and Police Leader in the Lublin district, to construct a concentration camp in Lublin for 25,000 to 50,000 prisoners who will be utilized on construction projects in the interests of the SS and police. Following the choice of a site on the east/southeast side of town, near the suburb of Majdan-Tatarski, construction on the camp began in early October with the arrival of around 2,000 Soviet POWs. The concentration camp was called Majdanek.

During that same visit Himmler also issued another major directive. He writes "the action of searching for German blood will widen throughout the General Government and near the German colonies in the region of Zamość, a large new region of new settlements will be opened." (Madajczak, C. Zamojszczyzna – Sonderlaboratorium SS Zbiór dokumentów polskich i niemieckich w okresu okupacji hitlerowskiej. Ludowa Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza 1977 p.28)

The "searching for German blood" was based on the fact that over the centuries many Germans had migrated and settled throughout central and eastern Europe. Large populations of ethnic Germans could be found in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, Russia, the Balkans and in Poland as well. The Germans came to Poland during the partitions of Poland during the 18th century by Russia, Prussia and Austria. Empress Maria Theresa of the Austro Hungarian empire received

the southeastern portion of Poland which was called Galicia during the partitions. This region included the Zamość district. In 1784, Emperor Josef II, son of Maria Theresa, encouraged the immigration and settlement of Germans into Galicia. Thousands of families emigrated into Galicia, mostly out of the Palatinate (now called Rheinland-Pfalz) and from the Alsace Lorraine region and settled in newly-founded German communities or in the cities as craftsmen and artisans. The rich and powerful Zamoyski family who owned large tracts of land and numerous villages allowed Germans to settle in the Zamość region.

Following the invasion and occupation of Poland, Himmler, as head of the Office for the Consolidation of German Nationhood and entrusted with the task of executing the General Plan East (exterminating, enslaving or expelling non-aryans living in their conquered territories and resettling the evacuated areas with Germans and people of German origins) took an interest in the Zamość region.

Knowing of the existence of settlements with German roots in the Zamość region, the Germans searched and studied archival documents in Austria to determine how many individuals and in which villages the Germans had settled back in 1784. The archives listed 151 families with 732 individuals. They found that in the villages located in the north of the Zamość, the German language had died out completely. Many with German names were completely assimilated as

Poles. In the villages to the south, however, near Tomaszów, a Palatinate dialect was still spoken by some of the elderly and German traditions were sporadic but present.

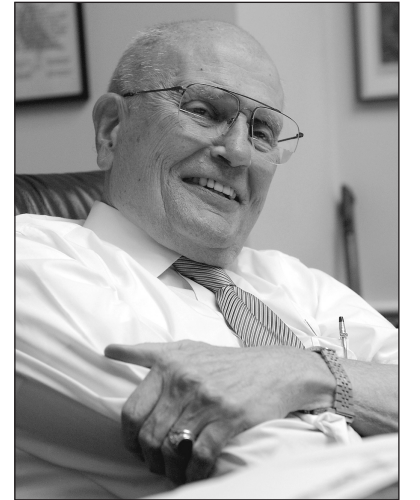
Following the invasion and occupation of Poland, Himmler took an interest in the Zamość region.

Reichsführer SS Himmler toured the villages himself and under the slogan of "recovery of German blood" issued directives to his henchman Odilo Globocnik, to continue searching ethnic Germans — Polish speaking Germans and Poles of German descent — and make every effort made to have them re-Germanized. The Nazi government termed such ethnic Germans *volksdeutsche*, regardless of how long they had been residents of other countries.

The future of the Zamość region was looking grim. Polish properties would be confiscated, the owners and their families would be expelled from their homes and sent to the newly constructed concentration camp called Majdanek or further away to Auschwitz to work or to die, be transferred to Germany for employment as farm workers or industrial laborers, have their children be snatched away from their parents to be Germanized if deemed racially valuable or would die of cold and starvation in transit camps. Zamość would be replaced by Germans and become a pure German region.

OVERHEARD

A Great Big Polish Smile



"We finally did it. This is an extraordinary bill. If you're looking at me, you're seeing a great big Polish smile."

— John Dingell (D-Mich.), at the signing of the Health Care Bill. At their victory news conference following the vote, Democratic leaders gave a place of honor to Dingell, the House's longest-serving member. Dingell followed his father into a Detroit-area House seat in 1955 and — like his father — has introduced universal health legislation throughout his career.

POLAND FIGHTS / Douglas W. Jacobson

70 Years Ago ...

Death in the Forest; Wierzbicki's Determination

continued

The Polish officers knew they were in trouble when the train stopped.

At first it was quiet. After a time some began to pray, some cursed. But most stood in silence in the dark interior of the boxcar, waiting. They were officers, their pride untarnished in defeat. And they waited.

From outside, heavy boots marched on the gravel rail siding, dogs barked, and soldiers shouted orders in Russian.

The doors of the boxcar were pulled back, grinding and scraping on rusty tracks, and the officers filed out as instructions blared over loudspeakers.

Autobuses arrived, their windows blackened, their rear doors open wide like the jaws of serpents. Inside the buses were cages, one Polish officer per cage, thirty officers per bus. The doors slammed shut.

Darkness.

A rutted road led deeper into the forest, out of earshot, away from prying eyes . . . away from everything.

Names were recorded in books that would never see the light of day. The officers' hands were bound with wire, a rope around their necks.

A narrow path disappeared into trees, still deeper into the forest.

It was a crisp, clear April morning. Birds flitted about, flowers were budding, the forest awakening. The grass was wet with morning dew, the air heavy with the dank odor of moss . . . and the stench of death.

A Russian stood near an open pit, a gaping hole, an obscene scar on the pristine landscape.

A Polish officer was led to the

edge of the pit. He stopped and looked at the Russian. Their eyes met for an instant. The Russian looked away.

A second Russian stepped up from behind, a pistol in his hand. It was easier if he didn't have to look them in the eye.

A gunshot echoed through the silent forest.

The birds flew away.

The Russian made a check in his log. There would be thousands more checks before it was finished.

According to *the Order*.

FOR KAROL WIERZBICKI there was never any doubt that the struggle would continue. An officer cadet and a graduate of the Infantry Officers School in Komorow, Wierzbicki was quickly forced to put his training into practice against both the German and Russian armies. In late September of '39, while on an expedition into Hungary in search of arms and supplies, Wierzbicki's unit became trapped following the fall of Warsaw.



Wierzbicki managed to escape from the internment camp and made his way to the Polish consulate in Budapest where he passed himself off as a student. He left Hungary, traveled through Yugoslavia and Italy, and arrived in France in January of 1940 where he reported to the Polish Army Reception Station in Bressuire. Wierzbicki received the rank of second lieutenant and subsequently volunteered for duty with the Polish Independent Highland

Rifle Brigade. By mid-April he was on a troop ship bound for Norway and the battle of Narvik.

As the only ice-free port in the North Atlantic and the main conduit of iron-ore shipments from Sweden to Germany, Narvik was of strategic importance to both the Germans and the Allies. After two large-scale naval battles during April and May, Narvik remained in German hands despite the fact that most of their ships had been sunk. It was now clear that this rugged, mountainous region would have to be taken by land forces.

Wierzbicki and the other troopers of the Polish Highland Brigade arrived in Norway during the first week in May. After a long and difficult march through the mountains they were immediately thrust into battle near the city of Bjerkvik. In a bloody two-day battle the Poles succeeded in driving out the German forces and re-taking the city. They were then deployed to the Ankenes peninsula in preparation for the final thrust against Narvik.

The main attack began at midnight on May 27 with a naval bombardment from seven British Navy ships. French troops attacked Narvik from across Rombakensfjord while the Polish Highland brigade attacked from Beisfjord. Twenty-four hours later the Germans were forced to withdraw and Norwegian troops began landing at Narvik. The battle for Narvik had been won but the victory was short-lived. On May 31, with the fall of France imminent, orders were issued for Allied forces to evacuate Narvik.

The Highland Brigade reluctantly sailed back to France. Caught up in the chaos of the French defeat,

Wierzbicki, along with hundreds of other Polish soldiers, was not evacuated to England. Instead he was sent to a labor company in the Vichy Government.

But he would not give up. In 1942 Wierzbicki made contact with the clandestine Polish Evacuation Service in the Pyrenees Mountains and helped escapees from German POW camps and downed Allied airmen escape from France to England.

In 1943 Wierzbicki was arrested by the Gestapo and sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp where he was beaten and tortured. He was eventually transferred to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where he managed to survive until the camp was liberated in 1945. Although the war was technically over, Wierzbicki pressed on. He made his way to Italy and joined the 2 Polish Corps with the hope of one day returning to a free Poland.

Douglas W. Jacobson is the Polish-American author of the award-winning book, *Night of Flames: A Novel of World War Two*. *Jacobson has been a frequent contributor to this newspaper and has written a second historical novel set in Poland in World War II which will be released in May, 2011.*

DID YOU KNOW? "Czech nymphing" — a method of fly fishing now used all over the world — has its roots in Poland. Czechs developed a fashion of casting Polish-made nymph flies. The Woven Polish Nymph is one of the most complicated flies to tie, but its realism makes it a deadly target for fish.

ACPC To Recognize Korczak Ziolkowski



Teresa N. Wojcik, president of Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia.

by Jo Louise Winters

The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) held its Spring 2010 Board Meeting in Philadelphia. Pres. Debbie Majka and Teresa N. Wojcik, Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia president, cooperated to make the weekend meeting a memorable and interesting event.

Among the many topics discussed was the ACPC's 2010 Convention, scheduled for July 14-17 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Co-Chairs Debbie Majka and Richard Wiermanski selected the Convention theme "Carving a Dream" to recognize the accomplishments of the Korczak Ziolkowski family in creating the Crazy Horse Monument. A lot of exciting tours are scheduled — Crazy Horse Monument, Mt. Rushmore, Deadwood City, and Bear Country USA. Members and guests are welcome.

For further information please visit www.polishcultureacpc.org or call Debbie Majka (215) 627-1391 or Mr. Wiermanski (410) 798-7512.

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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY. 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. Requested equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and 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. For information call 732-680-0680 or 732-341-5044
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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Golgotha of the East to be Unveiled

The plaque "Golgotha of the East" will be unveiled at St. Joseph Church in Central Falls, R.I. on Sunday, June 13, 2010, during the Mass at 11:00 a.m.

The plaque commemorates all Polish citizens from the Polish Borderlands victimized by Nazi and Soviet regimes during and after World War II. The victims include prisoners of war executed in the forests of Katyń, Mednoye, Kharkov and other places. It also includes thousands of Polish prisoners who perished in the NKVD execution and torture cells. Finally, it includes 1.6 million civilians deported in cattle cars to Siberia, Kazakhstan, and other parts of the former Soviet Union.

Polish communities in New England, who dedicate this plaque, wish to preserve the history of the ethnic cleansing of Polish citizens. "We believe that many of these innocent and yet so desolate people, by carrying the Cross of Golgotha through the Soviet Gulag system, gained deeper understanding of the meaning of the suffering of Christ," said Szymon Tolak Szymon Tolak of the Polish Cultural Foundation from Boston.

A reception will follow the unveiling ceremony. Short talks by victims or their families will be presented by parish deacon Rev. Mr. Marek Dadlez and Rev. Lucjan Królikowski, OFM, both survivors of the deportations to Siberia.

For more information, contact Maria Lomżyńska de Ris; e-mail: maria.deris@verizon.net; phone: (508) 698-0648.

A MARTYR REMEMBERED/TO BE BEATIFIED. One of the 108 Polish martyrs beatified by Pope John Paul II on June 13, 1999 was **Bro. Gregory Frąckowiak** of the Divine Word Missionaries. Born in Lowecice, Poland, he entered the Divine Word Missionaries in 1938 and specialized in bookbinding at the order's press. The Nazi Gestapo took over the residence in Gorna Grupa and imprisoned all the priests and brothers. The priests were then shipped to a concentration camp, while Bro. Gregory was able to flee to his family home. The Nazis eventually forced him to work at their printing press but he was arrested for printing anti-Nazi materials. He persuaded his fellow arrestees to blame him for the deed. This led to his imprisonment in Fort VII, a Nazi camp in Poznań where he was beaten repeatedly when he refused to implicate any others in the printing scheme. Finally he was transferred to Dresden, Germany, where he was beheaded on May 5, 1943.

On June 6 **Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko** will be beatified in Marshal J. Piłsudski Square in Warsaw, Poland. The assassinated chaplain to the members of Poland's Solidarity movement under Martial Law was declared a martyr by Pope Benedict XVI on December 19.

STO LATTO ... Chicago's Auxiliary **Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki** on being appointed as the ninth bishop of the RC Diocese of Springfield, Ill. Both a civil and a canon lawyer, Bishop Parocki received degrees from Chicago's DePaul Univ. Col-

lege of Law and the Pontifical Gregorian Univ. in Rome. He served as a pastor, an adjunct professor of law at Chicago's Loyola Univ. Law School, an Episcopal Vicar in Chicago, and the president of the Chicago Legal Clinic, which provides legal services to the poor.

Orlando, Florida's **Bishop Thomas G. Wenski** on being appointed Archbishop-designate of Miami, to be installed there on June 1. "Aware of my shortcomings," he said, "I once again ask the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, that I may worthily fulfill my new duties as the fourth archbishop of Miami."

MEDJUGORJE STUDIED. The popular Bosnian pilgrimage site Medjugorje has long been the subject of debate between its Franciscan overseers and the bishop of the diocese. Questions over the authenticity of the claims of the visionaries to have witnessed repeated appearances of the Blessed Mother stand at the heart of the matter. The Vatican, which up until now has kept its silence, has recently appointed a commission to investigate the alleged apparitions. Among the 16-member commission are **Fr. Zdzisław Kijas**, OFM Conv, relator of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and **Msgr. Krzysztof Nykiel**, officer of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and secretary to the commission.

POLISH CATHOLIC PAPER FINED FOR ABORTION EDITORIAL. The Catholic weekly *Gość Niedzielny* in Katowice was fined 25,000 Euro by the European Court of Human Rights and ordered to apologize to Alicja Tysiąc, mother of three who sought to abort her third child on the grounds that the pregnancy affected her eyesight. Abortion is legal in Poland if the life of the mother is in danger, the baby is seriously malformed, or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. The newspaper's editorial commented, "We are living in a world where a mother is granted an award for the fact that she very much wanted to kill her child, but was forbidden to do so." **Msgr. Józef Kloch**, spokesman for the Polish episcopate, commented on the ruling, saying, "This verdict makes us see how the pro-abortion lobby intends to stealthily introduce in Poland abortion by request."

MOTHER TERESA STAMP. A stamp commemorating Mother Teresa will be issued by the U.S. Postal Service, Sept. 5, at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. This comes despite efforts of the Freedom from Religion Foundation to disparage Blessed Mother Teresa and her message of love and respect for life.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... The Orchard Lake Schools celebrating its Quasiquintennial year (125th) with a Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations on June 2. The monstrance to be used will be one of the six monstrances blessed by the late Pope John Paul II. On the same day the Orchard Lake Schools

will host the archdiocese of Detroit's Annual Clergy Appreciation Day with a banquet in honor of the priests' ministry.

Permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of Detroit celebrating the anniversaries of their ordination and ministry: 30 years — Deacon **Donald Junak**, St. Louis Parish, Clinton Township; Deacon **Norbert Motowski**, All Saints Parish, Detroit; 10 years — Deacon **Gerald Smiggell**, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Sterling Heights.

ARCHBISHOP NYCZ DEFENDS THE POPE. Warsaw's Archbishop **Kazimierz Nycz** said the Church should take notice of individual tragedies and treat sex-abuse cases very seriously, but at the same time, he criticized the media for "targeting the whole church, targeting the pope, and to that we must say 'no' in the name of truth and in the name of justice."

SCHOOL HOSTS VOCATIONS DAY. Students and faculty at **Our Mother of Perpetual Help School** in Ephrata, Penn., participated in a daylong Vocations Day on the feast of St. Joseph. Among the presenters from area clergy and religious congregations was Benedictine Sister **Serafina Sarnowska** who shared her Polish heritage with the students. Sr. Serafina, a native of Poland, now helps nurse and tend the elderly Redemptorist priests at St. Clement's Mission House in Ephrata. She described them to the students as "wounded soldiers of Christ."

POLISH ORATORY FOR SALE.

Fr. Richard Csizmar, pastor of Holy Family RC Church in Albion, N.Y., is looking for a buyer for the former **St. Mary's Assumption** church which served Polish Americans in the area from 1893 to 2007, when it was merged with a larger parish and changed in status to an "oratory." The pastor has come the realization that it cannot carry the costs of maintaining the underused edifice and has put it up for sale.

TREES BLESSED. **Fr. Thaddeus Bocianowski**, pastor of St. Adalbert Basilica in Buffalo, N.Y., blessed 90 newly planted trees in the neighborhood around the church. The planting is the seventh seasonal re-foresting project undertaken by Re-Tree Western New York.

