

POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL

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TWARDOWSKI RETURNS TO EARTH — Page 16

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



PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN CULTURE

CZEŚĆ ICH PAMIĘCI! HONOR TO THEIR MEMORY! • BALTIMORE'S KATYN REMEMBRANCE
THE COUNTRY-POLKA CONNECTION • MAY 3RD AT THE EMBASSY • A NEW GABRESKI MARKER
POLISH AMERICANS, FROM A TO Z • A BIG DAY FOR STEFEN WISNIEWSKI

NEWSMARK

Obama Endorses Mikulski Bill

Legislation Would Bring Poland into U.S. Visa Waiver Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Obama, in Poland May 27, announced his support for U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski's (D-Md.) Secure Traveler and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2011 as the next step to bring Poland into the U.S. VISA Waiver Program (VWP). Senator Mikulski sent a letter to President Obama in April urging him to take this step forward during his trip to Poland.

"I welcome the steps President Obama laid out today in Poland to finally bring Poland into the U.S. VISA Waiver Program. Poland is a staunch and steady ally of the United States. Polish soldiers have fought and died alongside U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The time is long past due for Poland to become a member of the VISA Waiver Program," Mikulski said. "The grandmother from Gdansk who wants to visit her grandkids in Baltimore does not pose a risk to U.S. security. I look forward to working with the White House to pass this bill and take all other steps needed to bring Poland into the VISA Waiver Program very soon."

President Obama also expressed his support for the Secure Traveler and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2011 in a letter to Mikulski.

"I share your view that our counterterrorism and security partnerships have evolved and it makes sense to pursue a restructuring of the program," President Obama said in the letter. "Poland's strong and steadfast support during our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrates the deep alliance we have forged and the close partnership between our two countries."

Mikulski and Senator Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) introduced the Secure Traveler and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2011 (S. 497) in March. The bill modernizes and streamlines the U.S. VISA Waiver program to make it simpler and more secure. For years, strong allies like Poland have been excluded from the program due to its outdated entry requirements. By updating the program, Poland will be able to meet all requirements to gain membership in the VWP.

"I have fought for many years to ensure that we expand the Visa Waiver Program in a way that keeps our borders secure and accommodates travelers who want nothing other than to see family, conduct business, or tour our great country without going through a long and expensive process of getting a visa," Senator Mikulski said. "This bill allows our State Department to direct scarce consular resources where they are needed most without compromising security."

The Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act would require applicant countries to maintain an average non-immigrant VISA overstay rate not greater than 3 percent while giving the Secretary of Homeland Security flexibility to waive this requirement in cases where a country's participation does not pose a threat to law enforcement, security, or immigration laws and that country is cooperating fully with the U.S. in fighting terrorism.

In addition, the Mikulski-Kirk bill would authorize the Secretary to place a member country on probation if their overstay rate exceeds 3 percent, sending a strong message to current program members that the United States is serious about ensuring the VWP is a strong component of our security.

Currently, citizens of 36 nations around the world are eligible to participate in the VWP, which allows foreign visitors to travel to the United States for up to 90 days without a visa. Outdated requirements exclude Poland, a strong democratic ally, from the VWP despite allowing U.S. tourists to travel visa-free since 1991.

Companion legislation is led by Representatives Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) and Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.) in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Polish-born Pontiff Becomes Blessed John Paul II

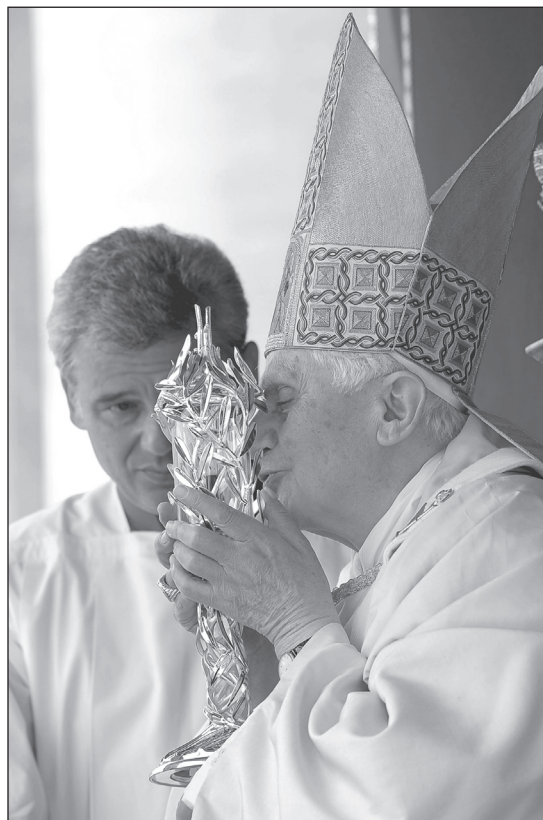
by Robert Strybel
 WARSAW—On Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast day he himself had instituted, the late Pope John Paul II joined the ranks of the blessed who are one step away from Catholic sainthood. Millions of Poles watched live broadcasts of the beatification in their homes, and at least 100,000 traveled to Rome for the event. They were among some 1.5 million pilgrims

RELATED STORIES

- **Keep Alive This Heritage**, page 2
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- **Reflections** by Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka, page 4
- **Memories of Blessed John Paul II** by Benjamin Fiore, S.J., page 5

from all over the world who had converged on the Vatican to hear Pope Benedict XVI proclaim in Latin: "Through our Apostolic authority we give our assent for the Venerable Servant of God, John Paul II, Pope, to henceforth be called blessed and for his feast day to be observed on October 22nd of each year." That was the date of his 1978 papal inauguration.

The huge crowd of worshipers packed into St. Peter's Square cheered, applauded and wept as a large portrait of the handsome, smiling Holy Father in the first years of his pontificate was unveiled seconds later. That moment was most deeply experienced by the late pope's compatriots, some of whom waved white and red flags and held up banners identifying individual Polish towns and parishes. "Gdańsk Zaspą – Dziękujemy" (we thank you) read the banner from one of the Baltic port's neighborhoods. John Paul's



Pope Benedict XVI venerates relics of Pope John Paul II, May 1, 2011.

beloved "górale" (highlanders) were also out in force in their characteristic folk attire. "By his witness of faith, love and apostolic courage, accompanied by great human charisma, this exemplary son of Poland helped believers throughout the world not to be afraid to be called Christian, to See "John Paul II," p. 4

Pawlenty Announces White House Bid

DES MOINES, Iowa — Former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty, has joined the field of Republicans hoping to unseat President Barack Obama in next year's election.



Pawlenty (inset), 50, who isn't well known outside the Midwest and ranked low in early popularity polling, made his first campaign appearance May 23 after announcing his bid for the nomination in an Internet video the night before. "President Obama's policies have failed. But more than that, he won't even

tell us the truth about what it's really going to take to get out of the mess we're in," said Pawlenty. "I'm going to take a different approach. I am going to tell you the truth."

The setting for Pawlenty's appearance — one block away from the Iowa state capitol — underscores how important Iowa's leadoff presidential caucuses are to his candidacy as he tries to position himself as the principle challenger to Mitt Romney. The former Massachusetts governor lost his first bid in 2008 and again is seeking the nomination of a party that historically has nominated a candidate who had run previously.

Obama is seen as hard to beat in November 2012.

HONORARY CONSULATES OPEN IN ATLANTA, PHILADELPHIA. The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Atlanta, Ga. officially opened on March 31, 2011. Ambassador Robert Kupiecki inducted Lawrence Ashe as Honorary Consul of Poland in a ceremony hosted by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed.

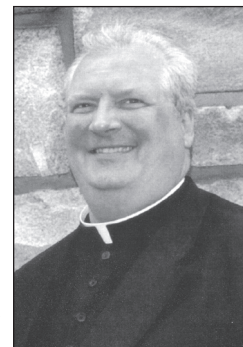
Kupiecki also inaugurated the Honorary Consulate of Poland in Philadelphia, Pa., and nominated Deborah Majka as Honorary Consul.

Story on page 18.

Rev. Canon Thomas C. Machalski, Jr. Named New OL Seminary Rector

Will Become OLS Chancellor in 2012

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. — The Orchard Lake Schools – SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's Preparatory, and the Orchard Lake Polish Mission – have announced the appointment by His Excellency Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, of Rev.



Canon Thomas C. Machalski, Jr., as Rector of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary (SSCMS) effective July 1, 2011. The current Rector of SSCMS, the Very Rev. Msgr. Charles G. Kosanke, was called back to priestly duties in the Archdiocese of Detroit by Archbishop Vigneron in March.

Following Archbishop Vigneron's appointment, the Board of Regents of Orchard Lake Schools acted to appoint Fr. Machalski as Chancellor-Elect of Orchard Lake Schools as well. Fr. Machalski will become Chancellor on January 1, 2012, following the expected departure at that time of Rev. Timothy F. Whalen, who was called back to his home Diocese of Pittsburgh by his See "Machalski," page 6

Yet Another Falls Worcester Diocese to Close St. Hedwig's

WORCESTER, Mass. — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester announced Southbridge's three Roman Catholic congregations will be merged into one parish, beginning July 1.

The Polish American parish of St. Hedwig's will be designated as a "chapel of convenience," and will see much lesser use than the two other churches involved in the merger.

Members of the combined Notre Dame of the Sacred Heart Church, St. Hedwig Church, and St. Mary's Church, learned that Notre Dame, given its much larger seating capacity and its location, will serve as the central place of worship.

Rev. Charles Borowski, the pastor at St. Hedwig's, will be given a new post.

Diocesan spokesman Raymond L. Delisle said that a team made up of parishioners from all three parishes will determine in much more detail how all the churches will be utilized.

Chancery officials said some of the buildings eventually will be put up for sale.

There are about 2,500 Catholic households in Southbridge.

ALMANAC

June • Czerwiec

"Kindness, I've discovered, is everything in life."

— Isaac Bashevis Singer, Polish-born American writer, 1904-1991

- 2 1935. First public parachute jump by **Stanley Switlik** in Ocean County, N.J. Amelia Earhart as the first jumper.
- 3 1890. Death of **Oskar Kolberg** (b., 1814), ethnographer.
- 4 1989. Election triumph of **Solidarity** in the first round to the parliament and the senate; second round June 18th. Solidarity seeps the first round 252 out of the possible 161 seats; in the second round 260 seats in the 560 seat parliament, a condition of the Round Table.
- 5 1674. **Jan III Sobieski** elected King of Poland.
- 7 1982. President Reagan and **Pope John Paul II** meet in the Vatican.
- 8 1987. Third visit of **John Paul II** to Poland (June 8-14), which includes prayer at the Gdansk monument to the fallen shipyard workers killed during Solidarity rally. Mass at Zaspas attended by 1.5 million faithful.
- 12 1659. **Dr. Alexander (Kurcysz) Curtius**, Polish educator and physician in the colony of New Amsterdam, arrives in the New
- 14 **FLAG DAY (U.S.)**
1811. Birth of **Antoni Patek**, famous watchmaker and co-founder of one of the most famous Swiss watchmaking companies, Patek Philippe & Company.
- 17 1696. Death of **Jan III Sobieski**, who defeated the Turks at the Battle of Chocóm near Vienna, and is credited with saving Europe from being overrun.
- 19 **FATHER'S DAY (U.S.)**
1873. Death of **Valerian Sulakowski**, Polish American military engineer for the Confederacy.
- 20 1954. Birth of **Michael Anthony Sobolewski** (inset), known in the rock music world as Michael Anthony. He is the former bass guitarist and one of the founding members of the rock band Van Halen. Sobolewski also is marketing his own brand of hot sauce called Mad Anthony's Hot Sauce.
Dach przecieka nie dlatego, że deszcz pada, ale dlatego, że w dachu dziura
A roof leaks not because of the rain, but because there is a hole in it
- 23 **FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI.**
Boże Ciało.
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 1914. Birth of **Jan Karski**, Polish World War II resistance fighter and scholar.
- 26 1295. **White Eagle** made symbol of Poland.
- 27 1697. Election of **August II the Strong**
Kuj żelazo, póki gorące.
Strike while the iron is hot
- 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 **June 2**. The July 2011 edition will be mailed on or before **June 30, 2011**.

VIEWPOINTS

Keep Alive This Heritage

The impact of Pope John Paul II on the papacy, Europe, and the world, will be felt for years to come. His twenty-seven years as head of the Roman Catholic Church redefined the Vatican and its policies.

Beatified by his successor, Pope Benedict XVI on May 1, John Paul II will be remembered for many things.

He was a "people's pope," who truly reached out to the world. During his papacy, he travelled to over 100 countries. With his Polish upbringing as a guide, he came as a humble visitor, and for that, was loved by all.

He was a humanitarian, calling for the end of "the culture of death," by promoting the Pro-Life Movement. On the matter of abortion, many said the Vatican and the pope should mind their own business, failing to realize John Paul II would not lower the bar on the world's slipping morals.

He was a patriot, and was not afraid to openly demonstrate his love for his homeland. Whether staring the Russian puppet masters in the face, or singing kolędy with visiting Górale at the Vatican, he loved Poland, Polonia, and its people. That passion ultimately brought an end to communism.

He was a student of Jesus, embracing those infected with AIDS, forgiving the man who tried to assassinate him, and so much more. He set an example for others to follow, seeing — above all — the holiness in all.

On his first visit to his homeland, he reminded his countrymen the ties between Poland, its culture, and the Church created a unique heritage, one he charged the Poles with keeping alive. We feel this is an important obligation. Granted, outside of holiday practices, many of us no longer have much in common with the land of our ancestors. That is what John Paul II warned us about, for we are denying ourselves the opportunity to experience the culture and spirit of one of the greatest nations of modern times. As Americans of Polish descent, we are doubly blessed, being able to experience all that both the United States and Poland have to offer.

Let us thank God for giving us John Paul II. Now that he is blessed, let us pray for his canonization. Let us follow his example and words, and keep alive this heritage.

Cześć Ich Pamięci! Honor to their Memory!

by John Radzilowski

This June 6th marks the 67th anniversary of the D-Day landing in Normandy, which began the final chapter of the struggle against Nazism. This is a day to remember all the Allied soldiers, sailors, and airmen who fought in the Normandy campaign, so many of whom gave their lives.

In particular we might recall:

- The tens of thousands of Polish Americans who went ashore on Omaha and Utah beaches. Among them was Col. Matt Urban of Buffalo who, despite suffering a serious leg wound during the landing, rallied his men on Omaha beach, climbed on top of a tank amid heavy German fire, and led his men in an attack that got them off the beach. (Urban received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery on D-Day, and efforts are now underway to have his image placed on a U.S. Postage stamp.)

- The sailors of the Polish Navy who participated in large numbers, especially the crews of the Polish destroyers who were cited for valor on June 6th for making repeated runs at German coastal positions to draw fire from the troops in the vulnerable landing craft;
- The airmen and ground crews of squadrons 300 Mazovia, 302 Poznan, 305 Wielkopolska, 306 Torun, 308 Krakow, 315 Deblin, and 317 Wilno who flew countless sorties during the D-Day operation in support of the ground forces to attack ground and sea

targets and provide cover from German aircraft. (Polish 133 wing commanded by the legendary Stanislaw Skalski scored 38 kills of enemy aircraft during the first month after D-Day, the highest of any Allied fighter wing.);

- The soldiers of the Polish 1st Armored Division who closed the trap on the Nazis in France at the Battle of Falaise.

Honor to their memory!



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Reasons to Buy Life Insurance from a Polish American Fraternal Benefit Society

American Polonia's fraternal benefit societies were founded as mutual aid societies for the newly arrived. Over the past 100-plus years, these organizations have helped millions of Poles and their descendants by providing both financial assistance and guidance in assimilating to the American way of life.

Today, fraternal benefit societies offer more than financial benefits. Community and human needs, not always met by governmental bodies, are often addressed by fraternalists. Through hands-on charitable and patriotic work, fraternalists make a difference in the lives of individuals, communities and the nation.

When you join a Polish American fraternal benefit society, you contribute to a way of life that has sustained our people for generations.

1. Money, should something happen to you.
2. It's a supplement to your retirement.
3. To provide a way to peace of mind and security in old age.
4. It's a savings plan.
5. It's a way to borrow money.

6. You are contributing to the continuation of our Polish traditions and heritage.

7. Academic scholarships and grants for members and their children.
8. As a new outlet for social activities such as organized tours, trips, language classes, theater parties, golf outings, picnics, and children's parties, to name a few.
9. A subscription to the monthly publication, the *Polish American Journal*.
10. A way to give back to your community by participation in volunteer efforts.
11. A way to support organizations that promote our shared Polish heritage.
12. To help pay for your children's education.

Call a Polish American fraternal near you and see what it has to offer. You will be surprised to find out all that you are missing.

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Editor in Chief Mark A. Kohan
editor@polamjournal.com

Senior Associate Editor Larry Wroblewski
Associate Editors Holly Chmil, Florence Waszkelewicz-Clowes, Benjamin Fiore, S.J., T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Michael Pietruszka, Stas Kmiec, Steve Litwin, Jennifer Moskal, Walter J. Mysliwicz, James Rygelski, Thomas Tarapacki
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POLISH CHILDREN'S HEARTLINE begins its 26th year of helping children. An all volunteer non-profit organization receiving generous donations from Polonia and American supporters makes it possible for over 2000 Polish children to be treated annually by cardiac surgeons and physicians in hospitals in Poland. As requested, equipment critical to pediatric care is provided to six hospitals in Zabrze, Katowice, Lodz, Suwalki, Bialystok and Grajewo. Contributions may be made in memory of and/or honor of family and friends. Each donation is tax exempt and acknowledged. We thank you for your support and ask for your continued support for much help is still needed. For information call 732-680-0680 or visit our website: PolishChildrensHeartline.org. **"If we don't help our Polish children, who will?"** Ronald Syslo, President

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Cosby Speaks in Stamford



STAMFORD, Conn. —The Holy Name Athletic Club celebrated its 77th Annual Communion Brunch on Palm Sunday. The seventy-seven year tradition started with the members and guests walking in a body from their clubrooms, with a police escort, to Holy Name of Jesus Polish Church for Mass. After mass the members walked back to the clubrooms for a breakfast/brunch. The guest speaker was TV correspondent Rita Cosby (above, left), who spoke on her latest book "Quiet Hero." This story is about her father, Ryszard Kossobudzki, who, as a boy, fought in the Polish Home Army (AK), and the bloody Warsaw Uprising. Follow-

ing breakfast, Cosby autographed copies of her book. On May 17, 2011, her book will be released in paperback. Copies can be reserved at Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble. Your support could make this a best seller, which would be a first for a book about Poland. The book can be reviewed at www.quiethero.org. Member of the Holy Name Club, Winnifred Skibinski, was awarded the club's "Citizen of the Year" award for her longtime service to the club. Pictured are (l. to r.): Pat Koproski, Skibinski and Cosby. The organization is the oldest Polish American athletic club in Connecticut.

QUOTES / compiled from news sources

Not Just Another Pope

"We have a high respect, a unique respect for John Paul. He is not just another pope for us."
— **Retired Israeli General Yossi Peled**, who was among the 1.5 million who came to witness the beatification of John Paul II in St. Peter's Square. Peled, an Israeli Cabinet minister, lost most of his family in the Holocaust, but was hidden by a Belgian family, who raised him as a Christian.