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PAJ Pays Its Respects at Polish Embassy



PHOTO: ARTUR ORKISZ

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Richard P. Poremski, Polish American Journal Washington Bureau, is shown above on Sunday, April 18, 2010 in the Blue Salon at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. He is signing the official Book of Condolences on behalf of the Polish American Journal, its editor Mark Kohan and staff, and the newspaper's entire readership, conveying their collective sorrow and grief over the deaths of President Lech Kaczynski and the other 95 victims of the Smolensk, Russia airplane crash near Katyn Forest on April 10, 2010.

Poremski, also representing the membership of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation in Baltimore, Md., as its chairman, was present at the embassy by invitation to view the hours-long state funeral of President Kaczynski and his wife Maria, being broadcast live from Krakow, Poland via satellite TV, with large screen projection. The American Polish Forum, led by President Artur Orkisz, sponsored the early morning somber gathering under the auspices of Ambassador Robert Kupiecki.

Eye on the Ball



NEW YORK — The Kosciuszko Foundation Ball was held in the Waldorf Astoria's Main Ballroom on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Among those attending (pictured above) were Ilona Stawski and Ben Stefanski of Cleveland Ohio; CBS Host and Special Correspondent Rita Crosby; Dr. Julian Kulski, trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation from Washington D.C.; Al Koproski, trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation; and Patricia Koproski, past chair of the National Polish Center in Washington, D.C.

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MODLITWY

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS. The Polish American Journal gladly accepts prayers ads for publication. They must be received by the 10th of each month, prior to the month of publication, and must be pre-paid at the cost of \$15.00 each, which can be paid by check or charge. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call 1 (800) 422-1275 or (716) 312-8088.

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

PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved, preserved and glorified throughout the world now and forever. The Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the Helpless, pray for us. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude for prayers answered. S.K.

TRAVELOGUE / Staś Kmiec

The Mystery and Mystique of Wawel: Spirits, Souls, Saints, Martyrs, and Ghosts

TALES, BELIEFS AND SUPERSTITIONS. Kraków has legends, history and heritage that are profoundly and proudly Polish and at the very heart of the European historical and cultural experience. Legends have accumulated over the centuries. There are legends, and there is history. Kraków is a magical city, and Wawel is a source of much of that mystery and mystique.

Wawel Hill is the heart of Poland, a place where the kings were crowned, ruled, and laid to rest inside the cathedral. Ghosts of these kings are believed to haunt the castle to this day. Once each year, it is said that the ghosts of kings and princes meet in an underground chamber. Led by the first crowned king, they gather when the Zygmunt bell announces the end of the vigil of Christmas Eve and the joy of Christmas Day. The recounting of this ceremony is said to have been witnessed two hundred years ago by a castle keybearer.

Kings have always been fond of creating myths, and at Wawel they burnished those of both themselves and their saints. By investing their domains with a knights-of-the-round-table spirit, they struck a beguiling, romantic chord that often captured the hearts of their people. Not all of Poland's monarchs lived up to this Arthurian ideal and several take their place among history's eccentric rulers, but Wawel remains a powerful symbol of the country's history.

A legend associated with the castle recalls the nobles who gathered by a nearby window (at 25 Kanonicza St.) to observe, secretly, a future king while he was having his bath: they wanted to make certain that he was endowed with the resources to sire another royal generation.

In the castle there is a large banquet table. On this table is the burnt hand mark – allegedly of the devil. There is a belief that if one should touch this hand mark the devil shall be seen by day's end.

THE HOLY STONE. As a child, King Kazimierz had claimed he went into one of the cavernous tunnels of Wawel Hill and found a glowing mysterious stone that contained unusual energy and protects Krakow from invasion and harm. The legend has a connection with the Hindu god Shiva, who threw the seven magic stones to the seven sides of the world. According to Hindu belief, there are seven chakra points on the planet, and one of them just happens to be situated in undergrounds of the western wing of the castle, in the St. Gereona chapel. The others are in Delhi, Mecca, Delphes, Jerusalem, Rome and Velehrad.

Here there is negative ionization, which influences general relaxation. For a long time, the Hindus who visit the city to experience the chakra radiation sense a slumbering vibration and pulsating cosmic force. The vibration emits an extraordinary magnetic aura, which influences its surroundings. metaphysics is intertwined with life.

COURT JESTER'S GHOST. King Zygmunt I the Old's jester Stańczyk, and is believed to haunt the castle. Whenever Poland is in danger, Stańczyk's spirit is seen along the battlements. Stańczyk (1480–1560) was the most famous court jester in Polish history. He was employed by three Polish kings: Alexander, Zygmunt the Old, and Zygmunt August.

Some historians believe that "Stańczyk" was a diminutive of "Stanisław Gąska," the jester's true name. Others maintain that Gąska was in fact, Stańczyk's less talented colleague.

Stańczyk is considered to have been much more than a mere entertainer. He is remembered as a man of great intelligence and a political philosopher – gifted with formidable insight into Poland's current and future situation. He used his job to criticize and warn his contemporaries by the use of satire. His witty jokes often pertained to current political or court matters. Stańczyk's remarks and jokes were preserved by numerous contemporary writers and historians, including Łukasz Górnicki, Jan Kochanowski, Marcin Kromer,

and Mikołaj Rej who praised him for fighting hypocrisy in the name of truth.

Stańczyk became a popular historical figure in Polish literature after the partitions in 1795. Some writers treated him as a symbol of Poland's struggle for independence; others provided him with rather Shakespearean traits.

Stańczyk was also one of Jan Matejko's favorite historical figures and he appears on



One of the greatest icons in Polish history: Matejko's "Stańczyk."

a number of his paintings. Matejko, giving the jester his own facial features, created the popular image of Stańczyk that is familiar to most modern Poles. The painter always depicted Stańczyk with a very concerned and reflective look on his face, in stark contrast to his cap 'n bells and other jester's gear. The most notable appearance of Stańczyk in literature is in Stanisław Wyspiański's play *Wesele* (The Wedding) where the jester's ghost visits the Journalist. At the end of their conversation, Stańczyk gives the Journalist his jester's marotte and tells him to "stir the nation," but not to "tarnish the sacred things, for sacred they must remain." Wyspiański reinforced Stańczyk's role as a symbol of patriotism and skeptical political wisdom.

ARCHAIC BONES OVER THE GATE. Like the rest of Wawel Cathedral's exterior, the entrance is picturesque. The gable is carved with the Piast eagle, and there is a small figure of St. Stanisław, to whom the church is dedicated. The massive prehistoric bones suspended by chains just to the left of the door have been there since the early Middle Ages. Supposedly they are the bones of Krak's dragon; others think it is of a race of giants that inhabited the hill. In fact, they are the shin of a mammoth, the skull of a rhinoceros, and the rib of a whale. The bones are supposed to have the power to avert evil and protect the cathedral. According to legend, should the bones should fall, the existence of the world be in peril.

WAWEL CATHEDRAL – THE HEART OF POLAND. "The sanctuary of the nation... cannot be entered without an inner trembling, without an awe, for here – as in few cathedrals of the world – is a vast greatness which speaks to us of the history of Poland, of all our past." – Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, March 8, 1964

The moment you enter Wawel Cathedral (also known as the *Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Stanisław and Waclaw*), you know you're in a place overloaded with history. Without monumental dimensions, it fits snugly into the limited space of the hill. Stylistically it is heterogeneous; but this is the very heart of Poland – the country's national shrine. Along with Gniezno it is not only the most sacred of Polish churches, the coronation site and a necropolis of Poland's monarchs and national heroes; it is also a monument of architecture which bears an imprint from every epoch of the country's history.

The building of the first cathedral began in 1020, during the reign of Bolesław Chrobry (the Brave). Few relics from that structure have survived. It was followed by the Władysław Herman Romanesque cathedral built between 1075 and 1142 – its surviving elements include the Crypt of St. Leonard and remnants of two towers. The growing importance of Kraków as the capital during the reign of Władysław Łokietek made it necessary to build a larger one. Work on the Gothic basilica based on Kraków style, commenced

in 1320 and took several decades, being completed during the reign of Kazimierz the Great. Renovation and remodeling was done from the 17th century until the 1930s.

Beginning with Władysław the Short, the cathedral has been the coronation site of all the Polish monarchs except the last, Stanisław August, who was crowned in Warsaw. A coronation was a stately ceremony of immense religious and political significance. It began with

Chapel is one of the most notable examples of architecture in Kraków. Built as a tomb chapel of the last Jagiełłons, it was hailed by many historians of art as the most beautiful example of Tuscan Renaissance, north of the Alps. Financed by King Zygmunt I, the chapel was built between 1519 and 1533. A square-based chapel with a golden dome houses the tombs of its founder, as well as Zygmunt August of Poland and Anna Jagiełłonka.



The symbolic tomb of King Władysław III Warnencyk, whose body wasn't found on the battlefield at Varna

TOMBS. Poland's medieval monarchs were buried under the floor of the Cathedral below their sarcophagi. Those of the 16th, the 17th, and the 18th centuries were laid to rest in its crypts – that innovation was introduced by Zygmunt I. The monarchs were entombed together with their spouses and occasionally children.

Near the main entrance to cathedral, is the 15th-century late-Gothic sarcophagus of King Władysław II Jagiello made of red Hungarian marble. It is mirrored by the symbolic tomb of King Władysław III Warnencyk whose body wasn't

found on the battlefield at Varna. His effigy is of the Christian knight. At his feet (dressed in medieval footwear), there is a beautifully sculpted lion cub.

At the end of the north aisle there is the mid-14th-century sandstone sarcophagus (the cathedral's oldest), of King Władysław I the Short. His son, King Kazimierz III the Great, has his tomb on the other side of the High Altar; the late-14th-century red marble sarcophagus ranks among Europe's best sculptures of the period. In the middle of the south aisle is the sarcophagus of Queen-Saint Jadwiga carved in white Carrara marble with her grave insignia, wooden scepter and orb, displayed nearby.

Postscript: Following the recent airplane tragedy, President Lech Kaczyński and his wife Maria were buried in the vestibule of the Wawel Cathedral's Marshal Pilsudski crypt.

Sources: *Polska: Skarby Wieków, Legend-army Kraków, Poland's Beauty, Wealth and Power* (1939).

Next month: *St. Leonard's Crypt, Jadwiga and the Black Christ's Crucifix, Leaving Wawel and a night stroll through Kraków.*



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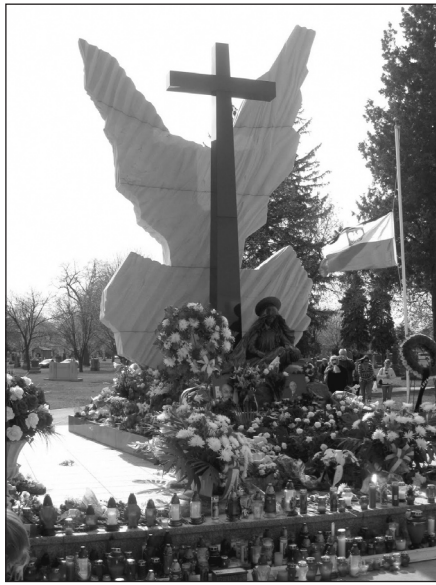
HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

Chicago Mourns

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA SOKOLOWSKI



Anna Sokolowski, Vice-Pres. PRCUA, Wojciech Seweryn, Gregorz Popielarz, Treas. *Wspolnota Polska*



Seweryn's Katyn Memorial, St. Adalbert Cemetery, Niles, Ill.



l. to r.: Frank Spula, Pres. PNA, Richard Owsiany, Consul General, Zygmunt Matynia, Ursula Pogorzelska, Union Steward, Judge Aurelia Pucinski, Tom Balanoff, Pres. SIEU Local 1, and Leszek Balczewski, S.J.

CHICAGO — An over-two mile solemn march took approximately 2,000 mourners to Holy Name Cathedral from Chicago's oldest Polish church, St. Stanislaus Kostka by way of Holy Trinity Polish Mission Church. Many participants wore traditional Polish costumes; some wore 18th century Polish military uniforms; and more wore black. Polish Catholics streamed into the standing-room only Cathedral, while hundreds stood outside, and the remaining dedicated crowd poured onto State Street and Chicago Avenue. This April 18 Mass was the culmination of a week-long series of memorial Masses and services throughout many Polish-language speaking parishes in Chicago. This Polish/English Mass was co-celebrated by Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, and Bishop Thomas Paprocki, Auxiliary Bishop. At the end of Mass, Cardinal George honored **Wojciech Seweryn**, the Chicago artist who died in the plane crash. Seweryn had been personally invited by President Kaczynski to fly aboard Poland's presidential plane to Smolensk. Wojciech, the son of a Polish officer killed in the Katyn Massacre, had a purpose in life: to educate people about the Katyn Massacre and to design and build a Katyn monument in the Chicago area to honor the Massacre victims. His goal materialized. On May 17, 2009, his project was dedicated at Adalbert Cemetery in

Niles, Illinois.

CONDOLENCES FROM WFMT FM RADIO AND PBS-TV CHICAGO.

On April 16, WFMT FM, Chicago's popular classical music radio station, memorialized Poland's and Chicago Polonia's tragedy by devoting a day broadcasting Polish composers and Polish music. The tribute began at 6 a.m. with Carl Grapentine, WFMT's Morning Program host, as he dedicated the first piece, Chopin's *Polonaise* in A Flat Minor and recorded by Arthur Rubenstein, to Chicago's **Wojciech Seweryn**. Throughout the day, announcements were made in Polish, a first for WFMT. Additionally, WTTW Channel 11, Chicago's premier public television station, broadcast the gripping one-hour documentary: *Katyn: Slaughter and Silence*. It aired at 9:00 p.m., April 30, the evening of the day in which President Kaczynski was to have begun his weekend visit in Chicago.

SEIU LOCAL 1 MOURNS POLAND'S PRESIDENT.

On April 15, approximately 200 members and staff of SEIU Local 1, along with guests, filled the largest meeting room of SEIU headquarters to mourn the loss of President Kaczynski, Maria Kaczynski, and the 94 others, who died in the tragic plane crash. Richard Owsiany, Director of Members Programs and liaison for Local 1 with the Polish community pointed out that "Local 1 was found-

ed in 1902 by a group of immigrant flat janitors and, included in this group, were Polish immigrants and African Americans." SEIU Local 1 has the highest concentration of Polish and Polish American members of any union in Chicago and is the largest union in the United States.

CHICAGO'S POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE.

The 119th consecutive Polish Constitution Day Parade had a subdued tone. President Lech Kaczynski was to be in town to participate in this year's parade, and to attend numerous civic and Polish celebrations. Approximately 150,000 people participated or watched while 119 floats, bands, Polish organizations, etc. marched up Chicago's Columbus Drive. Polish scouts carried black and white photographs of those who perished in the Smolensk crash. Viewers stood in silence. Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki stated, "Solidarity is a very important word in our Polish vocabulary." And Mayor Daley mentioned "...it is a very sad day, but it's also a celebration of the great commitment Poland has meant to the world." Maria Ciesla, President of the Polish Museum of America noted: "When Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, Warsaw Radio played Chopin's *Polonaise*, over and over, until the city fell." Anna Zolkowski Sobor, a Parade organizer, mentioned "in times of trouble, Polish people turn to Chopin."

Polish flags draped with black ribbons fluttered in the Lake Michigan breeze, and, indeed, the music from floats played Chopin.

POST NO BILLS - CONTEMPORARY POLISH POSTERS.

The Polish Museum of America posters' curator, Monika Nowak, collaborated with Professor Piotr Kunce, Director of the Poster Design Studio of Kraków's Academy of Fine Arts, to present one of the Museum's most exciting exhibits. On opening night, April 16, some 300 patrons filled the Museum's Great Hall to view 76 posters designed by 52 talented undergraduate and graduate students and their teachers. The posters came from the Academy of Fine Arts of Kraków, Katowice and Poznań. One did not have to be of Polish ancestry to enjoy such an exhibit. All one needed was an appreciation of the historical importance and beauty of Polish posters. The message of Polish posters was a subliminal political force especially during the Cold War. Each poster has a story to tell. This exhibit, once again, placed the Museum on the cultural map of Chicago. The originally-planned jazz performance was cancelled and replaced with a memorial tribute to

Poland's President Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and the other 94 who perished.

EUORPE VIA A FAVORITE MIX.

How fortunate The Polish Museum of America (PMA) was to be able to expose the talents of a student artist from the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań. That poster (right), designed by Maria Mileńko, which was part of the Museum's extensive poster exhibit, was the chosen winner of the Europe Day 2010 Poster competition. Over 2,000 contestants vied for the honor of having her/his poster seen throughout the entire European Union (EU) as it celebrated Europe Day on May 9, 2010. With over 400,000 votes to her name, Ms. Mileńko's poster was seen in all 27 member nations and published in 23 languages. This poster fosters the EU's values of peace and integration. In the United States, the embassies of EU members, the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Center, along with other U.S. institutions, held events from May 8 - 16 to celebrate Europe Day. These EU events were designed to create a clearer and better understanding of the European Union. Europe Day was created some 60 years ago. Now expanded, Europe Day is based on a respect for freedom and to identify each country and its

ties on June 22, with an installation Mass at Springfield's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Its gain will be Chicago's loss, especially for the Polish and Polish American community. The popular Paprocki could be seen at many Polish-orientated organizational events, be it a black-tie event, celebrating a Polish Mass, attending a church bazaar or marching in a parade. He made his cultural heritage mark by being a liaison between the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Polish and Polish American community.

Born and raised on Chicago's South Side, Thomas Paprocki earned his B.A. for Niles College of Loyola University Chicago, was ordained a priest in 1978, and went on to receive a doctorate in civil law from DePaul University in 1981. From the time of his ordination, Father Paprocki ministered at several parishes until 2003, when as pastor of the largely Polish-speaking parish of St. Constance on Chicago's Northwest side, Paprocki was named Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago of the Vicariate IV, by Pope John Paul II. Here he ministered to approximately 400,000 Catholics and 60 parishes. In Springfield, he will minister to 146,000 Catholics in 131 parishes.

His desire to help the poor was one of the reasons why he pursued a law degree and founded the Chicago Legal Clinic, formed to assist immigrants. Paprocki speaks Polish, Spanish and Italian, and, as he will

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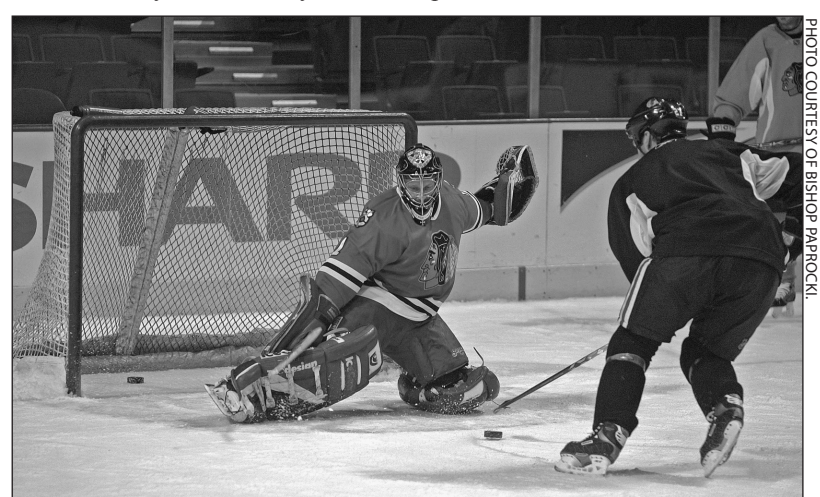


PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP PAPROCKI

Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago Thomas J. Paprocki will head the Springfield Diocese. One of his many passions is ice hockey.

people through their values, customs and languages. Ms. Mileńko's poster shows the mix of people, places and cultures.

"HOLY" HOCKEY GOALIE HEADS FOR SPRINGFIELD.

Thomas J. Paprocki, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, will head Springfield, Illinois' Catholic Diocese. Paprocki, a 57-year old Chicago native and appointed by Pope Benedict XVI, will begin his du-

teel you, reads Latin.

As an avid sports enthusiast, Bishop Paprocki has participated in 16 marathons since 1995. However, his favorite sport is hockey. Dubbed the "Holy Goalie," you can find Paprocki playing hockey weekly at the Chicago Park District's McFettridge Ice Arena. As a proud Chicago White Sox fan, don't be surprised if you see him running around Springfield wearing his White Sox baseball cap.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Western New York Summer Polish Festivals

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Summertime gives the Polonia Communities of WNY and CNY the opportunity to shine. This year, our area will host three large Polish festivals that promise to fill the air with the aroma of Polish cuisine and the sounds of Polish and Polish American music.

The Hamburg Fairgrounds will be the site of the 8th Annual **Polish Heritage Festival** on June 11 and 12. This year's theme is "Polish History, Culture and Traditions and the 120th Anniversary of the Polish Union of America". This festival's performers include the John Gora Band, Mon Valley Push, John Stevens' Doubleshot, Jerry Darlak & the Touch Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir, Matt James, Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY and Biedronka. A new attraction this year will be helicopter rides. More information on this festival is available at www.polfunfest.com.

Beginning on the same day as the Hamburg festival, but lasting one day longer is the 56th Annual **Syracuse Polish Festival** in Clinton Square in Downtown Syracuse. The Syracuse festival will feature Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra, the Salt City Brass, Knewz, Little Poland Dance Ensemble, Al Piatkowski, Fritz's Polka Band, Ashley Cox, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Lowicz Dance Ensemble, Lechowia Dance Ensemble, John Gora & Gorale, Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble, and Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men. This festival will include the awarding of ten scholarships, the crowning of Miss Polonia 2010 and the selection of the Pole of the Year. www.polishscholarship.com is the website for this festival.

The 32d Annual **Cheektowaga Polish American Festival** will be held in the Cheektowaga Town Park on Harlem Road from Thursday, July 15 through Sunday, July 18. The Cheektowaga festival will include performances by the Cheektowaga Community

Symphony Orchestra, Knewz, Polka Family Band, Rare Vintage, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Ed Blazonczyk's Versatones, Jerry Darlak & Touch, Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY, Eddie Olinski Orchestra with the Vignettes and John Kondal, and PhoCus. Rev. Fabian Maryanski will celebrate a Mass in the park on Saturday afternoon and the General Pulaski Association Parade will pass the park on Sunday afternoon. More information is available from the office of Cheektowaga Supervisor Mary Holtz at (716) 686-3465.

POLONIA TIDBITS. Cindy Baumgartner and Bill Podlewski addressed the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo on the subject "The Crazy Horse Memorial Sculptor: Korczak Ziolkowski" at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on April 21st ... **The Professional and Business Women of Polonia** elected the following leadership for the coming year: Chris Kibler (president), Mary Jane Wajmer (vice president), Marge Kubiak (treasurer), Barbara Wetzel (secretary) and Barbara Strzepka (historian) ... Polish Pianist **Igor Lipinski** starred in "The Unknown," a one-man show of music and magic, at Rochester's Geva Theatre Center from April 22 through May 2.

On the 23rd, the **John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre** in Mississauga, Ontario presented "Fryderyk Chopin: Piesni Wszystkie I Ich Historia" ... On April 24, **Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski** blessed the new PNCC Parish of Our Lady in Brant ... The **Polish Legacy Project - WWII** commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre with a rededication of the Katyn sculpture in the Buffalo City Hall and a screening of Andrzej Wajda's "Katyn" at the Market Arcade Theater on April 25.

"**Pani Minister Tancy,**" a Polish musical comedy, was presented at St. John Fisher College, and the **Professional and Business-**

men's Association's Memorial Mass was celebrated at Corpus Christi Church on the 25th ... **Rev. John Pawlikowski** lectured on "Jewish-Catholic Dialogue and the Impact of Pope John Paul II" at Canisius College on April 27.

On April 30, the Polonia Civic Center of Rochester marked **Polish Constitution Day** with its annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Rochester Hall of Justice ... WNET-TV, WNY's PBS affiliate, aired "Auschwitz: The Forgotten Witness" and "Imagine This" during April.

Tricia Andrzejewski, a seventh and eighth grade math teacher at the Buffalo Elementary School of Technology (BPS No. 6), has been selected to participate in the "Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy" program at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL ... **Ted Pietrzak** will be leaving his position as director of Buffalo's Burchfield Penney Art Center in October ... **The Buffalo-Rzeszow Sister City Committee** collected a Book of Condolences which was sent to the people of Rzeszow after the Smolensk air tragedy.

"**Quietude: Silent Contemplations of the Life Within,**" an exhibit of Polish art at Toronto's Art Square Gallery, closed on May 9 ... Polish documentary films, "A Man Came and Took Her," "Chemo," "Six Weeks," and "War Games and the Man Who Stopped Them" were presented as part of the Toronto "**Hot Docs**" Film Festival in early May ... WNET-FM 94.5, WNY's classical radio station, aired "**Exploring Music: Poland**" on May 10.

Erie County Judge **Thomas Franczyk** and **Harvey Kaminski** were honored for their outstanding service to the University at Buffalo Law School at the UB Law Alumni Association's 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on May 11, and Judge Franczyk will be honored as the Bar Association of Erie County's "Outstanding Jurist" at the BAEC's 123rd Annual Dinner on June 8. Clarence Town Su-

pervisor Scott Bylewski will also receive an "Award of Merit" at the BAEC dinner.

Bozenna Urbanowicz Gilbride and **Inge Auerbacher** signed copies of their book, "Children of Terror," at the Karpeles Museum in Buffalo on May 16 and Temple Beth Zion in Amherst on the 17th ... **The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo** heard a lecture on "Teaching English in Poland" by members of Pomost International at the Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst on May 19 ... The WNY Division of the **Polish American Congress** held its Sixth Annual Commemoration of Pope John Paul II's Birthday at St. Stanislaus Church on Buffalo's East Side on the 23rd.

Professional and Business Women of Polonia's Scholarship Dinner was held at the Kloc Banquet Facility in West Seneca on May 26 ... **The Polish Singers Alliance of America** held its 49th International Convention at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga during the Memorial Day weekend ... The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress honored **Polish American veterans** at a Memorial Day Mass at the St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga on the 31st.

The "**Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People**" exhibit at the Karpeles Museum on Porter Avenue in Buffalo will continue through the end of June.



If you have an item for this column, please send it by the 6th day of the month preceding the month in which you would like the item to appear (i.e. June 6 for the July edition) at: PO-LEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223. My e-mail address is: pietruszka@verizon.net.

For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes, including a calendar of upcoming events, an organizational directory and interesting links, visit my website at: www.polegl.org.

Polish Heritage Festival
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Polish and Polish-American Culture: Past to Present

This Year's Theme is...
Polish History, Culture and Traditions

ADMISSION \$5.00 Each Day

Youth through age 16 years receive FREE regular Festival admission when accompanied by an adult. Admission includes: entertaining shows, exhibits, Polish music, dancing, and more!

The Hamburg Fairgrounds
5820 So. Park Ave., Hamburg, NY
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For more information go online to:
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John Gora Band

Mon Valley Push

John Stevens' Doubleshot

Jerry Darlak & The Touch

Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir

8th Annual Polish Heritage Festival

Friday, June 11th 4 PM to 11 PM
& Saturday, June 12th Noon to 11 PM

Go to our website to learn about Polish Union of America's "Share the Treasure" Fundraiser!

New to this year's Festival
BEST POLISH-AMERICAN HISTORY EXHIBIT CONTEST!
Showcasing the richness of our history!

Matt James

Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble

Polish Heritage Dancers

Biedronka

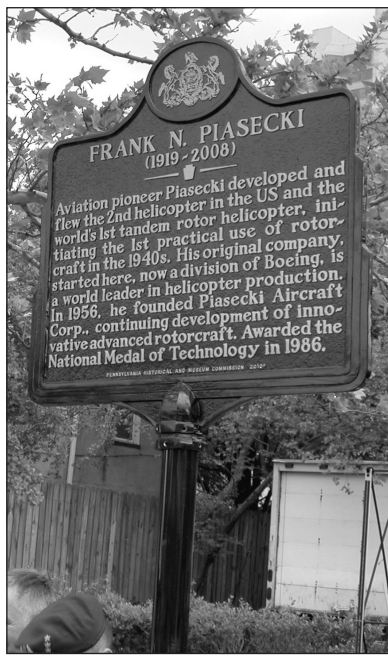
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NEW ATTRACTION!
Helicopter Rides

Philadelphia Honors Aviation Pioneer Frank Piasecki

by Jo Louise Winters

PHILADELPHIA—As 4:00 p.m. approached on Saturday April 17, a crowd began to gather on a blocked-off segment of Callowhill Street to witness the dedication and unveiling of the city's newest historical marker, placed at the site of helicopter builder and aeronautical pioneer Frank N. Piasecki's first engineering office. The ceremonies started on schedule with a presentation of colors by a Marine Corps honor guard accompanied by members of Polish Veterans Post 12. Then former Philadelphia City Councilman Joseph Zazyczny greeted the assembly of over 250 persons in the name of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia, an affiliate organization of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC). A moment of silence was observed to remember the victims of the airplane crash in which Poland's President Kaczynski and many prominent members of the Polish government died while on their way to Katyn. He was followed by Fred Piasecki, chairman



New marker on Callowhill St.

in London while on a business trip when flights were canceled due to the volcano erupting in Iceland.

There were topical speeches by



Event Coordinating Committee, (l. to. r.): Joseph and Marti Zazyczny; Janusz Romanski; Debbie Majka; Peter Obst

of the board of Piasecki Aircraft who stood in for his brother John, the company's president and CEO who was not able to attend, being

2008 and then chaired the committee organizing the event, filled in for the absent City of Philadelphia representative. He read the procla-

mation issued by Mayor Michael A. Nutter which, after praising Mr. Piasecki for his activities that created a helicopter industry in the Philadelphia area, declared that this day was to be celebrated as Frank N. Piasecki Day in the city. While cameras from three TV stations took in the scene, Mrs. Vivian Piasecki, widow of the great engineer, started to unveil the sign. She pulled a cord attached to a cover to reveal the following words in yellow-gold letters on a blue background:

FRANK N. PIASECKI
(1919-2008)

Aviation pioneer Piasecki developed and flew the 2nd helicopter in the US and the world's 1st tandem rotor helicopter, initiating the 1st practical use of rotorcraft in the 1940s. His original company, started here, now a division of Boeing, is a world leader in helicopter production. In 1956, he founded Piasecki Aircraft Corp., continuing development of innovative advanced rotorcraft. Awarded the National Medal of Technology in 1986.

The historical marker is registered under a trademark of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and is copyright protected. Photographs accompanying this article are used with permission. On dedication the marker became the property of the Commonwealth of the PHMC, which is now responsible for its maintenance.

In conclusion there followed an eight-minute video presentation on a truck-sized electronic screen parked at the end of the street. It was an excerpt from "An Innovator's Story" a film about the life and work of Piasecki.

Following was a post-dedication banquet at the Stotesbury Mansion, headquarters of the Catholic Philopatric Literary Society.

ARTSCENE / Staś Kmieć

Mazowsze Tour Update

There have been some additions and changes to North American Tour Dates for Mazowsze. The current schedule is as follows:

- November**
- 14 **Philadelphia**. Kimmel Center;
 - 16 **Utica, N.Y.** Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute;
 - 17 **Amherst, Conn.** Fine Arts Center;
 - 18 **Schenectady, N.Y.** Proctor's Theater;
 - 19 **Buffalo, N.Y.** Shea's Performing Arts Center;
 - 20 **Toronto, Ont.** Sony Centre;
 - 21 **Hamilton, Ont.** Hamilton Place;
 - 23 **North Bethesda, Md.** Strathmore Theater;
 - 27-28 **Chicago**. Symphony Center

December

- 3-4 **Detroit**. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts;
- 5 **Sandusky, Ohio**. Sandusky State Theatre;
- 8 **Worcester, Mass.**
- 9 **Baltimore, Md.** Hippodrome;
- 10 **Waterbury, Conn.** Palace Theatre;
- 11 **Bronx, N.Y.** Lehman Center for the Performing Arts;
- 12 **New Brunswick, N.J.** State Theater.

The PBS television special. *Mazowsze. The Music and Dance of Poland* will be rebroadcast in June in the New York City area and then nationally in August. The program will offer special ticket package options in the tour city locations.

NEWSWIRE

STORK POPULATION FALLS.

The effects of EU aid funds are scaring storks away from Poland, says Poland's bird protection society.

Grants offered to farmers for growing energy crops have caused traditional stork habitats in north-eastern Poland to dwindle, as thousands of acres of wetlands were dried for planting willow. The process was halted by environment protection authorities only last year.

"Tall grass has already grown on parts of the afforested land. Storks could not find food there and moved somewhere else," says Piotr Hryzko from a research station run by the Polish Bird Protection Society in Zykowo. Called "the stork village," Zykowo has seen its stork population fall by almost a half.

Polish birds are most likely migrating in search of food to Lithuania, Belarus and the Kaliningrad district, so much so that their number in north-eastern Poland declined

by 30 percent this year.

THIEVES ARE NO-SHOWS. Three Polish men convicted of stealing the famous Auschwitz "Arbeit Macht Frei" sign in December of last year did not show up for their prison sentences.

The men had been given compassionate leave following sentencing and before entering prison. Two are brothers who were visiting their sick mother; the other man was allowed to complete his wedding plans.

All three have now disappeared, according to Polish Radio, and a second arrest warrant could be issued by the District Court in Krakow. The men were sentenced to between 18 months and 36 months in prison.

The two other thieves remain in custody, and Swede Anders Hoegstroem, the middleman who allegedly arranged the theft, was extradited to Krakow in April.

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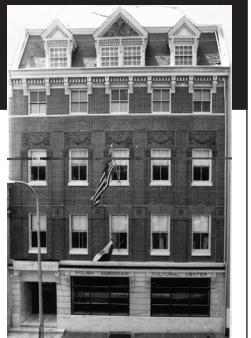
January through April • Monday to Friday

May through December • Monday to Saturday

Gift Shop is Open During Regular Exhibit Hall Hours

Closed on Holidays

Visit Us on the Internet: www.polishamericancenter.org



PAHA

www.polishamericanstudies.org

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 \$30.00.

I am interested in becoming a member of PAHA. Enclosed is a check or money order for \$30.00 made payable to the Polish American Historical Association.