"Tell me, Eminence, do you think we have some *polnische Wirtschaft* in the Vatican finances?"

— **Pope John Paul II**, to Cardinal and Archbishop of Cologne Joachim Meisner, taking the German leader to task for his country's use of the phrase *polnische Wirtschaft* (literally, "Polish business," used to describe shoddy, inferior work), following a meeting about Banco Ambrosiano scandal in the early 1980s. The Vatican Bank was accused of funneling covert United States funds to Solidarity and the Contras through the Italian bank. The late pope's humor is one of many topics in the latest book by biographer George Weigel, "The End and the Beginning: Pope John Paul II" (Doubleday).

"I doubt very much whether one could ever spend too much time on this subject."

— **Douglas W. Kmiec**, a devout Catholic, announcing his resignation as U.S. ambassador to Malta after a State Department inspector general's report said he spent too much time speaking and writing about religion.

"Mr. Kmiec can rest assured that he will be considered ... a true friend of Malta, its people and, perhaps to a greater extent, a much-esteemed contributor to the development of young people."

— **An open letter** signed by representatives of 17 student groups in devoutly Catholic Malta.

"I'm going to New York City to tell Wall Street that if I'm elected, the era of bailouts and handouts for big banks is over."

— **Former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty**, who announced his candidacy for the White House, May 22.

"My initial reaction was that I was sick to my stomach, because 900 people are going to be out on the street."

— **Peg Michalowski**, secretary-

treasurer of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1360, on the layoff of part-time employees at Acme Markets in Southeastern Pennsylvania and South New Jersey.

"But you can't avoid it. That's the thing. You go down for breakfast and you know it's going to be there in the paper."

— **Event planner and Londoner Jerzy Wierzbowski**, who had grown tired of the hype over the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

"You get calls occasionally from people that say they threw their wedding ring in the trash, or bags or money. But with so much coming in, there's really nothing we can do."

— **Michael Parkowski**, spokesman for the Delaware Solid Waste Authority, where more than 500 dump trucks pass through the landfill's gates each day. Since the body of former Pentagon official John P. Wheeler III tumbled from the back of an arriving truck at Wilmington's Cherry Island Landfill, the Authority has told employees to be vigilant about what they witness in the trash.

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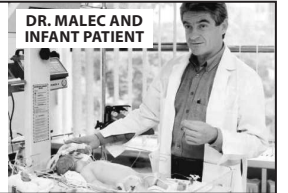
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Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble
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The Concertina AllStars
Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir
Pierogi Eating Contest
Phocus Polkas with Scrubby
Stephanie & the Honky Band
Burza Batalion War Reinactment
Festival Pageant
Theme Basket Auction

For more information go online to: **www.polfunfest.com** We look forward to seeing you there!

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We are a group of dedicated volunteers that comprise the *Polish Gift of Life, Inc.* With your support for the past 31 years, we have assisted in saving the lives of almost 400 Polish children (16 in 2010), who suffer from heart-related illnesses. Surgery is performed by Polish pediatric cardiologist Dr. Edward Malec. Sick children wait for our help to lead a healthy, normal life. Join in this mission. Together we can fulfill their dream. To find us: *The Polish Gift of Life, Inc., P.O. Box 273, Albertson, NY 11507-0273, or call (516) 746-1532 or (516) 371-5156.* Thank you! *Dziękuję bardzo!*



Beatification Brings Happy Memories to Pennsylvania Priest

JEANNETTE, Pa. — A relationship that began in September of 1969 between the Rev. Canon Joseph Sredzinski and Pope John Paul II reached a pinnacle on Sunday, May 1 with the declaration of Blessed for the beloved late pontiff.

While studying in preparation for the Holy Priesthood at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary on the shores of Orchard Lake, Michigan (northwest of Detroit) Deacon Joseph Sredzinski was called to the Office of the then Rector-Monsignor Walter Ziemba and told that he was to represent the student body of the three Orchard Lake Schools and the faculty in a prepared welcome for the incoming guest, Karol Cardinal Wojtyla, Archbishop of Krakow in Poland. This happened in the early fall of 1969. Deacon Sredzinski, a native from Fayette County studying for the Holy Priesthood for the Diocese of Greensburg, likewise served as a Deacon for the Mass in the Seminary Shrine-Chapel for the Cardinal and read the Gospel in Polish at St. Florian's Church for Polish people gathered in Hamtramck, Michigan.



While leading a group of Polish American Youth to Poland and Rome, Rev. Sredzinski met with his hero in a semi-private audience.

Then, in the Fall of 1989, while taking Advanced Theological Studies at the North American College in Rome, Rev. Fr. Joseph Sredzinski had the opportunity to concelebrate Holy Mass with the Krakow Cardinal, now Pope John Paul II in his Papal apartment/chapel. Afterwards Father Joseph met with His Holiness and addressed him in Polish

reminding him of the first meeting in Orchard Lake twenty years ago.

"Father, you have a good memory," the Pope told Fr. Sredzinski.

That was not the last time the two would meet.

In 1993, while leading a van full of teens from St. Joseph parish in Everson, Pa., he met with the Pope in Colorado for World Youth Day.

They met again in 2002, when Fr. Sredzinski was leading a group of Polish American youngsters from Western Pennsylvania to Poland and Rome, where — once again — he conversed in Polish with Pope John Paul II, one on one.

Over the years, Fr. Sredzinski admired the dedication and courage of this first Slavic Pope. His devotion to Mary — Totus Tuus — and championship of Human Rights, especially for the pre-born and youth, gave an added lift and incentive to priestly work for the Fayette county native who served in Republican, Brownsville, Everson and Point Marion parishes since his ordination in 1970. Fr. Joseph also promoted devotion to Divine Mercy by erecting and having blessed the outdoor Grotto to the Mercy of God on the grounds of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr Parish, on Polish Hill in Calumet, Pa.

Fr. Sredzinski, who prepares



REV. CANON JOSEPH SREDZINSKI stands next to his hero's statue on the Orchard Lake Seminary campus.

and airs the weekly religious program "That You May Believe" over WMBS 590 AM Sunday at 6:05 p.m. joined millions in Rome on May 1 to witness the beatification of his long-time hero.

"I've waited a long time to publicly say 'Blessed John Paul, pray for us,'" said Fr. Sredzinski. "I now look forward to the day he is named a saint."

Reflections

by Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka

Karol Jozef Wojtyla born May 18, 1920, entered into eternal rest on April 2, 2005, the vigil of the Feast of Divine Mercy. Our beloved Holy Father John Paul became Blessed John Paul II on May 1, 2011 on the Feast Day of Divine Mercy.

Papa Wojtyla brought us into the new springtime of Christianity, the third millennium just eleven years ago. The buds of this springtime are starting to bloom! Do we comprehend and recognize what's happening in today's world? John Paul is now called Blessed by the Church.

He was Poor in Spirit ... coming from the ranks, he ...

- mourned for his family and friends, and sheep
- was meek and humble of heart as Vicar of Christ he hungered and thirsted for righteousness in the world
- was merciful by promulgating Christ's Divine Mercy
- was clean of heart by fostering the culture of life
- was the peacemaker at Assisi and at the Wall
- identified with the persecuted for the sake of human rights

Let us rejoice and be glad for John Paul the Great!

Rev. Canon Majka is Catholic Chaplain at Washington-Dulles Airport.

John Paul II: Thousands line up to walk past casket

continued from cover

belong to the Church, to speak of the Gospel," Pope Benedict XVI said in his homily. "In a word: he helped us not to fear the truth, because truth is the guarantee of liberty. To put it even more succinctly: he gave us the strength to believe in Christ. (...) He restored to Christianity its true face as a religion of hope, of human fulfillment and the fulfillment of our yearning for justice and peace."

After the beatification ceremony had ended, thousands of faithful began lining up to file past the closed coffin of Blessed John Paul II at St. Peter's Basilica, to pay their respects. It was to remain there until all the pilgrims wanting to pay tribute to the late pontiff had done so. The Poles among them had come by plane, train, bus or car, and some of the younger pilgrims had hitchhiked or come by bicycle. A few even

came on foot. On the eve of the beatification they could be seen camping on the streets in and around the Vatican. The most devout had attended a night-long prayer vigil. "We'll get our sleep in the bus on the way back home," one 50-year-old Polish pilgrim explained.

It was scorching hot under sunny skies at the Vatican, where volunteers were on hand to pass out bottled water to pilgrims and offer first aid. The weather was quite different across Poland on that day, but the scattered showers, wind and unseasonably chilly temperatures failed to dampen the spirits of hundreds of thousands of Poles who attended beatification masses around the country. In many places, the live broadcast of the beatification could be seen in and around churches on large TV screens.

Major celebrations were held at Kraków's Divine Mercy Basilica, at the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Częstochowa and at the late pope's birthplace of Wadowice — all in southern Poland. After attending the beatification mass, Prime Minister Donald Tusk toured the former Wojtyła home which has been turned into a museum. Like many Poles, he credited the late pontiff for the freedom Poland now enjoys. "If we compare Poland's situation when Karol Wojtyła became pope with the situation today, we can truly say that the miracle has occurred," he told journalists covering the event. A festive outdoor concert of the pope's favorite hymns and folk songs rounded out the evening's celebrations in Wadowice.

In Warsaw, thousands gathered at

Piłsudski Square to watch the televised proceedings and attend holy mass. It was there in 1979, during Pope John Paul's first pilgrimage to his native land, that he uttered his momentous words on the Feast of Pentecost: "May Your Spirit descend and change the face of the land ... this land!" Many Poles regard those words as the spark of inspiration that helped them regain their freedom and independence.

95 percent of Poles queried said the beatification was an important event in their lives and 93 percent expressed the view that it would prove important for Poland.

In 1980, a year later, Polish workers launched a strike wave that led to the emergence of Solidarność, the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union. The rest is history and includes the peaceful overthrow of communist rule across the continent, the dismantling of the iron curtain and the end of the cold war. Poles old enough to remember those events usually say they are thankful to have lived through the Polish pontificate.

It was not surprising that Poles were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the beatification. According to a survey by CBOS, Poland's largest polling organization, 95 percent of those queried said it was an important event in their lives and 93 percent expressed the view that it would prove important for Poland.

When pressed, however, some of them admitted that even the beatification of someone regarded as history's greatest Pole would probably not improve the country's embattled political scene. Poland's largest opposition party, the conservative Law and Justice, chartered a special train to Rome rather than traveling with President Bronisław Komorowski and officials of the ruling Civic Platform (party). And the mutual recriminations and verbal abuse seems likely to increase ahead of this autumn's national elections.

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Memories of Blessed John Paul II

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

MSGR. KAZIMIERZ SUDER, a fellow underground seminarian with Blessed John Paul II during the World War II Nazi occupation of Poland, remembers Karol Wojtyła as thoughtful, a good companion and very communicative, preferring to listen rather than speak and expressing his opinions without trying to impose them. “He never lied,” he remembered. “He had a serene gaze, and a sense of humor; he liked listening to jokes.” In addition to a great sensitivity to human suffering, which led him to give everything he received to the poor, but without making a show of his generosity. Msgr. Suder added, “I never succeeded in achieving the concentration that he had in prayer.”

THE GIANT IMAGE of Blessed John Paul II unfurled at his beatification was taken from a photo taken on a visit of his to a Roman parish on February 19, 1989 by **Grzegorz Galazka**. He remarked, “I saw him in his happiness and in his concern. I actually got to know the Pope very well through the lens of my camera.”

ON THE DAY of his beatification, a traveling exhibition of interactive panels on the life and work of Blessed John Paul II opened in Caracas, Venezuela with the mayor of



Pope John Paul II waves to a crowd in Gdansk during his seventh pilgrimage to Poland on June 5, 1999

Caracas Emilio Graterón and Polish ambassador Jacek Hinz in attendance. A group of volunteer guides helps the audience with explanations and answers to questions. The exhibit will travel through Venezuela for two years with the assistance of over 200 guides.

FR. MANFRED DESELAERS, program director of the Center for Dialogue and Prayer at Oświęcim, Poland, declared, “I am convinced that Wojtyła understood in this place the truth about man, because the questions that all ask themselves are the

fundamental ones on the meaning of life.” He went on to note, “It can be said that he conceived his priesthood as an answer to everything that happened during world War II, the immense suffering that others went through also in his place ... Auschwitz was the school of holiness of John Paul II ... because here Wojtyła understood totally what ‘faith’ means for the man of today.”

A NEW PLAY DEBUTED in Oxford, England, to honor the life, wisdom and spirituality of John Paul II, thespian and pontiff. “**The**

Quality of Mercy,” written by Leonie Caldecott is a fictional story of a week in the lives of a group of young people gathered together in the Abruzzi mountains in April 2005 on a hiking pilgrimage to the shrine of the Holy Face at Manoppello. A guide named Charlie accompanies them and mysteriously sees into their souls, penetrating the diverse problems the young hikers are harbouring. The theme of mercy is the central theme of the play. Blessed John Paul II was taken long ago as the patron of Caldecott’s theater group because he himself was interested in the theater, wrote and directed plays, and encouraged mystery plays to be performed.

THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER honored Pope John Paul II’s beatification by creating a permanent exhibit in the Center’s renowned Museum of Tolerance in New York City. Last month the Center honored Pope John Paul II at the prestigious Humanitarian Dinner by presenting the late pope with the Medal of Valor for his works in mending the relationship between Jews and Catholics. The award was accepted posthumously by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, papal nuncio to the United States.

THERE ARE FOUR VIALS of Blessed John Paul II’s blood that

were taken in the event of an eventual transfusion at Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome. Two were given to Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, The other two were placed in reliquaries venerated during the beatification ceremony. One of these will remain in the Vatican and the second will be returned to the care of the sisters at the hospital.

THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS has established a John Paul II Legacy web site “to assist people in realizing the magnitude of his work,” according to communications secretary Helen Osman. The site includes biographical details, writings, accomplishments, essays about his legacy in East-West relations, the mass media, the ethical use of technology, and the social mission of the Church. Go to www.usccb.org/popejohnpaulii.

PUERTO RICANS established a center in **Arecibo** in his honor to serve the needy. The center opened on the day of John Paul II’s beatification. Center staff will make a house-to-house assessment of the needs of the residents of the poor area where it is located and then will try to supply those needs. The Center will also be a center of prayer and evangelization, a retreat house, a formation center, and central office for the Charismatic Renewal national team.

Beatification Aftermath: Churches, Schools, and Centers Take Blessed Name

by Robert Strybel

WARSAW — As pilgrims from around the world continue to pay their respects and pray at the tomb of blessed John Paul II in St. Peter’s Basilica, parishes under his patronage are springing up. A tooth of the late Holy Father, his trademark cruciform crosier and the marble slab that had covered his temporary grave in the Vatican crypts have been returned to Kraków. The tooth had been accidentally knocked out by emergency frantically trying to save his life following the 1981 assassination attempt. His blood-stained stole is in the safekeeping of Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the pope’s long-standing secretary and personal friend.

Since his beatification on May 1st, 2011, those mementoes have come to be regarded as relics. Even the things he had used in his pastoral ministry and everyday life — his liturgical vestments, crucifix, hats, coats, pens, desk lamp and the like are revered as valuable keepsakes at the former Wojtyła family home in Wadowice, now a museum. Those fortunate enough to have had pictures taken with the late Pontiff cherish them as priceless keepsakes. And it’s no wonder.

During his pontificate he was surely the world’s most influential religious leader and has been acclaimed by many as one of the leading moral authorities of recent centuries. He will undoubtedly go down in history as one of Christendom’s greatest popes, and his countrymen have voted him history’s greatest Pole. Following his ascent to the altar, Blessed John Paul II will live on in the prayers of Catholics invoking his intercession and in the rich legacy he left behind — his encyclicals, teachings, books and personal example. He will also be memorialized in the physical realm.

There are already some 1,200 schools named after John Paul II in which around 300,000 youngsters and teenagers are enrolled. They are found not only in Poland but also in such far-flung places as Australia, Germany, Scotland, Lithuania and the United States. Others seem

likely to be established. Across Polish America, many fraternal lodges, clubs and cultural centers bear his name. Many Polonian parishes are now being closed or emerged, so it is not immediately known whether or when any churches will be named in his memory. At times existing parishes take on an additional patron, so that route may be traveled by some American parishes.

In Poland, immediately of following his beatification a number of new churches were named in honor of “Błogosławiony Jan Paweł Drugi.” One of the first was in the southern mountain town of Nowy Targ. Incorporating a style known as “passive construction,” it combines regional architectural motifs with

ecological technology and is said to be one of Europe’s most modern places of worship.

Another is the lower church in the John Paul II “Do Not Fear” Center at the Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Kraków’s Łagiewniki district. Its dedication will include the enshrinement of a vial containing the late Pontiff’s blood, provided by the doctors at Rome’s Gemelli Clinic. At the other end of the country, a Blessed John Paul Church was consecrated in Śniatowo near Kamień Pomorski on the Baltic coast. The faithful of Śniatowo began building their church in 2005, shortly after the Holy Father ended his earthly sojourn.

In southern Poland’s Śląsk

Cieszyński region not far from the Czech border, the first parish named after the late pope will soon be consecrated in the town of Ilica. “It has been built as a votive offering of gratitude for the person and pontificate of John Paul II,” explained its pastor, Father Jan Gustyn.

NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION is a church forming part of Lublin’s John Paul II Center. Three churches being built in Poznań will have John Paul II as their patron. Another is going up in Luboń near Poznań. Localities planning churches honoring the recently beatified Pole include Kraków, Tarnów, Radzymin near Warsaw, Olsztyn and Gdańsk. One parish in Warsaw’ Goław district is considering changing its patron to John Paul II. In Toruń, Poland’s

controversial radio priest, Father Tadeusz Rydzik is building a church with the rather unwieldy name “Mary Star of the New Evangelization and Blessed John Paul II.”

Streets across the country bear his name, and, at last count, there were some 530 statues of John Paul II all over Poland. Of that number 230 were erected from the time of his papal inauguration until his death. They vary in size and artistic value, but all of them are superior to the garden-dwarf-style plastic figures on sale at open-air bazaars and souvenir shops. Unfortunately, we live in a commercial pop culture era where not only outstanding authorities but also minor celebrities and passing episodes have to end up on T-shirts, coffee mugs and other assorted gadgets.

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RELIGION / Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Merged Parishes Renamed for Blessed John Paul

Buffalo Bishop Edward Kmiec approved the consolidation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Lakeview and St. Vincent dePaul Parish in Evans into Blessed John Paul II Parish. It is believed to be one of the first parishes in the world named for the newly beatified pope. St. Vincent's will be closed and Perpetual Help will be the new worship site.