NAME

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MAIL TO: PAHA, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT 06050

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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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35 Fernridge Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

32nd Annual POLISH-AMERICAN FESTIVAL
Committee presents
July 16TH-18TH 2010

Schedule Subject to Change Without Prior Notice

Thursday, July 15

7:00 p.m. Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra

Friday, July 16

4:45 p.m. The Knewz Orchestra - Buffalo, NY
6:00 p.m. Polka Family Band - Bloomsburg, PA
7:30 p.m. The Knewz Orchestra - Buffalo, NY
9:00 p.m. Polka Family Band - Bloomsburg, PA

Saturday, July 17

2:30 p.m. Rare Vintage - Buffalo, NY
4:30 p.m. Mass Celebrant & Homilist:
Reverend Fabian J. Maryanski, Pastor
ST. ANDREW PARISH, SLOAN, NY
Deacon Robert Badaszewski
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
Guest Choir - Quo Vadis • Honor Guard - St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly Color Corp #1944

5:30 p.m. Rare Vintage - Buffalo, NY
6:15 p.m. Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Cheektowaga, NY
7:15 p.m. Ed Blazonyk's Versatones - Chicago, IL
8:15 p.m. Jerry Darlak & The Touch - Buffalo, NY
9:15 p.m. Ed Blazonyk's Versatones - Chicago, IL
10:30 p.m. Jerry Darlak & The Touch - Buffalo, NY

Sunday, July 18

3:00 p.m. Polish Heritage Dancers - Buffalo, NY
4:15 p.m. Ed Olinski Orchestra - Cheektowaga, NY featuring The Vignettes & John Kondal
PhoCus - Buffalo, NY
5:45 p.m. Ed Olinski Orchestra - Cheektowaga, NY featuring The Vignettes & John Kondal
PhoCus - Buffalo, NY

PLEASE NOTE: All Performances Will Take Place At the Outdoor Cultural Center in Town Park on Harlem Road. Food Will Be Available During The Festival Catered By Ray's Catering, Nowak's Catering and Polish Villa. Demonstrations Will Be Featured Throughout The Weekend As Well. The General Pulaski Parade Will Take Place on Sunday, July 18, at 1:30 p.m. The Parade Will Start At Thruway Mall, Continuing North On Harlem Road, Ending At Town Park

SPONSORED BY Blue Cross Blue Shield of WNY, Trautman Associates, Phillips Lytle, LLP, AND IN PART BY JP Morgan Chase Bank

Polka MAGAZINE

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

POLKA JUKEBOX / Steve Litwin

Joe Walega is Still At It

Joe Walega of Chicago has been playing music for 60 years and his latest CD, "Come Let Me Kiss You," continues the style that he and the Happy Hearts have made their own. It is what could be called "Chicago backroom," from an era in

which the songs were familiar, the riffs well known and the musicians had been friends for years.

The 16 tracks offer some new Walega tunes and some that anyone involved with Polish polkas would recognize from the first few notes. Wally's "Drogi Tatusiu," "I Was a Painter" and "Musicians Play For Us" are found on this recording. The Medley collection here deserves special mention. "Pod Nogi Polka Medley," "Chicago Polka Medley," Chet's Oberek Medley, "Whoop It Up Polka Medley" and "Good Time Waltz Medley" bring together all those songs that will have everyone singing along.

Joe Walega is on vocals, with Keven Altenburg on clarinet and sax, Ed Ptaszek on accordion, Marty Drezek on trumpet, Steve Danielczak on drums, Bini Slowiak Husain on piano and Chester Kowalczyk on bass.

Come Let Me Kiss You by Joe Walega and his Happy Hearts is on Chet Schafer's Chicago Polkas label. To order, see ad on page 13.

Hall of Fame and Polka Music Awards Announced



Richie Gomulka



Pietrzak



THE MAESTRO'S MEN (l. to r.): Jackie Libera, Jim Motyka, Ken Yash, Dennis Polisky, Rich Bernier, and Andy Galarneau. The band took top honors for Best Song, Best CD, and Best Instrumental Group.

CHICAGO — The International Polka Association has announced the new Hall of Fame members to be inducted at a banquet on Saturday, August 7, 2010. The banquet takes place during the IPA's International Polka Festival at the Doubletree Ho-

tel in Independence, Ohio.

New Hall of Fame members include:

Living Category—**Richie Gomulka** and **Stephanie Pietrzak**, Deceased Category—**Richard Bobinski**.

The Music Awards for favorites in each category will be presented to: Male Vocalist—**Lenny Gomulka**, Female Vocalist—**Ania Piwowarczyk**, Song—**Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men** for "Don't Stop the Music," CD—**Dennis Polisky & the**

Maestro's Men for "Don't Stop the Music," Instrumental Group—**Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men**

The Hall of Fame inductee in the Pioneer Category will be announced at a later date.

POLKA INSIDER / Steve Litwin

Lineup Promises Polka Pyrotechnics

CHAMPION, Pa. — The annual Polka Fireworks festival, which takes place at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort each July, has become the event of choice for many of the core group of polka music lovers throughout the industry. This year's 36th edition of this multi-day spectacular offers 19 of the nation's top bands, poolside parties, "The School of Polka" polka workshops, the 27th annual Concertina Jam, after hour jam sessions, recording concessions, a Polka Music Mass with Henny & the Versa Js and more.

The Polka Workshops feature polka musicians from various bands meeting with enthusiasts of all ages to discuss, demonstrate and teach all aspects of playing and learning their instruments. Everything from practice to live performance, from blowing a note to bowing a string is highlighted on a personal level. People

are encouraged to bring along their instruments for these free, fun, afternoon workshops. Workshops take place in the Festival Hall, Friday and Saturday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This all takes place June 30 thru July 4, 2010 at the 14,000-acre Seven Springs Mountain resort in Champion, Pa., and that means you have almost every activity you can think of at your access. From lounges to restaurants to pools to lakes to golf to horseback riding to volley ball to great polka music, you'll find it all at Seven Springs.

The event is truly a family festival and vacation spot because of all the many activities available for all ages.

Bands scheduled and musicians scheduled to appear include: Ryan Joseph Ogrodny, Eddie Blazon-

czyk's Versatones, Alex Meixner, The Polka Family, Brave Combo, Stephanie & her Honky Band, Freeze Dried & The Icicles, Pan Franek & the PolkaTowners, John Gora & Gorale, Eddie Forman, The Knewz, Stas Golonka & The Chicago Masters, Ray Jay & the Carousels, The Dynabrass, Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Henny & the Versa Js, Lil John & the ATM Band, DJ Ken Olowin, Mon Valley Push, and Paul Herchko's Party Time.

The concertina jam, now marking its 27th year, is at the top of our list. What began as a small party in our hotel room has become a unique gathering of concertina players from all over the country. It is scheduled for the Matterhorn Lounge, starting at 11:30 a.m., Friday, July 2. Bring your box and we'll see you at "The Springs!"

Jimmy Sturr at Annual Onion Fest in Pine Island

PINE ISLAND, N.Y. — The annual Onion Festival is all set for Sunday, September 5, 2010, at the Pavilion.

Once again, Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra are booked. Also appearing will be the Janosik Polish Dance Ensemble from Philadelphia.

Pine Island and the surrounding area are noted for being the nation's "Onion Capital," raising nearly 30 percent of this country's onions.

Vendors are welcome and can exhibit by calling (845) 651-4266. Last year's festival was a huge success, drawing nearly 1,000 people. There will be plenty of traditional food available throughout the day. The event is held rain or shine.

"It's Polka Time" Now Heard in Montana

BOZEMAN, Mont. — Part of the new Sunday morning programming at KBOZ radio will be the sounds of happy, snappy polka music with the syndicated show "It's Polka Time!" Starting May 2, 2010, the show with Craig Ebel will be heard every Sunday morning at 6 a.m. (MDT) over 99.9 FM KBOZ in Bozeman, Montana. The addition of the show will kick off the new "Morning After Saturday Night" programming at KBOZ. Other shows scheduled include Old Gospel Shop, Main Street Blue Grass, Rick Jackson's Country Hall of Fame, and NASCAR.

Known as "9 Country," KBOZ has a 25,000 signal that covers a large area of Montana and reaches the cities of Helena, Butte, Ennis, and Big Timber. KBOZ Radio also streams their signal over the Internet at www.kboz.com.

It's Polka Time!, www.itspolkatime.com. is produced from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and is also heard on 21 other radio stations across the United States. Radio stations interested in broadcasting the show can request a demo by sending an e-mail to itspolkatime@hotmail.com. Polka bands and record labels interested in having their recordings considered for airplay can send their material to P.O. Box 32757, Minneapolis, MN 55432-0757.

POLKA MEMORIES / Jimmy K and Steve Litwin

If you have a special Polka Memory photograph to publish in the Polish American Journal, email : pajpolka@verizon.net. For more Polka Memories visit www.polkamemories.com.



CHET KOWALKOWSKI BAND, performing live in Florida, 1959. (l. to r.): Kowalkowski, Wayne Nelson, Dan Sadowski (d.); and Stan Szafarski (d.).



JIMMY WEBER and VINNY BOZARELLI of The Sounds Polka Band. Dick Pillar's Polkabration, New London, Connecticut, 1980. The band is reuniting for a cruise next March. Weber is now a member of the Full Circle band.



HAPPY EDDIE'S POLKA JESTERS, Mother's Day Dance 1959 at Polonia Banquets (l. to r.): Chet Kowalkowski, Eddie Blazonczyk, and Stan Sarafinski. The hall was owned by Antoinette Blazonczyk, Eddie's mother. Chet is 19 years old in the photo, and Eddie is 17.

POLKA PATTTER

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Prepared and Distributed by the
Polonia Media Network

It may be an unusual mixture, but it apparently makes sense to the owners. The **Europe Dance Club** at 7245 W. Archer Ave. in Chicago started featuring polkas on Sundays, 6:00-10:00 p.m., alternating at times with tamburitza music. It's best to check ahead to see what's happening on any particular Sunday.

The **Steve Drzewicki Band** has been booked for one of the "Polka Mondays" at the Little River Casino in Michigan. It happens on Monday, July 12, 4:00-8:00 p.m. Drzewicki said, "We're honored that they asked us to play, and be part of their stellar polka band lineup. It's been many years since we played at a casino, so we are pumped." Information about the casino and Polka Mondays can be found at www.littlerivercasinos.com/entertainment/grovelounge.php.

The **Florida Honky Band** will be doing the "Reverse Snowbird Senior Citizen Tour," Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, September 4, 2010, in Buffalo, N.Y. The East will be treated to a taste of Dyno-style polkas from the Sunshine State. Details regarding the tour will be announced at a later date.

It seems that it's never too soon to start telling fans about upcoming events. **Full Circle** has announced that its Polka Cruise will take place March 11-19, 2011, for 8-days, visiting four ports including Aruba, Curacao, Grand Turk and La Romana. The cruise leaves from Fort Lauderdale.

Each year **Polkas for Charity**, an ongoing charitable effort by polka musicians spearheaded by Ted Borzymowski, hosts a polka event to raise money for a needy cause. This year, the focus was autism and the organization Autism Speaks. On April 25, a special benefit dance was held at Blob's Park in Jessup, Maryland. Charm City Sound and Praise 'N' Thunder provided live music.

Tony Blazonczyk and New Phaze Come to Town



Tony Blazonczyk: looking like dad.



Buffalo native Jan Cyman enjoyed his hometown trip.



John Furmaniak (accordion) is the newest member of New Phaze.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Hi, everyone. Make that "hooray," because my favorite season is almost here. I sure do hope we will have an enjoyable summer. I'm sure we are all looking forward to the outdoor activities!

Denise Finan, our local representative from the **United State Polka Association**, gave me the list of winners for this year's USPA awards: Male Vocalist – Lenny Gornulka, Chicago Push; Female Vocalist – Mollie Busta – Squeezebox; Polka Reporter – Helenrae Budzilek – *Polka Times*; Cover Designer – Jeff Ververka and Ted Okrzesik-De-negeration Gap; IJ/DJ – Bryan "The Party Palacz"; New Horizon award – Bernie Gorak III – Chicago; Lifetime Achievement Award – Living Category – Freddie K Kendzierski; Lifetime Achievement Award – Deceased Category – Marion Lush.

This year, three awards will be announced at the banquet on May 29. These awards are for USPA Band, USPA Recording, and USPA Song. One of our locals bands are up for the Song of the year and that is the Knewz for "Wypij Sobie." Congratulations to all the winners and nominees and good luck to all on the final three awards.

"PHAZERS" ON STUN. On April 24, **Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze** played at Potts Hall in Buffalo. It was great to see many people attending this dance. Tony resembles his dad, Eddie, so much.

Watching him brings back so many wonderful memories of Eddie B. Sr., front and center on stage with

the Versatones doing his fantastic vocals and playing the bass guitar. So nice to see Jan Cyman again, too, who plays with Tony. The Band did an excellent job and the full dance floor was evidence of the motivating music played that night.

CONGRATS TO ... **Cara Pijanowski**, who passed her driver's license exam ... **Justin Kohan**, who will be spending 10 days in Japan as a member of the Hamburg High School Jazz Band ... **Dennis Miesowicz**, who got a clean bill of health. He thanks all for the prayers ... **Robin Pegg**, whose 1/64th scale model of the schooner "Pawtucket" took "Honor Mention" from the Miniature Modelers Association.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY. I would like to extend my best wishes to all the fathers out there for a very Happy Father's day. Hope you all have a fantastic day doing what you enjoy the most! We all know the importance of dads in family life!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2. Polka Variety Meeting at the Lily of the Valley Hall, 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and music starts at 7:30 p.m. Snacks, dessert, coffee, beer and pop are included in your admission. Call Rich at 826-2281.

June 11-12. The 8th Annual **Polish Heritage Polish Festival** at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, N.Y. They are celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the Polish Union of America. The polka music this year will be provided by John Gora Band, Mon Valley Push, John Stevens Double-

shot, and Jerry Darlak & the Touch. Also appearing will be the Ludowa Nuta Choir and the Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble, both groups are from Canada. The Polish Heritage Dancers will also be performing as will Matt James put on a children's show. There will be something for all ages. Call 998-2501 for more information. Admission is just \$5.00.

June 12-13. Opening of the Lamm Post Grove. Polka Weekend. 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. Saturday it's the **Charm City Sound**. Music from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. On Sunday, **Ray Jay & the Carousels** take the stage from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Doors open one hour early each day. There is an advance two-day pass available by mail but you have to contact Bob or Sandy Krawczyk at 837-2684 for more information regarding this and the prices and places advance tickets will be sold.

June 22. Polka Boosters Meeting at the Depew Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music starts at 8:00 p.m. Note this is a Tuesday. Admission includes music and refreshments. Everyone is welcome! For more info, call Chris at 892-7977

August 8. Annual Polka Boosters Picnic at the Lamm Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, N.Y. This club will be celebrating their 40th anniversary. There will be music by many Polka Boosters Bands, a big Chinese Auction, and other surprises. Doors will open at noon and music will be from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. Call Chris at 892-7977 or Ron at 773-6387 More information to follow!

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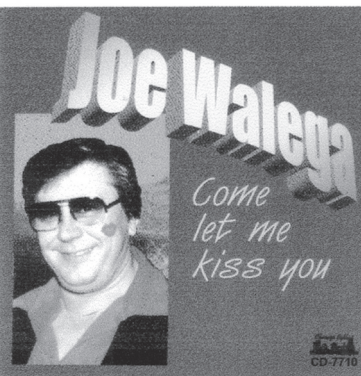
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• Dennis Polisky and the Maestro's Men
• The Polka Family
• The Boys From Baltimore

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Doors Open 10:30am | Band 12:30pm - 6:30pm
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Tommy Thomas 410-285-5036 (Tommy is running a one-day bus trip from Baltimore on Sunday!)	Jill and Jimmy K 440-319-1877 (Jill and Jimmy are running a bus trip from Cleveland!)
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Polka Family 3:00, 5:00 & 8:15
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Lenny Gomulka 6:45, 9:45 & 11:15

Saturday, August 14 Gates Open 12:30
Polka Riot 1:00, 3:30
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Polka Country Musicians 6:45, 9:45 & 11:15

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Monday, August 16 Gates Open 12:30
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Rhythm Playboys 2:00, 5:00 & 7:30
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Tuesday, August 17 Gates Open 12:30
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More polka news on Steve's Polka Pages at www.polamjournal.com

THE POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

More than One Way to Prepare Kielbasa

Besides grilled, baked, boiled or used in bigos, Polish-style smoked sausage is an extremely versatile food that can be the basis of a great variety of interesting dishes. Here are a few examples:

KIELBASASOUPSTOCK: Polish smoked kielbasa makes an excellent soup base (app. 3/4 – 1 lb kielbasa to 2 qts water). It is especially good for pea, bean, lentil, sauerkraut, cabbage, red barszcz (beetroot) soup, white barszcz or zurek. Together with the kielbasa add a quartered onion or a bit of standard soup veggies (carrot, celeriac, parsley root, leek), a bay leaf and several grains allspice and peppercorns. After this has cooked at a gentle boil about 1 hr., add remaining ingredients and simmer until fully cooked.