In other news from the Buffalo Diocese, **Rev. Michael Burzynski** has been appointed pastor of St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga. Additional appointments include **Rev. Jacek Mazur** as pastor of St. Mary of the Cataract Parish in Niagara Falls, **Rev. Czeslaw Krysa** as rector of the St. Casimir Oratory in Buffalo and **Rev. Gary Szczepanek** as pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in North Tonawanda. **Rev. Francis Chmielewski** has been named the new pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood. Plans to close this church have been delayed by the diocese.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Fr. Robert Witkowski, pastor of St. Edmund's RC Church, Warren, Mich., celebrating 50 years of priesthood. Born in Hamtramck in 1935 and ordained in 1961, he served various Detroit area parishes (St. Matthew, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Mary Magdalene, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Lawrence, St. Raymond) before becoming pastor of St. Edmund's in 1991. In 2005 he was honored by the Polish American Priests Association in recognition of his active involvement with the association and Polonia.

On May 25, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo honored its

1971 ordination class with a Mass and reception at St. Stephen Church in Grand Island. The members of this class include **Bishop Edward Grosz**, **Rev. Thaddeus Bocianowski** (St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert, St. John Kanty), **Rev. David Borowiak** (St. Philip), **Rev. Joseph Janaczek** (Our Lady of Loreto), **Rev. Fabian Maryanski** (St. Andrew) and **Rev. Charles Slisz** (St. Christopher) ... Buffalo Auxiliary Bishop **Edward Grosz** marked the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood with a special Mass at Assumption Parish in Black Rock on May 29 ... **Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr.** on his 25th anniversary of ordination celebrated at St. Michael the Archangel PNCC Parish in Cedar Lake, Ind.

STOLATTO ... Fr. Miroslaw Król, Vice Rector of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Mich., on his appointment by Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz of Kraków and Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, to be the Director of the Pope John Paul II – Be Not Afraid Foundation. The foundation is being established in Newark to promote the legacy of Blessed Pope John Paul II and to raise funds for the Be Not Afraid Foundation in Kraków. In addition, Fr. Król will become pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Linden, N.J., one of the larger Polish American Catholic communities in New Jersey.

Edward Osowski and **David Barnes**, members of Blessed Trinity PNC Parish in Fall River, Mass., on receiving parish scholarships to aid in their college studies.

Walter Szczesny, owner of WTS Plumbing in Batavia, N.Y., who was ordained a permanent deacon by Bishop Kmiec, May 28.

Baltimore's 11th Annual Katyn Remembrance



AN EMOTIONAL MOMENT. At center above, Rabbi Amy R. Scheiner is shown sharing a sisterly embrace bestowed by Polish Army 1st Lt. Alfreda Jamrosz. Observing is Rev. Zdzislaw Nawrocki (left) and U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes.



POLONIA'S SENATOR. U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski is shown delivering remarks centering on Katyn, first anniversary of the catastrophic Katyn-Smolensk airplane crash, and the loyal American Polonia.

BALTIMORE —The National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF), led by Chairman Richard P. Poremski, conducted its 11th Annual Katyn Remembrance, April 10, 2011.

The day began with a very well-attended Katyn-dedicated Mass, celebrated in Polish by Rev. Zdzislaw Nawrocki, at Holy Rosary Church. A traditional coffee-and-cake gathering followed in the church's undercroft.

The early afternoon formal ceremony at the National Katyn Memorial site, located on Katyn Circle in the Harbor East neighborhood, was opened by MC Adam Mazurek with the presentation of national colors by the local SPK and PLAV veteran's organizations. Traditionally-costumed folk dance ensembles Krakowiaki and Ojczyzna raised their combined voices in the singing of the Polish and American national anthems.

Opening and concluding Invocations were given by Rev. Zdzislaw Nawrocki (RC) and Rev. Andrzej Bieganski (PNCC), respectively. Rabbi Amy Scheiner, president of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis, prayed and sang Kaddish in memory of Baruch Steinfeld – Chief Rabbi of the Polish Army – and the several hundred Polish Army officers of the Jewish faith who all perished at Katyn along with over 22,000 of their majority-catholic military brothers.

Representing the Embassy of the Republic of Po-

land was Counselor/Chief of Protocol Piotr Erenfeicht and Military Attaché Maj. Maciej Wozniak. Counselor Erenfeicht spoke on behalf of Ambassador Robert Kwiecień and the People of Poland.

Others, most of whom are Honorary Members of the NKMF, also addressed the large audience circling the Katyn Memorial. They included U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes, Maj. Gen. James Adkins – JFHQ MDNG representing Gov. Martin O'Malley, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, and Councilman James Kraft. U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin and City Council President Bernard Young were represented by their staff members.

The Remembrance concluded with the playing of Taps by bugler MSGT Mark Elrod. A flight of white doves was released by Polish Embassy officials to represent the heaven-bound souls of the Katyn victims.

At the Reception and Dinner in the Great Hall of PNA Council 21, Poland's President Lech Kaczynski and the other 95 victims of the catastrophic Katyn-Smolensk airplane crash were also remembered on its first anniversary, occurring exactly one year ago to this very day.

On this somber Sunday Polonia commemorated all who perished at Katyn ... in the past by the hand of the Soviet Union ... and most recently by the hand of fate.

Rev. Canon Thomas C. Machalski, Jr. Named New OLS Rector

continued from cover

Bishop for further assignment. Effective January 1, 2012, Fr. Machalski will be Chancellor/Rector of the Orchard Lake Schools, a structure which had been in place for many decades throughout the Schools' 125-year history.

QUALIFIED LEADER. The OLS Board of Regents' selection of Fr. Machalski, who is an alumnus of both St. Mary's Preparatory (1976) and St. Mary's College (1980), was based on his many qualifications and personal qualities which they determined to be essential to the continued success of the Schools. Fr. Machalski holds a Masters of Divinity degree from New York's Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, a Master's of Science in Education Degree from Fordham University, and a Licentiate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington, D.C. Fr. Machalski, who has lived in Poland, has served for many years as an officer of the Polish American Priests Association (PAPA), including two terms as President. "His strong interests in Polish culture and connections to the Polish community in America will be important in carrying out the Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools," Fr. Whalen said. "The fact that he spent his formative years here at Orchard Lake attending the Prep and St. Mary's College, gives Father Machalski a personal knowledge of the OLS mission and a sense of our history."

Lud Koci, Chairman of the Orchard Lake Schools Board of Regents, said, "The Orchard Lake Schools has been blessed with good leadership during a difficult economic period in the United States.

Both the Prep and the Seminary have recently received renewals from their respective accreditation agencies and are anticipating strong enrollments for the upcoming academic year. Fr. Machalski's qualifications assure that the progress made in the Schools and the development of our Orchard Lake Polish Mission as a recognized resource and center of Polish culture, will continue."

THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS.

Born from the vision and needs of Polish-Catholic immigrants, the Orchard Lake Schools were established in 1885, with the expressed mission of sustaining the Catholic faith tradition of Polish immigrants. Located on the eastern shore of Or-

chard Lake, 25 miles northwest of Detroit and five miles southwest of Pontiac in Orchard Lake, Michigan, the OLS are a private, Catholic center of formation and education. The 115-acre campus, which encompasses SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's Preparatory, the Orchard Lake Schools Polish Mission, as well as Madonna University's Orchard Lake Center, has been designated a Michigan Historical Site and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The OLS have remained united by their tri-cultural – Catholic, Polish, and American – heritage, as well as their shared commitment to faith formation in the Catholic tradition, excellence in education, and community service for more than 125 years.

MODLITWY / Prayers

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PRAYER TO ST. JUDE. Oh Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid.

Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. I.N.J.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE. Oh Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near the kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys, Three Glory Be's). St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. Publication must be promised. This prayer is to be said for nine consecutive days. This novena has never been known to fail. My prayers have been answered. I.C.S.

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Zamość under German Occupation

Last Days and Liberation

by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab

The year 1944 brought major changes to the Zamość region.

On January 12, 1944, a German communication indicated that the Soviet Army was east of the River San. The towns in the Wołyn region were in full evacuation. On February 27th the Germans gave notice that certain Soviet detachments had penetrated the rear of the German army. Tanks and artillery were heading west. There was chaos and disorganization among the German authorities and vehicles belonging to the military personnel as well as civilians began to pass through the Zamość region.

On the 12th of March, special permits were issued so that the volksdeutsche (German colonists) could evacuate. They were to be relocated to a camp in Łódź. In a communiqué to authorities in Kraków on the issue of the evacuation of the German colonists it was noted: "SS Obergruppenführer Koppe instructed me to notify as to the evacuation of the Zamość region there is the evacuation of the families (German colonists). The men will stay on the farms and the families — with the agreement of Gauleiter Greiser (chief authority in Łódź) — will be transported to the camp in Łódź."

On the 19th of March, the women and children of the German colonists were loaded on horse-drawn wagons and left. The Zamość city administrative offices were closed. The trains were crammed with ev-

eryone heading west across Poland towards Germany. Evacuation was in full force.

The Germans began to hide the evidence of their atrocities. The Rotunda was full of smoke. The Germans were digging out the mass graves of those murdered there and



THE RED ARMY liberated the Rotunda in Zamość, July 1944.

began to set the bodies on fire. The smell of burning flesh dispersed over the entire city.

On the 18th of July, the Germans received the order to evacuate. It turned into a panicked flight. On July 19th the higher administration officials left. The post office was liquidated. On July 20th, 150 prisoners being held in the Rotunda were shot. On July 22 of July the Germans blew up the roundhouse, railway ramp and the railroad tracks. There were fires everywhere. The electric plant ceased functioning. The Poles who remained alive hid in basements. On July 22nd the German police left.

On July 23 at 11:15 a.m., the Red Army and a detachment of Polish underground partisans entered the beleaguered city of Zamość. The joy in the city was beyond words. For them, the war was over.

May 3rd Constitution Celebrated by Embassy

by Richard P. Poremski

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On the evening of May 5, 2011, Ambassador and Mrs. Robert Kupiecki, with Military Attaché Brigadier General Leszek Socewica, welcomed guests into the Grand Salon of the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, across the plaza from White House. The festive occasion was in celebration of Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791. It was the second modern constitution adopted in the world, the U.S. Constitution of 1787 being the first.

After a singing of the Polish and American national anthems by soprano Dr. Laura Kafka, and being introduced by Counselor/Chief of Protocol Piotr Erenfeicht, Ambassador Kupiecki welcomed the more than 300 guests that included diplomats, military attachés, U.S. government officials and military officers, the greater Polonia, news media, etc.

Ambassador Kupiecki enumerated the main progressive and groundbreaking provisions of Poland's new democratic constitution, as follows: The revolutionary document established a constitutional monarchy and legislative parliament, religious tolerance was assured to all, the privileged rights of the gentry were maintained, and the peasantry was recognized as legal citizens.

Marker to Honor American Flying Ace

PITTSBURGH — The Kosciuszko Foundation Pittsburgh Chapter and the Polish National Alliance (PNA) Lodge 905, Oil City, Pa., will unveil a historical marker honoring Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski (1919-2002).

The unveiling will take place Sat., June 25, at 11:30 a.m. at the PNA, 410 Seneca St. in Oil City.

Gabreski was the top American ace in the European Theater in World War II, shooting down 28 enemy fighters in dogfights and tak-



AMBASSADOR ROBERT KUPIECKI is shown addressing the large audience gathered at the Renwick Gallery to celebrate the 220th Anniversary of Poland's historic Constitution of May 3, 1791.

Another major ramification was that "The legacy of the Constitution of May 3 developed and strengthened Poland's national consciousness, and helped the nation that was later divided among three partitioning powers (Austria, Prussia, Russia) to last through 123 years of captivity (ending in 1918)."

Kupiecki continued that today Poland is dynamic member of the European Union (EU). Poland and the EU have successfully fostered peace, stability and prosperity in the

region, notwithstanding the present economic downturns that are currently being remedied collectively by the EU member nations.

An appendage on the reverse side of the formal invitation concluded with: "May 3 (Trzeciego Maja) in Poland is a day of national celebration — and that is the reason that we're here today. Thank you for celebrating with us."

And the many scores of equally thankful invitees proceeded to do just that.



"GABBY" GABRESKI. Oil City native was a top fighter ace in World War II and Korea.

CIEKAWOSTKI / Martin S. Nowak

The Country-Polka Connection

The origin of country music goes back to the songs of the Scottish Highlands, but its roots include Irish jigs, English ballads, the French cotillion, African slave rhythms and even church hymns. A conglomeration of these styles was played by English, Scottish and Irish settlers in Appalachia and the West from the 1700s.

Variouly known throughout history as Mountain Music, Frontier ballads, Cowboy Songs, Hillbilly, American Folk, Country & Western, it has been popularly called Country Music for the past forty years.

In contrast, the origins of polka music lie in the folk melodies of Central Europe. It came specifically from Bohemia in the early 1800s, but is ultimately based on the traditional music of the larger region intertwined with one another to include Polish, Czech and Slovakian areas.

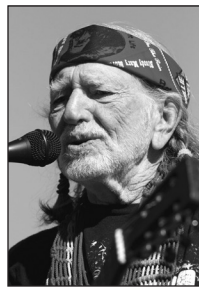
But in the old world origins of the music, there does seem to be a similarity between Scottish/Irish folk music and Polish Highlander music, an example of similar sounds in the ethnic music of country and polka fans.

In recent decades, polka and country music seem to have come to share a similar fan base. Many polka bands regularly play country songs as part of their repertoire. Polka legend Jimmy Sturr has performed four times at the Grand Ole Opry, the mecca of country music

in Nashville. He has recorded with Willie Nelson, Brenda Lee, Charlie Daniels and the Oak Ridge Boys.

Sturr says that the convergence of the country and polka genres has occurred primarily because polkas and many country music songs, especially Western Swing, share the same 2/4 rhythm. This makes it easy to convert and perform a country song in a polka style. In addition, obereks and country waltzes seem to be practically interchangeable. For example, Sturr and Nelson have recorded an absolutely beautiful version of "Waltz Across Texas," an old country standard, that would appeal equally to any polka or country fan.

Another example is the country song "Westphalia Waltz," first recorded in 1946 by Cotton Collins. Collins heard the Polish folk song "Pytała Się Pani" (also called "Wszystkie Rybki") in central Texas and reworked it into a country waltz and performed it with his band, the Lone Star Playboys. The Playboys often played in Westphalia, Texas and the piece was renamed "Westphalia Waltz" at the suggestion of local residents. Hank Thompson, a



NELSON. Got his start with John Raycheck & the Bohemians polka band.

national country star of the 1950s, recorded the song in 1955 and that exposed the tune to country fans throughout the United States.

In the 1930s what was called Texas Music became a popular form of the country genre, as popular Western movies enthralled audiences with the romance of the dashing cowboy balladeer. Texas country music was influenced in part by Polish, Czech and German folk music of central Texas, where those immigrant groups had a strong presence.

Also, use of the fiddle in both country and polka songs, and since the 1920s in country music the accordion, contribute to a similarity of sounds. The accordion came into country music from the French Cajuns of Louisiana, but also through those Central European ethnic groups in Texas and the Tejano or Tex-Mex musicians who were influenced by them.

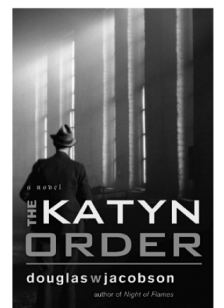
Only one Polish American made it big in country music, Pee Wee King (Frank Kuczynski) of Milwaukee. The Country Music Hall of Famer was influential in popularizing country through his radio and television shows. Young Kuczynski got his start playing in a polka band. So did country star Willie Nelson, who played at age 10 in the John Raycheck polka band in Abbott, Texas. We still have our eyes on Ryan Joseph (Orgrodney), who is touring and recording with several country artists.

The fate of millions depends on them.

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HAPPENINGS: CHICAGO STYLE / Geraldine Balut Coleman

120th Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade



POLISH PRIDE. (l. to r.): Illinois State Senator Dan Kotowski, Ted Czajkowski (president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs), Longin Komolowski, president *Wspólnata Polska*, Mayor Richard M. Daley, Ted Makarewicz, Parade's Grand Marshall, and Lucie Bucki, Vice Grand Marshall.



MAYOR'S RECEPTION. (l. to r.): Mayor Daley, Aleksandra Kurzydłowski, Ted Makarewicz, and Natalia Ladzinska.

Once again thousands of spectators decked out in red and white, speaking both Polish and English, lined Chicago's Columbus Drive in Grant Park to attend the 120th Annual Polish Constitution Day Parade. Chicago's meteorologists were all predicting rain for Saturday May 7th, but parade participants as well as the spectators were in luck. No rain! For 120 years, Polonia's various community organizations have come together to participate in this traditional Chicago salute to Polish pride and culture.

Sponsored by the Alliance of Polish Clubs, the Parade consisted of 120 groups: Polish American fraternal and philanthropic organizations, thirty-one out of the over forty Polish language schools, polka bands on flatbed trucks, Polish dance troupes, even a contingent of the Polish Armed Forces (Illinois National Guard). Chicago's Polish Constitution Day parade is the largest outside of Poland.

The theme for this year's Constitution Day Parade was "John Paul II: A Saint for Our Times," paying tribute to Poland's Pope, John Paul II, who was beatified on May 1st in Rome. Many who marched honored John Paul II including one float named "John Paul the Great. Mayor Richard M. Daley, in his last parade as mayor along with U.S. Senator Mark Kirk, U.S. Congressional Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Mike Quigley, marched with this year's Grand Marshal, **Thaddeus "Ted" Makarewicz**. Makarewicz is Chief Legal Counsel for the Cook County Assessor's Office and has spent many years volunteering his time and legal expertise to many Polish-orientated institutions. This year's Parade queen was **Natalia Ladzinska**. A special "thank you" goes to ABC7 Chicago's reporter, **Alan Krashesky**, who once again served as host of "The Polish Constitution Day Parade" broadcast. Honorary co-host of this year's broadcast was **Anna Zolkowski Sobor**, Vice Chair of the Polish

Constitution Day Parade Committee. Untold thousands viewed the parade via television provided by ABC7 Chicago and Polish language stations.

Prior to the Parade, there was a wreath laying ceremony at the General Thaddeus Kościuszko monument on Chicago's Lakefront followed by a pre-parade brunch at the Hilton Chicago hosted by the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance. Over 200 political dignitaries and Polish American leaders attended this event.

MAYOR DALEY'S RECEPTION.

One of Chicago's most treasured landmark buildings, the Chicago Cultural Center, was the setting for a special reception hosted by Mayor Richard M. Daley to celebrate Polish Constitution Day and to honor the Polish American community. Almost 300 invited guests filled the Center's beautiful Preston Bradley Hall. This was one of the last events that the Mayor hosted prior to his retirement. Numerous Polish American leaders were in attendance as well as a contingency from the Poland's Consular Staff, including Consul General **Zygmunt Matynia**, Deputy Consul General **Robert Rusiecki** and Vice Consul **Aleksandra Krystek**. Mayor Daley, on behalf of the city of Chicago, honored four outstanding women for their contributions and involvement within the Polish American community. They were: **Sister Marta Cichon** of the Totus Tuus Missionary Sisters of Christ the King for Polonia who runs the Holy Family House, a home for single mothers; **Zdzisława Lipinska**, longtime president of *Klub Wojewodztwa Białostockiego* (Białostock Club) for her charitable work; **Anna Zolkowski Sobor**, Polish American community activist and Chicago Polonia historian; and **Alina Szymczyk**, founder of *Zrzeszenie Literatów Polskich im. Jana Pawła II-go* (The John Paul II Literary Society).



Michael Traison

POLISH-JEWISH DIALOGUE RE-NEWED.

It may have been Mother's Day, but The Polish Museum of America (PMA) hosted an enlightening Sunday afternoon dialogue on Polish-Jewish relations that brought over 100 guests to hear **Michael Traison** present "Poland in the Heart of the Jews and the Jews in the Heart of Poland."

His passion on how the "fabrics of these cultures are interwoven with threads of religion, history, and memory" were resounded in his knowledge of Jewish-Polish dialogue and his love of Poland. As he mentioned, "Who I am and what I am are defined by what I found in Poland." His was truly a wonderful and heartwarming presentation.

Traison is the initiator of the *Fundusz Michala H. Traisona dla Polski* and has organized and executed over 80 programs honoring Poland and Poles, preserving the memory of Polish Jewry and promoting Polish-Jewish relations. He is a senior partner in the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock, & Stone; with offices in Detroit, Chicago and Warsaw and a leader in numerous Jewish, Zionist, Polish, charitable and civic organizations and projects.

"CHICAGO SISTER CITIES" SPOTLIGHTS POLAND'S JEWISH REVIVAL. Three days later,

May 12, the Warsaw Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted the *Spotlight on Poland's Jewish Revival* in a filled Sidney Yates Gallery of the Chicago Cultural Center. **Zygmunt Matynia**, Consul General of Poland gave opening remarks. This was followed by a panel presentation and public discussion about the remarkable revitalization of Jewish life and culture currently taking place in Poland and its significance for Jewish and Polish communities and Jewish-Polish relations in Poland and worldwide. Additional remarks were made regarding the summer Jewish culture Festival in Krakow, the largest of its kind in the world, and the autumn literary festival in Warsaw. The opening of Jewish day schools, synagogues, Jewish community centers, and the construction of the Museum of History of Polish Jewish on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto Uprising are all testaments of the "vibrant, open and inclusive landscape of a new Poland." Poland's young democracy has played a "leading role in nurturing the Jewish revival and has allowed the complexities of Polish-Jewish relations and Jewish history in Poland to emerge through constructive and educational initiatives, which foster intolerance of anti-Semitism and an inclusion of Jewish citizens in civil society." The outstanding panel included **Shana Penn**, Executive Director of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture and visiting scholar at the Graduate Theological Union's Center for Jewish Studies, Berkeley, Calif; **Michael Traison**, Esq., leader of numerous Jewish-Polish, charitable and civic organizations; **Kar-**



Vojtek Glinkowski and his 2011 oil "On the Dream Stage"

to view the paintings of well-known Chicago artist, **Vojtek Glinkowski**, and a number of his students. Not only was this a PMA fundraising event, but also a fun-filled evening. Music filled the Sabina Logisz Great Hall, as guests had the opportunity to eye an exhibition featuring intriguing paintings and drawings, poetic light impressions of colorful landscapes, flowers, still life and figure compositions. Works were available for purchase with 30% of the sale proceeds to be donated to the Kusmierczak Art Gallery Renovation Fund. The later part of the evening featured a performance by acclaimed Polish American jazz chanteuse, **Agnieszka Iwańska**. And as is the practice in Polonia, Polish *Kanapki* from **Kasia Bober's** famous deli and Żywiec beer were served.

STOROZYNSKI TO BE HONORED.

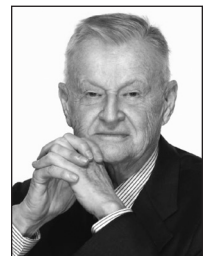
The Polish Museum of America is proud to announce that the recipient of this year's Polish Spirit Award will be **Alex Storozyński**, president of the Kościuszko Foundation. The 31st Annual Summer Ball will be held on June 10, 2011 at the Chicago Sheraton. The cost of this black tie gala is \$175.00 per person. For additional information, contact Maria Ciesla at (773) 384-3352.

To Address PIASA Banquet

DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, counselor and trustee of the Center of Strategic and International Studies, in Washington, D.C., will be the guest speaker at the Annual Banquet of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences in America (PIASA), June 11, in Arlington, Virg. The banquet is held at the conclusion of the national multidisciplinary conference, which this year is meeting at the Hyatt Arlington.

Among the sessions and panels which will make up the 69th Annual Meeting program are: "Economics, Politics and Society in Contemporary Poland;" "John Dewey and the Poles;" "Poland and Polonia in the New 'Polish American Encyclopedia';" "Polish Women in the Service of Society;" and "Polish American Organizations: Electronic Solutions to Current Projects;" among others.

For information, visit www.piasa.org, or call (212) 686-4164.



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Pawlik is "Senior of the Year"



BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Erie County Department of Senior Services honored 98-year-old **Melanie Pawlik** of Buffalo as the "Senior of the Year." Nominated for her spirit of volunteerism, Pawlik has proven herself as a leader after numerous efforts, including collecting clothing for a Nicaraguan mission, knitting winter mittens distributed through the Salvation Army, and designing and tending to floral displays. The award recognizes demonstrated leadership, innovation, creativity and community development through volunteer work.

A luncheon celebrated the Department of Senior Services' 40th Anniversary. Formed in 1971 to address the inappropriate institutionalization of seniors, the Erie County Department of Senior Services celebrates 40 years of serving older adults, their families and caregivers.

"Volunteers like Melanie Pawlik help us achieve our goals and make Erie County a better place to live," said County Executive Chris Collins (right).

Throws Hat in the Ring



BUFFALO, N.Y. — Erie County Comptroller **Mark Poloncarz** announced his candidacy for Erie County Executive at the Lackawanna Public Library, May 7, 2011. The Lackawanna native hopes to replace incumbent Chris Collins for the top Western New York seat.

A graduate of SUNY Buffalo and University of Toledo's College of Law, Poloncarz considers himself a "taxpayer's watchdog." Since taking office, he has conducted more than 50 major audits of Erie County's departments, which have identified more than \$27 million in cost savings. His Audit Division was awarded a prestigious Bronze Knighton Award in 2007 by the Association of Local Government Auditors—the first ever received by any government auditor in New York State.

Under Poloncarz, Erie County's credit rating has increased 4 steps (from the lowest investment grade rating of Baa3) to the current rating of A2, which is the highest rating Erie County has had since 2004, while the state-appointed control board has downgraded in status from "control" to "advisory."

Gabryszak Salutes Polish American Congress



ALBANY, N.Y. — New York State Assemblyman **Dennis H. Gabryszak** (D, I, C, WF, Cheektowaga) celebrated Polish American Congress Day in the state capital, May 9, where he met with other representatives and constituents to discuss issues important to the Polish-American community.

"It is important to bring awareness to the Polish-American community," Assemblyman Gabryszak. "The 143rd Assembly District is rich in Polish heritage and history. Many, including myself, feel strongly about seeing these traditions celebrated for many years to come."

Polish American Congress Day was first celebrated in 2009.

Pictured are (l. to r.): Steve Flor; Christine Lukaszewicz-Kibler, PAC National Director; Dina Szymanski, PAC WNY Division vice president; Assemblyman Gabryszak; and Richard Solecki; PAC WNY Division president.

POLONIA OF THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES / Michael Pietruszka

Summer Polish Festival Season

Once again, Summer in Western and Central New York, Southern Ontario and Northwest Pennsylvania presents a great opportunity to explore one's Polish roots and soul, and reconnect with the traditions of our forbears. The following Polish/polka festivals are just a taste of the Polonia activities coming up in the area this Summer. All telephone numbers are in area code (716) unless otherwise noted. All events and activities are subject to cancellation and rescheduling by the sponsoring organization without notice.

Fri., June 10 and Sat., June 11

• 9TH ANNUAL POLISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL (Theme: The Best of Buffalo Polonia; w/ the Knewz, Buffalo Touch, New Direction Band, Concertina All Stars, PhoCus with Scrubby, Stephanie & her Honky Band, Ludowa Nuta Folk Choir, Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, the Burza Batalion, Festival Pageant, Polish Bake-Off and a Pierogi Eating Contest. 4:00 p.m. (Fri.); Noon (Sat.). Hamburg Fairgrounds, 5820 South Park Avenue, Hamburg. \$5.00. (998-2501) www.polfunfest.com.

Fri., June 10 - Sun., June 12

• 57TH ANNUAL SYRACUSE POLISH FESTIVAL (Featuring Jimmy Sturr, Fritz's Polka Band, John Gora & Gorale, Little Poland Dance Ensemble, Al Piatkowski, Salt City Brass, Ashley Cox, White Eagle Fold Dance Academy, Tetry Polish Folk Ensemble, Lechovia Dance Company, Knewz, Tomasz Kotapka, Miss Polonia Contest, Pole of the Year and Scholarship Presentations). Clinton Square, Syracuse. (315-687-1076). www.polish-scholarship.com/news.html.

Fri., July 15 - Sun., July 17

• 33RD ANNUAL CHEEKTOWAGA POLISH ANNUAL FESTIVAL (Featuring the Buffalo Touch, Lenny Gomulka, Rare Vintage, Freeze Dried, Bud Hudenski & the Corsairs with Eddie Biegaj, Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble and the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble). 4:45 p.m. (Fri.); 2:30 p.m. (Sat.); 3:00 p.m. (Sun.). Cheektowaga Town Park, 2600 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga.

Fri., August 5 and Sat., August 6

• ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA PARISH FESTIVAL. St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish Hall, Hudson Avenue and Norton Street, Rochester. (585-467-3068)

Fri., August 12

• POLONIA CIVIC CENTER OF ROCHESTER "POLISH NIGHT" AT FRONTIER FIELD. Frontier Field, Rochester. Gene Golomb (585-323-2106)

Tues., August 16

• BUFFALO BISON BASEBALL POLISH FESTIVAL NIGHT. 5:00 p.m. (Tent Party); 7:05 p.m. (Game vs. Toledo Mudhens). Coca Cola Field, 275 Washington Street, Buffalo. Mark Gordon

Fri., August 26 - Sun. August 28

• 18TH ANNUAL ZABAWA POLISH SUMMER FESTIVAL. Holy Trinity Parish Grounds. East 23rd and Reed Streets, Erie, Pa. (814-456-0671) "Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival" Facebook Page

Sat., Sept. 3 and Sun., Sept. 4

• HONKY POLKA FESTIVAL JAM (Featuring Stephanie & Her Honky Band, Jimmy Kilian & Honky Chicago, Ed Guca & the Polish Canadians, Ray Jay, Andy Fenus, Bruno Mikos, Rich

Raclawski, All Star Legend Honky Band and All Star Concertina Jam). 2:00 p.m. (Sat.); 1:00 p.m. (Sun.). Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. John Gnojek (825-7708)

Fri., Sept 16 - Sun., Sept. 18

• RONCESVALLES POLISH FESTIVAL. Roncesvalles Avenue, Toronto, Ont. (416-537-2701) <http://polishfestival.ca>.

POLONIA TIDBITS. Patricia Wojcik, the long serving former director of the Cheektowaga Senior Citizen Center, passed away in late April ... The Polish Veterans Association, Canadian Polish Congress and City of Oshawa, Ontario hosted a special rededication ceremony for the granite monument in Chopin Park on April 30 ... The WNY Division of the Polish American Congress hosted its Annual "Swieconka" and Awards Dinner at the St. Stanislaus Marian Hall on April 30. The group honored **Jozefa Solecka, Stanley and Tola Markut, James Serafin and Danuta Czyz** at the dinner ... Melanie Pawlik has been named Erie County Senior of the Year

Hamburg Town Clerk **Cathy Rybczynski** has announced that she will seek re-election this November ... The **Polish Student Association** of the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYAB) elected the following leadership for the 2011-2012 academic year: Mar-

tin Kozicki (president), Paul Elis (vice-president), Carol Przelazloski (treasurer), Diana Oramus (secretary) and Alicia Szafraniec (e-board consultant) ... NYS Supreme Court Justice **Henry Nowak** was recognized as one of the Buffalo News' "Outstanding Citizens of '10" for his work as a Buffalo City Court Judge in Housing Court.

U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York **William Hochul** recently honored Assistant U.S. Attorney **Gretchen Wylegala** and U.S. Labor Department Special Agent **Thomas Michalski** for their work in law enforcement ... Polish director **Michal Marczak's** "At the Edge of Russia" and Pawel Kloc's "Phnom Penh Lullaby" were presented as part of Toronto's "Hot Docs 2011" film festival ... The **Chopin Singing Society** recently elected Gary Bienkowski, Thomas Bruce, Paul Kosek, Adrienne Kusmierczyk, Thomas Pawlak, Kathleen Pawlowski and Geraldine Szmraj to two year terms on its board of directors. Retired NYS Appellate Division Justice Ann Mikoll was also elected to her 12th term as president of the group.

Former Canadian Polish Con-

gress National President **Wladyslaw Lizon** was the first Polish born candidate to be elected to the Canadian House of Commons in the May national elections. Mr. Lizon represents the Mississauga East. Cooksville riding in Ontario ... **Rev. Francis Mazur**, the Catholic chaplain of the Erie County Medical Center, received the World Leader Interfaith Award from the National Association of Interchurch and Interfaith Families at the group's 43rd National Workshop on Christian Unity in Pittsburgh ... SUNYAB Professor **Kazimierz Braun**, canon lawyer **Rev. Joseph Klos**, and former president of the WNY Division of the Polish American Congress **Joseph Macielag** discussed their personal experiences with the Blessed John Paul II on the May 1st episode of "Matters of Faith" on Buffalo's WIVB-TV Channel 4.

If you have an item for this column, send it to: POLEGL, P.O. Box 223, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0223; pietruszka@verizon.net. For more information on what's going on in the Polonia of the Eastern Great Lakes,, visit my website at: www.polegl.org.

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

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BABA JAGA'S CORNER / Jaga Urban-Klahen

Maria Sklodowska's Studies in Paris

continued from last month

After the finish of a love affair with Casimir Zorawski and due to a better financial situation in Sklodowski's household, Manya was able to buy a third-class train ticket, pack up lots of belonging — clothes, food and even a quilt and take a three-day trip to Paris in Fall 1891.

Since the very beginning Manya took her scientific studies at the Sorbonne University very seriously. She was always sitting in the first row during Physics classes to be able to listen and understand as much as she could. Still, it was not easy start. She had to get used to studying in a different country, in a different language and culture. She was one of the very few women — there were only 23 among 1,800 students in the Faculty of Science, so naturally she attracted lots of attention. Besides,

she was a foreigner from a Slavic country, with beautiful ash-blond hair. But the boys were the last thing on Maria's mind in that moment. She had to study a lot to compensate for the lack in some education fields from her Russian-only female gymnasium many years ago. She also took laboratory courses which were not easy, but the fact that she was able to conduct some experiments at The Museum of Industry and Agriculture which was run by Joseph Buguski, her cousin, helped her to get some technical experience before starting the university studies in Paris.

Initially Maria lived with her sister and her brother-in-law — Bronya and Casimir Dluski.

The Dluskis, especially Casimir, were very active in a social life of Polish immigrants. Their apartment was always full of people. Casimir

insisted that Maria participate in all the events in their house and that she also go out with them. Thanks to them, Maria saw Ignacy Paderewski's concert before he became a famous pianist. In the long run, this lifestyle was too time-consuming and distracting for Maria, especially since it took her an hour to commute to the university.

She decided to move out and found a cheap attic room for 40 rubles per month. It was a very primitive place, without heat, lighting and water. It only had a stove where Maria kept a kettle with tea cups, just in case somebody would come to visit her. Maria spent very little time there trying to save on lighting the petroleum lamp and a stove heat. In that time she did not really know how to cook and she did not care for it.

She started looking very anemic.

When she fainted due to a lack of proper food, Casimir and Bronya had to take her back to their home to make sure that she got appropriate nutrition and sleep at least for some time.

Still, Maria's main goal was to get the university degree — not one, but at least two. She was first in her "license" (equal to master's) examination in Physics in 1893, and second in the master's in mathematics in 1894.

MARIE'S BONDS WITH POLAND were still very strong. Every summer she returned home to Warsaw to her father and family. She planned to come back to Poland eventually. Still, she wanted to study and learn more. In 1893 after Maria accomplished her Physics studies she did not really have any more money to go back to France.

Mlle. Dybinska, her Polish friend, convinced of Maria's great talent, helped her to obtain a 600 ruble Alexandrovitch scholarship to return to France and accomplish studies in math. According to Eve Curie, in her "Madame Curie" biography — "this scholarship became providential since when she came back to France she met Pierre Curie, her famous husband and started working with the equipment and the project which would mark their future scientific career.

❖ ❖ ❖

References:

Eve Curie "Madame Curie"
Sarah Dry "Curie"

Next month: Maria's scientific achievements, her collaboration, love and marriage with Pierre Curie.

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Visit Jaga Polish Culture Website at: www.polishsite.us.

NEWSWIRE

F-16 SQUADRON RELOCATED.

A group of American F-16 Flying Falcons, a multirole jet fighter aircraft, will be transferred from NATO's Aviano base in Italy to Lask airfield in the central province of Lodz, Poland. This marks the first time American troops will be permanently deployed in Eastern Europe. Polish pilots will train with the American pilots.

GAS RESERVE FOUND. Poland can cut its dependence on natural gas from Russia, as the country's biggest oil company (Orlen) discovered rocks from which gas can be extracted. It is projected that there is sufficient supply to make Poland independent of Russian fuel and enough to enable exportation. The deposits were located on mining grounds in the Lubelszczyzna region of Poland.

Millions of Poles use gas for both heating and cooking, and until now most of the gas was supplied by Russia. Centuries of domination by Russia, has been a problem for the Poles, which is part of the motivation for the priority push toward shale gas drilling and search for any domestic energy sources by the Polish government.

Fracking technology developed in the United States enables the extraction of gas previously too expensive an effort since shale gas is trapped in impermeable rock. Although fracking is undergoing considerable scrutiny in America by environmental activists, little concern has been raised in Poland to date.

PONDERING POLE / Edward Poniewaz

Hey Jude, Why You So Bad?

In this case, bad (*zły*) means good (*dobry*). Us Polish hipsters are *zły*, man.

The Jude — in this case — refers to the noted political and social commentator, economist, and to some, visionary, Jude Thaddeus Wanniski (inset, right). What a full and interesting life he led. Certainly we can say that he was a person engaged, and since he is named after a famous song (Pondering Pole embellishment), I am going to highlight and trace his life and work by referring to a number of popular songs that will help you remember him. This is a technique employed by the Mad Magazine Institute under the guidance of Professor Alfred E. Newman. Yes, the Pondering Pole and Alfred E. Newman together at last.

"Coal Miner's Son" (*sung to the tune of "Coal Miner's Daughter," by Conway Twitty*)

Here is the first part of the Jude Wanniski biography from the Polyeconomics web site (www.polyeconomics.com/main.html) founded in 2007 to house Wanniski's collected works:

Jude Wanniski was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, on June 17, 1936, into a family of anthracite coal miners. He was exposed to differing political points of view at a young age: his paternal grandfather a communist, his father a devoutly conservative Cath-

olic, and as such developed a keen interest in the political world. His desire to become a journalist surfaced early, while still a teenager. After a year's study of geology (on the questionable advice of a high school guidance counselor), Wanniski transferred to UCLA to follow that dream. There he received a BA in political science in 1958, and an MS in journalism the following year, thus combining his two most passionate interests.