KIELBASA STEW: Used skinned chunked smoked kielbasa in place of fresh meat in your favorite stew recipe. Or, replace only half the meat with kielbasa.

KIELBASA & BEANS: Fry it up 1 lb skinned sliced or diced kielbasa 1-2 chopped onion in a little fat. Combine with 2-4 c drained canned beans of choice (navy, lima, great northern, pea-beans, etc.). Add a splash of ketchup, a T brown mustard, 1 bud crushed garlic, several dashes of red pepper sauce and a splash of vinegar and heat until hot and bubbly. Season with salt & pepper and 1 T marjoram or more.

KIELBASA & EGGS: In a little butter, lard, bacon drippings, oil or

vegetable-sprayed skillet fry up thin rounds of skinned, smoked kielbasa until lightly browned on both sides. Add fresh eggs, cover and fry sunny-side up until cooked. Or scramble and cook to the moistness or dryness you prefer.

KIELBASA-DEVEILED EGGS: Substitute ground, skinless, smoked kielbasa for ham in your favorite deviled-egg recipe.

KIELBASA IN CASSEROLES: Skinned sliced smoked kielbasa is great in potato or noodle-based casseroles. It's best to fry it up first with chopped onion in a little fat before adding to the main-bulk ingredient. Bake as you would with a similar non-kielbasa casserole.

KIELBASA WITH PASTA: Use diced, skinned, smoked kielbasa in spaghetti and lasagna. Or fry up diced, skinned, smoked kielbasa with chopped onions, bell pepper, skinned tomato and garlic in olive oil until veggies are tender, season with salt & pepper, oregano, basil and fennel to taste and serve over cooked pasta of choice. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley.

GRILLED KIELBASA: Grill 4-5" pieces of smoked kielbasa on charcoal grill, turning to ensure even cooking on all sides. Provide rye bread, mustard, horseradish or ćwikła (beetroot & horseradish) on the side.

SHISH-KIELBASA: Intersperse 1/2" thick rounds of skinned smoked kielbasa on skewer with slices of onion, pieces of bell pepper and

white mushrooms. Cubes of beef tenderloin may be included. Brush with oil and cook over flame turning frequently until onion and tenderloin (if used) are fully cooked. Season with salt, pepper and liquid Maggi seasoning.

KIELBASA GOŁĄBKI: Use finely diced meat of skinned smoked kielbasa instead of all or some of the raw ground meat you use in your meat & rice gołąbki. Season more sparingly than when you use raw fresh meat, because the kielbasa already contains salt and seasoning.

KIELBASA PIEROGI: Use finely diced or ground of skinned smoked kielbasa instead of all or some of the cooked ground meat you use in your normal meat pierogi.

KIELBASA ON PIZZA: Spread the top of your home-made pizza with thin rounds of skinned smoked kielbasa instead of or in addition to pepperoni, ham, ground beef, etc.

KIELBASA IN SALADS: Adding a little (1-2 c) diced, skinned smoked kielbasa to about 1 qt of

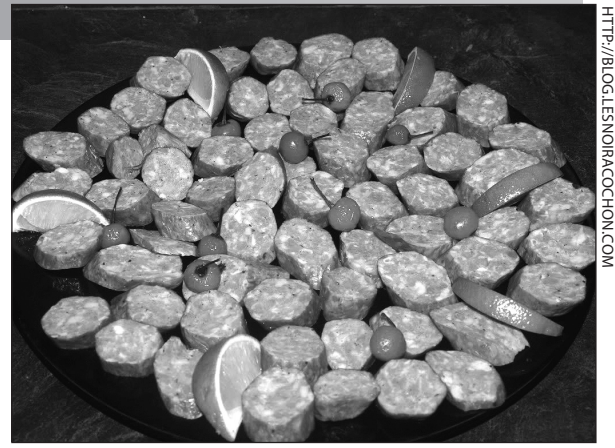
your favorite potato or macaroni salad will turn it into a balanced one-dish meal.

KIELBASA AS COLD CUT:

Cold skinned sliced kielbasa is an excellent lunch meet on rye bread or rolls, garnished with brown mustard, horseradish, sliced tomatoes, pickles as per personal preference.

KIELBASA IN A BUN: Kielbasa (especially the thinner "grillers" if available) are good boiled or grilled and served in an elongated bun hot-dot style. Provide brown mustard and/or horseradish.

KIELBASA SANDWICH SPREAD: Process or grind 1 lb skinned chunked-up smoked kielbasa with 1-2 quartered onion and 2-3 dill pickles to a uniform consistency. Stir in a heaping T



PARTYPLATTER. Slice cooked kielbasa on an angle and place on tray with sauces for dipping. An interesting twist is to garnish the tray with fresh fruit.

brown mustard or horseradish and just enough mayonnaise for a nice spreadable consistency. Salt & pepper to taste. For added zing add a few dashes of red pepper sauce (optional).

BATTERED KIELBASA ON A STICK: Run a wooden or bamboo skewer 3/4 of the way through a 4-5" piece of skinned smoked kielbasa. Dredge in flour, dip in naleśniki (crêpe) batter and deep fry to a nice golden brown. A great picnic and outdoor-fest treat!

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. Aleta Pzpecki Sill was the first woman bowler to a. earn one million dollars b. continue bowling to age 96 c. to open dozens of bowling academies
2. A summertime dinner favorite is a. diced chicken in cucumber sauce b. green onion eggs mazurka c. lettuce polonaise
3. A Pulaski bronze floor medallion can be seen in the Washington Memorial Chapel at a. West Point b. Valley Forge National Park c. St. Patrick's Cathedral
4. The daughter of the late Martha Kostyra is a. Loreta Swit b. Martha Stewart c. Tara Lupinski
5. The decline of the American dollar against the Euro has caused many Poles to a. do their shopping in the United States b. invest in silver c. buy stocks and bonds
6. Storks arrive in Poland from South Africa a. in late February b. at the end of March c. in mid-April
7. To a Pole, a stork is a symbol of a. longevity b. good health c. prosperity
8. Maria Konopnicka wrote inspirational and patriotic a. poetry b. songs c. short stories
9. Olga Boznanska was a renowned a. actress b. pianist c. impressionist painter
10. A delicious treat is *powidła* or a. pear compote b. apple horseradish c. plum butter

ANSWERS. 1.a earn one million dollars 2.c lettuce polonaise 3. b Valley Forge National Park 4.b Martha Stewart 5.a do their shopping in the United States 6.b at the end of March 7. c prosperity 8.a poetry 9.c impressionist painter 10.c plum butter

ASK ANDZIA ABOUT AMBER / Andzia Chmil

Gdańsk, the Amber Capitol of the World

Part III

In the 1700s, work on the great Amber continued under the tutelage of the amber masters in Gdansk. The Gdansk school of amber and its workshops were unrivaled in their strong traditions and knowledge of amber. When King Frederick William ordered the works discontinued after 25 years of complicated, intricate workings it was two masters of the Gdansk guild who made a case for advancing the completion of this remarkable work of art also known as a wonder of the world.

World War II totally decimated the amber craft in Gdansk. Not even one solitary workshop survived. The amber guild, amber masters and schools were totally wiped out and the return of Russian domination in Poland led to the suppression of all things artistic. When the trade began to function, or more accurately limp along again it was now simply a state run business where imagination and ability were not embraced. The great amber industry in Gdansk became a ho-hum business of churning out souvenirs stamped made in the USSR. The art of amber once again sunk like a stone into the sea.

And once again the amber, light and resilient to the forces around it, came to the top of the waters and art of the amber has been well received and appreciated in the amber capital of Gdansk. Today the amber masters and their art receive well deserved accolades for their use of amber in fashion, art and style. They've taken the cap off any limits

and continually press on for newer and even more creative uses of the amber than their predecessors — the amber cloaks and crowns made for the picture of Lady of Czestochowa in St Bridget's Lesser Basilica in Gdansk are only one example. St Bridget's was the meeting place of the Solidarity Movement and its reward by the new amber Masters is more than magnificent — not only has the picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa been restored with precious amber and jewels, work on the white amber altar below Her is nearly complete.

Intertwined with the Baltic Sea and its gift of the Gold of the North Gdańsk has cultivated the tradition of amber craft for ages. The love of amber is intrinsic in the Polish blood and the craft and knowing of the amber is a natural form of expression. The amber industry today is always of the cutting edge of art and new ways to showcase amber. Today's masters once again have

works showcased all over the world and have developed their own amber processing schools. The quality of work coming from Gdansk is highly sought after and a great piece of amber jewelry that is heirloom quality can often be had for less than the price of a fine meal either dining alone or with a group of friends. The meal will become a bit of a memory and the amber will live on long after that memory fades. This exceptional hardened mineral resin originally formed 60 million years ago contains a relatively large admixture of succinic acid, which gives it its exceptional healing properties. Amber is the very heart of Gdansk where mining, scientific research, schools, manufacturing and the main offices of both the International Amber Association and the Amber Chamber of Commerce are located — in the heart of the city — in the heart of the amber — and in the hearts of the Polish people.

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SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

Packing for Green Bay

Bryan Bulaga, a JR offensive lineman from Iowa, was selected by the Green Bay Packers with the 23rd overall pick in the NFL draft. Bulaga is considered a talented and sound college player who lives football and has a clean background off the field.

The 6-foot-5, 314-pound Bulaga figured to go much earlier in the first round, but his stock fell a bit because — believe it or not — NFL scouts didn't like his short arms. His 33¼-inch arms barely surpass the 33-inch mark that most teams consider a left tackle's minimum length, and his hands at 9¼ inches tied for the smallest of all the offensive linemen at the combine. Bulaga pointed to other successful NFL linemen with short arms and small hands. "I've never been in a situation in a football game where I have thought to myself after a play, 'Gosh, I wish my arms were longer.'" Bulaga said half-kiddingly.

Bryan's draft status was also hurt by a virus in his thyroid last year. The illness sidelined him for three games early in the season and left him at less than full strength for the first three games after his return. During the illness, he felt tired, lost strength and dropped about 13 pounds.

Packers GM Ted Thompson was very excited to get Bulaga at 23: "He's tough, he's athletic, he's got great size. Loves football, real gung-ho-type attitude. He's the real deal."

Before Iowa, the Crystal Lake, Ill. native Bulaga played for Central Catholic HS, where he never gave up a sack. He achieved Parade and Prep Star All-American first-team honors as a senior, as well as USA Today second-team recognition.

Bryan's mother is from the north side of Chicago. His dad is from the south side. Both parents are also Polish. Their son has one small Polish word tattooed on each arm. On one arm is "sila," Polish for strength. "Being mentally strong, and physically," Bulaga said. "I think you've got to be both to be successful in this game." On his other arm is "pycha," Polish for pride. "Having pride in what I do, pride in my family, pride for anything I'm really a part of," he said.

NFL DRAFT. TE Rob Gronkowski was selected by New England in the second round with the 44th overall pick, even though he missed the 2009 season at Arizona with a back injury. In his two years with the Wildcats, he shattered the school's career record for touchdowns by a tight end (16) in addition to setting marks with 75 receptions and 1,197 yards... Offensive tackle **Adam Ulatoski** was not drafted but signed with the Houston Texans. He is projected as a right tackle in the pros... Former Utah State football placekicker **Chris Ulinski** looked to hook up with the Cleveland Browns. Last season, Ulinski led



Bulaga: "He's tough, he's athletic, he's got great size. Loves football, real gung-ho-type attitude. He's the real deal."

the Western Athletic Conference in touchbacks with 25, booting them on 65 kickoffs (.385). It was the second-straight season that Ulinski led the WAC in touchbacks. Ulinski was also ninth in the WAC and 87th in FBS in scoring last season at 6.6 points per game, booting 13-of-21 (.619) field goals and 40-of-41 (.976) extra points.

KOWNACKI FLIPS. Fordham University shortstop **Brian Kownacki** was bearing down on Iona catcher James Beck, who was holding the baseball. Suddenly, Kownacki flipped over Beck to score a crucial run, part of a nine-run, eighth inning rally that helped Fordham overcome an early 9-1 deficit to win, 12-9. The flip was shown on Plays of the Day on ESPN's "Sports Center," and a video has gone viral, drawing more than a million hits on YouTube and making Kownacki an Internet star.

Kownacki reached base three times, hit by a pitch all three times. The third time he was on base there was a single to center followed by a fielding error. The third base coach sent Brian home, but it looked like he would be an easy out. However, Kownacki was able to elude the tag by doing a front flip in the air over the catcher, landing with both hands on home plate. It gave Fordham an 11-9 lead.

The video of the unbelievable effort became an overnight sensation as it was a top play on ESPN.com and it found its way to being lead stories on MLB.com and yahoo.com. This, in fact, was not the first time Brian Kownacki has found himself on major news stands. Earlier this year, after Fordham's stunning upset over Miami, Kownacki had a two page photo spot in Sports Illustrated after taking a hard hit on a slide from a Miami player.

Brian has no formal training in gymnastics, and had never practiced the "Fordham Flip." Despite the fact that it's completely legal, Kownacki doubts he'll attempt his home-plate acrobatics again.

MILLEN APOLOGIZES. **Matt Millen** was known for his draft-day blunders when he was general manager and CEO of the Detroit Lions, but he made another as a TV analyst.

At one point during ESPN's draft coverage he was chatting with fellow analyst Ron Jaworski, and the two began talking about fried bologna sandwiches. Millen said, "Ask any polack from Buffalo how they like them, right Jaws?"

About 30 minutes later, Millen addressed the camera head on to offer his apology.

"Earlier in the telecast I made a humorous remark to Ron Jaworski that could have been misconstrued to people of Polish decent, and I want to apologize," he said. "I've enjoyed a great relationship with Ron Jaworski, very playful over the years and we jab each other back and forth and that has absolutely nothing to do with my comments towards Ron or anybody of Polish decent, so I apologize. I meant nothing by it."

I've had the opportunity meet Millen a couple of times at the Polish American Sports Hall of Fame in Detroit, including once when he presented inductee Mike Munchak. He seemed like a decent person with close ties to the Polish American community, but his ESPN comment was wrong. I don't think he meant it as a slur, but "polack" has been used to degrade and demean for many years. Millen's use of the term on national TV was entirely inappropriate. Had he used a similar slur against a different ethnic group, it's very possible that Millen would be out of a job.

IN MEMORY. When the MLS expansion Philadelphia Union played its first home game, team manager and head coach **Piotr Nowak** decided not to stand on the sideline with his club. Instead, the native of Poland stayed in the press box in deference to the memory of his Polish countrymen who died in an early-morning plane crash near a small town in Russia.

Assistant coach John Hackworth and Nowak were in communication during the game, but Nowak thought that taking a public role on a joyous occasion like this one was inappropriate in light of the tragedy. Although players said they missed Nowak, the Union won, 3-2.

Before coming to America, Nowak was a soccer hero in his homeland of Poland, a member of the national team, a player in the World Cup, and a star in the Bundesliga of neighboring Germany. One of his longtime friends, Piotr Nurowski, the head of the Polish Olympic Committee, was among the 97 people lost in the crash, which also claimed the life of the president of Poland.

"Peter was pretty shaken up," said Union player Danny Califf. "He tried not to let it affect us, but

he's captain of the ship. Not having him on the sideline makes a difference. I don't know if we were trying to win it for him, but I'm sure glad we did."

POLISH PUZZLE SOLVER. **Jan Mrozowski** became the world Sudoku champion for the second time in a competition involving among about 120 of the world's best Sudoku solvers from 32 countries. Mrozowski, 23, finished the last puzzle in the final play of the World Sudoku Championship, a round of 10 puzzles that took him 54 minutes, 4 seconds to complete. Shortly after that, the civil engineering student from Krakow, celebrated with his six teammates. His Polish team finished sixth.

THEY SAID IT

"It was stupid, and it's because we live in a weird world, but I'd rather have it go on me than on (Duke Guard Jon) Scheyer. I grew up Polish in Chicago. My father had to change his name to Kross, instead of Krzyzewski, so he could get work. People want to take a free shot, I understand that it comes with the territory."

— *Comments by Mike Krzyzewski after The Indianapolis Star published a story headlined "Despising Duke" that included a picture of Krzyzewski that had been doctored with devil horns, a bulls eye and a cartoonish mustache, among other doodlings in blue ink. Krzyzewski called the photo "juvenile," and the paper apologized for publishing it*

❖ ❖ ❖
"I think it would be really cool to visit Poland because I am Polish."

— *New Green Bay Packer Bryan Bulaga, responding to a question from Pro Football Weekly about that country he'd like to visit.*

❖ ❖ ❖
"Listen, it is the only way when my whole country is in mourning. There is only one way to pay respect to all these people I know, these people who are my friends, and that is to not be on the sideline. I know it is my job to coach these guys, but when there is a tragic event like that, you have to do this."

— *Philadelphia Union head coach Piotr Nowak, on his decision to not stand on the sideline at his team's first home game following the tragic Polish plane crash in Smolensk.*

HERITAGE

Baltic Bays

by Ellye Slusarczyk

Zatoka Pucka (Bay of Puck) has been known as the Bay of Putzig. This shallow bay is on the western branch of the Bay of Gdansk, on the Baltic Sea. Located off the shores of Gdansk, Pomerania, the area is separated from the open sea by the Hel Peninsula.

The Bay of Puck's usual depth is two to six meters. Its shallow sand back extends from Rewa Cape to Kuznica. Only small yachts and fishing boats can safely navigate these waters. Beneath its surface deposits of potassium salt can be found.

Its main ports are Puck, Hel, and Jastamia. A favorite activity for many in the area is kite surfing, especially during the tourist season.

Another Baltic Sea bay is the Bay of Gdansk, also known as Danzig Bay. This bay derives its name from its port city, Gdansk. Oftentimes the bay is referred to as a gulf. The northern part of the bay is formed by the shallow waters of the Bay of Puck.

The southeastern part of the Bay of Gdansk is Vistula Lagoon, separated by the Vistula Spit, and then connecting to the open sea by the Strait of Baltiysk. This bay is enclosed by a large curve of shores, its coast featuring two long sandspits. Its very popular ports and coastal cities are Gdansk, Gdynia, Sopot, Puck, Hel, Promorsk, and Baltiysk.

Two main rivers flow into the bay, the Pregolya and the Vistula.

Because of their wonderful beaches, the Bay area is a popular summer destination. Tourists are catered to with numerous water sports, discos and bars, hot-air balloon rides, and typical souvenir shops. Off-season makes the area a haven for business events and conferences.

From Warsaw, five and a half hours away by car, is only one road. There is only one rail line, also.

On July 10, 2009, a most extraordinary event occurred. There was a triple sunrise over Gdansk Bay. An optical effect created two mirages to "allow" the sun to rise three times. Visible to the naked eye, the sun was most spectacular and intriguing.

Just recently, a dog drifted on an ice flow from sixty miles inland to another fifteen miles along the Baltic Sea. This brave little dog was safely rescued.

Let's climb aboard a colorful hot air balloon and view the Bay area in all its majesty.

BRUSH UP / Prepared and distributed by the Polonia Media Network

Weddings

zaręczyny (zah-rehn-CHIH-nih) pl
engagement
ślub (shluhp) m
wedding (ceremony)
wesele (veh-SEH-leh) n
wedding (reception)
prezent ślubny PREH-zehnt SHLUHP-nih) m
wedding present
tort weselny (tohrt veh-SEHL-nih) m
wedding cake

Phonetic hh is like ch in *loch* • Phonetic ai is like *eye*
m, n, f denotes male, female, neuter

Niech żyją państwo młodzi!..... (Nyehch
ZHIIH-yohw PAIN-stfoh MWOH-djee)
Long live the bride and groom!
miesiąc miodowy (MYEH-shohnts
myoh-DOH-vih) m
honeymoon
rocznica ślubu (rohch-NEE-tsah
SHLUH-buh) f
wedding anniversary

THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



A Sure Sign of Spring. Lublin, Poland. May 17, 1976.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin Nowak

Stojowski: Pianist and Polish Patriot

Of course, the phrase “pianist and Polish patriot” brings to mind the great Ignacy Jan Paderewski. But overshadowed by this illustrious man was another accomplished musician and proud Pole, a resident of America for the last forty-one years of his life.

Zygmunt Dyonizy Antoni Jordan de Stojowski was born in Strzelce near Kielce in southern Poland in 1870. His family had noble roots and his parents were well educated landowners. His first piano teacher was his mother before he went on to more formal training. By age seventeen, he had already become such an accomplished pianist and composer that he gave his first formal concert, in Kraków.

Also at that time, Stojowski was accepted to study at Paris' National Conservatory and Sorbonne University, where he befriended Tchaikovsky and Brahms, as well as the son and daughter of the great Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz. In 1891, Stojowski took piano lessons from the master himself, Paderewski. The two men greatly admired each other's talents on the keyboards. Stojowski settled in Paris, and gradually achieved international acclaim as both musician and composer, giving regular performances. Praise came from famous musicians throughout Europe.

By 1905, Stojowski had become

one of the world's most respected pianists and piano teachers. That year, Frank Damrosch, founder of the Institute of Musical Art in New York, now the famous Juilliard School, hired Stojowski to teach piano at his newly formed institute. He now took the anglicized name of Sigismund Stojowski. He could not confine himself to instruction. He almost immediately began public performances, appearing as guest soloist with many American symphony orchestras throughout the years, as well giving numerous solo recitals.

Stojowski had a great admiration for Americans, calling them hospitable and enthusiastic in their every endeavor. He learned English well enough to speak and write it on a collegiate level. In 1906 he began a long association with *Etude* music magazine, to which he contributed many articles, interviews and lessons.

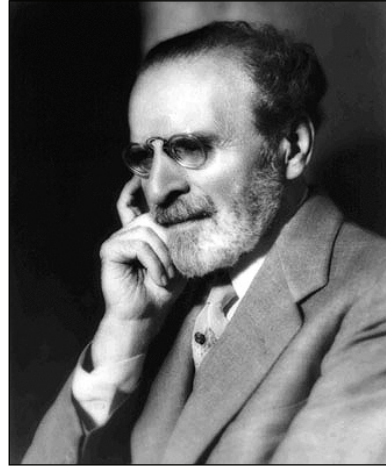
Though he had become a resident of New York and would eventually become an American citizen, Stojowski never abandoned Poland. He rejoiced when Poland regained its independence in 1918. Paderewski became the country's new premier, and he invited his old friend to take a position in his government. Stojowski, however, declined, choosing to remain in America where he promoted Polish culture. In 1920 he started a twenty year presidency of

Kolo Polskie, a club that debated Polish politics and culture in the U.S. He authored articles and gave lectures combined with recitals at universities and public halls that educated people about Poland, its music, people and their concerns. His composing and performing took a back seat to the Polish cause in America, and to his teaching.

He participated in events of the Polish Singers Alliance. He co-founded the short-lived Polish Institute of Arts and Letters in 1932 to present Polish culture to the American people. He was a charter member of the American Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry and served on the board of the new Kościuszko Foundation. He was active in the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Upon the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Stojowski helped found the Commission for Polish Relief and was a sponsor of the Paderewski Testimonial Fund, another relief group. He founded the Polish Musician's Committee, a group of

such performers living in America. It gave shows and raised money for Polish musicians in Europe, both during and after the war. He also oversaw protection of Polish gold reserves on deposit in America and France for the Polish Government-in-Exile. In late 1944, he spoke out against the West for its apparent plans for Poland, the shifting of its borders and its inclusion in the USSR's sphere of influence. He sent a Christmas message to President Roosevelt urging him to oppose such a fate for Poland.



Stojowski died of cancer in New York City on November 5, 1946 and was buried in Queens. Eventually, his archives were donated to the Polish Music Center at the University of Southern California. Among the awards he received during his life were Poland's Polonia Restituta and the Distinguished Service Medal of the United States.

The Polish influence in his music was obvious in many of his compositions, even after he left his native land, in pieces such as the cantata

“Prayer for Poland” and “Polish Idylls.” He wrote mazurkas and polonaises and many of his works contain elements of Polish folk songs.

Following his death, the musical accomplishments of Zygmunt Stojowski became largely underappreciated and his pieces rarely performed. But the early 21st century has seen a modest revival of interest in his work. Largely responsible for this have been the award winning recordings of Jonathan Plowright, who has been described as an “ideal advocate” of the composer's music, with a “natural affinity” for Polish romanticism.

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To find out how many people in Poland use your Polish surname, how it came about and whether a noble coat of arms goes with it, please airmail a \$16 check to: Robert Strybel, ul. Kaniowska 24, 01-529 Warsaw, Poland.

You will also get a list of root-tracing contacts that can put you in touch with professional genealogists, genealogical groups and helpful Web sites, data bases, addresses and phone numbers. Speedy service is guaranteed, and the research is launched the same day an order is received.

PONDERRING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Native Garb

There are a few cultures that get away with traditional looking dress in the work place or around town. Asian Indian women can comfortably interchange wearing the sari with business casual attire, or for jeans and tees, at work or at home. Hasidic Jewish men have a distinct look with the beards, black suits, white shirts, hats, and the rekel, the cloth long black coat. Muslim women wear a range of dress that extends from hijab (full body coverage), to a head scarf over business attire, to a head scarf with jeans and heels. Brett Michaels of the rock group Poison and Celebrity Apprentice fame gets away with the pirate look on stage or as project manager for Donald Trump.

Aside from variations of amber jewelry and shawls, there isn't much in the way of formal dress or accessories with Polish themes. The “peasant look,” which gets resurrected in one form or another every ten or twenty years takes a number of queues from most of the countries on the continent and based on this definition from Fashion Encyclopedia (www.fashionencyclopedia.com/fashion_costume_culture), Eastern Europe can certainly be considered a part of the mix.

One such style was the peasant look: a type of clothing that was an off-shoot of the garments worn for centuries by the European lower classes. Peasant skirts and dresses were long and flowing. Skirts and blouses featured loose, off-the-shoulder necklines, split necklines styled to resemble tunics, or drawstrings that could be tied. The blouses were tucked in or not, depending upon personal preference.

To a lesser extent young men also adopted the peasant look. Male peasant clothing included a collarless shirt, pants, and belt. The shirt was usually not tucked in.

I'm sorry, that male peas-

ant “look” is too much like Jerry Seinfeld's puffy shirt. Thankfully, traditional European male clothing is mainly reserved for the folk dances and festivals. Contemporary European style for the young ladies includes four inch heels and a very short, tight fitting skirt. No babushkas allowed in this village.

The late and great Paul Kulinevich, one of the leaders of Polish Falcons Nest 45 of St. Louis, would wear a Taras Bulba looking outfit every year for the annual Polish Festival. The Cossack purple silk shirt with baggy camel colored pants was tucked into Polish style boots (the low heel kind). He would meet and greet the people as they entered the gate of the beer garden. It was a nice touch and he even looked a little like Yule Brynner with the bald head and the dark complexion.

No one has picked up where Paul left off although the young boys and girls will often wear Polish folk costumes at certain church and social events. Select ladies will don a flowery or folksy looking blouse or outfit and that is neat to see. I often dream of getting a Gorale, Lowicz, or Kaszuby costume to wear at special occasions but it seems to be ensconced at the bottom of my bucket list.

Polish tradition is full of beautiful, colorful, and unique folk costumes. Along with food, dance, and music, it is another readily identifiable trapping of what sets us apart. Now that we are into the summer and festival season, I hope some of you consider or continue this nice touch of Polishness. If you have a unique costuming idea for spreading the Polish spirit or cheer, pass it on to me.

GOLF AND THE SPIRIT. Jim Furyk finished 91st at the Masters Golf Championship. The next week, he took first place at the Verizon

Heritage tournament. This is the second first place finish in 2010 for Jimmy Furyk. Keep going buddy.

Speaking of spirit, if you want an outstanding read with a back drop about golf, but with a theme that is not about golf, read *Golf and the Spirit*, by M. Scott Peck. Dr. Scott's “this is a ‘how not to’ book” is for you even if you don't care or know anything about hitting the little white ball and the 18 hole lessons about life are very worth checking out.

CATALYST. The March issue of the *Catalyst*, the monthly newsletter of The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, featured an essay by **Thaddeus C. Radzilowski** regarding the “Polish Victims of Nazism.” This is another wonderfully written summary about a subject that is one of America's dirty little secrets, that persons in radio, television, cinema, in

government, and those in the general population, are not supposed to mention that millions of Christians and other non-Jews were murdered by the Germans. You can read it on the League's web site. Please send me a favor and eMail the Catholic League thanking them for publishing it in their newsletter. The eMail address is cl@catholicleague.org.

QUESTIONS: POLISH OR NOT?

- **Nick Faldo**, Hall of Fame golfer from Great Britain. Nick is an English national but he does not look Anglo-Saxon or Celtic. What are his roots?
- **Anna Helene Paquin**, actress, has a brother Andrew and a sister named Katya. Anna, Helen, Andrew, and Katya. They have to have Eastern European ties. True?
- **Jim Jarmusch**, Indie filmmaker. Is Jarmusch originally Jarmuszczyk?

- For a long time, I have thought **Pam Anderson** had a Slavic features (primarily her face). Her mom is supposedly “Russian.” Really? Can someone verify this?
- **Danielle Zurovcik** is a student at MIT and the creator of “a simple pump that could revolutionize medical care.” (<http://weekly-worldnews.com/headlines/17064/danielle-zurovcik/>). Her name and picture are Slavic. If so, what branch?

If you have a thought about this month's question, have a question of your own, or have interesting facts to share, contact me at: Edward Poniewaz, 6432 Marmaduke, St. Louis, MO 63139; eMail alinabrig@yahoo.com.

Please note: if you send eMail; reference the Polish American Journal or the Pondering Pole. I will not open eMail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.



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OBITUARIES / Jennifer Moskal

CHESTER BILINSKI, 60, born in Bartoszyce, Poland, died on April 26 after battling cancer. Bilinski emigrated to Chicago in 1963, graduated from Carl Schurz High School in 1968, starting working at the Chicago Sun Times, then enlisted in the U.S. Army. After completing his obligated tour of duty, he returned home to marry Jozefa Graca. From that point in time, Bilinski began a successful forty-two-year career with the Sun Times. Bilinski directed the complicated classified advertising world for the newspaper. He did everything in this department – from coordinating auto dealership ads and supervising the pagination of ad pages to playing “traffic cop” with all of the ad submissions. Bilinski is survived by his wife, a daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

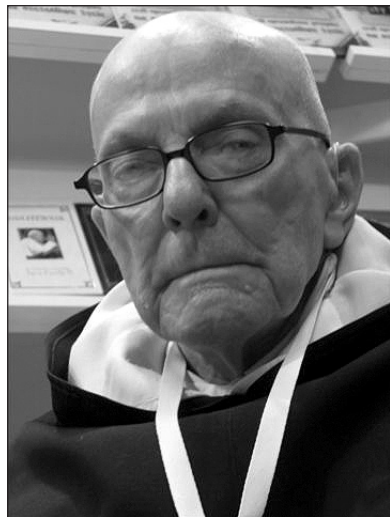
FRANK L. BOGDAN JR., 71, was a mortgage banker by trade, and served for more than 40 years as a co-chairman, and later chairman, of the Cavalcade of Homes. Bogdan was a senior vice president with Park National Bank in Naperville, Ill. He also served on the board of directors of the Northern Illinois Home Builders Association.

WALTER M. DRZEWIENIECKI, Ph.D., 95, was a decorated veteran of the Polish Army, a scholar of Eastern European history and longtime leader in Buffalo's Polish community. Drzewieniecki grew up in Czestochowa, Poland, and graduated from the Polish Military Academy, later fighting in defense of Poland against German and Soviet forces, and later joining the Polish Armed Forces abroad. After the war, he emigrated to Canada, and in 1950, to the United States. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and a doctoral degree in Eastern European history from the University of Chicago, accepting a teaching post at Buffalo State College. He served as chairman of the history department and director of the Buffalo Ethnic Heritage Institute, as well as founding the college's East European and Slavic Studies program. He was awarded the Polish Academy of Sciences' first prize for his memoir, which is used as a historical text in Poland. Drzewieniecki served for many years as president of the Polish Cultural Foundation. He also received Poland's Commander's Cross of Merit with Star in 2000, and his life is chronicled in a 2003 biography by Polish author Katarzyna Semen.

JOAN ROBERTS FLOR, 79, who succumbed to pancreatic cancer on March 20, 2010, was born in Blackburn, Lancashire, England. She met her future husband, Edward, a concentration camp survivor and a Polish Army officer in exile, in a dance hall in 1948. Three years later, Joan and Edward were married in the same town of her birth and emigrated to the United States via the Cunard Steamship “Britannic,” arriving in Chicago by way of Ellis Island. With only a few dollars between them, they managed to make the “American Dream” a reality.

Mrs. Flor worked for Stanley Stawski Distributing Co., Inc. as its General Office Manager handling custom orders and documents related to import products. Though not of Polish ancestry, Flor embraced Polish culture, becoming an vibrant member in Chicago's Polonia and playing an active and enthusiastic role in the Legion of Young Polish Women (LYPW), the Polish Museum of America, the Copernicus Foundation, the Polish Women's Alliance of America, and the Polish Women's Civics Club. An avid English gardener, her creations were a replica of the English gardens of Blackburn. Not only was Flor a talented classical-trained pianist and singer, but her familial concerts were absolute “musts” at Christmas time. An accomplished seamstress, Flor designed and sewed her own dresses, suits and breathtakingly beautiful ball gowns. For 50 years, she created and recreated ball gowns, to be worn especially for the LYPW's Annual Black-tie White and Red Ball. No gown was ever worn twice. She is survived by three sons and a daughter.