Jude Thaddeus was not born into the intelligensia but he followed his dream and was successful. The all-Polish American story.

"This is the way the world works" (*sung to the tune of "We Didn't Start the Fire," by Billy Joel*)

Probably his greatest contribution in changing the way Americans view the relationship between politics and economics occurred with his "seminal book," *The Way the World Works, How Economics Fail — and Succeed* (Basic Books, Inc., New York, 1978). Since FDR and the great depression, money and politics have become, unfortunately, intertwined. All you have to do is listen to only one political show on radio or television to hear how politicians are involved in the business of America, which is business, which is unfortunate.

The first part of the book forms a foundation by concentrating on the political side of the relationship, within the nation and the nation interacting with the rest of the world. "The Political Model," chapter one, is a kind of micro approach and describes the way politicians accept and react to the demands of the electorate. How true is this "model" for what is happening today? We have opposing sides in what the people are saying in town hall meetings and in chat rooms and the blogosphere. Sometimes there is shouting.

Chapter two is entitled, "The Global Electorate," and Wanniski points to the association between economics and cultures throughout history of world. This is the macro perspective. The statement that "the world is not fragmented, but integrated, which means that every economic event that takes place someplace in the world is felt virtually everywhere in the world" (page 19), is the definition of in-

ternational trade and international relations. The Billy Joel song is appropriate for this idea because similar to his list of historical figures and places ("Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnnie Ray, South Pacific, Walter Winchell, Joe DiMaggio..."), Wanniski realized a relationship between many of the greatest figures of human history, both the good and bad, with events and conditions that were present at the time of their prominence. His list includes Chinese emperors, Arab sheiks, the Roman and Greek empires, the rise of Christianity, the Jewish diaspora, the Protestant Reformation, and the rise of Napoleon, Hitler, and Stalin, and they are explained away by the concept of supply and demand underlying historical cause and effect.

"You Say Demand Side, I Say Supply Side, It Only Works Well, When We've Got Money" (*sung to the Polish American favorite, "Juleka" polka.*)

Jude's original impetus was a burning interest in politics. As time went on he discovered and developed a burning interest in economics. The remainder of *The Way the World Works* is about the various parts of economic principle, history, and theory. It was Jude's relationship with economist Arthur Laffer that helped him formulate the "supply-side" positions on taxes and economic strategy and in fact he is famous as the one who coined the term "supply-side economics." Those three little words ignited a whole bunch of gratification alongside a whole bunch of rage during the Reagan presidency.

The final song, **"Hey Jude, you were quite a man,"** but — the question of the month — are you Polish? At least one source has him as father — Ukrainian, and mother — Lithuanian, but there is a mention of "Polish ancestry" (<http://nndb.com/>). My guess is that his father (Wanniski) was from Ukraine but the family was of Polish descent. If you have a published source where Jude or a family member or a well-known friend or colleague explains his Polishness, let me know.

MORE POLISH BUSINESS SUPER HEROES. I received a very nice note from an acquaintance of the family from Walnut Park in St. Louis, one of the old Polish neigh-

borhoods. Don Kriho worked in the auto industry, saw a business need, and became the founder of KRIHOS International (www.krihos.com/gsa.asp), a software development company. His is an amazing Wanniski-like story and I could not tell it any better than this:

"The short version is that my work with the Japanese during the startup of Mazda's new auto plant in Flat Rock, Mich. was such an extraordinary experience, with respect to the way it fundamentally changed the way that I viewed the practice of Occupational Safety & Health, that I felt I should write a book about it. However, after a few abortive attempts, I decided a more useful project might be to create a software program that would enable others to replicate some of the amazing things we accomplished with implementation of the Mazda Production System in the U.S. I began work on the software concept in 2000 coincident with my 65th birthday. I created original versions of the software in Microsoft Excel and Access and then brought my son Scott in as a partner to take over the programming responsibilities, while I continued conceptual development. The result is our Audit XL Management Systems software, which we market internationally. A couple of our more prominent clients include Bechtel Corporation and Marsh Risk Consulting, both of whom are world leaders in their respective business segments. Marsh just received a 2011 Innovation Award from Business Insurance magazine for the creation of their Global Safety Excellence System using our software."

Congratulations, Don, on your great work and achievement!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all the *Polish American Journal* ojców (dads) and *bardzo dziękuję* to Jack Jackowski for the lead on Jude Wanniski.

If you have a thought about this month's topic, 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.

N.B. if you send e-Mail, reference the *Polish American Journal* or the Pondering Pole. I will not open an e-Mail if I do not recognize the subject or the sender.



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DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND CONTINUANCE OF POLISH AMERICAN MUSIC

POLKA INSIDER/ Steve Litwin

It's Time for "The Springs"

It is almost always referred to as "The Springs," but it is officially the Polka Fireworks festival, which takes place at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Western Pennsylvania each July. This year's 37th edition of this multi-day spectacular run by the Blazonczyk family offers 18 of the nation's top bands, poolside parties, "The School of Polka" polka workshops, the 28th annual Concertina Jam, Big Dan's Poolside Extravaganza, after hour jam sessions, 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. People are encouraged to bring along their instruments for these free, fun, afternoon workshops. Workshops take place Friday and Saturday.

The 37th Polka Fireworks takes place Wed., June 29 through Sun., July 3 at the multi-acre Seven Springs Mountain resort in Champion, Pa. The resort offers everything from lounges, to restaurants, to pools, to lakes, to golf, to horseback riding, to volley ball, to great polka music. The event is truly a family festival, and a great vacation spot for all ages.

Bands scheduled and musicians scheduled to appear include: "Ryan

Joseph" Ogradny, Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones, Alex Meixner, 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 Dynabass, Buffalo Concertina All-Stars, Henny & the Versa Js, Lil John and the ATM Band, DJ Ken Olowin, Mon Valley Push, and Paul Herchko's Party Time.

The Concertina Jam marks its 28th year. It began as a small party in our hotel room and has become a unique gathering of concertina players from all over the country. Here, novices sit alongside experts and everyone is equal. There are no music charts, just players who love the concertina and enjoy being together. It's become a fraternity and each musician receives a custom designed jam shirt for that year. Jam #28 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!"

Visit Polka Fireworks on the internet at: www.polkafireworks.com or contact Bel-Aire Enterprises, Mon.-Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., 7208 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, IL 60455, Phone (708) 594-5182. E-mail: BelAire7208@aol.com.

Meet You in Johnstown! Pennsylvania City to Host PolkaFest

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — Tucked in a valley among the Allegheny Mountains is Johnstown, a community 70 miles east of Pittsburgh known for its flood history, its role in the Industrial Revolution, and today, its lively celebrations of its ethnic heritage.

The St. Mary's Johnstown PolkaFest is held the weekend after Memorial Day and attendees will celebrate the festival's 14th year on June 2-5, 2011. The four-day event attracts a variety of Polish and Slovenian bands playing to several thousand attendees throughout the weekend. This year's line-up of artists includes: Polka Family, The Knewz, the Don Wójcila Orchestra, Steve Meisner, Full Circle, Duane Malinowski, the Eddie Rodick Orchestra, and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push. The event is free; no admission and abundant free parking is available.

PolkaFest is held in Cambria

City, a National Register Historic District that once housed European immigrants searching for work in the steel mills and coal mines during the Industrial Revolution.

POLKAFEST TAKES PLACE at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, an architectural marvel with a "must-see" interior including brightly colored murals, German stained-glass windows, and the only Byzantine church in America to showcase a ceramic baldacchino. St. Mary's hosts the event, providing a wooden dance floor, church tours, and mouth-watering ethnic specialties including halushki, halupki, pierogis, kielbasa, hot sausage and for dessert, the regional favorite, gobs. Craft and merchandise vendors will sell their wares during festival hours throughout the weekend.

St. Mary's is located on the corner of Power Street and 5th Avenue

and is in close proximity to several downtown attractions that tell about Johnstown's flood story and ethnic heritage. The Johnstown Flood Museum, Heritage Discovery Center including the Mystery of Steel exhibit and Children's Museum, Wagner-Ritter House, and Johnstown Incline are all open to the public throughout the festival and cater to both individual visitors and groups.

Friday's festival hours will be from 4:30-10:00 p.m.; Saturday hours are 12:00-10:00 p.m.; and Sunday begins at 11:00 a.m. with a Polka Mass under St. Mary's pavilion with Duane Malinowski. The day concludes at 6:30 p.m.

The festival is organized by the Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information, please contact the Bureau at (800) 237-8590 or visit www.visitjohnstown-pa.com.

5th Annual Gift of Life Lisa Biskup Memorial is Most Successful to Date

by Margaret Zotkewicz-Dramczyk

WYANDOTTE, Mich. — The PRCUA hall was crowded, the tables were filling up fast, and even before the first song was played, everybody knew the 5th Annual Gift of Life dance in honor of Lisa Biskup was going to be a success. It turned out to be the biggest ever to date for this worthwhile cause.

Lisa Biskup, the daughter of Ron Biskup, was a young woman whose life was cut short in 2006 at the age of 39. Lisa was born with a heart problem that culminated in an eventual heart transplant when she was 23 years old. Expectedly, it took Lisa a long time to regain the strength to lead a normal life after such an event, but she did.

I first met her in the mid 1990s at a polka dance in the Detroit area. To see her, it was hard to know that she was a heart transplant recipient, unless she chose to share that aspect of her life with people. She, like the rest of us, came to dances with a lot of enthusiasm and put her support behind the bands and the music.

Eventually, her heart problems again caught up with her and when she had just passed her April birthday, Lisa Biskup died in May of 2006. Lisa was also an organ and tissue donor at her death. She was one of only a few organ recipients that was also able to be an organ and tissue donor. Lisa gave the Gift of Life to a young man in Indianapolis with her liver. She also gave the gift of sight by

donating her corneas to two young men, one from Michigan and one from New Jersey.

In 2007, Ron Biskup organized the first Gift of Life polka benefit dance to honor Lisa and to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation. During the first three years of the benefits, Ron was a member of The Michigan Donor Family Council and they supported Gift of Life projects, helping to increase organ donor awareness. Ron also traveled to various locations to deliver seminars plus supporting Camp Michitanki.

In year four, Ron formed the Lisa Biskup Organ and Tissue Donor Foundation. The sole purpose of this organization is to be a major supporter of the University of Michigan Transplant Center's Camp Michitanki.

Camp Michitanki is a place where children ages 7-15 who are organ recipients can experience the opportunity to interact, in a non-medical setting, with other children who have had transplants.

In an e-mail a few days after the dance, Ron Biskup stated:

"For all five years we have raised \$125,500.00. Lisa's Foundation for only two years has raised \$58,500.00. My original goal for five years was \$100,000.00 and we made it. All of the details are not in yet but our foundation will be supporting The Gift of Life in their project with the State of Michigan to formulate some type of license plate message about being an organ donor."

Back to the April 30th dance itself: almost from the beginning, the hall was packed. The dual line up featured Mitch Biskup and the Legendary Brass as well as Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push. I was able to talk to Mitch for a few minutes before the music started at 6:30 p.m. He told me that he was excited to be a part of this important cause put together by his cousin Ron yet nervous to take the stage. The nerves apparently dissipated as Mitch and the band wowed the crowd from the first bars of music on. Mitch brought together the following musicians as part of this one-night only reunion: Steve Dudas and Steve Dudas Jr, Nick and Cory Nidoh, Ed "Weasel" Wolinski, and Rich Bernier.

And Lenny's performance was equally stellar, as he and the band performed numerous classic Chicago Push tunes. It certainly brought back memories of listening to these same treasured songs at USPA, Seven Springs, and Frankenmuth, just to name a few places where I've enjoyed Lenny's sound.

Between sets, Ron came to the stage and introduced a young man named Braden, whom Ron first met in August 2010 at Camp Michitanki. Braden was accompanied by his mother and grandmother, who helped Braden tell the crowd his story. Like Lisa, Braden came into the world with an organ defect, in this case his liver. He received a portion of his father's liver as an infant and a liver transplant as a young teenager. Braden spoke about

how important it is to become an organ and tissue donor and how much the experience of camp added to his life.

Besides the great music and testimonials, Ron and Sue and their volunteer crew organized the raffles, door prizes, and a silent auction all of which helped raise \$31,500.00 for the Lisa Biskup Foundation.

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On a personal note, it was nice to meet Jim "Chainsaw" Kucharski, Wally and Maryann Raczkowski, and Joni Zychowski-Minehart. All of these folks have been part of the polka scene for many years, and it was great to cross paths with them at this wonderful event for the first time.

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And always, the work of raising awareness of organ and tissue donation goes on. After the dance, Ron stated:

"Be a hero—save or enhance a life. At your death don't take your organs to heaven. God does not need them. Be officially registered in your respective state, you never know who will need an organ. It could be your spouse, brother, sister, son, daughter, or you. So be prepared to give the greatest gift of all: the Gift of Life."

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For more information on organ and tissue donation, including info about the 2012 Gift of Life Memorial Dance, visit www.LisaBiskupMemorial.com.

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.



Eddie Blazonczyk and Lenny Gomulka on vocals at Jam Number 16 in 1999, Champion, Pa.



Concertina Jam Number 27, 2010.



Al Piatkowski in the middle of Jam Number 3, 1987.

NOTES / Barb Pinkowski

Music to Shop By

Hi everyone! It looks like — finally — the warmer, sunny weather is here. Hope our summer is beautiful to make up for the cool and wet Spring. There are so many annual outdoor doings we all eagerly await.

I usually do my grocery shopping at Wegman's, but on Sat. April 30, I danced the polka there. Yes, four of the local Wegman's supermarkets had post-Dyngus Day parties featuring live bands from noon to 3:00 p.m. At the Transit Rd. near Losson location, the **Concertina All Stars** did a great job entertaining the shoppers. Many were surprised to hear live polka music there. The Harmony Folk Ensemble made their rounds and performed a couple dances at each location. It was a fun afternoon that caught many by surprise.

Had a chance to meet **Scott Cleveland** who stopped by; he hosts the Sunday afternoon show on WXRL. Also, ran into Sharon Koslosky and we talked about Dyngus Day. She mentioned that her daughter Stacey, who moved to Florida, always looked forward to attending a Dyngus Day party when she lived here. Since they do not celebrate that day where she is now located, she decided to have her own Dyngus Day party at her home. She invited her new friends and neighbors and told them to wear red and white. Of course, she served Polish food and played Polish music. Now, none of these guests were Polish but she said everyone had a blast and cannot wait until next year as they had such a good time. So nice to hear our traditions go on.

IN SYMPATHY. Our deepest sympathy go out to **Ted and Maria Szymanski** on the passing of Ted's sister, **Mildred Theurer** on April 25. Ted is the leader of the Cityside band ... Also, condolences go out to **Bob and Roseann Zielinski** on the passing of Bob's mother, **Jessie Zielinski**, May 1. Bob plays with the Concertina All Star band ... I was saddened to hear of the passing of



Reminiscent of his dad, Eddie, Sr., on bass, Tony Blazonczyk concentrates as John Furmaniak (accordion) plays alongside.



The John Gora family (l. to r.): Victoria, Thomas, Christina, and wife Danusia. John's band played at the Four Stallions bar for Dyngus Day.

Margaret "Lillian" Sturr, mother of polka bandleader **Jimmy Sturr**.

May they rest in peace. Please remember them in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS ... to **Jimmy "Cosmo" Kazmierczak**, who is retiring from the Town of Cheektowaga at the end of June. We wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement ... to **Justin Kohan**, who was awarded the Louis Armstrong Jazz award at Hamburg High School.

TOO MUCH DYNGUS? On April 30, **Tony Blazonczyk & the New Phaze** band appeared at Potts Hall. Only a small crowd on hand to enjoy this good music. Every time I see Tony standing on stage with

his bass guitar, it brings back so many wonderful memories of his dad, Eddie. And the resemblance is amazing. It was nice to see Cherie and Mark Trepacz. Mark now plays steady in a country & western band, and occasionally fills in with a polka band. I also heard that the dance in Burlington in Canada the night before with John Gora and New Phaze did not draw a large crowd either. Maybe everyone was pooped from all the Dyngus Day celebrations.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. I want to wish **Danny Potts** a Very Happy 70th Birthday. His daughter had a surprise party for him May 6 and it was a big gathering of family and friends. Most of the polka dances are held at the Potts Hall on South Ogden St. in Buffalo and this is a great facility for a dance, wedding, party, etc. Dan does a great job and the food served here is delicious. Sto lat!

THANKS! Just a little note to thank everyone who gave me their best wishes and congratulations for getting the United States Polka Association's "Polka Reporter of the Year" award. Your kind words are appreciated.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY. I'd like to wish all the dads out there best wishes for a fabulous and delightful Father's Day. Enjoy your special day!



Fr. Paul Seil, pastor of St. Bernadette's RC Church in Orchard Park, N.Y., blessed musicians and musical instruments at the Leonard Post this Dyngus Day.



Central New York legends, The Piatkowski Brothers Band performed at the Leonard Post on Easter Sunday and then at the Polish Villa II on Dyngus Day.

UPCOMING

- **June 5.** The New Direction Band is playing a Polka Party at Yesterday's Royal in Sylvan Beach, N.Y. from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Free admission.
- **June 7.** The Buffalo Touch. River Grill in Tonawanda at 7:00 p.m. 873-2553.
- **June 10-11.** The Polish Heritage Fest is at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, N.Y. There are bands, dance groups, singers, historians, food, exhibitions, contests, kids activities, theme basket auction, etc. taking place in various buildings. (see story, right). Admission each day is \$5.
- **June 10-12.** Penn-Ohio Polka Festival, Conneaut Lake Park. Concertina All Stars will be appearing on Fri. at 6:00 p.m. along with Ray Jay & the Carousels. For more info call (330) 799-4505.
- **June 19.** The Buffalo Touch. Sportsmen's Tavern, 326 Amherst St, Buffalo, N.Y. starting at 4:00 p.m. 874-7734.
- **June 21.** Polka Boosters Meeting. Polish Falcons Hall, 445 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music from 8:00- 10:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Call Chris at 892-7977.
- **June 22.** Polka Variety Meeting at the Leonard Post, 2540 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. - Music starts at 7:30 p.m. Open to everyone. Call Rich at 826-2281.
- **June 26.** The New Direction band plays in the Beer Tent from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Lackawanna Ethnic Fest at Veterans Stadium on South Park Ave.

June 9-10 at Erie County Fairgrounds The 9th Annual Polish Heritage Festival

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On June 10th and 11th, 2011 the Polish Heritage Festival will once again be at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, N.Y. This year's theme is "The Best of Buffalo Polonia!"

On Friday, from 5:00-11:00 p.m., you will be able to enjoy the alternating music of the Buffalo Touch and the Knewz. And on Saturday, from 1:00-11:00 p.m., you will enjoy the alternating polka music of the New Direction, the Concertina All-Stars, Stephanie, and Phocus featuring Scrubby. For the first time in Buffalo, the festival will present the Burza Battalion from the Polish Mission & Polish-American Art & Cultural Research Foundation of Orchard Lake, Michigan.