VERONICA B. KACZOR, 81, was a lifelong resident of Wallington, and graduated from Pope Pius High School. Kaczor received a bachelor's degree in biology, a master's degree in education, and attended Columbia University Teachers College in New York for her doctoral degree in education. She was employed by St. Mary's Hospital where she was the laboratory supervisor and educational coordinator of the School of Medical Technology, and served as the chief of microbiology, hematology, histology, and clinical chemistry from 1949 to 1964. She was promoted to a full professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1974, and worked for the college for over 55 years, receiving the Outstanding Educator Award in 1972. She was also a member of numerous professional organizations. Sgt. Ronald A. Kubik of Brielle was an Army Ranger, who enlisted in the military in March 2007. Mr. Kubik had served previous tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and was currently serving in Afghanistan. He was an assistant machine gunner and rifle team leader. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal.



ation, like pretty women (yes, it is normal for a monk). He sometimes told the stories about his “sympatias” like he called the girlfriends from his past. His eyes brightened up when he was talking about it (he was engaged once, but broke the engagement to become a monk). At those times, you could see a regular man, he could relate to “regular” people, persons with diversity of feelings and experience. His mind was disciplined and sharp, although he always emphasized he “was a bad student.” He could be brief, especially to those who were fascinated with his aristocratic background (he was related to Austrian and Swedish royalty) and looked up to him too much. He did not deny any feelings he experienced, although he did not celebrate them either. In my opinion, this was a source of his strength.

I do not think he was a fearless person by nature. In fact, probably just the opposite — he became a strong person with time. The source of his perseverance and strength was his faith and human weaknesses. That's why so many people could identify with him and relate to him. We will miss you, Father Joachim.

◆ ◆ ◆
Father Joachim Badeni, O.P., nee Kazimierz Badeni, was born October 14, 1912 in Busko, Ukraine. He died March 11, 2010 in Krakow, Poland, a Polish Roman-Catholic priest, Dominican order.

◆ ◆ ◆
Agnieszka Raducka-Lysiak has an M.A. from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and is currently finishing her M.A. at Dallas Baptist University.

BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Agnieszka Raducka-Lysiak

The Salt of the Earth

My friend called me recently to inform me that Father Joachim Badeni had died. He was 97 years old, so it should not be a big surprise, but it somehow was. I listened to his sermons in Dominican Church in Krakow often, and I talked with him a few times when I have lived in there. I am thankful I had this chance.

For many of my generation, Fr. Joachim was like a living history during times when our own Polish history was distorted and forbidden by the Communist Government. For many of us, he was a spiritual guide, someone who lived according to his preaching and beliefs. While many good people around were losing their battle against the Communist system, university students — like many other young people around the globe — were starving for those who did not fear. If we would define real poverty as a lack of desire to live a truthful life, the generation under marshal law (to which I was a member), was surly, not poor. Twisted Polish political circumstances elicited this desire even more. Through this article I want to say thank you for those like Fr. Joachim, who taught my friends and me how to find the methods to overcome any madness life throws us in.

What made Fr. Joachim likable and fun to be around was his admiration of simple and ordinary things in life — sort of consistence and grace. I never saw him behaving pretentiously, or being impressed with “fashionable” or “hip” things. He used to say, “I am the most attracted to simple people.” He got visibly annoyed when somebody wanted to impress him, or played games. On the other hand, his eyes brighten up when situations and people were real, frank and honest. I found it very refreshing and inspiring.

Fr. Joachim liked small pleasures in everyday life (yes, it is allowed in monasteries). As a remedy for being depressed, he once recommended I should go to the certain restaurant in Krakow because it always cheered him up! At times I was frustrated with this advice and thought: “did you really listen to me? I have real problems here.” Now, I understand: he was showing me a distance and proportion my perception was lacking. He appreciated beauty in Cre-

Joseph P. Koz, 30-Year Air Force Vet

Joseph P. (Kosciusko) Koz, Ph.D. died April 21, 2010 in San Diego, Calif., from chronic lymphocytic leukemia that was associated with exposure to Agent Orange during his service to his country.

Born in Worcester, Mass., December 18, 1942, Koz was an athlete, warrior, scholar, and businessman. A graduate of the United States Military Academy, he served in the Air Force for 30 years, flying 350 combat missions as a fighter pilot during two tours in Viet Nam. Subsequent military assignments included dean of students at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.; and U.S. defense attaché to Israel. Among his professional achievements in civilian life were being named vice president and provost at Valley Forge Academy and College, Pa.; and founding New Horizons International, a corporate consulting firm.

Koz was an exceptional athlete. He was a star basketball player at

St. Mary's High School in Worcester, Mass., and later at West Point. He captained the Army basketball team in 1965 under renowned coach, Bobby Knight, capping his collegiate career with outstanding play in the National Invitational Tournament. Joe was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009. He was also an avid golfer and tennis player.

Always a world traveler, Joe's residence for the last four years was aboard the ocean liner, The World, from which he conducted business while circumnavigating the globe. He described himself as a “corporate troubleshooter,” consulting for an extensive roster of international clients, and drawing on a network of strategically located experts.

A memorial scholarship for scholar athletes will be established in Koz's name. Contributions to the “Joseph P. Koz Memorial Scholarship Fund” can be sent to 13035 Apple Tree Lane, Dewitt, MI 48820.

Marian Owczarski, International Sculptor

Marian Owczarski, 78, a sculptor, whose works were exhibited across the globe was born in 1932 in Lukow, Poland. He discovered metallurgy shortly after World War II, choosing stainless steel as his medium of choice because, “In 1945, steel represented the future.”

A man of diverse talent, Owczarski worked in wood, glass, stone, plaster, marble as well as metals, but ultimately, however, his sculptures in steel were the best representation of his vision, both touching and powerfully meaningful.

Following a harrowing childhood (he grew up in one of the towns most targeted by Nazi, and was severely wounded at the age of twelve), Owczarski received a graduate degree in sculpture from the Warsaw's Academy of Fine Arts in 1961, and for period of time was involved in restoration of Polish churches damaged during the war. He traveled to the United States and worked on a number of sculpting projects, generally religious in nature, but always returned to his native Poland. However, his twin passions, Catholicism and art, were at diametrical odds with the U.B.—the Polish equivalent of the KGB. He began the long struggle to escape, finally securing a visa good for one month. He went to

Canada to complete some art projects he'd begun earlier, and never went back.

Following an exhibition in Washington, D.C. in 1970, Owczarski was approached simultaneously by Saint Mary's College and Princeton University to become an artist-in-residence. “I was just over from Poland, I'd never heard of Princeton!” he later said. “So I went with Orchard Lake, where they all spoke Polish.”

Owczarski lived on campus, directing the Galleria, Orchard Lake's open-to-the-public art gallery, where many of his sculptures are still on display.

His sculptures have been exhibited in eleven countries and over 50 cities, including Warsaw, Budapest, Prague, Frankfurt, Paris, London, Moscow and New York.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes

NEW BOOKS

Music that Heals

LA'S ORCHESTRA SAVES THE WORLD by Alexander McCall Smith Pantheon, 2008, 295 pp., \$23.95

As war descends over England, Lavender, "La" to her friends, leaves London and her shattered marriage for a small village in Suffolk. The news of her husband's unfaithfulness resulted in her in-law's suggesting she leave London and visit their old farm home in Suffolk. It is a drastic change for La, but she moves to the small, quiet village and begins a new life, shrugging off the thoughts of her husband, in the arms of another in France. But a few days later, her father-in-law arrives, telling her Richard has been badly hurt and he is going to see him, La

agrees to go with him. When they arrive at the hospital, they are told he is dying.

La returns to her lonely cottage, determined to help the war effort in some way. She is assigned to help Henry, an old farmer nearby. His previous helper has gone to war. But her loneliness increases and one day she pulls out her old flute and begins to play songs she remembered. An officer visits and tells her about a displaced Polish airman who lost an eye in an air fight. Tim wants to find useful work for Felix Dabrowski, since he can't fly anymore. While he is having tea with La he spies her flute and tells her he plays the trumpet and several boys at the base would love to get some musi-

cal instruments and form a group. La decides she will form an orchestra, some of the villagers join in and eventually she gets villagers and military men together to form an orchestra. Their spirits lift and relieve their worries of the war. Dab agrees to work for Henry, and La is drawn to this strange Polish man.

The story unfolds as the war drones on, the orchestra continues, bringing short spells of distraction. Felix is accused of stealing and sent away, taking La's heart with him. When the war ends, La returns to London, where once more she finds Felix.

Anyone familiar with McCall Smith's work is accustomed to his long digressions and poetic prose. If not, take a deep breath and relax with some great writing. His The First Ladies Detective Agency series has been made into a HBO series.

A Past Hard to Forget

PASSAGE FROM ENGLAND by Frank Zajackowski Published by CreateSpace ISBN: 145054990X 365 pp., sc. III.

Available from Amazon.com or from publisher at or CreateSpace at www.createpace.com/3427892

A lifetime of plans and dreams are packed into a container and shipped from Los Angeles to a Caribbean island; but for a writer and immigrant from post-World War II Europe, the past is hard to forget and even harder to leave behind.

Passage From England is the emotional journey of a man's search for home that interweaves the adventures and tragedies of his childhood in America's '50s and '60s with the experiences of early retirement in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The journey begins in 1956, crossing the Atlantic by ocean liner, arriving in New York Harbor, then traveling by train to the paper-thin suburbs of Tarzana, California. Peddling as fast as he can to keep up with the neighborhood kids and culture of Boomer America, the child struggles against his father's alcoholism and growing violence, determined to find a way to belong in a world where the tanned, care-free girls from the affluent foothills seem just out of reach in the rock 'n roll moonlight of adolescence.

Told from two points of view spanning five decades, the multiple journeys of the child and the adult enrich one another, providing an understanding of the demons that pursued the family, and uncovering the spirit of endurance that was fostered within him.

The memoir is available in Paperback and Kindle versions through Amazon at: www.gallmeier.com/passagefromengland/.

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BOOK REVIEWS / John Grondelski

The Polish Christian Experience

WAITING TO BE HEARD The Polish Christian Experience Under Nazi and Stalinist Oppression, 1939-1955 by Bogusia J. Wojciechowska, editor Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2009. HB/PB, (\$16.60/\$11.60), pp. 396 To order: www.authorhouse.com or (888) 280-7715

Richard Lukas ignited a firestorm with his The Forgotten Holocaust: the Poles under German Occupation (University Press of Kentucky, 1986). That book explored a neglected subject: the brutal persecution of Polish Christians under the Nazis during World War II. Although the work filled a gap in English-speaking literature, the chokepoint lay in its title: the author sought to include that persecution under the rubric of "Holocaust." He was criticized for appropriating a term that his critics insisted could only be applied to the Nazi Endlösung der Judenfrage. "Holocaust," they declared, referred to the German plan to liquidate every last Jew. Others—Roma, homosexuals, the handicapped, Poles—were persecuted, but what made the Holocaust unique was that none of the others were the object of so single-minded and premeditated an extermination plan as was European Jewry. To attempt to insert other victims under the umbrella of the "Holocaust" was branded "revisionism" that "minimized" the singularity of the fate that befell the Jews of Europe.

The polemic over Lukas's title obscured another fact: most Americans are clueless about the scope of the persecution Polish Christians faced during World War II. Of the six million Polish citizens who were killed, three million were Christians. The first inmates of Auschwitz were Polish political prisoners. Only in Poland—alone among the occupied countries of Europe—was any assistance offered to a Jew punishable by death (and, yet, Poles are numerically the most represented nationality among the "Righteous Gentiles" honored for rescuing Jews at Yad Vashem).

NOT ALL WHO INSISTED that the term "Holocaust" properly referred only to the fate of the Jews excluded neither the need for a sympathetic understanding of the persecution of Polish Christians nor the propagation of scholarly and popular works about it. Some of the most important Polish-Jewish authors who have addressed this topic, e.g., Marek Edelman (the last survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, who died last October) and Stanislaw Krajewski (Poland and the Jews, Wydawnictwo Austeria, 2006) have said and written as much. But one also notes a certain "anti-Polish" agenda among others treating this subject (e.g., Claude Lanzmann's "Shoah"). That and the continuing recurrence in the mass media of such historically false terms as "Polish concentration camps" has led not just to a forgetfulness of the fate of Polish Christians but even to a caricature in some quarters that paints the Poles as actual collaborators with the Germans. Intended or not, the fact remains that scholarly and popular attention to the persecution of Polish Christians has been minimal, sporadic, and marginal. It would be generous to say that the annual trickle of books and articles dealing with the persecution of Polish Christians during World War II is dwarfed by the avalanche of Holocaust studies. Hollywood's output of films dealing with World War II have virtually ignored the Polish Christian story, a point made by Mieczyslaw Biskupski in his new book,

Hollywood's War with Poland, 1939-1945 (University Press of Kentucky, 2009).

If, as one observer has noted, every social change is preceded by a change in language, then part of the reason for this neglect of the Polish Christian experience lies in the fact that—depending on one's viewpoint—it lacks or has been deprived of a name. Rightly or not, showcasing the persecution of European Jewry separately from the rest of Hitler's terrorism directed against unarmed civilian population cohorts means the latter at best get lumped under the term "genocide." And whether one likes it or not, genocide has been such a basic tool of twentieth century dictatorships large and small that three million dead Catholic Poles from the 1940s get lost in the crowd. It becomes but "the pretty nasty killing of lots of Poles by the Germans during the War."

The polemic over Lukas' title obscured another fact: most Americans are clueless about the scope of the persecution Polish Christians faced during World War II.

Happily, Bogusia Wojciechowska gives voice to those lost in that crowd. Her book, ironically subtitled the "Polish Christian Experience," fills a gap by presenting excerpts of the testimonials of approximately eighty Polish Christians who lived through those years and bear witness to their experiences. Those witnesses relate the beginning of the War, life under occupation in Poland, life in the forced labor and concentration camps, and life in the postwar Displaced Persons ("D. P.") camps. Her book also challenges the "two-sided" paradigm of World War II by relating the largely unknown stories of those whose fate was to be on the Soviet side of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Line after September 17, 1939. There witnesses speak of ethnic cleansing, mass deportations, forced labors in the Soviet Far North and in Siberia, and the repatriation of Polish deportees through Iran to form fighting units in the West. The witnesses also attest to the fate of women and children repatriated from the USSR, including valuable photos of the Polish orphanages that were established in India, East Africa, and even Mexico.

For this reviewer, the most touching testimony was "A White Wave of Goodbye." The anonymous poem is the voice of a Polish mother who, deported to Siberia, managed to include among the few belongings she took away, her wedding dress. In the verses, she describes how that dress—worn "on that day of love and happiness"—was cut apart, its pieces used to keep this family alive. As she wrote, a last piece is used to cover the body of her three year old, who died on a Soviet cattle train and which, along with the other corpses from that train, were left piled at that last station. She lays her child, atop that pile, the white of her wedding dress now a shroud, waving to her in the snow and wind as the train pulled away forever from that station. "I hang as far out of the window as humanly possible, as long as possible, so my eyes can engrave this last view of you upon my soul" (p. 154).

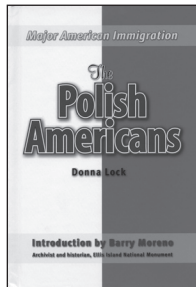
The generation that passed through that Gehenna is fast disappearing: any witness who can remember anything of World War II Poland must be at least 75-80. This is important reading that deserves widespread dissemination from this very small publisher.

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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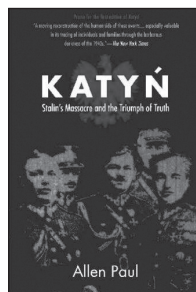
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from the "Major American Immigration Series" by Donna Lock
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Mason Crest Publishers. 2008. 64 pp. hc. 9"x6"
Polish emigrants left their homeland for many of the same reasons as did other ethnic groups: poverty, religious intolerance, hardship, and a strict government. Yet in America's melting pot, the Polish have maintained a stronger hold on their traditions and customs than most of the other immigrant groups that arrived in North America during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This is due in part to the closeness of the ethnic Polish neighborhoods that grew up in the industrial cities where many immigrants settled.

Today, prominent Polish American associations work to ensure that people with Polish ancestry will never forget their proud heritage.

"A good overview of mainstream European American experience..." **Booklist.**



NEW! KATYN: STALIN'S MASSACRE AND THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH
by Allen Paul
\$24.95
Northern Illinois University Press
2010. 430 pp. pb. 9"x6.5"

Marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, this edition exposes the crime and its cover-up. Twenty years ago, Allen Paul wrote the first post-communist account of one of the greatest but least-known tragedies of the 20th century: Stalin's annihilation of Poland's officer corps and massive deportation of so-called "bourgeoisie elements" to Siberia. Today, these brutal events are symbolized by one word, Katyn.

Paul's richly updated account covers Russian attempts to recant their admission of guilt for the murders in Katyn Forest and includes recently translated documents from Russian military archives, eyewitness accounts of two perpetrators, and secret official minutes published here for the first time that confirm that U.S. government cover-up of the crime continued long after the war ended.

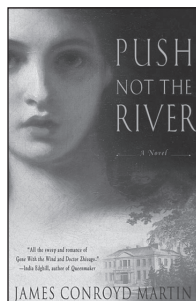
Paul's masterful narrative recreates what daily life was like for three Polish families amid momentous events of World War II—from the treacherous Nazi-Soviet invasion in 1939 to a rigged election in 1947 that sealed Poland's doom.

"Not only a riveting human drama but a powerful historical expose..." —**Zbigniew Brzezinski**, former U.S. national security adviser

"Allen has given us the complete story of Katyn ... a wonderful companion to my film!" —**Andrzej Wajda**, Academy Award-winning Director of Katyn.