On Friday, author Ken Koskodan, will sign books and lecture on his work, *No Greater Ally: The Untold Story of Poland's Forces in World War II*. There will be a firearms demonstration on both days. Through the use of artifacts, engaging storyboards, authentic period clothing, and energetic personal re-enacting of the Warsaw uprising, you will leave with valuable knowledge and renewed respect for the Poles of the 1940s.

Also at the festival the Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble will be performing traditional Polish dances. The Ludowa Nuta Polish Choir from Canada will be presenting Polish folk songs.

Be sure to be at the festival when for the drawing for the "Cash for a Year" Fundraiser. The winner of the drawing will receive \$400 a month for one year, and the seller of the winning ticket will receive \$50 a month for one year. The winner and the seller will receive a one month bonus if they are in attendance! (\$400 for the winner and \$50 for the seller.)

If you enjoy a good contest, you have an opportunity to sign up for the Festival Pageant, the Pierogi Eating Contest, and the Famous Bake-Off (this year's choice is the Anise Pierniki cookie). To enter, call (716) 677-0220, or go online to the website, www.polfunfest.com, and print off an application and submit it as soon as possible! You will be able to enjoy and learn Polish from the Polish Saturday School's "Mini Class." Be sure to check out the vendors featuring Polish pottery, glassware, and amber. There will be a Polish Café with delicious Polish pastries. And there is the large theme basket auction, and great Polish and American food and beer. For the first time ever, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the new international taste sensation: the Taco Kielbaso!

The price has not changed. Admission is only \$5 for adults and children 16 years of age and younger are free.

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Benefit Held

FRANKFORT, Ill. — A benefit was held for “Indiana Al” Zawislak, who has been battling colon cancer for more than four years. Zawislak is a big polka fan and is a current member of the IPA and USPA. He was also a UPA member and director. The benefit was held May 22, 2011 at the C•D&ME Special Event Center in Frankfort.

To make a donation, visit /www.all4al.org or call (630) 204-1793



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Thursday thru Sunday
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POLKA MUSIC & DANCING

THURSDAY, August 4th
Music by Ray Jay & the Carousels
\$10 at the door

FRIDAY AUG 5th
Polka Music by Henny & The Versa J's
Jimmy K & Ethnic Jazz
Freeze Dried

SATURDAY AUG 6th
Polka Music by Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones
Tony Blazonczyk & New Phaze
The Ampol Aires

BYOB IS NOT PERMITTED BY LAW
LINE-UP IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY - \$15.00 at the Door

SUNDAY, August 7th
Annual Election of Officers and Convention Meeting (IPA Members Only)
10:00 A.M.

DOUBLE TREE HOTEL Cleveland South
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Independence, Ohio

How to make reservations:
Requests for room reservations are being handled directly through the Double Tree Hotel Cleveland South. Room reservations can be made by calling:
1-216-447-1300
(Please mention the IPA Festival when booking your room, as we need to guarantee the hotel a certain number of reservations)
\$95 per night plus tax
Price includes Breakfast for 2
Reservation cut off is July 21st

42nd ANNUAL IPA POLKA MUSIC HALL OF FAME MUSIC AWARDS BANQUET SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH
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1-800-867-6552

Visit the IPA website at: www.internationalpolka.com

33rd Annual AMERICAN FESTIVAL
Committee presents

July 2011 14TH - 17TH

Schedule Subject to Change Without Prior Notice

Thursday, July 14
7:00 p.m. Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra


Friday, July 15
4:45 p.m. The Buffalo Touch - Buffalo, NY
6:15 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, MA
7:45 p.m. The Buffalo Touch - Buffalo, NY
9:15 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, MA

Saturday, July 16
2:30 p.m. Rare Vintage - Cheektowaga, NY
4:45 p.m. Mass Celebrant & Homilist:
Reverend Louis S. Klein, Pastor
QUEEN OF MARTYRS PARISH, CHEEKTOWAGA, NY
Deacon Robert Badaszewski
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
Guest Choir - Quo Vadis
Honor Guard - St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly
Color Corp #1944
5:30 p.m. Rare Vintage - Cheektowaga, NY
6:15 p.m. Cracovia Polish Dance Ensemble
Brampton Ontario, Canada
7:15 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, MA
8:15 p.m. Freeze Dried - Plainfield, Il.
9:15 p.m. Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push - Ludlow, MA
10:30 p.m. Freeze Dried - Plainfield, Il.

Sunday, July 17
3:00 p.m. Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble, Cheektowaga, NY
4:15 p.m. Freeze Dried - Plainfield, Il.
5:30 p.m. Bud Hundenski & Corsairs
featuring Eddie Biegaj - Coraopolis, PA
7:00 p.m. Freeze Dried - Plainfield, Il
8:15 p.m. Bud Hundenski & Corsairs
featuring Eddie Biegaj - Coraopolis, PA

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 II. Demonstrations Will Be Featured Throughout The Weekend As Well. The General Pulaski Parade Will Take Place on Sunday, July 17th at 1:30 p.m. The Parade Will Start At Thruway Mall, Continuing North On Harlem Road, Ending At Town Park.

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Same affordable daily admission prices as last year!

	Adult	Senior (age 60 and over)/Youth
Thursday	\$16.00	\$15.00
Friday	\$16.00	\$15.00
Saturday	\$16.00	\$15.00
Sunday	\$11.00	\$10.00

Children under the age of 16 are admitted FREE!

Admission fee does not include food and beverages!

No food or drink is allowed to be brought into the Convention Center!

Reserved seating for bus groups only due to limited seating - Thank You for your cooperation!

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Mike Ziemski: 410-654-4724
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BOOKS IN BRIEF / Florence Waszkelewicz Clowes, MLIS

BOOK REVIEW / John J. Bukowczyk

A Tough Role

INSIDE

by *Brenda Novak*
Mira Publishing, 2011, 448 pp., \$7.98.

Assistant deputy warden, Peyton Adams learns that Virgil Skinner will be placed in her prison. He had served fourteen years for a murder he didn't commit and was exonerated. Why then, is he back in jail? He has agreed to work with the Department of Corrections to identify the violent gang leaders within the prison, in exchange for safe haven for his sister and her children.

When Peyton takes charge of the man before he is re-incarcerated, she finds herself attracted to him and his welfare becomes more than a civic matter. The officers she works with are at times pandering and obstinate, obstructing Peyton's attempts to protect both Virgil and his family. The first day Virgil is imprisoned, he is beaten by gang members. Will he be able to survive and identify the leaders? Will Peyton's concern for him hurt them both?

Novak provides a fast moving scenario in a prison system with which few are familiar. She works in a man's world, with deceivers in and out of the system. A tough role for a determined woman.

A CHILD AL CONFINO

The True Story of a Jewish Boy and His Mother in Mussolini's Italy

by *Eric Lamet, Adams Media,*
photos, 390 pp., \$24.99

Lamet provides a memoir of his early childhood, when Eric and his mother escape to Italy from Vienna and his father returns to his native Poland. In 1938 it was unsafe, especially for European Jews, to remain in Vienna as the Nazis invaded the city. From a life of ease, "Mutti" discovered her servants were no longer available. She must learn how to cook and clean and care for her child. They flee to Italy, under a type of "house arrest," where they think they will be safe. From the eyes of a child, he tells of their twelve years of moving from one city to another, from one country to another, seeking freedom and safety. It is an unusual twist on the life of refugees in a terrible time.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

by *Edward Kwiatkowski*
Author House, 2011, \$7.95

This small book provides pro-

voking moral questions to the reader. The stories were taken from the Felician Sisters educational program in the 1930s and translated by Kwiatkowski, who adapted them for the American child.

Black and white illustrations accompany each story. Everyone remembers the story of two goats meeting upon a bridge and not wanting to give way. The question at the end of the story is "What would you do?" Another story includes Mother's birthday and what would you plan to give or do for her. Each of the short thirty tales depicts a moral and social structure that is vital in today's society.

JUNIPER BERRY

A Tale of Terror and Temptation
by *M.P. Kozlowski, Walden Pond Press/ Harper Collins,* 240 pp.
\$15.99

Juniper is in a dilemma. She is a lonely child, and spends her time roaming the woods and fields of their property, where she meets another lonely boy, Giles. Her once loving parents are now having terrible mood changes. Their celebrity status as actors causes them to constantly strive for perfection. They get to a point where they are ready to make a pact with the devil to keep that successful status. Juniper and her new friend, Giles, learn about this and are determined to save her parents.

The imaginative story will keep youngsters, age ten and up, reading through the night.

NEWSWIRE

OBAMA RECOGNIZES POLISH CONSTITUTION. President Obama issued a statement on May 2, honoring Poland's May 3 Constitution 1791.

"On behalf of the American people, I send my best wishes to all who celebrate Polish Constitution Day — here in America, in Poland and around the world. Since adopting their Constitution in 1791, the Polish people have endured tremendous tragedy and challenges, yet their perseverance has offered hope and inspiration to people around the world. Even today, fledgling democratic movements look to Poland as an example and guide," said Obama in the statement.

"Here in the United States, Pol-

THE POLISH AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

Edited by *James S. Pula, et al.*
McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2011

Hard/ISBN: 978-0-7864-3308-7, \$145

EBook/ISBN: 978-0-7864-6222-3, \$145

595 pp., 358 photos, index (8.5 x 11)

To order: 1-800-253-2187

or www.mcfarlandpub.com

In 1954, the first volume of the first Polish American encyclopedia was published; but its main planner and organizer, Rev. Francis Bolek, died four years later and no more volumes would appear. For the next sixty years, Polish American scholars periodically considered reviving a Polish American encyclopedia project, but these discussions came to nothing, leaving Polonia with an unfinished encyclopedia, six-volumes in concept, that still covered only letters A through B.

In the early 2000s, however, James S. Pula, longtime officer of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) and now Professor of History at Purdue University North Central, convinced his PAHA colleagues that he could mount a successful one-volume Polish encyclopedia project and they were persuaded. With PAHA and community financial support and the cooperation of a small army of scholars and amateur historians and a handful of non-specialists writing on contract, Professor Pula's efforts came

to fruition with the appearance of *The Polish American Encyclopedia*, published by McFarland Publishers earlier this year. Available in a print and an e-book (electronic) version, *The Polish American Encyclopedia* is a substantial undertaking involving about 127 authors who together produced hundreds of separate entries — thematic, topical, and biographical.

As a physical object, this is not a particularly handsome book, especially for the steep price, but this encyclopedia was not intended as a glossy coffee table book, but a useful research tool and also a symbol and sampling of Polish American "contributions to the development of American life" (p. 1). As both, it succeeds amply. In preparing the volume, the editors needed to wrestle with various practical and theoretical questions, not least of which involved how to define a Polish-American for purposes of selecting individuals for the book's biographical entries and determining which of these "Polish Americans" merited inclusion. The resulting schema features biographies of many interesting individuals, but this is not a book of Polish American trivia, and readers will not discover a catalogue of ethnic minutiae, like, for example, the wikipedia factoid that Sgt. Alexander A. Drabik was the "first American soldier to cross the Rhine River into Germany" during World War Two. Polish birth, ethnic background, or self-identity, meanwhile, if necessary are not sufficient for

inclusion in this volume, without the person having made "significant contributions to the history and culture of the United States, or to the development of American Polonia" (p. 1). The selection therefore may lead readers to puzzle over the inclusion, omission, or length of some entries or quibble with the information included in or omitted from others. But this is a small matter, as such is the nature of a reference work of this kind and the editors forthrightly note that they have not presented this book as a comprehensive biographical dictionary or Who's Who.

"... a valuable and perhaps indispensable resource for the Polish American home."

It would have been helpful if the volume included a list of the book's thematic essays, which can be found only by paging through the volume. The electronic version does contain a useful search tool that allows readers to locate all of the essays written by a particular contributor, although curiously it does not seem to permit navigation to a specific entry by name (they can be found only by cumbersome navigation, page-by-page, through the book). The electronic version, accessed through this reviewer's university library, does enable an audio function, but because the software butchers Polish names, readers may find its actual use somewhat grating.

Some might hope that one day a Polish American wiki-style project might create a truly comprehensive and expandable, open-source Polish American encyclopedia database that would include all of Polish America's "firsts," "bests," and ethnic trivia, in the finest contributionist style, that would allow easy correction and amending and appeal to the ethnic pride or insatiable curiosity of any and all readers. But, until then, Professor Pula and his associates have delivered a fascinating and informative book that makes for interesting reading, entry by entry, and is, at once, a valuable and perhaps indispensable resource for the Polish American home. Kudos!

❖ ❖ ❖

John J. Bukowczyk, Professor of History at Wayne State University in Detroit, is the author of A History of the Polish Americans (Transaction Publishers).

Attention High School Students: Enter Our ...

100TH ANNIVERSARY ESSAY CONTEST

First Prize: \$500.00 • Second Prize: \$100.00 • Third Prize: Sieko Shelf Clock • Runners Up (Three): 3-year PAJ Subscription

To celebrate the Polish American Journal's 100th anniversary, we are giving away — through the generosity of the newspaper's patrons — over \$750 in cash and prizes to high school students who submit an essay on the topic: "Methods to Promote Our Polish Heritage."

Deadline for submissions is July 31. Winners will be notified in September, and the winning entry, along with the names of all entries, will be printed in the October 2011 edition of the Polish American Journal, our 100th Anniversary Edition.

RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

- Contest is open to all students in High School Grades 9 to 12 for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Contestants do not have to be subscribers to the Polish American Journal.

- PAJ employees and their family members are not eligible contestants.
- All submissions must be postmarked by July 31, 2011.
- Composition must be original. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification. All sources must be cited.
- Prizes will be mailed after publication of the October 2011 edition and before November 1, 2011.
- Winners must provide photo (school photo preferred) to be printed in the October 2011 edition. Prizes will not be awarded to students not supplying photograph.

TO ENTER

- Submit an essay of an original composition of 1,500 words or less on "Methods to Promote Our Polish Heritage."
- Copy must be printed in at least 10 point type, double-spaced on standard typing

paper. PDF and Microsoft Word documents will be accepted subject to prior approval. eMail info@polamjournal.com for more information.

- Entries not sent via eMail may be mailed to: Polish Heritage Contest, Polish American Journal, P.O. Box 328, Boston NY 14025-0328. All entries will be acknowledged.
- Include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, if applicable. This information will not be used for anything other than notification of contest winners.
- Each entry must be signed and dated by the entrant.
- All entries become the property of PAJ and will not be returned.
- If entrant is under 18, written permission of parent or guardian is needed for contest submission.



- Entries received after midnight, July 31, 2011 will neither be considered nor returned.

JUDGING

- Entries will be judged by creativity, relevance of expression of the subject, and overall impression, with the final decision not subject to arbitration. Spelling and grammar will be considered.

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AMERICAN POLONIA AT A GLANCE

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE — Polish National Alliance Council 21 in Baltimore has re-opened its **Henryk Sienkiewicz Polonia Library**.

Located on the second floor of the Council's home at 1626 Eastern Avenue in the historic Fell's Point neighborhood, the library is open most Saturdays from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

A group of volunteers, including a professional librarian, is now working on establishing an online catalog and on furnishing and decorating the library.

The collection of donated materials, both in Polish and English, is organized in broad categories. Future plans envision adding magazine and newspaper subscriptions, creating a pamphlet file, adding more children's and other books as funds become available, and offering programs such as film screenings and book discussion groups. The library also hopes to eventually connect with the Maryland library community, the Polish Library in Washington, and local schools and colleges.

The library is open to the public. Call (410) 925-9684 before your visit, to confirm that the library is open.

MAINE

SCARBOROUGH — The oldest and most influential Polish American organization made its first mark on the Pine Tree State with a meeting at the Scarborough Public Library. The **Polish American Congress** is forming its first Maine chapter. Organizers said the Polish community has been a vital part of Maine's political and cultural scene for at least 100 years. The Vice Pres-

ident of the national organization was the guest speaker, and familiarized the crowd with PAC's history and outline its goals.

NEW JERSEY

CAMDEN — **Vincent Basara** is the city's first ombudsman — the official obliterator of red tape for enterprising business owners who want to set up shop in Camden.

Whether it be a corporate headquarters on the waterfront or a nail salon in Cramer Hill, Basara said he is ready to rescue urban pioneers from drowning in an alphabet soup of agencies, departments and government programs to reach their goals.

"The suburbs are too easy to run to. We want new businesses here. I am familiar with the inventory of city properties and I'm up-to-date on services and programs that can be helpful," vowed Basara, who also manages the city's Urban Enterprise Zone.

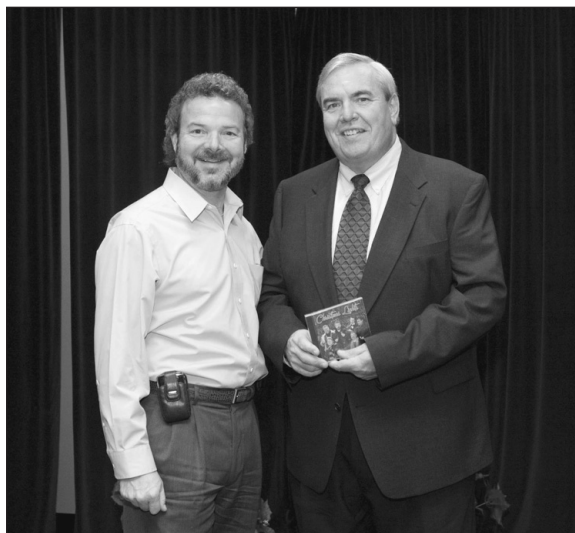
"Just call me at 757-7600."

PERTH AMBOY — Fr. Waldemar Latkowski will lead members and guests of St. Stephen's Parish on a **tour of Northern Poland**, September 10-23, 2011.

The entourage will visit landmarks in Warszawa, Gdansk, Malbork, Torun, Lichen, Wroclaw, Krakow, Wieliczka and Czestochowa. Also available will be the opportunity to visit Prague and Vienna. Mass will be said daily by a priest in English.

The cost is only \$2999 per person, which includes round air trip from the Newark airport to Poland, twelve nights in four-star hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, transport

Two for the Record



MIKE MATOUSEK (standing left in each photo), a Polka Music Hall of Fame inductee, presented copies of his recordings to outgoing Postmaster General Jack Potter (photo, left) and to new Postmaster General and CEO Patrick R. Donahoe (photo, right).

Matousek, the leader of The Boys, a member of Full Circle, co-host of "The Mikes Are On!" Internet polka show, and co-promoter of "Polkamotion by the Ocean," is a Stamp Products and Exhibitions Specialist at U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C. He currently manages national philatelic marketing programs.

He attended Potter's farewell reception, where he presented the outgoing official with one of his polka recordings as a parting gift. Right after Donahoe was appointed, Matousek attended his holiday reception, and gave him one of his polka CDs as welcome gift.



by a motor coach, sightseeing tours, entrance fees, local English-speaking guides, and tour escorts.

For more information or to reserve your spot please call Fr. Waldemar at (732) 826-1395 or by email at pastor@st-stephens-church.com.