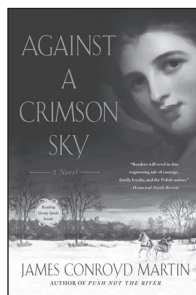
A TRAVELLER'S HISTORY OF POLAND
by John Radzilowski
\$14.95
312 pp. ill., maps. pb.
A comprehensive historical survey guides travellers through a general history of the people and places of Poland from pre-history to today. Includes a full chronology, a list of monarchs and rulers, a gazetteer, historical maps.



PUSH NOT THE RIVER
by James C. Martin
\$15.95
St. Martin's Press. 496 pp. pb. Maps & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide
AUTOGRAPHED! This book club favorite is based on the real diary of a Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the Third of May Constitution years, a time of great turmoil. Vivid, romantic, and thrillingly paced, the novel paints the emotional and memorable portrait of the metamorphosis of a nation—and of Anna, a proud and resilient young woman, and Jan, her soldier-husband. Critics have called the story Poland's *Gone with the Wind*.

The author is the winner of the 2007 Gold Medal for Literature from The American Institute of Polish Culture.

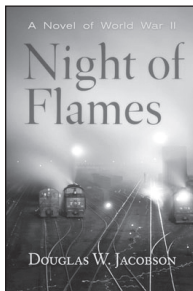
"The story is well paced and compelling, the historical detail plentiful yet not overwhelming, and the characters engaging and true to the period." — **The Historical Novels Review.**



AGAINST A CRIMSON SKY
by James C. Martin
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St. Martin's 369 pp. pb. Map & wycinanki illust. Reading Group Guide
AUTOGRAPHED! "You don't have to read *Push Not the River* to get the most from this sequel," says Suzanne Strempek Shea. The award-winning author picks up where *Push Not the River* leaves off, taking the characters 20 years into the fascinating Napoléonic era,

highlighting the exploits of the glorious Polish lancers. Having narrowly escaped death amidst the chaos caused by the violent dissolution of their homeland, Anna and Jan struggle to raise a family in uncertain times. When Napoléon Bonaparte comes calling, hinting at independence one day for the country, Polish legions form up—Anna's friends and family members among them—and accompany Napoléon as he battles his way across Europe in an effort that culminates in the doomed 1812 winter march to Moscow.

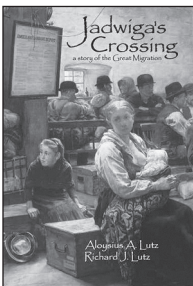
"A sprawling epic... entertaining." — **Publishers Weekly.**



NIGHT OF FLAMES:
A Novel of World War Two
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\$16.95
384 pp. pb., McBooks Press
"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire."

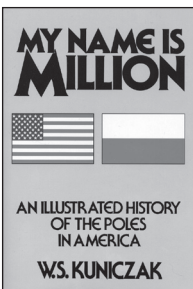
In 1939 the Germans invade Poland, setting off a rising storm of violence and destruction. For Anna and Jan Kopernik the loss is unimaginable. She is an assistant professor at a university in Krakow; he, an officer in the Polish cavalry. Separated by war, they must find their own way in a world where everything they ever knew is gone.

Through the long night of Nazi occupation, Anna, Jan, and ordinary people across Europe fight a covert war of sabotage and resistance against the overwhelming might of the German war machine. The struggle seems hopeless, but they are determined to take back what is theirs.



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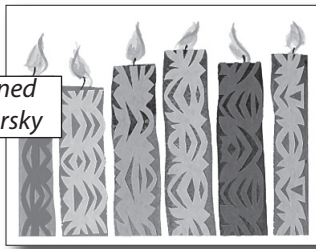
From the 17th century to the present, people of Polish descent have made important contributions in every area of American life. Most of their names will not be found in American history books. But many of their names and stories are included in this richly illustrated history. My Name is Million is also the story of those millions of Polish Americans whose role in American life have, until now, gone unrecognized.

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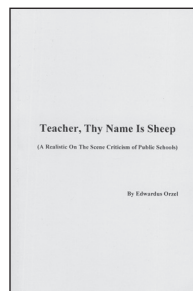
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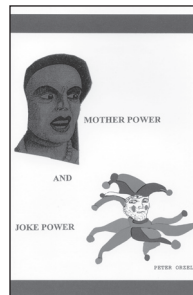


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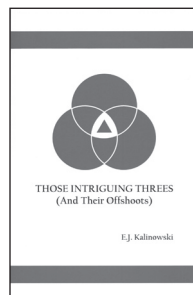
TEACHER, THY NAME IS SHEEP
by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Edwardus Orzel)
\$9.95

Kalski Books, 2004. 132 pp., pb.
Why are American high school students so undisciplined? Read this book and judge for yourself. The author, a retired high school and junior high school teacher, first wrote his opinionated discourse in 1968, and updated it in 2004. Among his views are "Give me a Principal with Principles." "It takes good parents, and good teachers, not a village, to raise good students," and "TV is today's mother, father, and teacher" among others.



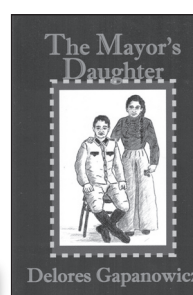
MOTHER POWER AND JOKE POWER
by E.J. Kalinowski (NDP Peter Orzel)
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Kalski Books, 1998. 142 pp., pb.
Mother Power is a compendium of psycho-biographical sketches on personalities in various fields: politics, military, medicine, theater, and religion, written in a pertinent, pithy manner pointing out how mother influence determined the success of the famous and infamous. *Joke Power* stresses the deleterious effects jokes have in individuals and groups targeted for derision. The author is a retired high school and junior high school teacher, who has penned numerous polemic observations in community and regional newspapers.



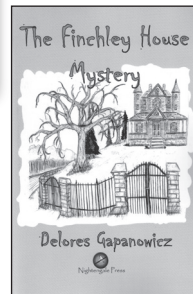
THOSE INTRIGUING THREES (and Their Offshoots)
by E.J. Kalinowski
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Self published / Kalski Books, 2009. 166 pp., pb.
Why are there so many threes in the Bible — both the Old and New Testament? Creation abounds in threes? Have you noticed the amount of triadic construction in nature? The premise of this book is the prevalence of threes in our world and how apparent these triadic aspects are if one takes the time to observe them.



THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER
by Delores Gapanowicz
\$12.95
Edition illustrated

Nightingale Press, 2007. 176 pp., pb.
Readers will discover what life was like in rural Eastern Europe before World War I, a way of life that has changed forever. This book retrieves one family's heritage and allows us all to connect with our own. The stories were told to the author by her parents before they passed away. These tales show that young people on farms didn't spend all their time milking cows and picking potatoes.



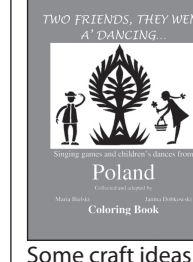
THE FINCHLEY HOUSE MYSTERY
by Delores Gapanowicz
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Nightingale Press, 2005
For Ages 9-12. 132 pp. pb.
Delores Gapanowicz is a published author of children's books.
Is the Finchley House haunted or not? Are those ghosts flitting from room to room after dark? Or is someone secretly living in the old house and not wanting to reveal themselves? Could it be the rumors floating around Green Hills are actually true?



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Using these "wycinanki" icons, you can draw the story of each song, color the enlarged full page cut-out, or reproduce any of these icons for educational purposes. Some craft ideas are included.

AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD — Secretary of the State **Susan Bysiewicz** won a declaratory ruling from Hartford Superior Court Judge Michael Sheldon that the people of Connecticut, not Republican Party insiders, have the right to determine who should be the next Attorney General.

Bysiewicz, the front-runner in the race for Attorney General, filed suit in February to resolve questions raised about whether or not her background in public service, combined with her years in private law practice, sufficed to give her the right to run for and to serve as Connecticut's Attorney General.

Bysiewicz declared her candidacy for the 2010 Democratic nomination for Attorney General on January 13 and holds a commanding lead of nearly 50 points in the polls over any other Democrat seeking the position. She has served as Connecticut's Secretary of the State for the past eleven years.

MAINE

CASTINE — There is a lot of wasted energy at the exhaust end of an internal combustion engine, and some students at Maine Maritime Academy are hoping to show that they can capture that energy and use it to power a hybrid test boat.

The experiment is part of a research project at the college that began last year when students used a thermoelectric generator to convert the heat from the engine exhaust on the MMA research vessel Friendship to electricity to power a panel of lights on the boat.

This year, the students have converted a 20-foot enclosed lifeboat into a test platform in order to see whether the system they have developed can be transferred to a larger platform that could be used to increase the efficiency of the boat's power plant.

Teacher advisers on the project are **Paul Wlodkowski** and **Pete Sarnacki**, both associate professors in the college's marine systems engineering program. Wlodkowski

also is on the graduate faculty of the university's mechanical engineering program.

So far, the U.S. Navy and the American Bureau of Shipping are interested in their research and have provided grant funding for the project.

MICHIGAN

DETROIT — **Saint Hyacinth Grade School and Commercial High School** will be having a reunion on Sunday, September 19, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. This is in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the school's closing. Mass at 11:00 a.m., school open house, snacks and refreshment.

For further information, call the rectory at (313) 922-1507

NEW YORK

BUFFALO — Business and community leader **James Domagalski** (R-Orchard Park) announced his campaign for State Senator in the 59th Senate District. Domagalski's campaign "will focus on bringing his proven business sector skills to reform the dysfunction in Albany and fundamentally change state government."

He hopes to win the seat being vacated by Sen. Dale Volker, who announced his retirement last month.

SYRACUSE — Ten scholarships will be awarded at the **Fifty-Sixth Annual Polish Festival** to be held at Clinton Square, June 11-13.

Festivities begin at noon on Friday at Syracuse's City Hall with the raising of the Polish Flag. The Festival itself begins at 4:00 p.m. in Clinton Square with continuous entertainment beginning with Syracuse's own Jasiu Klocek & the Salt City Brass and Buffalo's Knewz. Eight-time Grammy winner, Al Pitakowski from Cazenovia, and the Little Poland Dance Ensemble from Utica, New York will also appear.

Saturday the Festival opens at noon with Fritz's Polka Band out of Verona, which performs an eclectic mix of musical styles. Also, a

winner of a Sammy, Ashley Cox, a singer, songwriter and ultra talented musician on both guitar and piano will be on stage. The New Phaze & Tony Blazonczyk will be followed by two colorful and talented dance groups, Lowicz Dance Ensemble from Edmonton and the Lechowia Dance Company from Toronto. Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra come to the stage Saturday evening.

The "Pole of the Year" will be announced on Saturday.

The last day of the festival, Sunday, John Gora & Gorale, from Burlington, Ontario will be the first performance at noon, followed by the Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble, who perform a variety of National, traditional and regional dances of Poland, and Dennis Polisky and The Maestro's Man from Connecticut will follow. The Lowicz Dance Ensemble will once again perform Sunday afternoon.

The scholarships will be awarded on Sunday along with Miss Polonia 2009, Sonia Siok crowning the new Miss Polonia 2010.

There is no admission charge for the festival that will include children's entertainment, Polish Art and Fine Crafts and Polish books besides delicious Polish food and beverages. Visit www.polishscholarship.com; or write: Polish Scholarship Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 2025, Syracuse, NY 13220; (315) 687-1076

PENNSYLVANIA

READING — Albright College student **Jessica Jakubowska** and friends have organized a summer-long fundraiser to bring in money for a water system in a village in Marale, Uganda.

In May, they sponsored a walk around their school, at which participants were able to partake in a variety of services and products. On May 30, three of her friends are beginning a bike trip across country. They plan to stop at various churches also to increase awareness in their project.

A member of the Association of the Sons of Poland, Jakubowska has the support of the fraternal based in Carlstadt, N.J.

For more information or to learn

Embassy Observes May 3rd Constitution Day



foreign embassies, international institutions and the extensive Polonia. Aleksander Kwasniewski, a former president of Poland, also attended.

After the singing of the Polish and American national anthems by Josef Surowiec, Ambassador Kupiecki spoke first about the pall cast upon the day's celebration by the recent tragic airplane crash near Katyn Forest / Smolensk, Russia, and paused to remember Polish President Lech Kaczynski and the other 95 honored and notable victims. He also spoke about the historic significance and revolutionary political ramifications of the May 3rd Constitution that forever changed the face of Poland and Europe.

Buzek, president of the European Parliament (also a founder of Solidarity and a former prime minister of Poland) was the guest of honor. He, too, reflected upon the catastrophic April 10 airplane crash, and on the greatness of the Polish Constitution. Buzek commended America for its freedoms-fight and support of democracy around the world, and mentioned the vital assistance of Polish patriots Pulaski and Kosciuszko in the American Revolutionary War.

He also emphasized that the central purpose of his visit here was to build a much closer partnership between the European Parliament and U.S. Congress over a range of paramount issues.

Buzek said it was the first time in his life that he celebrated Polish Constitution Day outside of Poland. (R. Poremski)

GUEST OF HONOR. The President of the European Parliament — Jerzy Buzek — is pictured above delivering pertinent remarks to the numerous guests of the Polish Embassy at the Renwick Gallery on the occasion of the 219th Anniversary of Poland's historic May 3rd Constitution.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At the landmark 1870s Renwick Gallery, just across from the White House, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland hosted its celebration of the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791.

Ambassador Robert Kupiecki and Brigadier General Leszek Socewica, accompanied by their wives, graciously received and greeted the guests at the April 27, event.

The few hundred invitees were a well-rounded cross section of the U.S. Congress, Department of State, government agencies, the White House, Pentagon, NATO,

how to make a donation, visit www.ridemarale.blogspot.com.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The **Summer Session of Polish Language and Culture Classes** at the Washington Office of Kosciuszko Foundation will start June 7 and end July 28. There will be 8 classes during the summer session.

Schedule of classes: *Beginners I* class will meet on Mondays, 6:30 p.m. - 8:10 p.m., June 7-July 26; *Be-*

ginners II/Intermediate class will meet on Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 8:10 p.m., June 8-July 27; *Advanced* class will meet on Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 8:10 p.m., June 9-July 28.

All classes meet at 2025 O Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-5913 (between 20 and 21st Street, close to Dupont Circle Metro).

Please go to: www.learnpolishdc.com for more information or contact Basia Bernhardt at basiabernhardt@yahoo.com.

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"Katyn" Author Allen Paul to Address PIASA

NEW YORK — The 68th Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) will be held on Fri., June 4 and Sat., June 5, 2010 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in the Downtown Lakeshore area, 916 East State St. Milwaukee, WI 53202. This two day multi-disciplinary conference on Polish and Polish American studies is being organized in cooperation with the Polish Studies Committee, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The conference will give special attention to such topics as: Katyn: 70 Years Later; Pilsudski; A 75-Year Perspective; Heroes of Solidarity; Milwaukee's Polonia; Poland and Polish Americans; American Writers Writing About Poland; Aspects of Polish-Jewish Relations in the U.S.; Contemporary Polish Economy; Polish Americans in Elective Politics; Polish and Polish American Literature; Poland in World War II and Its Aftermath, etc.

Close to 80 scholars and scientists will participate in the conference that will include sixteen sessions and panels in various disciplines that include history, literature, economics, art and science, Polish American studies, and politics.

Participation and attendance at the conference open to All persons interested in the cultural and intel-

lectual heritage of Poland and Polonia are invited to attend. All attendees are required to pay a registration fee. Registration for both days is \$50. One day registration is \$25. Checks should be sent to PIASA, 208 E. 30th St, New York, N.Y. 10016. On site registration will be available with a \$5.00 higher fee.

Room reservations at the Comfort Inn & Suites can be made directly by telephoning 1-800-328-7275. A complete listing of the program schedule will be found on PIASA's website: www.piasa.org

A gala banquet, ending the two

day conference will be held on Saturday at 7:00 pm, June 5, the "Great Lakes Ballroom" at the Comfort Inn. Tickets for the banquet are \$55.00 per person. For ticket information, contact PIASA at (212) 686-4164.

The main speaker at the banquet will be Allen Paul prominent journalist and author, who wrote "Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Triumph of Truth." His book translated into Polish was a bestseller in Poland. The new U.S. Polish editions contain dramatic, previously-unpublished revelations about the U.S. cover-up of Katyn.

Katyn Conference Overwhelming Success

After the Kosciuszko Foundation's Katyn Conference in Washington D.C., the Katyn Exhibit that was on display in the Russell Senate Office Building Rotunda, made its first stop at the Foundation headquarters at 15 East 65th Street.

The exhibit was authored by The Council to Protect the Memory of Combat and Martyrdom, and produced thanks to grants from The Foundation for Polish Science and The Kosciuszko Foundation.

The conference in Washington was a huge success for Polonia, and some of the main speeches are available on the Kosciuszko Foundation's new Youtube channel, KosciuszkoTV.

The conference was made possible thanks to the help of The Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., The U.S. Helsinki Commission, The Cold War Studies Program at Harvard University, and The Memorial Human Rights Protection Center in Moscow.

Following its stay at the Foundation headquarters, the exhibit will be on display at the Polish Consulate in New York, before going on a tour of Kosciuszko Foundation chapters and cities across America.