NEW YORK

LATHAM — The **9th Annual PolishFest**, the Capital District's largest Polish festival, returns (rain or shine) featuring a full slate of events, great food, and music.

This year, the Fest moves to the weekend of June 10-11. Friday runs from 5:00-9:00 p.m. admission \$3; Saturday opens at noon and winds up at 8:00 p.m. Saturday's admission is \$5. Kids under 16 get in free on both days.

Friday features karaoke with Andy 7:00-9:00 p.m., craft vendors, raffles, Polish beer, and food. On Saturday, there will be music by the Rymanowski Brothers' band, the St. Adalbert's Dance troupe, and a pierogi-eating contest. DJ Mark Ives keeps the music and dancing going on both days.

For more info, call (518) 453-2253 or check out the website www.polishfest-ny.org.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA — Mon., June 6. Polish American Cultural Center **Polish American Night** at the Phillies, Citizens Bank Park. Pre-game entertainment 6:00-7:00 p.m. by Polish American String Band and PKM Polish Folk Dancers. Phillies vs. LA Dodgers 7:05 p.m. Info / tickets e-mail Phillies@PolishAmericanCenter.com.

PITTSBURGH — St. Thomas More Church (Bethel Park, in the South Hills section of Pittsburgh) will host the annual **Polish Night**, Sat., June 25 as a part of its annual church festival. The evening begins with a Polka Mass at 5:00 p.m. with music by Henny & the Versa Js in the church. Dinners will be served from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the parish center featuring delicious Polish food, including pierogi, halushki, golombki, kielbasa, nut rolls, and kolaczki. Non-stop polka music

will be provided by Henny & the Versa Js and Ray Jay & the Carousels from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Carnival rides and games for the kids as well as traditional carnival food will top off the evening. For more information, contact Ann Shoplik (412) 344-5448.

CONSHOHOCKEN — Sun., June 12. **Annual Polish Festival**, St. Mary's Parish, West Elm & Oak Streets. Noon to 7:00 p.m. Music by O'Such Rhythm & Music Band. Polish Kitchen, games and more. Info call (610) 828-0260.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., June 26. Polish Police Association of Philadelphia **Summer Social**, Lighthouse Point, 5101 Shawcrest Rd., Shawcrest Island, Wildwood, N.J., 1:00-5:00 p.m. Music by The Tommy Thomas Trio. Bus available from Philadelphia. Info call Ed McCloskey (215) 425-4783 or Joe Gorka (856) 384-6162.

PHILADELPHIA — Sun., July 10. **Independence Day Dance**, Associated Polish Home Ballroom, 9150 Academy Rs. 2:00-6:00 p.m. Music by Music Box Band. Info call (215) 624-9954.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Washington D.C. Office of the Polish American Congress still has 1-2 openings for its **Internship Program** (summer semester). All interested students are encouraged to apply ASAP. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. For more details go to: www.pac1944.org/students/intern.htm.

The eight week long **Summer Semester of Polish Language and Culture Classes** will start soon. Classes are held at the Washington Office of the Kościuszko Foundation on 2025 O Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036

All classes start at 6.30 p.m. and end at 8:10 p.m. Sections meet once a week.

There are four levels of Polish language instruction this summer: Beginners I; Beginners I Second Semester; Intermediate; and Advanced.

Cost: \$350 (fully refundable only within the first two weeks of

classes.) Interested students please contact Basia Bernhardt at: basiabernhardt@yahoo.com.

Please visit: www.learnpolishdc.com for more information.

WISCONSIN



PAN TWARDOWSKI, the "Polish Man in the Moon" ceramic sculpture with glazes and lusters by Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski. 11" x 15" x 10".

MILWAUKEE — **Fine Art Gallery**, located in the Marshall Building, 207 E. Buffalo St. Suite 210, presents "Encountering Poland," paintings by Dagmara Costello and ceramic sculptures by Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski. The dual exhibition begins Friday, June 3 and running through July 23. Featuring ceramic sculptures and writings based on Rzezotarski's studies of Polish folklore and legends, and paintings distilled from Costello's treasured memories of the country landscapes of her childhood in Poland.

This exhibit will be open during Polish Fest weekend in Milwaukee. The gallery is minutes away from the Polish Fest grounds.

Opening reception June 3, 5:00-9:00 p.m., continuing June 4, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Both artists will be present to talk with visitors about their artworks.

For more information, call (414) 688-2787 or visit www.thefineartgallery.org.

Sister City Celebrates Beatification



CHICAGO HEIGHTS, Ill. — Approximately sixty worshipers filled the Kerr-Parzygnot Funeral Chapel to participate in a special Mass, sponsored by the Chicago Heights-Wadowice Sister Cities Committee, to honor the beatification of Pope John Paul II.

Karol Wojtyla was born on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. Today, Wadowice is a sister city to Chicago Heights.

The special mass brought together many members of the Chicago Heights Polish community, as well as others from surrounding areas. All local Polish organizations were present. The mass was said in English with hymns sung in Polish. The celebrant for the mass was Fr. Ron Kondziolka, chaplain at St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights.

In the main chapel, two large floral arrangements of red and white flowers stood upon the altar. Throughout the chapel, pictures of committee members who visited Wadowice in 2001 and 2002 were on display.

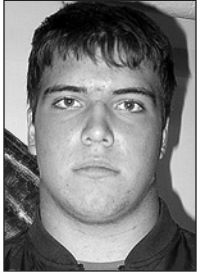
Following the mass, guests lingered to enjoy Polish pastries and shared memories of the past.

Eugene Sadus, chairman of the Chicago Heights-Wadowice Sister Cities Committee, said "What more could we have done to show our love for Poland's native son?" Sadus said the Mass was very inspiring and a huge success. He optimistically said he hoped to be around when Pope John Paul II becomes a saint.

SPORTS / Tom Tarapacki

A Big Day for American Football Offensive Lineman Stefen Wisniewski

Stefen Wisniewski (inset) American football offensive lineman was selected by the Oakland Raiders of the National Football League in the second round of the 2011 NFL Draft.



Wisniewski was named a first team All-American at the end of the 2010 season. His father, Leo, was a standout defensive lineman for Penn State who played for the Baltimore Colts in the 1980s. An uncle, **Steve Wisniewski**, was a two-time first-team All-America guard during his Penn State career (1985-88) and was selected All-Pro eight times in his 13 years with the Raiders. The Pittsburgh native was the first Penn State Football student-athlete to be named an ESPN Academic All-American three times. Wisniewski finished with a 3.9 cumulative grade-point average and earned his degree in secondary education in December. He also has an impressive record of community service activities. Recently, Penn State presented him with the McCoy Award, awarded annually to one senior male and one senior female student-athlete who have combined successful athletic participation with academic excellence.

Although Wisniewski went earlier than some had expected, Raiders Coach Hue Jackson was thrilled that he was available at pick 48 and added that Stefen is "building block one" in making over an offensive line in desperate need of improvement.

University of Wyoming standout



Chris Prosinski (inset, left) went earlier than initially expected after showing impressive athleticism during his Pro Day. He was selected by Jacksonville in the fourth round with the 121st pick — the highest a UW player had been selected in 14 years.

Coming out of Buffalo, Wyo. High School, Prosinski had interest from numerous Division I schools, including some from the Ivy League, but chose to stay home at Wyoming. He had an outstanding career there, and finished ranked No. 4 in career tackles at the school with 373 career tackles.

His agent, Cameron Foster, said.

Contractors Having a Field Day

WARSAW — Poland is building the most stadiums of any city in Europe, as preparation for Euro

2012 continue. About sixty-five stadiums were constructed or updated in Poland over the past five years. Although soccer stadiums head the list, there are also speedway arenas and one rugby oval.

The largest investments are the stadiums constructed for Euro 2012: the National Stadium in Warsaw, the PGE Arena in Gdansk, and facilities in Poznan and Wroclaw. Many small sports fields with stands for two to three thousand spectators are also currently under construction.

PASS IT ON! When you finish reading your copy of the Polish American Journal, pass it on, and ask that person to subscribe.

"We didn't think he was going to be a fourth-round draft pick, but his Pro Day numbers were better than those of any other safety ... and teams took note." The 6-foot-1, 201-pound free safety ran a 4.39-second 40-yard dash and had a vertical jump of 39.5 inches at his Pro Day. But the scouts should have known — as a track and field performer in high school, Chris won the state championship in the long jump as a junior, and captured three individual state championships in the long jump, 110 hurdles and 100-meter dash as a senior.

In high school Prosinski helped his football team to back-to-back Wyoming 4A State titles and a 22-game winning streak during his junior and senior seasons. Prosinski played quarterback and excelled as a punt returner, taking back two punts for touchdowns. He was a two-time All-State selection and was the 4A East Player of the Year. Prosinski also played basketball for his father Paul, who led the Bison to the 3A State Championship in basketball Chris' senior season, posting a 23-2 record. Chris earned All-State honors for the second consecutive year and was named Player of the Game in the State Championship game.

Offensive lineman **Lee Ziemba**, a member of the Auburn Tigers' national championship squad, was selected by the Carolina Panthers in the seventh round with the 244th pick.

His father, **Mike Ziemba**, was a star high school player whose dreams of a college career ended in the spring of his senior year when he was diagnosed with diabetes. The elder Ziemba managed several Wal-Marts in the South and Northeast before taking a position at their corporate headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., when Lee was about eight. One of the nation's top recruits out of high school, Lee went to Auburn where he started a school-record 52 consecutive games, every game since he arrived his freshman year. The 6-foot-6, 317-pound tackle was part of the veteran line that paved the way for six straight 300-yard rushing games in SEC play last season. He was first in the SEC with 124 knockdowns and had 20 touchdown-producing blocks for an SEC-leading offense that rolled up 499 yards a game. He was a consensus All-American and won the SEC's Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the best blocker in the conference.

COMING ON STRONG. The former first overall pick in the 2009 NHL entry draft, New York Islander **John Tavares** is developing into

Virtual Visit

WARSAW — Five Polish cities will be added to Google's "Street View." The streets of Warsaw, Wroclaw, Poznan, Gdansk and Krakow will be photographed and added to the site. The service will begin early in 2012 enabling use by tourists visiting Poland for Euro 2012.

one of the league's top players. He has tallied 121 points through his first two seasons while showing continued improvement.

Tavares was born on September 20, 1990 in Mississauga, Ontario. His father, Joe, is of Portugese descent and his mother, Barbara, is of Polish descent. His maternal grandparents Boleslaw and Jozefa Kowal emigrated from Poland to Canada. Barb was one of 10 children. Her father worked in the Sudbury, Ontario nickel mines, and her mother was a janitor at the local school.

John was the oldest of three children born to Joe and Barb, who now run their own sheet metal roofing company in Ontario. John not only excelled at hockey at a young age, but also played lacrosse, following in the footsteps of his uncle John Tavares, the all-time scoring leader in the National Lacrosse League. In the 2006-2007 season, while playing for the Oshawa Generals, young John broke Wayne Gretzky's Ontario Hockey League record for goals by a 16-year-old, scoring 72. Tavares went on the score a record 215 goals in 247 career O.H.L. games and lead Canada to back-to-back world junior championships before being drafted number one.

The young Islanders, who have missed the playoffs for four straight years, hope that Tavares is one of the keys to a return to greatness. The 6-ft. 195-lb. center has been compared to Mike Bossy, Gordie Howe and, of course, Gretzky. He doesn't have blazing speed, but does have a tremendous hockey sense, great hands, and extraordinary vision.

BASZANOWSKI PASSES. **Waldemar Baszanowski**, considered one of the greatest weightlifters ever pound-for-pound, died recently in Warsaw at age 75. Baszanowski won gold medals in both 1964 and 1968 at the Olympics in the light-weight class, and was World Champion in 1961, 1964-65, and 1968-69. He also won five silver medals at the World Championships, and was a five-time European Champion (1961, 1965, 1968-69, 1971).

Baszanowski was the first man to clean & jerk 2½ times his body-weight. In all, he set 25 world records. When he retired from competition he had a successful career as a scientist and coach, and in 1999 became President of the European Weightlifting Federation.

LEFT OUT. Now that the NFL draft is only seven rounds, many pro prospects go undrafted but are usually quickly signed to free agent contracts. The problem is, because of the NFL lockout, teams are forbidden to contact undrafted free agents, let alone sign them, until the lockout is lifted and the league resumes its normal activities. As a result, players like **Henry Hynoski, Jr.** and **Alex Wujciak** are left wondering about their futures.

Hynoski had a legendary career at Southern Columbia HS in Ca-

tawissa, Pa. He ran for at least 1,800 yards in three different seasons, earning all-state honors as a sophomore, junior and senior. He was named the AP Class A Player of the Year in 2006 following his senior year. He finished his career with a school-record 7,165 rushing yards and 113 touchdowns. He did that on just 754 career carries, meaning he averaged 9.5 yards every time he touched the ball throughout his time at Southern. Henry had a great career at Pitt despite not carrying the ball much. Entering the draft, most had him rated as the No. 1 fullback heading into the season, thanks to his skill and size, measured at 6-ft., 257-lb. at the combine. However, an influx of spread formations and multiple tight end sets has diminished the fullback's role in modern offenses, and many pro teams rarely use one. Therefore, his not being selected wasn't a total shock.

Wujciak had an outstanding career at Seton Hall Preparatory School in West Orange, N.J. Alex was named State of New Jersey Defensive Player of the Year in 2005 and was named first team all-state by the Associated Press and by The Newark Star Ledger. Alex started for three years at linebacker for Maryland and always seemed to be around the ball, finishing his career with 381 tackles and four interceptions, returning two for touchdowns. One scout called him "a heat-seeking missile with a warrior mentality." Unfortunately knee injuries affected his athleticism, causing his draft status to drop.

Both will likely get a shot to play in the NFL — they just have to wait. Interestingly, Henry's father, Henry Sr. was a star fullback at Temple (1972-74) and spent the 1975 season with the Cleveland Browns. Alex's father Alan played offensive guard at Notre Dame during the Irish's national championship season in 1973.

THEY SAID IT

"I come from the days when the fullback was a running back. I've always liked the Larry Csonkas and Mike Alstotts. That's one of the things that frustrates Henry. As big as he is, he's pretty athletic, and he hasn't had much of a chance to show that."

— **Henry Hynoski, Sr.**, on the

prospects for his son as a fullback in today's NFL.

❖ ❖ ❖

"The problem for me is Easter is one of my favorite holidays. I'm Polish. It's pierogi and kielbasa and hard boiled eggs for breakfast ... and then the same meal for dinner at my mom's. If it were at noon or 1 p.m., that would be perfect. Three o'clock sort of shoots a cannonball through the whole thing."

— **Buffalo radio sports talk host Chris "Bulldog" Parker**, after the Sabres scheduled a game 6 playoff elimination against Philadelphia on Easter Sunday afternoon.

❖ ❖ ❖

"He's the biggest person I've ever coached. I've been around Shaq one time a long time ago, but he wasn't quite as tall as Jakub. There aren't very many people on the planet who are 7-4 that are coordinated enough to play the game. That is a very small population as well as having the desire to play the game at this level."

— **Idaho State Head Basketball Coach Joe O'Brien**, on getting Central Florida transfer **Jakub Kusmieruk**, a 7-4 center from Lodz, Poland. After redshirting this season, **Jakub** will join another Pole, 6-11 **Kamil Gawrzydek**, on the Bengals roster.

❖ ❖ ❖

"We now have it confirmed. Joe Pavelski is indeed from the state of Wisconsin, not from the planet of Clutch Playoff Goals."

— **Mercury News Columnist Mark Purdy**, commenting on the facts that the San Jose Sharks have won 11 straight Stanley Cup tournament games in which Pavelski has a goal, and that he had 4four goals in the Sharks' first five playoff victories this spring.

❖ ❖ ❖

"I am thrilled to be going to the Raiders, and really pumped to have the chance to play for Steve. I guess now I get to wear a Wisniewski jersey, but it will be mine."

— **Stefen Wisniewski**, on going to the Raiders, where the assistant offensive line coach is his uncle, **Steve**, a former Pro Bowl guard with the Raiders. As a youngster, Stefen used to slip on his uncle's No. 76 jersey and go watch him play when the Raiders came to the East Coast.

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POLISH CHEF / Robert Strybel

A Father's Day Menu

What to make for a Father's Day cookout? Easy! Here's a few menu ideas that will make everyone happy, especially dad.

BOILED KIEŁBASA (kielbasa gotowana). It may be more convenient to keep kielbasa hot at the fest site in a pot of hot water. Simply cut smoked kielbasa into 3 - 4" servings sized pieces or use individual Polish sausages, place in pot scald with boiling water to cover, bring to boil and keep pot covered on lowest heat to just keep it hot.

STEWED SAUERKRAUT (kapusta duszona). Rinse 2 qts sauerkraut under running water, and (optional) chop coarsely. Place in pot scald with boiling water to cover, bring to boil and cook uncovered 15 min. Reduce heat, add 1 bay leaf, cover and cook on med-low 30 min. Add 1 mushroom cube and 1/2 t caraway seeds (optional). Dice and fry 1/4 lb fatback or thick-sliced bacon. When pale-golden add a chopped onion and simmer until browned. Stir in 1 heaping T flour, brown lightly and add to sauerkraut. Simmer at least

another hr on low, stirring occasionally. season to taste with salt (if needed) and pepper.

SUMMER BIGOS (letni bigos). Skin and dice or slice thin 1 lb smoked kielbasa. Dice chop. Place in pot, add boiling water to cover and simmer covered 30 min. Wash well 1 head baby cabbage at the loose-leaf stage (not yet formed into a compact head). Trim away base and any wilted or damaged leaves. Chop cabbage coarsely and add to sausage pot. Mix well and simmer under tender, stirring often. In saucepan lightly brown 2 T flour in 2 T bacon or fatback drippings and stir into cabbage. Simmer covered another 5 min. Season with salt and pepper and sour to taste with lemon juice or cider vinegar. Serve with bread or boiled, dilled new potatoes. Note: Any cooked cubed meat you have on hand may be added.

GROUND CUTLETS (kotletki mielone). Soak stale white bread rolls (app. 1/4 lb) in water or milk until soggy. Fry 2 sliced onions in a little fat until golden. Run drained soaked bread and onions through food-chopper or process briefly. Combine with 2 lbs ground pork (or pork & veal or pork-veal-beef mixture), add 1-2 eggs, mix well by hand to blend ingredients and a dash of garlic powder, a sprinkle of marjoram, and salt & pepper to taste. Form 12 - 16 meatballs or thick patties depending on size desired. Fry in hot fat as is or (if you prefer crustier cutlets) first dredge in flour. Fry to a nice golden-brown on both sides, flattening them somewhat with spatula. Reduce heat, cover and simmer on low another 10 min or so until fully cooked. Serve with cooked sauerkraut (below), or burger-style as in following recipe.

POLISH BURGERS (kotletki w bulce). The above cutlets can be slipped into a bun to form a "Polish burger." Served hot or room temp with a splotch of brown Polish-style mustard and a crunchy dill pickle on the side, this is a parish picnic and Polish festival favorite. Ketchup is not very Polish, but be sure to have it handy for those who want some.

KISZKA (kaszanka). Slice ring kiszka into 1" thick rounds and fry in oil or bacon drippings until heated through and the inside and crusty on the outside. If using bladder kiszka, remove and discard bladder and fry up filling like hash. May be served with a topping of fried onions. Provide rye bread, mustard and/or horseradish.



GRILLED KIEŁBASA (kielbasa z grilla). Cut smoked kielbasa into 3 - 4" servings sized pieces or use individual Polish sausages (grillers). Cook on charcoal or electric grill well away from flame, turning frequently, until evenly browned on all sides. These can also be cooked on a rotisserie. Provide rye bread and horseradish. A good go-together is kapusta duszona (see recipe). Serve with rye bread or boiled potatoes with sauerkraut on the side.

POTATO SALAD (salatka kartoflana). In salad bowl combine 1 qt diced, cooked, cold potatoes, 4 finely chopped green onions, 1 heaping T capers and 1 - 2 diced dill pickles. Fork-blend 1/4 c vinegar (white distilled, wine vinegar or cider vinegar) with 1/3c salad oil, 1 t prepared brown mustard, several dashes of garlic powder, 1/8 t pepper, 1/4 t ground caraway and 1 T sugar. Pour over salad. Lace with just enough mayonnaise to coat ingredients. Chill well before serving.

POLISH APPLE CAKE (szarlotka/jablecznik). Combine 2-3/4 c flour with 1 c confectioner's sugar, 4 egg yolks and 1/4 t salt and blend ingredients into a uniform dough. Do not knead! Roll into ball, wrap in foil and refrigerate at least 30 min. Meanwhile, in pot combine 1 lb tart cooking apples, peeled and diced, with 1/2 c sugar and simmer on low heat until apples are tender. To cooked apples add 1-1/4 lb peeled, diced uncooked apples. Season with several pinches cinnamon. Divide chilled dough in 1/2. Roll one half out thin into a rectangle or square to fit your baking pan. Pierce all over with fork and bake in preheated 390° oven 10-15 min. Sprinkle surface of baked dough with 3-4 T crushed vanilla wafers and spread apple filling evenly over surface. Season with 1 t vanilla sugar. Roll out remaining dough half and cover apples. Reduce heat to 350° and bake about 45-60 min. If baked cake is too tart, dust with confectioner's sugar.

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IN MEMORIAM

Sister M. Gertrude (Roseline) Klebba, CSFN

SISTER M. GERTRUDE, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth for 66 years, died May 7, 2011, at the age of 84 at the Holy Family Manor, Pittsburgh, Pa. A native of Detroit, Sister entered the community from Transfiguration Parish, and also served there in the mid 1970s. Besides Michigan, Sister served for 54 years in Ohio and Pennsylvania as a teacher, principal, child caregiver and parish minister. Sister Gertrude also served in the Provincial Administration in England. She is survived by brothers Philip (Marie), John (Delores) and Anthony (Joan) all of Michigan, and by many nieces and nephews. Friends were received at the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Holy Family Manor, Ross Township, Pa., May 9. The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated May 10, at the Holy Family Manor Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations were to be made to the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Honorary Consul Inaugurated in Philadelphia

by Richard Poremski

PHILADELPHIA — On the evening of April 12, over one hundred friends, well-wishers, leaders of Polish American organizations, and diplomatic representatives of other countries gathered at the Stotesbury Mansion near Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square to witness the inauguration of Deborah M. Majka as the newest Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland.

Conducting the official ceremony of conferring the official appointment were Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C., and Marek Skulimowski, Deputy Consul General in New York City.

The new consul was presented with her letter from Radoslaw Sikorski, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, her official diplomatic credentials, and the insignia of office which included a large crowned eagle and a brass plaque to be mounted at the site of her office.

During the presentation, Po-

land's Ambassador addressed the fact that a longtime need was at last being filled, and announced that the establishment of an consulship in Philadelphia opens an entirely new chapter in the relations between the



DEBORAH M. MAJKA, Honorary Consul of Poland for the Philadelphia area, is shown receiving an official symbol of her new office from Ambassador Robert Kupiecki during her formal inauguration ceremony.

Philadelphia Polish-American community and Poland's diplomatic service. He also expressed his pleasure that such a highly qualified candidate could be found to fill the post. Majka is a longtime activist in Polish American affairs of the Philadelphia area. She is on the board of the Associated Polish Home in Philadelphia and teaches at the Adam Mickiewicz Saturday Polish School. In addition she heads, as president, the American Council for Polish Culture, an organization with

affiliates and supporting groups across the United States. A recipient of many awards, Majka received the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit from the Polish government and was named National Citizen of the Year for 2006 by the *Am-Pol Eagle* weekly in Buffalo.

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aspiryna	(ahs-pee-RIH-nah) f	waciki	(vah-CHEE-kee) m, pl
bandaż	(BAHN-dahsh) m		
gaza	(GAH-zah) f		
proszki nasenne	PROSH-kee nah-SEHN-neh) m, pl		

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m, n, f, pl denotes male, female, neuter, plural

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— continued next month —

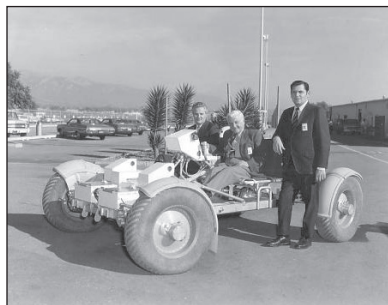
EXPLORING POLONIA'S PAST / James Pula

Mieczysław Grzegorz Bekker's Lunar Rover Vehicle

For centuries, mankind looked to the skies and wondered about the vast spaces illuminated only occasionally by the twinkling pinpricks of unknown origin. Since the beginnings of recorded history, people have imagined what was above, fantasizing with often astonishing creativity what might exist on the moon or the other heavenly bodies. Yet, any real knowledge of what deceptively appeared so clear and tantalizingly close was impossible to obtain for earth-bound mortals. Thus, the ancients reasoned, the heavens must be the realm of the gods.

Although novelists might speculate on astonishing worlds beyond, and invent far-fetched descriptions of extraordinary make believe voyages through space, only in the second half of the twentieth century was the scientific knowledge and technology sufficient to seriously contemplate real journeys beyond the confines of earth. The development of rocketry during World War II spurred a technology race during the subsequent Cold War that saw the United States shocked to its core by the Soviet launch of the Sputnik satellite, a clear indication that America lagged far behind in the new race to explore space.

With renewed government priority on funding, U. S. President John F. Kennedy made it a national ob-



M.G. BEKKER, the father of "Theory of Off-road Locomotion" in the laboratories of General Motors in Santa Barbara, California, was chosen to design the Lunar Roving Vehicle by Boeing (GM), which landed on the moon. His is sitting in the middle.

jective to land a person on the moon and return him safely to earth by the end of the 1960s. But any serious exploration of the moon would require more than just the ability to get there and return; it would require many things including some form of transportation if the exploration was to cover any significant area. Any such vehicle would have to operate in depths of cold and peaks of heat unknown on earth, over rough, rocky terrain, and in dust so fine it might infiltrate and clog any spaces not sealed to the outside or easily cleared. How could anyone design such a vehicle without any actual first-hand knowledge of an environment no one had ever visited?

The problem fell to Mieczysław Grzegorz Bekker, an American born in Strzyżów, Poland. After graduating from the Warsaw Technical University in 1929 he served two years in the Polish Army before beginning to work for the Ministry of Military Affairs designing tanks and off-road vehicles. With the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Bekker evacuated to Romania, from where he journeyed to Western Europe. In 1942 he began working on the development of armored vehicles for the Canadian Army, and in 1956 accepted a position at the University of Michigan. Five years later he joined a research group at General Motors where he was charged with developing a moon exploration vehicle. The result was the Lunar Rover Vehicle (LRV), the amazing new invention that the U. S. used to explore the moon's surface. Remarkably, despite the pioneering nature of the effort, the vehicle performed perfectly. Bekker, the Polish American who made serious moon exploration possible, is also credited with originating the engineering discipline known as terramechanics.

GENEALOGY**Record the Memories of Elderly Relatives***continued from last month*

The memory of your great-grandmother, your elderly Aunt Wanda or increasingly feeble Uncle Staś — although growing dimmer day by day — may still be your best and often only source of information on the annals of your family. However, if you are like many Polish Americans, you may well have kept putting off that recording session until it is too late. When that happens, a great wealth of knowledge will be gone forever.

When your family's most elderly members are still fit, alert and

willing enough to be questioned, arrange to record what they recall of their early days in Poland and/or America, the family's development and vital events along the way. Their ramblings may not be very chronological or orderly, but the main things is to get it all down on tape. The facts and dates can always be checked against existing family papers and public records, but an oral report almost always contains additional information rarely found in documents.

Some elderly relatives may be reluctant to talk about "all that Old Country stuff" or not want to recall the hard times of the Great Depression or World War II. You may have to use all your charm and powers of persuasion to impress on them how important this is to you and how you want your children to know about their heritage.

DON'T WAIT TILL YOU RETIRE. Most Polish Americans seem to take an interest in their family heritage late, often too late in life. Too late, because the preceding two points (family papers and the recollections of elderly relatives) may no longer be available.

Younger Polish Americans are often too busy raising families, pursuing careers and getting a slice of that American apple pie to concern themselves with such non-material abstractions as family trees. They will have plenty of time for such things when they retire. By then, however, their chances of success are far slimmer.

Since people have hobbies at all ages, even in their younger days, perhaps a solution would be to interest young people in their family histories, make this a whole-family project and provide the adventure of traveling to Poland as an added incentive.

*continued next month***DO YOU KNOW THE MEANING OF YOUR POLISH LAST NAME?**

For a custom-researched, several-page analysis about your Polish surname, how it originated, how many people use it, where they live and whether a coat of arms accompanies it, please airmail a \$19 personal or bank (cashier's) check or money order (adding a cut-rate \$10 for each additional surname you wish researched) to: Robert Strybel / ul. Kaniowska 24 / 01-529 Warsaw, Poland

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HERITAGE / Ellye Slusarczyk

A Proud Polish Showpiece

Visitors to the Shanghai World Expo in 2010 were treated to an impressive showpiece, namely the Polish Pavilion. The Pavilion captured first prize in its design. Its unique architecture surpassed all other pavilions.

Situated on the banks of the Huangou River, its design was a reinterpretation of traditional folk art set in contemporary fashion. Covering a three thousand meter-squared area, it sought to emphasize three concepts. These concepts embraced Human, Creativity, and City. Its steel frame featured an interior that was made from laser-cut plywood.

Greeting visitors, as they entered the building was an original paper-cut dragon that made the long journey from Poland. An eight-minute narrated film, produced by Oscar-nominated Thomas Baginski, was entitled, "Polish History." The film allowed one to travel back in time, depicting Poland's proud history.

The illuminated pavilion, at night, was an impressive sight, resembling paper cutouts. Eager young artists from the Warsaw Studio, WWA, translated age-old folk patterns into the contemporary language of architectural forms.

Within the Pavilion's Concert Hall a variety of entertainment was

offered. There were Puppet Nights, Rock Music Nights, tributes to Chopin, and even dragon dances. These dances were performed both in Polish style and fittingly, in Chinese style.

Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Chopin's birth, visitor's could sing and dance to his memory. Pop rock renditions provided an upbeat atmosphere. Young and old of many nationalities reveled in this unique atmosphere. Even Polish karaoke was enjoyed by all, whether you were a participant or just an interested bystander.

Another highlight of the Expo was the Pavilion's ramp. The ramp led to the roof and visitor's could stand on the roof. It was a great vantage point to have an added perspective of the whole Expo.

We thank those responsible for creating this award-winning showpiece. Plans have called for this structure to be disassembled, and reconstructed in a Polish city, which has not yet been chosen.

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THE OLD COUNTRY / Richard Poremski



HAND- AND FOOT-POWERED ASSEMBLY LINE. Kazimierz Dolny, Poland. May 18, 1976.

TRIVIA TIME / Ellye Slusarczyk

1. Renowned poet, Julius Slowacki, died in: a. Paris b. Warsaw c. Washington, D.C.
2. Senator Barbara Mikulski has represents: a. Illinois b. Maryland c. Michigan
3. Former hockey player John Bucyk's retired number is: a. 5 b. 8 c. 9
4. *Pieniadz* is: a. stormy weather b. money c. a painting
5. Joseph Garlinski, during the American Revolution, served as a: a. militiaman b. military engineer c. photographer
6. Jerry Zremski has been cited for his achievements in: a. journalism b. public speaking c. zoology
7. Some meals begin with *polewka piwna*, or: a. beet soup b. beer soup c. beef soup
8. Near Zamosc flows the: a. Lubunka River b. Rhine River c. Dunajec River
9. In 2010, Home Depot began selling Martha Stewart: a. smoke alarms b. bathroom fixtures c. paint
10. A loud noise is created by: a. *zboże* b. *tulipan* c. *grzmot*

ANSWERS. 1a. Paris; 2b. Maryland; 3c. 9; 4b. money; 5b. military engineer; 6a. journalism; 7b. beer soup; 8a. Lubunka River; 9c. paint; 10c. *grzmot* (thunder)

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REFLECTIONS / OUR CHURCHES

St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church

376 Prospect Street, Binghamton, NY 13905 • Closed 2004

TEXT AND PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ED MOHYLOWSKI AND STEVE LITWIN



On June 2, 1917, the present rectory, just east of the church and school, was blessed. Fr. Dzialuk commenced construction of the convent for the Felician sisters, who taught at the school since 1915.

the pastorate, he had conducted services in the homes of the parish on numerous occasions. When his appointment was announced, parishioners hastened to build a place of worship in a field above Sowden Street between Richards and Glenwood avenues. This temporary wooden structure was completed in two days, and Fr. Dzialuk conducted Masses for two years.

The construction of a building on Prospect Street began and would serve as a church and parochial school of eight grades. The first Mass was celebrated in the new church on July 4, 1916.

On March 16, 1953 ground was broken for the new church.

The parish erected a brick and stone building at the corner of Prospect and Pulaski Streets. The modern Neo-Gothic structure was dedicated on October 31, 1954. The first Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the pastor, the Rev. George Guzewicz.

On Memorial Day weekend in 2004, the Diocese of Syracuse closed the church, and merged it with St. Ann's (Slovak) and St. Joseph's (Lithuanian) parishes, to create the Church of the Holy Trinity at the old St. Ann's facility. St. Stan's building remains standing.



The new church closed in 2004.

The parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Church was canonically established by the Rt. Rev. Patrick A. Ludden, then bishop of Syracuse, on June 15, 1914. Thus he formally recognized the desire of Binghamtonians of Polish extraction to worship in their native tongue and support a nationalist church.

The first Mass was celebrated on Sunday, June 21, 1914.

Rev. Michael J. Dzialuk became the first pastor. Before he officially assumed

ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN

100 Things Every Polish American Should Do

100 FOR 100. We continue our countdown to our 100th Anniversary with another 10 items this month. In today's world of lost identity, it is important to know who you are, the roots from which you come, and what your background represents. Show pride in your Polish and Polish-American heritage

JUNE

51. On the night of June 23 hold a St. John's Midsummer Night's Eve (*Sobótka Świątojańska*) party in your backyard, by a flowing river or lake, or organize a community event. Float candled wreaths in your pool, jump over an open fire pit, sing the traditional songs. Learn about this ancient custom and familiarize yourself with Poet Jan Kochanowski's *Pieśń Świątojańska*.
52. Establish connections with relatives in Poland, write them, visit them, invite them to visit you.



53. Attend summer Polish Festivals in your area, and at American outdoor festivals visit and support the Polish food booth.
54. Order "Polish" tomatoes and grow them in your garden or on your deck.
55. Stand up against anti-Polish behavior. Send responses (respectfully and factually) when necessary and request that newspapers and magazine print a correction when German death camps in Nazi-occupied Poland are labeled as "Polish

- Death Camps."
56. Visit Panna Maria, Texas, America's oldest Polish settlement.
57. Attend a Polka Mass.
58. Familiarize your ear to the strains of Polish classical music. Listen to CDs or attend a concert of Chopin, Paderewski, Szymanowski, Moniuszko, or other composers.
59. Experience the Polish cinema of classic masters such as Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Kieslowski or the newest film makers
60. When traveling to Poland or in Europe opt to fly on Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT (PLL LOT).

For tips on how to accomplish these items: recipes, music, lyrics, online and store contacts inquire at: PAJtoday@yahoo.com or check: www.pajtoday.blogspot.com.

—Edited and compiled by Staś Kmiec from contributors to be announced in the anniversary edition.

From the Pages of the Polish American Journal: Historical highlights from the newspaper and its predecessors

1946. Polish American Congress President Charles Rozmarek, in Germany and France to observe the conditions of thousands of Polish displaced persons living in camps throughout western and central Europe, angrily denounces the handling of the refugee problem by UN authorities and calls for immediate changes. While in Paris, Rozmarek calls for free elections in Poland to determine the country's future. (When the elections are held in January 1947, they are conducted in an atmosphere of terror and the final results are themselves grossly falsified.) In America, the PAC initiates a one million dollar fund drive

to place its political action work on a sound footing.

1948. NATO is formed.

1948. Realizing that more Americans of Polish descent are conducting their lives in the English language, the Dende brothers cease publication of the Polish-language *Republika-Gornik* and print the first all-English language Polish American newspaper. The new publication is called the Polish American Journal.

1949. Creation of Radio Free Europe as a voice of truth to the peoples of communist-enslaved Eastern Europe ... Death of Polish American historian and founder of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, Mieczyslaw Haiman.

1950. Polish American Journal named "Newspaper of the Week" for its "vigorous anti-Communist" campaign by the Publisher's Auxiliary, a publication devoted to publishers and editors.

1952. A special Committee of the U.S. Congress investigates the Katyn Massacre, the murder of more than 14,000 Polish Army officers at the beginning of World War II in the Soviet Union. The USSR bitterly denounces this action, claiming Nazi Germany culpable for the massive war crime. Chief Investigator for the special U.S. Congressional Committee is Roman Pucinski, who in 1958 is elected to a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Join the Celebration!

1911 - 2011

100

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO AMERICAN POLONIA

This year, the Polish American Journal, the nation's largest, independent, English-language monthly dedicated to the Polish community in North America, will observe its 100th anniversary. To celebrate the event, we will publish a special Anniversary Edition in October, which is also Polish Heritage Month.

We have many great articles and features planned for our centennial edition, including a history of the paper; congratulatory letters from Polish and Polish American leaders; the continuation of our monthly featurettes on great Polish American churches; reflections on Polish-American relations; a Polish American time line; and much more.

To bring attention to this occasion, we will publish an extra press run. These papers will be mailed to selected institutions and archives, as well as leaders in

government, religion, academia, entertainment, and other areas.

Since 1911, the PAJ and its predecessors have documented the lives of Polish immigrants and their ancestors, and as such, we want the anniversary edition to be one all Polish Americans can be proud of.

We humbly ask for your support in making this a reality, and want you to be a part of this momentous edition. Join the celebration!

Call our office today at (800) 422-1275 to be part of the PAJ's history, or simply fill out the form below and return with your payment.

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